



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

April 9, 1999

**CITY OF COOS BAY**

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**GOVERNORS TOURISM CONFERENCE** – Welcome convention attendees to the Bay Area! A full schedule of interesting workshops and activities have been planned beginning on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and continuing through to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the conference and come back for a visit.

**YOUTH AT RISK** – The City of Coos Bay held it's first Youth at Risk Committee meeting on April 7, 1999. The committee is charged with presenting ideas and alternatives to the City Council on issues affecting youth at risk within the community. The meeting was organized by Mayor Joanne Verger and Councillor Kevin Stufflebean. Special guests at the meeting included Mayor Jim Torrey from Eugene and other local agency officials. In addition to Mayor Verger and Councillor Stufflebean the meeting was attended by City of Coos Bay Department heads and City Councillors Cindi Miller, Jeff McKeown, and Don Spangler. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 21, 1999.

**APPOINTMENTS MADE TO MAYOR'S COMMITTEES** – Two new committees were recently established as a result of the third Economic Forum meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor requested volunteers from those in attendance and received quite of list of interested citizens.

The first committee is the Livability Task Force which is charged with developing a strategy and funding plan for the economic health of the area. The committee will have a draft plan to the City Council by July 1<sup>st</sup> with the final plan to be presented by the committee at the September 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Those appointed to the committee include: John Stephens, John Sweet, Allan Rumbaugh, Councilor Jeff McKeown, Timm Slater, and Commissioner Nikke Whitty.

The second committee is the New Carissa Committee which will be developing a plan for capturing the adventure story of the New Carissa and will be exploring the significance of the New Carissa in promoting the entire area. The committee will present their report at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Those appointed to the committee include: Pete Johnson, Rod Stalcup, Greg Stevens, Larry Hink, Martin Callery, and Beve Saukko.

**TOUR THE BANDON DUNES GOLF COURSE** – A “virtual” on-line tour of the exciting new Bandon Dunes Golf Course is available as a “slide show” at <http://www.bandondunesgolf.com/newulthm6.htm>. Take a tour! This is a really neat WEB site and one that you won't want to miss. See Oregon's very own Pebble Beach right here in our own back yard. This site has almost as much “Wow!” effect as the golf course itself.

**EMPIRE GATEWAY AND TRAFFIC ISLAND: “THE REST OF THE STORY \*\*\*\*”** – The Urban Renewal Agency heard extended testimony on the location decision for the Empire Gateway monument at their Tuesday evening meeting. Issues discussed included the monument's impact on area businesses and the contribution the monument would make to the Empire area.

The Agency directed staff to develop some additional information and return the location issue to the Agency at the next meeting. The owners of Coos Bay Marine expressed strong concerns about the location of the traffic “island” at “The Y”, telling Urban Renewal Agency Tuesday night that it has hurt their business because left turns off of Newmark are not longer possible due to placement of the “island.” However, city staff confirmed this week that the “island” was placed within a yellow cross-hatched area where vehicular passage was prohibited anyway.

Nevertheless, I've indicated I have no problem recommending trimming some concrete off the west end of the new "island" IF the Oregon Dept. of Transportation would allow traffic in that area, which had not been allowed even before placement of the "island." ODOT approval of this is unlikely, but a meeting with ODOT and Coos Bay Marine will be scheduled to have the discussion anyway. By all accounts, the left turn off of Newmark is dangerous. As to the gateway structures, other possible locations for these are under consideration as well. The agency has yet to decide where these should be placed. Stay tuned.

**ODOT OFFERS THE CITY OF COOS BAY \$4.75 MILLION!** – ODOT regional manager Paul Mather has proposes to transfer jurisdiction of all state highways through Coos Bay except Hy. 101 in exchange for grants to the City totaling \$4.75 million by July 1, 2001. City manager Bill Grile negotiated this offer with ODOT in discussions that have been ongoing for the past four weeks. I will be recommending the City Council's acceptance of the proposal in a fact sheet that will be brought before it at some point in the weeks ahead - after our budget meetings - at a time when Paul Mather can be present to help explain the proposal. Ashland, Roseburg and McMinnville are other cities taking advantage of similar offers.

**ANDERSON AVENUE TRAFFIC ALTERNATIVE APPROVED** – Tuesday evening the City Council reviewed and approved a preliminary traffic flow modification that will permit two way traffic on Anderson Avenue between Bayshore Drive (Hwy. 101 North) and 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff was directed to return with further clarification of some aspects of the plan. After further study, yesterday staff decided to recommend futher revising the plan such that Anderson would be two-directional only between Bayshore and Second Street (by Security Bank). The street would otherwise function much as it always has, except Anderson between Fourth and Second would have one lane of eastbound traffic with diagonal parking along the South side of the street easterly from Fourth to the east end of the Coos Art Museum. Staff will also be looking at additonal on-street diagonal parking opportunities, which may or may not be possible. An agreement with the state's Department of Transportation, a "jurisdictional exchange," which transfers maintenance responsibility of that section of Anderson Avenue from the state to the city has yet to be approved by the City Council. The conceptual approval is an important step in completing the work described in the Kittleson Study on downtown traffic circulation.

**CHIEF KNIGHT TO ATTEND CONFERENCE** – Police Chief Knight will be attending the annual meeting of the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police at Eagle Crest April 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>. Training at this years conference includes dealing with crime and violence in schools, prevention and response to school violence, and leadership skills for the future.

