



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 22, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY	500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420	(541) 269-8912
See us at http://www.coosbay.org	Email the city manager at bgrile@coosbay.org	

CITY BUDGET FOR FY 2002-2003 FACES SERIOUS CHALLENGES - Two weeks ago City Manager Bill Grile informed the City Council that Coos Bay's budget for next fiscal year will be facing serious revenue shortfalls and that the Council and Budget Committee will have some hard work to do this spring as options are identified and evaluated, and decisions made about how best to maintain existing services and programs. Tuesday night the city manager gave the Council a detailed briefing with a PowerPoint presentation to help get a better understanding about how the challenges have arisen and what their impacts mean. Melanie Johnston from the Police Dept. read a prepared statement to the Council addressing a series of concerns about the shortfalls and Randy Miles, President of the Coos Bay Fire Fighters Association, added to these with additional questions and advice for the Council. Annette Miles and Bob Miles added their thoughts as well, as did AFSCME union representative Neil Bednarczyk. The Coos Bay Police Officers Association was well represented at Tuesday evening's Council meeting and although the Association had issued a press release with concerns about the proposed layoff of three dispatchers, no additional thoughts about the budget shortfall were expressed to the Council that night.

For a copy of the city manager's PowerPoint (.ppt) presentation, please send an email to bgrile@coosbay.org and request that it be emailed back. The Coos Bay Budget Committee has four meetings scheduled beginning at 7:00 p.m. on April 22nd in the Coos Bay Public Library. As always, public attendance and input at these meetings is welcome.

MUSIC ON THE BAY - Music on the Bay [MOB] will present the Ron Eschete Trio in concert on Sunday, March 24th at 7 p.m. at the SWOCC performing arts center. Tickets are \$15 and are available at Off the Record in North Bend and at the Coos Bay and North Bend branches of US Bank. Tickets will also be available at the door.

NEW SPRING BANNERS ARE UP - The new spring banners are up along Bayshore, Broadway and Newmark. The banners will remain up until mid-May when they will be replaced with the banners that commemorate Memorial Day, Flag Day and the 4th of July. If you haven't noticed, take a drive around and take a look at the new banners.

THERE'S A NEW BUSINESS IN TOWN! - Reliance Systems has opened its doors at 135 Anderson Avenue in downtown Coos Bay next to The Pottery Store. The owners are Robert Pond, Brad Laird and Mike Odekirk. They've found a special niche in the computer market, targeting a specialty line for children's computers. They also custom build personal computers and other specialty services such as multi-media theaters. Check out their pricing and full warranty and services. WELCOME to the new business in town. We're glad you made downtown Coos Bay your home.

MEET COUNTY CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER KRISTY HARVEY - The new county Code Compliance Officer, Kristy Harvey, stopped by city hall this week and met with staff. Ms. Harvey previously worked in the area for the Oregon Housing Authority and has a good rapport with property owners and renters associations. Her main objective is to bring about voluntary compliance of code violations by working with people to move in the right direction. Ms. Harvey's energy and grasp of the challenges ahead of her makes her a welcome addition to the bay area.

NEWMARK & SHONEMAN UPDATE - The Newmark and Shoneman crosswalk hatching was completed this week. City crews placed the new neon green and white hot tape in each of the crosswalks across Newmark. With the addition of the new neon signing, the intersection is marked very well for the traveling public. When you have a chance drive by and take a look. The City will be placing this tape at other selected crosswalks around town.

BRUSH IN THE RIGHT OF WAY - Spring is on the way and the vegetation along the right of ways is beginning to grow and cause problems for pedestrians and cars. Remember vegetation along the right of way out to the curb or edge of pavement/edge of gravel that is abutting your property is your responsibility to keep trimmed back. Vegetation overhanging sidewalks must be kept trimmed to a height of eight (8) feet above the sidewalk and twelve (12) feet over the street. Being proactive will save the City time and money by not having to investigate complaints about overgrowing vegetation and help out the drivers and pedestrians who use the street and/or sidewalk in front of your property.

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.

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 to 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.

TREE TRIMMING FOR DOWNTOWN TREES - Trimming some of the downtown trees should start within the next couple of weeks. The quotes to prune approximately 35 trees have been received and the trees have been flagged. There may be some minor inconvenience periodically while trimming the trees and any questions can be directed to Steve Doty at 269-8918.

POLICE RECRUIT GRADUATING - Officer Chris Chapanar has successfully completed the ten-week Oregon Police Academy Basic Police Course and is scheduled to participate in graduation ceremonies at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 22nd. Oregon Police Academy's curriculum covers topics such as Oregon criminal and traffic laws, liability issues, constitutional and civil rights, defense tactics and emergency vehicle operation. Officer Ryan Wolgamott is currently attending the Eugene Police Department-coordinated academy and is scheduled for completion in early June, 2002.