



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

June 4, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CITY COUNCIL LIKES ODOT'S PROPOSAL – Tuesday evening the City Council met in a work-session with Oregon Dept. of Transportation regional manager Paul Mather, then later with him in regular session to discuss ODOT's proposal to have the City accept jurisdiction for 23 lane-miles of state highways in town in exchange for a one-time grant of \$4.75 million. The Council expressed qualified interest in the notion, directing the city manager and community services director to negotiate terms with ODOT and attempt to get the state to sweeten the pot a bit. Discussions will continue when agency and city staffers confer in Coos Bay on July 1st.

CONTRACT FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PARKING DOWNTOWN ENFORCEMENT MOVES AHEAD – Tuesday evening the City Council also expressed favor in a proposal by Diamond Parking, Inc., deferring final action on the proposal pending negotiations on the issue with Coos Bay Police Officers' Association.

ACTING CITY MANAGER JOYCE JANSEN – While the city manager is out of town Ms. Joyce Jansen will be serving as Acting City Manager. Feel free to call her at 269-8912 or e-mail her at jjansen@ucinet.com just as you would me if you have problems, concerns, issues to discuss, ideas or complaints. She'll be happy to hear from you.

WANTED FOR HIRE: ONE MUNICIPAL JUDGE – A Request for Proposals are being circulated as part of a process to appoint a Municipal Judge for the City of Coos Bay. The post is currently being filled by Finance Director Janell K. Howard. Interested members of the Bar Association (ie., attorneys) should contact the City Manager's Office for information. June 18th is the deadline for applications.

USED BOOK SALE – The Friends of the Coos Bay Library will have a used book sale June 5th and 6th at the Head Start office building on 2nd and Elrod. Stop in for really great deals. The hours on Saturday are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 4 p.m.

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).

TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS – Members of the Coos Bay Police Department participated in the "Dine-A-Cop" fund raiser last week to support Special Olympics. Special thanks goes to Officer Robert Lounsbury, Police Explorers Brad Newton, Kelly DeWeese, and Henry Koskinen. A special thanks also to Police Department Clerical Specialist Melanie Johnston and City Councilor Kevin Stuffelbean for helping with the event at Abbys Pizza in Coos Bay.

LIBRARY OPENS ON MONDAY - FOR A SCAVENGER HUNT – The library opens Monday but it won't be business as usual. Major transitions are taking place between stages in the building project, and library patrons will find the entire adult fiction collection housed on tabletops and counters, as their shelves had to be moved aside for remodeling. The reference collection is also tucked into various nooks and crannies. Finding a book, therefore, will be like going on a scavenger hunt! While chairs will be available for seating, no tables will be accessible - they're all covered with books. The children's department is unaffected by the upheaval, however. The library will remain open until June 18th when the next closure period begins. The staff will complete relocation into permanent quarters during the next week and building contractors will begin remodeling of the large north portion of the old building.

VOICE / DATA COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR – Police Chief Chuck Knight and Sergeant Kevin Hedgpeath attended a voice and data communications seminar in Beaverton earlier this week as the City continues to explore updating outdated telephone equipment at City Hall. The goal is to improve communications while meeting Y2K preparedness for the year 2000.

SAFETY TOWN FILLING UP – There still limited space available for this years Safety Town program. Persons interested in registering their child for Safety Town may contact Anita in the police department at 269-8914 during normal office hours.

TUSNAMI WARNING SIREN OPERATIONAL – The City of Coos Bay has placed into service a tsunami warning siren, located in the Empire district. Recent tests have shown that the siren can be heard throughout the area from Mill Street in the Empire District to downtown Coos Bay. The siren will be tested on a regular basis, the last Saturday of each month at noon. Upon hearing the siren citizens are urged to review their family's emergency evacuation plan. The test cycle will last approximately 5 minutes. Any other time the warning system is activated citizens are urged to implement their families emergency evacuation plan.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE – Fire Department apparatus and personnel took part in the Memorial Day Parade last weekend. The department was awarded second and third place awards in the parade judging. Way to go!

