



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

February 4, 2000

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STATE OF THE CITIES ADDRESS DUE AT CHAMBER'S FEBRUARY FORUM – The recent accomplishments and future goals of the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend will be outlined during a gathering of the business and community leaders on Wednesday, February 16th, as Coos Bay Mayor Joanne Verger and North Bend Mayor Lee Golder address the Bay Area Forum. The joint appearance by the two Mayors has become an annual tradition on the Forum schedule presented by the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. A variety of city programs and projects will be addressed – from recent developments in plans to recruit a new industry to the need for more citizen involvement on boards and committees of the two communities. Mayor Verger and Mayor Golder will also take questions from the audience at the conclusion of their remarks.

Forums are held the third Wednesday each month at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn in Coos Bay. The no-host breakfast meetings are open to the general public. Advance reservations are recommended to insure adequate food preparation and seating and may be made by calling the Chamber at 269-0215.

COUNCIL SUPPORTS PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH COAST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL – Livability Committee members Councilor Jeff McKeown and Arnie Roblan presented the proposal for the South Coast Development Council to the City Council last Tuesday evening. The Livability Committee's task has been to create the structure, budget and funding source for an economic development council. Once the non-profit entity has been formed a board of directors will be elected and the next step will be to hire a recruiter or recruiting firm. Livability Committee members are also making presentation to other entities in Coos and Western Douglas Counties. The City Council, by unanimous vote, adopted Resolution 00-06 supporting the proposal for the South Coast Development Council and committing \$50,000 annually from the City for the next three years.

TELECOM WEEK IS NOW BEHIND US. SO WHAT'S NEXT? – Congratulations to The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Southwestern Oregon Community College and The World for sponsoring Bay Area Telecom Week. If you missed it, don't despair. Key events were taped and are being rebroadcast on Channel 14, the government access television channel. This week a group mostly local officials met for a follow-up meeting at Southwestern to discuss what to do next. The key questions seem to center around fiber infrastructure:

- What do we have now?
- What do we want?
- How do we get it?

These are simple questions, but strike at the heart of what Bay Area Telecom Week was all about. A steering committee is forming to move forward with problem solving. In the meantime, Fiber South Consortium meets formally for the second time on Monday in Eugene. Coos Bay City Councilor and Consortium Vice-chair Don Spangler will be attending, as will North Bend City Councilor and Consortium Member Dan Scherer. City Manager Bill Grile will be attending too. Perhaps most critical on the Monday's agenda is a request for direction about calling for proposals from consultants to develop the Consortium's fiber system. Lincoln County and the City of Myrtle Point are also asking to join the organization, which is clearly picking up

steamerr, "light." It's happening folks!!

UPDATE ON MEETING WITH NORTH BEND RE PEG-TV – Mayors Verger and Golder, Council Presidents Miller and Wetherell, and City Managers Gary Combs and Bill Grile met recently to discuss PEG-TV and, in particular, the government-access channel. North Bend wants to pay its fair share for maintaining the government channel. The meeting produced agreement that it would be constructive for the two city managers to meet for the purpose of (i) working up a proposed budget for Channel 14 for FY 2000-01 and (ii) outlining a proposed CB-NB and other entity cost-sharing approach for allocating costs. That meeting is scheduled for February 9th. We'll keep you posted.

MADISON SCHOOL SAFETY CONCERNS HEARD – Principal Nancy Tedder presented a number of student safety concerns in the Madison School area at the City Council meeting last Tuesday evening. At the top of the list is the provision of adequate street crossings for children, installation of additional school zone signage, and slowing down traffic in the immediate area surrounding the school. The Police Department's Safety Committee will be meeting to review the concerns and will make a recommendation to the City Council at the March 7th meeting.

YOUTH AT RISK RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED – The City Council formally adopted the Youth at Risk Committee's recommendations at their meeting last Tuesday. The committee's recommendations, as presented in Resolution 00-05, are as follows: support the Boys and Girls Club, develop "Block Houses" in neighborhoods throughout the City, and provide a resource officer at the Boys and Girls Club; continue to partner with the school district to provide for the DARE program, including collaboration with Bay Area Together with Youth; develop services for youth that are transitioning from an elementary school setting to middle school; and continue to support programs that address youth employment, safety, drugs and alcohol, and mentoring. The Mayor expressed appreciation to the members of the Youth at Risk Committee, which included Councilors McKeown, Miller and Stufflebean, for their service.

