



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 29, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY SCHEDULED** – A ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the Government Access Channel studio at the Ed Lund Building has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. The channel currently runs tapes for School District 9, City of Coos Bay, City of North Bend, and Coos County. All local government entities are invited to subscribe for the service. For more information contact the city manager's office at 269-8912.

**CONGRATULATIONS SOUTH COAST HOSPICE!** – Congratulations South Coast Hospice for accomplishing Oregon's first ever Community Bereavement and Education Center! About 300 Hospice volunteers and supporters joined in a celebration and ribbon cutting at the Thompson Rd. facility last Friday night. Included among these was Mayor Joanne Verger who offered praise to Hospice for the job it continues to do for the community, and congratulations for being this year's recipient of the Governor's Community Partnership Award – recognition granted each year to only one non-profit organization in Oregon. Yes, congratulations South Coast Hospice!

**PUBLIC FORUMS ANNOUNCED** – The League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women will be co-sponsoring two public forums next month. The first forum will be held Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall and will present information on seven measures appearing on the November ballot. These include ballot measure numbers 6, 7, 8, 9, 88, 91 and 93. The second forum will be held Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. (also at city hall council chambers) and will be a candidates forum. Candidates participating in the forum include Senate Dist. #24: Roger McCorkle vs Ken Messerly; Representative #47: Christina Alexander vs Joanne Verger; Representative #48: Barbara Dodrill vs Wayne Krieger; and Coos County Commissioner: John Griffith vs Keith Schroeder. Free voter guides are available on state candidates and measure from the League of Women Voters; for more information contact 267-5306, 267-6508 or 756-5290.

**FIRE CHIEF TEACHES IN EASTERN OREGON** – Fire Chief Gibson instructed a weekend class in LaGrande at the Northeastern Oregon Fire School at Eastern Oregon University last week. The two day class was attended by approximately 25 students from the northeastern part of the state. The class "Incident Fire Safety" is a National Fire Academy class which teaches firefighter safety while on the fire scene.

**SMOKE ALARM SURVEY** – The Fire Department will be conducting a random survey on homes in the city limits of Coos Bay. The purpose of the project is to determine if there is a smoke alarm in the home, if it works and to replace it with a new battery or new smoke alarm if necessary. The project is being completed with help from Allstate Insurance Company who enabled the fire department to purchase the smoke alarms for the project. The results of the survey will be published in conjunction with fire prevention week activities October 8-14.

**AMERICAN GIRLS DOLL LENDING LIBRARY AND TEA PARTY IS BACK** – Coos Bay Public Library again hosts the popular and traditionally well-attended American Girls Doll annual event, to be held this Saturday, September 30, 11:00 a.m. in the library's large meeting room. Included will be a discussion of the American Girls books, crafts, treats, an author video viewing, a display of the six American Girl dolls,

and a poster drawing. Girls and boys of all ages are invited.

**BANNED BOOK WEEK IS RECOGNIZED** – September 24<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup> is National Banned Book Week and Coos Bay Public Library has a display of books that were challenged in school and public libraries during the past year as well as previous years. The display includes a list of the titles challenged in the nation with separate list for Oregon. Most of the books challenged were not eliminated from library collections, however. The books displayed include such diverse titles as *Catcher in the Rye*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and the Bible. All of the items on the display are available for check-out.

**NEWMARK TOWNHALL MEETING** – Thanks to everyone who attended the town hall meeting for improvements to Newmark Avenue held on Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> at SWOCC. The city's consultants, TriLand Design Group, Inc. and Stein Engineering, were pleased with the crowd and the extent of input they received. The study area extends along Newmark Avenue from Staples to the "Y". There should be another meeting in late January to see what alternatives the consultants have come up with for improvements to Newmark.

**PLANNING COMMISSION WORK SESSION** – The Planning Commission will hold a work session on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m in the Port of Coos Bay Conference Room, 125 Central Avenue. The purpose of the work session is to continue review of proposed **Empire Design Standards**. The public is welcome to attend. The proposed standards will be reviewed at a public hearing on October 10, 2000 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

**SUN BUILDING MUSEUM WORK** – It was discovered last week after one of the windows fell out of the Sun Building, that the windows have rot around the sills. There are 15 windows that are involved with the same rot problem. Community Services is currently looking for funding to replace the windows estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000 for labor and materials. If the City cannot find funding, the windows will need to be boarded up to protect the public and the museum pieces in the building. Additional rot has also shown up in various places around the building in the siding. The siding should be replaced next year with either treated fir or cedar and milled the same way, so that it looks the same. The Sun Building has been registered with the State Historic and Preservation Office and they must approve any work to be done on the building.

**INMATES BACK TO WORK** – The Shutters Creek crew were back on Ocean Boulevard doing litter pick up on Tuesday. The inmates filled 35 30-gallon bags full of litter. All of Ocean Boulevard was picked from Newmark Avenue to Central Avenue. The inmates will be back on October 6<sup>th</sup> to continue to work either in the parks or along the streets performing a valuable service that might not otherwise get done.

**LOCAL STREET NETWORKS FUND APPROVED** – The City's Local Street Networks Fund Application went before the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) on 09/20/00 and was approved. The application is for funds to overlay South 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Anderson Avenue to Elrod Avenue and Elrod Avenue from Highway 101 to South 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The project also includes additional signing along Anderson Avenue with directional signs over the highway. The project is estimated at approximately \$203,000, the City's match for the project is 10%. Steve Doty prepared and submitted the application to the State for the project. Region 3 received 11 applications with seven projects approved for funding. The City during the preliminary design work on the project will be looking at making south bound traffic on 4<sup>th</sup> Street a free left hand turn onto Elrod.

**CITY RECOGNIZES YEARS OF SERVICE** – Telecommunicator Rhonda Wilson celebrates her 15<sup>th</sup> year as a North Coos County 9-1-1 Operator and Coos Bay Police Dispatcher. She is an expert at her job. In addition to working as a Telecommunicator, she is a Department trainer and was one of the first dispatchers to participate in and complete the Field Training Program curriculum for police trainers. Throughout the

years she has trained many of the Department's dispatchers. Her verbal skills and multi-tasking aptitude are not her only strengths. She is an excellent editor and composer of the written word. This is reflective of her early journalism education which is acquired prior to coming to work for the Coos Bay Police Department. Many years ago she compiled the first Project Report for Safety Town. It is still in use as a program implementation guide for other agencies throughout the State. She enjoys photography in her spare time. She has put even that hobby to use for the Department and is currently putting together a photo history of our K-9 Program. One of her photos was published in the July issue of Prime Time. We are fortunate to have someone of Rhonda's talent dedicating her career to the safety of our citizens. We can't wait for her to write the book she claims she will title, "Just When I Thought I'd Heard Everything... the Phone Rang." Thanks, Rhonda, for the years of service. We hope our City is the benefactor for many years to come... with you!

**POLICE DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTS ELECTRONIC INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY WORKGROUP** – This last Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, saw the first meeting of the Department's EIT Workgroup. This workgroup, made up of Support Services Supervisor Linda Spence, Police Officers Rod Schweitz and Tony Wetmore, Police Clerical Specialist Kaaren Reiche, and community volunteers Allan Ladesma and Dave Johnson, are working together to assure that the electronic technology resources available to Police Department staff are used in the best and most efficient way possible. Short and long term goals are in the process of being set. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.