

The Friday Update

January 24, 2003

WORK ON NEWMARK – Laskey-Clifton Corporation has tentatively identified next week [*weather permitting*] to work on improvements to Newmark Avenue [this is part of the Wal-Mart expansion project and is funded by Wal-Mart]. The work will include extending the stacking lane for vehicles entering Wal-Mart and establishing a new turn lane at the Burger King entrance. Exiting Wal-Mart by Burger King will remain a right turn only. New sidewalks along Newmark are also planned from Fir Street to the Wal-Mart entrance. If you have questions, please contact the Community Services Department at 269-8918 during the hours of 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

COUNCIL MAKES BUDGET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – At their regular meeting this week the City Council appointed Michele Burnette, Linda Doman, Ron Opitz, and Sam Roth to the Budget Committee. Michele Burnette and Sam Roth were appointed to three-year terms and Linda Doman and Ron Opitz were appointed to two-year terms to fulfill unexpired terms left by Jon Eck when he was elected to the City Council in November, and by Richard Rudder when he moved outside city limits. The Budget Committee meetings are held during April and May at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room and are public meetings. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The meetings are also shown on the Government-Education Channel.

COUNCILOR GOULD APPOINTED TO WATER BOARD – The City Council unanimously approved Mayor Benetti's appointment of Roger Gould to the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board. In accordance to Section 9.8 (3) of the City Charter, two members of the water board shall be residents of the City of Coos Bay. The term of appointment is for four years. The City Council and staff extend their appreciation to Mike Helfrich for his service on the board since 1996.

CHAMBER BUSINESS FORUMS – The Chamber of Commerce presents business forum luncheons each week on Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Mill Casino-Hotel. Upcoming programs are: Jan. 29th – American Bridge with Carson Carney, Feb. 5th – ACS Associated Computer Systems [formerly CyberRep], Feb. 12th – Ed Ellingson/Insurance Costs, Feb. 19th – Ken Strobeck, League of Oregon Cities, and Feb. 26th – Deanna Scott, Flags and Flowers Project. For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 269-0215 or visit their web site www.oregonsbayareachamber.com

WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS – The City's newly remodeled wastewater pump station, located at 421 North Morrison Street, is now on line. Originally constructed in 1956 by the City of Empire, this station has been updated several times to keep pace with the growing area population. Designed by HGE, Inc. and constructed by Huffman-Wright, the new station serves approximately 2,800 residents and has been designed to accommodate growth for the next twenty years. Paving is scheduled for Morrison Street early next week by Bracelin & Yeager, at which time the street will again be reopened to area residents. The City extends its thanks to all those who made this project possible, and to the neighborhood for their patience during the long construction process.

PARKS COMMISSION APPOINTEES – The Coos Bay City Council re-appointed three individuals to the Parks Commission for another four years. Re-appointed were Nancy Jarvis who first became a Parks Commissioner in 1994, Bill Otten first appointed in 1990, and long term appointment Floyd Vanderveldon who was first appointed back in 1985 and has served as Chairman several times for the Commission. All are very knowledgeable about the City's parks system and their input is invaluable to City Staff. Welcome, and thanks for returning to all!

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN - Due to unforeseen circumstances the City has had to take a three-month hiatus from the development of the plan to allow time for the Oregon Department of Transportation's model to be refined. The City's consultant, Carl Springer, DKS Associates, has let us know that we are now ready to move ahead with the plan. The next step is to use the model, incorporating existing traffic/roadways and areas where growth is likely to occur, and to estimate the future transportation needs of the area. Once

that is completed the plan will develop and evaluate transportation alternatives to meet our future needs. Public meetings will be held around May to gather input on these elements of the proposed plan. For further information contact Laura Barron, Coos Bay City Hall, 269-8918.

FLAGS AND FLOWERS - AND YOU CAN HELP! – The City Council heard from Deana Scott, Chair of the South Coast Development “Flags and Flowers” subcommittee, and Steve Clay, Architect, at its Tuesday meeting regarding the “Flags and Flowers” project. The committee has been working for over a year to develop a plan for improving the look of the Highway 101 corridor, and the route up Virginia to the Airport. Statistics show that these kind of efforts pay off in return tourism visits and in visitors looking positively at the area for future business growth.

The plan includes using components of flags and banners, period lighting and flower baskets in various combinations. Funding is hoped to be a public/private effort with local businesses, private foundations and service clubs, and government assisting with the funding effort. Businesses or individuals can make donations to the project, and gain a tax deduction. Special attention is being paid to developing funding sources for continual maintenance.

If you are interested in making a donation, want a presentation at your club or just want to learn more contact Community Services at 269-8918.

JANUARY 31ST IS THE DEADLINE FOR BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWALS – These next few days are the last in which to timely renew your business license. After January 31st the fee will increase due to the 10% penalty per month. Drop by or mail your renewal today! If you have any questions, call us at 269-8918.

KINDER KONZERT – The library will host the eleventh annual Kinder Konzert, “From Conch Shell to Flugelhorn,” on Saturday, January 25th at 11:00 a.m., in the Myrtlewood Room. Professor Larry Wells of the Music Department at Southwestern Oregon Community College will trace the history of the trumpet back to prehistoric times. Although designed for 3rd through 5th graders, adults and students of all ages are welcome. Oregon Coast Music Association as part of its educational outreach program presents the Kinder Konzert each January.

CHAUTAUQUA PROGRAM – The library will host a Chautauqua program through Oregon Council for the Humanities called “Forbidden Fruit: The Apple in History, Legend, and Literature,” on Saturday, January 25th at 1:00 p.m., following the Kinder Konzert in the Myrtlewood Room. Nancy Appling, horticulturist and researcher, will present a talk and interactive discussion that includes a cloning demonstration, a map of apple migrations patterns, and a tasty selection of fresh apples.

LIBRARY CLOSURE FOR TECHNOLOGY CHANGES – Unfortunately, the library will need to close (again) along with other Coos County libraries all day on Thursday, January 30th so that the central site computer equipment that runs the Coastline system can be changed.

TAX TIME AGAIN – The library is again distributor for state and federal tax forms and publications. Delivery of the materials to the library is slow this year. We anticipate increased downloading of forms from the Internet this year, especially from other states.

CHRISTMAS CARDS – The library is again a collection point for used Christmas cards that will go to St. Jude’s Ranch for Children, for craft projects. Les’ Sanitary Service handles this project every year.