



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

December 13, 2002

City of Coos Bay

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PUBLIC SAFETY THANKS RED CROSS – Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Captain Eura Washburn attended the open house at the Red Cross office in Coos Bay this week to show appreciation for the outstanding support given to the city. Staff from the city have continued to praise the local Red Cross and volunteers for the helping hand given to support the city during this time of need.

MAJOR CRIME INVESTIGATION TRAINING – Six officers from the police department are attending a training session on major crime and homicide investigation this week in Douglas County. The training focus at the session is on current advances in forensic technology, computer investigative resources, and major case management.

MARSHFIELD PARKING DISTRICT APPROVED – At its December 3 meeting, the City Council approved the resolution creating a residential parking district on portions of 11th St., 7th St. and Hall St. near Marshfield High School. Signs will go up in early January limiting parking during school hours to residential parking with permits. Permit applications will be sent to area residents in the next week. There is no charge for the permits. The intent of the program is to reserve streetside parking for the residents in the area and encourage students to use on-campus parking. If you have any questions, please contact Community Services at 269-8918.

THANK YOU VERENA MATTHEWS – The Planning Commission expressed their gratitude and bade their farewells to Verena Matthews at the commission hearing on Tuesday. Verena has served on the Planning Commission for 12 years and has decided to take some time off to pursue other endeavors. We thank Verena for her years of service to the city. We will miss experience and willingness to participate.

MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL WINTER VOCAL CONCERT – Marshfield High School's vocal music department will present its 63rd annual Winter Vocal Concert on Wednesday, December 18th and Thursday, December 19th in the school's auditorium. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and senior citizens, \$5 for families, and free for children 12 years old and younger.

WISH LIST FOR BUS JAM 2002 - KDCQ (K-DOCK) along with the Oregon Department of Human Services, the Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club and Community Action has joined forces to sponsor BUS JAM 2002. The goal is to stuff a Laidlaw School Bus with as much food, new clothes and toys for families in need in Coos County. The event will be held on December 14, 2002 at Pony Village Mall, North Bend (at the west entrance-near beauty salons between Pony Village Mall and Safeway) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will continue to collect merchandise and food through December 21, 2002. It can be dropped off at the Newmark Center, 2110 Newmark Avenue, Coos Bay or KDCQ (K-DOCK) Radio on Ocean Boulevard. Our wish list would be:

Watches (for teens)

Playing cards

Baseball Hats

Hacky sacks

Sports posters

Bowling Gift Certificates

Sweatshirts (any size)

Boxer shorts

Socks

Sweat shirts and pants (any size)

Hair accessories

Jewelry (for teens)

Jewelry boxes

Any type of canned food

Gift Certificates to Grocery Stores

Basketball

Baseballs

Bats

Soccer Ball

Lego's

Puzzles

Play dough

Games

Money – cash donations for food or Toys

Art & Craft supplies

CDs and CD Players

VCR Movies
Blankets
Batteries
Personal Hygiene Products
Video rental gift certificates
Hats
Pajamas (any size – child or adult)

Books
Game Boys and games
Towels
Coats
Clothes
Mittens
Fast food or Movie Gift Certificates

No clothing items with any type of gun, drug or alcohol paraphernalia on the clothing, and no toy guns. The distribution center will be at Blossom Gulch Elementary School on December 21, 2002 from 10:00 am through 3:00 pm. Items will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis for the general public. To participate bring photo ID and a copy of last year's tax return, either state or federal. One item per dependent child. The program is open to all Coos County residents. There are no guarantees that all will be served. For information on participation in the program, contact Kevin Stufflebean at 888-7141.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND PLANNING COMMISSION OPENINGS –The City of Coos Bay is seeking volunteers to fill positions on the Budget Committee and Planning Commission. The deadline for submitting an application is 5 p.m. December 20, 2002. Applications are available from the city manager's office during normal business hours or by calling 269-8912. Interviews will be conducted on January 7th by the City Council and appointments will be made at the January 7th City Council meeting.

