



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 18, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY - Coos Bay Police Chaplain Richard Derby and Chief Chuck Knight attended the National Peace Officer Memorial service at the Discovery Center in Reedsport earlier this week. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 designating May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week. The law was amended by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322, signed by President Bill Clinton, directing that the flag of the United States be displayed at half-staff on all government buildings on May 15th each year. While the actual dates change from year to year, National Police Week is always the calendar week, beginning on Sunday, which includes May 15th. The City of Coos Bay joined with other governmental agencies in lowering the flags on this date.

ANDERSON ALTERNATIVE BEING CONSIDERED - Coos Bay Downtown Association member Rondi Potter reported to the City Council on Tuesday night the results of a survey of the Association's members regarding the "Anderson Alternative." The Alternative will provide two-way traffic on the first few blocks of Anderson from Bayshore to 2nd Avenue, thereby allowing easier access to the businesses in the downtown core. Most Association members who responded to the survey were in favor of the change, with some of those responding indicating they would prefer the two-way traffic be allowed to travel all the way to 4th Street. The Alternative will also allow for diagonal parking on Anderson near the Coos Art Museum. The City Manager's office has received letters from tenants and building owners along the street including the owners of the Rite-Aid and JC Penneys buildings supporting the change and indicating its value to them. A public hearing regarding the possible change will be held at the next City Council meeting on June 5th. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and the public is encouraged to attend.

OREGON COAST CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS ON ITS WAY! - A memorandum of understanding formalizing the relationship between the City, Urban Renewal Agency and the Railway Historical Society was approved at the May 15, 2001 Council and Urban Renewal Agency meetings. The agreement places the responsibility for development and funding of the Railway and Museum on the Railway Historical Society. The Urban Renewal Agency purchased property on which the "Old No. 104" will reside while it is restored to full use and will provide some assistance with permits and fees as the project develops. The City has provided some staff assistance with site development and will insure that water is available to the site, and a sign is installed.

At the Council Meeting, Railway Historical Society President John Kruse reported on the companies and individuals who are donating services and materials to the upcoming move of the "Old No. 104." President Kruse estimated over \$52,000 worth of services and materials had been donated just to move the engine from its location in North Bend to the site in Coos Bay. The site in Coos Bay is necessary for the engine to be able to access the railroad adjacent to Hwy. 101 once the engine has been restored.

Monday, May 21st at 2:00 p.m. there will be a "Driving of the Golden Spikes" ceremony at the future site of the Railway and Museum across from Security Bank in south Coos Bay. North Bend Mayor Briggs and his Council have been invited to join Mayor Benetti and his Council in driving the final two spikes into the rail on which the engine will rest while the Society completes its restoration. Music will be provided by a

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class from the Millicoma Middle School and members of the local Model A Car Club are expected attend. The public is welcome.

Tuesday, May 22nd the engine will be loaded onto a 110-foot lowboy operated by the Bonneville Power Administration and will be transported down Hwy 101 to its new location. The lowboy is 12 feet wide and traffic delays on Hwy 101 can be expected. Members of the North Bend and Coos Bay Police Departments will assist with traffic control. Coos Bay welcomes the Old No. 104, and looks forward to the day when the engine can return to North Bend under its own steam operating an excursion rail line for the benefit of residents and tourists alike! Join us in celebrating this big step forward for the local Railway Historical Society!

BUILDING PERMIT FEES - The City Council acted at its May 15th meeting to increase building permit rates by 10%. In 1997 Coos Bay citizens voted to keep the program local and approved changes to the City Charter that require the program pay for itself fully through user fees. This last fiscal year the City has faced declining permit activity and therefore less revenue which has resulted in staff's recommendation to increase permit rates 10% in order to retain the local service the building industry depends upon. Seeing the declining activity and before the rate increase was recommended, staff cut expenses where ever possible and reduced the hours of one of the inspectors to part-time. With these cuts and the 10% rate increase that the City Council approved at their May 15th meeting, we anticipate that the building program will remain self-supporting. The City has received support from the contractors and from the local Home Builders Association in support of keeping the program local, even as this rate increase is required. This support is very much appreciated and an affirmation of the quality job we try to provide to the public. Thank you!

SPORTSMAN PEDWAY PROJECT - The Sportsman Pedway Project is moving along a little behind schedule due the condition of the south building wall. After the Sportsman Building was demolished it was discovered that some deterioration to the concrete wall had occurred. A structural engineer was on site to determine what needed to be repaired to insure integrity of the building wall. The loose concrete in the building pilasters will be removed so that the structural engineer can make recommendations on what should be done to protect the wall. In other activity, some of the sidewalk and pedway concrete is be poured and the Broadway sidewalk opened back up this week. Stay tuned this project is going to make a big impact when it is completed.

CHOSHI BRIDGE TEMPORARY REPAIRS - The City received quotes this week for the temporary repairs to the glu-lam beams under Choshi bridge. Engineer Greg Solarz provided the engineering work for the support structure and Steve Auer Construction will be performing the work. Completion time is scheduled within the next 30 days, so all you walkers get ready to complete your loop instead of turning around and going back the other way. City crews will make temporary repairs to the hand railings once the temporary supports are in place. The temporary supports will give the City some to work with various groups on the repair/replacement of the bridge.

