

The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

July 21, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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OREGON "ALL ABOARD!" ... THE 104 WANTS TO ROLL – This week the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency reacted favorably to a proposal brought to it by the Oregon Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. As owners of "The 104," the steam engine located in North Bend near the McCullough Bridge, the Society wants to partner with the City to relocate the engine to the property across from McDonald's on Bayshore, placing it there along with a replica of the old Marshfield Train Depot. City staff really likes the idea too, and sees the site as idea for this use. Staff thinks the site would well serve the "Boat in a Bottle" project as well. That project would build a full size bottle around the tug Irene, Curt Sause's first tug. To make the site available, the Society and City staff would like to see the Urban Renewal Agency purchase the property and participate in construction of the depot. Stay tuned! The City would like to know what you think about this idea!

COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL MUSICIANS VISIT COOS BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY - Three members of the Oregon Coast Music Association's Festival Orchestra will present a free program at the library on Wednesday, July 26, at 11:00 a.m. as part of the library's summer reading program. Anne Eisfeller, harpist, Ellie Malzohn, violinist and Karen Strand, English horn, will play a short selection and discuss their experiences as musicians, music students and music teachers. The program will provide a unique opportunity for children of all ages to meet and talk with professional festival musicians.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MARINE ARTISTS TREATED TO DINNER – Coos Bay Police Department Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth, and his wife Michelle, prepared and served a barbecued salmon dinner to ninety-five artists, guests, and community members at the Coos Bay Yacht Club on July 8th. The dinner was prepared for the marine artists in conjunction with the Societies annual meeting which was held in Coos Bay this year. Their art work is currently on display at the Coos Art Museum in Coos Bay. Local artists Don McMichael and Dutch Mostert donated prints for a raffle drawing at the dinner. Each spoke about the Marine Artists Society. Following the dinner a video showing the life of the Schooner Zodiac was introduced by Dutch Mostert. This is the second year Kevin and Michelle have prepared the Salmon dinner for the Society.

2000 SAFETY TOWN CONCLUDES – One hundred students attended this years "Safety Town" held at Blossom Gulch School. This is the ninth year that the Coos Bay Police Department has partnered with Coos Bay Schools in presenting the Safety Town project. North Bend Police has also partnered in the project the last two years.

COOS BAY POLICE OFFICER'S TAKE OATH OF OFFICE – Two new police officers were administered the oath of office by Chief Chuck Knight at the July 18th City Council meeting. Officers Lance Porter and Sean Merritt were sworn in at the regularly scheduled council meeting. Both Officer's will be attended the ten week basic police academy in Monmouth which begins July 24, 2000.

VACANCY ON COOS-CURRY HOUSING AUTHORITY – The Coos County Commissioners have announced a vacancy on the Coos-Curry Housing Authority. The appointment is for a five-year term. A Commissioner on the Coos-Curry Housing Authority Board oversees policies relating to providing safe and sanitary housing for low income families, elderly and disabled persons. The nine-member board meetings

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month, bi-monthly or quarterly as necessary. Anyone wishing additional information can contact Executive Director Paul Colbert at 756-4111, ext. 14.

LABOR TRENDS – Non-farm employment in Coos County has increased by 790 since last May, a 3.7 percent growth rate. Goods-producing sectors, construction and manufacturing, lost a total of 60 jobs over the year. Service-producing industries expanded by 850, with business services growing steadily. Other retail industries have added 120 over the year, while restaurants posted no change, mirroring the state trend. Curry County non-farm employment increased by only 50 over the year, a less than one percent growth rate. Losses of 20 in lumber and wood products were countered by a gain of 30 in the rest of manufacturing. In non-manufacturing, there were gains in construction (+20), local government (+20), and finance, insurance, and real estate (+10). There were losses in transportation and public utilities (-50) and health services (-40). *(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)*

COOS BAY OVERLAY PROJECT - The Coos Bay City Council awarded Johnson Rock Products the overlay project at its July 18, 2000 meeting. The project includes overlaying twelve streets around the City. The following streets are slated to be overlaid:

Woodland Dr. - Ocean Blvd. to Myrtle St.
Cammann St. - Newmark Ave. to Pacific Ave.
Wall St. - Newmark Ave. to Schetter Ave.
N. 10th St. - Hemlock St. to CoosBay Blvd.
Alder St. - Broadway to Bayshore Dr.
Myrtle Ave. - Bayshore Dr. to N. 6th St.
N. 6th St. - Pine Ave. to Myrtle Ave.
Date Ave. - 7th St. to 10th St.
Lockhart Ave. - Broadway to S. 4th St.
16th Ave. - Coos River Hwy. to Evergreen
14th Ave. - "D" St. to "I" St.
8th Ave. - "E" St. to "F" St.

The project is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks after contract and performance bonds are submitted to the City. The order that the streets will be overlaid has not been confirmed by the contractor. Scheduled completion date is approximately October 27, 2000.

EMPIRE STREET SCAPE PHASE II – The Empire Street Scape project started this week on the south side of Newmark Avenue at Cammann Street. The project includes new sidewalks, period lighting and trees along both sides of Newmark from Cammann to the Ocean Boulevard intersection. Completion date is scheduled to be September 28, 2000.

EMPIRE BOLLARD INSTALLATION – Lighted bollards are scheduled to be placed in the planters in the Empire area starting next week. The bollards will be placed in the location where the 4 x 4 posts are located. This will show motorists the edge of the planter and provide additional lighting in the area. The lights in the area will be off for one to two weeks while the contractor is wiring the new bollard. To protect the public electrical code regulations do not allow exposed wire to be energized.

FARMER'S MARKET – Stop by the parking lot south of the Chamber of Commerce in downtown Coos Bay on Wednesday's to shop in the "Farmer's Market". This will continue every Wednesday throughout the summer from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

DOWNTOWN PARKING TO BE DISCUSSED – The City Council and the Parking Committee will meet in a work session at 6:30 p.m. August 1st to review downtown parking. The Parking Committee has recommended changing Lot B (east of City Subs) and Lot C (behind Jennie's) to two-hour parking and designating parking spaces on the west and south side of the Joelson's Building (Commercial and Second) for permit parking. The committee will also be requesting the City Council to consider looking into acquisition of available property north of Commercial Avenue for development as additional parking lots.

UPPER MINGUS TENNIS COURTS – The City is excited to announce the completion of the refinishing of the surfaces of the upper Mingus tennis courts. As of today the new surface has been applied, stripes painted and staff anticipates the new nets to be installed by the end of the day. According to the contractor, the courts will be ready for tennis players no later than Saturday.