



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

July 7, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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LET'S CELEBRATE AT MINGUS! -- The weather didn't cooperate July 4th for the Independence Day celebration at Mingus Park, but a few hardy soles still braved the elements to visit the park and see for themselves. Kudos to event organizer Marty Crouse, Cindi Miller and Joyce Jansen for all the hard work they did preparing for this year's gala event. And thanks to the CB Volunteer Firefighters for the kids fishing derby run by the Fire Department. Approximately 400 fish were caught by the kids who didn't mind trying to catch that "big one" in the rain! A crowd at the Habitat for Humanity booth also enjoyed itself building bird houses in the rain.

But rain or no rain ... the Coos Bay City Council wants to invite the community to another celebration at Mingus Park! Fishing, swimming, a petting zoo, bean bag toss, bubble blowing, bird house building, skateboard demonstrations, great food and music are all activities that were planned as part of The Fourth of July Celebration at Mingus Park ... and that the City hopes to reschedule for another great day of family fun at the park. The City hopes all the hearty soles who braved the weather on The Fourth will come back for another day of community pride and celebration when weather will be more accommodating. Watch for details!

And how about those fireworks at the Coos Bay Boardwalk? Thousands turned out to enjoy a great event brought to you by the City of Coos Bay, thanks to room tax funds. The fireworks show also went off without a hitch and was again this year an enjoyable family outing. Thanks to our Fire Dept. for another job exceptionally well done. The lighted flag on the spoils island left you with a star-spangled Banner feeling -- just the way it is supposed to be!

MINGUS PARK STAGE DEDICATED TO MAYOR VERGER -- Keeping a closely guarded secret, and in the rain no less, Tuesday morning the new Mingus Park Stage was dedicated to Mayor Joanne Verger for her vision, dedication, and tireless efforts working to improve the community. Council President Cindy Miller surprised the Mayor by making the announcement, which she enjoyed unanimous support of the City Council. Councilor Judy Weeks worked hard behind the scenes to put the surprise together. So thanks Councilors! And thanks Chamber Ambassadors for helping cut the ribbon. And last but not least, thank you Mayor Verger for helping see this project through to reality!

DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION SPONSORS FARMER'S MARKET -- The Coos Bay Downtown Association is sponsoring a Farmer's Market in downtown Coos Bay on Wednesday, July 12, 2000. The Market will be conducted in the City parking lot immediately south of the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center and will open at 11:00 A.M.. The Downtown Association plans to sponsor a Farmer's Market in downtown Coos Bay each Wednesday throughout the summer growing season. Check this out - there will be a lot to see, a lot to buy and it will all be in downtown Coos Bay.

ED LUND PARK BUILDING TO BECOME A TELEVISION STUDIO -- The City Council has approved use of the Ed Lund Park Building by the government access television Channel 14. This use of the building, formerly occupied by Help Line, is made possible by the outstanding public spiritedness of Charter Communications, which has offered to install cable between Charter's site on Newmark and the Ed Lund Park Building - at no cost to the City. The City Council has formally recognized Linda Kimberly, local manager for Charter Communications for this generous support of the government access channel. A few minor clean-up/fix-up items will be addressed prior to Channel 14's move into the building.

FRONT STREET PAVING PROJECT -- The City Council and the Urban Renewal Agency have authorized the

funding necessary to accomplish an asphalt overlay of Front Street from Fir Street to Market Street. The project includes some work on the railroad track bed which runs down the center of Front Street. Engineering and construction oversight for the project is being provided by the Dyer Partnership, which estimates that the construction work will occur later this fall. This project is an important component of the City Council and Urban Renewal Agency long-range plan for the redevelopment of the Front Street area.

DOWNTOWN RESTROOMS -- The Urban Renewal Agency has authorized the "final" funding amount necessary to accomplish construction of public restrooms in the downtown area. The restroom facility will be located in the parking lot immediately south of Kaffe 101. Use of an already engineered building design should speed up the design phase of the project, permitting the actual construction to be completed within the current year's "construction season."

BOARD OF REALTORS PRESENTATION -- Community Services Director Bill Finney will speak to the Board of Realtors on July 20, 2000 about the City of Coos Bay's Enterprise Zone and Urban Renewal District. Both of these resources may be useful in real estate transactions. Finney's presentation will speak to those features which might be applicable to real estate professionals.

