

# The Sandy Post

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Spreading Christmas cheer

John Kline photo

FIFTH AND sixth grade students from Sandy Elementary School put on their best Christmas garb and visited with residents at St. Jukes nursing home Friday morning. Students in the Community School's Silver Threads program joined

Kathy Koch's art class to bring Christmas cheer to the home. Pictured here are several students gathered around one resident who obviously enjoyed the visit.

## City plans to fix potholed streets

Several major feeder streets in Sandy are in sad shape and City Manager Roger Jordan is pushing to get funds together to fix them.

On a recommendation from Jordan, city council Monday night voted to submit an application for a federal assistance grant that could bring in as much as \$75,000 for street repairs on Meinig Avenue and Tupper Road.

Both streets are collector routes for subdivisions which have been approved. Both are marked with potholes and ruts which will likely worsen as heavy equipment trucks use them to bring in materials.

But with the city operating on a shoestring budget this year, with the prospects for an improvement nowhere in sight, the city has no funds available to make repairs or to widen the roads to 40 feet, the width required for collector streets.

Jordan told council members that if the city is awarded the grant money under the Safer Off-Systems Grant Fund, it will be required to participate at a rate of 12 percent of the cost of the improvements. He said the program is first-come, first-serve and is intended to help smaller jurisdictions like Sandy bring their roads up to standard.

In addition to the city dollars and the possible grant funds, property owners whose land adjoins the roads to be surfaced will be required to pay for improvements.

Also, subdivision developers will be required to install sidewalks and curbs and pave half the roadway on the exterior of their developments.

In addition to the Tupper Road and Meinig Avenue improvements, council also has been working on plans to straighten and widen South Bluff Road. Bluff will be a major collector street for new developments which have already been approved.

Also on the subject of road surfacing, council formally adopted a written policy on the surfacing of roads in new subdivisions.

The policy, submitted for approval by Jordan, requires builders to pave all streets in a subdivision before a building permit will be issued on any houses.

However, if weather conditions preclude paving, the city could allow up to 20 percent of the building permits to be issued — not to exceed a maximum of 20 permits. Developers would then be required to post a bond for the amount of the road paving.

Developers will be allocated a three-month grace period to complete the work from the time of the waiver.

The policy also states that, "At no time will the city allow occupancy of a dwelling unit until the final pavement is

completed and approved by the city."

Robert McNeely, developer of Tickle Creek Estates off South Bluff Road, objected to the policy being implemented after he had begun work on his project. He told council he was ready to close on a number of houses in the 84-lot development and that the requirement for paving before issuance of building permits could cost him a great deal of money.

Council then agreed to increase the number of building permits that could be issued for Tickle Creek Estates from 20 to 50 percent of the total number of lots.

Councilman George Burg assured McNeely that "past commitments by the city would be honored."

Council president Jim Duff, who presided at the meeting in the absence of retiring Mayor Mel Haneberg, said he knew of no other developers who had been given promises of building permits without road surfacing.

Also at council, a motion was passed to sell city water to a specially formed water association comprised of four homeowners outside the city on Summertime Drive.

Council agreed to the request on the condition that the property owners pay the installation of a single water meter to serve the four houses, plus a \$100 connection fee per home.

Water customers outside the city pay double the city monthly rate for water used. The local water association will be required to maintain the private system at no cost to the city.

## School hit by vandals

Sandy Elementary School incurred a \$1,200 loss Friday during school hours when a band instrument storage room was broken into. School officials reported that a piccolo was stolen and a \$900 electric organ nearly destroyed.

Music teacher Gerald Dickson said the room is usually kept locked, but that a teacher's keys were missing and presumably were used for entry into the room.

The piccolo's case was left behind but the instrument valued at \$300, was missing. Dickson said the small instrument could easily be slipped into a pocket without the case.

The electronic circuitry of the organ was ripped out, apparently by hand. Dickson is not sure if it can be repaired. "The components in the back of the organ were very severely damaged," he said.

## Court to enforce water quality standards

by JOHN KLINE

In the face of a court order against him, Gerald "Red" Bennet has begun taking steps to comply with requirements from the state Health Division to clean up the water in the Alder Creek-Barlow system.

Bennet, owner of Alder Creek Water Co. and the numerous sub-systems in the company, began work on the installation of a chlorine detention tank last week at Alder Creek and Highway 26.

Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge Dale Jacobs had agreed earlier in the week to sign an order prepared by lawyers at the Health Division requiring Bennet to install adequate purification equipment.

The Health Division had requested the court to take action last August. A suit was filed then asking that Bennet be required to install the filtration tanks and a chlorinator and that he submit the engineering plans to the Health Division for approval.

