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City budget aims at continuity in service level

by DAN DILLON

For the third year in a row, the city of Sandy will ask its voters to approve a "no frills" budget aimed at continuing the same level of services while keeping appropriations to a minimum.

In his budget message, City Manager Roger Jordan said, "During the budget preparation, every effort was made to streamline the existing budgets and the appropriations are the minimal amounts we feel necessary to meet our needs."

The city will seek a one-year operating levy of \$319,869.96, which is within the limitations of an 'A' ballot. That sum will balance the annual budget of \$968,880.

The levy would require an estimated tax rate of \$4.50 per \$1,000 of assessed

valuation. Coupled with an estimated \$2.46 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for general obligation bonds already approved, the property taxes on a \$50,000 house in Sandy would be about \$348.

This marks the second year under a new state law controlling property taxes. The law provides for the state to pay up to 30 percent of the property taxes for operating purposes. However, the state has set a limit on its participation as last year's levy plus inflation and growth.

"This new limitation could have the effect of incrementally raising our tax rate," Jordan said, "since the amount of taxable property on which we have spread out the cost is not increasing proportionally with growth. This is a drastic change from previous years when the tremendous increases in the

value of property have decreased rates."

Last year, local tax bills charged a total of \$7.24 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

As expected, the largest portion of the proposed budget would be used to maintain the 24-hour police service. That department would receive \$285,069.

Its budget is designed to continue the same level of services provided last year. A two-hour parking enforcement position is the only new position proposed under the budget. The present staffing provides one officer on duty at all times and two officers on duty Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during critical hours.

The second largest portion of the budget would go to the Public Works Department, \$235,186. The department

pools the personnel and equipment costs and resources for maintenance and improvement of water, sewer, streets and off-street parking into a central fund and the various funds are charged a pro-rated portion for the crews' time and expenditures.

The rest of the city's general fund would find these allocations: city manager's office, \$85,205; library, \$77,370; senior citizens program, \$54,792; building department, \$44,427; debt service, \$41,374; non-departmental funds, \$37,740; planning department, \$30,587; general services (formerly the finance department), \$28,567; recreation department, \$24,833; legal and judicial, \$14,910; city council, \$3,750; community center, \$2,770, and parks, \$2,300.

"Again this year, some of the revenue sharing was used to help pay some of

the operating costs of the general fund," Jordan said. "The general fund contingency fund is at a critical low again this year, and attempts should be made in the future to increase the appropriation."

That fund is \$41,374 and is established to pay for unforeseen city expenditures. "Care should be taken throughout the year," Jordan said, "to insure that the contingency is reserved for emergency uses."

The city will attempt to improve the street system. Scheduled as part of this year's budget are improvements to North Bluff Road, installation of a walkway along Meinig Avenue and oiling of Hood Street.

While not a part of this budget, the city will implement improvements to Tupper Road through a Community

Block Grant in association with the county.

The city will attempt to continue a number of other services with the budget including an increase in library services to residents by increases in the number of books and periodicals and an automated check-in system. The library currently serves some 12,000 area residents, while it was established originally to serve in-city residents. Thus, expanded shelving will increase display space by 33 percent.

Under the proposed budget, the city would continue its support of the Community School program with a \$5,500 allocation.

The city would continue development of Tupper Park and employ a part-time summer aide to keep the present parks clean and maintained.

District warns residents of solicitors, salesmen

The Sandy Fire District this week issued a warning to district residents who may be contacted by telephone solicitors seeking funds in the name of the Sandy district volunteers.

According to Fire Chief Bob Rathke, the solicitors are asking for money for advertisements in a newsletter. The district is not soliciting any funds, Rathke said.

The district also warned of door-to-door salesmen using "possible scare tactics" to sell fire alarm systems.

According to Jim Gallagher, fire prevention officer for the Sandy district, the salesmen have been using the tactics in their attempt to make

sales. He said that if any resident is approached by a salesman using "high-pressure tactics," they should determine if the person has a Sandy business license and contact the fire district if there are any questions.

Gallagher said the salesmen working the area have told residents that smoke detectors are insufficient for fire protection and that heat detectors are superior. However, according to statistics compiled by the state fire marshal, more than 70 percent of the persons who died in fires in Oregon were overcome by inhaling smoke and combustions before they were ever touched by fire.

Higher jail rate has little effect

Although the Clackamas County commissioners voted last week to more than triple the rate charged cities within the county to board prisoners at the county jail, the city of Sandy budgeters won't have much to worry about.

"If someone's arrested on a state charge, then we don't pay board," Sandy police chief Fred Punzel said this week. And most of the local police department's arrests fall into that category — driving infractions, assaults or thefts.

