



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 21, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420

(541) 269-8912

See us at <http://www.coosbay.org>

Email the city manager at bgrile@ucinet.com

STATE OF OREGON'S "NEW CARISSA REVIEW COMMITTEE" – Not long ago Governor John Kitzhaber formed the Oregon New Carissa Review Committee to examine issues arising from the vessels grounding near Coos Bay. This committee is not the same as another committee by the same name appointed by Mayor Joanne Verger. Mayor Verger's committee is functioning to provide input to the state committee, and to examine ways to capture ongoing tourism benefits from the New Carissa grounding incident. The Governor's committee is charged with identifying and developing opportunities to improve prevention, preparedness and response to protect Oregon's environment from spills.

Our own State Representative Mike Lehman chairs the Governor's committee, and Mayor Verger serves on it with him. Other members consist of state and local elected officials as well as industry representatives and members of the public. The committee is expected to meet once every three or four weeks over the next four to five months. The public is welcome to attend these meetings and can sign up to receive notices and other related materials. Every meeting agenda includes an opportunity for public input. Stay tuned for details about the committee's next meeting, which will be an all-day session in Coos Bay on May 21st at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

If you have questions about the Governor's committee, contact John Betz, its coordinator. His telephone number is 503-229-6793, or send e-mail to him at betz.john@deq.state.or.us.

COUNCIL SCHEDULES WORK-SESSION ON \$4.75 ODOT PROPOSAL – The City Council will be meeting at 6:45 p.m. at City Hall on June 1, 1999, just before the regularly scheduled Council meeting to be held that evening, in order to talk with Oregon Dept. of Transportation Regional Manager Paul Mather about ODOT's \$4.75 million proposal whereby it would relinquish jurisdictional responsibility for 23 lane-miles of state highways inside the city limits in exchange for that sum of money. The proceeds would arrive at the City over the next three years, as proposed. Last week the Coos Bay Budget Committee approved the plan's funding by including the amount in the budget being forwarded to the City Council for approval. Final approval by the full Council is necessary in order for the proposal to be accepted and move forward.

COUNCIL SCHEDULES WORK-SESSION ON CITY BUDGET – This week the City Council agreed to a request by the city manager to meet in a work-session prior to the June 15th public hearing on the Budget Committee's "approved" FY 1999/2000 budget. The meeting is set for 3:00 p.m. on June 1st at City Hall and will allow an opportunity to informally review the changes that were made during the four budget committee meetings, and discuss possible further modifications.

CITY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS – The City of Coos Bay is seeking volunteers to serve on the Library Board and the Tree Board. Information and applications are available from the City Manager's office at City Hall during normal business hours and will be accepted through May 28, 1999. Interviews and appointments are scheduled for June 15, 1999 Council meeting.

Applicants for the Library Board must reside within the boundaries of School District 9, have the ability to attend monthly library board meetings and other meetings as necessary, and have a genuine interest in the library and concern for its welfare and progress. The Tree Board has two citizen at-large positions open, the Board meets every other month on the 2nd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, applicants must have an interest in trees, and must reside within the city limits of Coos Bay.

LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES VIDEO A WINNER – The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) recently produced a video, *Right of Way: Protecting the Public's Lifeline*, with the help from a number of cities and cable access organizations. The video has been awarded a national Hometown award from the Alliance for Community Media which will be presented at the Alliance's national conference in July. Representatives from Multnomah Community Television and Capital Community Television will be attending the conference and will accept the award. Mayor Joanne Verger participated in the production of the video as well as representatives from Grants Pass, Corvallis, Beaverton, LaGrande, Pendleton, and Redmond. The video will be shown on government access Wednesday and Saturday of next week; check the schedule for times.

4 H EXPERIENCE – JUNE 5TH – June 5th will be the first day of the "Kid's 1st on the 1st" program created by the Coos Bay Downtown Association. On the first Saturday of every month from June through December, there will be something for children to do in the Coos Bay downtown area. The theme of the June 5th activities will be the 4-H Experience. Llamas and more will be in the downtown area for petting and learning about. The event will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grassy area near the Best Western Motel (the corner lot at Bayshore and Market) and on the Coos Bay Boardwalk. For more information, call Gary Rifkin at Fiddlesticks (267-5443), Rhondi Potter at the Art Connection (267-0186) or Trish Midyette at Books by the Bay (267-5535).

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED – Mark your calendar for 11 a.m. Saturday, March 29th to attend the 11th annual Memorial Day parade in downtown Coos Bay. The parade will begin at 4th Street and Golden Avenue, proceed down 4th Street then onto Commercial Avenue to 2nd Street. The parade is being sponsored by the Coos County United Veterans Parade Committee and the City of Coos Bay. City offices will be closed on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.

NEW CARISSA DISPLAY PLANNED – The City and the Tourism Promotions Committee are working on establishing a display of the New Carissa incident. The display will be located next to the Chamber of Commerce and is expected to be open to the public by mid-June. Volunteers are needed to work in the display unit and any interested citizens are encouraged to contact Beve Saukko, Tourism Promotions Director, during normal business hours at 269-8921.

CONGRATULATIONS CLINT HAYNES – Clint Haynes has been working for the City for fifteen years. Clint was hired May 14, 1984 as a Maintenance Worker I and now is a Maintenance Worker II. Clint's main duties are keeping up with sign changes and street lights that are outside the Pacific Power & Light work. Clint is an excellent worker and is a valuable asset to the Street Division of the Community Services Department.

