

Neighborhoods seeks traffic aids

In the fall when neighborhood groups put together their budget requests for next year, traffic control and safety were the major concerns. Over half of the neighborhood associations formed requests, and together they sent in a total of over 160 items. Requests were then forwarded to the following bureaus: 72 requests to Traffic Engineering, 46 to the Parks Bureau, 30 to the Bureau of Streets and Structures, and seven to the Division of Lighting. Some neighborhoods also requested help with housing rehabilitation and planning.

Judging by the requests which went to the Traffic Engineering Bureau, new signals and pedestrian crossings were seen as the biggest needs. Intersection changes, diverters, and pedestrian paths were also requested. The Bureau responded to neighborhoods by letter, informing them that nineteen of the requests were to be included in the proposed budget for next year.

Items which cost over \$5,000, last ten years or more, and add to the City's fixed assets are called Capital Improvements. So traffic signals and their replacements, as well as pedestrian and school crossing signals, are included among the Capital Improvements budget. Decisions about where to place new traffic signals are made according to a priority system - the priority system includes factors such as traffic volume, accidents, and whether or not the intersection is a school crossing. Approximately seven to ten new signals per year are planned for each of the next five years. Funds for the new signals come almost totally from federal sources.

New signals received the highest priority in the Bureau's budget. They propose four for next year at a total cost of \$425,000. The Bureau recommends that three should be placed along Macadam Avenue: at Virginia, at Nebraska, and at Boundary Street. A fourth signal is planned for North Columbia Boulevard at Macrum.

Next in priority after the new traffic signals, the Bureau placed traffic signal replacements, traffic signal improvements, and pedestrian and school crossing signals and signs.

The Bureau's fourth priority actually brought the second largest number of requests from neighborhoods. Locations for pedestrian-school crossings are chosen by standards including gaps for crossings for school children, traffic volume, speed limit, and number of students using the crossing. Locations that do not meet the standards for signals but

which are more hazardous than normal, are considered for flashing overhead crossing signs. Pedestrian signals which do not meet national criteria cannot receive federal funds and must be paid for with City funds. They cost about \$20,000 each.

In the Traffic Bureau's proposed budget, they recommend pedestrian crossing for three locations on Northeast Sandy - at 70th, 50th, and 18th; at S.E. 56th and Foster; at N.E. 33rd and Mason; and S.E. 16th and Hawthorne.

School crossing signals can be partly funded through Housing and Community Development monies. The Bureau recommends that they should be located at S.E. Foster and 64th, S.E. Division and 28th, and N. Lombard and Reno. Flashing signs for school crossings cost \$2,125 each and the Bureau recommends that they should be located along N.E. Glisan at 91st, 41st and Laddington, and at N. Fessenden and Burr.

Bureau recommendations are reviewed at several points in the budget process. This year the Capital Improvement projects are being reviewed by the Planning Commission as well as by the Budget Task Forces. Both the Planning Commission and the Budget Task Forces have approved the Bureau's recommended projects. The Planning Commission also recommended that a fixed percent of federal aid urban funds should be devoted to new traffic signals on local neighborhood streets which are eligible. The Bureau of Management and Budget reviewed the recommended projects and approved them on the condition that the necessary City funds can be found. The Budget Task Force composed of volunteer citizens reviewed the requests from the Traffic Bureau and commented on them in their January record. They found that due to the limitations of the City's funds, it would be unlikely that pedestrian and school crossings would be given a higher priority by the Bureau. They noted, however, that the effort of concerned neighborhoods does call attention to local problems and can have an impact on the decisions of the Bureau of Traffic Engineering. They suggested that neighborhood requests be submitted as early as possible next year in order to give the bureau more time to address specific neighborhood concerns.

Hearings on the proposed three-million-dollar budget for the Traffic Engineering Bureau will be held by the City Council, the hearing now scheduled for Thursday, April 22nd.

Blacks help enforce law



CHARLES DUKE



HORACE DUKE



GEORGE DUKE



J.C. STRAWDER

(SEE STORY ON PAGE 1)

Cancer Society seeks Black participation

"According to the 1976 'Cancer Facts and Figures,' said George Rankins, Director of Economic Development and Employment for the Urban League of Portland and an active member of the American Cancer Society's Public Information Committee, "out of every six Black Americans dying each year in the United States, one dies of cancer. Every day about 112 Black Americans die of cancer in the United States. There is one Black American dying of cancer about every thirteen minutes, and this year about 41,000 Black Americans will die of cancer."

