



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

April 13, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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WEB SITE ESTABLISHED TO ADDRESS METHAMPEHTAMINES PROBLEM - Many many thanks to WEBmaster extraordinaire Allan Ledesma, owner of EPUERTO.COM, for producing a new WEB site regarding Methamphetamines. Costs for the site are being covered by funds left by the late Ren Cutlip, an outstanding life-long Rotarian and member of this community. "Ren wanted to do this for the community," said Ledesma earlier this week in announcing the site to the Coos Bay - North Bend Rotary Club. The site will contain useful information about Methamphetamines, set forth instructions about what each of us can do if we suspect a specific illegal drug problem in our neighborhoods, workplaces or schools, and provide an anonymous "chat line" where visitors can click in and discuss matters of interest. Production of the site was one of the recommendations that came from the Methamphetamine community meetings held a few weeks ago. Although still "under construction," visit the site today and get involved: www.nometh.com <<http://www.nometh.com>>. Thank you Allan Ledesma.

SOUTH COAST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SEEKS INPUT BUT RECEIVES LITTLE - SCDC President Melinda Anderson and some of her board members held the first of four scheduled town hall meetings this week to hear local residents thoughts about the future of the area. Attendance was sparse. In fact, public officials and SCDC board members outnumbered by three or four to one. "I simply think this means the community is behind SCDC's efforts to bring some jobs to the area and that regular folks see little need for additional dialogue about the matter," said city manager Bill Grile this morning. Additional meetings are planned. For details, or to offer advice, contact Melinda Anderson at 541.751.1653 or scdc@uci.net <<mailto:scdc@uci.net>>.

ITS COMING DOWN! - The Urban Renewal Agency recently purchased the Sportsman Building in downtown Coos Bay for the purpose of opening up the area for pedestrian traffic. Demolition of the building will begin on Wednesday of next week. On Tuesday, April 17th at 4:30 p.m. the Urban Renewal Agency will hold a ceremony kicking off the project. URA Chair Stufflebean will take the first swing at the building. The project design is for a plaza/pedway with lights, benches and plantings.

TAXI ORDINANCE REVISION DUE - At the request of the Coos Bay City Council, the proposed Taxi Ordinance is in the process of being revised for further consideration. Chief Knight anticipates having the revised ordinance redrafted in time for the May 15, 2001 City Council meeting.

FIRE CHIEF SPEAKS TO LEGISLATOR - Fire Chief Gibson attended a public hearing in Salem this week to speak before the House Government Efficiency Committee. Chief Gibson spoke in support of creating a task force to study and make recommendations regarding the development of a uniform tsunami response system including advanced planning, effective public education and development of evacuation routes.

POLICE AUCTION APRIL 21ST - The Coos Bay Police Reserve Officers will be conducting the annual police auction on April 21, 2001 at Milner Crest School in Coos Bay. Auction items will be available for viewing one hour prior to the auction. Public viewing will be at 9:00 a.m., with the auction set to begin at 10:00 a.m.

PRIME TIME NEWS - The Coos Bay Police Department submits articles each month to the local

newspaper aimed at our retired population. Police Department articles in the Prime Time News are submitted to provide information on a variety of topics. Recent articles have addressed issues of home security, prevention of identity theft, protection from frauds, and other topics. This month's article has been submitted by Officer Dan O'Loughlin. In the article Dan shares some insights learned on his recent trip to Sri Lanka. Dan was sponsored on the group study exchange trip by the Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club..

POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN CAREER AND JOB EXPO - The police department will be participating in the career and job expo again this year. The event sponsored by Southwestern Oregon Community College is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2001 of the Southwestern Oregon Community College campus. This year Detective Cal Mitts, and other staff members will be present to discuss law enforcement and 9-1-1 Dispatcher training opportunities with interested students.

LABOR TRENDS - Coos County's nonfarm job total rose by 140 in February, primarily because of gains in services and government. A smaller increase took place in transportation. The number of manufacturing jobs fell slightly because of seasonal layoffs in seafood processing. Retail trade was also down somewhat in February. Over the year, nonfarm jobs rose by nearly 200 (+0.9%). The largest increase came in services (+260), which had additional employment in business services and lodging/recreation. Employment was also up in government, with gains in health care and tribal businesses. These offset a reduction in education. Retail trade advanced by 70. Employment was lower in manufacturing (-110) with fewer workers in wood and food. Transportation utilities was down by 60 over the year. Curry County saw no over-the-month net gain in its nonfarm job total in February. Manufacturing rose by 30, with slight gains in wood products and the seafood industry. (Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department).

