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Photo by Christine Bierman

Music in the Park

Janet Sanders Martin of Molalla croons a folk song during the opening day of Sandy's picnic in the park series. A concert pianist at Clackamas Community College, Sanders also plays the guitar and autoharp and writes music. Picnic in the Park

is set for 12-3 p.m. each Sunday this month at Meinig Park. It is sponsored by the City of Sandy and the Sandy area Chamber of Commerce.

Safety proves the crux for friend, foe of 26 plan

by CHRISTINE BIERMAN

WELCHES—Opinion was almost evenly-split at a 1½-hour public hearing Aug. 6 on the state Department of Transportation's (DOT) proposal to widen 5.7 miles of Highway 26 between Wildwood and Rhododendron.

Traffic safety problems were used by a number of the 22 persons testifying, both as reasons to add three lanes to the highway or to leave it as-is. Supporters slightly outnumbered opponents, in testimony offered.

A crowd filled the Welches Grade School auditorium to give oral and written testimony and to listen to others at the first of two hearings this week. Another is scheduled for 7:30 this evening (Aug. 8) at Gresham High School.

Comments will be accepted by the DOT at 9002 S.E. McLoughlin Boulevard, Milwaukie 97222, until Aug. 29. A decision is due Oct. 1.

As far as Adrienne Shields of Rhododendron is concerned, it's time to stop negotiating on a solution acceptable to all and to start the road improvement. She has been waiting since 1970 for the highway widening project.

"Let's start cooking," Shields told DOT officials. Tuesday's audience heard, however, that work on the section from Zigzag to Rhododendron

may be a year or more away. The right-of-way has been acquired and funding approved for the Wildwood to Zigzag project, department officials said.

"The only viable alternative is the one recommended by people we pay to do the job," said Shields, referring to the DOT.

Others disagreed with conclusions drawn by the DOT in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the highway's status and the project. One dissenter was Herbert W. Forbes Jr., a lifetime Mt. Hood Corridor resident. One of the steelhead improvement projects being carried out there by the Mt. Hood Independent Steelheaders, to which he belongs, would be eliminated by the wider highway.

Still, other opponents voiced concerns about the impact on quality of life in the villages flanking the highway. Rusty Regan, a 15-year resident of the area, said that, "The

few more minutes it takes to pass through our community do not warrant its demise."

Regan made the audience chuckle with his parting line, "Nix, nix, Interstate 26."

Research by Bethany Dalton and Shirley Dueber, both of Welches, contradicted the DOT's findings that congestion on the two-lane highway contributes to a high accident rate. Their studies showed that most mishaps occurred instead on the four-lane sections.

"This street (Highway 26) is our main street," Dalton said. "No community should expect (drivers) on their main street to be able to go 70 mph."

A number of project opponents indicated that they would prefer lowered speed limits, stepped-up enforcement of them, and/or turnout lanes in areas prone to congestion.

Geri Bell was one of several sup-

porters to turn around the safety argument. Insisting that there is a congestion problem, the 40-year-old Rhododendron resident said that, "On weekends, I sometimes even dread to drive out on Highway 26."

Zigzag resident Jean Stein said that the project would make the highway safer, much like turning lanes at Lolo Pass Road did.

Although the question of safety prevailed in the supporters' statements, others shared hopes for increased traffic in business and communities dotting the cross-state route. Representatives of the Sandy Area and Mt. Hood Area chambers of commerce, 13 Government Camp businesses, the Hoodland Plaza Shopping Center and the Mirror Mountain ski area discussed the project's pluses in economic terms.

Mirror Mountain owner Carl Reynolds said that winter recreationists jamming the highway now will only increase. "There will be more pressure down the road as time goes on," he said.

Stein and Reynolds pointed out in separate statements that there is a larger community to consider, that of skiers and travelers. The importance of snow skiing to the local economy "...cannot be forgotten," Reynolds said. He has been in the ski area business for 35 years.

Two-hour limit to remain parked

A two-hour parking limit in name only will remain that way until the entire Sandy City Council can discuss the issue, it was decided Monday night.

Five council members voted unanimously to postpone a decision on the issue for the full council's consideration. The council had earlier decided to proceed with enforcement.

The vote Aug. 5 followed 45 minutes of complaints about the prospect of enforcing the long-standing limit from downtown Sandy merchants who fear that it will scare away customers. (The limit is already posted throughout the core area.)

Later, the council voted to delay the idea of permitting businesses meeting paved parking requirements to add on gravelled parking space.

To hear the eight business persons and residents talk Monday night was to believe that Sandy has no parking problem overall. The only exception may be during the Sandy Festival, said a Sandy barber.

A few persons attending the council meeting Monday presented petitions opposing the parking limit that were signed by at least 150 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Sandy retailers and their employees, according to Don Blair of Sandy.