GARBAGE RATE HIKES APPROVED -- Tuesday night the City Council unanimously approved a hike in the rates charged by Coos Bay's two garbage franchisees for collecting solid waste inside the city limits. The decision followed a public hearing at which no objections to the increases were expressed. For residential customers, the increase amounts to only 25-cents per can per week. More than half of that increase was due to increased fees charged by Coos County for "tipping" the garbage trucks at the Beaver Hill Solid waste facility. The rest of the increase is attributable to a ½ per cent per year inflationary impact for each of the past five years. The rates go into effect July 1st.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS UPDATE -- South Coast government managers, educators and telecommunications providers gathered for a workshop about SB 622 grants yesterday afternoon at the Newmark Center on the Southwestern Oregon Community College campus. Oregon Community and Economic Development staffer Guy Alvis explained the procedures and standards that will be used to dole out more than \$60 million in telecom infrastructure grants to communities that have their needs identified and plans developed for viable projects. Unfortunately, the Bay Area and Coos County may get left out because no clear consensus has emerged to support specific priority projects. "The Bay Area needs a technology plan," said city manager Bill Grile after the meeting. "Without one, how can we show that needs have been identified, alternative solutions considered, and best options prioritized?" he quizzed. The possibility of putting together a project is nevertheless under consideration by Coos Bay city staff and others, including, presumably, Fiber South Consortium. The Consortium meets today in Springfield to continue its review of industry proposals to make use of the six pairs of fiber the Consortium negotiated from Williams Communications. Coos Bay Police Chief Chuck Knight and City Manager Bill Grile will be attending.

COUNCIL OFFERS TO PARTICIPATE BUT NOT FUND THE PONY CREEK WATER SHED STUDY -- After an excellent presentation by volunteer John Craig about the proposed study, which began in response to flooding problems in North Bend, and after carefully considering issues and options associated with the study -- which has grown to include water quality issues -- Tuesday night on a split vote the Council decided to participate in the study to the extent staff time allows but to not offer financial support at this time.

LITTER PATROL CONCLUDES WORK -- The litter patrols consisting of Richard, Phil and Patrick Loreman have concluded the litter pick-up and sidewalk cleaning work on June 30, 2000. They started work on April 10, 2000 and picked up litter on more than 44,000 feet of streets, cleaned more than 12,800 feet of sidewalks and the parking lots and planters in the downtown area. The final week of work they worked with the Parks crew on preparing Mingus Park for the 4th of July celebration. The men were by hired through Cardinal Services and were under the direction of street foreman Brad Carlson. Council authorized the work to begin in early April to clean up the City and prepare it for summer visitors. The men performed a very important role in the cleaning that they did.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MARITIME ART EXHIBIT -- This year's juried exhibition of maritime art created by

members of the prestigious American Society of Marine Artists features the work of guest artist June Carey from Chico, California. Ms. Carey is known for her unique style, incorporating both intense color and dramatic light effects. An opening reception at the Coos Art Museum will occur this evening, July 7th, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. A gourmet dinner at the Red Lion (reservations required) will follow the reception. City manager Bill Grile will be attending to make closing remarks for the event. The exhibit will be on display at the Coos Art Museum until September 9th.

LABOR TRENDS -- Oregon's South Coast non farm employment increased substantially in May. Coos County's employment estimates rose by 410. Curry County gained 320 jobs.

Manufacturing employment was fairly flat for both counties, increasing by 20 in Coos and by ten in Curry County. In Curry County, logging employment gains lagged the expected seasonal increase. Overall, Curry's lumber and wood products employment inched upward by ten. A gain of 30 in Coos County lumber and wood products employment was countered by a loss of 20 in food products manufacturing.

Coos County non manufacturing employment increased by 400 in May, boosted by nearly 100 temporary census workers. Seasonal increases in eating and drinking places (+40) and lodging places (+30) contributed to the employment gains. Miscellaneous retail employment increased by 40.

Curry County non manufacturing jobs increased by 300, with nearly 80 census workers added for the month. Seasonal employment increases in travel-related businesses such as eating and drinking places (+50) and lodging (+70) accounted for most of the increases. (Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)