



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 17, 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

CITY OF COOS WEB SITE GETS POSITIVE FEEDBACK – It's been nothing but positive feedback at City Hall since last week's unveiling of Coos Bay's new Internet WEB site. If you've not visited the site, do it now without further delay at <http://holodeck.ucinet.com/coosbayjb/>.

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.

See for yourself what others have to say to the site's current survey question: "Would you use natural gas if it comes to Coos Bay?" Visit <http://holodeck.ucinet.com/coosbayjb/> and express your opinion by "voting." The City will be changing the question frequently, so check back!

LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES BOARD MEETS IN COOS BAY – The League of Oregon Cities Board of Directors is meeting in Coos Bay these past two days as Mayor Joanne Verger, who also serves at LOC's President this year, leads her Board through a number of business items including a legislative "post-mortem" review of new laws affecting Oregon cities. Last night the Board enjoyed a bay cruise on The Rendezvous, and tomorrow some Board members are scheduled to join in the Fun Festival Parade. Look for Mayor Verger at this evening's football game featuring the number one ranked Marshfield Pirates and defending state champion Ashland Grizzlies. Chances are she'll have some LOC officials with her at the game. What a great weekend to showcase our area!

CITY COUNCIL TO DECIDE ODOT "JURISDICTIONAL EXCHANGE" MATTER – Among other items before the City Council Tuesday evening will be the proposal presented to them by the Oregon Dept. of Transportation, in which ODOT has offered to turn over to Coos Bay 23 lane-miles of state highways inside the City in exchange for consideration amounting to \$4.8 million in cash and other items of value. Staff is recommending acceptance of the offer, with the notion that the ODOT money should be invested in a dedicated fund for street-related projects. Interest from the fund could be used as "incentive matching funds" to help make local neighborhood street improvement projects more affordable for property-owners.

The Council has previously discussed the matter and expressed qualified interest in the opportunity, directing staff last June 1st to negotiate with ODOT to "sweeten the pot" and address issues related to maintenance liability. Community services director Bill Finney and the city manager were able to secure an additional \$50,000 commitment from ODOT since June, plus other items of value. These include ODOT's commitment to pay \$26,000 for the traffic signal changes necessary to implement the two-way street on Anderson (IF the Council should decide to implement that plan), \$12,000 in additional projected maintenance expenses on Coos River Hy. through Eastside and a contractual obligation requiring ODOT to retain full responsibility to repair any major slide to that road if such should occur over the first five years after transferring jurisdiction to Coos Bay.

Contact community services director Bill Finney (269-8918 or finney@ucinet.com) for a copy of the staff report concerning this matter.

CITY OF COOS BAY JOINS FIBER SOUTH CONSORTIUM – This week city manager Bill Grile

signed the intergovernmental agreement that formalizes the City of Coos Bay's membership in the new Fiber South Consortium. The Consortium, which is growing to become a collection of local governments in Coos, Douglas and Lane Counties, is negotiating for access to fiber optic cable being installed between Bandon's AT&T facility at Merchant's Beach and Eugene-Springfield, has already secured a grant of twelve fiber (six pairs) from Williams Communication Company. Williams is the outfit that has been trenching along Hy. 101 this summer. It's line to Eugene is now complete and was "lit" about a week ago, meaning that electronics have been installed on both ends of the "wire" with data flowing through it. This is a tremendous opportunity for Coos County and one that may provide revenue for struggling general funds. So far, Coos County and the City of Coos Bay are the only jurisdictions in Coos County to have completed the process required to join the Consortium. "This is a priority for us!" said city manager Bill Grile this week. "We recognize the importance of the opportunity and its potential for helping to create jobs and income for our area," he added. Coos Bay Police Chief Chuck Knight deserves a word of thanks for coordinating the effort for the City, as does Coos Bay Public Schools' Tim Enright for the technical assistance he has provided along the way. Thanks gentlemen!

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 21 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!

