



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

February 1, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CONGRATULATIONS MAYOR JOE BENETTI - Last Saturday evening's annual Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet was a gala event, as always. Congratulations are due to those honored for special achievement, and this year special recognition was awarded to our very own Mayor Joe Benetti as Benetti's Italian Restaurant (<http://www.ucinet.com/~benetti/>) received Business of the Year honors. Others honored for achievement included Weyerhaeuser's Fred Cassidy, who was named Citizen of the Year, and Beve Saukko, who was named Chamber Member of the Year for her "outstanding achievements and tireless work for the community." Congratulations to all the award winners! And congratulations to Weyerhaeuser's Timm Slater. He succeeds Greg Stevens, Publisher of The World (www.theworldlink.com), as the Chamber's President for 2002.

CITY MANAGER CONFERS WITH BANDON DUNES ABOUT TOURISM - This week City Manager Bill Grile met with Bandon Dunes owner Mike Keiser and his chief project manager, Howard McKee, to discuss tourism and opportunities to partner for the betterment of the region. Clearly, nothing has done more to put Coos County on the map than Keiser's world class development, and just this week he learned that Bandon Dunes has earned another great achievement. For the first time in the magazine's history, Golf Digest has ranked the best golf resorts in the country and want to make any guesses about what that might mean to the South Coast? Still in its development stages, Bandon Dunes has been ranked "Number Five" out of 75 top USA golf resorts! Pebble Beach ranked tops, but being fifth out of 75 when the project is not even finished is certainly no slap in the face!

Mayor Joe Benetti and Grile plan to meet with Keiser in the near future to learn more about his feelings about marketing the region and leveraging opportunities to benefit from the attention Bandon Dunes is receiving. That attention is due in no small part to the considerable investment Bandon Dunes makes through its annual advertising and promotions budget. Without divulging numbers, it should come as no surprise that the resort's marketing expenditures considerably outstrip those of the Coos Bay - North Bend Tourism and Promotions Committee, which has been advocating for a county-wide hotel-motel occupancy tax as a way to increase its ability to promote the area. At present, the Committee's revenues are generated by room taxes paid by those visiting Coos Bay and North Bend motels. Bandon Dunes is adamantly opposed to a countywide room tax but does have other ideas to promote the area, and we'll be exploring these in the weeks ahead. One of them involves promoting Coos Bay's city dock below the boardwalk downtown as a great place to moor expensive yachts, which are always eye-catchers when moored there. The City of Coos Bay appreciates the investment Mike Keiser has made at Bandon Dunes. Take a virtual tour by visiting www.bandondunesgolf.com.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! The Department of Community Services has put our volunteers to work this last month! Joan Morrison, Elizabeth Henze, Jewell Koopman, and Leah Robertson have all given the City their time and smiles in getting projects done this last month. The projects have involved everything from stuffing business license envelopes to organizing the supply cabinet. All of these ladies have been very much appreciated and completed work that would not have been able to be done during the normal business

day without significant delays. Leah Robertson is volunteering as an intern through a cooperative partnership program with Southwestern as a way of being exposed to the everyday activities of a business office. Thanks from all of us!

COOS BAY POLICE OFFICERS PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING - Officers Randy Sparks and T. Scott Rogers have been selected to attend a two week Defensive Tactics Instructor Development Course presented by the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. The 120-hour instructor course is broken down into two phases. Phase One is an 80-hour intensive instructor development training course in defensive tactics. Phase Two is a 40-hour instructor internship. Candidates are required to deliver 40 hours of defensive tactics instruction under the supervision of a senior instructor over the next 12 months. Successful completion of this training program will certify these officers as State recognized Defensive Tactics Instructor and will make them eligible to instruct at the Oregon Police Academy and local law enforcement agencies.

