



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

February 25, 2000

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LABOR TRENDS -1999 South Coast Population by City - Portland State University's Center for Population Research and Census has released its final population data for 1999 for cities. Between 1998 and 1999, Coos County's population dropped by 50 to 61,350. Curry's population rose by 50 to 22,050. What is most notable about the population change is that the region saw population gains in most of its cities (except for Myrtle Point and Port Orford) and a decline in the unincorporated areas of both counties. North Bend (+85), Coquille (+65), Bandon (+55), and Powers (+55), in Coos County and Brookings (+110) Gold Beach (+50) in Curry County had major increases. Since 1990, Coos County has seen fairly large population gains in its cities, which have added nearly 1,100 residents, while unincorporated areas have lost more than 2,000 residents. In Curry County the incorporated areas have grown by nearly 1,900 while unincorporated areas have increased by about 850 during that time.

The fastest growing cities of the region since 1990 are Bandon (+30%), and Lakeside (+17%) in Coos County and Gold Beach (+42%) and Brookings (+28%) in Curry. Growth in Gold Beach was primarily due to the annexation of residential areas north of the Rogue River a few years ago.
(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)

EMPIRE BOAT RAMP GRANT - Continuing from last Friday's Update concerning the Empire Boat Ramp the Oregon State Marine Board did approve a grant to the City in the amount of \$54,900 with a match of \$6,000 from the City. The Marine Board staff is currently working on the final drawings and specifications. The new boarding floats will have a break away pile hoops so the floats can be removed during the winter months. Large waves and wind from the southwest have caused major damage to the hinge connecting portions of the floats.

BROWNFIELD PROGRESS - The environmental consultants of URS Corp. are now on board with the City of Coos Bay to conduct site assessments for properties within the N. Front Street Heritage Waterfront District. These activities, paid for by the Environmental Protection Agency, will enhance the value of existing businesses and pave the way for new developments by removing the barriers to redevelopment caused by the uncertainty of cleanup issues.

SB622 HEARING - Police Chief Knight will be attending a hearing in Grants Pass on Senate Bill 622. The bill is designed to provide a telecommunications infrastructure to connect Oregon Communities. The hearings are being conducted by the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department of the State of Oregon. The City of Coos Bay and other local governments have been active participants in providing input into the telecommunications needs for Southwestern Oregon.

POLICE DEPARTMENT WORK GROUPS FORMED - In an effort to improve efficiency the police department has established work groups to tackle specific areas of need. Workgroups are comprised of police officers, civilian employees and members from the community. Sample workgroups include police car acquisition and maintenance, field training officer program quality control, canine handler work group working with other K-9 officers in Coos County for training and program development, firearms policy and

training development, physical fitness issues, and facilities maintenance. The work groups report findings and recommendations to police department administration for possible implementation.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY PROGRAM - The fire department handled 333 fire and life safety inspections in 1999. The program includes on site inspections as well as self-inspections that business owners can do on their own. The inspections identify potential fire life safety concerns before they become a problem for the owner.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BURNS PARK HOUSE - The fire department conducted a practice burn on Tuesday on the condemned park caretaker's house on West Park Roadway. The burn was attended by several media and city staff members. Fire department personnel got the chance to practice the firefighting skills they have learned in a controlled environment. In addition to the valuable training for the fire department, the City saved a considerable amount of money on demolition costs.