



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

August 18, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420

(541) 269-8912

See us at <http://www.coosbay.org>

Email the city manager at bgrile@ucinet.com

RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS HONORED – The Fire Department held an "old timers" picnic this past weekend to honor the retired firefighters from the department. Current career and volunteer firefighters treated past members to a picnic at Laverne Park complete with barbecued chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings. Approximately 30 retired members showed up to swap stories and enjoy the barbecue.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULED – A workshop to discuss the proposed Front Street redevelopment plan has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 22, 2000 at 5:30 p.m. in the Port of Coos Bay conference room, 125 Central Avenue. The public is welcome to attend

2000 STREET OVERLAY PROJECT AWARDED – At the August 15, 2000 meeting the City Council awarded the project to Johnson Rock Products in the amount of \$293,000. The following streets are planned for overlays this year: Woodland Drive – Ocean Blvd. to Myrtle Street; Cammann Street – Newmark Avenue to Pacific Avenue; Wall Street – Newmark Avenue to Schetter Avenue; North 10th Street – Hemlock Street to Coos Bay Blvd.; Alder Street – Broadway to Bayshore Drive; Myrtle Avenue – Bayshore Drive to North 6th; 6th Street – Pine Avenue to Myrtle Avenue; Date Avenue – 7th Street to 10th Street; Lockhart Avenue – Broadway to South 4th Street; 14th Avenue – "D" Street to "I" Street. Once the contract is signed a schedule will be available on the order that the streets will be worked on. All questions can be directed to the Community Services Department at 269-8918.

BOARDWALK AQUARIUM – Tom Rumrieck with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is proceeding with the placement of an aquarium on the Boardwalk at the Anderson Avenue entrance along Bayshore. The project is scheduled for completion before the Fun Festival. The project will be completed with donated labor and materials.

BROADWAY STREETSCAPE BRICKS READY TO BE LAID -- With continued apologies to downtown businesses and the public, the good news is that Contractor Johnson Rock Products informed City staff this week that its subcontractor is ready to commence laying the sidewalk bricks that will signal the beginning of the projects' end. City staff is hoping the project will be completed by the time of the Fun Festival next month, but it's all up to the contractor. The wait will be worth it, though. We promise!

BAYSHORE STREETSCAPE ALMOST READY TO BID – Ready to start another one? The Bayshore Streetscape project will be a bit more elaborate than the Broadway one in that it will include street trees and "color." Designed by local architect Lon Samuels, Tuesday evening the Urban Renewal Agency approved the plans and authorized staff to proceed and call for bids. This work will improve the appearance of Hy. 101 northbound from just south of Taco Time all the way north to the Marshfield Sun Historical Printing Museum. Stay tuned. Action is about to begin!

EMPIRE GATEWAY SCHEMATICS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW – Please feel free to stop by the city manager's office to take a look at the two Empire Gateway schematics that are under review. Cost estimates are being prepared by project architect Rob Porter in Rich Turi's office and once available, will help the Urban Renewal Agency decide which of the two should be built. Your input will help also. Stop by if you

can!

GRASS IN MINGUS LAKE – The City has been working on ways to rid the grass from Mingus Lake. Staff has been looking at various other ways to eliminate the grass. One would be to use an aquatic herbicide, but that could open up a can of worms plus kill the lily pads. Using an aquatic herbicide could be a problem with it getting into the bay. Another way was to introduce grass eating carp into the lake, to do so the City would need to fill out an application from ODFW, the fish would have to be tagged with a transmitter in case they escaped from the lake they could be traced to the owner. There is no guarantee that the fish would eat the grass or they may just eat the lily pads. Once fresh water begins to enter the lake and the water gets colder the grass will disappear. The reason the grass grows so well in the lake is basically the fecal matter from the ducks and geese creating a highly nutrient condition on the bottom of the lake and warm water. The grass in the lake is currently being removed mechanically by the Parks crew by dragging a pipe across the surface of the lake.

HIRE A REGISTERED CONTRACTOR – Oregon law requires anyone who is engaged for compensation in any construction activity involving improvements to real estate to be registered with the State of Oregon Construction Contractors Board (503 378-4621). To help avoid costly mistakes on your next construction project here's a few simple suggestions: Verify contractor is registered with the Construction Contractors Board, check references and previous customers to assure customer satisfaction, put all agreements in writing and always check with your local building department for code and permit requirements.

