

Tax dollars get recycled

Federal dollars help city government, schools



SANDY'S CITY hall and (far right) Sandy High School: Two of the prime recipients of federal dollars in the Sandy area.

by Douglas Gantenbein
staff writer

Bring up the subject of "federal funds" and few people are likely to connect that idea with Sandy.

After all, most federal money gets poured into the big cities, right?

Not quite. While the enormous grants doled out to big population centers grab most of the headlines, Sandy gets its share of Uncle Sam's money as well. In some cases, a pretty big chunk of it.

Last summer, for example, when the city's water supply was almost strained past its limit by drought, over half a million dollars in federal grant money helped put in Sandy's new Alder Creek system which should satisfy the city's needs for years to come.

The \$527,800 amount came out of the federal government's Drought Relief Program, which aided numerous Western states faced with a disastrous lack of rainfall the last two years.

Another sizeable amount, \$65,000, is coming out of federal revenue sharing coffers and will go towards the refurbishment of South Bluff Road.

At Sandy's active Senior Center, federal funds play a big role in helping the center reach people through a \$10,377 grant that helps finance the center's Outreach and transportation programs.

Center Director Dick Halvorson said that through the Outreach program they can identify people who are not making use of the programs available to them.

These people—be they recluses or new to the area—are thus made aware of the many services the center provides.

Federal dollars are also behind the center's van that makes scheduled or on-call runs for activities, shopping trips or medical needs.

An additional \$1,300 was recently earmarked for the acquisition of a used station wagon as well.

Another grant of \$12,500 was recently awarded the center for the use in renovating the old Sandy Baptist Chapel for use as a new senior center.

But one of the most obvious ways the federal government is giving back

some of what it will be taking this and every April 15 is in the CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) program.

CETA, a product of the Ford administration, provides funding for the training and placement of workers with the dual goal of helping both those employed and the employer. The city of Troutdale, for example, virtually rebuilt its city hall last summer with the help of CETA workers.

In Sandy, the city's payroll has been boosted over \$80,000 a year by CETA funds. Two police patrolmen were among the most important acquisitions, beefing up an undermanned city police force.

In time, the city's budget will probably absorb the cost of the seven CETA employees, said City Manager Paul Helton but the federal funds now provide a valuable bridge spanning the

"I probably would've had a harder time finding a position without it (CETA)," Greer said.

For Sandy, federal money has played a big role in helping a small town make its growing pains more manageable.

"It (federal money) has had a tremendous impact from the standpoint of providing needed services," said Helton.

"Without federal assistance, which is our tax dollars coming back to us, we would just have that much higher taxes," he added. "It would've had to come from somewhere, and people are demanding more services."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Superintendent Jack Peters at Sandy Union High School.

"I feel that federal funds are an instance of our money coming home," he said, adding that "I would rather not see it go through this process."

In addition, the district has received \$10,000 for a night school aimed at getting dropouts back into the job and educational mainstream.

Like other federally funded projects, the school board assumes final responsibility on any decision to incorporate them into the regular school budget.

Along with the career center, some highlights of the federal grant application for the upcoming year include \$11,000 for a home repair class and a \$225 allocation (to be matched for the district) for each student in an able and gifted children's program.

Crow said that when applying for a federal grant he first examines a government "shopping list" that shows what types of funding are available.

Next, Crow approaches the superintendent and the district board for a go-ahead on an application. A



gap between Sandy's current and future ability to provide services.

Like most federal projects, CETA projects tend to be looked at strictly in terms of dollars. But there is a human side as well.

Susan Greer, the city's new administrative assistant, works on such projects as Sandy's comprehensive plan revision and the coordination of city projects.

With a master's degree in social work, Greer found herself facing the unpleasant specter of a job market flooded with applicants in her field. "I probably wouldn't have been very successful," she said of her chances for a position in her field.

But as a resident of Clackamas County with over 15 weeks of unemployment, she was CETA eligible. And after talking with City Manager Helton about Sandy's needs they were able to work out an arrangement whereby she got a job in a field she was interested in and Sandy got some needed planning assistance.

Peters said he believed that federal funding has a "positive effect" on both the school and the local rate. "It doesn't increase the federal tax and it lessens the local tax," he said.

Federal funds at the high school have averaged around \$50,000 a year, although under the direction of language arts department head and administrative intern Dennis Crow, the district has prepared applications totaling about \$170,000 for the 1978-79 school year.

