



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

July 19, 2002

City of Coos Bay

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THE CITY OF COOS BAY - NORTH BEND? - This is most likely old news to most of you but the city consolidation issue has moved forward to the next step in the consideration process. Sufficient petitions have been submitted to the cities and certified by the Coos County Clerk. This means an election on the issue will eventually be held. But will the election be this fall in November? Or will it be 18 months later than then in May 2004? The answer depends on whether or not certain statutory requirements can be met in time to allow the vote to occur this fall. The Coos Bay City Council is eager to see a vote this fall. The North Bend City Council has not said it is opposed to this but also wants to make sure it doesn't rush to judgment without knowing and understanding all the facts associated with this complex issue.

Next Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Coos Bay City Hall, a "joint convention" of the two city councils will be held. Under Oregon law, the two councils are required to meet, review the petitions, address certain land use planning requirements, then appoint a pair of representatives from each city to serve on a "charter commission." This commission is responsible for producing the charter for the proposed City of Coos Bay - North Bend. If that work is completed and approved by the two councils at a second joint meeting held before August 6th, then the consolidation election will be held this next November. If the August 6th deadline is missed, then the election will be held in May 2004 – the earliest under law that this can occur. The meeting next week will include an opportunity for public comments.

FIRE SEASON—BE PRUDENT - It doesn't take long for the grass and brush to get out of hand this time of year and create a fire and safety hazard. The city continues to receive calls about neighbors who are remiss in keeping hazards to a minimum. This is a reminder to keep the grass and brush cut on your property and in the area next to the street by your house. There are a lot of people out walking and enjoying the summer weather and safety concerns extend to those driving as well as walking. We must work together to avoid any unfortunate accidents that may impact not just our neighbors, but our entire city.

SPORTSMAN PEDWAY PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION - The Sportsman Pedway Project is winding down with the painting of the wall this week and the final walk through to completed soon. Though the project was delayed in the construction phase, it has turned out great. Take a stroll through and enjoy our downtown.

MARSHFIELD STREET OVERLAY PROJECT TO BEGIN - The Marshfield Street Overlay work is to begin next week with City crews removing asphalt along South 10th Street from Johnson Avenue south to Kruse Avenue. The street will be closed to through traffic during the day and open at night. The Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board will also be working in the area replacing existing water service and eventually eliminating an old water line along the west side of Johnson. Any questions concerning the project can be addressed to the Dept. of Community Services at 269-8918.

COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND PARTICIPATION - Officer Rod Schweitz of the Coos Bay Police Department participated last weekend in a concert performed by the Community Concert Band. Conductor, Bob Gillette announced his thanks to the Coos Bay Police Department for allowing Officer Schweitz to

participate. The police department is proud to support local events for the benefit of all people in our community.

CAPTAIN WASHBURN APPOINTED TO COMMITTEE - Police Department Captain Eura Washburn has been appointed to represent the South Coast on the statewide port security steering committee. The committee was formed in response to the federal Hollings bill for National Security. The first meeting of the steering committee is set for August and will deal with issues of domestic security and coordinated response to terrorism.

DMV ANNOUNCES "PARK AND SELL" RULES The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles has filed notice for adoption of a rule to address the issue of unlicensed vehicle dealers who operate "park and sell" used car lots in Oregon. These operations typically involve a property owner who allows private parties to display vehicles on their property in exchange for a monthly fee. The proposed rule describes when the property owner is considered to be acting as a vehicle dealer. Persons having questions about the proposed rule can visit <http://www.odot.state.or.us/rules> for information.

COOS BAY FIREFIGHTERS HELP IN JACKSON COUNTY - Oregon's 2002 wildfire season is in full swing. With dozens of large wildfires burning throughout the State, Governor John Kitzhaber declared a state of emergency on Tuesday. This Conflagration declaration allows for the use of National Guard troops as well as Municipal and County firefighters in suppression efforts. Coos County resources have been activated to help with the firefighting efforts. Early Wednesday morning a fire engine from Coos Bay joined a fire engine from North Bend, a water tanker (tender) from Coquille and two brush-fire trucks from Bandon and headed to Jackson County. The "Squire Peak" fire, 15 miles East of Jacksonville, has burned over 2,000 acres and threatened 200 homes. Locally, fire protection will not be significantly effected. Although the Coos Bay Fire Department sent five firefighters to the Jackson County fire, 15 career and 21 volunteer firefighters remain in the area to provide protection to the City. Additionally, each of Coos County's fire departments are sensitive to the potential fire dangers and will be quick to offer assistance in the event of a significant emergency. Costs associated with this activation (including equipment and manpower) are reimbursed by the State.

ANOTHER TALL SHIP TO VISIT CITY DOCK! - Baring bad weather, the tall ship Hawaiian Chieftain <<http://www.hawaiianchieftain.com/>> will arrive at Coos Bay City Dock on Friday, August 2nd and depart Saturday evening August 3rd. Two sailing tours are planned during her short stay. The Hawaiian Chieftain is a replica of a typical European merchant trader of the turn of the nineteenth century. Her hull shape and rigging are similar to those of Spanish explorer's ships used in the expeditions of the late eighteenth century along the California coast. Built of steel in Hawaii in 1988, she is a topsail ketch, 103 feet long. The Chieftain has sailed Pacific waters from Hawaii to California, conducting: pleasure and sunset sails <<http://www.hawaiianchieftain.com/EveryWeek.html>> ; battle re-enactments <<http://www.hawaiianchieftain.com/special.html>> ; overnite sails <<http://www.hawaiianchieftain.com/special.html>> ; private charters <<http://www.hawaiianchieftain.com/charters.html>> ; and extensive education programs <<http://www.hawaiianchieftain.com/rvoyages.html>> on sail training and history. Her home port is Sausalito, California. Kudos to Coos Bay - North Bend Tourism and Promotions director Beve Saukko for arranging this!