



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 2, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CHAMBER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE - This Monday's monthly meeting featured new South Coast Development Council executive director Melinda Anderson as the Committee's program speaker, outlining how SCDC hopes to accomplish business recruitment and retention. Partnering with Southwestern for job training will be important as this was one of the keys to the Bend community's success. Recreational visits to our area may prove as important to our area with business recruitment as this was in Central Oregon where Ms. Anderson worked for several years in a similar position. SCDC is working with local planning consultant Crystal Shoji in producing four regional community forums to help the Council determine how to proceed. SCDC will also be working closely with the Port and Bay Area Chamber. Ms. Anderson said she plans to spend a lot of time with local businesses to help identify needs and opportunities for growth and expansion. Considering all this input and local governments' plans, SCDC will be putting together a strategic plan outlining the organization's approach and work plan. Ms. Anderson plugged the Chamber's "Opportunity Knocks" program and Jim Schell based on her experience with the program in Bend. "Opportunity Knocks" is a hands-on business training program for small businesses, costing only \$50 for Chamber members. For more information, contact the Chamber at 269-0215.

CHAMBER TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HOSTS ODOT DISCUSSION ABOUT STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - Thursday the Chamber Transportation Committee hosted staff from the Oregon Dept. of Transportation at a meeting in North Bend to review and discuss the "STIP" draft that is under consideration for 2002-2005. With them were members of "ACT" – the Area Commission on Transportation – which helps prioritize regional projects. The lack of funds for state highway projects is well known, but rather than bemoaning this, here's some good news ... Now proposed for construction in 2004 is a \$1.6 million project to begin improvements to the woefully inadequate Bunker Hill intersection – Hy. 101 and Coos River Highway. The money will be spent on right-of-way purchase and travel surface realignment. Comments on the proposed STIP will be accepted through the end of March. The draft STIP is available for download at www.odot.state.or.us/stip.

POLICE OFFICERS READ TO STUDENTS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS - Several members of the Coos Bay Police Department participated in this years "Read Across America." campaign. In addition to reading to students in the elementary grades officer Darrell Babb and Chief Chuck Knight read to students at Marshfield High School. Each year the police department and the City of Coos Bay participate in this valuable program. In read across America leaders from all facets of communities around the nation show up in schools on the selected day to read to students. The purpose is to demonstrate through interaction with adult professionals the positive aspects of a lifelong interest in reading. Rumour has it that Fire Chief Stan Gibson and City Manager Bill Grile also got in on the reading at MHS. It's a yearly event!

YOUTH SUMMIT PLANNED IN COOS COUNTY - The Coos County Commission on Children and Families is collaborating with many local partners to plan a Youth Summit which will be held on May 18, 2001 at the SWOYA Boys and Girls Club. The purpose of the summit is to provide youth with current information on a variety of issues and to hear their views. The summit is free of charge and the theme is

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“Today’s Leaders: R U R E D E”? It will focus on leadership and will feature a keynote speaker and breakout sessions and will include lunch, T-shirts and door prizes. Sample breakout sessions include How to Deal with Stress in High School, College Planning, How to Run an Effective Meeting, and the Effects of Media and Body Image. Anyone interested should call Tom Hibbert at 541-756-4481 or talk to their school principal. Anyone interested in helping plan the summit is also encouraged to call.

FIRE CHIEF ATTENDS RENTAL ASSOCIATION MEETING - Fire Chief Gibson was the guest speaker at the monthly dinner meeting of the Southern Oregon Rental Association this past week. Chief Gibson discussed the importance of smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, home fire escape plans and other fire safety related topics to the rental owners.

“AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A LOOK AT SOMETHING NEW IN THE ART WORLD” - The Coos Art Museum presents the Biennial Student Art Show opening March 9th and running through March 24th, 2001. Featuring work from students in grades K through 12, the show exhibits creative products of the talents, hearts and hands of young artists from the local area. More than forty schools located within ten districts throughout the area were invited to submit works for the exhibit. The selection of works fills both of the Museum’s galleries and visitors are encouraged to allow plenty of time to fully appreciate all of the many works on display. You are invited to attend the Public Reception opening night March 9th, 2001 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in the Museum lobby.

