



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

October 1, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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GAIL GEORGE MEMORIAL SERVICE – The City of Coos Bay expresses it's sympathies and sense of profound loss to the family of Gail George, who passed away yesterday after battling with multiple sclerosis for many years. Gail joined the City of Coos Bay in 1977 and worked her way up in the Finance Department, eventually becoming its Director – a position she held with distinction for many years until retiring for health reasons in 1998. She was respected by her colleagues at City Hall and respected statewide for her accomplishments. "Gail was an outstanding Finance Director and stable influence to those of us working to make Coos Bay a better place to live and work," said city manager Bill Grile. "We'll miss her."

Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 5th, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3355 Virginia Avenue, North Bend.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MEETS IN COOS BAY – Yesterday afternoon members of the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission made a stop at Front Street where Community Services Director Bill Finney provided a guided tour of the area and briefed them about the City's redevelopment plan for the waterfront. Then last evening the Commission and its Dept. of Environmental Quality staff hosted local officials to an informal dinner attended by Coos Bay Council President Cindi Miller, city manager Bill Grile, Bill Finney and elected officials from Coos County, Lakeside, Bandon and Brookings. The dinner was a great opportunity to share views and express areas of concern, which Chairperson Carol Whipple encouraged.

The Environmental Quality Commission is a citizen panel appointed by the Governor to serve as DEQ's policy and rule-making board. The Commission adopts administrative rules, issues orders and judges appeals of fines or other department actions. Commission members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor. The commission hires the DEQ director Langdon Marsh. Commission members are Carol Whipple, Elkton, chair; Tony Van Vliet, Corvallis; Linda McMahan, Portland; Melinda Eden, Milton-Freewater and Mark Reeve, Aurora. Langdon Marsh is the DEQ Director.

You can learn more about DEQ at <http://www.deq.state.or.us>.

HAVE YOUR VERY OWN PIECE OF HISTORY FROM THE NEW CARISSA – The United States Coast Guard donated one of New Carissa's life rings to the Coos Bay - North Bend Rotary Club to auction off as fund-raiser to support worthy community projects. Would YOU like to own the life ring? Can't you just see it hanging on your office wall or at some appropriate location at home or at your summer cabin? What a great conversational piece! The life ring is currently listed as an auction item at eBay.com. Check it out at <http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=171582140>.

FOUR THOUSAND CITY MANAGERS – City manager Bill Grile spent Saturday through Wednesday of this week attending the International City/County Management Association's 85th annual conference, which was held this year in Portland and hosted by the Oregon City/County Management Association. There were more than 4000 local government professionals from the United States and around the world in attendance including South Coast managers Jim Hough (Reedsport) and Bud Schmidt (Myrtle Point) along with me and about 75 others from Oregon at the conference. "I don't think I've ever attended a better conference in terms of training, networking and motivational benefits," said Grile. This was the first national ICMA conference for me, and I can see now why other managers make attending this event a priority as part

of their personal networking and professional development goals.” You can learn more about ICMA at <http://www.icma.org> and about the Oregon City/County Management Association at <http://www.occma.org/>.

POLL SHOWS PEOPLE WANT NATURAL GAS – The City continues to receive positive feedback about it's new WEB site. If you've not visited the site, do it now without further delay at <http://holodeck.ucinet.com/coosbayjb/>.

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.” With over 250 people expressing opinions in this unscientific but nevertheless interesting opinion poll, clearly 75% of those responding want natural gas should it become available here in Coos County.

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 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. 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 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m. 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.]

MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – Coos Bay Schools Supt. Giles Parker has noted that, "Work has been temporarily suspended on the site preparation work at the Marshfield High School new Math-Science building after the independent testing firm contracted by the district discovered the strength of the concrete did not meet the specifications from the structural engineer." "The work will resume as soon as the concrete mix meets specifications, he added"

Special Inspectors are frequently retained by the “owner” of a large construction project. These inspectors monitor all phases of the project on a continuing presence basis. Special Inspectors are not part of the city's Building Codes Division, but work closely with city staff.

UPDATE OF THE AUSTA FIRE – Gary Schulz with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry dropped us an e-mail this morning with an update about the relatively nearby “Austa fire,” which has now grown to about 1000 acres west of Veneta. Two hundred acres were added on last night with a controlled burn-out. So far the dry east winds have not materialized. Air operations are up and running attempting to cool things down along with 500+ people out on the lines. Courtesy of DOF, photos of the fire can be viewed at <http://www.odf.state.or.us/fireprot/briefing/weekly1.htm>.

