



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 1, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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

Email the city manager at bgrile@ucinet.com

MUSIC AND MORE IN MINGUS PARK – Mark your calendar for a fun afternoon in Mingus Park on September 9th 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Entertainment and children's activities will be centered around the new Mingus Park Stage and will include bubble blowing, bean bag toss, free swimming, free balloons and popcorn, to name a few. The entertainment schedule will be the Little Ole Opry Band from 1 to 3 p.m., On Broadway Theatre from 3 to 4 p.m. and Bulls-eye from 4 to 5 p.m. In the event of rain, the activities will be moved to the downtown convention center at 158 Central Avenue.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB GRAND OPENING – The long-awaited grand opening of the Boys and Girls Club will be held Sunday, September 10th. Ribbon cutting/dedication will be at 2:30 p.m., open house and tours 3 to 7 p.m. The club is located at 3333 Walnut Avenue and the community is invited to attend the celebration.

THANK YOU GOVERNOR KITZHABER! – The City very much appreciates this week's visit by Governor John Kitzhaber. His public community forum Monday afternoon provided a great opportunity for local officials to brief the Governor about various issues of pending concern, and his tour of Front Street allowed Mayor Joanne Verger and Urban Renewal Chair Joe Benetti to brief the Governor about this important community redevelopment project. Thank you, Mayor Verger, for moderating the afternoon forum.

YOU CAN HELP DECIDE A DESIGN FOR THE EMPIRE GATEWAY -- Two schematic designs for the planned "Empire Gateway" - an archway over Newmark west of "The Y" -- are under consideration by the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency. You can view both by visiting the City's WEB site at www.coosbay.org <<http://www.coosbay.org>> then looking under "What's Hot?" on the right hand side of the page. After viewing the two sketches, which are marked "Empire Gateway Options 1 and 2," we hope you'll participate in the on-line survey that is presented directly below on the page. How about it?

FOR SALE: CITY OWNED SURPLUS PROPERTY -- Attention Realtors, investors and other interested persons. Over the years the City of Coos Bay, like all cities, has acquired the title to properties through tax foreclosures. Four of these have been declared "surplus property" by the City Council and are available for sale. You can check them out by visiting Coos Bay's WEB site at <<http://www.coosbay.org/City%20owned%20property/cityprop.pdf>>. Interested in making an offer? Contact Assistant to the City Manager Joyce Jansen at City Hall: 541-269-8912 or jjansen@ucinet.com

CITY MANAGER SPEAKS TO THE OPTIMISTS CLUB – On Wednesday City Manager Bill Grile was the program speaker at the Optimists' regular weekly meeting. His comments brought the group up to date about the many projects currently underway in Coos Bay, describing this as "the busiest time for public construction projects in Coos Bay in the past 30 years." The Optimists, by the way, deserve a hearty thanks from the City for their ongoing efforts to not only maintain the Eight Street Park, but to use it as an opportunity to bring healthy fun to the kids in our community. This week the Club held "Kids Play Day in the Park" and hosted an event there with food games and fun activities. Thanks Optimists!

HELP WANTED: "COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR" – Announcements are going out to alert job seekers that candidates are being sought for the position of Coos Bay Community Services Director. The position works under the general direction of the city manager and is responsible directing and managing

streets and public works, planning, engineering, parks, building codes and wastewater programs in the city. Completed applications must be submitted not later than 5:00 PM on October 20th. Detailed information about the position and hiring requirements will be available at the City's WEB site: www.coosbay.org <<http://www.coosbay.org>>. "This is an extremely challenging and demanding position," said City Manager Bill Grile this week. "The ideal candidate will have solid experience in the department's program areas, the ability to work well with the public and construction professionals, critical thinking skills and a high energy level," he added.

COUNCIL CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED – In November Coos Bay voters will be selecting citizens to fill four openings on the City Council. The mayor's position and three councilor positions will expire in November. Those filing as candidates are Joe Benetti for Mayor and Marie Larson, Jeff McKeown, Dave Williams and Judy Weeks for Councilors. Jeff McKeown and Judy Weeks are running for re-election. Councilor McKeown was originally elected in November 1996 and Councilor Weeks was originally appointed to the City Council February 21, 1995 and elected in November 1996. Councilor Benetti's term as City Councilor will end November 2000; he first served as Councilor in 1986-1990, again in 1992-1996, and was re-elected in November 1996. Dave Williams has prior experience as City Councilor serving two terms of 1988-1992 and 1992-1996. Marie Larson would be new to City Council.

CHIEF KNIGHT & CAPTAIN WASHBURN VISIT OREGON POLICE ACADEMY – Earlier this week Police Chief Chuck Knight and Captain Eura Washburn visited the Oregon Police Academy in Monmouth. The visit allowed Knight and Washburn to receive an academy update from Academy Lieutenant Scott Dye (a former Coos Bay Police Officer) and a chance to visit with Coos Bay officers attending training at the academy. Officers Lance Porter and Sean Merritt are about midway through the ten week basic police training. Also at the academy is Sergeant Robert Lounsbury who is receiving instructor training for Emergency Vehicle Operation.

