



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

July 26, 2002

City of Coos Bay

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COOS BAY AND NORTH BEND COUNCILS PUSH CONSOLIDATION FORWARD -- Wednesday evening in the Bay Area as the Coos Bay and North Bend City Councils took formal action to push the question of whether the two cities should consolidate forward to a vote of the people. The action came at a "joint convention" of the two cities where each were required to review the form of consolidation petitions-- History was made last, confirm that sufficient signatures had been submitted to call for a vote of the people, and finally determine whether certain land use requirements were satisfied. Acting on several separate motions, each council voted unanimously on approval motions, then independently appointed two members from each city to a special "charter commission" that will have sixty days under Oregon law to draft a new charter for the proposed City of Coos Bay – North Bend. Representing North Bend on the commission will be Charles Graham and Pat Choat Pierce, and for Coos Bay will be Roger Gould and Jerry Lesan.

The action did not come before much thought by the two councils and conflicting legal advice from their attorneys. After debate and a close examination of the Oregon laws governing their action, the two councils decided that their role was limited to approving the "form" of the petitions and that this did not require them to rule on the substantive merit of whether a proposed budget filed along with the petitions proved economic feasibility for the proposed new city. Rather, this determination was to come later by the voters. As the councils' decisions were structured this week, Coos Bay and North Bend voters will get their chance to vote on consolidation in May 2004 – the next earliest date allowed by law since the question will not be on this fall's ballot.

The debate about the feasibility of consolidating the cities will continue on in the mean time. Earlier this week, Coos Bay city manager Bill Grile asked League of Oregon Cities executive director Ken Strobeck if his organization could assist by preparing a model budget showing what services might cost for a typical city of 25,000 people. The answer was yes. The North Bend Council has shown no interest in having this work completed but the Coos Bay Council seems to feel otherwise. Yesterday morning Coos Bay Mayor Joe Benetti indicated that he would like to see the League present a formal written scope for the work along with a cost estimate. Earlier, executive director Strobeck indicated he felt the cost would be around \$5,000. It seems likely this effort will proceed with either Coos Bay or Coos Bay and private donors financing the project.

Following the unanimous votes to proceed with a May 2004 consolidation election, both city councils received a sincere round of applause by Wednesday evening's packed house at Coos Bay City Hall. The councils seemed in agreement that it would be constructive to have staff from both cities continue to examine budget issues and other consolidation details in order to help establish a solid factual base for the important vote that to come in 18 months.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES CONTEST FOR LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS -- The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce has announced a storefront window decorating contest and is encouraging all area business owners to participate. The Chambers is encouraging businesses to decorate the windows of their storefronts for Fun Festival Weekend, September 21 and 22, and compete for one of the three trophies that will be awarded! Decorations must follow the festival theme "Celebrate Red, White & Blue in 2002." Entries will be judged on Monday, September 16th so that the winners may display their trophies during festival weekend. For details and entry forms, please contact Connie Davis at the Chamber at 269-0215 or cdavis@uci.net <<mailto:cdavis@uci.net>>.

RECORD FISH RUNS MEAN TOURISM PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES - This fall Oregon will see record fisheries (runs) of Chinook in many coastal rivers. Fish levels will be at a 15-year high, with river conditions and fish sizes ideal for sport fishing vacations. The list at the end of this messages shows the rivers where the runs will occur and the nearby communities. These runs offer an excellent opportunity to promote sport fishing and bring in tourism dollars in your area.

Travel agents and hotels can sell package vacations that include one-day fishing tags. Hotels, motels, and other businesses can buy one-day fishing passes from ODFW in packets of 20, for \$162.50 (\$6.50 per pass) and then sell each pass for \$8 to hotel guests. Unused passes can be turned into ODFW at the end of the year for a refund. Passes have to be sold in person for \$8 each, so once a guest arrives at a hotel, they will need to fill out a short form to get their one-day license/tag. Fishing passes also are available through fishing guide and charter groups.

We encourage you to share this information with travel agents and motels and hotels in your area. You also may want to work with the Oregon Tourism Division to promote your city's tourism opportunities.