OPEN BURNING BANNED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE – In conjunction with County fire departments and Coos Forest Protection all open burning has been banned within the city limits of Coos Bay. This ban includes rubbish piles, burn barrels and any other open burning. The ban is being implemented due to the present weather conditions i.e. low humidity and lack of rainfall. The ban will be in effect until further notice.

Residents are urged not to burn – all fires will be extinguished by the fire department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTES – Congratulations to volunteer firefighter Kelly Niles on being promoted to the position of volunteer lieutenant. Kelly has been with the fire department for six years and brings with him expertise in wildland firefighting through his job with Coos Forest Protective Association.

FIRE STATIONS RECEIVE FACELIFT – The downtown and Eastside fire stations received new paint jobs recently as part of our community enhancement program. Thanks goes out to all of the fire department personnel who worked on these projects – a job well done!

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK – As part of this years Fire Prevention Week theme "The Great Escape" the fire department will be participating in the National Fire Protection Associations contest to win a trip to Disney World in Florida. The goal for the campaign is to encourage people to prepare for a fire by making a home escape plan and practicing it regularly. Fire department personnel will be visiting the Coos Bay elementary schools next week to hand out contest materials.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS HOST OPEN HOUSE – Next week will also be the dates for the annual fire department open house events. Monday, October 4th Station No.1 (downtown) will host an open house, on Tuesday, Oct. 5th Station No. 3 (Eastside) and on Wednesday, Oct. 6th Station No. 2 (Empire) will hold their open house events. Food and drinks will be provided as well as equipment demonstrations, station tours and of course a visit by Sparky the Fire Dog. Bring the kids down from 6 to 8 p.m. and spend some quality time with the family!

OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR FREE WRITER'S WORKSHOP – Spots are still available for participation in a free community writing workshop, "Scraps of Memory," taking place at Coos Bay Public Library on Saturday, October 9th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in the large meeting room. The session will be hands-on, and is intended to help attendees learn how to record their own experiences or memories, or to explore their family or community history. Instructor is Portland writer and teacher Melissa Madenski. The workshop is organized through the Oregon History Center and is funded through grants for the arts and Friends of the Coos Bay Public Library. Registration is limited to 20 and forms must be in before Monday, October 4th. They are available at the library, at Books By The Bay and at Harvest Books.

GIANT FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE IS HERE – A huge "Welcome Back" used book sale will take place Saturday and Sunday, October 2nd and 3rd, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Saturday. It is the first sale by the Friends of the Library to be held in the new library meeting room in over a year. Thousands of books will be available, most at 25 cents. Sunday is half-price day. Don't miss this one!

LIBRARY TO OFFER CLASS ON INTRODUCTORY INTERNET SKILLS – A class in how to use the Internet (so it doesn't use YOU) is offered on October 14th, 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Coos Bay Public Library. The class will be hands-on before the library opens in the new library technology center and is limited to six participants. The class will be given by Romelle Renner, a Workforce Analyst for the State of Oregon Employment Department, who will also give a workshop on October 19th in the library specifically on using the Internet for jobs. This short class will cover the basics of navigating the Internet, using search engines effectively, and using no-cost Email. Call 269-1101 ext. 3, or visit Coos Bay Public Library to register.

REGIONAL LIBRARY GROUP MEETS IN COOS BAY – Members of the Southern Oregon Library Federation (SOLF) will convene for their quarterly meeting on Friday, October 1st, at Coos Bay Public Library. The all-day meeting will include presentations by Oregon State Library staff on current statewide library developments. The newly elected President of SOLF is Coos Bay Public Library Reference Librarian Nancy Freeman. The multi-type library organization has coordinated cooperative regional efforts to improve

library service in the region and has sponsored grant projects that have been prototypes for statewide programs.

PARK HOUSE ACCIDENT – The city-owned “Park House” on West Park Roadway sustained substantial damage on Tuesday when a contractor’s mistake caused a sewage spill inside the building. The contractor was working on West Park Roadway installing a sewer line replacement for the city. The spill was contained fairly quickly; there was no hazard to the environment. Damage to the Park House includes the flooring, carpeting and some wall panels. The contractor’s insurance carrier is working closely with city staff on developing cost estimates for the necessary repair work. The accident is really regrettable, all the more so because the incident was so thoroughly preventable.

