



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

October 26, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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AUSTRALIAN EXCHANGE TEAM VISITS COOS BAY - City manager Bill Grile took a couple of vacation days this week to tour the area with a group of Australians visiting the area as part of a Rotary Friendship Exchange. The group was impressed by the experience they had here and remarked multiple times about the unique beauty of the area ... lest we forget! Four of the Rotarians rode with the CB Police Department on patrol and were privileged to see first-hand the professionalism of our officers here in the City.

ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS HOST LOCAL OFFICIALS - Last night the Associated General Contractors organization hosted Coos Bay, North Bend, Coos County elected and appointed officials at a dinner reception here at Old City Hall. State Sen. Ken Messerle and Representative Joanne Verger were on hand, as were City Manager Bill Grile, Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs and Community Services Operations Administrator Steve Doty from Coos Bay. The gathering provided a great opportunity to network and share concerns about matters of mutual interest.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HOST GOVERNMENT REPORT CARD 2001 - The League of Women Voters will host **Government Report Card 2001** on Saturday, October 27th from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Red Lion Inn in Coos Bay. Local citizens will have an opportunity to listen to elected officials talk about what they have done for voters to date, and audience members can ask questions concerning current issues impacting our area. Topics to be discussed include school funding, zoning and nuisance ordinances, property tax assessments, natural resource management, juvenile justice and other policy issues. Speakers include Oregon State Senator Ken Messerle, Coos Bay Mayor Joe Benetti, North Bend Mayor John Briggs, Coos County Commissioners Pete DeMain, John Griffith and Nikki Whitty, Coos County Sheriff Andy Jackson, Circuit Court Judges Richard Barron, Michael Gillespie and Martin Stone, and Coos County Assessor Bob Main. Tickets to Government Report Card 2001 will be \$7.50 and can be purchased either from a League member or at the door. The admission charge includes hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar will be available. Contact Jennifer Groth at 267-6662 or Judith Van Duzer at 267-6508 for more information.

COOS ART MUSEUM - The final week of the "Bay to Bay", an exhibit of *plein air* paintings by Tony King and William Wheeler, continues through Saturday, October 27th at the Coos Art Museum in Coos Bay. Also on display is the Bay Area Artists Association Regional Juried Show. For more information call 267-3901.

GHOULS, GOBLINS & GIGGLES SHOW - Saturday, October 27th ventriloquist Steve Taylor and his buddy Rudy O'Reilly will present a 45-minute show of magic, ventriloquism, humor and audience participation. The show begins at 11 a.m. at the Coos Bay Public Library, 525 Anderson Avenue. For more information call 269-1101.

TRICK OR TREAT DOWNTOWN - The Downtown Association will again be sponsoring a 'safe trick or treating' program for all children on Halloween, Wednesday, October 31st. Trick or treat downtown businesses beginning at 3 p.m. (city hall included). Dressed in their finest Halloween costumes, children may participate in activities, costume parade and games at the downtown convention center. There will be prizes and free refreshments. The program ends at 7:30 p.m.

TIME CHANGES THIS WEEKEND - "Fall Back" - it is time to change the clocks back one hour on Sunday morning. This is also the perfect time to check your smoke alarms. Change the batteries if necessary and vacuum them to remove dust and cobwebs. If your smoke alarm is over ten years old it is time to replace it with a new one. If you have any questions please call the Coos Bay Fire Department at 269-1191.

LIBRARY STAFF MEMBER MARKS ANNIVERSARY - Library Assistant Barbara Shamet marked her 8th anniversary with the library on October 13th. Barb is an energetic and flexible person who helps all over the library, from children's programs to book processing. She also serves on the AFSCME Safety Committee.

PHOTO EXHIBIT CLOSING SOON AT THE LIBRARY - Images of Laos, Thailand and other far away places were captured by local photographer Douglas Getchell for his show at the library. The show continues through next Wednesday. November's art exhibit features the fiber art of Bandon artist Dru Dunshee.

CITY MANAGER MEASURES UP - The Coos Bay City Council performed their annual evaluation of the city manager Wednesday evening in an executive session held at city hall. Mayor Benetti commented Mr. Grile received an excellent review and the Council is very pleased with his performance. The Council was unanimous in their high evaluation ratings of City Manager Bill Grile's performance and look forward to a positive working relationship in the coming year. Absent from the proceedings were Councilors Don Spangler and Judy Weeks.

FALL INTO BOOKS - Calling all readers in grades K - 12 – here's your chance to win a really great prize during the library's Fall independent reading program, "Fall Into Books." By reading or listening to books on cassette tape from Coos Bay Public Library, children can win one of six \$15 gift certificates to favorite stores. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Library and continues through November 30.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LOSES FIREFIGHTERS - Two members of the fire departments career staff have secured other positions and will leave this week. Lieutenant Bill Johnson leaves the department after 12 years of service to take a position as Deputy Chief of Training in Meridian, Idaho. Firefighter Nick Kelsey leaves the department after 10 years of service to take a position as firefighter at Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue in the Portland area. Congratulations to both, we will miss you, but wish you well in your new endeavors!

