



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 15, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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VISITORS FROM INDONESIA - A delegation from the city of Bitung, Indonesia visited the Bay Area this week as participants in the International Resource Cities Program. This is the second visit by Indonesian officials to the Bay Area to study local government operations. The focus of meetings with local municipal and business leaders was on port development, industry, and tourism. During their first visit in November last year Indonesian delegates met with the mayor and city department heads, port and school officials, and attended the city council meeting to learn about government on the city level. The visits have also included tours of the area.

SPRING BREAK - Just a reminder to everyone Spring Break for students is the week of March 25th. Drive carefully and watch the cross walks for pedestrians.

MINGUS PARK POOL TO CLOSE FOR MAINTENANCE- The Mingus Park pool will be closed April 1st through April 5th for routine maintenance and safety inspections. Each year the City is required by the State to open the boiler up for inspection. At the same time, city crews remove and place new sand in the filters that the pool water goes through. The City also will be placing a new chemical controller that monitors and injects the chemicals into the water to keep the water at a safe level for the swimmers. During the closure, the City also will replace a valve and other miscellaneous tubing that is beginning to leak and show signs of wear. It is anticipated that the pool will be up and running by Saturday, April 6th barring any significant problems/complications with the closure.

TREE CITY USA - The City of Coos Bay has been awarded once again Tree City USA status. This will be the eighth year in row that the City has received this award. The City must meet certain criteria to maintain the Tree City USA status including having a Tree Board that oversees tree activities in the parks and public right of ways, spending \$1.00 per capita on tree maintenance and care and having a Tree Ordinance. The recognition of the award will probably be the first Council meeting in April.

COOS COUNTY GETS DISASTER DECLARATION - The President has given several counties in Oregon disaster recognition due to the storm that came through the afternoon of February 7, 2001. What this means to the City is that the city should be able to recover 75% of the expenses for overtime and equipment used during clean-up. The City accounted for approximately \$12,379 in expenses with \$5,310 for overtime and the remaining \$7,069 for equipment. Staff will be attending a meeting next week to receive information on the procedures for applying for funding from FEMA.

THE LADY WASHINGTON IS RETURNING - The Lady Washington is returning to Coos Bay for a another visit. She will be in port from April 20th through May 5th and will be moored at the Coos Bay City Dock along Highway 101. Stay tuned for more information on the activities that the ship will have when in port. For more information contact Beve Saukko with the Coos Bay/North Bend Promotions & Convention Bureau at 541-269-8921 or e-mail tourism@harborside.com.

SCHONEMAN AND NEWMARK TOWN HALL MEETING - City Manager Bill Grile, Police Chief Chuck Knight, Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs, Sergeant Darrell King and Operations Administrator Steve Doty met with 20-25 city residents regarding efforts being made to improve pedestrian safety at the corner of Schoneman and Newmark. The meeting was held at Sunset Middle School, and had been rescheduled from February 7th when the meeting was cancelled due to power outages after the wind storm. Schoneman and Newmar was the site of a serious injury accident to two high school girls in October 2001,

and has been under scrutiny since then by citizens and city staff to find ways to improve safety. Chief Knight reported on police efforts for speed control and enforcement of the laws involving pedestrian/vehicle interactions. Shanda Shribbs reported on additions to the signage at the intersection, and the crosswalk improvements that are coming. Community members had many questions regarding the laws covering pedestrian/vehicle interactions and asked for assistance in mounting a public information campaign so that all school children, and our citizens were better informed on the rules of the road. City staff continue to assess options, and will be continuing to watch this corner to see if the enhancements improve the situation, or if further improvements are necessary. Staff is very appreciative of citizens Linda King and Kathy Cleary for their assistance in scheduling the meeting, and in working with city staff to improve the area.