BUILDING CODES FORUM – The League of Oregon Cities together with the state’s Department of Consumer and Business Services will host an open forum discussion on strengths, weaknesses and opportunities within the state’s building code system. The forum will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 21, 1999. The Building Codes Division provides permitting and inspection services for both commercial and residential construction. The cost of those services was increased this year by more than twenty-five percent; that cost increase and the manner in which the state Division provides its service has been criticized throughout the state. The open forum discussions have been scheduled statewide to allow the state Building Codes Division the opportunity to hear directly from the public that they serve regarding the Division’s performance. The city’s Community Services staff are working with the Homebuilder’s Association to promote attendance at the October 21st forum. The public is cordially invited to attend.

PUBLIC FORUM TO BE HELD ON GAS PIPELINE AND STATE CRIME MEASURES – A Public Forum featuring the County Gas Pipeline Bond Measure and State crime Measures will be held Monday, October 11th at 7 p.m. at the Coos Bay City Hall. Nikki Whitty, Coos County Commissioner, and Deborah George Wright, Associate Dean Professional and Technical Education of Southwestern Oregon Community College, will support the proposed pipeline. Bobbie Stewart and Peter Ryan will present the opposing position. Paul Burgett, Coos County District Attorney and Katie Dunn, Southwestern Oregon Public Defender, will present the supporting and opposing issues of State Measures Nos. 70,71,73,75. The opportunity for written questions from the audience will follow the presentations.

This event will be sponsored by the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Coos County and the local chapter of the American Association of University Women. For further information call Vi Fietz (267-5306) or Donna Flammang (888-9657). Free LWV Voter Guides presenting both sides of the nine state measures will be available at the forum and at local libraries, schools, post offices, and senior centers.

‘STOP THE HATE’ PUBLIC VIGIL PLANNED BY LOCAL COALITION – A Coalition of local religious and other community organizations will hold an interfaith vigil against violence on Oct. 7th at 7 p.m., to bring together ordinary people of goodwill and faith to make changes in their neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and houses of worship by raising awareness and launching programs to stop the hate. The stop the hate vigil will be begin at the First Presbyterian Church in Coos Bay at 438 Elrod Avenue, featuring statements from diverse community leaders. Music and inspirational readings will be followed by a candlelight/flashlight walk to the Coos Bay Boardwalk to make a public statement that this community will not tolerate the hate crimes and actions that are so prevalent in our society. Refreshments will be served back at the church to wind up the evening. The non-denominational event is free and open to the public.

"Since 1996, we have witnessed a rise in hate crimes. Too often, violent acts will desensitize people, creating a culture of powerlessness and isolation. We have a moral responsibility and civic obligation to take

a leading role in doing whatever we can to stop the hate in our society," said Coos County Commissioner Nikki Whitty.

The event is a local response to the national campaign sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance and the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) and has been endorsed by more than 150 local, state, and national organizations. The stop the hate campaign marks the first national interfaith response to the epidemic of hate violence in our society. Uniting behind their shared value and spiritual commitment to creating a just society that respects the human dignity of its members, Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Sikh, Haha'i, Unitarian Universalist, Buddhist, and other community leaders are organizing various public events in their communities. Across the nation, public vigils will be held on Oct. 7th to raise awareness and remember victims of violence—and to address the most common source of prejudice and hate: fear.

"As religious people, we have an ethical responsibility to act as nonviolent agents of healing in our communities and to root out hate whenever it appears," said Rev. Chris vonLobedan, chairman of the Coos County Commission for Human Rights.

Local endorsers to the Coalition, to date, include Coos County Commission for Human Rights, South Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Human Rights Advocates of Coos County, First Presbyterian Church of Coos Bay, Rev. Chris vonLobedan, League of Women Voters of Coos County, Bay Area Mediation Services, Native American Church of Oregon—South Coast Chapter, South Coast Pflagg, Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, John Hubbard, Latinos Unidos of Coos Bay, Congregation Mayim Shalom, Rev. Pam Meese, Rev. Canon Barbara C. Mudge, Oregon Nurse's Association, Dist. 10, the Baha'i Faith in Coos County, Reedsport Christian Church, The Qur'an Foundation of Ashland, Rev. David Torres, Unity by the Bay, Rev. Dr. Daniel P. Myers, Sylviane Hereford, William Smith, Susan Mallone, and Women's Crisis Service.

For more information contact Asiale Crumley at 888-4349 or Vi Fietz at 267-5306