



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 6, 2002

City of Coos Bay See us at http://www.coosbay.org	500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420 Email the city manager at bgrile@coosbay.org	[541-269-8912]
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SEPTEMBER 11TH EVENTS – There are a number of events taking place in the Bay Area in remembrance of September 11th.

1) 8:30 am - 9:00 am, the South Coast Chorale for the Rolling Requiem will perform selections from Mozart's Requiem. This chorale is one of the more than 140 chorales around the world who will be performing the Requiem to honor those lost and those who helped on September 11, 2001. The goal is to have choirs performing in each time zone around the globe, beginning at 8:46 am, the moment of the first attack. In Coos Bay, the chorale, made up of individuals from Coos Bay, North Bend and surrounding cities will be performing on Coos Bay's Downtown Boardwalk. For more information about the local group, contact Phil Drehmer, 541-759-3098 or Monita Johnson, 541-756-4732. For information about the International Rolling Requiem, and for other cities that are participating, see www.rollingrequiem.org.

2) 12:00 noon, Coos Bay Boardwalk, "A Season of Hope." A non-denominational prayer gathering. Time: 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm. For more information, contact Rick Stevens at 541-269-2022.

3) 12:00 noon, the American Legion Bay Area Post 34 will perform a flag disposal ceremony at their hall in North Bend, Oregon. Torn, dirty or tattered American flags can be dropped off at the Oregon State Employment Office, 2075 Sheridan Ave., North Bend. For more information, contact Mark Dostal, 541-756-8459, or Jackie Collison, 541-756-1160.

4) A Ceremony of Remembrance, will take place at 7:00 pm at the Mingus Park Stage in Coos Bay, Oregon. Sponsored by the City of Coos Bay and the City of North Bend, elected officials and public safety officers representing the federal, state and local levels will perform readings along the themes of Remembrance for those that lost their lives, Honor for our heroes at all levels and Hope for the future. Music will be provided by the South Coast Lab Band, and a community sing-a-long will be led by area children. The ceremony will be wrapped up by a Walk of Remembrance around Mingus Lake where luminaries for each of the public safety officers that lost their lives on September 11 will be burning. For more information, contact Coos Bay Fire Chief Stan Gibson, 541-269-1191, or sgibson@ucinet.com.

COOS ART MUSEUM SEPTEMBER FEST FUNDRAISER – The Coos Art Museum will hold their Fall fundraiser – September Fest – on Saturday, September 28th at the Coos Bay Convention Center in downtown Coos Bay. The event will feature a genuine oompah band, authentic Bavarian foods and a variety of auction items including distinctive, hand-decorated mugs, high-quality artwork and many goods and services. The mugs, a collaborative effort of the Bay Area Artist's Association, SWOCC, and the Pottery Company, are individually hand-painted and signed by each artist and will be available for purchase and use throughout the evening. The mugs may be previewed in the lobby of the museum beginning August 27th. The festivities begin at 6 p.m., but guests are invited to come when they are able throughout the evening. Tickets for the one-of-a-kind event are available by reservation only and may be purchased at the Art Connection [Coos Bay], Reese Electric [North Bend], or by calling the museum at 267-3901.

CHAMBER IBO PROGRAMS – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Forums for the next two weeks will be Steve Shute, Natural Gas Pipeline update on September 11th and the North Bend Mayor and Council on September 18th. The month of October will be issues surrounding the upcoming election include two candidates' forums, Coos County Commission and Sheriff race, Bay Area cities mayor and council candidates, and a program on the airport district, SCINT and Measure 28.

SOUTH COAST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING – SCDC'S September board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18th at 5:30 p.m. at their office located at the Business Development Center, 2455 Maple Leaf Lane, North Bend. For information, contact the office at 751-1653. To learn more about SCDC, visit their web site at sdc@cinc.org

FUN FESTIVAL WEEKEND COMING UP – Be sure to mark your calendar for the weekend of September 21st and 22nd for the annual Fun Festival weekend in downtown Coos Bay. This year's festival theme is "Celebrate Red, White & Blue in 2002". There will be activities, entertainment, crafts and food booths, the annual Prefontaine Run, and parade.

