

Firwood parents see need for caution sign

Members of the Firwood Parent-Teacher Club support the idea of a sign or speed zone at the intersection of S.E. Firwood Road and S.E. Firwood School Road.

Over 200 signatures were gathered recently supporting the concept of a caution sign near the school.

Patti Tobias, chairman of the PTC ways and means committee, said that a representative of the club will ask the Sandy City Council for a letter of recommendation for the sign. Firwood School is outside the city limits.

They'd like to take a letter of recommendation and the signatures to Clackamas County officials for approval.

"If this fails, we'll find other paths to take to get a sign up," Tobias said.

"This sign will go up." Many patrons apparently feel a school crossing sign is needed to warn motorists about the school. People not living in the area might not know there is a school nearby when they pass the intersection.

Superintendent Clark Lund said he supports the PTC in its efforts.

Lund said he pursued two related issues through the summer with county officials.

A court order, reportedly correcting an oversight, designates what was once considered an extension of Trubel Road as Southeast Firwood School Road.

With that approval comes snow removal and other benefits to the short section of road, such as maintenance.

The second request, that of a caution sign, was denied. The established procedure is that unless school property fronts a road, no signs are put up. Lund said he feels it's important to consider what's "prudent."

He pointed out that to the south of the intersection is

a blind curve, and on the west side one goes over a steep hill just before getting to the intersection.

"Very few" youngsters cross at the intersection, he said. He'd like signs up similar to those at Kelso School. That sign reads: "School—Speed 20—When Children are Present."

According to Bernard Straight, a traffic engineer with the Department of Environmental Services'

policy and projects division, the county abides by federal standards that have been approved by the state.

For a school zone to be set up, he confirmed, the school must front the road. He said in many cases

when signs are put up in rural areas they are vandalized.

He said they lose 60 percent of their signs in a year's time.

Straight said there are 2,500 intersections in the

county. He said if they were to assign a priority to each of the corners, rural areas would be low on the list.

He added that if the county goes against the standard, "We're liable."

He said setting up a school zone could create "a false sense of security." Considering the small number of students who cross at the intersection, he said it's unlikely the area would be designated a school zone.

Christmas dinner set

The Mt. Hood Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas Dinner, a fund raiser for the local fireworks display, will be Dec. 10 at the Rippling River Convention Center. A \$12.50 donation per person is asked.

The no-host bar will open at 7 p.m. Dinner is at 8. Tickets are available at Sears or the U.S. Bank in the Hoodland Park Plaza, and at the Clackamas County Bank.

School plans tour

The Welches Community School is sponsoring two upcoming tours.

A tour of the Pendleton Woolen Mills is scheduled for Dec. 10. The outing will also include a shopping spree at the Mills' outlet store and a stop for lunch.

Interested persons should meet at the

Women's Club by 8 a.m. for carpooling.

Also planned is a tour of the historic Fort Vancouver. Although this trip will not take place until after Christmas, interested persons are invited to sign up early.

For more information, call 622-3397 or 622-3700.

First aid class set

The Hoodland Rural Fire Department and Welches Community School are offering a first aid and CPR class Dec. 4 and 5 from 8

a.m. till noon. Interested persons may call the fire department at 622-3256.

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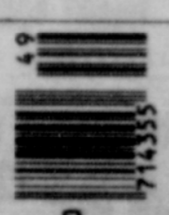
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checks directly to the fuel supplier—whether it be wood, natural gas, oil, electricity or other fuel—to supply emergency fuel supplies. To enable us to help as many needy families as we can, this emergency assistance will be limited to once during the winter.

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