Should the school gain acceptance of that funding, a large portion of it (\$61,000) will be invested in a student career counseling center, which will help students prepare for and find career opportunities.

This year the funding has centered around three projects: a Title I (federal grants are broken down under "titles" that designate their target group) project to help students with reading and math disabilities, Title I funding for students at the Youth for Christ facility in Wemme and Title III money for library materials.

detailed summary of the school's plans is then submitted to HEW (Health, Education and Welfare).

Crow said he sees the availability of federal dollars as a source of real benefit to the school's students.

"Our philosophy is that federal funds join with our funds to make the very best program for the students," he said.

Crow estimated that for every federal dollar that comes into the district, local effort produces \$3-\$4 to go along with it, multiplying the incoming bill's benefits.

Crow also said that the district is now able to reach student groups, such as the handicapped and the able and gifted, that were formerly not dealt with by the district.

All told, close to three-quarters of a million federal dollars were put to work in Sandy this past year. Perhaps just a drop in the bucket compared to Portland's share, but it helps.

As Helton and Peters pointed back, at least we're getting some of what we've sent out back.

Budget hearing slated

The Welches Elementary School District Board will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget for the 1978-79 school next Monday evening at 8 p.m.

The proposed levy for next year's budget would be \$416,481—up from this year's levy of \$323,370. The total budget for the district would be \$697,077—up from this year's budget of \$617,531.

A copy of the budget document is available for review at the Welches Elementary School.

All-star game slated

The Sandy Men's Basketball League will hold its first all-star game next Thursday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m.

The game, to be held in the Sandy Upper Grade Building gym, will pit a West division team coached by Ron Norquist against an East division all-star squad under the direction of Gary Schwartz.

Norquist captained the league's fall season champions, Schwartz the winning team in winter play.

A small donation will be asked at the door for this event.

For more information call Tom Botbyl or Dick Halvorson at 668-5569.

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obituaries

Goodwin Olson

Funeral for Goodwin Ruben Olson, a Sandy area resident for over 30 years, was held April 5 at Sandy Funeral Home.

Olson, 85, was born in Preston, Minn. He was raised in Minnesota until the age of 11, when he moved to North Dakota.

Due to the death of his father, Olson began working at an early age to help support his mother and family. He worked at farming which was his life long career.

On June 20, 1928, he married his wife Alice in North Dakota.

In 1947, the Olsons moved to the Sandy area to make their permanent home on a farm where they raised cattle and sheep.

Olson was a member of the Grange and Farmers Union. He later became involved in the Sandy Senior Citizens and Golden Age Clubs.

Last October, Goodwin and Alice sold their farm and moved to Sandy.

Survivors include his wife, two children, Glen Olson of Spokane, Wash., and Cleo Hottman of Sandy; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The family requests that memorials be made to the Sandy Senior Center or the Golden Age Club in his memory.

Private intombment followed services at Riverview Abby in Portland.

Robert Dowsett

Robert E. Dowsett, 66, of 3065 NE 18th Court, Gresham, died Friday at his home.

Born in Gresham, he spent his entire life in the area except for a few years when

he lived in Bend.

Owner of Gresham Insurance, Dowsett was a member of the Gresham Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gresham Golf Club, life member of the Gresham Elks Lodge, and member of St. Lukes Episcopal Church.

Survivors include: his wife, A. Lee; a daughter Mardee Wright of White Sulphur Springs, Mont.; two sons, Gordon of Portland and Michael of Beaverton; two brothers, Jack of Portland and Stafford of Wemme; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral was Tuesday at Bateman Funeral Chapel with vault interment at Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

Contributions may be made to the Oregon Heart Association.

Carey Greiner

Carey Fred Greiner, 75, of 8045 SE 282nd Ave., Gresham, died Sunday at his home.

He was born in Parkerville, Kan., and moved to Gresham in 1941. Greiner married Ula Sample Aug. 21, 1927, in Cottonwood Falls, Kan.

Greiner was employed as a potman at the Reynolds Metals Co. in Troutdale until his retirement in 1961. He was a member of the Steel Workers Union No. 330.

Survivors in addition to his wife include: a son, Dean of Gresham; three daughters, Virginia Gehrke of Gresham, Carolyn Taylor of Eagle Creek and Evelyn Christensen of Alexandria, Va.; 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral was Wednesday at Bateman Funeral Chapel with vault interment at Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

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