The Budget Committee is established by Oregon state law and is responsible for reviewing the proposed City and Urban Renewal budgets. Applicants must be a resident of the City of Coos Bay and are appointed for three-year terms. Budget Committee meetings are held in the evenings during the months of April and May. There are currently four positions open on the Budget Committee; two positions are for three-year terms and two positions will complete unfulfilled terms which expire December 31, 2004.

The Planning Commission is established by city ordinance for the purpose of providing comprehensive planning services for the City Council. Applicants must be a city resident of Coos Bay for at least one year prior to appointment; one member may reside outside the city limits if the person owns property within the city. The Planning Commission meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at city hall. Appointments are for four-year terms and there are two positions open.

PARKS COMMISSION OPENINGS – The City of Coos Bay is seeking volunteers to fill three openings on the Parks Commission for one representative each from the following: professional design, service organization, and citizen-at-large positions on the Parks Commission. Applications are available from the city manager's office at city hall and will be accepted through 5 p.m. January 10, 2003. Interviews with the City Council and appointments are scheduled for January 21st.

Applicants must be a city resident and are appointed by the City Council for four-year terms. The Parks Commission meets once a month, although during winter months, if there are no items to bring to the commission, meetings are not held. The duties of the commission shall be to assist staff, and coordinate with the Planning Commission as appropriate, in the preparation of parks plans, site and building designs, development standards, and recreation services. These general duties shall include, but are not limited to: the identification of potential new sites to be added to the park and recreation system; recommendations on acquisition of park and recreation property including fund raising, grant assistance, or other revenue sources; recommendations on designation of open space; and recommendations on development of pedestrian trails and bikeways for accessibility to and within the park system for recreation and for transportation within the city.

TENTH ANNUAL CHAMBER ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FORUM – Congratulations to the Chamber and Southwestern Oregon Community College Business Development Center for still another outstanding Economic Outlook Forum. This year's was the tenth one, and held again at The Mill Casino. It was, as always, a very well-attended event. Look for a great report in tomorrow's edition of The World, but for now here's a quick overview summarized by topic and speaker:

S. COAST ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

... Guy Tauer, Oregon Employment Dept.

Believe it or not, "Coos County dodged the employment bullet" as this area's covered payroll didn't drop as much as the State's, reported our regional State of Oregon economist. Bandon Dunes and other big players made the difference here.

S. COAST SNAPSHOT

... Shirley Liberante, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Director Shirley Liberante reported on the latest "Bay Area Business Snapshot Survey." The report will be published in a Chamber newsletter, but in short, those responding reported a positive business year and are cautiously looking forward to 2003

FISHING INDUSTRY UPDATE

... Paul Heikkila, OSU Extension Agent

Among other things, Mr. Heikkila noted that the largest collection of small businesses and entrepreneurs are moored in Charleston. Seafood landings valued a total of \$12.6 million in 2001 at Charleston and Bandon. Groundfish landings comprised \$4.6 million of this. Whiting has dropped from 10-cents a pound in 1986 to 4-cents a pound currently though, and this has been a major negative impact overall.

Heikkila says "what we're seeing now is an accumulation of restrictions *** and this is going to have a major impact on this community and where we go." Foreign production and "too much gear" add to the problem. And while Salmon production is up, value is down, he stressed. Heikkila lauded the County for its decision to purchase the Charleston fish plant. "That's gonna help," he said. "We need to improve our quality, become more efficient and export more," he said, adding ... "I think we're doing that."

AIRPORT / MARITIME BUSINESS PARK UPDATE

... Allan Rumbaugh, Port of Coos Bay General Manager

Rumbaugh thanked Coos County voters for passing the new airport district, saying that this has gotten three-state attention. He added the importance of funding support for the Coos Bay rail bridge, noting this is going to save 400 jobs. He also applauded Weyerhaeuser's decision to put its Hwy 101 former export services property on the market, noting this is a significant turn of events as is the new local shippers' support for the concept of developing a local public export terminal.

