



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

August 30, 2002

City of Coos Bay

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**LABOR DAY** – City hall administrative offices and the public library will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The City Council and Staff wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.

**IBO PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>** – After a brief summer break, the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce IBO Forum luncheons are back on schedule. The first forum will be Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> and the program will be Coos Bay Mayor Joe Benetti and City Councilors. The program begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Mill Casino Hotel in the Cook Shack Room. Cost is \$8.75 for members, \$10 for non-members. RSVP the Chamber at 269-0215 or [cdavis@uci.net](mailto:cdavis@uci.net)

**MUSIC IN MINGUS** – Music on the Bay [MOB] will present concerts in the park every Wednesday at 7 p.m. during the month of September. The concerts will take place on the stage [just below the pool facility] and everyone is invited to attend. In the event of rain, the concerts will be held at the Marshfield High School auditorium. The schedule is as follows September 4<sup>th</sup> – Acoustic Excellence featuring John Standefer; September 11<sup>th</sup> – September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial; September 18<sup>th</sup> – Curtis Salgado; and September 25<sup>th</sup> Pink Martini.

**SHERIFF FAILS TO SUPPORT JOINT 9-1-1 CONSOLIDATION PLAN** – After weeks of negotiations a tentative agreement on the consolidation of 9-1-1 services was approved by the North Coos County Intergovernmental Council earlier this week, but rejected by Sheriff Andy Jackson and apparently others in the South Coos County Intergovernmental Council. HB3977 approved by the Oregon Legislature in the 2001 regular session mandated a plan to be submitted by each County prior to September 1, 2002. To the dismay North County 9-1-1, the plan was not signed by South County. In light of the mandate under HB3977, the plan, signed by North Coos 9-1-1 was submitted Friday to Oregon Emergency Management. The plan had called for the consolidation of 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering to be moved into one Public Safety answering Point under the direction of an independent governing body. With the location to be determined by the 9-1-1 manager and the governing body.

The South County decision to not approve the joint plan came as a surprise to Coos Bay Police Chief Chuck Knight, who had spent time with Sheriff Jackson attempting to meet the statutory goal of submitting a joint plan. “Sheriff Jackson could not offer a reason for the refusal,” said Chief Knight when asked to explain the sheriff’s inaction to City Manager Bill Grile. “This is just a continuation of a long chain of examples where the two ends of this county have not been able to get together for the benefit of the people we are striving to serve efficiently,” said Grile this morning. “I’m going to be asking for a meeting involving the Sheriff, Chief Knight and Mayor Joe Benetti so that we can at least learn first-hand what the reason is for this latest surprise,” he added. If the people of Coos County understood the safety risks they are being exposed to by all these politics, and the cost for the inefficiency of two 9-1-1 centers, they would be outraged!

**COQUILLE TRIBAL POLICE HOSTS POLICE LEADERSHIP TEAM** – The monthly leadership meeting of the Coos Bay Police Department was hosted this week by the Coquille Tribal Police Department. Coos Bay Police leadership team consisting of police department supervisors and senior staff meet regularly with community partners to discuss topics of mutual concern. Previous meetings have included representatives from the media, social service agencies, school officials, and private partners within the community. Chief Knight and Captain Washburn are grateful to Chief LaFevre for his hospitality in sponsoring this months meeting.

**FORENSIC ACADEMY SCHEDULED** – In response to the closure of the Oregon State Police Crime Lab in Coos Bay, the Oregon State Police has scheduled a Forensic Academy to be held next month in Coos Bay. Police officers from local police agencies will receive hands on experience in recognition, documentation, processing, and submission of evidence to the regional crime lab in Springfield or other designated lab. The thirty-two hour class is limited to 25 officers from the South Coast.

**S.C.I.N.T. HEARING SET** – The final hearing before the Coos County Commissioners on the proposed South Coast Interagency Team taxing district will be held September 3, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Coos County Annex in Coquille.

**OMI BURNS THE MIDNIGHT OIL** – While not really midnight, OMI crews are starting work at 4 a.m. in order to clean storm water lines and catch basins in high traffic areas through out the city. By starting early, more work can be accomplished in four hours than working eight hours during a normal shift because there are less cars parked on or near the basins, traffic is very minimal and there is minimal need for traffic control. With most businesses being closed, there are very few pedestrians and no impact to the business owners. This shift change provides a safer environment for the public and OMI associates. Getting the job done in Coos Bay means being creative and FLEXIBLE!

**RESCUE MISSION HELPS CITY** – The South Coast Gospel Mission has again stepped up to the plate and helped the City with the weeding of the bump-outs and around the trees in the Empire area. This is the second time the Mission has helped the City with this work. The Mission will continue to monitor area and make sure the area continues to look good. As the City tries to reorganize after our recent layoffs, and looks forward to other budget challenges, these kind of partnership will be more and more important. Thanks again to Bill Parham and all the Mission workers for contributing to a worthwhile project.

