

around the county

New sheriff says

Levy to affect Hoodland protection

by KAYE BARTON BAKKE
Post Correspondent

Paul McAllister, Clackamas County's new sheriff, spoke to the Hoodland Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon last Friday about plans for law enforcement during his term.

McAllister took office Jan. 6. His plans for the sheriff's department will be significantly affected by the outcome of the Feb. 17 election, in which a \$14.2 million tax levy will be presented to county voters.

"I'll never make any promises to you I can't keep," McAllister told Chamber members; consequently, his projections were expressed as hopes and likelihoods, as possibilities and probabilities.

Most of the projections were based on the assumption that the serial levy would be approved on Feb. 17. The levy was originally proposed and defeated as the "B" portion of a two-part levy in November.

County voters passed the "A" portion of the November ballot, which McAllister said would allow the sheriff's department to maintain the present staffing level through June, 1984. Also approved in November was a levy for jail expansion.

November's "B" ballot, a \$4.7 million per year levy for a three-year period, will be resubmitted to voters next month.

McAllister said that passage of the levy will enable the department to restore 28 positions which have been eliminated within the last three years and to hire an additional 17 persons.

He pointed out that Clackamas County's ratio of sworn officers-per-population is the lowest of any of Oregon's large counties.

McAllister referred to the Federal



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Sheriff Paul McAllister

Bureau of Investigation's guideline for determining the ideal size of a police force. "The old FBI standard was one policeman for every 1,000 in population," he said.

Clackamas County currently has 240,000 inhabitants, with 150,000 of them living in the unincorporated areas which the sheriff's department serves. The department has 80 officers, yielding a ratio of nearly 2,000 in population for each officer.

McAllister contrasted that figure with the levels for Multnomah County and the City of Portland.

"We're only 9,000 to 10,000 less in population than Multnomah County outside the city," McAllister pointed out, "and we've got a larger geographical area."

Yet Multnomah County has a ratio of approximately 700 citizens per officer. "We've got nine detectives. They have 30," the sheriff said.

What this means to county law enforcement is a "prioritizing of crimes," he told the group. "We're

mainly working crimes against persons," such as robbery, assault, murder, sex abuse and rape.

"It would have to be a 30- or 40- or \$50,000 burglary before we could work it," he said.

He said the Mt. Hood area and the southern portions of the county feel the greatest effect of the manpower shortage.

"You're so isolated up here, yet you've got banks and markets ripe for the picking," he said.

"If that levy passes, there's no reason why we couldn't have two people on the mountain all the time," the sheriff told the business people.

Currently, on graveyard shift, there is one deputy to cover a territory which includes Hoodland, Sandy, Boring and Estacada.

McAllister said the department is economizing in numerous ways, including adoption of the four-day work week. "It looks like all of our people want to try it," he said.

Because the new work week will be planned with overlapping shifts, the sheriff said it will eliminate many late reports and decrease response time on some calls.

Calls which now come in near a shift change may be held until the new shift is on duty, he explained. The four-day work week is also expected to cut overtime hours and eliminate some sick leave, he said.

Another economy measure he listed is to return to a simple white bond stationery rather than the costly colored paper favored by the previous sheriff. McAllister said it would save \$370 a year.

"And that doesn't sound like much, but last week I would like to see a deputy out to a school, and we didn't have the money for it."

He said the schools are an important place to start the county's crime prevention program, because "75 percent of the crime is accountable to young people."

Gleaning plan successful

The generosity of 56 Clackamas County food producers and the "self-help" philosophy of low-income county residents enriched the diets of hundreds of people in 1980.

A total of 79,250 pounds of gleaned fruits, nuts and vegetables were harvested by Clackamas County gleaners in 1980 with an estimated in-store value of \$31,765. Principal donated crops included 13,000 pounds of apples, 14,000 pounds of blackberries, blueberries and strawberries, 17,000 pounds of potatoes, 5,000 pounds of pears, 11,000 pounds of tomatoes and 4,000

pounds of cabbage. Significant amounts of green beans, corn, rutabagas and filberts were also gleaned.

