



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

October 12, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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LIBRARY BOARD OPENING - The City has an opening to fill an unexpired term on the Library Board. Information and applications are available at the Library and in the City Manager's Office. Deadline for submitting an application is 5 p.m. October 26, 2001. The City Council will make the appointment at their regular meeting of November 6th. The term will expire June 30, 2002.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Community Services has a new volunteer! Joan Morrison, a retired nurse from California who has recently permanently moved to the area to a house she has owned for several years, has selected Community Services as her way to give to her community. Joan shared with Shanda Shribbs that following the September 11 disaster she really felt it important to give to her community, but wished to make her contribution in a different area than the one in which she had a 40+ year career. We're thrilled she has chosen to help in Community Services and will be of most assistance in our Planning and Engineering Divisions. Joan will work one afternoon a week (unless we can convince her to work more!). Welcome, and thank you, Joan!

WORK BEGINS IN EASTSIDE - Cleaning up of Coos River Highway was continued this week by the Eastside Commercial Business District Association. Rex Miller of Agri Tech, a founding member of the Association, volunteered to spray the ditches along Coos River Highway to get rid of the blackberries and unwanted grasses. Next spring, rye grass, with a mixture of wildflower seeds, will be spread along those areas that were sprayed. The City is supporting the Eastside CBDA's efforts with materials (pesticides) and safety support, and look forward to continuing to work with the Association on other projects.

4TH AND ELROD OVERLAY PROJECT - The 4th and Elrod Overlay Project is continuing to move again this week with forming and pouring the bases of the large cantilevered sign on 4th Street. Once the footing has set up, Bracelin and Yeager will be able to pave South 4th Street from Anderson to Elrod and Elrod from Broadway to South 4th Street. The contractor also will be installing an additional sign base along Anderson by the Library. These two signs will direct traffic to Highway 101 or downtown.

TENTATIVE APPROVAL FOR WALMART EXPANSION - On Tuesday evening the Planning Commission tentatively approved the WalMart superstore expansion. The store will double in size and add grocery and dry goods to the line of products sold by WalMart. Approximately 180,000 cubic yards of dirt will be removed from the site for the expansion and additional parking. In total there will be over 1,000 parking spaces. One of the major issues was truck access to the site. It was determined that all delivery trucks will enter and exit the site via the Burger King driveway which will be modified, at WalMart's expense, to allow a left turn for westbound traffic. There will be no access off of Fir Street. WalMart has agreed to contribute 15% of the cost of a traffic signal for the LaClair/Newmark intersection. They have also agreed to add trees and landscaping to the main entrance and to build a sidewalk that will take pedestrians from Newmark Avenue to the front door of the store. Final approval is scheduled for Monday, October 29, 2001 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

COOS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES RECEIVES AWARD - The Oregon Health Division has awarded the Emergency Medical Services Commitment to Quality Award to the North Coos County EMS System. The North Coos System includes: North Coos County 911 Center, North Bay Rural Fire Protection District (RFPD), The Mill Casino Security, Millington Fire Department, Sumner RFPD, Coos County Search & Rescue, Bay Cities Ambulance, Hauser RFPD, North Bend Fire Department, Coos Bay Fire Department, Charleston RFPD, Greenacres RFPD, Coast Guard Air Station & Motor Lifeboat Station and Bay Area Hospital. The EMS Commitment to Quality Award honors an EMS system which has demonstrated commitment to the principles of quality improvement, customer service and excellence in emergency medical service. Russ Harper, the acting EMS director of the Oregon Health Division lauded the North Coos EMS System for their adaptability, agency coordination and quick response.

OPEN HOUSE EVENTS BRING IN CROWDS - The Fire Department would like to thank all those who came out to attend the open house activities this week. Approximately 650 people came out to the three night event. Visitors enjoyed a barbecue dinner, demonstrations and activities for the kids. The annual open house events gives the Fire Department the chance to open up the stations and show the public our appreciation for their support all year long.