



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

July 23, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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PUBLIC ACCESS TV UPDATE – This week the Coos Bay and North Bend city attorneys and city managers met to discuss public access television, also known as "PEG-TV." Coos Bay manager Bill Grile and city attorney Randall Tosh explained Coos Bay's proposal for creation of a new intergovernmental partnership which would select and then contract with a non-profit organization to run the public but also government channel programming. North Bend's interim administrator Aaron Geisler and city attorney Mike Stebbins felt they now have a better understanding of the proposal and will be following up with their own Council to explore Coos Bay's proposal, which is certainly subject to negotiations and modification. Stay tuned.

COOS BAY KEEPS THE TROPHY ... AND BRAGGING RIGHTS! – It wasn't exactly a pitchers' duel, and the score sounded more like fall football, but Coos Bay eked out a narrow one run win over North Bend in the tenth annual intercity softball game. The final score? Coos Bay 28, North Bend 27. Coos Bay's fire, police and community services personnel earned the right to keep the traveling trophy and bragging rights for another year. Fire Chief Stan Gibson was the only Coos Bay department head to make an appearance in the game. City Manager Bill Grile, himself conscripted for a job as outfield umpire, was credited with two bad calls – one each for Coos Bay and North Bend. Politically correct, you might say.

OREGON CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION SUMMER CONFERENCE – Fifty-seven professional managers – including Bill Grile – representing 48 jurisdictions attended this year's summer conference of the Oregon City/County Management Association in Bend. Participating South Coast jurisdictions included Coos Bay, Coquille, Reedsport, Port Orford and Brookings. The Association's mission is to support professional management in local government by providing professional development and personal support, facilitating communication among managers, representing and promoting the profession, and influencing public policy.

This year's conference included a core program providing three ½ - day sessions on citizen involvement training put on by Kezziah Watkins, a Colorado firm that specializes in helping cities and counties re-connect with the citizens they serve. "I really appreciated the opportunity to learn some new ideas about how to better involve our citizens in public decision-making, while at the same time getting to network with my peers from around the state," said City Manager Bill Grile upon returning.

COOS BAY JOINS PARTNERSHIP TO BRING FIBER-OPTICS TO THE REGION – This week the Coos Bay Council expressed leadership and solid support for the notion of partnering with other local governments to bring fiber-optic technology to the Bay Area and surrounding region. The Council unanimously voted to enact Ordinance No. 276, thus authorizing the city manager to sign an intergovernmental agreement joining the City of Coos Bay with others in the new "Fiber South Consortium." The Consortium's collaborative efforts have already benefitted the area by successfully negotiating an agreement with Williams Communications, Inc., that will provide to member governments for public use a total of six pairs of optic fiber that will be placed along a nearby route between Bandon's AT&T facility and Lane County. The fiber will help improve data communication between the Bay Area and points beyond, and is a great accomplishment with virtually no cost to the member governments joining the Consortium. Coos Bay Police Chief Chuck Knight deserves a medal for the great job he's done coordinating this project.

for Coos Bay. Thanks Chief!

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS PROCEDURES FOR MUNI COURT – This week the City Council enacted Ordinance No. 275, thereby clarifying and establishing new procedures for the operation of Coos Bay Municipal Court. Newly appointed municipal court judge Patricia Hinrichs will convene her court for the first time on August 5th, at which time enforcement actions related to alleged violations at the Bay Area Rescue Mission are expected to be considered. Court will convene at 4:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall, and is, of course, open to the public.