The Barlow system serves 70 houses north of Highway 26 and west of Alder Creek. Residents along the system have been instructed by the Health Division to boil their water before drinking. Those instructions are still in effect, according to Health Division enforcement officer Ken Kauffman.

Bennet said this week that he is working on the installation of a 7,000 gallon detention tank located next to the chlorinator. He said he is not doing the work because of the court order but is installing the tank as part of the overall long-range plan for improving the system.

But Bennet maintains that the detention tank, which holds the water for 30 minutes after contact with the chlorine, is not necessary. He said state law requiring the 30-minute contact time "is outdated" because it was written 50 years ago.

He said, "It only takes 10 to 15 seconds to kill all the bacteria in water after the chlorine is added." He said he would lobby in the coming session of the Legislature to have the law amended as such.

Bennet also maintains that test results gathered by the state and the federal Environmental Protection Agency during the summer which showed high coliform bacteria counts were misleading. Those tests showed the Barlow system to be "grossly out of compliance" with state and federal standards.

Bennet said the reason for the high bacteria count was because of work being done for the city of Sandy's intake structure on Alder Creek above the headworks of Bennet's system. He blames city crews for fecal matter in

the creek which contributed to the coliform count.

He also said he plans to build a 100,000 gallon sand filtration tank along the creek "by the end of winter" which will eliminate the need for a chlorination injector and holding tank. However, he said no plans for the new system have been drawn up.

Kauffman said this week that Bennet is required to submit all plans for any improvements on the system to the Health Division before construction begins.

But Bennet maintains that such a requirement "is a bunch of crap." He does not recognize the ability of the Health Division to enforce its water

quality standards since the Legislature stripped the Division of its enforcement powers in the last year's session and gave that authority to the state Water Control Board.

The traditional role of that board, however, has been in the area of water rights for property owners, not in enforcing water quality standards.

## Sandy planner may be hired

The city of Sandy may be looking at the possibility of hiring a full-time planner — but only on a temporary basis — to complete work on the long overdue comprehensive plan.

City Manager Roger Jordan said the city has received 10 applications for the position which may be funded by a hardship grant from the state.

Work on the comprehensive plan has come to a standstill after the city's planning consultant, Eldon Edwards, informed members of council last month he no longer had a staff to work with.

Jordan told council members the city had two alternatives to get the plan completed: Hire a full-time planner or find another consulting firm to do the job. He said the city would be eligible for the hardship grant under either situation.

The grant, if awarded, would be through the Land Conservation and Development Commission which would be a third party to any contract the city might award to get the job done.

Jordan has said he believes the city is in great need of a comprehensive plan which will serve to guide the city through its period of expected growth in the immediate future.

## Aims woman halts school bus

The Sandy High school bus that serves the Aims area is back on a normal schedule following an incident that happened two weeks ago.

An Aims woman, Orrilyn Marsh, stood in front of the bus on its morning route for 45 minutes Dec. 6 and refused to let it pass after driver Dorothy Marchman had refused to let the woman's daughter ride the bus.

"The whole thing started last year before school was out," said transportation supervisor Chuck Markwell. "Her two children were denied access to the bus because of disruptive behavior."

"One of the girls was back in school this year and Tuesday she decided that she wants to ride the bus," Markwell added. "Well, the state says that if you ride the bus home, you must have a note

from your parents if you plan on getting off at another stop.

"We had heard that the family had moved and had no way of knowing what stop was hers," he said.

It was the next day that Mrs. Marsh, accompanied by her daughter, blocked the path of the bus.

The driver told the few remaining children to stay seated on the bus, while locking the vehicle and went to a neighbors house to call Markwell. Markwell called the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department who responded to the scene but Marsh had by then given up her vigil.

No charges of any kind have been pressed against Mrs. Marsh and according to Markwell, her kids are still not riding the bus.

Mrs. Marsh could not be reached for comment on the incident.

## New phone number listed

The phone number for Sandy High School will be changed effective Dec. 29 to make way for a new touchtone system that will be installed in February.

The new number for the school will be 668-8011. Business manager Jim Smith said callers will be able to reach people at the school as well as the district office when the new system is installed.

General Telephone will install the system, which will include five incoming lines, at a cost of approximately \$2,500. The present set-up has three incoming lines.

Smith said several new extensions will be installed in the school "to keep people from having to run halfway across the school to pick up a phone."

The monthly charge on the system will be approximately \$1,100, an increase of \$300 over the present system.

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CAR NEGOTIATES ruts on Meinig Avenue. The city hopes to secure federal funds to make improvements.

Staff photo