



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 3, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR "F" STREET RIBBON CUTTING – “You can see it from all over town,” was the comment one citizen beamed with satisfaction to us this week. Yes indeed. It’s true. The long-awaited “F” Street improvement project is finally complete and it’s time to celebrate! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 8th at 1:30 p.m. and meet Mayor Verger and city councilors at the bottom of the hill at “F” street for a grand opening and ribbon cutting.

NEW CARISSA REVIEW COMMITTEE CONTINUES ITS WORK – The Governor’s New Carissa Review Committee continued its work this week in Newport by holding its third meeting. Chaired by Rep. Mike Lehman, local committee members Mayor Joanne Verger, Port of Coos Bay General Manager Allan Rumbaugh and Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission Executive Director Nick Furman worked alongside other committee members in wrestling with issues surrounding this extraordinary event – the grounding of New Carissa at Coos Bay last February. Moving toward wrapping up its review, the committee plans to meet again in Salem on October 29th and 30th to continue hearing about the information flow that occurred during the event, and how local officials and other folks were kept informed during the event. A report to Governor Kitzhaber may be authorized as early as October 30th. Suggesting ways to prevent future reoccurrences of similar incidents will be a cornerstone of the committee’s recommendations.

Among other presenters, the October 29th meeting will feature “an environmental report card” by Dr. Steven Rumrill, with the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, offered as an assessment of the environmental effects of the New Carissa grounding. His talk is scheduled from 10:45 AM until noon that morning. Rebecca Groggins, who served as public information officer at the Unified Command here in Coos Bay at the height of the incident, is scheduled to give a talk about how to more fully incorporate fish and wildlife concerns in the unified command decision process.

NEXT WEEK FOR THE CITY COUNCIL – Tuesday night the City Council will have its hands full with a full evening’s work. Starting at 6:30 p.m., the Council will meet in a work session with Coos Bay Planning Administrator Laura Barron to review riparian vegetation and other state mandated planning requirements affecting our town. Following this at 7:30 p.m., during the Council’s regularly scheduled meeting, topics for consideration include a report about a new care center planned for the old Ken Keyes Center, enactment of a new ordinance addressing moorage at City Dock, enactment of a new ordinance affecting licensing requirements for second hand stores, consideration of a proposed street improvement project in Empire that lacks necessary property owner funding support and finally, a report on funding status for pending and planned wastewater construction projects.

Then after all of this, the Urban Renewal Agency will be meeting in executive session to discuss various real property acquisitions under consideration.

All City of Coos Bay Council meetings are open to the public and later viewable on Channel 14, the government access television channel.

BAY AREA CHAMBER FORUM – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Forum for this month will be held on September 15th at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn. Oregon’s Economy and International Trade – Is there an Asian crisis? Are we on the rebound? Hear what Oregon’s international trade specialists think, and learn how Bay Area businesses can sell to overseas markets. Features speakers include: Scott Goddin, US

Department of Commerce US Export Assistance Center; Tom Lowles, Small Business International Trade Center; Cathi McLain, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Marketing Division; Inge McNeese, US Small Business Administration, Export Finance; and Sandy Lynch, OECD trade development officer for Japan and Korea. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the Chamber at 269-0125.

AN EXPLORATION IN CREATIVE EXPRESSION EXHIBIT – Coming to the Coos Art Museum later this month is the exhibit “LaDuke and Jensen, a Joint Exploration in Creative Expression”. The exhibit will open on Friday, September 17th with a public reception that evening from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This unique exhibit combines the talents of painter Betty LaDuke of Ashland and sculptor Steven Jensen of Seattle. Artist, writer, professor and advocate for women’s art, LaDuke will discuss her works and provide insights into her travels to the small African nation of Eritrea at the reception. LaDuke has documented the struggles of women artists in that once war-torn country in her book entitled “African Women’s Art, Women’s Lives”. The painter notes that her paintings “reflect a view of Africa that is quite different than what has largely been represented by the media.... the works show a people with self determination, pride and dignity”. The LaDuke works are being exhibited under the title “Africa: From Eritrea with Love”. As noted by Helen Scully, museum administrator, “the power through color and form provide the viewers with a wonderful insight into the lives of the women of Eritrea”. She adds, “Her personal descriptions of her work and her experiences should not be missed”.