CONGRATULATIONS SGT. DOUG HILL AND RON FREDRICKSON – And a hearty "thanks" for dedicated service to the citizens of Coos Bay is due to Sgt. Doug Hill, CBPD for twenty years of service, and to Ron Fredrickson with the parks crew in Community Services for 15 years. Congratulations, gentlemen.

GET READY FOR ANOTHER COMMUNITY-WIDE CLEAN-UP! – Using the theme "It's time for a clean sweep" the Community Enhancement Committee of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce is asking area residents and businesses to do a little picking and sprucing up in October along area streets and highways.

"Hundreds of volunteers turned out last March and made the area look great," says committee chair Margery Whitmer. "We thought it was time for a little touch-up work before the rains come." Volunteers are welcome to join in the effort Saturday and/or Sunday, October 9 and 10, between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 PM. Litter bags, instructions and street or highway assignments can be picked up at the Coos Bay and North Bend information centers. Participants are urged to bring their own gloves.

Co-chair Chuck Holloway has subtitled the effort "Get in Shape for the Holidays," suggesting litter pick-up provides great aerobic exercise – brisk walking, stretching and bending, and lifting and carrying bags to pick-up spots. Committee members have developed a list of areas which appear to be most in need of clean-up work. Additional suggestions are welcome, according to Whitmer and Holloway, and can be called in to the Chamber office, 269-0215, during office hours (9:00 am to 5:00 PM Monday-Friday, and 10:00 am to 4:00 PM Saturday).

The Chamber group is also applying for grants to help pay for new trees and shrubs to be planted this winter by committee member Steve Skinner, who handled the massive brush clearing project this past spring as part of the successful "Company's Coming" spring clean-up. The committee will soon begin planning for that annual effort, too, tentatively set for late April of 2000. [Article courtesy of Kathi Joy, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.]

LAST CHANCE TO TOUR THE NEW CARISSA EXHIBIT DOWNTOWN! – This weekend will be your last chance to view the New Carissa Exhibit in the trailer next to the Visitors' Information Center

downtown. It's doors will be closing Sunday evening. The exhibit is loaded with neat items, including a binnacle, ship's compass, interactive computer presentation and lots of pictures. Tourism/Conventions director Beve Saukko reports that over 3,000 visitors have enjoyed the exhibit since it went up at the beginning of the tourism season. Thanks Beve, and thanks RSVP volunteers for helping make this display the great success it has been!

CONGRATULATIONS JOHANNA DILLARD – Wednesday morning Johanna Dillard, Coastal Paper and Supply, received Walmart's Sam Walton Business Leadership Award for her ongoing contributions to community betterment efforts. The award comes with a \$500 check donated in her name. Congratulations Johanna!

CHAMBER FORUM FEATURED PANEL ON OREGON'S ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE – Wednesday morning's Chamber Forum featured a panel of experts in town to help local businesses learn how they can expand operations into the international market. Contact the Chamber at 269-0215 or bacc@ucinet.com for more information. State and federal agencies stand ready to offer assistance, and you can reach them at 1-800-USA-TRADE (federal) or 1-800-448-7512 (state).

FALL BRUSH PICK UP – The fall brush pick up is just around the corner and will start on October 4th. The local sanitation companies will be providing the pick up. Whoever picks up your trash will be picking up the brush. There are several changes from previous years with only five yards allowed and anything after that a fee is involved. The reason the City is not providing this service is because of the new franchise agreements with the sanitation companies. The agreements were presented to the Council and approved with the brush pick up being a portion of the new agreements. Residents need to call their sanitation company to get on the pick up list. The numbers are 267-2848 for Les' Sanitary Service and 267-6675 for Coos Bay Sanitary Service.

