



# The Sandy Post

Vol. 72 No. 46

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1982

(USPS 481-180)

Single Copy 25c

## Volunteers hub of center activities

by DAN DILLON

Nightly newscasts and morning newspapers grimly report rising unemployment figures. But for many, the unemployed remain just faceless numbers.

For a band of 41 dedicated volunteers at Sandy's Community Action Center, those unemployment figures are very human and the volunteers deal with them on a daily basis.

"People don't realize how bad some of these people are off," said Freda Goodwin, a volunteer at the center for six years.

"We have people who are sleeping in cars because they can't afford rent. You look at their clothes and you can tell they're sleeping in their car."

But for Goodwin who puts in three-hour shifts sorting donated clothes and helping clients, there is a reward. "I think there's a need for volunteers," she said. "It kind of makes you feel good to help people."

Helping people has been what the Sandy Community Action Center has been about since its inception in the 1960s.

In 1970, faced with a cutoff of federal funds, a group of local volunteers got together, formed a

corporation and it has been up to volunteers ever since.

The Sandy center remains the only action center in Clackamas County without a paid director.

Pete Sulzbach, chairman of the center, estimates that center volunteers spend about half an hour working with each client who comes into the center. The average is nearly 1,000 clients a month.

"We go from chaos to order, chaos to order," Sulzbach said smiling.

The reasons clients walk in are varied.

The center provides food baskets, vouchers for gasoline, clothing and bedding, and this winter will again help with the fuel assistance program, that can provide as much as \$100 help on a fuel bill.

"People are coming in having their heat turned off," Sulzbach said. "It's kind of amusing in a way. To some extent PGE does social work. They tell somebody where they can get food stamps, so maybe they can pay their PGE bill."

Even the food stamps leave shortfalls, however.

"The food stamps they're handing out isn't enough to hold them for a month," said Colleen



Photos by Dan Dillon

The sorting of donations never ends as Colleen Pledger, left, and Freda Goodwin look over a new batch of clothes at the Community Action Center.

Pledger, who has helped out at the center for eight months.

The trip to apply for the food stamps at Gladstone or Maryhurst often requires a voucher for gasoline.

The center, on the other hand, only purports to offer food assistance for three to four days.

The bulk of its food supply comes from the Food Bank in Portland, but other sources lend a helping hand with cash and food donations, including the local Kiwanis Club, VFW Auxiliary, TOPS Club and four local churches.

"If we had help from all of them, we could almost be independent," Sulzbach mused.

The Clackamas County Gleaners have filled a void throughout the harvest season, dropping off 3,000 pounds of turnips, 1,300 pounds of cabbages, and equally large amounts of potatoes, apples and

squash.

"I thought those turnips would never go away," Sulzbach chuckled.

That kind of bulk food goes on the center's "help-yourself shelf." Although there are local donations and money comes from the city of Sandy, routed through Clackamas County officials in a string of red tape, the center relies on donations and contributions from clients and local residents.

"The contribution can have been kind of lean though lately," Goodwin said.

"People question what volunteers do here," said Nod Hartley. "Workers spend hours in that room sorting, hanging clothes on the racks so they can be displayed."

What isn't used at the center is sent to the Goodwill depot in Gresham. The center gets between

2,000 and 3,000 household items every month.

Helen Sulzbach makes quilts from scraps of materials left over from sewing and she has made "in the hundreds," said Goodwin.

"Most of the time that's mainly what we have to give out to the clients," Pledger said. "We don't get many blankets."

With all the donations filling the tiny building on Pioneer Boulevard, the center has searched for a new home.

The center has a grant and a \$30,000 bequest from the estate of Lydia Koch to purchase a new site, but so far no deal has been made.

"We want a permanent home," Sulzbach said. "Rent is the biggest item in the Community Action Center finances. If times get tougher, with local help, we could operate in our own building."



Nod Hartley, Pete Sulzbach and Frank Marcy tote in a couch that will go to help a family in need.

## New manager studies city, meets people

by DAN DILLON

New City Manager Tom Reber learned early on that Sandy residents and the Sandy Police Department are on the ball.

He was in the process of moving into temporary quarters at the home of former City Manager Roger Jordan when he received a visit from the local police. Someone had reported a suspicious vehicle at the residence.

