



Mayor
Crystal Shoji



Council President
Stephanie Kramer



Councilor
Gene Melton



Councilor
Jennifer Groth



Councilor
John Muenchrath



Councilor
Mike Vaughan



Councilor Elect
Mark Daily



November 2012

November brings with it changes, new opportunities, a time of reflection and remembrance, and the ushering in of the holiday season.

November Changes...

The recent elections resulted in some limited changes to the Coos Bay City Council. Incumbents Mayor Shoji, Councilors Gene Melton and Mike Vaughan were reelected to serve another term in office. While we bid farewell to Councilor Jon Hanson who decided not to run in this year's election, we welcome Mark Daily to the Coos Bay City Council.



Councilor-elect Daily is not new to City Council or service to the community. Mark served six years on the Coos Bay Planning Commission and four years on the City Council (2006 – 2010). Mark and his wife Gina own and operate Outdoor-In and Coast Karate.

Opportunities...

There are a number of opportunities for those wishing to serve our community. The City of Coos Bay is seeking volunteers to fill positions on the Budget Committee, Building & Fire Code Board of Appeals, Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board, Design Review Committee, Parks Commission, and Tree Board. Applications are available from the City Manager's Office at City Hall by calling 541-269-8912 or on the City's website at www.coosbay.org. Applications will be accepted in the City Manager's Office through 5:00 p.m. November 30, 2012. Applicants will be contacted to schedule interviews with the City Council.

Reflection...

November is probably best recognized as the month of Thanksgiving. We have plenty to be thankful for, especially our military personnel, both present and past, for their service and sacrifices on behalf of us all. On behalf of the City of Coos Bay, thank you to all who have and are serving our Country, defending the freedoms we so much enjoy.



Remembering those we have lost...

This November 25th will mark the Tenth Anniversary of the Far West Auto Parts Store fire in downtown Coos Bay which claimed the lives of three firefighters. Captain Randy Carpenter, Firefighter Chuck Hanners, and Firefighter Jeff Common lost their lives fighting the blaze. The Fire Department has moved forward in many ways since that day, however, we have never forgotten their sacrifice.



Captain Carpenter's family established a foundation in his name which assists in the training and education of firefighters throughout the Pacific Northwest. They have also established a scholarship in his name for fire science students at Southwestern Community College. Firefighter Hanners family has also established a scholarship at Southwestern Community College in his name for fire science students. Firefighter Common's family has set up a training foundation for local firefighter training. In addition, his mother and her friends have made a beautiful Memorial quilt that is on display at the fire station.

On November 25th, we ask that citizens take a few minutes to reflect on these three firefighters, their service to our community, and think of their families and the loss they have suffered.

Smoke Detector Give Away...

Coos Bay Fire & Rescue has announced a new smoke detector give-away program which has been made possible through grants provided by Bay Area Hospital and our local Wal-Mart.

To be eligible to receive a free smoke detector you must meet the following requirements:

- You must be a resident of the City of Coos Bay.
- You must own or be in the process of purchasing the home (not available for rentals).
- Must be over the age of 65 years old or have children under the age of 12 years old living in the home.
- For those with children living in the home, your total household income must be lower than \$65,000 annually.



There is a limit of one smoke detector per household. Smoke detectors can be picked up at the main fire station located at 450 Elrod Avenue, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If needed, the Fire Department personnel can install your smoke detector for you.

A Word about Property Taxes...

Coos Bay, like many local governments, relies heavily on property taxes to pay for the public services it provides. The amount and type of property tax a local government in Oregon may levy is limited by the Oregon constitution and Oregon law. The constitution allows a local government to levy annually the amount that would be raised by its permanent rate limit without further authorization from the voters.

