

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By DAVID STROUP

WELCOME DEVELOPMENTS

Sometimes, change can be good.

The loss of an important employer can empty out a downtown — Milwaukie has taken years to recover from the loss of its supermarket on Main Street. Oregon City could have faced the same problems in the wake of the departure of county offices.

But in a decision that shows great confidence in the future of downtown Oregon City, developers are already moving in to make use of the signature vacant property, the 900 Main Street building which used to hold the county commissioners themselves. And just up McLoughlin, the vacated Emporium site has found a new tenant. It's too early to confirm it, but other developers are reportedly interested in other prominent properties in the downtown area.

With a little work, a 'gold rush' to make use of those emptied county offices could turn into a tremendous shot in the arm for our historic city's sometimes-neglected heart. So here's a big welcome to those who are following their own path to our 'end of the trail' — it's good to have you.