"If they are arrested on a city or-

dinance and they're sentenced to do time," Punzel continued, "then we pay board." As it turns out, however, most of the city ordinances were recently decriminalized so those found guilty generally don't serve time.

That action may save the city a few dollars down the line.

The county owns the only jail in the county and lodges state and municipal prisoners as well as its own.

The commissioners' action, effective July 1, will raise the daily board charge from \$8.25 to \$26.60.



Staff photo

"Death Takes a Holiday" opens tomorrow evening at 7 p.m. in the Sandy High School commons. Curtain time will be 8 p.m. for the remainder of the performances.

Curtain raises on SUHS play tomorrow

Tomorrow's opening night, Feb. 27, of Sandy Union High School's presentation, "Death Takes a Holiday," will offer a unique dining, drama and dancing evening of entertainment.

The semi-formal fundraising event for the SUHS band, which travels to Marriott's Great America in California March 11-15, will begin with a turkey dinner at 6 p.m. The stage presentation will be at 7 p.m. with dancing to the SUHS jazz ensemble following.

According to Steve Christensen,

band director, the dance will feature music from the 1940s through the 1980s. Tickets for the special package are \$20 per couple and dinner reservations are available by calling 668-8011, ext. 235.

Tickets for the play only will also be available for tomorrow's performance.

"Death Takes a Holiday," written by Alberto Casella and rewritten for the stage by Walter Ferris, will be presented "in-the-round," a first for a SUHS production.

Director Mark Kuntz said the

method, becoming popular nationwide, offers some particular challenges for the young actors and actresses. "The actors will always have their back to someone," he said. That presents a challenge with voice projection.

This also marks the first time Kuntz has directed a production in-the-round.

He said the method presents an interesting and intimate alternative to traditional productions.

The play deals with what happens when Death takes a three-day vaca-

tion, during which nothing dies, and falls in love with a beautiful woman. Kuntz said the play features a 13-member cast.

The Shadow will be played by Eric Smith, The Duke by Mat Madison, Ganza by Barbi Ray and Corrado by Rob Lawson.

Following Friday's special presentation, the play will be presented at 8 p.m. Feb. 28, March 5, 6 and 7 in the commons at the school. For ticket information, call 668-8011, ext. 235.

Property owners seek commercial zone

by DAN DILLON

Three Sandy property owners want their land rezoned for a commercial use and next Wednesday evening, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. the Sandy Planning Commission will consider their requests.

The three parcels, each fronting Highway 26, were designated for residential uses when the city's zoning ordinance was updated in 1980.

The first request involves adjacent parcels on the south side of the intersection at Highway 26 and University Avenue. Vincent J. Keating and John Christensen are requesting a zoning change from high density residential to commercial.

Keating's property is the site of the former Mt. Hood Animal Clinic. The Christensen property is on the east side of that parcel.

The area on both sides of University Avenue was previously shown as low density in the 1974 comprehensive plan.

The zoning, however, was general commercial, conflicting with the zoning designation.

During the 1980 comprehensive plan update the area was redesignated high density residential and the zoning changed to reflect that. The move took into account the predominant land use pattern in the area, according to City Planner Don Wilson, and provided consistency between the land use plan and the zoning designation.

A comprehensive plan amendment will be necessary to realize the two parties' requests for commercial zones. On the opposite end of the city, Ruby Eliason owns residential property at 40830 Highway 26. It is adjacent to the vacant commercial property owned by Jim Brock at the intersection of Highway 26 and Langensand Road.

Prior to the 1980 update, her property was zoned highway commercial. It was subsequently redesignated medium density residential. The move, according to Wilson, took its present residential use into consideration and the fact that it lacks commercial highway access.

Eliason would like her property to be medium density residential to general commercial.

A final request, filed by Harold Caillison and William Emberg, would change property adjacent to Skyline Mobile Villa from low density residential to high density residential. The mobile home park is located near the intersection of Bluff Road and Sandy Heights Road.

The present Skyline Mobile Villa was developed prior to the adoption of the 1974 zoning ordinance and as such was a pre-existing use, as it is today.

A former owner received a zone change to R-M, the old mobile home zone, for the adjacent lot to permit expansion of the park on to adjoining property. The mobile home park was never expanded.

The property owners are seeking reinstatement of the high density zone, presumably to allow expansion now, according to Wilson.

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Hundreds of area Girl Scouts gathered at Sandy High School over the weekend for Alpine Thinking Day. The girls heard a member of the Bow and Arrow Indian Club tell the legend of Mt. St. Helens as part of their study of the Northwest.