SHUTTERS CREEK INMATES HELP CITY - The Shutters Creek inmates worked on Wednesday and Thursday at the I.O.O.F Cemetery by Marshfield High School preparing it for Memorial Day weekend. City Parks crew will make the final touch up within the next week. Thanks again to the inmates and Shutters Creek personnel for the valuable contribution that they provide to the City at a minimal cost.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION - The City has made a grant application to Oregon's Transportation and Growth Management Program which is a joint effort of the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Department of Land Conservation and Development. The program supports planning that encourages compact, mixed-use, pedestrian, bicycle and transit-friendly development. The City has applied for approximately \$130,000 to fund a state-required Transportation System Plan for Coos Bay. The Plan would address future transportation needs, bike and pedestrian plans, transit plans, etc.

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NEWMARK IMPROVEMENTS - On Tuesday evening the City Council made the decision to move ahead with final construction drawings for improvements to Newmark Avenue between WalMart and Ocean Boulevard. The City's consultant for the project has recommended five lanes (four travel lanes plus a center left turn lane) from Wal-Mart to LaClair, a traffic light at LaClair and a sidewalk on the south side of Newmark Avenue. Depending on the cost, the project may be completed in phases with additional alternatives to add three or five lanes extending to Ocean Boulevard and a sidewalk on the north side of Newmark Avenue.

SOUTH FIFTH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPOSED - The City Council is sending a letter of support for the nomination of the historic district to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The letter stated that the City supports the will of the neighborhood property owners to form an historic district unless more than 50% of the affected property owners object. SHPO is scheduled to be in Coos Bay on May 24th and 25th. The final decision will be made in October. If approved, the Fifth Street Historic District would be the first National Register historic district in Coos Bay and all of Coos County.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture. A historic district is an area or neighborhood that has a concentration of buildings and streetscape features that retains a high proportion of historic character and represents an important aspect of the city's history. The area proposed to be included in the district is roughly bounded by Golden Street, Johnson Street, and the alleys behind South Fifth Street and is an example of the growth and development of residential architecture in Coos Bay from about 1900 to 1930.

LIBRARY BOARD OPENINGS - The Library Board is comprised of seven members. Up to three members may, at any one time, reside in Coos County within the boundaries of School District 9, but outside the city limits of Coos Bay. The term of office is four years and board members are limited to serving no more than two full consecutive terms, however, any person may be reappointed after an interval of one year. The City is seeking volunteers to fill two openings on the Board. Applications are available from the city manager's office at city hall during normal business hours or by calling 269-8912. Deadline for submitting an application is 5 p.m. May 31st.

RESPECT FOR LAW RECOGNITION - Coos Bay Police Officer Rod Schweitz and Sergeant Robert Lounsbury were recognized earlier this week by the Coos Bay Optimist Club for their outstanding contribution to the Law Enforcement profession. Chaplain Richard Derby and Chief Chuck Knight attended the National Peace Officer Memorial service at the Discovery Center in Reedsport earlier this week.

Officer Schweitz is a 24 year veteran with the Police Department and has been active in volunteer activities with the police department and the community. He has worked assignments in patrol, detectives, and crime prevention. Sergeant Lounsbury began his career as an Explorer at the police department, at age 21 he joined the police reserves, and in 1982 was appointed to a full time position with the Police Department. He is an advisor to the Law Enforcement Explorer Post, a supervisor in the patrol division, and is the Police Department's emergency vehicle operations instructor. Sergeant Lounsbury and Officer Schweitz are very deserving of the recognition for their dedication to the law enforcement profession. The Coos Bay Police Department is grateful to the Optimist Club of Coos Bay for their community spirit in recognition of and respect for law. This is the third year the Optimist has recognized local officers for their contribution to the community.

WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD - Coos Bay Police Captain Eura Washburn was awarded the "Woman of Distinction Award" by the Soroptimist Club of the Coos Bay Area at their regular club meeting this week. Captain Washburn joined the Police Department as a Crime Prevention Specialist in 1976 and has worked in crime prevention, patrol, detectives, D.A.R.E., and is currently a Captain in charge of the

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Operations Division which includes all sworn police officers. City Manager Bill Grile and Police Chief Chuck Knight congratulate Captain Washburn on this most deserving award.

FARMER'S MARKET TO OPEN - The Farmer's Market will open in downtown Coos Bay on Wednesday, May 30th and continue through October 31st. The market will be located in the parking lot next to the Chamber of Commerce. Vendors wishing to participate in the market should contact Diane O'Brien at 759-2526 or Chris Coles at 269-1544.

CITY HALL OFFICES CLOSED - City Hall offices and the Library will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day. Local veterans' associations have organized the Memorial Day Parade to honor the men and women who have served their country. The parade will be held on Saturday, May 26th at 11 a.m. in downtown Coos Bay.