

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Volunteers make program

Deane Wesselink, city councilor, said Monday night at the Sandy city council meeting that locally it seems there are usually six people who do all the work for about five different organizations. Wesselink is right, of course. Yet every time a person turns around there are more worthwhile causes for one to get involved in.

One good cause is the Block Home Program, which is in the conception stage in Sandy.

Debra Hoard, president of the Sandy Parent-Teacher Club, deserves credit for bringing the idea to Sandy. As it turns out Fred Punzel, chief of police, is familiar with the idea and is an enthusiastic backer.

Asked by Wesselink Monday night if he had time to implement the program, Punzel said, "I'll make the time. I think it's that good of an idea."

The purpose of the Block Home Program is to provide emergency service to children going to and from school, and during the evening hours, on weekends, or during

summer months.

The Block Home is intended to serve as a safe refuge for children who are frightened, injured, lost, in danger or in an emergency situation.

Block Homes will be marked by a distinctive visual of a home wearing a smile.

It will take some time to set the program up, and for law enforcement officials there will be background investigations to conduct. Not just anyone can sponsor a Block Home.

The Block Home Program is recognized nationwide, dating back to the 1940s. Locally, it is nice to see the program being planned before a tragedy occurs.

The first organizational meeting will be Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sandy Grade School gymnasium. A 10-member committee will be needed to help organize the program.

This is a worthwhile program that deserves the active support of more than the regular six volunteers.

Opinion

Registration considered

by DONNA ZAJONC
State Representative

The 1975 Oregon Legislature enacted election day voter registration with the belief that it would result in increased voter participation.

Statistics provided by the 1980 census, however, show that Oregon has experienced a gradual decline in voter participation since implementation of the policy, with the exception of the 1982 election. These statistics, combined with abuse of the system, indicate a need to re-evaluate the usefulness and efficiency of election day voter registration.

Inherent in the election day voter registration system is the possibility of fraud. The primary issue is verification of residence, according to Secretary of State Norma Paulus. Under the current system, nothing prevents an individual from registering under a false address and voting. Standard procedure by the county clerk is to make a Certificate of Registration to the individual registering on the last day.

In the 1981 election, Linn county, with a relatively low population, received 206 registration cards returned as undeliverable due to an incorrect address or the individual not living at the given address. In other words, 206 people voted that the county clerk could not locate after election day.

A 20-day registration deadline would allow enough time to mail out the Certificates of Registration to verify voter residency and note questionable registrations in the poll book.

The amount of time necessary to register the voter also causes additional expense to the county and frustration to the voter who registered long before election day.

According to the Multnomah County clerk, "We can identify about \$15,000 in direct costs in our county for registration up to and including election — computer terminals (CRT and hard copy), postage, labor, etc."

This is not an efficient use of our funds or service to the public. Election day registration causes long lines at the polls,

unnecessarily increases cost and the possibility of error.

County election offices typically have small staffs, and the last minute registrants cause problems for both staff and voters. According to Vicki Ervin, elections manager for Washington County, "Our ability to identify and resolve problems which arise at the polling place is severely hampered because we have to donate so much of our resources to the registration process." The inhibition of response time and attention diverted from problems leads to disenfranchisement of long time voters.

A recent example of abuse of the current system was the 1982 race for major in the town of Shanico (Oregonian, April 3, 1983). It was discovered that property tax, driver's license and voting records showed that the winner was actually a resident of Roseburg, more than 250 miles from Shanico.

Because of Oregon's current registration process, it was possible for the new mayor to be registered in one city, vote in another and actually win the election. Other examples of violations continue to come to the Legislature's attention, but the 1983 Legislature failed to change election day registration.

We must develop a safeguard to preserve the integrity of our election process. An initiative petition filed with the Secretary of State in September of this year will require a 20-day voter registration cutoff requirement.

The intent of this constitutional amendment is to give county election officials adequate time to verify voter residency and ensure that only those people entitled to vote in a particular voting district will do so.

As a co-signer of this petition, I am strongly supporting the measure because it will preserve Oregon's fair voting process. We need 83,361 signatures! If you are interested in supporting the measure or carrying a petition, contact Representative Donna Zajonc, P.O. Box 426, Salem, 97308.

Zajonc, a Republican, represents House District 32, which includes Salem.

Opinion

Group opposes LCDC

The Mad Oregon Property Owners recently announced the launching of a fund raising drive. The group, which was very active in support of the 1982 Measure 6, is leading the current petition drive to limit the control of LCDC.

The director, Roy Durham, said "The last anti-LCDC ballot measure was nearly a victory but a well-orchestrated and financed media blitz appealing to the emotions of the Oregon voters caused the measure to be defeated by a close margin. In 1984 we will be prepared to counterattack and win!"

"For 10 years," Durham said, "Oregon has lived under the dictatorship of LCDC. Each legislative session is like a dark cloud overhead — promising much and delivering nothing in reforming the process which require Oregonians to continuously struggle with a faceless bureaucracy that make arbitrary decisions affecting families, incomes and our social structure. Our republican form of government has been replaced by a bureaucratic level of social planners... who purport to know more about what is good for us than we do."

Durham said that although LCDC claims to protect property and environment while

developing a growing economy, they have, in fact, done just the opposite. A scorecard published by the National Industrialist magazine showed how many new industries each state had attracted during the first half of 1981; North Carolina 179, Texas 303, Florida 191 and Oregon 4. "The 1983 Legislature compounded the burden of the people under the guise of streamlining, which, in fact, one of their own legislators labelled nothing more than cosmetic, so it's back in the lap of the people," said Durham.