IT'S FUN FESTIVAL WEEKEND IN COOS BAY! – Why do they call it the "Fun Festival?" Because it's nothin' but FUN - and lots of it!! It's all happening in downtown Coos Bay this weekend. The 20th annual running of the Prefontaine Memorial 10K Race starts at 10:00 AM tomorrow at the Fire Station and ends, as always, at Marshfield High School. The 8th annual CRUZ the Coos Rolling Car Show runs tomorrow evening from 7:00 to 10:00 PM downtown. This year's annual parade, "Silver Stars and Shiny Cars," begins at 1:00 PM tomorrow. So whether it's these great events, the fifth annual Coos Sand 'n Sea Quilt Show, the 4th annual Coos Classic Mountain Bike Race or two wonderful days of crafts and super "eats" downtown, you are guaranteed to enjoy this year's Fun Festival. By the way, this is the festival's 25th anniversary! Congratulations and thanks to Martin Callery and the dedicated group of volunteers who faithfully put on this event every year. Thanks everyone!

FIRE DEPARTMENT HOSTS OPEN HOUSE – Everyone is invited to stop by the fire station on 4th street this weekend while enjoying the Fun Festival activities. There will be fire apparatus, equipment displays and fire prevention materials available. Station tours, soft drinks and popcorn will also be offered as well as a visit by Sparky the fire dog. See you there!

OMI PRESENTATION – OMI will have the newly purchased Bio-Solids truck, the Vacon [equipment for line-cleaning] and the newly purchased TV van and camera in front of City Hall at 6:30PM on September 21, 1999. OMI personnel will be available to explain the functioning of these pieces of equipment. The TV camera will be placed in the line immediately in front of City Hall allowing "live, real time" TV images to be viewed on equipment in the TV van. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy a "hands on" look at the new equipment which is being used for the public's benefit. We hope to see you there

Y2K INFORMATION MEETINGS SCHEDULED – Interested in getting your household prepared for the Year 2000? Two local information meetings have been scheduled for the City of Coos Bay. The first meeting will be held in a town hall format and will present information on the City's Y2K plan. The town

hall meeting will be held on Monday, October 18, 1999 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall. The second meeting is being presented by the Friend of the Coos Bay Public Library on Thursday, October 21, 1999 at 7 p.m. in the Library meeting room. The panel will include representatives from a local bank, the electric company, the water board, the American Red Cross, a grocer, and a pharmacist. Information will be presented on what to do to prepare, what we should worry about, and what we do not need to worry about.

LIBRARY RESUMES SENIOR CITIZEN FILM DAY – After a long hiatus that coincided with construction, Senior Citizen Film Day at Coos Bay Library resumed on Tuesday, September 14. The free program is sponsored by Friends of the Library and features video showings and special "goodies" by long-time volunteer Dorothy Foss. Twenty five seniors enjoyed this first event, which will be scheduled the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the library.

REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR "SCRAPS OF MEMORY" WRITING WORKSHOP – Coos Bay Library is one of twelve around the state participating in a grant-funded project called "Traditional Arts of the Oregon Country," with various special programs scheduled during the month of October. The first event will be a free community writing workshop on Saturday, October 9, 9:00 to 4:00, with Portland writer and teacher Melissa Madenski. She will guide participants through ways of writing about experiences and memories, or exploring family or community history. Participation is limited to 20 and registration forms are available at the library. Funding comes from the National Endowment for the Arts, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Center for the Book at the State Library and the Friends of the Coos Bay Public Library.

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR RESUMES AT LIBRARY – An enthusiastic group of children welcomed the first story time of the year at Coos Bay Library on Wednesday, September 15. New Youth Librarian Pat Flitcroft enjoyed sharing stories on the theme of "Come Along Daisy" and repeated the event on Thursday, September 16. Story time will be set every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and at a new time: Thursdays at noon. Children of all ages - and parents - are welcome to attend story time in the new story corner of the library.

INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Just a reminder that it is the responsibility of the property owner abutting a sidewalk to maintain the sidewalk in good repair and safe condition. Safe condition means being free of brush, leaves, snow, ice, or any obstruction. This also includes the elimination of tripping dangers, for example, cracks in concrete or raised panels.

MINGUS PARK LIGHTING – The project at Mingus Park to place new lights on the west side of lake has begun. Reese Electric installed the bases on Wednesday and trenching for the conduit will begin next Tuesday. The light s will look like the ones on the east side of lake. The City placing two lights by the shelter and children play area. Once this project is complete all the overhead wires on old wood poles will be removed.