SCOUT CABIN DONATION – Dr. Jay Goodman has generously donated time, services and materials over the past several years in the renovation of the Scout Cabin. Dr. Goodman has come through again, this time with the donation of a microwave oven for the cabin. Thanks again to Dr. Goodman for the time you have spent on the Scout Cabin.

DARE GRADUATIONS COMPLETED – School Resource Officer, Scott LaFevre recently completed DARE training at three schools in the Coos Bay School District. Guest speakers at the DARE graduation ceremonies were Coos Bay Mayor Joanne Verger at Blossom Gulch, Police Chief Chuck Knight at Charleston, and Police Department Captain Eura Washburn at Bunker Hill School. The City of Coos Bay and the Coos Bay Police Department congratulates Officer LaFevre for a job well done. We also thank the Principals, teachers and staff at Coos Bay Schools for their support of the DARE program.

POLICE DEPARTMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO POSITIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL PROPERTY OWNERS – Following Police Department Captain Eura Washburn's presentation at the Rental Owners Association meeting last week calls have been received at the police department from property owners desiring to partner with the police department in maintaining their property safe and crime free. The police department is grateful for the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by the Rental Owners.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PARTNERS WITH HOUSING AUTHORITY – The partnership with the North Bend City / Coos-Curry Housing authority has resulted in a \$275,000 grant to the Housing Authority, including \$250,000 to be used for law enforcement personnel and equipment. Coos Bay was only one of three cities in Oregon to receive HUD funding for creating partnerships between law enforcement, the local housing authority, and social services agencies. Chief Knight commends Coos Bay Police Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth, and Housing Authority Community Resources Coordinator, Howard Kubli for their work in preparation of the grant.

FREE TAX HELP AVAILABLE – The Internal Revenue Service will be providing tax assistance to local residents during the month of February. The Tax Mobile will be at the Pony Village Mall in North Bend Thursday, February 10th 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday, February 11th 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 12th 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Monday, February 14th 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The service is free to the public. For more information call (503) 326-5755.

OPTIMIST CLUB ANNOUNCES ESSAY CONTEST FOR TEENS – The Bay Area Optimist Club is participating for the first time in the annual Optimist International essay contest, offering young people in grades 10 through 12, under the age of 19, an opportunity to express their opinions regarding freedom. The theme for this year's contest is "Where Would I Be Without Freedom?" Entrants can approach the topic from various perspectives – their own personal freedom, the freedom of their country, or more historical view of the struggles to obtain freedom by groups or countries.

The winning essay selected by independent judges in the Bay Area Optimist Club contest will be forwarded to Optimist International's Pacific Northwest District for judging. Winners of the 53 district competition in the United States and Canada will be awarded an all expense paid, four-day trip to the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, a nonprofit, nonpolitical and nonsectarian organization.

The overall winner selected from among the 53 district finalists will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship. Deadline for entries is 11 a.m. Friday, February 18th and may be mailed or delivered to Coldwell Banker Justrum & Stromme Real Estate, 543 South 4th Street, Coos Bay, or Key Title Company offices at 215 Curtis Avenue, Coos Bay; 295 North Baxter, Coquille OR 97423, or 1010 First SE, Bandon, OR 97411. Entries should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer, along with age and name of school or the notation the student is home-schooled. Official entry forms are available from all high schools in Coos County and must accompany all submissions. Forms are also available from co-chairs Lisa Higbee at Coldwell Banker Justrum & Stromme or Barbara Bernshisel at Key Title in Coos Bay. Essays must be typed and double spaced, and between 400 and 500 words in length.

For additional information contact contest co-chairs Lisa Higbee at 756-3745 or 267-7078, or Barbara Bernshisel at 888-5554 or 267-2100.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE – The Friends of the Library group is hard at work preparing for a huge used book sale – the first in two months – to be held February 5th and 6th in the library meeting room. Hours are Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon - 4 p.m. Books will be half price on Sunday.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE – The City Council approved underwriting the insurance for the Memorial Day Parade at their meeting last Tuesday. The parade will be held in downtown Coos Bay on Saturday, May 27th. Mark your calendars to attend this special community event. Our appreciation to the Veterans' organizations who organize the parade each year.

STOP SIGNS AT 34TH & WALNUT – The City Council at their February 1, 2000 meeting authorized stop signs to be placed at 34th Street and Walnut near the SWOYA building. This will help control the traffic in the area once SWOYA is up and running. The intersection is now a three way stop after the signs were installed on February 2nd. There are advance warning signs indicating the new change in the area.

