



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

July 6, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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DOWNTOWN ALIVE - Who says things aren't happening in downtown Coos Bay? Congratulations to three existing area businesses. First, congratulations to the folks at Kaffe 101 and Early to Rise Bakery for the exciting new business they will be opening next to Walton's Western World on Broadway. Great coffee and outstanding baked goods will be coming our way by the end of August. Second, congratulations to Oregon Federal Credit Union upon its announcement that it had purchased the property at Bayshore and Johnson, near the entrance to Fred Meyer's. A million dollar investment is planned for the site, according to OFCU President Dal King. Finally, congratulations to former North Bend mayor Lee Golder on his investment in the NAPA Auto Parts store on South Front Street in Coos Bay. A ribbon-cutting event scheduled for 1:30 PM today is expected to be well-attended. "These business decisions reflect confidence in the economy of our area," said city manager Bill Grile.

JOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY - In the spirit of cooperation, the Coos Bay and North Bend city councils will be meeting Monday to discuss fiber optics and any other items of interest that may come up for discussion. The meeting begins at 5:30 PM in the North Bend Public Library and is open to the public, of course.

POLICE REPORT JULY 4, 2001 ACTIVITY - Calls for service routed through the North Coos County 9-1-1 Agency housed at Coos Bay Police Department reflect steady activity for the 24 hour period on July 4th. The communications center handled 134 calls for service while the police department conducted 19 case investigations, issued 20 traffic citations and 39 traffic violation written or verbal warnings, made 6 arrests, and responded to 16 reports of illegal fireworks. Police Department activity this year is comparable to calls for service on previous July 4th holidays.

THREE FLAGS SAFETY BLITZ A SUCCESS - The Coos Bay Police Department in concert with law enforcement agencies in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia (3 flags) completed the three flags safety blitz in which emphasis is placed on seat belt use and compliance. Police Officers were hired on an overtime basis for the extra enforcement effort. Grant funds pay for costs associated with the safety blitz.

9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS STUDY PROGRESSING - A study to look at the feasibility of partnering with the City of North Bend in a combined dispatch / 9-1-1 communications center is progressing. Representatives from the two cities will be meeting regularly in an effort to determine anticipated cost savings while exploring the impact on efficiency. Potential sites for the communication center are also being explored as a component of the study.

MINGUS BALLPARK IMPROVEMENTS - With the concrete slab poured and cured, City Park's staff and volunteers from the Men's Softball Association are busy assembling the mid-section of the new aluminum bleachers for the park's softball field. The bleachers should be up and ready for the softball tournament scheduled for this weekend. Many thanks to the volunteers who are helping to make this much needed improvement to the ballpark happen.

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HOW MANY FISH ARE IN THE FISH TANK? - The City purchased over 400 trout for the Fourth of July in Mingus Park! Young and old alike went fishing in the portable tanks set up for the annual fishing derby. The trout ranged in weight from 1 1/4 lb. to over 2 3/4 lbs. Everyone enjoyed the event again this year. The fishing derby has been going on for over 15 years and is put on by the members of the Coos Bay Fire Department. Over 100 hours are needed to conduct the derby. Members of the Fire department are already making plans for next year's event.

ANOTHER QUESTION FOR ALL IS - HOW LONG DID THE FIREWORKS SHOW LAST? - For over 10 years the Coos Bay Fire Department has presented to the community the fireworks show. Over 400 shells were launched from the International Port of Coos Bay property, not including the numerous shells in the shows opening, midpoint and grand finale. The fireworks display lasted 23 minutes. Members of the department spent over 75 hours preparing for the show, which included putting the mortars in place, loading the shells, putting covers over the mortars, shooting the show, and clearing and cleaning the area after the show. Like the fishing derby, plans are already being made to make next years show bigger and better than this years!_

EMPIRE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD - The Urban Renewal Agency will have a work session on the Empire Facade Program at 6:30 p.m., July 31, 2001, in the Manager's Conference Room at City Hall. The Agency will be considering options for total dollars to be spent on the program, dollars available for each easement and the geographic area that will be impacted.

The Empire Gateway project is moving forward more slowly this summer because of workload issues for the Architect on projects in other parts of the state. The Architect will have modified options available for review by the Urban Renewal Agency at the end of August.

COOS BAY NORTH BEND WATER BOARD ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB - With the help of Southwestern Oregon Community College students and their Computer Information Systems Instructor Mark Stueve, the Water Board now has a website, and though the initial website is information only, future plans include assisting customers online as well as expanding available general information. Current items include a report on the status of the Water Supply Expansion Project with pictures of all three project components - Joe Ney Improvements, Dunes Wellfield Expansion and New Pony Creek Dam Construction; the Annual Water Quality Report for calendar year 2000; financial balance sheet; and links to other sources. Find the Coos Bay North Bend Water Board at www.cbnbh2o.com.

LEARN ABOUT STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOANNE VERGER - Get to know State Rep Joanne Verger by visiting her new website at www.harborside.com/~jverger/. Full of information about her heritage, family, career and more from a personal approach. When the website is completed it will also provide a link to the City of Coos Bay.

1ST ANNUAL FORESTRY AND FISHERIES FESTIVAL COMING TO THE MILL CASINO - Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive. No, it's not Superman - these "men of steel" are LUMBERJACKS! Captivating audiences for the past 20 years, the Scheer's Lumberjack Shows provide images of man against the impossible along with the sport derived out of a nation's heritage. The shows include such events as axe throwing, chopping, log rolling, cross cut sawing, hot sawing and chainsaw carving - century old skills used in the logging camps of North America. Co-Sponsored by Douglas Timber Operators, The Mill Casino Hotel and the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. The Lumberjack shows will be held July 14 at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 per family or \$2 per individual. For additional information contact the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce at (541) 269-0215 or The Mill Casino Hotel at (541) 756-8800.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS LUNCH FORUM ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE - One way or another we all pay the price for substance abuse in our community. The forum “Your Community - How you can make a difference” will be held July 18 from 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. at the Red Lion. Featuring Drugs Don’t Work Taskforce Chairman Dick Leshley, Terry Tankersley of Coos County Mental Health and Liz Robertson of Bay Area Hospital. Learn about drug abuse and current trends, resources to help identify and solve the problem, the impact of drug use on job performance, practical ways to be part of the solution and employee rights. Cost is \$9 for Chamber members, \$12 non-members. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 269-0215.

FUN TIMES AT THE 4TH OF JULY IN THE PARK CELEBRATION - Many thanks go out to Marty Crouse for her efforts in coordinating the annual 4th of July in Mingus Park. Mayor Benetti was on hand as the official starter of the kids walk and the Mayor’s Firecracker 4K run with Pete Dawson of the South Coast Running Club coordinating both events. Local runners as well as those from as far as Montana participated. Boy Scout troop 68 presented the flag ceremony and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The weather held and visitors enjoyed music on the stage, canoe rides, face painting, fishing, crafts and more while celebrating our nations independence. Many of the activities were no to low cost and we say a big thank you to all of the businesses and groups who helped make this year’s celebration a success.