COFFEE HOUSE AT THE LIBRARY – Coos Bay Public Library is trying a new type of event, sponsored by Friends of the Library, with the appearance of singer/songwriter Andrew Calhoun. The Myrtlewood Room will be transformed into a "coffee house" for the occasion, this Saturday evening, September 7, 7:00 pm, as a free event. Join us to enjoy Calhoun's fluid fingerstyle guitar and his poetic lyrics. "Calhoun's songs are much more than well-told stories: they both illuminate and conceal some of life's wildest mysteries," according to Dwight Thurston, of The Voice.

"AUTHOR'S NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY" PRESENTS MYSTERY WRITER APRIL HENRY – Gifted mystery writer April Henry will read from her latest, "Learning to Fly," and uncover some of the clues to her fiction, on Thursday, September 12, 7:00 pm in the Myrtlewood Room. The free program is sponsored by Friends of the Library. A native Oregonian, Henry got her first taste of publishing when noted author Roald Dahl introduced her story about a frog who loved peanut butter to an editor. She was ten years old. Her work has been described as "fast-moving," "a delight," "heart-warming," "heart-stopping," "humorous and poignant."

COOS BAY POLICE OFFICERS ASK FOR PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY – Tuesday night police officer Cal Mitts delivered a prepared statement to the City Council, in behalf of the Coos Bay Police Officer's Association, asking the Council to place a public safety levy on the ballot in order to maintain staffing levels and ensure maximum public protection. No action on the request was taken Tuesday night, but Mayor Benetti and Council President McKeown have requested a meeting with the Association to discuss the matter further.

MAYOR BENETTI AND COUNCILORS PRESENT COOS BAY PROGRESS REPORT – On Wednesday Mayor Joe Benetti delivered a comprehensive progress report on actions completed and pending here in Coos Bay. The report was delivered to the Bay Area Chamber's Independent Business Operator's Forum and included updates on everything from the Coos Bay and Empire waterfronts, the Farmer's Market, downtown projects, the South Coast Development Council and the City's budget challenges. North Bend Mayor John Briggs and his Council will be delivering a report on their progress at a similar Chamber Forum to be held September 18th. For details on the Chamber Forums, contact the Chamber at <mailto:bacc@uci.net>.

COUNCIL GIVES FAVORABLE NOD TO REDUCED HOURS AT CITY HALL – Responding to work backlogs at City Hall and a request by City Manager Bill Grile, Tuesday night the City Council gave a favorable nod to limiting the public hours at City Hall to those between 10:00 AM and noon and 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM daily. Addressing the Council, Grile wrote: *"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. Frankly, most of Coos Bay's residents and taxpayers never or rarely have occasion to visit City Hall and will remain totally unaffected by reduced hours, yet the benefit to the staff charged with the responsibility of delivering services is huge."* Approval of the request allows City Hall to continue granting quality service without seeking additional fees or taxes from the community. A date for the new schedule to go into effect has not yet been announced but will follow a major press release to be issued soon. In the meantime, the City continues to examine options to bring spending in line with revenue. This year's adopted budget is balanced by using cash savings that will be substantially reduced or not available at all for the start of the next fiscal year on July 1, 2003. Budget cuts before then are anticipated to increase the General Fund's cash carryover. Confused by all of this? Call city manager Bill Grile at City Hall for a personal briefing.

CONSOLIDATION BUDGET STUDY – Last week City Manager Bill Grile signed the agreement with E.D. Hovee & Company < <http://www.edhovee.com> > to undertake the \$5,000 study that will examine the fiscal impacts of consolidating the two cities of Coos Bay and North Bend into one, as is under consideration. The study will include a specific opinion on the Consolidation Committee's proposed budget along with a hypothetical one for a city of 25,000 population, which would be the size for the City of Coos Bay – North Bend. Responding to the concerns the Council and staff raised about the importance of selecting appropriate comparables for the analysis, the use of McMinnville, Grants Pass, Roseburg and Klamath Falls have been selected for use as the study proceeds. A draft is expected in about a month.

