



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

February 9, 2001

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

METH. NOT HERE. NOT NOW. NOT ANYMORE... - Methamphetamine; an ugly drug; even uglier facts: Coos County has one of the highest incidences of meth abuse in the USA. Someone who knows what to buy can build a meth lab with simple materials that cost just \$77 in local hardware and grocery stores. Meth makes users crazy. Sometimes when it is sold it is mixed with rat poison; some users die. Users hallucinate and think they have bugs crawling out of their skin. They steal and sell the drug to support their habit. Meth users physically abuse and neglect their children. Meth abuse drains 11.6 million dollars from health care resources in the Bay Area alone, every year. There are not adequate enforcement resources here. The money's not there. There are not adequate treatment facilities here. The money's not there, either. Users often go to jail for a few days, then back on the street. Back to your neighborhood. And back to meth. You live here. *What are you going to do about it?*

Watch the panel of experts on Channel 14 detail the terrible extent of the plague of methamphetamine abuse that exists on the South Coast, today. Tune in to Channel 14 for show times. Then attend the Community meeting at McAuley Hall at St. Catherine's in North Bend on Thursday, February 15th at 7 p.m. Bring your ideas and your resolve. Call 751-7648 for more information. **Join the rest of us who have decided... Meth. Not here. Not now. Not anymore....** *Sponsored by The World, St. Catherine's Residence and Nursing Center, Cardinal Employment Services, Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary, and the City of Coos Bay.*

COUNCIL RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS - At the city council meeting this week Mayor Benetti recognized citizens for their service on city committees and boards. Gus Langley was recognized for ten years of service on the Parks Commission, Julia Spangler for two and a half years on the Budget Committee, Patrick Momsen and Clifford Plummer for terms on the Design Review Board. To these and the many other city volunteers the City Council and staff extend our appreciation for the hours of volunteer time donated to the City which enables us to better meet the needs of our citizens. Thank you volunteers!

CONFEDERATED TRIBES PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT CHANNEL - Tuesday night Tribal Chair Carolyn Slyter presented the City Council with a check for \$7500 as support for Channel 14, Coos Bay's government access television channel. The subscription covers the remainder of the current fiscal year (through June 30th) and also covers next fiscal year. The Confederated Tribes are this year's strongest subscriber-partner helping bring government television programming to South Coast viewers. The City is excited to have the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians participate in the government channel and is looking forward to continuing with building the City's relationship with the Tribal Council. Thank you Confederated Tribes!!

GET READY FOR A PARADE!! - We all love a parade... the local veterans' associations put together a wonderful commemorative event recognizing our veterans every year in May. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 26th to attend the Memorial Day Parade in downtown Coos Bay. They need our help to make the parade happen and are asking volunteers to contact them at 267-4702.

THE ENERGY CRISIS – WHY IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE - The Chamber of Commerce lunch forum on February 21st will feature Pacific Power and Northwest Natural Gas. The public is invited to attend the forum to learn about how deregulation in Oregon differs from California, what you can do now, how to prepare for deregulation, the natural gas update and more. Buffet lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. with the program at noon, location to be announced. Chamber members \$8, non-members \$12.

FIRE DEPARTMENT 2000 STATS - The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,494 incidents in the year 2000, up from 1,415 in 1999 and 1,362 in 1998. Of the 1,494 incidents responded to 62 percent were medical related calls.

FIRE DAMAGES RED LION INN - At approximately 12:30 on Monday afternoon a Red Lion Inn employee discovered a fire in the main building of the hotel. The fire originated in a storage room in the main building and was quickly extinguished by fire crews. Nobody was injured, but not before significant damage was done. A damage estimate of \$40,000 to \$50,000 will likely keep the restaurant, lounge and Terry Travel closed for a time to allow for repairs and cleanup. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

VISION 2001 HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION - Winners of the Vision 2001 competition sponsored by the Coos Art Museum and Southwestern Oregon Community College were recently announced. The sixth annual high school art competition was open to high school students on the south coast from Reedsport to Brookings. The winners represent five high schools and include:

Best of Show - \$250 and two year scholarship to Southwestern - Wade Taylor, Gold Beach High School.