"When the chairman of the Public Information Committee called me more than a year ago and asked if I would volunteer, I surprised him by saying very quickly, 'Yes,'" said Rankins, "I told our committee a year ago that too many of us feel that 'cancer is the other fellow's problem.' American Cancer Society statistics indicate that the cancer death

rate in Black American men (200 per 100,000 Black men) today is about 2 1/2 times what it was forty years ago. The rate for Black American women (125 per 100,000 Black women) has risen slightly during this period. The rate for Black Americans is higher than for white Americans and has been since 1950. Last year cancer took the lives of about 450 Black American children under fifteen years of age."

Rankins has joined forces with Mary Harrison, longtime American Cancer Society volunteer and chairman this year of the Society's April 9th through 14th Residential Crusade in Northeast District #1. "We're very fortunate in our area to have concerned and informed community leaders," Mrs. Harrison stated. "With the help of many of them, we have arranged a very special Public Education-Public information program to be presented at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, N.E. Vancouver Avenue

and Fargo, Saturday, March 27th. There will be two programs, one presented 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and the second in the afternoon between 1:30 and 2:30. One of our outstanding American Cancer Society physician volunteers will speak during the program following a brief and educational film on breast self-examination. The doctor will answer general questions, and following his presentation one of our key leaders, Ozella Canada, will introduce Nora (Mrs. Stephen) Janik, second vice president of the American Cancer Society, Oregon Division, Incorporated. Mrs. Janik also is the lay co-ordinator for the Reach to Recovery program and will, with the help of Mrs. Canada and several other Reach to Recovery volunteers, explain breast self-examination to all in attendance."

"The death rate for breast cancer in the Black American woman is about one and one-third times the rate of forty years ago," said Mrs. Canada, "and there were

over 3,000 Black American women dying from breast cancer at a death rate of 22 per 100,000 Black American women last year, about the same as for white American women. This is why we are so pleased to have this opportunity to present the BEAM programs at this time. They are a new concept and have been developed for hospital and auxiliaries in the State of Oregon with the special assistance of Mrs. Janik and other Reach to Recovery volunteers. We are grateful to have this format and the cooperation of the organizers of the BEAM presentations.

"Advance reservations are urged and may be made through filling in a sheet to be found at the 1st National Bank, Walnut Park Branch, 5730 N.E. Union, U.S. National Bank, Union Avenue Branch, 5505 N.E. Union, the Fred Meyer Store, 5408 N.E. Union, or the Safeway Store, 5920 N.E. Union, or by telephoning 287-8768."

PSU slates dance class

The dance committee at Portland State University is sponsoring a ten-week, non-credit "Funky Ballroom Dance" class designed to get people's feet moving to some new and old familiar tunes.

According to a dance committee representative, "No one is too old or too young to learn some of the newest dance crazes or classics like the 'twist' and the 'bop'." The course, which is open to the public, will be held on Tuesdays, from March 30th to June 1st, in Smith Memorial

Center Ballroom on campus from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. It will be taught by Craig Blair and guest instructors.

Some of the latest disco dances, ballroom numbers will be taught and time will be devoted to the oldies like the "pony," "Mashed potatoes," and others.

Interested persons may sign up for the entire ten-week course for \$20 or for individual classes at \$2.50 each. For more information, contact Linda Higden, PSU Cultural Affairs Board, 229-4447.

Monroe honors Bicentennial

Monroe High School, 2508 N.E. Everett will celebrate the Nation's Bicentennial Thursday, March 18th with several activities reminiscent of historic America.

The school has scheduled several choral groups to sing in the school's halls and a special Pony Express Company will deliver the news. Also scheduled is a cake walk and old fashioned box lunches. The school will have several displays of early America in the hallways. Students have also set up demonstrations of historic handicrafts and a fashion show commemorating the growth of the country.

Service clubs at Monroe will participate in the events by ringing old school bells between classes and judging "America-past, America-future" costume contest.

Notice

There will be a meeting of the Portland NAACP Federal Credit Union Stockholders, March 19th, at 7:30 p.m., Billy Webb Lodge 6, N. Tillamook, James Lee presiding.

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