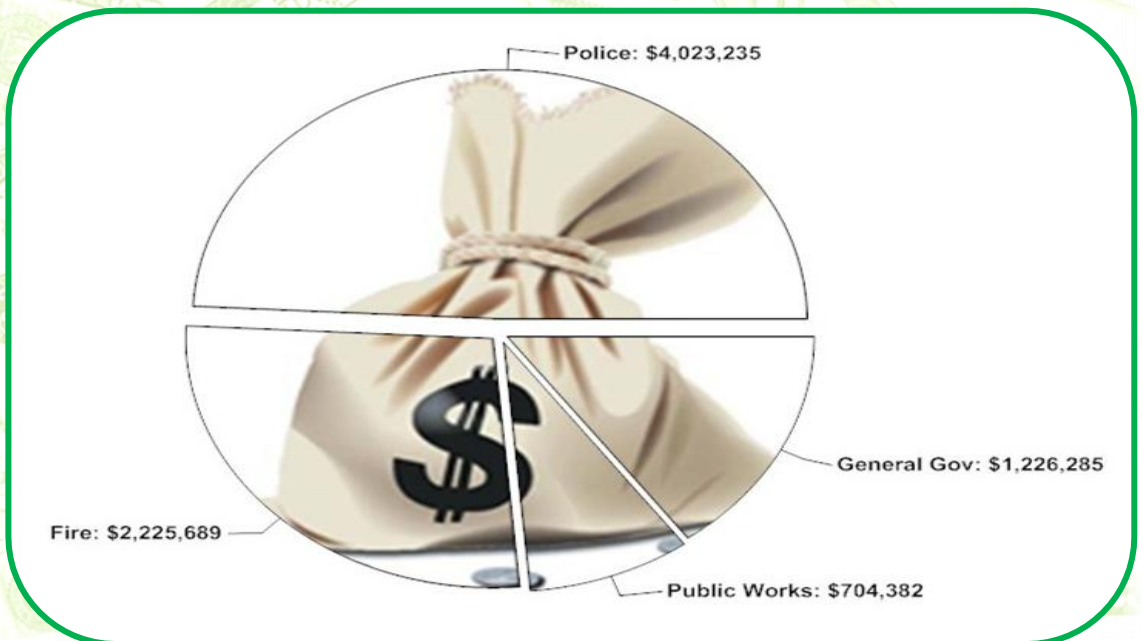
In Oregon, property taxes are collected by the County and distributed to each taxing district (schools, cities, county agencies, fire districts, road districts, etc.). The amount of property tax paid is based on (1) the assessed value of your property and (2) tax rates and bond debt service amounts your taxing districts levy.

Oregon's constitution limits property taxes to no more than \$10 per \$1,000 of market value for general government services and no more than \$5 per \$1,000 of market value for education services. Bonds are exempt from this limit. Each local government has a permanent tax rate that cannot be increased or exceeded. **The City of Coos Bay's permanent tax rate is \$6.3643 per \$1,000 of property valuation.** Your property tax statement itemizes the tax for each district that serves your property.

How are the City of Coos Bay's property taxes spent?

During fiscal year 2011 – 2012, the City of Coos Bay received \$5,256,752 in property tax revenue which amounts to 64% of the City's General Fund. The other 36% of the General Fund is made up of revenues derived from fees, grants, and state shared revenues. General fund dollars are used to pay for the core services such as those listed in the chart below. As you can see, property tax revenues are not sufficient to solely pay for all the costs associated with providing police and fire services to the community.

2011-2012 General Fund Expenditures



Knowing the difference could just save your life...



On October 28th just a little before 11:00 p.m., a tsunami advisory was issued to the Southern Oregon and Northern California as a result of a 7.7 magnitude off of Canada's coast. Understandably, the mere mention of the word "tsunami" can cause fear in coastal dwellers. Knowing what to do and when to do it can save your life. Part of knowing when and how to react requires understanding the three levels of tsunami awareness notifications.

The first level is **"Tsunami Advisory."** A tsunami advisory is issued when a tsunami causing event had occurred. The advisory is issued to notify the tsunami causing event that has the potential to generate strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or very near the water (<http://www.ready.gov/tsunamis>). These advisories are routinely issued by the National Weather Service/West Coast Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska.

The second level a **"Tsunami Watch."** "A tsunami watch is issued to alert emergency management officials and the public of an event which may later impact the watch area....watches are normally issued based on seismic information without confirmation that a destructive tsunami is underway" (<http://www.ready.gov/tsunamis>).



The third level and most dangerous is a **"Tsunami Warning."** A tsunami warning is issued after a tsunami causing event has occurred with the potential to produce widespread inundation expected to happen. Tsunami warnings are also intended to advise the potential of "dangerous coastal flooding along with powerful currents possible" (<http://www.ready.gov/tsunamis>).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BOTH DISTANT AND LOCAL TSUNAMIS:

- Evacuate on foot if at all possible because of potential traffic congestion.
- Stay away from potentially hazardous areas until you receive an ALL CLEAR from local officials.
- Dangerous waves can persist for several hours, and local officials must inspect all flooded or earthquake-damaged structures before anyone can go back into them.
- If you need help evacuating, tie something WHITE (sheet or towel) to the front door knob. Make it large enough to be visible from the street. If the emergency is a distant tsunami, then help may arrive. In the event of a local earthquake and tsunami, it is unlikely that anyone will help you, so make a plan and be prepared!
- After evacuation, check with the local officials if you can help with special skills or need assistance with locating lost family.

Tsunami Awareness

Santa is coming to town...twice!

We have received word that Santa has scheduled two trips to Coos Bay this month. Thanks to the Coos Bay Downtown Association, **Santa's first stop** will be at the Downtown Boardwalk on **Friday, November 23rd** to kick off the Christmas season and attend the annual **Tree Lighting** ceremony.