First Place - \$100 and two year scholarship to Southwestern - Autumn Tomlinson, Bandon High School.

Second Place - \$75 and two year scholarship to Southwestern - Lauren Riebling, North Bend High School.

1st Prize - \$50. Katie Russo, 12th grade, North Bend High School; Jeromy Howell, 11th grade, North Bend High School; Sarah Minkler, 10th grade, Bandon High School; Crystal Hanson, 9th grade, Bandon High School.

2nd Prize - \$40. Zane Burris, 12th grade, North Bend High School; Jessica Blecher, 11th grade, Bandon High School; Isabell Anstey, 10th grade, Bandon High School; Kimberly Cummings, 9th grade, Marshfield High School.

3rd Prize - \$30. Chelsea Olson, 12th Grade, Coquille High School; Tiffany Wright, 11th grade, Marshfield High School; Tirzah Bauer, 10th grade, Marshfield High School; Dahnelle Hans, 9th grade, Coquille High School.

4th Prize - \$20. Wade Taylor, 12th grade, Gold Beach High School; Jasmine Zamora, 11th grade Marshfield High School; Ricky Dillard, 10th grade, North Bend High School.

The art will be on exhibit at the Coos Art Museum, Mabel Hansen Gallery, through Saturday, March 3, 2001.

TNT MARKET SIGN APPROVED - At the hearing on Tuesday evening, the City Council approved a reader-board sign for the TNT Market in Eastside. Problems arose with the placement of the sign because the market, a commercial use, is located in the Multiple Residential zoning district. As explained by Roger Gould, representing TNT Market, the market has been there for over 80 years and was zoned commercial before Eastside merged with the City of Coos Bay.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ALERT - The OSU Extension Service and Coos County Health Department are joining forces in presenting *Skills for a Healthier Life*, a presentation entitled “Removing Rats, Rodents & Risks.” Two sessions are planned for February 13, 2001 on the South Western Oregon Community College campus - 2 p.m. at Empire Hall, Room #104, and 7 p.m. at Eden Hall, Room #1. Guest speakers Emilio DeBess, from the Oregon Health Division, and David Ottovich, of Swanson Pest Control, will cover topics which include rodent related food contamination and home risk reduction. For more information contact the OSU Extension Service at 396-3121, ext. 240, or the Coos County Health Department at 396-3121, ext. 510.

DO YOU NEED A BUSINESS LICENSE? - “All trades, shops, businesses, occupations, professions, and callings carried on in the City and not licensed and taxed by other provisions of this or other ordinances of the City, shall be licensed and the amount to be paid as license fees...” (Coos Bay Ordinance No. 103, Section 7 (1)) This includes all businesses from grocery stores to hair stylists to architects. City staff is in the process of reviewing County records against the current City business license listing to ensure that all businesses receive their renewal applications for 2001. The 2001 licenses were due by January 31st and late fees apply after that date. If you haven’t received a renewal notice, have never had a license, or if you have any questions, give us a call at 269-8918.

THE "ANDERSON ALTERNATIVE" MAY KEEP RITE AID DOWNTOWN SAYS COMPANY OFFICIAL - Nissa McPherson, a Rite-Aid Pharmacy Technician attended the City Council meeting this week with Jay Noggle, Downtown Association President. Nissa came representing the Rite Aid Corporation and requested that the City move forward with the Anderson Alternative, a traffic pattern change that would provide two-way traffic on Anderson from Bayshore to 2nd Street. Nissa indicated that Rite Aid Corporation is looking at sites along Hwy 101 to increase traffic, but that staff would prefer to stay in downtown where they can continue to be easily accessible to the population living in the downtown core. However, she went on, the Anderson Alternative and two-way traffic to 2nd Street in order to increase traffic and have better access to parking is critical to the Corporation decision to remain in Downtown Coos Bay. A letter from Doug Fletcher of Fletcher Enterprises supporting the Alternative was also presented. The City Council is seeking additional input from Downtown Association members and others. If you have questions about the Anderson Alternative, please contact Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs at 269-8918. Be sure to visit our WEB site at www.coosbay.org to read more about some new things happening downtown.