CITY MOVES AHEAD WITH Y2K READINESS – The City of Coos Bay's Y2K Committee co-chaired by Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Accounting Supervisor Karla Garrett, has taken the next step in ensuring the City is ready for the year 2000. Network servers for the Police, Finance, and Community Services Departments are being ordered. Additionally, desk top PC's and related software which are not Y2K compatible are being replaced. The Y2K readiness statement and report was prepared by the committee which included Knight, Garrett, and committee members Nancy Price, Michelle Caldwell, Suzanne Baker, Gary Young, Crystal Barr, Mark Anderson, Kevin Hedgepeth, and City Manager, Bill Grile. The work of the committee has allowed the City to receive assurance from the City County Insurance Services that the City will be fully covered for liability resulting from Y2K issues. In a letter received from the City County Insurance Services, "The City of Coos Bay has done a commendable job in its Y2K preparations and documentation." ". . . we are prepared to include Y2K liability coverage with the July 1, 1999, renewal of your property and liability coverages with CIS." (*Note: The coverage is provided at no extra cost to the City as a result of the preparedness plan.*)

OREGON COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL IN FULL SWING! – The Oregon Coast Music Festival continues with four concerts this weekend and three full orchestra concerts next week. Tonight (Friday July 23) at 7:30 at Pacific Auditorium in Reedsport it's Igor's Jazz Cowboys, an acoustic Western swing band that has knocked the sox off audiences throughout the country. Also tonight at 7:30 at Heritage Place in Bandon, the Oregon Coast Music Festival Chamber Players presents a program of string quartet music including Dvorak's "American" string quartet, op.96.

Saturday night July 24 at 7:30 our own Oregon Coast Lab Band joins the band Zydecology for "Mardi Gras in July," an evening of Zydeco and New Orleans jazz at North Bend Community Center. Bring your dancing shoes — Zydecology loves to teach their audiences to dance to their Cajun and Caribbean rhythms — and join the party which includes Creole food by Chef Jardin Kazaar of the Black Market Gourmet!

Tickets for these events are available at the door and are \$9 for adults (\$7 for Music Association members) and \$5 for students (adult students, please show school ID). Or call The Box Office, 269-2720 or 1-800-676-7563.

Sunday July 25 at 2 o'clock it's Jazz at the Boathouse at Oregon Institute of Marine Biology. Portland jazz scene favorite the Dave Lee Trio plays contemporary jazz in one of the bay area's most enchanting locations. Tickets are \$15 and include a champagne reception following the concert. The Oregon Coast Music Festival Orchestra arrives Sunday for their stay as artists-in-residence until the end of the month. They will present three symphony concerts next week at Marshfield Auditorium, just off Ingersoll Avenue on the Marshfield High School campus.

Tuesday, July 27, at 7:30 at Marshfield Auditorium, maestro James Paul and the Festival Orchestra with featured soloists Hernan Constantino and Thomas Megee will perform Brahms' Double Concerto and Dvorak's 9th Symphony, "From the New World." Thursday, July 29 at 7:30 it's Orchestra Pops night, with the inimitable Jason Klein in a program entitled "Shipwreck!" Can you guess why Ritual Fire Dance is on the program with music from the film Titanic and Richard Rodgers' suite from Victory at Sea?

Saturday, July 31 at 7:30 the Festival Orchestra and James Paul present "Pictures at an Exhibition." The concert includes that very familiar work by Mussorgsky plus Berlioz' overture to his opera Benvenuto Cellini and the symphonic suite "Mathis der Maler" by Paul Hindemith, drawn from his opera about the life of

Northern Renaissance master painter Matthias Grunewald. Premium reserved seats for Orchestra concerts are \$15, \$13 for Music Association members, and \$9 for students (adult students, please show school ID). General reserved seats are \$13, \$11 and \$7. Non-reserved seats are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. Premium and general reserved seat tickets may be purchased at The Box Office, 181 S. Broadway (Hwy 101 south) in Coos Bay, next to The Frame Stop. Or call 269-2720 or 1-800-676-7563. For information, call the Music Festival office, 267-0938, or visit our web site: www.coosnet.com/music.

