



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

April 16, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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MINGUS PARK POOLHOUSE CONSTRUCTION – The voters of the City of Coos Bay approved a \$500,000 bond issue to pay for a new poolhouse at Mingus Park. Together with the new pool made possible through an anonymous donation, the City of Coos Bay is going to have a truly first-class facility in Mingus Park. It will take about five months to build the new poolhouse – that's five months that must include some "good weather time" between May and September. And that's five months that must fit within the priorities for use of the Mingus Park Pool – water safety lessons for Coos Bay kids, recreational and lap swimming, high school events, and so on. Balancing all that out has been difficult; lots of work went into the choices that have been made.

Everyone is very sensitive to the summer being a great time to use the pool, the preference would have been not to close at all. We looked into using Sanicans and portable changing rooms to stay open during construction, but the Health Department said no. We considered a fence between the pool and the poolhouse construction site and found the liability issues just too large to overcome. When the City Council authorized the bidding for the poolhouse construction project, we talked about these issues. The schedule we settled on isn't perfect, granted, but it creates the least possible pain for the great deal to be gained.

Mingus Park Pool Management, the organization that operates the pool for the City, is fortunate to have a great working relationship with North Bend. All of the traditional summer activities are available at North Bend during the summer – Red Cross lessons, lifesaving and lifeguard training, recreational and lap swim time and team training. Few communities are so lucky to have an option like this. The availability of the North Bend facility was a definite consideration in coming to the scheduling decision.

We all recognize that it would be preferable not to close the pool at all. And we recognize that having a brand new pool that won't be used during the summer this year is a hard choice to make and a hard choice to understand. In the interests of achieving the long-term gain the voters approved, we need to bear the short-term pain of having the pool closed for a while. We can all look forward to the new pool AND the new poolhouse which will serve us well for a long, long time.

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM – Kay Heikkila took the lead when she bid on the conference in 1996. Shortly after Cindi Miller (Coos Bay City Council President) and Ann Koppy (Director of the Coos County Historical Society) were elected to Co-Chair this major undertaking. Everyone on the South Coast from Florence to Brookings worked to make the conference a success.

Pre-Conference activities included The Miss Coos County Scholarship Pageant, Lighthouse tours, A Bay cruise, beach walks, A special opening at the Coos Art Museum, and a performance for conference attendees to see "A Gathering of Finches".

Sunday morning we picked up our gift bags and the first thing we noticed was a beautiful green umbrella. Of course we didn't need it, but it served as a kind of security blanket. The Sunday night Ice-Breaker at The Mill Resort and Casino was a major success. The room was perfect with different sections telling the story of Coos County and the Southern Oregon Coast. For instance there was a beach area, a forest area, a logging camp, and a virtual museum of Coquille Indian basket weaving with a history of the tribe seen through photos. This event was simply outstanding and the Ice-breaker committee is to be congratulated!

On Monday after listening to various speakers and going to workshops everyone jumped on busses for a trip to Shore Acres where a fabulous seafood dinner was served. the North Bend Jazz Band provided music

for dancing or just listening. People visited, danced, and just plain enjoyed themselves!

The Conference wrapped up on Tuesday afternoon for most of the attendees. However, it wasn't over for the Conference Committee who dismantled walls, took down trees, and returned plants, benches, and other items to their owners. We had a lot of help from the City of Coos Bay, BLM, Chamber members, and of course, Cindi Miller, Ann Koppy and a lot of other volunteers.

Thursday, April 15th we met for debriefing. We agreed that the Conference was a total success. We proved we could do it. We'd do it again! Kudos to everyone who worked so hard to bring this outstanding conference to Oregon's Bay Area.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORUM – If you would like an update on what is happening with the proposed natural gas pipeline, then you'll want to attend the next Chamber of Commerce forum on Wednesday, April 21st. Tim Bishop, Chair of FONSI, will be the guest speaker. The forum will be held at the Red Lion at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 269-0215.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULED – The first meetings of the City of Coos Bay and Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency budget committees will on Thursday, April 22nd at 7 p.m. held at 390 South 2nd Street (the 'old' Head Start office building). Meetings will begin with election of officers and presentation of the budget messages by budget officer Bill Grile followed by a public hearing on the use of State revenue funds and continuing with review of the budgets. The meetings are open to the public and all interested parties are invited to attend. Copies of the proposed budgets are available for review at the Coos Bay public library and the Finance Department at city hall.

HOME SHOW '99 – The Homebuilders Association of Southwestern Oregon, KCBY-TV and The World are sponsoring the 8th annual home show on April 24th and 25th at the SWOYA Boys and Girls Club. There will be over 100 exhibits, food, entertainment and how-to demonstrations. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. \$1 admission donation is suggested. For more information contact Connie Lewis at 269-7759.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS – Southwestern Oregon Community College and the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors invite you to Business After Hours on Thursday, May 6, 1999 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event will be held at on Southwestern's campus at Empire Hall. Admission is \$5 per person at the door.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR REACHES FIVE YEAR MARK – Michele Caldwell celebrated her five-year anniversary with the City as Assistant Library Director on Monday. Michele has become an essential staff member in a key position, excelling in everything from design of the library's computer network, to the training and supervision of staff and volunteers that results in provision of excellent public service. She keeps the library running smoothly every day, handling with skill the great variety of activities and challenges that come with a busy service agency serving hundreds of people. She is popular with staff and public alike. If you can stop her long enough to do so, offer your congratulations the next time you see her. Congratulations Michele!

