



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

August 3, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420

(541) 269-8912

See us at <http://www.coosbay.org>

Email the city manager at bgrile@ucinet.com

BURGER KING PRAISES EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE BY TWO COOS BAY MANAGERS - "I'm not at all surprised but extremely pleased to receive the message," said city manager Bill Grile this week upon getting a personal call from Burger King's regional manager, Joe Kuharik. The message was the strongest possible praise for Coos Bay Fire Chief Stan Gibson and Building Administrator Joe McClay. What did they do? "Way above and beyond the call of duty ... way above and beyond!" proclaimed Kuharik as he expressed his appreciation for the weekend help these two guys provided to the Newmark Avenue Burger King in order to get it up and running after a second untimely and most unfortunate fire. "I have to be a little careful in how I say this," said Kuharik, "because we do business in lots of cities in Southwestern Oregon ... but what Stan and Joe did was nothing short of exceptional service," he stressed. Gibson and McClay made themselves available most of Saturday to help resolve permit issues, provided Burger King with their home phone numbers and even offered to assist last Sunday if needed. "This just doesn't happen ... JUST DOES NOT HAPPEN ... in the other cities where we operate," the regional manager emphasized. Good going managers!! No one ever said that Coos Bay's managers watch the clock ... that's for certain!

CITY COUNCIL ENCOURAGES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PROPOSED NUISANCE ORDINANCE - This week the City Council approved a letter encouraging the County Commissioners to move ahead with its proposed nuisance ordinance. The letter expresses strong support for action to deal with blight in the urbanizing areas on the outskirts of the city limits, and along corridors traveled by tourists visiting the area. "Once you have further refined the proposed ordinance into a workable document, we would wholeheartedly support a countywide public advisory election on the proposal," writes Mayor Joe Benetti for the City Council. "If crafted well, we're confident it would enjoy overwhelming public support," the letter concludes. For a copy of the letter, send an email to the city manager <bgrile@coosbay.org> and ask for Mayor Joe Benetti's July 31st letter to the County Commissioners about the proposed nuisance ordinance.

CITY MANAGER CONTINUES WEEKLY RADIO APPEARANCES - City manager Bill Grile is continuing his weekly radio appearances to provide updates about city activities and to answer questions from the media and general public. On Thursday mornings he appears on John Fus's News-talk 1340 AM call-in morning show from 8:00 – 9:00 AM, and on Friday's for a five minute interview with Rick Stevens on K-Light radio (98.7 FM). Tune in for these live updates. Call in if you have questions for the manager to address.

COOS BAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROVIDES COMPUTER TRAINING FOR CITY EMPLOYEES - CB Schools' computer specialist Mary Burke provided hands on training this week in four different sessions designed specifically for City employees. The sessions offered basic and advanced instruction to develop skills needed to make the most of Microsoft Outlook. Outlook is

the email, calendar and task management software used by CB Schools and increasingly important in City Hall project tracking. On behalf of all the employees who benefitted from this training, thanks Mary, thanks information services manager Tim Enright, and thanks CB Public Schools for sharing your knowledge and expertise with us! [Can we come back for more?]

COUNTY SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO PONDER OPTIONS FOR BEAVER HILL

- Coos County's Solid Waste Advisory Committee met Wednesday evening at the Coos Bay Public Library and continued to ponder options for improving the efficiency and economics of the Beaver Hill Disposal Facility. The goal is to make the facility more economically competitive with other disposal options. Knowing that disposing local garbage at a landfill in Corvallis offers the potential of savings in one sense but environmental costs (meaning: dollars to meet environmental requirements) in another has kept the committee looking for options. One of these is burning tires, and that possibility seems "very doable," according to facility manager Steve Allen. Recent tests show that getting the state to approve a permit for this "shouldn't be too difficult," according to Allen. Disposal of medical wastes offers still more potential, as does taking in Curry County garbage and one or two other ideas intended to increase volume at the facility, and thereby lower incremental processing costs. Before next month's meeting, John Stephens, Will Wright and Steve Allen plan to get together and draft a request for proposals to seek the services of a consultant needed to determine if power can be economically generated from the facility's burners. If so, this would be a major step in securing a longer life for the troubled facility. Without better economics, Beaver Hill's days seem numbered. The committee's next meeting is September 5th.