**DOWNTOWN PARKING TO BE REVIEWED BY COUNCIL** – The City Council will be taking public input and reviewing the current downtown parking plan at their regular meeting of April 20<sup>th</sup>. All interested citizens are invited to attend the meeting and may either give their comments at the meeting or submit their remarks in writing to the city manager's office. Written comments should be received by noon Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> for inclusion with the agenda material. Council meetings are held in the council chambers at city hall, 500 Central Avenue and begin with a work session at 7 p.m. proceeding to the council meeting at 7:30 p.m. All council meetings are open to the public and are also aired on the government access channel.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF EMPIRE VIEWSHED** – The City Council will hold a public hearing at their April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting to take input on the establishment of an Empire Area Viewshed. Under consideration is Ordinance No. 271 establishing the viewshed and providing regulations for private and business activity in and along streets, sidewalks and public rights of way in the area lying along Newmark Avenue between the intersection of Newmark Avenue and Cammann Street and the intersection of Newmark Avenue and Empire Blvd. and all intersecting streets, sidewalks and public rights of way for a distance of one block to the north and one block to the south of Newmark Avenue between Cammann Street and Empire Blvd. The hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 20, 1999 in the council chambers at city hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos

## **The Friday Update – April 9, 1999**

### **Page 3**

Bay OR 97420. A copy of the ordinance may be obtained from the city manager's office during normal business hours. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** – Fire Chief Stan Gibson gave a presentation to the Council on Tuesday night on Tsunami warning and evacuation signage which will be appearing up and down the Oregon coast this summer. Chief Gibson will be attending the Northwest Earthquake Conference in Seattle, WA during the month of May. The conference fees are being paid through a scholarship program in cooperation with the Oregon Emergency Management Agency.

**DOWNTOWN RESTROOMS** – The City Council heard a presentation Tuesday night by Stuart Woods, architect with McSwain & Woods, on the feasibility of an addition to the existing Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Information Center building. The addition is certainly possible, and concerns voiced by Chamber staff could be addressed. The Council has budgeted current fiscal year funds to accomplish this project -- the question now is whether the project as presented can be completed within that budgeted amount. The Council will hear a further report on this question at their meeting on April 20, 1999.

**URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT PRIORITIES** – The Urban Renewal Agency has approved a prioritized listing of projects to be addressed as funding becomes available. The list includes projects in both the downtown and Empire urban renewal districts. For one of the projects in the downtown area, city attorney Randall Tosh has volunteered his expertise in landscape architecture to develop a design for landscaping the block in front of city hall between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The Agency, staff and attending citizens were all surprised, pleased and impressed with attorney Tosh's multiple talents and his generosity in making them available to the Urban Renewal Agency.

**MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL NEWS** – Reported by Sarah Richardson, MHS. Wednesday, March 31, the Red Cross Bloodmobile came to Marshfield High School. 124 students attempted to give blood. 105 pints of blood were collected, which is enough to save 312 lives. Congratulations to Tim Huntley, Mike Clinton and Chris Irick, the April Boys of the Month. All three of these boys are outstanding Marshfield students, athletes and leaders. Congratulations to Misty Trelford, the April Bridge Student of Merit. The Oregon Beach Clean Up was held on Saturday, March 27. Student Council members Peter Littlefield and Sarah Richardson were the two site captains of Horsfall Beach. Student Council members Nicole Fitzugh, Sara Lorenz, Tim Walberg, Artie George, Jesse Johnson, Jane Littlefield and Naomi Boatright attended the clean up and helped to keep Oregon looking beautiful.

The Marshfield Forensic Team recently attended a National qualifying tournament in Ashland. Amanda Jones and Mitch Purvis were finalists in Dual Interpretation with a humorous piece entitled, A Blind Date with Mary. The Cross-Examination debate team of Jenelle Woodlief and Mike Standley placed 2nd which entitles them to go to the National competition in Arizona in June. Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to participate in the 51st annual Music in May Festival at Pacific University this coming May 27th-29th: Angel Kennemer, Carly Busby, Tasha Mills, Janet Morrison, Corinne Potts, Eric Olbekson and Steve Healy. Congratulations!!

The ZONTA Club of the Coos Bay Area will be awarding two \$300 college scholarships for the 1999-2000 school year. To be eligible, you must be a female with a permanent residential address in Coos County (Meaning: your non-college family residence is within Coos County) Applicants may attend college outside of Oregon. Preference will be given for one scholarship to be awarded to a woman planning to attend full-time at Southwestern Oregon CC Fall Term of 1999. All contestants must have completed one year of college, or 36 credit hours, with a 2.5 GPA, and plan to register Fall Term as a full-time student. Application packets will be available at all public libraries in Coos County, Southwestern OCC Counseling office, and at Coos County High School Career centers. Deadline for all applications is postmarked by 6/1/99.

The Mr. MHS pageant was held Tuesday, April 6. The pageant raised \$11,000 for the Sacred Heart Neo-Natal Unit!! This was \$2,000 more than last year! Peter Littlefield was the overall winner and Josh

Messerle was the first runner up. Peter performed his interpretation of Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On." All contestants and coordinators did a wonderful job!

April 12-16 will Marshfield High School's Spring Fling week. This week includes assemblies, a barbecue, class competitions and a talent show. The talent show will be held Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. in the Marshfield auditorium and try outs will be Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in the Marshfield auditorium. This week should be tons of fun!

Wednesday, April 21 is the end of the grading period. Students now is the time to turn in that late work, or drop that class.