



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

January 21, 2000

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LOCAL BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTS TAKING CHARGE OF OUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FUTURE – Elected officials from Bay Area local governments, school districts, the Port of Coos Bay and Bay Area Hospital will be gathering for 7:00 a.m. meeting at the Red Lion on Tuesday, January 25th as part of Bay Area Telecom Week. The elected officials meeting will feature four high-powered speakers knowledgeable about telecommunications:

- La Grande City Manager Wes Hare will be speaking about how his city planned for and successfully brought fiber-optics into his community.
- John Stadter of 800 Support, the Bay Area's new call center, will discuss "Business Without Walls: The Worldwide Market.
- Milo Mecham, an attorney and recently appointed manager of Fiber South Consortium, will talk about new options and new revenues that is sure to stimulate the interest of policy makers struggling with budgets stretched to the breaking point.
- Sherry Sheng, a technology specialist with the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, will address SB622 and the opportunities it presents for education, telemedicine and rural telecommunications infrastructure.

That's day one of Bay Area Telecom Week.

Day two features a pair of workshops at Southwestern on Wednesday, January 26th. The first will deal with "Successful Internet Business Models", and the second with "Internet Marketing and Sales". Space is limited and probably full by now. For questions about these sessions, contact Jon Richards at the Southwestern Business Development Center at 541-888-7100 or e-mail him at jrichard@southwestern.cc.or.us.

Day three features an evening session open to the public on Thursday, January 27th beginning at 6:30p.m. on the Southwestern campus. Panelists at this session include:

- Greg Stevens, Publisher of The World, who will be speaking about a new partnership to connect local businesses with the worldwide market.
- Pat Charley, CEO of 800 Support, will be talking about Internet support services and various employment opportunities.
- Jack Brown, President of WEB Marketing, Inc., a start-up company in Coos Bay operating a WEB-based marketing program for a multi-national corporation, will address the Internet as a tool to expand markets.
- Carolyn Tecube, owner of Checkerberry's Flowers and Gifts in Coos Bay, will share how her main street retail shop expanded its markets through the Internet.

- Ryan Schrenk, North Bend High School instructor, will introduce Travis Cambell and Alan Wallace and their new program setting up WEB pages for clients, managing secure servers, and setting up hot links.
- Joe Walker, Marshfield High School, will describe The Cisco Academy, a program that prepares students for systems networking in a high-tech world.
- Doug Donaldson will present information about his new, local, start-up business, Community of Internet Commerce, which creates a WEB-based shopping mall for South coast businesses.

For those unable to attend the week's events, some of the sessions will be aired on Coos Bay's government access television channel, Channel 14. Mayor Verger's Channel 14 Focus Show will also be featuring more information about the event in the near future.

Bay Area Telecom Week is being sponsored by the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, The World, Southwestern Oregon Community College and Southwestern Business Development Center. For more information about day three of the program or any aspect of Bay Area Telecom Week, e-mail your request to BayArea_team@hotmail.com.

CITY HALL SEEKS YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT CHANNEL 14 – Channel 14 is the local "government access TV" channel that the City of Coos Bay operates to "air" City Council meetings, Mayor Verger's "FOCUS" program and other public events like the Chamber's annual economic outlook forum. Funding to keep Channel 14 on the air comes almost completely from the Coos Bay general fund. With budget planning underway for next fiscal year, some feedback from you would be helpful. To respond, visit the City of Coos Bay's WEB site at <<http://holodeck.ucinet.com/coosbayjb/>> and take the 20-second survey. Your opinions are important to us!!

CITY MANAGER AND POLICE CHIEF PROPOSE SHELIVING THE CONTROVERSIAL CHRONIC DISORDERLY PROPERTY ORDINANCE – Wednesday afternoon Police Chief Chuck Knight and City Manager Bill Grile appeared at a town hall held in the Library's new large conference room for the purpose of listening to public input about a proposed, controversial ordinance intended to help neighborhoods address problems with chronic crimes and misdemeanors in their areas. Coos Bay's draft ordinance was fashioned after one that has been in use for some time by the City of Springfield. In short, the proposed ordinance provided for fines and abatement proceedings in the event certain reoccurring violations happened on or near chronic crime properties.

There are obvious problems with the ordinance and these were pointed out by the forty or so folks testifying during the town hall, which was attended by a standing room only crowd of well over 135 persons. After listening to passionate and well-reasoned objections from several people, it became evident to both the chief and city manager that the Springfield approach was not workable in Coos Bay.

Those of us in the public sector are held upright by equal pressure from all sides, said the city manager during the meeting, in reference to the fact that the proposed ordinance came to the City at the request of the Blossom Gulch neighborhood group. Chief Knight commented after the meeting that the Police have other tools that can be used to combat chronic neighborhood crime problems, and that the interest expressed about working with local law enforcement to address drug use and other community problems was encouraging. At least two speakers suggested that the City Council should consider holding another town hall specifically to address drug usage in the community. Chief Knight noted that he has been working with Greg Stevens, Publisher of The World, to address methamphetamines and other illegal drug use, encouraging more public dialogue about this.