COOS BAY IN THE SPOTLIGHT – Operations Forum is an international professional journal for the water quality and wastewater management field. The City of Coos Bay's wastewater treatment system was recently "profiled" in that journal through an article submitted by Operations Management International (OMI). The article describes Coos Bay's treatment plants and the problems that OMI has been able to address in order to improve that plants' operation and efficiency. The resourcefulness of the OMI staff is appropriately noted and the dollar savings to the City of Coos Bay are well documented. We're really proud to be "profiled" in such a widely circulated professional journal. Thank you OMI for yet another example of how well you are serving the City of Coos Bay.

PARKING CHANGES – The City Council, at their May 18, 1999 meeting, approved the following changes to time limits in downtown parking lots:

LOT D [South of Penny's between 2nd Court and 2nd Street and north of Curtis Avenue] to be a two-hour Lot. The diagonal parking on 2nd Court is part of this Lot.

LOT E [South of Bay Area Enterprises and west of 2nd Street] to be a free lot.

LOT A [East of Fourth Street and south of the bakery] to be a free lot.

TRUCK PARKING ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED – A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 3rd at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall to take public comments on the issue of truck and trailer parking on city streets. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend the meeting; anyone who is unable to attend may submit written comments to Bill Finney, Community Services Director, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420.

NEW CARISSA COST RECOVERED – This week the City received a check for the costs associated with the New Carissa incident from the ship's insurance providers. The cost covered overtime for the police and fire departments and for assisting in the manning of the command post.

TSUNAMI SIREN TESTING – The Fire Department will continue to test the tsunami warning siren in the Empire district of the City for the next week. Fire Chief Stan Gibson stated that the hope is to have the siren operational by June 1st. A testing schedule will be set up for the siren and distributed. If citizens have any questions on emergency preparedness please contact the Fire Department.

CITY HALL EMERGENCY DRILL – On Wednesday of this week the employees of City Hall participated in an emergency evacuation drill of the building. This was a test of the emergency operations procedure. It is believed that this is the first time that such a drill has been conducted. Some areas have been identified that need improvement and work will begin immediately to address those. Have you planned a safe exit from your home or business in case of a fire or natural disaster?

FIRE CHIEF ATTENDS CONFERENCE – Fire Chief Stan Gibson was one of over 60 emergency preparedness managers from Oregon, Washington and Alaska who last week attended the first Coastal Community Earthquake Seminar in Sea-Tac, Washington. The conference was sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Oregon Emergency Management Agency and the other participating states. Topics covered at the conference included hazard assessment for your community, public education, and how to prepare your community. Chief Gibson stated that the conference was a great benefit to him and the City as now additional plans can be made to help in the event of a disaster.

LIBRARY CLOSURE COMING UP – To remain on schedule with construction, the library will be closed for two weeks, starting on Monday, May 24th. During the closure, all staff and volunteers will move furniture and several thousand books out of the way so contractors can relocate book shelves and proceed with Phase 3 of the building project. During this time, staff will also relocate their offices to the newly-renovated permanent workroom. This will free the two meeting rooms near the entrance for other storage, and, at the end of the project, for public use. The Friends of the Library room off the entrance will also be completed during the closure so the Friends book donation drop can be located in the entry wall instead of in the temporary cardboard box on the floor! Phase 3 will remodel the north half of the existing library and will be completed at the end of June. Phase 4 will remodel the south half of existing space, affecting most of the adult book collection, and will complete the project in August.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RECOGNITION – Detective Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth was recognized by the Bay Area Optimist Club at a recent meeting “Officer of the year.” The similar awards were presented to law enforcement officers from the Oregon State Police, Coos County Sheriff’s Office and North Bend Police Department as the annual observation of “Respect For Law” week. Congratulations Kevin for the being recognized by the Bay Area Optimist club for your hard work and dedication to law

enforcement in Coos Bay.

POLICE DEPARTMENT K-9 UNIT A STEP CLOSER – Local businesses have rallied to the support of a utility K-9 program at the Coos Bay Police Department. The police department has received \$8,000 in donated funds toward the program. Chief Knight stated he is overwhelmed with the community support that has so unselfishly been given to support the K-9 program. Two K-9's have been ordered with training to begin later this Summer or early Fall. Anyone wishing to donate to the program may submit contributions to the Finance Department at City Hall.

DISTRICT ROTARIANS HEAR FROM COOS BAY FIREFIGHTER – Last weekend Councilor Judy Weeks and City Manager Bill Grile joined 675 fellow Rotarians and others at the Rotary District 5110 annual conference in Ashland. Among other programs included with the event's activities was a short presentation by Coos Bay firefighter Mike Hurley, who shared his experiences as a recent visitor to the Philippines as a Rotary Group Study Exchange Member. Mike and another GSE team member visited Philippine fire stations, offering advice and developing perspectives about how well-equipped and well-trained our Coos Bay firefighters are compared to their Philippine counter-parts.

CITY AUDITOR CONTRACT AWARDED – The City Council awarded a three year contract with an option to renew annually thereafter for audit services to Wall & Wall, P.C., CPAs. The city received eight proposals, four from local accounting firms. Wall & Wall's bid was for \$14,350 – a considerable savings from the \$20,000 paid this year.