HISTORIC MUSEUM MOVING FORWARD - Historic Society members attended the City Council meeting on February 6 to present a final site location request for the Historic Museum. The original agreement between the City and Historic Society did not indicate a final location so that a preliminary design could be completed. The final location approved by the Council is just north of Central between Bayshore and Broadway. The site is approximately 15,000 square feet and includes enough space so that a “plaza” feel can be obtained. The Historic Society and City will work together to design the Central Ave. pedestrian space between Bayshore and Broadway to encourage visitors to move between the waterfront and downtown and to stay awhile in Coos Bay! The Historic Society also introduced Doug Fletcher as the person who will be responsible for their fund raising activities.

MOVING FORWARD ON A BAY AREA SKATEPARK - Energy is returning to the mission to create a new, bigger and better skatepark. The Coos Bay City Council continues to be very supportive of this project. Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs attended the monthly meeting of the Bay Area Skate and Bike Association this week to discuss options for moving forward. Several new options for locations and funding sources are being considered and studied by city staff AND by parents and skatepark users. If you are interested in what is happening, want to help, or just want to donate money, please contact Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs at 269-8918, or Bay Area Skate and Bike Association sponsor Paul George

at 266-9020.

SPORTSMAN PLAZA - The Urban Renewal Agency acted this week to direct staff to proceed with assisting with the relocation of the businesses occupying the Sportsman Building and to go out for bid for demolition of the building and creation of a pedestrian walkway through the site between Broadway and 2nd Court. The area will have the same period lighting as currently exists on Broadway and in the city's parking lots at 2nd Court and Curtis. Other plantings and benches will also be included. If you have a great idea for a new name for the plaza, or want information, please contact Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs at 269-8918.

EMPIRE GATEWAY MONUMENTS - In other action this week, the Urban Renewal Agency voted to ask the Design Review Board to look again at the option of roadside monuments to designate the entrances to the Empire Area. Agency Member Joe Benetti requested that the Agency revive the drawings originally completed by Architect Richard Turi and ask the Design Review Board to make a recommendation to the Agency. The action was unanimously supported by the entire Urban Renewal Agency.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN DOWNTOWN COOS BAY! - At Tuesday's Council Meeting, the City Council approved the liquor license for the Coos Bay Elks Lodge BPOE #1160. The Elks will be moving to 265 Central in the near future. Also "Happening" is a new business to downtown Coos Bay! The Pottery Company will be opening its doors any day now. The Pottery Company is moving from the Pony Village Mall. Welcome to Coos Bay!

JULY 4TH - NOT YET! - Just a few months away, now is the time to begin planning for the City's annual 4th of July in the Park. Marty Crouse is the event manager for the event and is looking for you! Organizations and individuals interested in being a part of the celebration are encouraged to contact Marty at 888-4662, mail at 918 Flanagan, Coos Bay, or email her at martha.crouse@gte.net

The event is a family-filled day in the park featuring such activities as face painting, balloon animals, relay games, free swim, canoe rides on the lake, build a bird feeder, bubble blowing, the Mayor's Firecracker Run.... just to name a few.

SKATEBOARD PARK DAMAGED - Earlier this week two persons were charged by Coos Bay Police with Criminal Mischief at the Coos Bay Skateboard Park. The two young men were attempting to remove the fencing which protects park users from outside interference. In addition to the criminal mischief charges four thirty day suspensions were issued to four youths. The damage comes at a time when the city is looking at ways to make enhancements to the park for the benefit of the youth in Coos Bay.

WELCOME BACK RANDY! - Former Police Officer Randy Sparks has returned to Coos Bay Police Department. Officer Sparks left the department to accept a position with another law enforcement agency last year. Coos Bay is fortunate to have Randy back at Coos Bay. Chief Knight has described Randy as a "top notch" officer who is a real professional. Randy is currently residing in Coos Bay with his wife Cindy and their two sons.

3 FLAGS SAFETY BLITZ UNDER WAY - The 3 Flags Safety blitz in which participating law enforcement agencies in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia join in enforcement of safety belt violations. The safety blitz which is focusing on child protection will run through February 18th.