LIBRARY SAYS FAREWELL TO CAROL ZUVICH AND AMANDA HELMICK - Once again, the Library must say farewell to some of its staff: Carol Zuvich, cataloging assistant, retired at the end of February. Carol came to the library in 1988 on a part-time basis, helping convert library bibliographic information to digital format, in preparation for automating. She soon became a full-time staff member, working with cataloger Pam Granstrom to process a tremendous number of new books and other items each week. She has also done an excellent job as a reference librarian. The City of Coos Bay will miss you, Carol! The library has also had changes among pages, those very important people who quickly get returned materials back to the shelves. Due to illness, family health situations and the resignation of Amanda Helmick, a student worker who has been with the library for over a year, Assistant Library Director Ellen Thompson has been busy working to get new shelvees on board. Victor Scavera has been hired to work 6 hours a week and Ellen is hiring others to be on-call workers.

ANNUAL KINDER KONZERT GROWS EVER MORE POPULAR - This year 130 people came to learn and be entertained by Chris Rosman and other excellent presenters with their multi-media program on the history of stringed instruments. The program was held January 27th, 2001 and was sponsored by the Oregon Coast Music Association and Southwestern Oregon Community College, in partnership with the Coos Bay Library.

OREGON RECORDING ARTIST FEATURED DURING CHILDREN’S VALENTINE PROGRAM - The Children’s Valentine program held on February 10th, 2001 featured well-known Oregon recording artist Denise Freidl Johnson drew 150 people, many of them adults. Johnson combined children’s music, song and storytelling with lots of audience participation. Friends of the Library sponsored the program.

REFERENCE LIBRARIANS PRESENT TECHNOLOGY CLASSES - Stephanie Nored and Dianne Zarder presented an excellent program January 18th, 2001 on library technology, presenting an overview of the many resources available. The Library was pleased with the attendance of 19 enthusiastic people. Interest is building for these classes and several more have been scheduled through the end of May. In addition to the introductory session, the classes will cover browser basics and search engines.

DR. SEUSS NIGHT - Dr. Seuss’ birthday was celebrated this year at the library on Thursday, March 1st, 2001. The program is designed for children grades K through 8 but all ages were welcome to attend. Students from Marshfield High School National Honor Society returned to read stories by Dr. Seuss and other

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favorite authors. Coos Bay Education Association provided books for drawings held throughout the evening, as well as bookmarks and cookies. Teachers from Coos Bay School District 9 were among the volunteers assisting in the event.

COOS BAY LIBRARY RECEIVES BAY AREA HOSPITAL GRANT - The library has received a grant of \$1500 to purchase computer equipment that will be dedicated to public access to health information. For several years, the hospital has furnished the library with a CD-ROM health database that has served the public very well. Now a wealth of health information is available online and people will be able to access through this dedicated computer. Stephanie Nored will be working on book marking various trustworthy sites and making the service as user friendly as possible.

ARTWORK ON DISPLAY AT THE COOS BAY LIBRARY - North Bend artist Barbara Lippold is showing a beautiful collection of her watercolors this month on library walls. And a wonderful exhibit on the founding of the library has been designed and installed in the lobby cases by volunteer Pat Simpson. The exhibit portrays life in Marshfield in 1910 along with a look at the library's early history. Pat received assistance and donations from Coos County Historical Museum, Checkerberry's Flowers and Gifts, Art Connection, Harvest Books and several individuals in creating the exhibit.

SENIOR DAY - January's video of Victor Borge drew a big crowd and some great media publicity. The March program will feature "The Alaska Railroad."

SELF-CHECK COMPUTER - Conveniently timed to coincide with the end of the warranty period and the beginning of the library's promotion of the service, the Self-Check machine stopped working. Database Specialist Nancy Price believes she has diagnosed the problem and the library hopes for a fairly quick and inexpensive fix.

LIBRARY BUILDING ISSUES - Work is proceeding on construction of the wall in the Myrtlewood Room of the Coos Bay Library. Replacement of the clerestory windows is nearly complete. Acoustic tile installation in the Myrtlewood Room should be complete by the end of the month. These projects are being funded by the city Downtown Urban Renewal Agency. Directional and functional signs inside the library have been created and installed by Art Signs. This turned out to be a complex project, but has successfully been completed. Shelf end panel sign holders have been purchased and await finding someone to install them throughout the building.