Blair said that enforcement of a parking limit in the core commercial area of Sandy would encourage customers to turn to shopping centers, such as the new Sandy Marketplace.

"I can't find somebody that wants one (a parking limit)," said Dr. E.D. Leavitt. As a physician, he needs his

car nearby the office for responding to emergencies.

Denise Redman of Mountain Video and other business owners said that a parking limit would force them to close shop every two hours just to move their own vehicles.

Dr. Ken Claggett, a Sandy dentist, asked the council about providing parking space for his six full-time employees. Councilman Jim Duff later suggested that businesses work together to put together permit parking lots for owners and employees at several open areas around town.

Most attending the meeting felt that Sandy has enough parking space and that individual parking problems do not justify enforcing a limit for everyone.

Their testimony ran contrary to a poll presented the council by the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce last month, councilors said.

Duff told the audience that complaints about lack of parking came from the Health House, a tavern and a number of other businesses whose names he could not recall.

But many businesses represented Monday, including Sandy Rexall Drug, said that they were excluded from that poll. Drugstore owner Olin Bignall publicly doubted that any of the Chamber of Commerce officers ran retail businesses and, thus, could understand their special needs anyway.

Both Blair and Bignall said that past councils chose to ignore enforcement of the parking limit, out of concern for the harm it would cause business traffic.

Oral Hull barbeque also serves fun

Sandy Lions Club and Oral Hull Park members hope to open eyes of Sandy-area residents about their community's facility for the blind, through the Annual Fun Day there this Sunday (Aug. 11).

The public is welcome to enjoy a barbecued chicken dinner and an afternoon of entertainment from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Oral Hull.

"We do want the people to get acquainted with the park and the people there. We are just human beings," said entertainment coordinator Judy Hanson about the event's purpose.

The Sandy Lions Club will prepare and serve dinners including barbecued half-chickens, corn on the cob, cantaloupe, buttered rolls and beverages. The cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children ages 12 and younger, said Janice Rockwell, Lions Ladies Auxiliary president.

Although the cost of the food leaves little money left, Rockwell said, any profit will be turned over to the Oral Hull Park.

The idea is "...to bring people from the surrounding area to see what they do," Rockwell says.

Entertainment will be provided, compliments of Hanson, a part-time Oral Hull resident, and volunteer performers. Hanson's program starts at 11 a.m. and runs throughout the event.

The line-up of performers includes The Twilighters, a five-member band of semi-retired, mostly blind performers, Colleen Schoble, a gospel singer, and Mary Ann Morgan, a blind accordion player, accompanied by Al (last name unavailable) on violin. The Twilighters' saxophonist is "fantastic," said Hanson, special activities chairwoman.

There will be plenty for people to do besides listen. They can play Showdown, a game similar to table tennis, basketball, table bowling, or Bingo (from 3-4:30 p.m.), enter a cakewalk, or ride a train provided by the City of Sandy. The Bingo games will be run by Wayne French of the Elks Club.

Or they can fish, hike, marvel at the Garden of Enchantment, or tour the lodge and dormitories.

"There's always other things for people to do out here," Hanson says.

The event was scheduled this year to avoid conflicts with other activities, Rockwell said. Last year, it fell on the same weekend as the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz and the Catholic Church's fund-raising dinner, and attendance suffered, she said.

To reach Oral Hull, head east on Highway 26, turn left at TenEyck Road, head towards the Sandy Airport and turn left at the park.

A land donation by a Sandy resident many years ago helped establish Oral Hull Park, which serves as a kind of summer camp for blind people from all over the U.S., Rockwell says.

The Lions Club participates in the event, not to raise money for its work with the sight- and hearing-impaired, but to focus attention on the facility and its services for the blind, she said.

Relocated YMCA seeks volunteers from Sandy

Sandy-area residents are needed to serve on the Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) for the Mt. Hood YMCA moving Aug. 15 to Gresham, says NAB coordinator Linda L. Ross.

The YMCA office will be moving from 2057 Northeast 122nd in Portland to 236 Northeast Roberts in Gresham, Ross said. "We hope to serve the people of Sandy better from that location," Ross says.

She too is looking for people to serve, on the YMCA NAB which works with juvenile offenders and their parents on suitable punishment, she says.

Members on the three- to five-

person board are asked to volunteer at least one evening monthly for a minimum of a year.

Those interested or wishing more information may contact Ross at 255-3338.

The NAB is part of the YMCA's Diversion Program, one of many offered by the organization. Among other programs are youth employment, sports, recreation and fitness, adult health, Big Brother/Big Sister, and information and referral.

More than 2,200 youths were served by Mt. Hood YMCA programs during 1983-84, according to the group's annual report.