



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 10, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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COMMUNITY ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE TIME CAPSULE – The Coos Bay Downtown Association and the City of Coos Bay are co-sponsoring a fun project that will involve the entire community. They will dedicate and place into the ground “Time Capsule 2000”, May 20, 2000. The capsule will be filled with current day memorabilia, photos, autographed business cards, phone books, street maps, letters to the future, locally produced books and artwork, etc. The capsule will be placed in the plaza in front of the Coos Bay City Hall and left there until the year 2025, when future residents of Coos Bay will open it. You can help: Please bring items of interest to Fiddlesticks, 222 South Broadway. The best things to put into the capsule tell a story about present day life on the Bay. All items chosen for the capsule should be respectful of others and appropriate for all ages. If the Coos Bay Downtown Association deems any item inappropriate, it will not be allowed into Time Capsule 2000. All items placed in canisters will become the property of the Coos Bay Downtown Association. If you have questions, call Gary Rifkin at Fiddlesticks (267-5443), Rhondi Potter at The Art Connection (267-0186) or Ken Larson at The World (269-1222). You can learn more about this by visiting http://www.fiddlefun.com/downtown_time_capsule.html

"GETTING BACK TO BASICS" – Thanks again Bill Lansing and Menasha Corporation for still another great year of interaction between a select group of Coos County educators, local business representatives and local government leaders. The program, "Getting Back to Basics," pairs local teachers with business and community leaders to help them better understand how to apply learning principles in ways that will benefit students in the workplace. "Businesses are your clients," preaches Lansing to the educators as he continues to show how one determined person can make a real difference. Frustrated that existing school to work programs were not doing as much as needed, Lansing five years ago started this annual event. City manager Bill Grile participated in this year's event which took place last Saturday at The Inn at Face Rock and Bandon Dunes in Bandon. Grile was paired up with North Bend High School teacher Brett Rogers, who will be having his students put together a "virtual city" as his "Getting Back to Basics" project for them. Congratulations Bill Lansing and Menasha Corporation, and thanks to everyone who participated in this year's event.

CONGRATULATIONS CADDY McKEOWN AND MINGUS PARK POOL MANAGEMENT – Mayor Verger, city councilors and an appreciative crowd attended last Saturday afternoon's ribbon-cutting event at the new Mingus Park Pool Bath House. The \$500,000 facility is now open for the use and enjoyment by the whole community thanks to the generous support by Coos Bay voters, making an investment in kids a real priority. Recognizing Caddy McKeown for her tireless efforts promoting the pool and its programs, Mayor Verger presented Caddy with a beautiful plaque displaying a salvaged remnant from the shipwrecked New Carissa. Thank you Caddy. Thank you Coos Bay voters. All right kids ... let's go swimming!!

LIBRARY OFFERS QUILTING PROGRAM – "Hands All Around: Quilting Traditions in America," is set for Saturday, March 11, 1:00 p.m., in the library's large meeting room. It is the second in a series of Chautauqua programs funded by Oregon Council for the Humanities and locally sponsored by Friends of the Library. Using 25 contemporary and traditional quilts, master quilters Elizabeth Hoffman and Shannon Rettig from Corvallis will demonstrate quilting techniques and styles.

"WHAT CAN HAPPEN IN 70 YEARS?" – This is the topic for a production by Chris Rosman to be held Friday, March 10 at noon in the library meeting room. It continues a lively look at music through the ages begun last fall with "Renaissance Revisited." Hosted by the library and presented by Oregon Coast Music Association, this free program offers a musical performance, poetry, history and a multi-media presentation on music from the years 1750 to 1820.

SENIOR FILM DAY – Senior Citizen Film Day at Coos Bay Library is Tuesday, March 14, 2:00 p.m. in the library meeting room. It features a video entitled "The Irish in America: Long Journey Home, The Great Hunger." Refreshments will be served and the event is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

CENSUS ENUMERATOR HELPS AT THE LIBRARY – Someone from the Census Bureau will be available in Coos Bay Library's study room six days a week for up to four hours per day to help people fill out their census forms.

ART EXHIBITS AT THE LIBRARY – Just in time for National Quilt Month, a collection of contemporary and traditional quilts from the Coos Sand 'n Sea Quilters is on display inside the library throughout the month of March. In the entry display cases, a group of traditional Indian baskets, Sally Bags, hand drums and cedar bark bags are on display from Master American Indian basketry artist Karen Howlingwolf and her family.

DR. SEUSS NIGHT WAS A BIG SUCCESS AT THE LIBRARY – Approximately 400 children and their parents participated in the Read Across America Day event at Coos Bay Library last Thursday evening. Marshfield's Honor Society students read Dr. Seuss stories to the youngsters and D9 teachers were on hand to help. Attendance was far greater than expected, and there was not enough cake to go around, but plans are already underway to make next year's event a great one.

CITY RECEIVES SAFETY CHECKUP – The City received a visit this week from City County Insurance Services. City County Insurance provides general liability and property loss insurance to the City. City staff accompanied the representative on a tour of City facilities that are open to the public. Sites visited included the Coos Art Museum, fire stations, city hall, city shops, library and the new pool house. These visits are part of the City's ongoing commitment to provide a safe workplace for its employees as well as safe facilities for the citizens of Coos Bay.

