



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 4, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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BAYSHORE STREET SCAPE PROJECT MOVES FORWARD - The Bayshore Street Scape Project on North Bayshore is proceeding ahead of schedule according to general contractor Bracelin and Yeager. The lights and grass have been installed and the project is substantially complete. The architect is currently working with various groups around town to assist with designing banners that will also be purchased as a part of the project.

BAYSHORE THEATER DISTRICT STREET SCAPE PROJECT - The Bayshore Theater District Project is moving along as expected according to general contractor Johnson Rock Products. The electrical conduit is in place and curbs have been poured. Sidewalk work will begin soon. After the sidewalks are poured, the concrete will cure for 28 days prior to work beginning on the brickwork.

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ACTION - The flurry of activity around the Elrod Avenue and South Fourth Street intersection is, in fact, a filming gone awry. In preparation of an upcoming paving project, the City's Operations & Maintenance contractor, OMI, is busy televising wastewater lines to assess their condition. However, serious problems below the roadbed can also become navigation hazards for the small camera that videos the lines. Early Friday, JBS Const. was called to the filming location to rescue the camera by digging up the section of pipe where the camera was caught.

THANK YOU BOY SCOUTS! - Boy Scouts from Troop 9 worked with the John Topits volunteers on Saturday, April 21. Keith Topits assists the city by coordinating John Topits Park volunteer efforts. He worked with the troop to select the needed project and praised the Scouts for responding with an excellent effort. The Scouts helped clear brush and move logs for the volunteers. Keith indicated that he would welcome them back anytime to help with work in the park. Thank you Keith, and thank you Scouts! Your efforts to improve our parks are greatly appreciated!

FRONT STREET APPROVED! - On Tuesday evening the City Council approved the rezoning of the North Front Street area to allow commercial and residential uses; industrial uses may be permitted in the Central Dock area. The newly created zone (called "Waterfront Heritage") and design standards are meant to evoke but not duplicate the time when Front Street was a hub of activity, from about the 1870s to the 1920s. This project has taken four years of hard work, starting with a master plan in 1997. Kudos to the Council, Planning Commission and staff for a job well done. A special thanks to Jeff Griffin of the Governor's Community Solutions Team, who helped us through some rough times.

2001 DOWNTOWN SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE - Laura Barron, City Planning Administrator, had the opportunity to attend the 2001 Downtown Solutions Conference presented by the Oregon Downtown Development Association. (The conference took place in the beautifully refurbished Ashland Spring Hotel, formerly known as the Mark Anthony.) It was an enthusiastic group with information concentrating on the small town downtown and rural community survival. Sessions dealt with town image, development and marketing. Laura also had the chance to tour Ashland's high-tech downtown which has developed just over the last 2 years. Laura reports that many of the conference's sessions will assist her and the Department of Community Services as they move forward with redevelopment projects throughout the City.

COOS CONNECTIONS GRANTS - Coos County librarians are excited to report that two major grants have been awarded to update the Coastline automated system: \$100,000 from the Meyer Memorial Trust and \$140,000 from Ford Family Foundation. Mary Jane Fisher at the Extended Services Office wrote grants with considerable help from our own Nancy Price. The entire project will cost \$423,000 with \$151,000 to be funded from library district reserve funds set aside over the past few years. Other small grants will be sought to round out project implementation over the next two to three years. With three years in the planning, the project will install local area networks in the four Coos libraries which currently lack LANS and extend existing LANS to handle the additional PCs that will be purchased with the project (Coos Bay is one), replace the current analog network with a digital wide area network, replace 86 existing "dumb" terminals at all 11 participating libraries with PCs and add 125 PCs to increase the number of access points, upgrade the current Coastline system platform server to support new system software, and switch from the current text-only public interface to a graphical interface. The technology committee is preparing a request for bids and has been able to have the benefit of technical consultation from CyberRep, formerly 800 Support

BUDGET COMMITTEE COMPLETES REVIEW - The Budget Committee burned the mid-night oil last evening completing their review of the City's fiscal year 2001/2002 budget. Finance Director Janell Howard will be making the changes recommended by the committee and the budget will be presented for adoption at the June 17th City Council meeting. Our thanks to the Budget Committee for volunteering their time and effort in the City's budget process.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!! - Congratulations are in order for city employees who celebrated anniversaries during the month of April. Police Chief Chuck Knight has served the department for 35 years as of April 25th and Sgt Kevin Hedgepeth for 24 years on April 26th. In the Fire Department Capt. Ed Jackson celebrated 30 years on April 1st and Firefighter Matt Fare has served five years as of April 1st. Congratulations for a job well done!

CHAMBER FORUM - The Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors invites interested citizens to attend the Chamber Forum on Wednesday, May 16th at 11:30 a.m. at the Red Lion. The program will present "the idea" the Board of Directors brainstormed at their strategic planning session; "the idea" that has the potential to unite all entities that have a stake in the economic development region; "the idea" that the Chamber would like your feedback on. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the Chamber office at 269-0215. Your comments are encouraged and welcome.

COOS ART MUSEUM EXHIBITS OPEN - Two exhibits will open May 11th at the Coos Art Museum. Expressions West 2001 will be in the Maggie Karl Gallery and The Message and The Medium will be in the Mable Hansen Gallery. A reception will be held on Friday, May 11th from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. opening the two new exhibits. In the Maggie Karl Gallery more than sixty painting will be exhibited which were chosen from submission by artists living in eight western states. The exhibit will feature both abstract and representational works. Purchase awards of \$2500, \$1500, and \$1000 will be given to the top three winning painters. The winning works will then become part of the collection of the Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation, which co-sponsors the exhibit with the Coos Art Museum. Upstairs in the Mable Hansen gallery will be works from the Museum's permanent collection. The Message and The Medium combines selections from the Museum's own art collection with instructive displays of tools and materials to illustrate various media and artistic techniques that comprise means of self-expression in the visual arts. This exhibit offers a rare opportunity for students and the public to see behind the scenes and look at elements of the artistic process from inside. The exhibits will run through June 9th.