WATER BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS - At its April 3, 2001 board meeting, the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board elected officers for the next year. Officers, and the cities they represent, are:

Chair	Arnie Roblan	Coos Bay
Vice Chair	Greg Solarz	North Bend
Secretary	Mike Helfrich	Coos Bay
Member	Dick Vigue	North Bend

Congratulations to these new officers. We look forward to working with them as the water system we share with North Bend and the surrounding area is further developed.

SPRING BRUSH PICK UP - It is time again for the spring brush pick up! Brush pick up starts on April 30th so have your brush at the curb **before** that date. If you have any questions, please contact your garbage hauler: Coos Bay Sanitary (267-6675) or Les' Sanitary (267-2848). As a reminder, brush length is restricted to 5 feet and no dirt or leaves will be accepted.

LADY WASHINGTON IS COMING TO TOWN - The sailing vessel Lady Washington is coming to town and will arrive on April 16, 2001 around lunch time and depart around April 22, 2001. She will moor again at the Coos Bay City Docks on the south side of the north dock and will be available for tours. The ship is 112 feet in length and is 22 feet wide with 4,442 square foot of sail area.

BAY CLUB PROPERTY GETS CLEANING - The Bay Club property at the southwest corner of Newmark Avenue and Empire Boulevard got a face lift last week. The Shutters Creek inmates went over the property with fine tooth comb; cleaning the lot up, removing scotch broom and other vegetation. City crews finished the project by hauling away approximately 30 yards of brush and debris.

BUDGET MEETINGS SCHEDULED - The City's Budget Committee will hold their first meeting to begin review of the city manager's proposed FY 2001/2002 budget on Thursday, April 19th, followed with meetings on April 24th and 26th and May 3rd. All meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at the Coos Bay public

library and are open to the public. The meetings will also be shown on the Government Access Channel. Copies of the budget are available at the public library, finance department, and on the City's web site www.coosbay.org

STATE LEGISLATORS HOLD REDISTRICTING MEETING - Members of the Redistricting Committee including State Representative Joanne Verger and State Senator Ken Messerle attended a redistricting meeting held in the Council Chambers at City Hall in Coos Bay on April 6, 2001. The committee welcomed public comment during the meeting. Several meetings have been held throughout the state this week and future meetings are tentatively scheduled in Woodburn on April 17th, Pendleton on April 20th, and Corvallis on April 24th, 2001. For more information about redistricting, the committee process or field hearings call Marjorie Taylor, Coordinator (503) 986-1755, Craig Allen, Senate Committee Administrator (503) 986-1763 or Cara Filsinger, House Committee Administrator (503) 986-1627. Link to the Redistricting website via www.leg.state.or.us.

Written correspondence can be addressed to:

Marjorie Taylor, Redistricting Coordinator
Committee Services
900 Court Street, NE Room 334
Salem, OR 97310

All correspondence presented to the committee(s) or to committee staff will be entered into the committee public record on redistricting.

GARBAGE MEETING PRODUCES APPARENT CONSENSUS - Earlier this week the Coos County Commissioners joined Mayor Benetti and the City Council in a work-session at City Hall to discuss local garbage rates and the future of the County's Beaver Hill Solid Waste Disposal Facility. The meeting came on the heels of a revelation three weeks ago that Coos Bay's two franchised garbage haulers were prepared to reduce rates by 12.5%. In response to this, Coos County said that doing this would force closure of the Beaver Hill burning facility and cause six-figure closure costs next year along with the loss of County and private sector employees. Teamsters and other union representatives expressed public and private opposition to this, as did some businesses that would be affected by the closure. Some in attendance at the meeting seemed surprised to hear from County officials that the Beaver Hill facility may need to cease its burning operation in five years or so due to economic and environmental inefficiencies. Summing it all up, and to paraphrase Councilor Don Spangler, the Beaver Hill facility is going to sink under its own weight if the economics of the situation don't improve in a reasonably short-term horizon. The meeting produced apparent consensus on several points. Acknowledging that its "solid waste advisory committee" has not met in at least the last five years, the Coos County Commissioners will be activating that group in an effort to constructively examine all of the issues surrounding garbage disposal and the Beaver Hill operation. Coos Bay city councilor Kevin Stufflebean will be representing Coos Bay and its citizens in that effort. Generating electricity at the site, creating jobs at the site and bringing more garbage to the site are all ideas mentioned that can help improve the economics at Beaver Hill. These are also ideas that have been considered for two decades without much success. Coos Bay will be postponing the hearing that had been planned first for two weeks ago, then reset for the April 17th City Council meeting. The hearing is now being postponed indefinitely, meaning that Coos Bay will not be looking at a rate reduction any time in the immediate future.