STORM WATER REGULATIONS – Local governments across the U.S. are preparing to implement the recently signed Storm Water Phase II rule. The rule, final on Oct. 29, 1999, seeks to control storm water runoff from smaller storm sewer systems in urbanized areas and construction sites in an effort to improve the quality of the nation's waterways. The City of Coos Bay is among the group of smaller municipalities who will be required to develop a storm water management program in order to obtain the necessary permits from the Environmental Protection Agency. Fortunately, a wide variety of resources are being provided for our use in accomplishing this task.

BUILDING PERMIT TRENDS – The total number of single and multi family housing units with approved building permits fell by 18 percent in Coos and Curry counties in 1999. A total of 115 single family units were approved (-18%); 47 multi-family units were approved (-11%). In Coos County, total units under permit fell from 74 to 47 (although it should be pointed out that PSU only reported separate data in 1999 from the communities of North Bend, Coos Bay, and Lakeside; any data from other communities being included in "rest of state"). The City of Coos Bay saw a drop from 32 single family units in 1998 to 19 in 1999 and a drop from 3 multi family units in 1998 to 2 in 1999. Curry County saw its housing unit total rise slightly from 119 to 120 over the year. In addition to constructed dwellings, there were a total of 62 manufactured homes installed in 1999, about the same as in 1998, but well below the 226 units put in during 1988.

(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department).

"F" STREET UPDATE – The City has received letters from the Engineer of record and the contractor concerning the broken asphalt at 12th Street. This work will be scheduled when weather permits to open up the bad areas and repair them. If you have questions concerning the future work, please call the Department of Community Services at 269-8918.

VOTER REGISTRATION OFFERED – The League of Women Voters of Coos County will provide forms to register Coos County voters at a table in Pony Village Mall Saturday, March 18th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Registration forms are also available during business hours at the Coos County Clerk's Office, Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, U.S. Post Offices, and all city halls and libraries.

Registration is necessary for new voters and for anyone whose address, name or political affiliation has changed. Deadline for registering for the primary election is April 25th. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters three weeks before voting day May 16th. For more information contact Judith VanDuzer (267-6508) or Margie Marshall (756-5290).

SCENIC BYWAY GRANT APPLICATIONS – The Oregon Department of Transportation is seeking grant applications to help implement the *Highway 101 Scenic Byway* designation. City staff has received the application packet and will be resubmitting the *downtown restrooms / rest-stop* project by the March 31, 2000 submittal deadline - under direction from the City Council this week. The application requires documentation of the availability of a 20% local match. Urban Renewal Agency action on March 21st can accomplish this.

CANDIDATES FOR DCBS INTERVIEWED BY STAKEHOLDERS' PANEL – It was the city manager's privilege Monday morning to join 11 distinguished Oregonians sitting on a panel to interview the three finalists under consideration to replace Mike Greenfield as Director of the Oregon Dept. of Consumer and Business Services ... the agency that oversees, building codes, insurance, workers' compensation and a host of other programs. Acting on one of the City Council's adopted goals, the opportunity to work more closely with this important agency has allowed Coos Bay to build some relationships that foster understanding and cooperation.

CHANNEL 14 PROGRAMMING EXTENDS ITS HOURS – Kudos to Laurel McGuire for her good work administering our government access channel. Extended programming hours are now on the air, as you can see on the attached "TV Guide" available at www.coosbay.org.

PROJECT APPROVALS – The City's Urban Renewal Agency reviewed and approved preliminary plans for two significant downtown projects last Tuesday night. Lon Samuels, the project architect, presented the plans for the Broadway Street Scape and Downtown Parking Lot Lighting projects. The Street Scape project will provide improved street lighting from Commercial to Curtis on Broadway together with some minor improvements to planted areas. The parking lot lighting project will provide greatly improved lighting in the parking lots bounded by Curtis and South 3rd Street. The Agency directed that the two projects go out for bid with construction to be completed this summer. In a separate action, the Agency awarded the contract for architectural design services for the Fifth Street Plaza project to Lon Samuels.

MINGUS PARK STAGE – On March 7th, last Tuesday, the City Council unanimously approved preliminary plans presented by architect Stuart Woods for construction of a permanent stage in Mingus Park. The design presented by the architect reflected the considerable work invested in this project by the Mingus Park Stage Committee appointed earlier by the City Council. The Stage Committee will continue its fund-raising efforts for the stage through the construction phase. You can still "buy a brick" to support the stage construction. The timeline for completion of the stage should permit use of the stage during the annual Fourth of July festivities in Mingus Park.

NEWMARK DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL – Tuesday night the City Council began a review of a proposal that would improve Newmark Avenue from Wal-Mart to the “Y intersection” with Ocean Avenue. The proposal would also include studies of traffic circulation between Newmark Avenue and Ocean Boulevard together with analysis of sanitary and storm sewer capability to support future development. The Council acted to continue discussion of the proposal at its March 21, 2000 meeting. The proposal represents a significant policy choice for the Council regarding the future commercial development potential in that area