CITY OF COOS BAY BUSINESS LICENSE – It is that time of year. If you have a business operating in the City of Coos Bay and have not already received a renewal application please take a few minutes to drop by Community Services at City Hall and pick one up. If you are unsure of what fee applies to your business please call 541-269-8918 for more information. If your business location is within Coos Bay city limits, give special attention to the emergency notification record as this information is useful to police and fire agencies responding to emergencies at your place of business. Before returning the application make sure you have signed and dated it and include the appropriate fee.

BROWNFIELD RESOURCES – The Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of forming a coalition with other governmental agencies, including the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, the Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Coos Bay, to streamline administration of the EPA Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund. The City, as a brownfield grant recipient, will be conducting environmental site assessments for North Front Street properties. The proposed coalition will make money available for clean-up activities and save the City the cost involved with administering the loans.

SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL WITH THE OREGON COAST MUSIC ASSOCIATION! – Oregon Coast Music Association and Wells Fargo Bank invite you to a gala benefit performance of Grease! – the musical, at Little Theatre on the Bay, Thursday, February 17th. The festival fund-raiser begins at 6:30 p.m. with hot hors d'oeuvres, finger foods, coffee and soft drinks, and no-host wine service at Little Theatre on the Bay in North Bend, followed by a special performance of LTOB's winter musical, Grease! the 50's classic rock 'n' roll musical. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door, and are available now at Books by the Bay in North Bend, Harvest Book Shoppe, Checkerberry's Flowers and Gifts, and Design Renaissance in Coos Bay. Food, non alcoholic beverages, and LTOB's always delightful stage production are included in the ticket price. The evening is sponsored in part by a generous grant from Wells Fargo Bank. All proceeds from this event will be used to fund the 2000 Oregon Coast Music Festival. For more information, call the OCMA office at 267-0938. So get out your poodle skirts, grease those duck tails, polish up those saddle shoes, and join your rock 'n' roll buddies for an evening of fun and fine entertainment. Come on an' shake, rattle and roll those wallets to benefit the July 2000 Music Festival!

DISCUSSIONS WITH CAB COMPANIES ARE PROGRESSING – Monday afternoon Chief Knight and city manager Bill Grile met with the three companies operating taxi businesses in Coos Bay, including: Richard Leshley and Jim Walsh (Yellow Cab), Jerry Davidow (Jerry's Taxi) and Linda Llewellyn (Sunshine Taxi). After much discussion, at Jerry Davidow's suggestion it was agreed that the cab companies will each independently come up with a set of proposed ordinance measures and bring them to another meeting, which will be at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 29th at City Hall. Tuesday night the City Council agreed that Councilor Judy Weeks should sit in on the meetings to represent the Council's interest in the discussions. At the request of Mayor Verger, the Council will hold a work session with the cab companies before any proposed ordinance would be scheduled for public hearing. After two meetings, there is agreement that the following points merit regulation by an ordinance:

- Zero tolerance for alcohol usage related to driving
- Mandatory drug testing

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- Clean honest drivers
- Posted consistent rates for each company
- Individual permit requirements for each driver

Numerous other Oregon municipalities currently regulate cab companies in their cities. Chief Knight and the city manager tip their hats to Coos Bay's three companies for recognizing the public benefit that will result from a regulation drafted at their suggestion and with their support.

LABOR MARKING INFORMATION AVAILABLE – The LMI Update, a weekly bulletin compiled by Romelle Renner of the State of Oregon Employment Department, contains labor market information and business analysis collected from Employment Department sources for Oregon employers. Tourism makes an impact along the South Coast. The firm contracted to record travel and tourism data for the Oregon Tourism Commission, Dean Runyan Associates has posted Oregon Travel Impacts 1991-1998. Listed below are the number of jobs directly attributed to tourism-related spending, a revised listing for 1997:

Tax Receipts

	Travel Expenditures (\$000)	Payroll (\$000)	Employment (jobs)	Local (\$000)	State (\$000)
West Lane	120,820	23,160	1,780	610	3,150
West Douglas	68,480	11,850	939	90	2,260
Coos	88,400	16,300	1,515	630	2,380
Curry	95,590	16,520	1,541	390	3,090

Preliminary 1998 overnight expenditures by type of lodging:

Public campground use statewide	\$ 378 million
Private campground use statewide	371
Hotels, Motels, B&B's	2,083
Total of all destination spending	\$ 4,702 (excluding air transportation)
Air Transportation	511
Total of all spending	5,212

The data was posted to the DRA site in June 1999; final data for 1998 may be available upon request. To view the 1991-1997 charts, along with the preliminary 1998 data, visit

<http://www.dra-research.com/oregon.htm>