



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

April 14, 2000

**CITY OF COOS BAY**

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**BUDGET MEETINGS SCHEDULED** – City of Coos Bay and Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency budget meetings on the proposed FY 2000/2001 budgets will be held at the public library in the auditorium beginning Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Urban Renewal Agency budget meeting will be held at 7 p.m. and the public is invited to make comments on the proposed budget. Following immediately after the URA meeting, the City budget committee will begin review of the proposed City budget. Copies of the budgets are available for public review at the library and the finance department at city hall. Consecutive meetings have been scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and May 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7 p.m. in the library auditorium. All meetings are open to the public.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PUBLIC FORUM** – The League of Women Voters will hold a public forum on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Empire Hall, Southwestern Oregon Community College. The forum will include the following:

Commissioner Candidates for Position I: Alfred “Fritz” Beck (R), Fred Clausen (R), John Griffith (R), Thomas Hall (R) (declined invitation to appear), Cindi Miller (R), Ranelle Allen Morris (R), and Keith Schroeder (D).

Assessor Candidates: Frank Lassen (non) and Robert “Bob” Main (D)

Southwestern Oregon Community College Bond Measure #66: Speaking For the measure – Steve Kridelbaugh, SWOCC President. Speaking against the measure – Roberta Stewart, Coos County citizen.

**COMPANY’S COMING!!** – Chamber of Commerce Manager Kathi Joy reported at the City Council meeting this week that an area-wide cleanup campaign will be held Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Are we ready for company? Everyone is encouraged to take a good look around the Bay Area – does it look like a place you’d like to vacation or visit on business? If you would like to help spruce up the area and aren’t sure how to go about it, please join us for our second annual “Company’s Coming” community cleanup day. Bring your relatives, friends, neighbors, church group, service club or whatever.... Just come! Children less than 16 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

Plan for **Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Check in at any of the four designated locations: Bay Area Chamber of Commerce (50 East Central Avenue, Coos Bay), Charleston Visitors Center (west end of the Charleston bridge), K-Mart parking lot (3111 Ocean Blvd, Coos Bay), and Pony Village Mall (1611 Virginia Avenue, North Bend). Volunteers will be available to help you select the job that’s right for you and give you instructions, materials, and a pat on the back for joining this effort to make the Bay Area shine for all our visitors. Questions? Call the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce at 269-0215.

Celebrate Bay Area Pride! Clean it up! Paint it up! Show it off!

**OFFICERS ELECTED FOR WATER BOARD** – The Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board held the annual election of officers at the March 30, 2000 board meeting. The results of the election of Board officers were: Dick Vigue, Chair; Arnie Roblan, Vice-Chair, Greg Solarz, Secretary; and Mike Helfrich, Member.

**MILL CASINO PREPARES TIME CAPSULE** – The City of Coos Bay has been asked to contribute to the Mill Casino’s 50-year time capsule. A copy of the City’s goals, a city pin and a New Carissa

commemorative paperweight were included.

**FIFTH STREET PLAZA** – A conceptual design for a public gathering place was presented to members of the Urban Renewal Agency at their Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000 meeting by local architect, Lon Samuels. This phased “work in progress” will initially include a water feature and park-like components to encourage public use while serving as a connecting hub between the downtown businesses and City administration facilities. The Agency unanimously approved of both the concept and the funding for this project and will play an integral part in the evolving plans.

**LITTER PATROL BEGINS** – The City has started the spring litter patrol along major City streets. The crew recently finished cleanup on Newmark from Empire Boulevard to Fir Avenue area and will work on Highway 101 starting at the north city limits along Bayshore Drive and working their way south. Other areas to receive litter pickup will be Ocean Boulevard, Central Avenue, Anderson and Commercial, the downtown core area and Cape Arago Highway from Newmark to the south city limits. The crew will also be working removing vegetation from sidewalk areas and planters.

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH** – The Coos Bay Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to say thank to all of the volunteers who give their time to the Coos Bay Fire Department. The department has many dedicated volunteer firefighters who commit countless hours in training and responding to emergencies in our community. To a terrific group of people a big thank you!

**FIRE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS ATTEND ACADEMY** – Volunteer firefighters attended classes at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland this week. Firefighters Jon Eck, Mike White, Brett Weidemiller and Steve Schneiderman are attending classes in leadership, fire cause and incident management. This training opportunity is offered to volunteers in the United States with air fare and lodging being provided by the federal government.

**LABOR TRENDS** Over the last twelve months, non-farm employment in Coos County increased by 960 (+4.7%). Manufacturing jobs rose by 160 over the year. Most of that gain occurred in food products in spite of last month’s reduction. Within non-manufacturing, employment expanded in trade (+180) and services (+540). The past-year’s services job growth was greatest in lodging, recreation, and business services, including call center activity. Curry County posted a loss of 20 manufacturing jobs over the year and not much job change in non-manufacturing. Year-over gains in retail trade and government were canceled out by reductions in construction and services. *(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)*

**FIFTH STREET PLAZA** – A conceptual design for a public gathering place was presented to members of the Urban Renewal Agency at their Tues., April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000 meeting by local architect, Lon Samuels. This phased “work in progress” will initially include a water feature and park-like components to encourage public use while serving as a connecting hub between the downtown businesses and City administration facilities. The Agency unanimously approved of both the concept and the funding for this project and will play an integral part in the evolving plans.

**WORK ON CITY STREETS** – During the last two weeks, taking advantage of the absence of students from schools during spring break, the City’s streets crew has: Installed new reflector buttons at Milner Crest, Madison, Sunset and Eastside schools; Painted and reflector taped crosswalks at the following school-related intersections: Pacific and Madison, Madison and Flanagan, Morrison and Flanagan, Morrison and Michigan, Michigan and Camman, Camman and Noble, South Tenth Street at Blossom Gulch. Installed new traffic directional arrows at the following intersections: Fourth and Anderson, Fourth and Elrod, Broadway and Johnson.

**PARKS MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY** – During the last two weeks the City's Parks crew has accomplished the following work at Mingus Park: Pressure washed the paths around the lake from Tenth Street; Cleaned the globes on all the streetlights in the park; Replaced the pavers that had been removed from the lake border; Cut back and removed briars on the west side of the lake close to Choshi garden. In addition to the work in Mingus Park, the Parks crew has done some significant work at John Topits Park: Brush and debris removal utilizing a crew from Shutter's Creek – this work was directed on-site by John Topits. Removal of brush and log debris at Middle Lake Dam – again utilizing a crew from Shutter's Creek. Installed signs at both Middle Lake and Lower Lake cautioning those using the park to discard fishing line, only in provided containers. Additional trash receptacles have also been placed at these locations.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!** – Russ Thackery of the Fire Department celebrated his five-year anniversary with the City of Coos Bay on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations!