



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

November 9, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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RECYCLING AWARENESS WEEK 2001 - The City of Coos Bay emphasizes Waste Prevention as a way to contribute to Recycling Awareness Week 2001, during the week of November 10 - 17, 2001. Oregonians can celebrate the week by continuing the trend of generating less waste, as noted by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's 2000 Recovery Survey results. In addition to recycling and composting, this is another way for Oregonians to be an active part of the solution to solid waste problems. Oregonians have a lot to celebrate - this year, waste generation was down by 1% from 7.3 lbs per person / per day to 7.2 lbs per person / per day. Additionally, the recovery rate increased from almost 37% in 1999 to nearly 39% in 2000. Consumers can impact the environment in both positive and negative ways through the choices that they make.

Some of the questions that we must ask ourselves when looking to make a purchase are:

- Do I really need this or is there a more productive way to spend my money?
- Can I borrow, rent or buy this used rather than new?
- Is this product made to last? Can I repair it if it breaks? Can the manufacturer use the parts when it can no longer be of use?
- Is this product recyclable when I can no longer use it?
- Is this product made locally, does it have excessive packaging, is the manufacture of it harmful to the environment?

If every Oregonian practiced making sustainable purchasing a part of their lifestyle, we could save a tremendous amount of resources and help prevent the pollution from entering the air, water and land when products are made, transported and disposed instead of being recycled, reused or composted. Be smart, do your part, have fun and prevent waste today! To learn more about what you can do to help the environment, visit the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's website at www.deq.state.or.us.

APPOINTMENT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD - The City Council appointed Bob Adams, Jr. to fulfill an unexpired term on the Library Board last evening. Bob is the IS Manager at Bay Area Hospital and has been in the Bay Area since July 2000. He brings 17 years of experience to the job and is committed to serving the community in many capacities. The City Council and Library Board express their appreciation for his willingness to serve on the board.

COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY STATUS - Coos Bay / North Bend Water Board General Manager Rob Schab recently issued the following comments on the status of the community water supply. The latter part of October has been supplied with much needed precipitation. While recent rains have stabilized the near-term water supplies, sustained rainfall will be needed to refill the Upper Pony Creek Reservoir. Therefore, at this time, the Water Board intends to retain the current conservation alert while assessing rainfall during the next two weeks. Visit www.waterwiser.org for tips on how to reduce water use. Call the Water Board at 267-3128 for more information regarding our local water supply.

FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICATION PROCESS - The fire department will be taking applications for one more week for the Firefighter/Engineer hiring list. The closing date for the process is November 16, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. The written test will be done on Friday, November 30, 2001 at SWOCC's Empire Hall and the physical agility testing will be held December 1st at the SWOCC fire tower. Interviews will be held on December 14th and 15th to establish a list for hiring. If you are interested in a fire service position please call the Finance Department at City Hall 269-8915 for more information.

FIRE CHIEF VISITS NEW YORK'S GROUND ZERO - While teaching class at the National Fire Academy in Emmittsburg, Maryland recently, Fire Chief Stan Gibson had the opportunity to visit the site of the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York City. Chief Gibson spent the day touring "ground zero" with various New York Fire Department officials. Chief Gibson will be sharing his experiences with several service organizations in the coming weeks.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Coos County's Solid Waste Advisory Committee met Wednesday evening at the Coos Bay Public Library for their monthly meeting. DEQ Permitting Engineer Charles Hensley attended the meeting to report the County can burn tires at the Beaver Hill facility. The cost to haulers is estimated at 75 cents per tire or \$72 per ton. Accepting tires may begin as soon as the next couple of weeks. Under other discussion, the County is expected to put out an RFP as to whether Beaver Hill can be used to generate power. If the cost is under \$60,000, the County will cover the cost of the feasibility study. The committee anticipates a brief report on the committee's findings will be presented at the end of December. The committee will meet again December 5, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. at the Coos Bay library.

SOUTH COAST REPRESENTATIVES MEET TO DISCUSS HOUSING REHABILITATION - Representatives from Coos and Curry cities and counties, Reedsport and Florence met this week to discuss Oregon Housing and Community Services' plan to work with local areas to develop Regional Housing Centers. The centers will be a clearing house for various local, state and federal programs that help with home ownership. Programs could include first time home buyers programs, direction to government loan programs and representation of various housing rehabilitation programs including funds available through Community Development. In order to receive Community Development Block Grant funds in the future for Housing Rehabilitation, creation of a Regional Housing Center is required. The benefits to housing rehab and a regional program were discussed with meeting attendees, and an action plan for how the South Coast can participate in the process was drafted. Facilitating the meeting were representatives from the City of Coos Bay, Coos/Curry Housing Authority, Southwestern Oregon Community Action Committee and Umpqua Community Development Center.

ANDERSON ALTERNATIVE MOVES FORWARD - After a small side trip due to an engineering plan that was not approved by ODOT in Salem, and the leaving of the engineer responsible for the project, the Anderson Alternative is back on track, and should occur just after the Holidays. Local ODOT staff have completed a second plan and forwarded it to Salem for approval. They are busily procuring and machining the parts necessary for the new signals at Bayshore and Anderson and Broadway and Anderson. City staff are working closely with ODOT engineers to assure each partner is ready with the tasks required. Only a day or two window in the weather is necessary to put down the new lanes and street legends. It is now likely that all the pieces will come together in mid-late December. The Anderson Alternative will change two blocks of Anderson, from Bayshore to 2nd Street, to two-way traffic. Rather than make the change in the middle of the holidays, staff anticipate the changeover just after the 1st of January. Stay tuned. This great modification to the street patterns in downtown Coos Bay will be here soon! Contact Steve Doty, 269-8918, if you have any questions.

6TH AVENUE PAVING PROJECT MOVES FORWARD - The 6th Avenue Paving Project started this week with paving from the south city limits to "D" Street. The project should finish up next week as weather permits. The project is a great upgrade to the street that began to show major deterioration to the pavement

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due to the volume of traffic that uses Coos River Highway. The City Street crew originally crack sealed all the minor joints and then paving fabric was used. Three and one-half inches of asphalt will be used to provide a good riding surface. Bracelin and Yeager and the City wishes to thank the traveling public for being patience during the traffic delays that have occurred during the paving work.

CITY PARKS CREW ADDS STAFF - The City Parks crew have added an individual to help with work around the various parks. Mark Cobb is working with the State's Jobs Plus Program through South Coast Business Employment Corporation. The City pays one dollar per hour and Jobs Plus Program picks up the remainder of the cost. The timing was perfect. The additional help means that the Parks crew is able to continue their high standard of maintaining the City parks.

NATIVE AMERICAN STORIES FOR CHILDREN AT COOS BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY - Ester Stutzman will present a program of Native american stories for children at the library this Saturday, November 10th, at 11:00 am in the Myrtlewood Room. Stutzman is a traditional American Indian storyteller of Kalapuya/Coos heritage. She learned the stories from her grandmothers and has been telling stories of the ancient ways for over forty years. She works with Title IX Indian Education programs and Arts in Education Programs in Oregon schools. She is also a presenter for the Oregon Chautauqua series and a frequent lecturer at various state colleges and universities. The 45-minute program is free of charge and open to all ages. It is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK POSTER DISPLAY AT THE LIBRARY - It's time for the great 13th annual Children's Book Week poster display at the library. Children's Book Week is a national event for November 12th through 18th. It's an opportunity for students Kindergarten through grade five to draw a poster, have their work on public display at the library and win a small prize. Area teachers are helping their students draw, color, paint make a collage or use any other medium to create a poster on the topic of their favorite book. The deadline for submitting posters is November 9th. Entries will be shown at the library from November 12th through mid-December. Youth Librarian Pat flitcroft is also visiting School District 9 classrooms all day on November 16th to tell stories and share wonderful books.

SENIOR DAY AT THE LIBRARY - Next Tuesday, November 13th, Senior Day at the Library will feature a showing of the video "Land of the Eagle: The Great Encounter/Confronting the Wilderness." This PBS video explores the role of Native Americans in the survival of the first colonists. The free program is sponsored by Friends of the Library and includes refreshments and good conversation as well as the featured video.

SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN! - The community is invited to begin the holiday season with the City's annual tree lighting ceremony. The event will be held on Friday, November 23, 2001 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Downtown Convention Center, 158 Central Avenue. The evening will be filled with music provided by The Bay Area Concert Band, singing of Christmas carols, refreshments provided by the Downtown Association, special Christmas Bear door prizes, pictures with Santa, and carriage rides for children. Santa will arrive by horse-drawn carriage at 6:30 p.m. and assist Mayor Benetti with lighting the Christmas trees. Children will have an opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa and carriage rides for all children will be offered throughout the evening. The event is co-sponsored by the City of Coos Bay and the Downtown Association.