The produce was donated both by commercial growers and backyard donors. Growers invite the low-income people to finish harvesting the fields after they have harvested what they need to sell or consume. In return, commercial growers get a tax credit from the state equal to 10 percent of the wholesale value of the produce, and backyard donors can claim the value of their donation as a contribution to a charitable organization.

The existence of the gleaning project was threatened in the spring of 1980 by budget cuts at both federal and county levels. The Community Action Agency, which has administered the gleaning program since its inception in 1976, found sufficient funds from a variety of sources to allow the agency to assist volunteer gleaners to keep the project alive.

In addition to securing food for themselves, gleaners donate food they have picked to senior citizens, or handicapped people who want to be involved but are physically unable to do so.

County has extra revenue

More than \$1 million has been ticketed for Clackamas County in the upcoming months and the county budget committee wants to know what to do with the money.

A hearing will be held Feb. 4 in the Clackamas County Courthouse Annex in Oregon City for just that purpose. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

The money, \$1,067,000, is the county's 1981-82 General Revenue Sharing entitlement. General Revenue Sharing comes from tax dollars paid to the federal government which is earmarked for city and county government. Clackamas County's \$1 million is for the July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1982 fiscal year.

That money may be used for administration, en-

vironmental protection, libraries, parks and recreation, public safety and social services.

The budget committee has

said that there are more needs than dollars and it would like some public input on the best use of the revenue.

Design plans open to public

Information on a community design plan for Government Camp, an improvement plan for Boring and the Town Center area design plan are now on display at the Clackamas County Department of Environmental Services building lobby in Oregon City.

The new exhibits are a county effort to expand public awareness of current projects and, at the same time, to "recycle" large scale maps, charts and photos, according to Ardis Stevenson, assistant director of the Environmental Services Department.

Displays are mounted on four six-foot panels and will be changed as new projects occur.

The Government Camp study, prepared for the U.S. Forest Service, will assist the county and federal government in reviewing major development programs or proposed ownership changes in the Mt. Hood Corridor. Much of the private land on Mt. Hood is completely surrounded by federal ownerships. The study shows where land swaps or purchases could improve road access and economical provision of water and sewer service to private property.

The Boring Neighborhood display shows the results of an individual household and employers survey and recommended improvements for the community that straddles Highway 212. The plan, developed by a

neighborhood advisory committee and county staff, was funded by a Community Development Block Grant.

Recommendations for Boring include street and drainage improvements, housing and small business rehabilitation loans, a community park and an annual neighborhood clean-up campaign.

The Town Center Area Design Plan exhibit includes maps of road and transit improvements and artists' conceptions of future development. The design plan was adopted last fall and many of the public facilities could be financed by the newly approved tax increment financing district.

All of the exhibit material was originally produced for

reports or public hearings.

"Putting them on display means we get double use while also alerting more people to what's going on, and people who are waiting for a building permit or zoning information have something interesting to look at," Stevenson said.

The Environmental Services lobby exhibits are one of several County programs to inform citizens of county activities or procedures. A pamphlet explaining how to get a building permit is available in the same lobby. Citizens who want to keep posted on current land use projects also can receive the monthly "Citizen's Newsletter." The newsletter is mailed free to anyone who requests it.

County citizens group schedules public forum

Planning for a "What's on your mind" public forum is the main agenda item for the Jan. 27 meeting of Clackamas County's Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Department of Environmental Services offices, Oregon City.

The CIAC, which is responsible for encouraging citizen involvement in County decisions, is organizing a March 31 public forum to provide opportunities for citizens to ask questions about County government and to express their concerns for County priorities. "Adequate information is the key to productive citizen participation," said CIAC chairman John Oster in

announcing the program planning.

Other items on the CIAC agenda are the schedule for land use meetings and a status report on the County's community planning organizations.

CIAC members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, but all meetings are public and guests are welcome.

Barristers name officers

The Clackamas County Bar Association has announced the selection of officers for the 1981 term.

President is Paul Schultz, a partner in the firm of Hibbard, Caldwell, Canning, Bowerman and Schultz. First vice president is John Henry Hingson III, an Oregon City attorney.

Second vice president is Kenneth B. Stewart, a partner in the firm of Crist, Stewart and Lowe of Lake Oswego. The secretary-treasurer is John H. Kelley, a partner in the firm of Redman, Carskadon and Knauss.

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