PARTNERING WITH CB PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Following up on another budget idea cost-savings idea, Coos Bay Finance Director Janell K. Howard and Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs enjoyed an excellent meeting recently with Coos Bay Public Schools Superintendent Jeremy Lyon and Finance Director Rod Danielson. Several strong, tangible cost-cutting ideas were identified and are under consideration. The partnership between the City and CB

Public Schools leverages opportunities for both entities as each struggle to make ends meet with shrinking resources and rising expenses.

TIM ENRIGHT APPOINTED TO REGIONAL FIBER COMMISSION – Tuesday night the Coos Bay City Council unanimously appointed Coos Bay Public Schools Systems Analyst Tim Enright to represent the City as a member of the board of directors of Fiber South Consortium. In making the appointment, the Council acknowledged Enright's key role in assisting the City with technology planning and implementation actions, and the importance of the City's partnership with CB Public Schools. Fiber South Consortium is a regional intergovernmental entity working to bring broad-band technology to the area.

MUSIC ON THE BAY KICKS OFF – The Music on the Bay kicked off the first concert of the year in Mingus Park on Wednesday, September 4th with Bass Virtuoso Todd Johnson and Guitarist John Standefer providing the entertainment. The event was well attended by approximately 500 - 600 people on a cool, but beautiful night on the Oregon coast. There are three concerts planned for 7:00 - 9:00 pm the next three Wednesdays in September. September 11th will be a Day of Remembrance featuring the Oregon Coast Lab Band, and speakers from the federal, state and local government sharing readings about our country. September 18th will feature soul man Curtis Salgado and his band, and on September 25th will be northwest group Pink Martini. Plan on attending the free concerts presented by Music on the Bay. Free transportation from city parking lots will be provided. Pick-up areas are at Blossom Gulch School, in front of the Coos Art Museum and in front of Old City Hall in downtown Coos Bay.

DOWNTOWN SIDEWALKS TO BE REPAIRED – Sidewalks in the downtown area are slated to be repaired this fall. The project was approved to go to bid by the Urban Renewal Agency on September 3rd and will involve repairing sidewalks, tree removal and replacement. The repairs will be where trees have caused the sidewalk to fail and have created tripping hazards to pedestrians. The city is replacing these sidewalk portions as it believes the damage is directly related to trees that were planted by the city in the early 1970s. There will be some inconvenience to pedestrians and businesses in the affected areas during construction. The City hopes to bid this project this month and award the project the first of October.

BRULE STREET – On Tuesday evening, the City Council approved the vacation of the undeveloped portion of Brule Street lying north of Lindberg Avenue. The vacation decision has been made by the Council prior to reviewing a proposal to rezone property north of the Brule/Lindberg neighborhoods from residential to commercial uses.

Initially, the neighborhoods presented a 35-signature petition to the Council at the rezoning proceedings, prompting them to consider the vacation in order to avoid any possibility of future commercial traffic impacting their area.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN BEGINS DEVELOPMENT – Carl Springer, PE, from DKS & Associates met with various advisory committees on Thursday, September 5, to begin the citizen input portion of development of the Transportation System Plans for the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend. Springer met first with the Transportation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, then met with the Technical Advisory Committee created specifically to provide technical input from the community regarding development of the plan. Individuals representing various government entities and user groups are members of that committee. Finally, Springer met with the Citizens Advisory Committee. The Citizens' group consists of members from both cities who are well connected to many interest groups within the Bay Area. These individuals will help spread the message of the Transportation System Plan and will provide much needed citizen input to the process.

On Wednesday, **September 18 2002**, in Eden Hall, SWOCC, at 7 p.m., the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend will host a public open house to introduce the TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLANS that are being developed for the cities. The purpose of the open house is to learn about the process and gather input--comments, complaints, suggestions--to assist the cities consultant, Carl Springer, DKS Associates, as he begins to pull together the plan that is required by state law.

The project is funded by a Transportation Growth Management grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Department of Land Conservation and Development. A primary component of the plan is to seek significant public input into the process - this is OUR plan, not the State's plan. Be sure to keep up on how to give input and share your ideas - they will make a strong, useful plan for both communities!