The fun begins at the Coos Bay Boardwalk with **cookies and cider** at 4:30 p.m. Teen Idol participants will begin singing Christmas carols at 5:00 p.m., and a Coos Bay Towboat is scheduled to drop off Santa at the Boardwalk somewhere around 5:30 p.m. at which time Santa and Mayor Shoji will conduct the annual tree lighting ceremony.

The evening's festivities will continue at Joey's Arcade and Soda Bar where from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. children will have an opportunity to visit with and have **picture taken with Santa**. Starting at 7:15 p.m., the Egyptian Theatre Association is hosting a **free movie** "Christmas is Here Again" at Broadway Hall (next door to Shark Bites).



Thanks to the Empire Coalition, Santa has also agreed to help Mayor Shoji celebrate the Lighting of Empire's Christmas tree on **November 30th** at 5:00 p.m. Sunset Bay Golf Course has graciously donated a tree for the first annual Empire Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The tree will be located next to Star of Hope (corner of Newmark Avenue and South Wall Street).

After the tree lighting ceremony, everyone is invited to the Dolphin Theatre Playhouse for **candy canes** and **live music** from the 5lb Possum band.



Encouraging News About Younger Readers

According to the Younger Americans' Reading and Library Habits study, more than eight in ten Americans between the ages of 16 and 29 read a book in the past year, and six in ten used their local public library.

At the youngest end of the spectrum, high schoolers in their late teens (ages 16-17) and college-aged young adults (ages 18-24) are especially likely to have read a book or used the library in the past 12 months. Although their library usage patterns may often be influenced by the requirements of school assignments, their interest in the possibilities of mobile technology may also point the way toward opportunities of further engagement with libraries later in life.

Among those in this under-30 age group, three distinct clusters emerge: high schoolers (ages 16 and 17), college-aged young adults (ages 18-24), and early-career adults (ages 25-29). Findings for each age group:

- **High schoolers** (ages 16-17) are especially reliant on the library for their reading and research needs. They are more likely than other age groups to have used the library in the past year, especially to have checked out print books or received research assistance. In addition, they are more likely than others to get reading recommendations at the library.
- **College-aged adults** (ages 18-24) show interesting shifts in their reading habits compared with high schoolers (ages 16-17). They have the highest overall reading rate of any age group, and exhibit an increased interest in e-books and audio books compared with younger readers.
- **Adults** in their late twenties (ages 25-29) exhibit different patterns when compared with younger age groups. They are less likely to have read a book in the past year, and those who do read books are more likely to have purchased their most recent book. Yet, even as their reliance on their local public library dips, adults in their late twenties start to express a greater appreciation for libraries in general - almost three-quarters say that the library is important to them and their families.

Hours

Library:

Monday – Thursday 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
Friday – Saturday 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Sunday – Closed

Book Store:

Wednesday 12:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Thursday 12:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Friday 12:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Saturday 12:00 pm – 5:30 pm

The library will be closed November 22nd through November 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Normal hours will resume on Monday, November 26th.

City Calendar

2012

Nov. 6th Coos Bay City Council - The meeting will be held in the council chambers in city hall and will start at 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 6th Coos Bay Urban Renewal - The meeting will be held in the council chambers in city hall and will start at the conclusion of the City Council meeting.

Nov. 8th Coos Bay / North Bend Visitors Convention Bureau - The meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Red Lion and will start at 8:30 am.

Nov. 13th Coos Bay Planning Commission - The meeting will be held in the council chambers in city hall and will start at 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 15th Coos Bay Parks Commission - The meeting will be held at the City Manager's conference room and will start at 4:00 pm.

Nov. 20th Coos Bay City Council - The meeting will be held in the council chambers in city hall and will start at 7:00 pm.

Nov. 20th Coos Bay Urban Renewal - The meeting will be held in the council chambers in city hall and will start at the conclusion of the City Council meeting.

Nov. 21st Coos Bay Library Board - The meeting will be held in the Cedar room at the Coos Bay Public Library and will start at 5:15 pm.

Nov. 28th Egyptian Theatre Restoration Steering Committee - The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Coos Bay Visitor's Center and will start at 5:30 pm.

For additional information on City meetings contact City Hall at (541) 269 – 8912

Coos Bay City Hall
500 Central Avenue
Coos Bay, OR
97420

www.coosbay.org

Police Department
(541) 269-8911

Fire Department
(541) 269-1191

Library
(541) 269-1101

Public Works &
Development
Department
(541) 269-8918

Economic
Development
(541) 269-8924

Finance Department
(541) 269-8915

City Manager's
Office
(541) 269-8912