Reber hopes that unfamiliarity won't be repeated as he spends the early days of his stay in Sandy meeting the people, getting his finger on the pulse of the city council and familiarizing himself with situations unique to the community.



Tom Reber

Some of those situations won't be as foreign as might be expected.

Sandy, according to the 31-year-old city manager, has some striking similarities to Jordan, Minn., where he spent four years as city administrator.

"It's quite similar in that it is on the fringe of a metropolitan area," he said. Jordan is just 35 miles from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Although it was slightly smaller, Reber said, the city provided a full range of services similar to Sandy, except for senior citizen and library services which were provided by the home county.

"One area where it appears Jordan was providing a higher level was in parks and recreation," he said, noting, however, that it did not enjoy the proximity to recreation areas like Mt. Hood and the Oregon coast.

Reber also enjoyed a more open taxing situation in Minnesota. "I think Minnesotans are willing to pay for the higher level of services because they want to maintain their standard of living," he said.

The tax structure, supported by sales, property and income taxes, allowed him to submit a budget within an 8 percent growth limit annually without voter approval.

The Oregon system of voter approval of levies could prove a challenge, he admitted.

"It certainly seems to me to be an unstable situation when misinformation or the timing of a certain event in relation to the election can affect the outcome," Reber said.

In Jordan, Reber worked closely with an economic development corporation and hopes to continue that as Sandy makes its bid for industrial and commercial growth.

He attended Mankato State University in Minnesota where he earned a bachelor's degree in urban and regional studies, and business administration in 1973. He earned a master's degree from the same university in 1975 in urban and regional studies and management studies.

Reber expects his wife Nanette and daughter Katie to join him in Sandy no later than the first week of January.

## Improvement district voided; city to start over

by DAN DILLON

A recent Oregon Supreme Court decision not to review the six-year-old case of Local Improvement District 4 has sent the city of Sandy back to the drawing board.

The court's refusal to hear the city's appeal of an earlier ruling by the state Court of Appeals has local officials scrambling to, in effect, begin at the beginning.

"In a sense, we don't have a local improvement district," said City Manager Tom Reber.

So, City Engineer Greg DiLoreto is preparing a report that follows the city ordinance outlining what a local improvement district should be.

That report is expected to be

delivered to city council members today. The council will meet in executive session Monday evening at 7 p.m. to discuss the situation. That evening the council is expected to approve the new engineer's report and set a public hearing for Dec. 13.

The project to pave Heritage Square parking lot should not have been divided into two phases and continued without initiating new proceedings, according to Associate Judge Edward Warren of the Oregon Court of Appeals.

At the time of cost overruns that caused the city to take that action, it should have gone back, re-initiated the proceedings and began it again.

That is what is doing now.

"You start all over with the pro-

cedure for establishing a local improvement district. Legally, that is what's happening," Reber said. "I'm sure that that's not what is going to happen with all that's gone into it."

The city hopes to persuade the adjacent property owners to agree to pay for the parking lot and to decide what portion of the cost they are willing to pay—all or part of it.

City officials will have a list of alternatives ready for the Dec. 13 hearing in case the property owners remonstrate against the new LID and effectively kill it.

The parking lot project began in March 1976 when property owners asked the Sandy City Council to build a 106-space municipal parking lot through a local improvement

district.

The engineer's report filed then, however, didn't detail plans and specifications but simply listed general work with estimated costs. It didn't include the cost of property acquisition, appraisal fees, lighting, water lines and hydrants, utilities or attorney fees. The report estimated the project's cost at \$57,565.

By October 1976, however, problems arose. The property owners were concerned that the project hadn't progressed. In executive session, the city council decided to divide the project into two phases, attempting to expedite the project.

When assessments for Phase I were billed, they totaled \$104,989.76—nearly double the

original estimate.

The property owners argued that the city denied them the right to remonstrate against a proposal that differed from the original LID.

Property owners involved in the LID project included the owners of Decker's Store, the Bolster-Scales Professional Building, the Heritage Square Building, the Double Dragon, T.J.'s Fireside Dining, the Wheatland Building and the Frontier Building.