At the conclusion of Wednesday's meeting, both Chief Knight and City Manager Grile expressed their commitment to shelve the property crimes ordinance proposal and to not put the matter back before the City

Council for consideration. “The matter is closed,” said Bill Grile today, “and I want to thank those who provided input that helped in our evaluation of the proposal. Mayor Verger and the City Council always seek public input before adopting any ordinance,” he continued, “and I know they also appreciate the feedback that was received this week.”

WATER BOARD MOVES FORWARD WITH WATER SUPPLY PROJECT – On January 6th the Coos Bay - North Bend Water Board approved advertising for bids for construction of the Joe Ney and Upper Pony Creek water supply projects, with a bid opening scheduled for February 14th. For details, contact the Board at 267-3128.

PARK HOUSE SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS TO ACCELERATE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MINGUS PARK PERMANENT STAGE – Tuesday night the City Council voted unanimously to use insurance settlement proceeds from the Park House sewer spill for construction of the permanent stage at Mingus Park, instructing the city manager to proceed with demolition of the damaged house. Several hundred gallons of raw sewage has severely damaged the old structure, which the City had planned to sell to finance other park improvements. Earlier this month the City Planning Commission denied a zoning action needed to allow the sale to proceed, however, and Tuesday’s action by the Council respects the Planning Commission’s ruling. Mayor Verger expressed the Council’s sentiments that the permanent stage be completed by the Fourth of July, and city manager Bill Grile said he’d make this a priority.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP – The Fire Department picked up approximately 350 trees with this year’s event. The Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters Association would like to thank those people who donated money and canned goods. The money will go to the Associations burn out fund and the canned food collected will go to local food banks.

NEW VOLUNTEER LIEUTENANT NAMED – The Fire Department would like to say goodbye and good luck to Volunteer Firefighter Lieutenant Kelly Niles. Kelly has been with the department for 6 ½ years and leaves us to move to the Eugene area. The department also would like to announce the appointment of the newest Volunteer Lieutenant Jon Eck. Jon has been a member of the fire department for 24 years. Congratulations Jon!

FIRE STATION NO. 2 BOILER REPLACEMENT – Work was completed this week to replace the existing boiler at Empire Fire Station No. 2. The \$10,000 project was completed by local contractors after replacement of the boiler was approved by the City Council.

OPENING ON CCD BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BOARD – Coos County Commissioners have announced a vacancy on the CCD Business Development Corporation Board of Directors. The appointment would be for the remainder of the term vacated; said term will expire June 30, 2000. Anyone interested in applying for this position may submit a letter to the Coos County Board of Commissioners indicating interest and qualifications for the position. All letters must be received in the Commissioners’ Office no later than Friday, February 18, 2000.

CENSUS TAKERS NEEDED – The Millennium is coming to Coos Bay and so is Census 2000! The US Census Bureau is recruiting and hiring people 18 and above to work on this once every ten year (decennial) event. At least 160 census takers and team leaders are needed to accurately count the population of Coos County. Tests will be given each Wednesday at the County Commissioner’s Conference Room (in Coquille) and Thursdays at the Oregon Employment office in North Bend. Alternate testing sites will be available from time to time throughout the county. To reserve a place call (collect if you like) (541) 465-6410. Wages start at \$8.25 per hour plus 31 cents per mile for fieldwork. For local questions call or leave a message at (541) 396-3121 ext. 224.

CATHODIC PROTECTION UPDATE – The City is in the process of restoring the protective systems which prevent the corrosion of iron piping and submerged encasements used at several wastewater facilities. The installation of electrical anodes at these sites will stop further deterioration and control electrolysis - a natural occurrence without preventive measures. When completed, this project will increase the life expectancy of the City's pipeline across Isthmus Slough and two pump stations located in low lying areas.

FLOODING CONTROL – The City Street Crew has been working to reduce the flooding problems which yearly plague South Coos Bay business owners. One by one, ditch, culvert and catch basin systems have been cleaned, installed or replaced. The results are slowly but successfully bringing the high tides and heavy rains under control in this area.

BROADWAY STREET SCAPE AND PARKING LOT LIGHTING PROJECT – The City Council at their meeting on January 4th reviewed the preliminary plans for the Downtown Street Scape Project and the Parking Lot Lighting Project. The street scape project involves period lighting along Broadway from Commercial Avenue to Curtis Avenue. The parking lot lighting project provides for period lighting and better lighting in the parking lots east and west of South 2nd Street and north of Curtis Avenue. The projects are scheduled to be completed by June. There will be minimal landscaping involved in both projects.