WELCOME TO THE BAY AREA CHIEF SCIBELLI! - City manager Bill Grile and Coos Bay Police Chief Chuck Knight were on hand at Wednesday afternoon's open house at North Bend City Hall to welcome new NBPD Chief Stephen Scibelli to his new post. Chief Scibelli comes to North Bend after a 29-year career with the Kelso, Washington Police Department. Welcome Chief Scibelli!

BLACKBERRY ARTS FESTIVAL SEEKING VENDORS - Art, craft and food vendors are encouraged to submit an application for the 19th annual Blackberry Arts Festival to be held on August 25 and 26 in downtown Coos Bay. The event draws thousands of visitors each year who are treated to quality hand-crafted items by local and regional artists and crafters and takes place at the peak of the blackberry harvest. Visitors can experience hands-on crafts, demonstrations and entertainment while sampling blackberry treats and other goodies. The festival takes place in the area formerly known as the downtown Coos Bay Mall, within walking distance of the beautiful Coos Bay "working" waterfront. The Blackberry Arts Festival is sponsored by the Coos Bay Downtown Association and is organized by the Bay Area Jaycees. Information and applications for booth space are available by calling the festival hotline at 267-1022, by visiting the festival web site at www.pencommunity.com/pen/blackberry or by e-mailing the festival committee at blackberryarts@hotmail.com.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - The Fire Department will again be attending the festivities on Tuesday, August 7th for National Night Out. Starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Woodland Apartments, 245 South Schoneman. Bring the family out for some good old fashioned fun. All ages are welcome to meet with police and fire representatives and share in the music and food. There will also be prizes, horses, clowns, military and kids groups. See you there!

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE - Looking to volunteer in your community? The City of Coos Bay has five openings on the newly established Historic Design Review Committee. The committee is to act as an advisory body to the City of Coos Bay Community Services Department, Planning Commission, City Council and, if requested, the Urban Renewal Agency for the City of Coos Bay.

Membership of the Committee is not be limited to residents of the City of Coos Bay and may include any person possessing interest in furthering the betterment of historic, cultural, architectural, natural or artistic resources in the Coos Bay area. If possible, membership should include three members, one each with knowledge and expertise in the following area: (i) history, (ii) art, graphics, or interior design, and (iii) architecture.

Applications are available from the city manager's office or by calling 269-8912 during normal business hours and will be accepted through 5 p.m. August 15, 2001.

FIREFIGHTERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATIONS - Congratulations go out to Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters Chuck Hanners, Christian Lorenz and Ben Ferguson who recently received their Basic Emergency Medical Technician certifications from the State of Oregon Health Division. The EMT Basic certification is achieved after taking a 2-term class at SWOCC and passing a written and hands-on practical exam. The fire department has responded to over 900 calls so far in 2001. Over 65% of these calls have been requests for medical assistance. With this certification the fire department will be better able to meet this critical need for our community.

REMOVAL ALONG SOUTH 4TH STREET - The City Street crew removed seven trees along South 4th Street this week to prepare for the asphalt pavement overlay work planned for that area later this month. The roots from these trees have lifted the sidewalk and street. The roots under the street will be removed by the contractor when the work begins. The entire project will place an overlay on South 4th Street from Anderson Avenue to Elrod Avenue and on Elrod Avenue from Broadway to South 4th Street. Any questions about the project can be directed to the Community Services Department at 269-8918.

CITY HALL GETS SPRUCED UP - The Coos Bay City Hall planter area along 6th Street is getting a major cleanup job. The City Park's crew, working with the Shutters Creek inmates, have grubbed the area of weeds and grass and placed bark around the plants. Work is expected to finish up next week when the City gets the inmates back. Good job to all involved.