[This article by Ann Snyder, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife]

METHAMPHETAMINE PROJECT COMMUNITY MEETING - Police Chief Knight participated at a community meeting sponsored by the Methamphetamine Project last Tuesday night at the Celebration Center in North Bend. More than two hundred people showed up to view the film Broken Lives, and to hear panel members discuss the negative impact of methamphetamine abuse has on our community. Other participants included Michael Gillespie, Coos County Circuit Court Judge, Ron Akers, North Bend Police Captain, Paul Burgett, Coos County District Attorney, Dan Looney, SCINT, Paul Mueller and Al Neubauer, ADAPT, Lisa, a former female addict, and Emery, a former teen addict. Attorney Mike Lehman facilitated the meeting, which was organized by the Project Coordinator, Larry Frerkes.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA SYSTEM TRAINING - All police department staff are in the process of completing their annual refresher training on the Law Enforcement Data System. The annual training is required for all police department members having access to the data system which allows access to Department of Motor Vehicle files, the National Crime Files, and other databases used by law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

RUSSIAN GRADUATE STUDENT VISITS COOS BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY - The library is pleased to have Elena Belyaeva, who is completing her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science, visiting through mid-August. Elena, who is from Russia, is getting her library degree from Emporia State University in Kansas. She is doing a practicum at Coos Bay and North Bend Public Libraries, working full time to do public library fieldwork as part of her graduate program. We are enjoying Elena and learning from her as she learns from us. We thank Coos Bay's Ann Keizer for connecting Elena with the libraries.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM - The summer reading program is well underway at Coos Bay Public Library, encouraging children of all ages to read during the summer months. Coos Bay is taking part in the statewide program sponsored by Oregon Library Association (OLA), "Don't Bug Me, I'm Reading." OLA has paid for professionally designed thematic program materials. Youth Librarian Pat Flitcroft has been bringing some excellent speakers and performers to Coos Bay, sponsored by Friends of the Library. The next program on August 1 features Celeste Rose of Eugene, "The Great and Wonderful Marionette Flea Circus." Rose's past programs have been so popular that two free presentations will be offered, at 11:00 am and again 6:30 pm. Summer Reading Program continues through August 7th with weekly story times, crafts, independent reading activities, and prizes donated by local businesses.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE - It has been two months since the Friends of the Coos Bay Public Library have held one of their popular used book sale, so the boxes of sale items have been mounting up. The next really big sale will be Saturday and Sunday, August 3 and 4, held in both library-meeting rooms. Most books and other items are 25 cents. There is also a special book table with prices up to \$7, and a collector's book room, too.

METHAMPHETAMINE PROJECT STARTS - The City is partnering with the Methamphetamine Abuse Prevention and Intervention Project on a new component in the program's efforts to empower residents to impact the drug problem in their neighborhoods. After the residents have been taught how to be the "eyes and ears" of law enforcement, a new sign is put up in the neighborhood to let drug suspects know the community will be watching them and reporting their actions to the police. The first sign was installed this past week at the corner of South 10th Street and Ferguson Avenue. The signs read: " Not Now, Not Here, Not Anymore: Not in our Neighborhoods, Schools, Workplace or Community." City staff installs the sign on poles already available, or on poles that are provided by the Meth Project. One neighborhood at a time we will improve our city!

AND ON A PERSONAL NOTE - Community Services staff is wishing OMI Project Manager Steve Simpson congratulations this week after his amazing finish at the Oregon Bowhunter=s 2002 State 3-D Championships in Lebanon last weekend. Steve shoots in the "Hunter Freestyle Class. After trailing the defending champion by 19 points the first day, Steve made a dramatic come-from-behind finish on the second day to even the score. This forced the two archers into a sudden death shoot-off. On the very first sudden-death target, Steve outscored his competition 10 - 8, to take the State Championship. Steve placed 3rd in this event last year. We think Steve is tops in a lot of ways, and here is just one more! Congratulations, Steve B - you make a bull's eye with us!