



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

July 20, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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SOLV "LEGACY WALK" SWINGS THROUGH THE BAY AREA - SOLV is a non-profit organization that brings together government agencies, businesses and individual volunteers in programs and projects to enhance the livability of Oregon. Governor Tom McCall and other community leaders established SOLV in 1969, recognizing the need for community action to address growing problems in the ever-growing state. Today SOLV is building on their vision with a wide range of programs that will guide us as we work to build community through volunteerism to preserve this treasure called Oregon. One of SOLV's 14 programs is its "Legacy Walk," a fundraiser built around pledges for miles walked by SOLV volunteers along the entire Oregon Coast. Legacy Walk proceeds benefit the Gift to Oregon Fund, SOLV's endowment. This fund will ensure that SOLV's programs, involving tens of thousands of citizens in cleanup, restoration, beautification and enhancement activities throughout Oregon each year, continue forever, creating a legacy of volunteerism and community involvement. Each day the Walk is led by SOLV Executive Director, Jack McGowan, his wife Jan, Associate Director and Travis, their teenage son and covers between five and 14 miles. Pledges can be made for each mile the McGowan family walks (jump to form <<http://www.solv.org/LWpledge.shtml>>). Yesterday the Legacy Walk came to The Bay Area, starting in Charleston, traveling through Coos Bay and ending at North Bend's Simpson Park. Thanks to Mayor Joe Benetti and the Coos Bay Fire Department for a warm reception and "pit stop" at the Empire Fire Hall, and to Mayor John Briggs for an equally warm reception at Simpson Park. A special thanks should be extended to Crystal Shoji (Shoji Planning and Development) for coordinating the Legacy Walk's visit to the Bay Area, to her and the Chamber Ambassadors for helping greet the Legacy Walkers at Simpson Park, and to US Bank for its local sponsorship of the event.

DOWNTOWN IS COMING ALIVE - As we continue to provide updates about new developments downtown, it is imperative to tip our hat to Tim Inskeep and his fine restaurant, The Cedar Grill. In case you've not heard, he has purchased the Bank Brewery on Central and is investing considerable money and effort into upgrading the building as he moves toward a late summer opening of The Cedar Grill at its new location. Plans for the property include opening the upper floor for quality offices. Congratulations Tim Inskeep ... and thanks for demonstrating this solid confidence in downtown Coos Bay! By the way, Tim spent 26 hours pressure washing the sidewalk in front of his new building. How's that for demonstrating pride in the community? Very impressive indeed!

CHAMBER FORUM PROVIDES HANDS-ON TRAINING THIS WEEK - ... about detecting drugs in the work-place and implementing programs to combat employee drug abuse. To quote Chamber President Greg Stevens: "If YOU are not doing something about (this), you're part of the problem." Congratulations to the Chamber and to Yellow Cab owner Dick Leshley for putting the program together. See <<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/drugfree.htm>> for an interactive program on building a work-place program for your business or place of work. See also <<http://www.testclean.com/>>. And for more information about what you can do to get involved locally, call Leshley at 267-3111. Watch for details about next month's Chamber Forum, which will feature a report from our South Coast legislators: Sen. Ken Messerle, Rep. Joanne Verger and Rep. Wayne Kreiger.

BAY AREA HOSPITAL CAN BOAST OF CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY - By the way, with all the talk of fiber optics and technology here in the community, we'd be remiss not to pass along some praise to Bay Area Hospital. It's cancer radiation machine, the "linear accelerator" or "LINAC" for short, is one of only fifty in the entire country and the only one regionally between Stanford University and the Seattle area. Costing \$1.7 million and another \$800,000 for the radiation-safe building that serves as a vault for the high-tech equipment, cancer patients can now receive state-of-the-art treatment right here at home. Not only that, the equipment and BAH capability is now bringing patients from far outside the area for treatment. "Partners in Good Health" is how Bay Area Hospital describes itself. We'd say CEO Dan Smith, his Board of Directors and outstanding health care team are also partners in our local economic development efforts! Good going Bay Area Hospital ... and thanks.

FIBER-OPTICS UPDATE - City manager Bill Grile and CB Public Schools information services manager Tim Enright traveled to Roseburg Tuesday to attend a meeting of Fiber South Consortium, the intergovernmental entity that has contacted with PCINW to bring improved fiber-optic communications to the Bay Area and Southwestern Oregon. The PCINW deployment schedule calls for fiber to come into the area within a year, but frankly much sooner is our expectation and hope. Based on Consortium action at Tuesday's meeting, Enright and other hands-on technology experts will be appointed to a new advisory committee that will help Fiber South plan and implement the most effective and efficient system for "lighting" and managing the one gigabit Ethernet network that will become available for Consortium members. This network, however, is not the most important part of the PCINW planned operation. Benefits to business and industry from the PCINW fiber contracted from Fiber South will hopefully help bring new communication-dependent jobs to our region. Stay tuned.

