



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 10, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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AT LONG LAST...NEW CITY OF COOS BAY WEB SITE IS RELEASED!! – The City of Coos Bay is thrilled to announce the public release of its new WEB site, and you can visit it without further delay at <http://holodeck.ucinet.com/coosbayjb/>. Coos Bay's original site (<http://www.coosbay.org>) was developed by Sgt. Kevin Hedgepeth, CBPD, and has served the City well for nearly three years. Local entrepreneur Jack Brown (WEB Marketing, Inc.) donated his time and expertise to the City in for development of the new site, with text and organizational assistance provided by Coos Bay department heads and C.J. O'Connor.

“Our WEB site is an important communication tool that enables us to convey lots of information about the Coos Bay and the region at practically no cost,” said city manager Bill Grile. “While the site is about the City of Coos Bay as a municipal government, the message presented goes far beyond that, linking folks to the area's parks and tourism magnets, educational opportunities, information about regional road conditions, and the like,” he added.

The new Coos Bay site is loaded with bells and whistles, including maps, mileage tables, weather and road conditions, and a Real Audio “welcome to Coos Bay” recording by Mayor Joanne Verger. The site provides pages and pages of other useful information as well, including the City Charter and all of Coos Bay's ordinances (in .pdf file format), a register listing all Coos Bay municipal liens, the City's budget, planning documents and maps for Front Street, the Port of Coos Bay's Eastside property, and downtown parking and traffic circulation. Still more information will be added in the near future.

Coos Bay's old WEB site has been averaging about 215 “user sessions” (ie., visits to the site) a day for the past six months, with the average session lasting a little over six minutes. Statistics show the most popular location on the site is The Friday Update, a weekly electronic newsletter about news, issues and items of interest concerning the City of Coos Bay and the community. There were over 66,000 user visits to the site between October 1998 through July 1999. More people actually visit the site from California than from Oregon, which testifies to the site's importance as a tourism and economic development tool. For a complete review of Coos Bay WEB site statistics, visit <http://www.coosbay.org/webtrends/august/>.

PORT OF COOS BAY WEB SITE WINS AWARD – And speaking of WEB sites, congratulations to the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay for the great improvements to its own WEB site and for winning a 1999 Golden WEB Award for the production. The site is full of great information about shipping and our harbor, including an interactive map showing dock facilities. Visit the site at <http://www.portofcoosbay.com>.

NEW SEASON OF “FOCUS” PROGRAMS SOON TO AIR ON CHANNEL 14 – Mayor Joanne Verger has announced that a new season of “Focus” is gearing up to air this fall on Channel 14, the government access television channel. “Focus” is produced as a working partnership between the City of Coos Bay and Marshfield High School. Each show features a contemporary topic, with Mayor Verger interviewing local citizens and public officials about newsworthy topics. Marshfield students under the direction of Mr. Jim Baird learn while they film, edit and produce each show. A September 21st taping is scheduled for this fall's first production, and will feature North Bend Municipal Airport Manager Gary LeTellier. You won't want to miss it!

LOCAL SOLID WASTE RECYCLING GETS REVIEW THIS WEEK -- Wednesday morning the city manager met with Dept. of Environmental Quality solid waste compliance manager Robert L. Guerra, Les

and Janet Golbek and two of their employees at Les' Sanitary Service, Rochelle Wiese from the City of Coquille, Bob Dillard with the City of North Bend and Coos County's solid waste recycling coordinator in order to review the status of regional recycling efforts given requirements of Oregon law.

HB 3456 (1997 Legislature) mandated new recycling standards for local government that apply to Coos County and the Cities of Coos Bay, North Bend and Coquille. DEQ has granted "conditional approval" to these jurisdictions but noted that minor deficiencies need to be addressed in next year's compliance reporting. According to 1995 law, Coos County is required to recycle 15% of its waste stream yet for 1996 recycled an impressive 29%, with a 31% goal established for even more progress. Modifications to the local recycling brochure distributed by Les's Sanitary Service, and broader distribution of that brochure will lead to full compliance with the 1997 DEQ requirements. There is no penalty for non-compliance.

