



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

August 13, 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

LIBRARY GRAND OPENING CEREMONY – The much-awaited completion of the Coos Bay Public Library remodel is becoming a reality and will be celebrated with a special grand opening ceremony on Friday, August 20th at 10:00 a.m. The community is invited to participate in the celebration and visit the expanded and remodeled library facility. Be sure to mark your calendar.

BAY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORUM – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce will hold their monthly forum on Wednesday, August 18th at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion in Coos Bay. Jack Roberts, Oregon Commissioner of Labor and Industries, will be speaking on Oregon's Prosperity. A special no-host breakfast menu with three options at \$4 or less will be provided. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the Chamber's office at 269-0215.

BLACKBERRY ARTS FESTIVAL – Mark your calendar for a Bay Area tradition – the 17th annual Blackberry Arts Festival will be held in downtown Coos Bay on Saturday, August 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Enjoy arts, crafts, jewelry, photography, paintings, woodworking, entertainment, blackberry treats, food, and much more. The event is sponsored by the Coos Bay Downtown Association and organized by the Bay Area Jaycees. The North Bend Air Fair will be held on Sunday at the North Bend Airport, adding to a full weekend of summer fun. Hope to see you there!

POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATES – Officers Steve Myers and Kevin Shaw have successfully completed the ten-week Oregon Police Academy program and are scheduled to graduate on Friday, August 13th. The City's newest police officer, Terry "Scott" Rogers, is scheduled for attendance at the Academy beginning August 30th.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DARREL KING – Officer Darrell King underwent reconstructive knee surgery recently at Bay Area Hospital. Officer King will be convalescing at home for the next several weeks, and hopes to return to light duty at Marshfield High School in early September.

DIAMOND PARKING AND COOS BAY DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Council has discontinued further consideration of an "outsourcing" contract with Diamond Parking for downtown parking enforcement, largely in response to concerns expressed by downtown businesses. While a contract with Diamond would have arguably increased downtown parking enforcement at a cost savings, the City wants to work closely with the Coos Bay Downtown Association to ensure that parking enforcement helps development trade and shopping.

Two weeks ago the Downtown Association held a general membership meeting to gather ideas and work toward a common consensus, which was requested by the City Council during the July 14th City Council / Downtown Association joint meeting. This week the Association's Board planned to meet Tuesday morning but failed to produce a quorum. The City is eager to hear the group's ideas for improving downtown and partnering with City Hall to help generate more business activity in Coos Bay's commercial core.

HIRE A REGISTERED CONTRACTOR – Oregon law requires anyone who is engaged for compensation in any construction activity involving improvements to real estate to be registered with the State of Oregon Construction Contractors Board (503 378-4621) . To help avoid costly mistakes on your next construction project here's a few simple suggestions: Verify contractor is registered with the Construction Contractors Board, check references and previous customers to assure customer satisfaction, put all agreements in writing and always check with your local building department for code and permit requirements.

COOS BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY – The completion of the library addition and remodel project is now in sight. Thanks to the timely work by Upper Valley Builders and their sub-contractors, the building will be ready for the Grand Opening scheduled on August 20, at 10:00 am. The City is also pleased to report that this welcome addition to the community was also completed within the budget allotment set by the Urban Renewal Agency. Without the support of the community, the many volunteers, and the cooperative library staff, the many functions and services provided by the library would not have continued as smoothly as they did during this construction phase.

LABOR TRENDS – Most of the projected job growth out to 2008 is expected to occur in trade and services. Wholesale and retail trade is projected to increase by 770 (+11%), while services will shoot for a gain of about 1,000 new jobs (+18%). Look for most of the expansion in these two sectors to come in eating and drinking places, private health care, social services, and business services. The last of these could include expansion in computer software and support industries.

Construction employment is projected to increase by 13 percent (+160). Finance-related sectors may expand by just under 13 percent (+150). Government employment is expected to grow by just over five percent, adding 360 jobs. Most of the growth in government is anticipated to occur at the local level, including education , tribal activities and health care. (Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PARTNERSHIP – This group of private business and public agency members has been working for more than a year now on a comprehensive survey of the Bay Area's housing market. Their work began through the stimulus of a National League of Cities sponsored seminar on housing issues held last year in Eugene. A work plan supported by local banking, real estate, and property owners was developed and limited support from the state's Housing Department was obtained. Local planner Crystal Shoji facilitated an early work session to define more precisely the objectives for the housing market survey; Shoji Planning and Development then contracted with the Partnership to provide planning support to the project. The Partnership has conducted two housing availability surveys and will be combining the results of those surveys into their analysis of the local housing market. The Partnership will conduct several public meetings to present the results of their work later this year.

EMPIRE BUSINESS OWNERS ASSOCIATION – These business people have worked together to improve the plantings in the traffic-calming “bump-outs” on Newmark Avenue. These structures are part of the Empire Urban Renewal District's Street scape project. The business owners have identified a supplier for plants, volunteered their time and energy to put the plants into place, and will maintain the plants as they become established. The plantings being put into place are colorful annual flowering plants and should add a new dimension to the completed Street scape along Newmark Avenue. The effort that these business people are putting forth speaks volumes about the idea of “citizen involvement.” *Atta boy* Empire Business Owners Association!!!!

STREET CREW HELPS ROTARY – The Street crew helped the Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club build a playground at the Family Center at the Southwester Oregon College. On Saturday, 7/24/99, B.J. Hudson

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and Clint Haynes spent about 6 ½ hours removing 120 yards of material to prepare the area for the playground. On Friday, 8/06/99 B.J. and Julie LaPraim went over and backfilled behind the new retaining wall saving the Rotary volunteers a lot of back breaking work. Mike Gaudette from Southwestern was very appreciative of the work performed by the crews. Good job! (Note: Was that city manager Bill Grile seen leaning against a shovel with that group of local Rotarians two Saturdays ago?)

FRIENDS OF MINGUS PARK – The Friends of Mingus Park continue to meet on a monthly basis to discuss projects for the Park. A few members of the committee will be at the next Parks Commission meeting on September 13, 1999. If you are interested in becoming part of the committee or want more information contact Toni McSwain at 267-6520.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY – South Coast Hospice will conduct a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Community Bereavement Center at the Hospice on Thursday, August 26, 1999 at 11:30A.M. Hospice extends a warm invitation to join them in this groundbreaking ceremony. Major funding for the Community Bereavement Center has been provided through a combination of grants and donations. Further information may be obtained from Caludia Van Dyke at Hospice, 269-2986.