**FUN FESTIVAL WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER** – Join in the fun and celebrate living in this wonderful community and great country. This year's festival theme is "Celebrate Red, White & Blue in 2002". Don't miss September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in downtown Coos Bay. There will be activities, entertainment, crafts and food booths, the annual Prefontaine Run, and parade.

**VACANCY ON THE PARKS COMMISSION** – Applications for a citizen-at-large position on the Parks Commission will be accepted in the City Manager's Office through 5 p.m. September 9, 2002. The appointment will be to complete an unexpired term ending December 31, 2004. Application and information about the Parks Commission is available at city hall or by calling 269-8912 during normal business hours.

**STATE AGENCIES TO MAKE BIG BUDGET CUTS** – This week City Manager Bill Grile traveled to Salem to sit as an ex-officio member of the Land Conservation of Development Commission's Local Official Advisory Committee. Grile serves in this role at the request of the League of Oregon Cities. LCDRC is looking to make cuts as deep as 30%, as are other state agencies, in response to Oregon's current budget crises. For LCDRC, over \$1.7 million may be cut in the near future. "This may not be a disaster at all," explained Grile. "I told LCDRC director Paul Curcio that his agency needed to evaluate the benefit of the services it delivers compared to the cost and should survey city and county planning directors as to the value they see from the state agency's programs. "All public bodies should be making these evaluations so that the voting and taxpaying public can make informed decisions," he added.

**CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER REDUCING HOURS AT CITY HALL** – This week Governor Kitzhaber stressed urgency regarding the State's ongoing budget shortage, describing "*a structural budget deficit in Oregon.*" Three weeks ago the League of Oregon Cities issued a major press release about the serious financial challenges facing all of Oregon's cities. As reported in *The Oregonian*: "*(t)he budget problems of state government and school districts may be the squeaky wheel, but Oregon's cities ride on a wobbly financial undercarriage and are headed to the ditch, according to a League of Oregon Cities report.*" "The City of Coos Bay faces its own challenges," said City Manager Bill Grile. "It has not been and will not be possible to maintain all the programs and services Coos Bay residents have come to enjoy without sufficient resources needed to sustain these," he added. Last spring the City laid off 12 employees (11.5 FTE). Even so, Coos Bay's FY 2002-2003 General Fund budget is operating today with expenditures exceeding income by \$650,000.

To continue our course *without additional fees or taxes*, additional cuts must be made. These will require some major adjustments ... and new ways of doing things. Department heads and many employees are already feeling strained by the cuts that were completed last spring. In short, work backlogs are developing and city staff are feeling strained to maintain the pace. In order to continue *deferring requests for additional fees or taxes*, the city manager is asking the City Council next Tuesday night to authorize a slight reduction in the hours that City Hall is open to the public. "While I make this request reluctantly and with full understanding of the inconvenience the reduced hours will cause for some of the public, I believe strongly that the option is still preferable to the alternative of implementing the revenue enhancement ideas discussed this spring during our budget meetings," Grile's report to the City Council states. "Although you may differ with my opinion, I believe the vast majority of Coos Bay's residents and tax payers would strongly favor reduced public hours for City Hall versus increased fees or taxes to avoid this," Grile writes in his report.

The proposal before the Council is to change the hours that City Hall is open to the public to 10:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Police Department will continue to operate 24x7x365 as it does currently, with a phone system functioning effectively, allowing the public visiting City Hall any hour of the day or night to talk

“live” with Police personnel. If you have opinions about his, please come to the City Council meeting Tuesday evening and express them.

**CONSULTANT TO STUDY CONSOLIDATION BUDGET** – Questions about the validity of a proposed budget for the proposed City of Coos Bay – North Bend have been in the air for several weeks now. Coos Bay’s proposal to have the League of Oregon Cities put together an analysis of the budget were rejected first by North Bend, then later by the League due to North Bend’s unwillingness to participate. Two weeks ago the Coos Bay City Council directed city manager Bill Grile to communicate directly with the consultant the League was going to use for its study and to proceed with a contract for the work due to the value the study would have to those voters wishing to have more information. This week city manager Bill Grile authorized E.D. Hovee and Company ([www.edhovee.com](http://www.edhovee.com)) to proceed with the budget analysis under a contract for services with cost identical to that which would have been charged by the League, but with a revised scope that will provide a stronger analysis than the one that would have been done by the League. That scope was reached in a conference involving Eric Hovee, Grile and Coos Bay finance director Janell K. Howard, CPA. For a copy of the revised scope, email Grile at [bgrile@coosbay.org](mailto:bgrile@coosbay.org) and ask for the information. The report will take about a month to complete.