By the way, Mr. Guerra had nothing but praise for the outstanding work done locally by Les's Sanitation in helping our area meet its recycling responsibilities. "I could tell that the Golbeks take recycling very seriously," said city manager Bill Grile after the meeting. "We're fortunate to have this kind of dedication exhibited by our local recycler," he added.

The meeting came with a bit of bad news though. There will be no DEQ-sponsored household hazardous waste cleanup event this year, and one is not likely next year either. It seems DEQ policy makers are persuaded by a consultant's report that has encouraged the agency to spend its limited resources into permanent recycling facilities through grants with matching fund requirements. Seems shortsighted thinking, but that's their position.

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS AMENDMENTS TO MOORAGE ORDINANCE – Tuesday evening the City Council adopted amendments to its moorage ordinance, effectively putting in place a set of provisions recommended by City Dock tenants Andy Suhrer and Neal Lawson. The new provisions allow for long-term moorage, create a volunteer harbormaster to oversee collection of rents and reservation of spaces, and establish a new fee schedule. A copy of the ordinance is available for inspection in the city manager's office at City Hall, and soon will be posted to the City's WEB site.

CITY COUNCIL ENACTS ORDINANCE NO. 279 – Ordinance No. 279 was enacted by the City Council on September 7, 1999 and will regulate the sale or resale of certain used or certain merchandise and licensing of secondhand stores and gem and precious metal dealers. The purpose of the ordinance is to provide a means to monitor the sale and resale of valuable used merchandise and gems and precious metals in the City of Coos Bay to deter trafficking in stolen merchandise and to provide revenue to pay expenses incurred therein. This ordinance repeals Ordinance No. 101 which conflicted with the City's business license ordinance, and will also impose more regulations on thrift stores than the previous ordinance. A copy of the ordinance is available for inspection in the city manager's office at City Hall, and soon will be posted to the City's WEB site.

CITY COUNCIL SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION PARKING RECOMMENDATIONS – Tuesday night the City Council gratefully acknowledged receipt of a set of proposed parking changes recommended by the Coos Bay Downtown Association. Acting on a suggestion by the city manager, and in order to help the Council get more information before deciding on a new course, the Council thought it would be helpful for the Association to hold a town hall public meeting in the Council Chambers, with a format that would allow a presentation of the Association's proposal and an opportunity for public feedback. This request has been passed on to Association President Jim Berg, who indicated his Board would be considering the matter further at its regular meeting next week.

OPENING ON PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE – The City of Coos Bay is seeking a volunteer to fill an unexpired term on the Parking Advisory Committee. Applications are available from the City Manager's Office during normal business hours and will be accepted through 5 p.m. October 1,

1999. Interviews will be conducted by the City Council and the appointment made at the October 19, 1999 Council meeting. Applicants will be notified when the interviews will be scheduled.

LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES RECEIVES AWARD – The League of Oregon Cities' video "Right of Way: Protecting the Public's Lifeline" has been nationally recognized by the Alliance for Community Media with a 1999 Hometown Video Festival Award. The Festival honors and promotes community communications and local cable programs that are distributed on Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) Access, Local Origination, or Leased Access cable television channels.

The Alliance for Community Media is a national, non-profit membership organization committed to assuring everyone's access to electronic media. Founded in 1976 as the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers, the Alliance represents the interests of an estimated 1.5 million community groups and individuals who use public, educational and government cable television channels and facilities. The Alliance also serves the interests of more than 950 public, educational and governmental access organizations and local origination cable services throughout the country.

LOC's video was produced last year in anticipation of challenges to cities' authority to manage local public rights of way and collect compensation for their use. Copies of the video, along with supporting materials, were sent to all cities in Oregon. City officials were urged to show the video, and to discuss the importance of franchise fees and privilege taxes, and of local right of way management, with their legislators and community groups. The video also was shown on PEG access stations. Taken from League of Oregon Cities publication Local Focus - August 1999.

CHECKING OUT A CONTRACTOR GETS EASIER – Before you make that final decision on which contractor to use for your next construction project, please check with the Oregon Construction Contractors Board (CCB). There are now three simple ways to check if a contractor is properly registered with the CCB and if the business has any open claims filed against it: 1) A toll-free, 24hr. Automated inquiry line, 1-888-366-5635. 2) The Internet: www.ccb.state.or.us. 3) CCB staff Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: 503-378-4621 ext. 4900.

CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION – On Friday, September 17th, 1 p.m. on the steps of Coos Bay's City Hall, the Coos County Republican Women are sponsoring a celebration of the states signing of the constitution. The celebration will include a medley of patriotic music and prayer for our nation and community.

RIBBON-CUTTING FOR F STREET – It was a glorious sunny afternoon and the assembled citizens enjoyed an unobstructed view of the brand new, recently completed paving, curb and gutter work on F Street in Eastside. Mayor Joanne Verger dedicated the refurbished street and cut the ceremonial ribbon with the assistance of Mrs. Earl Erickson and Mr. Sam Sperry, former Eastside mayor. Conversation following the formal dedication ceremony emphasized the sense of accomplishment felt by everyone with the completion of the F Street project. The re-paved street looks grand – it's visible from downtown Coos Bay and is most impressive. A note of thanks to all the Eastside residents who use F Street and endured the construction work on the project – thank you for being patient and understanding – the end result was certainly worth waiting for.

NEW USE FOR THE OLD KEN KEYES BUILDING – The City Council, at their September 7, 1999 meeting, heard a report from Pastor Ivan Sharp and Mr. Rob Hildenbrand about plans for a new use for the McCulloch Hospital Building on Commercial Street in downtown Coos Bay. Pastor Sharp reported that the Eastside Community Church had acquired the building and would be sponsoring a "highly structured, drug-free transitional housing program" to be conducted in the renovated hospital building. When the renovation work is completed, approximately twenty program participants would be residents in the building. The program, called "Stable and Free Emotionally" (SAFE) will be overseen by Mr. Hildenbrand and is based

on a model with a demonstrated success record. The program will begin to operate out of the Ken Keyes building only after renovation of the building is complete.

BLOSSOM CREEK CLEANING – The Parks crew along with the Shutters Creek inmates cleaned over 900 feet of the creek and removed between 30 and 40 yards of limbs and other debris. Several beaver dams were removed to prevent back-up of the water onto private property. This winter with the rains and high tides should provide for good flow and prevent any damage to surrounding properties. Vegetation along the creek was left to provide for shade for water life.

COOS BAY-NORTH BEND WATER BOARD – Monitoring the level of our water source, rainfall levels, weather forecasts, and the amount of treated water used can give us a good indication of what amounts of water we can expect to have in our reservoirs in coming months. We're particularly interested in these levels now due to the upcoming construction involved in raising Upper Pony Creek Dam as part of the Water Supply Expansion Project. During construction, the amount of water in Upper Pony Creek Reservoir will need to be lowered; therefore, close monitoring of the water source levels will be necessary.

We have always kept track of water consumption, reservoir and rainfall levels for the current year, the past year, and years 1965, 1976, and 1987. These years ('65, '76 and '87) were years of drought in our area, and we use them to compare to current conditions. Since these are often a topic of conversation and interest to visitors to our office, we keep them charted in the main office. *(Information taken from the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board's September/October newsletter article by Bob Strassner)*

Calendar Year Rainfall Total at July 31st

1999	44.66 inches
1998	54.29 inches
Average Year	36.04 inches

UPC Level (feet) * at July 31st

1999	78.4
1998	81.0
1987	76.0
1976	78.0
1965	72.5

* Full mark for UPC Reservoir is about 82 feet

COOS BAY LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORER POST #511 - Coos Bay's Law Enforcement Explorer Post #511 recently promoted several members. Sergeant Misty Larson, a senior at North Bend High School, was promoted to the rank of Captain. Misty has been an Explorer Scout with Post #511 for the past four years. Explorer Scout Brad Newton, who is home schooled, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Brad has been a member of the Post for the past nine months. Both Explorers have donated numerous hours to the community and are very dedicated members. Coos Bay Explorer Post #511 is currently accepting applications from interested applicants. More information about the Explorer Post can be obtained by contacting Explorer Post Advisor Tammy Lounsbury at (541) 269-8911.