CAROL VENTGEN PARTICIPATES IN HIRING PROCESS - Coos Bay Library Director Carol Ventgen participated in an all day session interviewing five candidates for Coquille Library Director on February 6, 2001. The former director relocated out of state at the end of January. The final decision is being made by the Coquille City Manager.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN PREVENTION - The Coos County Health Department is organizing a Regional Community Forum on Youth Suicide Prevention at the request of the state agency on youth suicide prevention at the Oregon Health Division. A community forum on this subject was held in Bandon in 1999 and a second planning committee meeting will be held in Bandon at Southern Coos General Hospital on Tuesday, March 6th at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in being a part of the planning committee is encouraged to call Molly Ford at 756-2020 ext. 546.

METHAMPHETAMINES. NOT HERE. NOT NOW. NOT ANYMORE! - The City of Coos Bay is serious about ridding our area of Methamphetamines, it is for that reason we are active participants in the fight to remove Methamphetamines from our community. A meeting was held on March 1, 2001 at St. Catherine's in Coos Bay to identify strategies for eliminating this deadly drug from our community. At this weeks meeting specific goals and activities were identified for short term and long term action. Two items given high priority are the development of an informational web site and a hot line telephone number.

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Several goals were identified in the meeting to eliminate this deadly drug. Seed money for the task force has been provided by the Coos Bay - North Bend Rotary Club. Chief Knight and City Manager, Bill Grile participated in the meeting and are working on selected goals. A follow up meeting will be scheduled for around the middle of April for progress reports on identified action items. We are serious when we say no to Methamphetamines, not in our schools, not at work, not in our neighborhoods, not in our community!

INTERNET SAFETY FOR YOUTH - The police department under the direction of Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth is preparing a brochure on Internet safety for youth. The brochure will give helpful information to youth on parents on Internet safety, the positive benefits for the child, the dangers and risks of surfing and chatting on the World Wide Web, and helpful tips and tools for parents.

PERMIT PLAN SOFTWARE UPGRADE - The software program that Community Services utilizes to track building and other permits is receiving a long awaited upgrade. The upgrade includes the addition of a business license tracking component which has been greatly anticipated. This will improve efficiency and the thoroughness of providing information to our community. By simply placing the address in the search engine, results can be viewed showing all construction activity, business license activity, land use activity, and any code compliance issues.

SKATEPARK IN DEVELOPMENT! - Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs will meet again with members of the Bay Area Skate and Bike Association at 5:00 p.m, Monday, March 5th at the Rocky Point Surf Shop on Broadway in Downtown Coos Bay to discuss options for building a skate park in the Coos Bay area. Interested individuals have been canvassing the area looking for good (affordable!) locations in which to build a large enough park to serve local residents and to draw tourists from outside the area. The City and Association are seeking individuals (kids and adults!) to help with fund raising, grant writing and generally to help push this project to completion. Please consider attending the March 5th meeting. If you have questions, or input, please call Shanda Shribbs at 269-8918.

BAYSHORE STREET SCAPE PROJECT TO BEGIN - The second downtown street scape project will begin on March 5, 2001. The project is located on the east side of Bayshore Drive beginning at the south side of Taco Time and ending at Fir Avenue on the north. The project includes new sidewalks, period lighting, landscaping and irrigation. When completed, this project will make a major impact on the traveling public along this stretch of Highway 101. Bracelin and Yeager is the general contractor for the project which is expected to take about three months to complete. The project is expected to have minimal effect on businesses located in the project area. Downtown Urban Renewal Agency funds are paying for the work. The Agency continues to improve downtown Coos Bay! Any questions can be directed to the Community Services Department at 269-8918.

EMPIRE DESIGN REVIEW - The City Council will review the proposed Empire Design Review Standards in a public hearing on Tuesday, March 6th at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The proposal is geared towards a historical theme, the mid-to-late 1800s, where buildings would evoke the architectural styles that existed in Empire during that time period. The proposed affected area runs along Newmark Avenue between the intersection with Ocean Boulevard and Empire Boulevard. The Planning Commission has recommended the City Council approve the proposal.