MINGUS PARK LAKE WEEDS AND MOSS - In its quest to find a permanent solution to the grass growing in the lake, Community Services will implement the plan determined last winter to try an herbicide on the grass. The temperature has reached the desired level to allow the herbicide to work most efficiently. City staff lowered the water level in the lake on Tuesday and herbicide was applied on Thursday morning. Specialists tell us that the herbicide may have a temporary effect on the lily pads, but should not harm either birds or wildlife. The diluted herbicide is placed in the lake at a rate of 1 part per billion. This herbicide is used in lakes, ponds, irrigation canals, and reservoirs used for potable water to eliminate weeds and grass from the water body. Hopefully this will take care of the situation and nothing more will be needed in the future.

PAVING PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD - The City Council unanimously agreed this week to award two street improvement projects to the low bidder, LTM, Inc., dba Bracelin-Yeager Excavating & Trucking Inc. The first project includes the resurfacing of Front Street between Fir and Market Avenues and the portions of Alder, Birch, and Cedar Avenues that connect Front Street to Bayshore Drive. The second project includes the resurfacing of Fourth Street between Anderson and Elrod Avenues and Elrod Avenue between Fourth Street and Broadway. Included with the paving portion of the project will be some signage and pedestrian access ramps. This improved roadway from Anderson Avenue to the State Highway system will help manage downtown traffic flows and encourage freight route usage. Funds from both the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Urban Renewal Agency will finance these improvements which will have a dramatic impact on the appearance of the areas and play an integral part in the redevelopment of the Waterfront Heritage District and the coming Bimart shopping center. The completion of these projects is scheduled for later this summer but will not interfere with planned Blackberry or Fun Festival activities. The work will also be phased to better accommodate access to local businesses during construction.

HISTORY/ART BACKGROUND - On Tuesday evening the City Council passed an ordinance to create

a Historical Design Review Committee. The purpose of the committee is to serve as an advisory body to city officials and staff concerning architectural design review and other matters regarding historic, cultural, architectural, natural or artistic resources. Committee members will also assist applicants who must conform to architectural design standards which are applicable in certain parts of the city. Applications for the committee will be available at the City Manager's Office beginning July 20th and must be completed and returned by August 15th. Please call if you have questions or would like an application (541) 269-8912.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL RELEASES 2000 STATISTICS - The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal has released the statistics for the year 2000. Oregon experienced 13,760 fires resulting in 298 injuries and 42 fire fatalities. The most common place in a home for a fire to start continues to be the kitchen. There were 793 kitchen fires, which equals 22% of the residential fires reported. The second leading area was the chimney with 418 fires. The remaining next three locations included the bedroom, the living room and the garage. Approximately 76% of the fatal fires in 2000 were preventable. This shows that we must continue to inform and educate the public about fire safety. We must also encourage the members of our community to take personal responsibility for the safety of their homes and families by making sure smoke alarms are installed and working properly and having a home escape plan in place.

OREGON FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ANNOUNCES MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - Congratulations are also in line to Oregon Federal Credit Union www.oregonfcu.org <http://www.oregonfcu.org> on its recent announcement that the organization has purchased the lot at Johnson and Bayshore, at the entrance to the Fred Meyer / Safeway area. Plans are underway to complete a million-dollar investment in a banking branch with office space at the site. Architect Joe Slack is under contract to design and manage the construction project. Property taxes from the development will contribute to the Downtown Urban Renewal District's coffers.

ORDINANCE REGULATING TAXI COMPANIES - After nearly two years of discussion the City of Coos Bay enacted Ordinance 311, an Ordinance Regulating Taxi Companies. A proposal to create an environment which ensures protection of the safety of the citizens, provides for public need, and promotes public convenience was brought to the City by the Taxi Industry. Under the adopted ordinance riders can be assured that their ride will be with a driver of good character and that the Taxi Company selected participates in a safety program and is a drug free workplace. The Ordinance does not set rates for taxi companies, however it does require current rates be posted as a courtesy to customers. The City is very grateful to the four Taxi Companies currently doing business in Coos Bay. The companies are Full Moon Taxi, Jerry's Taxi, Sunshine Taxi, and Yellow Cab, without their interest and participation the Ordinance would not have been possible. The Ordinance take effect on August 17, 2001.