



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

December 1, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CITY OF COOS BAY PREVAILS IN COURT CHALLENGE OF DEQ CIVIL PENALTY ASSESSMENT

– The Oregon Court of Appeals ruled this week that the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality improperly assessed a civil penalty against the City of Coos Bay arising out of a 1995 sewer line break in Eastside. “I knew I was right,” quipped City Attorney C. Randall Tosh from City Hall this morning. DEQ felt that it somehow had the authority to require a permit prior to an accidental unanticipated break in the sewer line. Huh? The Court of Appeals ruled that the statute at issue specified when it is necessary to obtain a permit while another section of the code provide for violations of the program. In fairness, it needs to be said that the City did pay two other small civil assessments totaling about \$1500 related to the incident.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES REPORT DOCUMENTS THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM AND ENTERTAINMENT TO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

– A National League of Cities survey of 463 cities has produced statistics documenting the importance of tourism and entertainment to local economic development by revealing that city leaders across the country rank these features as important as trade and manufacturing as sectors that fuel local economic engines. Historic districts, museums and farmer’s markets were mentioned by more than half the survey respondents as critical components of healthy local economies, according to the study.

“This shows we’re heading in the right direction with plans underway to help improve our downtown commercial core,” said city manager Bill Grile this week. “With a regional art museum already in place and a major historical museum on the way, and with the success of this summer’s farmer’s market added to the Old Marshfield Historic District designation, it becomes clear that we need to simply continue doing what has already begun to achieve the success we seek,” he added. For a copy of “Tourism and Entertainment as a Local Economic Development Strategy,” email nlcbooks@pmds.com <<mailto:nlcbooks@pmds.com>> and request Publication #3025.

CHAMBER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CONTEMPLATES ISSUES

– The Committee met last Monday and reviewed a number of pending issues, including the relationship between the committee and the South Coast Development Council (SCDC). Promoting two-way communication between the Council and the Chamber, helping dispel pessimism in the community and setting a positive tone for economic development efforts are among the Committee’s objectives.

Southwestern Business Development Center director Jon Richards briefed the committee about an application being submitted through Guy Alvis / OECDD to improve Verizon's connectivity with route enhancements through extending the existing interconnection to the Qwest network at Winston westward through Camas Valley, Myrtle Point, Coquille, and Bandon to Coos Bay and north through North Bend, Lakeside, and Reedsport to a new interconnection with Qwest at Florence. Upgrade of the Qwest network utilizing SB 622 funds will enable the development of route diversity in this portion of the Verizon Network. The grant request is for \$300,000.

As a reminder, the Committee wants the community to be aware that December 15th is the date set for the Chamber’s Annual Economic Outlook Forum, to be held this year at The Mill Casino. Registrations are required and available @ the Chamber office.

CONGRATULATIONS NICK KELSEY, ROGER CRADDOCK AND GARY McCULLOUGH --

Congratulations, that is, for reaching milestone anniversary dates with the City of Coos Bay. For firefighter Kelsey it was ten years last month, for police officer Craddock it was five years last month, and for police officer McCullough it is five years today. We salute these dedicated public safety employees for their service to our community!

RETIREMENT PARTY ANNOUNCED FOR COMMISSIONER BEV OWEN -- A celebration of the career of retiring Coos County Commissioner Bev Owen is scheduled for Friday, December 15th from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Sawdust Theatre in Coquille. Surprise live entertainment will begin at 3:00 PM. Persons wishing to comment or speak after the entertainment are requested to RSVP by calling (541) 396-3121 extension 225.

OMI TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARD – Operations Management International, Inc. (OMI) was notified today that the company will receive the 2000 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's premier award for performance excellence and quality achievement. One of four Baldrige Award winners, OMI is the only company this year in the service category to win. The awards are expected to be presented at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. later this year.

“OMI began its quality journey in 1990 when we initiated our *Obsessed With Quality* process. Winning the Baldrige Award demonstrates how our quality process continues to positively affect the millions of lives our people touch through the daily provision of superior utility management services,” says OMI President Don S. Evans, P.E. “My thanks to all OMI associates for a job well done.”