4TH AND ELROD OVERLAY PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION - The 4th and Elrod Overlay Project is nearing completion. Last week Bracelin and Yeager was able to complete the overlay work on both streets. The signs will be installed in about six to eight weeks depending on delivery time from the manufacturers. The City street crew has been replacing the crosswalks and legends this week. Striping on 4th and Elrod will be completed once the Sixth Avenue Overlay Project in Eastside is completed, then both projects can be striped. The only other item left to be placed on the 4th and Elrod Project will be a rolled extruded curb at 4th and Anderson to replace the pylons that currently are there to direct southbound traffic. Placing a rolled curb will enable trucks to run over the curb without damage, if necessary, but still retain the right lane as a right turn only to direct traffic to Highway 101.

DOWNTOWN RECRUITMENT TRAINING SCHEDULED! - The retail/commercial recruitment training that was to follow our recent visit from the Oregon Downtown Development Association has been scheduled for December 6, 2001. Mary Bosch, retention/recruitment consultant from Marketek, will be returning to Coos Bay to provide training on how to successfully recruit businesses into our downtown. If you are interested in working towards a vital, prosperous downtown, please plan to attend. Mary tells us that the 4-hour seminar will be fast paced, and those attending will leave with an action plan and assignments! Cost of the seminar is \$20.00, which includes a handbook. If you would like to attend, please contact Community Services at 269-8918 to request an application, or e-mail sshribbs@dcs.coosbay.org. The skills learned can be used to recruit into any retail/commercial space. **If you want to be part of the process to build our community, please consider attending!**

SPORTSMAN PEDWAY INCHES FORWARD - Community Services staff met with representatives from Lon Samuels Architecture and Bracelin & Yeager, contractor, to discuss the time table for moving forward with the Sportsman Pedway. Work has been stalled for the last few months because of deterioration to the south wall that was identified when the old Sportsman Building was cleared away. City staff sought the services of a structural engineer to determine the best way to move forward with repairs to the wall, and has been negotiating with the building owner regarding the repairs that are necessary. Negotiations have been very slow, and complicated, because there is a “shared wall” agreement in place for the wall-the Urban Renewal Agency and building owner each own a portion of the wall that was built on the property line. Recently, city staff hired Stuntzner Engineering to survey the line-a task very complicated by the lack of monumentation remaining from these old plats in downtown Coos Bay.

Work on the north wall of the Pedway continued this week with the application of a coat of sealing concrete. While staff continues to negotiate with the building owner on the south side, those negotiations have not yielded an agreement. If an agreement is not reached within the next week, and in order to move forward and avoid additional deterioration of the wall this winter, the city will authorize application of the “shotcrete” surface to the wall, without completing improvements recommended by the structural engineer to tie the wall back to the building. The tie-backs could be completed after the shotcrete, with a small additional cost. If both the tie-backs and shotcrete are completed, it will take Bracelin & Yeager about 30 days, then the shotcrete must cure for 28 days. Not completing the tie-backs now would shorten that time frame by two weeks. During the cure time, work on the concrete pads and placement of the lighting will occur. Final sealing and painting (5 coats!) and planting of the trees and flowers will occur in the spring as drier weather is necessary to insure a good seal for the painting.

City staff continue to push on this project. We’ve all learned more about shared wall agreements and concrete wall repair methods than we thought we’d ever have to know! The project WILL be beautiful when it is completed, and we WILL have a wonderful new gathering space in downtown. Architect Lon Samuels and Bracelin & Yeager have worked closely with the city to come up with ways to creatively solve some of the problems that have arisen during this project. Community Services staff wish to thank both firms for rising to the challenges and helping us move forward.

If you have any questions regarding the Pedway project, please contact Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs at 269-8918.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Chief Stephen Scibelli of the **North Bend Police Department** and **Chief Chuck Knight** of the **Coos Bay Police Department** wish for parents and their children to have a safe Halloween this year. Chief Scibelli

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and Chief Knight have joined together in providing the following safety tips for both parents and children of the Bay Area.

Be sure your child's costume is not too long. You don't want your child to be tripping over it.

Consider not using simulated knives, guns, or swords. If such props must be used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.

If your child wears a mask, be sure he or she can see out of it clearly. A flashlight will also be of great assistance. Consider using face paint rather than a mask to allow for greater vision.

Costumes, which contain reflective material, are suggested, or you may wish to apply reflectorized tape to clothing. The bag used for candy may also be marked with reflectorized tape for greater visibility at night.

Parents, if you are not accompanying your child, be sure to know where he or she is going and what time they are to return home. An adult should accompany young children of any age. Going in groups or 3 or more is recommended (safety in numbers.)

Teach children to how call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be dialed free from any payphone.

Use sidewalks and cross at designated crosswalks, do not dart into traffic mid-block.

Never approach houses that do not have their front porch light on.

Stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know.

Accept treats only in the doorway. NEVER go into the house.

We suggest you provide a good meal for your child before "trick or treating." This will reduce the temptation to eat treats prior to be checked by a parent.

Parents should check your child's treats before they are allowed to eat them. NEVER eat unwrapped candy or opened candy or fruit given to you on Halloween.

ALWAYS USE GOOD COMMON SENSE

The Coos Bay and North Bend Police Departments will have additional police officers on duty Halloween night for your child's safety. If your child encounters a problem or anything that appears to be suspicious have them contact any police officer or call the appropriate police department. In North Bend, the North Bend Police Department (756-3161) and in Coos Bay, the Coos Bay Police Department (269-8911) should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity or call 911 for emergencies.