



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

November 2, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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**COMPANY'S COMING - BRING OUT THE WELCOME MAT!** - Hats off to Beve Saukko and the Coos Bay/North Bend Tourism and Promotion Committee, for they have been very busy booking conventions in the Bay Area. Conventions to be held in the year 2002 include the Oregon Coast Quilters, Jazz Festival, District 5110 Rotary, Beta Sigma Phi, Oregon Volunteer Firemen and the Oregon Rental Owners Association. Scheduled for 2003 include Quartet and Chorus Competition, TOPS Association, Delta Kappa Gamma and the Jazz Festival. And, booked for 2004 are the Jazz Festival and the Oregon Oddfellows Association. Tentatively scheduled for the year 2004 include the Lions Club, Elks Winter Conference and the Devils Brigade. Each of these conventions brings between 150 - 1500 attendees who enjoy the sights, tastes and sounds of our beautiful Bay Area. Please contact Beve Saukko, Coos Bay/North Bend Tourism and Promotion Director at 269-8921 for more information.

**GOVERNMENT REPORT CARD** - Mayor Benetti participated in the League of Women Voters' Government Report Card program held last Saturday afternoon at the Red Lion. Coos County elected officials were asked to report on their accomplishments over the past year. Well, the City of Coos Bay has been very busy! And there are more projects in the works.

## **Eastside Area**

Eastside Business Committee - Spearheaded by Rex Miller, several Eastside volunteers are working to fix-up, clean-up and improve the area. Their commitment and hard work is making a difference.

Paving Projects - F Street, including curbs and gutters, and storm drain improvement, was done last year. Also completed were 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 'E' to 'F'; 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 'D' to 'I'; 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Coos River Highway to Evergreen. The contract to pave 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue was let in mid-September.

Lights for boat ramp - The boat ramp is a good example of teamwork between agencies. The City of Coos Bay, the Port of Coos Bay and the State Marine Board worked together to develop this wonderful asset to our community. Additional lighting was installed earlier this year.

## **Empire Area**

Empire Streetscape - Period-style lighting and planter boxes were completed May 2000; sidewalks and street trees were done this past summer; and recently, the addition of banners to the light poles along Newmark Avenue.

Gateway/monuments - Architect Rich Turi presented four options for monuments and an option for a welcome sign to be located at the Y intersection. The Urban Renewal Agency will review design options at their Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Wayside/Historic stop - The Urban Renewal Agency has purchased the old Bay Club property and the parcel adjacent to it for future development as a wayside/historic stop. Development of the property is still in the planning stages.

Empire Waterfront - The Urban Renewal Agency purchased property next to the boat ramp for development as a park or RV park, with historic information included. The boat ramp was a joint project with the Oregon State Marine Board – a popular place for boating, crabbing and fishing.

### **Downtown Area**

Historic Museum - In partnership with the Coos Historic Society, the City donated the property for this project. The footprint and early planning was completed in February and March by Coos Historic Society. Fund raising plans are underway. This project has generated a lot of enthusiasm throughout the community.

Railroad Historic Museum - A few years ago Mayor Verger was approached by a very energetic and enthusiastic group of folks interested in building a railroad museum. The Urban Renewal Agency purchased property this year (located across from McDonalds on Hwy 101). Members of the South Coast Chapter of Historic Railways are working diligently to restore Engine 104, a donation from the Coos County Historical Society. They are also seeking funding and grants to build a museum facility and add another engine and car to the collection.

Front Street Redevelopment - Property was purchased and a plan adopted for redevelopment three years ago for the Front Street area. Paving along Front Street was completed this month. There is a lot of history to preserve and a lot of development potential.

Broadway Streetscape - Sidewalk improvements, period-style lighting and plantings were completed in the downtown area from Commercial Avenue through the Theatre District.

Bayshore Streetscape - Beginning at the north end of the boardwalk and moving north, sidewalk improvements, period-style lighting and plantings have greatly enhanced this area. Both streetscapes are a welcome sight to residents and visitors entering or leaving the downtown area.

Boardwalk Aquarium - A partnership spearheaded by Tom Rumreich of ODF&W, and including the Confederated Tribes and the City of Coos Bay has resulted in an aquarium located on the boardwalk. Labor and materials were donated to construct the aquarium and the most recent addition of art work was completed by the Confederated Tribes.

City Dock - This popular facility gives citizens another access to the bay and was completed some years ago. In August 2000, a pumpout station was added for use by boaters. The dock has become a popular stop for the Lady Washington as well as visitors. The City is working to get other tall ships to visit our port.

Mingus Park - The pool bathhouse was completed Sept. 2000. This beautiful facility provides classes and recreation for the whole community and brings many visitors to our area for swim meets. A great asset.

Ballfield - A grant was obtained to replace one set of bleachers at the ballfield; the next phase will be to replace the other set of bleachers, the fence and lights.

Choshi Gardens - Continues to improve through the efforts of Bev Meyers and her group of volunteers.

4<sup>th</sup> and Anderson Alternative - As part of the city's continuing maintenance plan for streets, 4<sup>th</sup> Street and a portion of Elrod are in the process of being resurfaced. The project was made possible through grant funds. Repairs to sidewalks, replacement of some street trees and re-striping are included in the

project.