One of the two petitions will amend the Constitution to forbid laws which reduce the value, use, enjoyment or protection of private property. The second petition will be comparable to the 1982 petition.

"It is time for people to regain control over the use of their private property," said Durham, "for he who controls the use of private property controls the owner of that property."

Heading the fund-raising drive is Elizabeth Freauf and Sylvia Wirth. "We are fortunate to have two such committed people working with us," said Durham.

The above opinion was provided by Mad Oregon Property Owners.



Letters to the editor

Status of animal control questioned

I have just spent a very heartbreaking few days dealing with a sad case of animal cruelty. I live in the city of Sandy, but the dog in question is outside of any city limits in Clackamas County.

When I first noticed the medium sized, curly-haired pooch, he was tied with an eight-foot rope to an abandon car door. He had a very heavy chain around his neck.

I thought at the time he was in sad circumstances, being exposed to the cold and rain. Two days later as I drove by again he was tangled in huge pieces of discarded carpeting. He was able to move, dragging the wet mass with him.

When I arrived home I called the Oregon Humane Society. They told me that due to a lack of funds they no longer serviced my area and suggested I call Clackamas County animal control. I quickly called; no answer, of course! It was Sunday.

Monday, early a.m., I drove by the suffering animal on my way to work. His owners had shortened his rope to a length barely enough for the pooch to sit comfortably. I am sure he was unable to lie down at all.

Upon returning home I called the animal control office, the time was about 4:50 p.m., and the number was busy until 5 p.m., after which no one answered. Tuesday was an exact repeat of Monday, with the poor pup sitting in the same position.

I longed to go and cut his

rope. I couldn't wait for Wednesday morning, for I could call from my home until I reached someone who could help. When I called animal control that morning, I was told, "Sorry, due to budget cuts we are unable to service your area. If it's a life-threatening situation you can try the sheriff's department."

By now I was very upset, near tears. I felt the person took great pleasure in telling me of budget cuts and layoffs. I too am a public employee and have suffered the results of the heavy budget ax. If I were to respond to the public in this manner my boss would be shocked and discuss the need to present the best face to the public in an attempt to win more votes.

I also question the humanitarian aspects of this budget cut. After all, we are not talking about landscaping a park or a new typewriter for some secretary.

Frankly, this administrative decision seems designed to punish the public. Otherwise, why bother to hire someone to answer the phone and pass out the bad news?

If the animal control is no longer able to function, close it down and make a contribution to the Humane Society so they can provide the service. At least they care about the real problem!

In this case I must remind everyone that the dog only understands its slow suffering, not budget cuts. I wonder how many days

it will take before I can call the sheriff's department and tell them the dog's condition has finally become life threatening?

I'm sure, as he appeared a young dog and the weather isn't too severe, he may be able to hold out a week or two.

Valerie D. Engle
Sandy

Thanks

On the behalf of myself and the City Council, I would like to thank all of the social and civic clubs, the business organizations and individuals that have contributed to the Christmas spirit, which is very evident in downtown Sandy this year.

The many decorated Christmas trees, the window decorations, the banners and all of the greenery and garlands have certainly improved the appearance of our city during this Christmas season.

I have always considered Sandy as a very special place and all of the cooperative efforts of these groups and the individuals responsible have proved to me again what a very special place Sandy is indeed.

Ruth M. Loundree
Mayor

Decay

A recent judicial decision has prompted a flood of feelings from within me.

The slow decay of our society is definitely having its effect on the thinking process of our now decaying judicial system.

The case in point is the young lady who is paraplegic and wishes to die. Although for religious reasons I personally am against suicide, I can certainly understand her point of view.

But it was the statement by the judge in the case which brought an end to my patience with our absurd society. The judge spoke of a nation that truly defends life and considers it precious, etc., etc., and therefore she would not be allowed to kill herself.

Have you ever heard such hypocritical and pompous words in your life?

The next point is of a more local interest, that of the prostitutes which have been banded about in the news reports recently. The marches in the streets, and generally a lot of finger pointing about those "ladies of the night." Again, some more hypocritical nonsense!

The "big lie" that I see developing in this country is simply this: we are a nation that relishes in the idea that life is precious and defend it with our freedom. But as a total society we don't do that. We use our freedom to destroy life, and abortion is that proof of our hypocrisy; so under the circumstances, judge, why not let the girl do what she wants! What's the difference between her and a baby in the womb!

Finally, in this age of

plain speaking females who shoot from the hips about every conceivable subject under God's sun; their argument of the right of women to do what they want with their bodies has been very successful in the courts that I have been discussing. So if that is true, then where does society get off pointing fingers at the friendly neighborhood prostitute; doesn't she have a right to do with her body what she wants to do?

And the "big lie" continues to go on in this country. Such as the one on the back of our dollar bill, which says, "In God We Trust." Our society doesn't really believe that anymore! If not, why do we continue to spend millions of dollars of tax money on storing surplus food? Why can't this food reach the place of a starving human being in Africa or Asia? The reason? No one can make a "buck" that way!

The "Big Bankers" would rather continue to play the game, loaning our money at high interest rates to the "corrupt governments" of these countries rather than insure food be made available to the "people" that these bankers and governments are using as pawns and taking advantage of!

Someone made a lot of money, and that's the reason why we reached the moon. How much money does it take to love your neighbor?

Ralph A. Sandercock Jr.
Sandy