For the past two decades, Jensen has expressed his experiences with nature and “the rather precarious relationship we have with our natural resources”, through his carvings. In the words of the sculptor, “My artwork begins as a homage to the source of my medium.... all of the wood used in my carvings comes from naturally felled trees. No living tree has been cut for the sake of my work”. The sculptor creates poles from eight to 20 feet in height as well as floats which come from stumps, and wall-mounted relief created from hand-milled wood. Images from Jensen’s experiences have been expanded over the last five years by his travels to Egypt, Africa, Thailand, India, China and Tahiti. “I find that carvings provide a kind of universal dialogue,” says the Seattle artist.

More information about this exhibit and the art museum may be obtained by calling 267-3901.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PLANS SESSION ON “MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK” – The League of Women Voters of Coos County plans a September 11th meeting to participate in a project called “Making Democracy Work.” The “politically neutral” meeting will be to hear from members of the community and not to promote any specific issues or agendas. The League invites the community to attend, learn and share in the deserts. Folks are encouraged to bring their own brown-bag lunch. The meeting will be held on Saturday, September 11, 1999, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Coos Bay Public Library and will have a panel of distinguished speakers, including: Jim Cunningham, Carol Gooden-Rice and Sylviane Hereford. The League will provide deserts and beverages. Contact Judith VanDuzer (267-6508) or Margie Marshall (756-5290) for further information.

LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES BOARD TO MEET IN COOS BAY – Members of the League of Oregon Cities Board will be meeting in Coos Bay September 16th - 17th. Hosting the meeting is League President, Mayor Joanne Verger. The meeting falls during the Bay Area Fun Festival and members of the LOC Board have been invited to join Mayor Verger in the parade.

The LOC meeting will begin on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. with the LOC’s final legislative briefing for Coos Bay Area city officials. The business agenda for the Board will begin following lunch.

SHORT LIBRARY CLOSURE SCHEDULED (AGAIN) – Coos Bay Public Library will be closed Saturday through Monday for the Labor Day holiday. It will remain closed through Tuesday, September 7th, for a long-scheduled upgrade to the countywide COASTLINE computer system. All library materials may be returned through the outside book drop while the library is closed. The library will resume regular open

hours on Wednesday, September 8th. The library Board and staff deeply apologize for yet another closure when the library just recently opened after a long construction period, but pre-scheduled events made it necessary to do so.

LABOR TRENDS It is important to note that the Oregon Employment Department has a Child Care Division. The Division is responsible for child care regulation, child care resource and referral (CCR&R), and child care coordination. CCR&R agencies are locally based non-profit and local governmental agencies that help parents find, choose, and maintain child care arrangements; give support, training, and assistance to child care provider; and assist employers to address their employee's child care needs.

The Child Care Division also administers the Federal Child Care and Development Fund program. These Federal funds provides child care subsidies for low-income working and student parents, grants to develop community-based child care programs, and training and technical assistance to child care providers.

If you wish to receive more information on the Child Care Division please call (503) 947-1400 or toll free at 1-800-556-6616.

COAST GUARD BOAT ON DISPLAY - The new 47 foot Coast Guard vessel from the Charleston Station will be part of the Fun Festival this year. This is the newest of the search and rescue boats in the Coast Guard. The boat will be at the Coos Bay City Dock starting at 10:00 am on both Saturday and Sunday. The City is hoping the Coast Guard Cutter Orcas can also be there for the two days, but this depends on their scheduled patrols. The City is waiting for confirmation on whether they will be available.

BOY'S & GIRL'S CLUB SPECIAL EVENT - The Boy's & Girl's Club of Southwestern Oregon will hold a 3-mile run on Sunday, September 19, 1999 for all boys and girls in grades 1 thru 8. The run will begin and end on South 2nd Street between Anderson Avenue and Curtis Avenue in downtown Coos Bay. The event is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact LeRoy Walker at 267-3635.

PREFONTAINE MEMORIAL RUN - Don't miss the annual Prefontaine Memorial Run to be held on Saturday, September 18th. The starting line for the 10K event will form at South 4th Street and Anderson Avenue and the race will begin at 10:00 a.m.

FIBER OPTIC CONSORTIUM – Police Chief, Chuck Knight recently attended a consortium meeting in Gleneden Beach. A consortium of local governments has been formed to see that local Cities and Counties have access to the high speed fiber optic technology which is currently being installed in our region. Additional meetings have been scheduled for later this fall. The City of Coos Bay has been an active partner in the consortium.

POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT CLOSES – The recruitment to establish an eligibility list for police officer for the City of Coos Bay closed on September 3, 1999. The recruitment is anticipation of retirements in the police during the next few months.