FIRE SAFETY HOUSE ON LOAN – The Fire Department has on loan the State Fire Marshal’s Fire Safety House. The house is a teaching tool built to provide a realistic environment to teach basic fire prevention and survival skills. Participants learn correct actions should a fire occur at night while their family is sleeping. In addition to being used at this years Safety Town Program, the house will be open to the public as well. On Friday, July 23rd the house will be at the Coos Bay Safeway parking lot, on July 24th at the Wal-Mart parking lot and on July 25th at the Fred Meyer parking lot. Families are urged to take advantage of this important teaching tool.

FIRE CHIEF COMPLETES WORK ON MANUAL – Chief Stan Gibson has been serving on a Quality Review Panel for the last 3 years for the National Fire Administration. The purpose of the panel was to compile and review information concerning the health and wellness of older firefighters. The national project entitled “Longevity in the Emergency Services” addresses the physical needs associated with aging firefighters. Chief Gibson was one of six reviewers of the manual and the only one in the northwest. When completed, the manual will be distributed to over 30,000 fire departments across the nation.

FIRE SPRINKLER CODE CHANGE FOR APARTMENTS APPROVED – Building Codes Division Administrator, Joe Brewer, recently approved code changes that allow a municipality to require fire sprinklers in apartment buildings previously not required to be sprinklered. The amendment requires fire sprinklers in apartment buildings with three or more units that are two stories in height, one story with a basement or mezzanine, or one story with 16 or more units or an occupant load of 20 or more. For more information contact the Building Department at 269-8918.

LABOR TRENDS – Non-farm employment increased on the South Coast in May. Over the month, Coos County posted a gain of 200 and Curry added 250. Employment in manufacturing made small gains in both counties with 40 in Coos and 10 in Curry County. Over the past year, Coos County’s manufacturing sector actually gained jobs. Wood products added 60 while food products was higher by 30. Curry County continues to show a loss of 100 manufacturing jobs over the past year with 70 less in wood products. (Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)

LIBRARY – The grand opening of the new and improved public library has been set for Friday, August 20th at 10:00 am. The public is welcomed to attend and see the enlarged, patron-friendly environment that has taken nearly 14 months to achieve. Currently, the library remains closed while the remaining carpeting and shelving is installed.

TREE BOARD INVOLVEMENT - The City’s Tree Board will be looking at many projects in the upcoming year. The Board will be reviewing landscaping and tree plantings for the following: the Newmark Street Scape project, Downtown Street Scape project, Fifth Street Plaza, and the Library plantings around the parking lot. By ordinance the Tree Board reviews plantings and removal requests on public right of ways and City owned property. The Board’s involvement with maintaining the urban forest allows the City to apply for Tree City USA status each year.

GOVERNOR VETOES EXCISE TAX PREEMPTION – Citing support for local determination of a community’s own destiny, Governor John Kitzhaber has vetoed HB 2657, which would have preempted local

governments from enacting a construction excise tax. LOC had requested that the Governor veto the bill, which was sought by the Oregon Building Industry Association.

“This is one of a variety of special interest bills that preempts a local government authority. I feel strongly that now, more than ever, local communities should have all the tools available to them to solve their own fiscal problems and meet the challenges that face our state. We cannot afford to strip cities, counties and special districts of their ability to solve problems at the local level,” the Governor said in his veto message.

“The state cannot afford to cripple a local community's ability to address these pressures by taking away the tools now available to them. Local communities should retain the power to solve their own fiscal problems in a way that local people determine appropriate. Local voters, not the legislature, should decide these issues,” he said.

Kitzhaber noted that his veto of the bill did not indicate support for an excise tax. Rather, he said, “it represents my support for local communities determining their own destiny. There may be occasions when a preemption is needed for an issue of statewide concern, but that power should only be used when there is an urgent overriding need. That is not the case with HB 2657.”

Canby and Fairview are two cities that presently have a construction excise tax, and would not have been affected by the bill. However, the Governor said, “I cannot abide by taking this tool away from all other communities.” [NOTE: This article courtesy of the League of Oregon Cities.]