"F" STREET PROJECT GEARS UP – The "F" Street rehabilitation project started up on June 1, 1999 now that the rains have left the area. The project consists of a new storm system (completed), curb and gutters, and new paving. The tentative completion date for the project is scheduled for July 2, 1999. There will be some detours and delays as the contractor prepares the roadway for curb and gutters. Any questions can be directed to the Community Services Department at 269-8918.

EASTSIDE BOAT RAMP – The Eastside Boat Ramp project phase 2 is nearing completion. The paving has been completed and approved. The restroom fixtures are being installed this week and should be completed by next week. Stand by for a dedication of the entire facility in the near future.

MINGUS PARK POOL BATHHOUSE – The construction phase of the new pool building will officially begin on June 21st with an on-site **Ground breaking Ceremony** scheduled for 10:00 am. The major players for this project are Rob Porter from Rich Turi Architecture & Planning and Larry Burroughs from D.L.B. Construction, Inc. as the general contractor. This long awaited addition to the community is the result of voter support and the cooperation between the Pool Management Assoc. and the City of Coos Bay.

CODES DEPARTMENT ENTERS BUILDING SEASON! – As summer starts the building department will get busier. Now is the time to submit your permit applications to start those long awaited "I'll do it this summer" projects! If you are not sure if a permit is required or if you have any questions regarding codes, construction, zoning... please feel free to contact the Dept. Of Community Services at 269-8918.

TRUCK AND TRAILER PARKING – City staff met Thursday afternoon with a number of local truckers and others interested in the issue of truck and trailer parking on city streets. The informal discussion was frank and helpful to everyone who attended. While no “magic bullet” solution was developed, some real progress was made in understanding both sides of the issue. The two hour discussion revealed that further discussion would be helpful and another informal session has been scheduled at City Hall on Saturday, June 26, 1999 at 10 a.m. Everybody who is interested in this issue is invited to attend.

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN MINGUS – The July 4th family celebration will be held in Mingus Park on Saturday, July 3rd. Please note the date of the celebration is **Saturday, July 3rd**.

The event begins with a Kids Run at 9:30 a.m. and the Mayor’s Firecracker run at 10 a.m. The South Coast Runners Club organizes the run; for more information and registration call Pete Dawson at 267-6329. The celebration begins at 11 a.m. with the presentation of the flag and pledge of allegiance by the Boy Scouts, followed by welcoming remarks from Mayor Verger and presentation of the Mayor’s Essay Contest winners. The Coos Bay Fire Department will provide the children’s fishing derby, various activities for children will be around the lake, free popcorn, cotton candy and flags for all, a variety of food booths will be located along the 10th Street entrance to the park, and entertainment on the stage from 11:15 until 5 p.m. Music will feature Tumbleweed, Little Ole Opry, Mike Stewart and Opic 295, and the Frank Turner Jazz Quintet. The City’s fireworks will be on Sunday, July 4th over the bay, and will be arranged by the Fire Department. The Mill Casino will have their fireworks on Saturday, July 3rd. There will be fun and entertainment for the whole family – come on out and have a great time!

A REMINDER FOR STUDENTS – The deadline for entering the Mayor’s 4th of July Essay Contest “*What the 4th of July Means to Me*” is June 21st at 5 p.m. Call the city manager’s office at 269-8912 for more information.

LABOR TRENDS: Between 1988-1998, the total number of manufacturing jobs in Oregon increased by 14.2 percent. According to the State of Oregon Employment Department this increase represents a net gain of 30,500 jobs. Leading the increase was the high tech sector, with an industrial grouping totaling nearly 23,000 jobs. The ratio of high tech services employment to manufacturing employment varies greatly around the state. Generally the service portion of high tech is growing at a much faster rate than manufacturing. As our economy continues to transition to an information based economy this portion of high tech should continue to grow more rapidly than the overall economy.

As the news of Oregon lucrative high tech sector spreads, rural communities are scrambling to get in on the action. Around the state, people in rural counties are forming partnerships and organizations to promote increased employment in high technology. Small business owners, community leaders, students, national corporation, and utility companies are potential members of such groups. Rural Oregon has several strengths available to attract high tech firms. These include an available workforce, industrial land, and an attractive natural environment. The Bay Area needs to accept the challenge to ride the high tech wave. Our community needs to be positioned to ensure a well-educated workforce and access to high-speed bandwidth and telecommunication networks. (*Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department*)