Also a part of the project is changing the first two blocks of Anderson Avenue to two-way traffic and putting diagonal parking along a portion of the street. It is anticipated the improvements will bring shoppers into the downtown area as well as move traffic in a more efficient pattern. And additional parking is always a benefit!

Parking lot improvements - Completed in April 2000, the parking lots along 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets off of Anderson and Curtis Avenues were resurfaced and also received updated landscaping and period-style lighting. The “facelift” made the lots more user friendly and safer for night-time users. This project ties in with development of the Sportsman Pedway.

Sportsman Pedway - The purpose of this project is to make the theatre district more inviting and open and is expected to be completed in the next month. Landscaping and benches will make this a gathering place as well as an access from parking to businesses located in the theatre district.

Downtown Development - A healthy downtown district is important to every city. At the beginning of October, the Oregon Downtown Development Association was in town for three days and met with business and property owners in the downtown area. From the meetings, a report was made to the community on “what can we do to improve our downtown”. Many good ideas came from the meetings – we have the potential to be a vital downtown and working as a team, it will be accomplished.

ODDA will be in Coos Bay Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> offering a seminar on recruiting businesses. Anyone interested in attending may contact the Community Services Department at 269-8912 for more information.

Almost all of our projects are done with urban renewal funds and many of the projects also receive grant funding. The projects improve our community, improve our quality of life, and they bring money into the local economy. The use of urban renewal funds and grants has an additional benefit – it does not cost the taxpayers additional taxes for the improvements.

Some are done with volunteers; like Choshi Gardens, Coos County Historical Museum, and the Historic Rail Museum, just to name a few . There are many other volunteers throughout the community working to make a difference. Their work is appreciated. Thank you to all!

As a community we have much to be thankful for – we still have some challenges, but there are a lot of positive things happening in our area. The South Coast Development Council has developed a business strategy plan and is actively recruiting businesses for the Bay Area. Local businesses and agencies are building and making improvements. Some projects recently completed or just beginning:

- Bay Area Hospital expansion completed this past year.
- Bi-Mart / old Safeway Plaza - remodeling is currently underway.
- Oregon Federal Credit Union - will be building a new office at First and Johnson.
- SWOCC - completed their performing arts center recently.
- Wal-Mart expansion - in the beginning phases. Wal-Mart will also be partnering with the City for street improvements in the Newmark area.

As Mayor of the City of Coos Bay it is a privilege to serve in a community rich in resources, beauty, and good

## **The Friday Update – November 2, 2001**

### **Page 4**

citizens. I also extend my appreciation to my fellow city councilors and city staff for their work and dedication to the City of Coos Bay.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the city may contact the city manager's office at 269-8912. The city manager is also available by email at [bgrile@coosbay.org](mailto:bgrile@coosbay.org). Mayor's office hours are Wednesday afternoons and appointments may be made through the city manager's office.

Its teamwork that makes our city a great place to live – Keep up the good work everyone!

Mayor Joe Benetti

**WALMART EXPANSION APPROVED** - On Monday evening the Planning Commission approved the site plan for WalMart to expand the existing store to include grocery and dry goods. The expansion will double the size of the store. About 500 additional parking spaces will be provided along with the expansion. A left turn for westbound traffic on Newmark at the Burger King driveway is planned in conjunction with the expansion project (that is, a left turn will be permitted at the west access that is currently right in-right out only). WalMart will be contributing to the future traffic signal at the LaClair and Newmark intersection. Construction for the expansion is expected to begin April 2002 and completed by March 2003.

**COOS BAY/NORTH BEND WATER BOARD WEBSITE** - The Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board website went live in June and has had 469 viewers as of October. A new section has been added called "Customer Information" which contains water saving tips and other useful information. Please visit the site at [www.cbnbh2o.com](http://www.cbnbh2o.com). The website will update information on a regular basis, so check back often.

**COOS ART MUSEUM PRESENTS** - November 2, 2001 through January 19, 2002 see *WoodWorks*, an opportunity to consider the impact of forests, trees and wood upon artists, their works and the viewer. Located in the Maggie Karl Gallery, *WoodWorks* is an exhibit centered around works from the Permanent Collection of the Coos Art Museum featuring paintings, prints and three dimensional pieces inspired by or depicting our wooded surroundings and woodcuts, sculpture and other work in which wood has been an integral part of the creative process. In the Mabel Hansen Gallery you will find multi-color woodblock prints by Oregon artist Walt Padgett with illustrative materials and an explanation of the printing process. For information please call Coos Art Museum at 267-3901.

**PROPOSED FIFTH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT DENIED** - The proposed historic district was denied by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation at its second and final hearing in Salem on Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. There were 51 letters of objection (i.e., 56% of the landowners). According to federal rule, because a majority of owners of private property within the district boundaries object to the listing, the property will not be nominated to the National Register. However, the documentation of the significance of the historic district will be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register for a formal determination of eligibility. If it is determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register, the historic district, although not entered into the National Register, would be granted a measure of protection from adverse effect by federally sponsored undertakings. Regardless, the city plans on moving forward with ordinance provisions for historic districts should the opportunity arise again.