Two property owners later applied for Bancroft bonding to pay for their assessments. However, pending litigation has prevented collection of any assessments. The Court of Appeals ruling, which essentially eliminated the LID, negated the assessments.

## Hoodland volunteers seek 'service' policy review

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

The Volunteer Association of the Hoodland Rural Fire Department last week asked the board of directors to allow a committee to explore the potential impact of a new policy, forbidding board membership by fire department staff.

That includes volunteers who are now referred to as part-time employees.

The policy was heavily opposed by both full-time and volunteer firefighters who questioned the legality and motive of the policy at the board's October meeting.

The board, however, adopted the policy and board members Dave Olson and Ray Miller resigned as department volunteers.

In a letter to the fire board last week, Barbara Matheson, president of the Volunteer Association, asked the board to endorse a committee to approach government agencies to study the potential legal ramifications of the policy. The volunteers fear that because they are looked on as part-time staff, they will have to be paid minimum wage and have social security and other benefits taken out.

Peggy Hergert, board president,

doesn't see any difference in the status of the volunteers since the policy went into effect.

"Off the top of my head I can see no change," agreed Miller, "since other districts in the state operate under this same policy."

Fire Chief Don Armintrout told the

board that taxes for a person will be taken out only if they are paid to be at a certain place at a certain time. If this is the case then the benefits will have to be taken out. He said an auditor just recently informed him that the department's part-time weekend help are considered "paid

personnel." That means social security should have been withheld, but was not.

Armintrout doesn't feel withholdings have to be taken from volunteers' reimbursement checks. He said the auditor told him that if the person has the opportunity to re-

pond or not to the call, no social security would have to be taken out.

Olson, however, said that all volunteers are required to respond to a certain percentage of the calls. This, he said, makes it a requirement to respond.

## Class consolidation alarms Welches parents

A change in teaching assignments and restructured first- and fifth-grade classes have parents concerned the Welches School District.

Based on superintendent Kenneth Blackburn's recommendation, two fifth-grade classes have been combined and the first-grade class split into two 13-student classes. He maintains the district can't afford to maintain two fifth-grade teachers in their current positions and hire an extra first-grade teacher as well.

As a result, Kathleen McDougall was reassigned Monday as a first-grade teacher. The other fifth-grade teacher, Chuck Peterson, had his class increased from 11 students to 24 students.

Board chairperson Dick Hoffman said that the decision to make McDougall a first-grade teacher,

rather than Peterson, was her training to teach the DISTAR reading program.

Rob Hill, a parent and former teacher at the school, is concerned how the school board made its decisions. He said the decisions were made in executive session, without giving the parents a chance to voice their opinion in the matter.

Parent Bruce Traasdahl agrees. He told The Post the change was "slid under the table at us."

Upset with the board's handling of the problem, a group of parents attended the Nov. 11 school board meeting to get answers to their questions.

According to Muri Silvey, a counselor and Ph.D. candidate at the Oregon Graduate School of Professional Psychology, the students had

"suffered from enough administrative indecision and changing of horses in midstream."

Traasdahl said this class has been "jacked around more than any other," citing class changes in all five years.

Silvey said the administration and school board's use of economic criteria for bases of their decisions doesn't consider the negative psychological impacts that consolidation has on the students.

Last Thursday's meeting began on a sour note when parents learned that Blackburn would not attend. He was away on special maneuvers with the National Guard at Fort Lewis, Wash., Nov. 11-14, and the board was aware two months ago that he would be absent from the meeting.

Bob Meiser, a parent of three children attending the school, said he and the other parents want to meet with Blackburn to get some questions answered. He said it was concern of parents whose children have been getting pushed around since they were in the first grade and it had to come to a halt.

Silvey agreed. He said the changes the students have undergone have created stress that could affect their ability to learn. The affect of consolidation and splitting up of classes, he claimed, "will be much more detrimental to some than it will be for others."

In some instances, said Silvey, the stress may come out in the student's academics or in their relationships with one another.

## Index

### SECTION I

Editorial, Opinion	2
Keeping Posted	4
Senior Center News	4
Menus	5
Church News	5
What's Cooking	6
Sports, Recreation	11-12

### SECTION II

Classified Ads	Inside Tab
TV Revue	Inside Tab