Named after a former Secretary of Commerce, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award is an annual award that recognizes U.S. organizations for performance excellence. It is the highest-level quality award given in the United States. The Baldrige Award evaluates organizations on seven performance excellence criteria: leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis, human resource focus, process management, and performance and business results. OMI uses that criteria as a cornerstone for its *Obsessed With Quality* process.

OMI's *Obsessed With Quality* process focuses on empowering associates to develop new approaches to enhance how they perform their jobs. The company's mission is summarized in its E3 motto: Exceed customers' expectations, empower people and enhance the environment—three main goals that illustrate how OMI does business every day. “At OMI, quality isn't something we just talk about; it's the way we do business,” says OMI Vice President of Quality and Technology Roger B. Quayle. “For our customers that means lower costs, world-class quality, amazing service and long-term relationships.”

OMI, a leader in the management and operation of water and wastewater systems, has operated the Coos Bay Wastewater system since September 1996. Under OMI's leadership Coos Bay has won one U.S. EPA awards. A member of the American, employee-owned CH2M HILL Companies, Ltd., OMI offers complete infrastructure development, financing, design, and operations and maintenance services. Headquartered in Denver, the company manages 160 water and wastewater facilities in the Americas, Middle East and Asia. For more information about OMI, visit the company's web site, <http://www.omiinc.com>.

Since Congress established the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in 1987, 41 organizations have earned the award. Previous winners include Federal Express, Merrill Lynch Credit Corp., 3M Dental Products Division, Boeing Airlift and Tanker Programs, Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, Xerox Business Services, AT&T Consumer Communications Services, GTE Directories Corp., IBM Rochester, Cadillac Motor Car Division, and Motorola. More information about the Baldrige Award is available at <http://www.quality.nist.gov>.

EMPIRE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION TREE LIGHTING – The annual tree lighting in Empire will be held on Friday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Fire Station on Wall Street. Entertainment and refreshments will be offered and Santa will arrive via a Coos Bay fire truck. The event was previously reported in The Friday Update as being held on December 1st so make sure to mark your calendar for the 8th.
MAYOR'S CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS – Mayor Benetti will be available for meetings as city hall on Wednesday afternoons from 3 to 5 p.m. by appointment. For an appointment contact the city manager's

office at 269-8912.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PUTS LIGHTS UP – Fire Department members helped to finish up the lights in those hard to reach places at Shore Acres Park. The 14th Annual Holiday Lights & Open House opened on November 23rd and will continue through January 1, 2001. Visitors can enjoy the show from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. daily.

TOYS FOR TOTS GETS UNDERWAY – The US Marine Corps Reserve has begun this year's Toys For Tots Christmas toy drive. Along with other businesses and organizations around the area Coos Bay Fire Department Station No. 1 on 4th and Anderson will be hosting a drop off site. Families who need toys can fill out applications from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. beginning on Saturday, December 4th, and running through Wednesday, December 8th, at the Newmark Center at 2110 Newmark Avenue at the SWOCC campus. Toys will be distributed on December 16th at Pony Village Mall. More information can be obtained by calling Community Action at 888-7020.

POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATION ANNOUNCED – The Oregon Police Academy announced graduation has been set for December 1, 2000 at the Police Academy on the Campus of Western Oregon University in Monmouth. Coos Bay Police Officer, Ken Labrousse will be among the graduates. Officer Labrousse will begin an extensive sixteen week field training program upon his return to Coos Bay. Police Chief Chuck Knight will be giving the graduation address at the December 1st ceremony.

CAPTAIN WASHBURN TO ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE – Coos Bay Police Captain, Eura Washburn will be in Washington D.C. the week of December 5th with other local members of the Commission on Children and Families. In addition to attending the National Conference, Eura will be meeting are planned with Representative Peter DeFazio, and Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith.

PROPOSED TAXI ORDINANCE PROGRESSING – City Councillor Judy Weeks, City Manager Bill Grile, and Police Chief, Chuck Knight met this past week with owners and operators of the four local taxi companies in an effort to formulate a City Ordinance to best meet the needs of the taxi owners and the public which they serve. Follow up meetings are to be scheduled for a later date.