FAREWELL EVENT TO BE HELD FOR RETIRING BRIAN BOND – Join in saying good-bye to Brian Bond who is retiring after almost twelve years as Coos Bay Public Library's Youth Librarian. After presentation of community-donated prizes for the library's "Around the Library in 80 Days" reading program on Friday, April 30th, the public is invited to participate in recognizing Brian's contribution to area children. Children, parents, teachers, caregivers and all those who have worked with him will be on hand. Please come to the Coos Bay Council Chambers at 4:15 p.m.

Brian has made a profound difference in the lives of hundreds of Bay area young people. Through his efforts, many children have learned to read and to succeed in school. His work with the Oregon Library

Association on Youth Services Guidelines for Oregon extended his talents into public libraries throughout the state. He is skillful, creative, and has a wonderful rapport with young people. He will be greatly missed, but the library staff hopes you will join in wishing Brian well in future endeavors.

LIBRARY RE-OPENS AFTER THREE-WEEK CLOSURE – Coos Bay library users were very happy to have their library open again on Monday after transitions in the building project closed the building for three weeks. Comments have been universally glowing about the new addition. Library usage has been brisk all week. The library was also privileged to host three tours of Governor's Conference on Tourism conferees, and staff enjoyed showing off the new space to visitors. Thanks go to North Bend Public Library for handling a big increase in usage during Coos Bay's closure. Coos Bay staff helped out at North Bend on a couple of occasions, and personally delivered Coos Bay reserved books to North Bend for patrons to pick up.

CITY BRUSH PICK UP – The spring brush pick up has been scheduled for April 26th to May 14th. As in previous pickups, the City is requesting residents to call in their address (269-8918) after 5:00 p.m. and leave your address on the answering machine. ***Please call in before April 22nd***. Brush should be placed along the curb or edge of the road for an easy pick up. The City cannot come onto private property to pick up brush due to liability issues. Have your brush ready to go by 6:00 a.m. on April 26th; the City will make only one pass through the City. Do not place brush around water meters, retaining walls, or other structures that could be damaged during the pick up. Remember, no plastic bags are accepted.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS SIGN CONTRACT – At the monthly meeting on Tuesday the Volunteer Firefighters Association voted to enter into a contract with the Oregon Pacific & Power Railroad Company of Estacada, Oregon for the restoration of the 1904 Knott Steamer. This project will take approximately two years to complete and will give the Association a true show piece of fire service memorabilia. According to David Long, President of the OPNP RR, this is only one of three known apparatus of this type west of the Mississippi. At the conclusion of the restoration project, the steamer will be in a like new, fully operational condition for use in community celebrations and fire musters throughout the Northwest. The steamer is a unique example the historic culture of the Cities of Marshfield and Coos Bay. Congratulations to the Volunteer Firefighters Association for taking on this project.

EASTSIDE BOAT RAMP – The parking lot and access road to the Eastside Boat Ramp was paved this week by crews from Bracelin and Yeager. The extruded curb should be installed in the next week, with the finishing touches completed by mid May. Steve Auer Construction is working on the restroom which is approximately 60% complete with installation of the fixtures scheduled after May 1st. The State Marine Board and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife funded 90% of this second phase of the boat ramp project.

THOMPSON ROAD OVERLAY – The Thompson Road Overlay Project was completed this week by crews from Umpqua River Navigation. The work was funded through the 1998 Fund Exchange program with money coming from ODOT. The City applies for the money on identified projects. The City receives approximately \$70,000 each year through this program to perform street work.

MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL REPORT BY SARAH RICHARDSON – 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 June 1, 1999.

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 Karin Teyler the April Girl of the Month! Congratulations to Dale Venass, the transition student of the quarter!

Saturday, April 10th was the Miss Coos County pageant. The pageant was held from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Marshfield auditorium. Megan Golden, a graduate from the Marshfield Class of 1996, was crowned the 1999 Miss Coos County and Katie Allender, a senior at Marshfield High School, was named the first runner-up. Congratulations to all of the contestants!

SEA SCOUT “SHIP” TO BE ORGANIZED – Sea Scout Ship #59 is now underway!!! The first meeting of the Sea Scouts will be on Saturday, May 8th at 1:00pm at "The Seed" located in the Charleston shipyard. Sea Scouts is for girls and boys ages 14-21 and adult leaders over 21. If you are into "messing about in boats" then this is for you! Find out more about this exciting program by contacting: Russ Harrington at 756-3748 email: russman@mail harborside.com or Tony Durfey at 888-6051 email: madman@theseed.org

The Sea Scout program dates back to 1912 and is so highly regarded that graduates from the program are given preference for admission to the Nation's military academies and may enlist in the Navy or Coast Guard as an E-3 (two ranks higher than otherwise). Find out more about "The Seed" by visiting their web site at: <http://www.theseed.org/>