OFFICER LANCE BJORNERUD RETIRES - Officer Bjornerud will retire from his position as a Police officer with the City of Coos Bay Police Department effective January 31, 2002. Officer Bjornerud started his career in law enforcement as a police officer with the City of Eastside Police Department in 1980. He moved to the Coos Bay Police Department in 1982 when the cities of Eastside and Coos Bay consolidated. Over the years Officer Bjornerud has held many assignments within the Police Department, including K-9 Officer, Firearms Instructor, Patrol Officer, and has been most recently assigned as an Investigator with the South Coast Interagency Narcotics Team. Thank you, Officer Bjornerud, for your 22 years of service to the Cities of Eastside and Coos Bay. Your commitment and dedication to law enforcement has indeed made a difference in our quality of life!

WASTEWATER EMERGENCY FUND - The City has just passed the halfway mark of the current fiscal year which began on July 1st, 2001. To plan for those unpredictable emergencies that come up every year as a result of aging lines and heavy rains, the City Council allocates funding to be spent specifically for the repair of failed lines and storm water flooding issues. To date, approximately 38 percent of the \$75,000 budgeted has been needed to deal with these emergencies. On a rotating basis, the work is typically done by local contractors who can respond quickly to the problems as they arise. The City appreciates the quick response and quality work performed by these local firms.

COOS BAY CITY DOCK SUFFERS MINOR DAMAGE - Late Wednesday afternoon the City received a call from Captain Jeff Hill that the City Dock was beginning to break up. City crews investigated the matter and discovered an eight-inch diameter log wedged between the concrete piling and the dock itself. The other end of the log was stuck in the mud on the bottom of the bay and as the tide receded, the dock was being lifted. City staff was able to work it down a little bit to prevent further damage to the dock until help could arrive. City staff made a quick call to John Knutson, owner of Knutson Towboat Company, requesting assistance from one of their tugboats. John Knutson responded with the 50-foot tug "Beaver" to pull the log out. John was able to maneuver to the inside of the docks and get a tow line around the log and with a little bit of effort was able to free the log from the dock.

The City is very appreciative of both Captain Hill and John Knutson for their quick response to the City's request for assistance. Knutson Towboat has assisted the City in the past with removing logs that have become lodged under the dock. Again, a big thanks to all involved. Quick action saved the City money in replacement of several sections of concrete dock. Damage was held to a minimum and can be repaired by City crews.

COOS BAY URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY TOURS EMPIRE SITES - This week the City Council, meeting as the CB Urban Renewal Agency, toured potential development and redevelopment projects in

Empire in order to advance its thinking about how best to move forward with implementation of the Empire Urban Renewal Plan. Sites visited included the Bay Area Rescue Mission buildings, the overlook pull-out where the Balboa Bay Club once sat and the Crowley Marine and waterfront area. Afterwards the Agency met at the Empire Fire Hall to discuss ideas and reflect on what the members had seen. When the Agency meets on February 19th it will, among other things, review a draft request for proposals that will identify a possible scope of services for master-planning the Empire waterfront area. Staff is aggressively seeking funding partners to leverage progress with development of Empire.

LOCAL OFFICIALS OFFER GUIDANCE TO STATE PLANNING AGENCY - Last Friday Oregon's Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) took a break from its bi-monthly meeting to meet with its Local Officials Advisory Committee, including City Manager Bill Grile who serves as an ex-officio member of the committee at the request of the League of Oregon Cities. Grile traveled to Salem along with Lincoln County Planning Director Matt Spangler to meet with LOAC and continue work on a strategic plan that will guide LCDC's thinking and work plan in the coming years. The Commission is considering development of a wide host of new administrative rules, most of which are unnecessary according to Grile, who served as Coos County's planning director for 16 years before assuming his current position and who remains a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. New LCDC agency head Paul Curcio attended the meeting as well. The announcement of his selection is available for review at <http://www.lcd.state.or.us/newshtml/011102nr.html>.

HUGE BOOK SALE COMING - The Friends of the Coos Bay Public Library are holding the first used book sale in two months this Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. It is going to be huge this time - you'll want to be there.