LABOR TRENDS – Total non-farm employment in Oregon increased by 6,300 in June. The gain was slightly less than usual because of the loss of 3,000 federal government jobs as many census workers completed their tasks. Employment also declined between May and June by 3,200 jobs in local public schools and by 5,200 jobs in private sector educational services. Manufacturing jobs rose by 4,700 in June, led by a seasonal increase in food products (+2,600). Other factory gains occurred in electronic (+900) and wood products (+500) sectors. The only major manufacturing loss came in transportation equipment. Manufacturing jobs were 2,300 higher than last year. Gains were strongest in electronic (+2,100), transportation (+1,500), and food processing (+1,000) industries. The largest reduction came in the wood product industry (-1,300). Two Oregon companies recently announced expansion plans. Intel plans to construct an R&D campus in Oregon which could hire more than 6,000 workers over the next 15 years. Merix Corporation has announced that it will make a major investment at its circuit board manufacturing facilities in Forest Grove. (Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department).

POLICE SERGEANTS VISIT EUGENE POLICE ACADEMY – Coos Bay Police Sergeants Doug Hill, Ron Robson, Robert Lounsbury, and Darrell King paid a visit to the Eugene Police Academy last Wednesday. The visitation was scheduled to provide an insight into training issues addressed by other agencies as a means of enhancing the training program at the Coos Bay Police Department. The police department is grateful for the hospitality extended to our supervisory staff.

POLICE CANINES CONTINUE TO "GET THEIR MAN" – Since the revitalization of the police canine program at Coos Bay Police Department the dogs and their handlers have produced great results. Last week alone the police department canines were able to recover stolen property, narcotics, and apprehended a dangerous person wanted on a variety of charges including a homicide that occurred in California. Coos Bay's canine handlers are Rodger Craddock, Rob Scoville, and Andy Osborn. The canines have proven to be a very effective tool in assisting the police department in the recovery of property and location of wanted persons.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS – The City of Coos Bay has set aside funds for loans to establish local improvement districts, such as paving streets. If you and your neighbors are interested in having your street paved but low on funds now, we can help. The deadline for submission is September 1st. Call the Dept.

of Community Services at 269-8918 for more information

REGIONAL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING – The Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties' Regional Investment Board has scheduled a special public meeting for Saturday, August 26, 2000 at 9:30 a.m. in the Coquille Room at the Red Lion Hotel, 1313 North Bayshore Drive, Coos Bay, Oregon. This will be a special meeting of the board to write the Regional Investment Plan. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. For additional information, please call: Eileen Ophus - (541) 756-4101.

MHS NEW MATH AND SCIENCE BUILDING IS MOVING RIGHT ALONG, AND SO IS THE NEW TRACK AND FIELD – Stop by and check out the new field and track under construction at Marshfield High School. What a great asset for our community! And take a glance up at the new Math and Science Building right above you there. Wow! Fire chief Stan Gibson and City Manager Bill Grile were treated to a personal tour of the new building this week by MHS Principal Arnie Roblan and Asst. District Supt. Jeremy Lyon. We're proud of Marshfield High School and these facilities will give us even more reason to know that our community cares enough to invest in its kids!

DEPARTMENT HEADS PARTNER WITH PCI TO DRAFT A TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF COOS BAY – With thanks to Rick Howell and Teri Pointer at ESD, and with special thanks to Vaughn Rains at PCI, department heads have been working to prepare a draft "technology and telecommunications plan" for the City. Library Director Carol Ventgen, Mr. Rains, and city manager Bill Grile spent one full afternoon and another morning pulling together elements from other quality muni plans into a draft that will be suitable for use by Coos Bay and other jurisdictions wishing to prepare themselves for fiber and other technologies. "This will be principally an administrative document for use by staff," said city manager Grile this morning. "We anticipate the document will be useful not only for our own in-house use, but to Fiber South Consortium and other service providers interested in bringing advanced technologies and better communications infrastructure to the region," he added. The plan will help support the two remaining local SB 622 applications under consideration for our area, also. Once the draft is completed, it will be forwarded to the City Council for review and comment. Reactions should be favorable. Similar technology plans could cost upwards of \$25,000 or more. This one will have been produced chiefly with "sweat equity" by City staff. Questions? Please contact the city manager.

CONGRATULATIONS COOS BAY POLICE OFFICER LANCE BJORNERUD – Twenty years with the City of Coos Bay and Eastside as of July 23rd. Congratulations Lance!