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY UPDATE

... Susan Spargo, SW Oregon Board of Realtors

Ms. Spargo said that compared to a year ago, "closed sales" are up 35.1%. Yet, new listings dropped 20.9% during the same period. Spargo said that "new listings, priced right, sell just about as fast as they come on the market." The median sales price for residential properties climbed to \$96,500 in October from \$90,000 a year ago. The average 3-bedroom house sold for \$124,000 in October. "Our real estate market is healthy ... probably the healthiest it's been in many, many years," she said.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COOS, LOWER UMPQUA & SIUSLAW UPDATE

... Robert Garcia, Tribal Vice-chair

Mr. Garcia reported that the Alishanee Family Entertainment Center (bowling et al), forest restoration plan and the Florence casino remain the cornerstone's of the Tribe's economic self-sufficiency plan.

A design contract for Alishanee has been awarded and construction of the \$4 million project is targeted for mid-2003. Efforts remain underway for the Florence casino, and the timber restoration plan remains likely as support for this got a boost this past year with an endorsement and local visit by U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith.

COQUILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION UPDATE

... Ed Metcalf, Coquille Tribal Chair

Chair Metcalf reported on several activities that are priorities to CEDCO. A \$500,000 power line project in Empire is underway, as are two dams in Barview for another \$2.5 million. A Salmon-bake facility is also underway. Housing and tribal health remain priorities with efforts here as well. Salmon and watershed restoration projects are also being done. ORCA Communications, another major CEDCO project, should launch services in 2003, said Metcalf. He added that Umpqua Bank is doing a refinancing of CEDCO's debt.

SOUTH COAST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL UPDATE

... Ron Opitz, SCDC Board Chair

Mr. Opitz said that "before SCDC was formed it was apparent there were some (economic) struggles here." He cited problems from "underemployment" as well as "unemployment." He noted "tremendous support" from the Oregon Economic & Community Development Department in helping the private-public partnership. SCDC's mission statement is simply "to improve the area's economy." Collaboration is a key to its approach, stressed Opitz, adding that SCDC has already had successes, namely helping land American Bridge in Reedsport and responding to over 150 business prospects. He said more success is in the very near future, although it will take time to complete the organization's mission.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: STATE, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

... John Mitchell, U.S. Bancorp

Dr. John Mitchell gave his annual keynote address, and as always bringing local trends into perspective with state and national experience in an education and entertaining way.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT MARKS CHANGE OF COURSE FOR THE STATE OF OREGON

City Manager Bill Grile attended the big "Leadership Summit" in Portland on Monday and returned to confirm press reports about the significance of the event. "From my vantage point as a summit participant, it seemed as if one of the unstated purposes of the event was to provide a major public proclamation by Oregon's major business and government leaders that changes in the way state government operates and funds services must be made in order to dig Oregon out of the financial hole it's in," said Grile. Of particular interest to him, Grile said he smiled when hearing so much public dialogue about the need to review and overhaul Oregon 30-year old land use program to see if its rules and mission are in line with the dire need to create jobs and provide a reasonable supply of industrially zoned land. "This should be a top priority," said Grile, who spent 16 years as Coos County Planning Director arguing with the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission and its staff about the importance of allowing more industrial zoning here in the Bay Area and Coos County.

Apparently Governor-elect Kulongowski agrees with the need to review Oregon's land use program, stating at one point: "If agriculture is not a viable economic activity, why (then) are we placing such a priority on the protection of farm land (at the expense of allowing properly zoned industrial sites)?" Woodburn city administrator John Brown bemoaned the fact that his metropolitan Portland city has had to spend over \$500,000 on land use and transportation studies in recent months in a futile effort to provide more industrial zoning for plant siting ... and during this time has lost three sure job creation opportunities. "One huge irony in all this will happen if LCDRC tries to come out with new rules mandating more industrial zoning after all they've put us through down here," said Grile. Stay tuned.