SGT. LOUNSBURY RECEIVES INSTRUCTOR TRAINING – Coos Bay Police Sergeant Robert Lounsbury is currently attending an intensive three week training course which will allow him to instruct the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training emergency vehicle operations course. Students attending the training are required to score a minimum of ninety percent on all written and driving tests. This coming the students will have an opportunity to be demonstrate their driving skills at the Washington State Patrol training center.

POLICE OFFICERS ATTEND "3 FLAGS" TRAINING – Coos Bay Police Officers Andy Osborn and Darrell Babb attended the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles "3 Flags Training" this week. The 3 flags program is a joint enforcement program in which Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia work together to ensure safety belt compliance and reduce incidents of driving while under the influence violations.

PAVING SCHEDULE – Johnson Rock Product, Inc. is in the process of paving a number of streets for the City of Coos Bay. The revised schedule, dependent on fair weather, is as follows:

Woodland Dr.	Fri	9/01/00	Tue	9/05/00
Date Ave.	Tue	9/05/00	Wed	9/06/00
N.10th St.	Wed	9/06/00	Wed	9/06/00
Myrtle Ave.	Thu	9/07/00	Thu	9/07/00
N. 6 th St.	Thu	9/07/00	Fri	9/08/00
Alder Ave.	Fri	9/08/00	Fri	9/08/00
Lockhart Ave.	Mon	9/11/00	Mon	9/11/00
14 th Ave.	Wed	9/13/00	Wed	9/13/00

Any questions concerning this schedule may be directed to the Community Services Department of the City of Coos Bay at 269-8918. Advance notification is being distributed to residents of each area as a reminder to not park on the street during construction times. Thank you for your patience.

TRANSIENT TAX TRENDS – The 1st quarter of the fiscal year (July-Sept 99) was very good; about \$17,000 over the last three years' average. The 2nd and 3rd quarter of 99-00 appear to be on track or a little above average. The 4th quarter of 99-00 (April-June 2000) was not good; down about \$23,000 over the last three year average. The spreadsheet summarizes transient taxes by year and quarter from 96-97 through 99-00. You will note there was unusually high revenue for the 3rd and 4th quarter of the 98-99 fiscal year (we assume the increase is due to the New Carrisa). The 1st quarter 2000-01 revenues will not be in until the end of October. At that time, we might have some idea of how we will fair compared to our budget.

City of Coos Bay

Transient Tax Comparison - 2% Promotion Committee

1996-97 to Present

	(July-Sept) <u>1st Qtr</u>	(Oct-Dec) <u>2nd Qtr</u>	(Jan-March) <u>3rd Qtr</u>	(April-June) <u>4th Qtr</u>	(July-June) <u>Total</u>
1999-00	46,056.59	22,254.67	20,515.39	21,975.65	110,802.30
1998-99	41,396.41	20,228.81	23,402.69	30,754.57	115,782.48
1997-98	40,737.94	19,727.16	19,253.67	27,331.15	107,049.92
1996-97	41,512.64	20,973.43	19,119.15	28,050.84	109,656.06

WORK BEGINS AT FIRE STATION – Work will be going on at Eastside Fire Station No. 3 for the next month as City crews and contractors work to repair the roof and replace the ramp. Contractors will replace the existing 20+ year old roof. City crews are also digging out the old ramp a section at a time and a contractor will be pouring concrete to replace the existing ramp. Money was budgeted this year for these much needed improvements as part of the Fire Departments commitment to maintain our firefighting facilities.

LIGHT IMPRESSIONS – The Coos Art Museum and The Margo Jacobsen Gallery will hold the Light Impressions exhibition beginning September 15th through October 28th. The exhibition combines the glass artists of The Margo Jacobsen Gallery with those of the Southern Oregon Coast. The opening reception will be held Friday, September 15th at 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

LABOR TRENDS – (State and Local Unemployment Rate for June) Coos County's unemployment rate fell slightly in July to 7.0 percent from 7.1 in June. The number of unemployed declined by just 30 over the month to reach 1,920. A year ago, Coos County had 2,210 jobless residents and an unemployment rate of 8.3 percent. Curry County's unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in July, more than a percentage point below June's 5.0 percent. Unemployment in Curry fell from 420 down to 330 over the month.. In July 1999, Curry had 400 unemployed and a rate of 4.7 percent. Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward to 5.0 percent in July from June's revised rate of 4.9, but was nearly a percentage point below July 1999's rate of 5.8. Prior to seasonal adjustment, Oregon's jobless factor dipped by 0.3 of a percentage point to 4.7 percent. The total number of unemployed Oregonians fell from 92,000 in June to 86,000 in July, 11,000 fewer than a year earlier. *(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)*