



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

October 8, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**OPEN BURNING BAN LIFTED** – In light of the recent change in the weather county agencies, including the Coos Bay Fire Department, have lifted the open burning ban imposed last week. Open burning will once again be allowed within the city limits of Coos Bay in accordance with the city's outdoor burning regulations. If you would like a copy of these regulations please call the fire department at 269-1191. The fire department would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Coos Bay for their cooperation during this situation.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE EVENTS** – Over 500 people attended this week's open house events at the Coos Bay Fire departments. Activities included demonstrations on aerial apparatus, protective clothing and interactive fire stream operations as well as food, drinks and balloons for the kids. Thanks to the many fire department personnel who contributed to the success of this community event. Parents are reminded to have their children complete and return to either the school or the downtown fire station their home escape plans for entry in the Disney World drawing.

**LIBRARY OFFERS SESSION ON INTRODUCTORY INTERNET SKILLS** – There are still openings in this free session to be held October 14<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m. to noon in the library Technology Center. Romelle Renner, Workforce Analyst for Oregon State Employment Department will show participants how to navigate the Internet, how to use search engines effectively and how to make use of no-cost email providers. Call the library reference desk at 269-1101 ext. 3 to register.

**LIBRARY HOSTS WORKSHOP ON "HOW TO USE THE INTERNET TO FIND WORK OR TO FIND WORKERS"** – Internet Websites are offering more and more data, and the number of sites multiplies daily. The data available can be overwhelming and our skill at locating and using it requires frequent review. Join this trip into some of the best sites on the Internet specifically for job seeking or, for employers, seeking workers. The program will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Coos Bay Library meeting room. Presenter of this free program is Romelle Renner, Workforce Analyst for Oregon State Employment Department.

**SENIOR FILM DAY SCHEDULED AT LIBRARY** – With completion of the new library meeting room, the popular Senior Film Day program has resumed. The next program will be next Tuesday, October 12, 2:00

p.m., and will feature the film "Full Circle with Michael Palin - Alaska and Russia." Palin journeys to circumnavigate the Pacific Rim starting on the small island of Diomedea, Alaska, moving then to Kodiak and on to Kamchatka, Russia. Refreshments will be provided by volunteer Dorothy Foss. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

**"TRADITIONAL ARTS OF THE OREGON COUNTRY" EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMS HOSTED BY THE LIBRARY** – Special exhibits are currently shown at the library as part of a special grant program through the Oregon Historical Society's Oregon Folklife Program. The Program presents Oregon's folk arts through a traveling photo exhibit showing practicing Oregon artists and their work. Coos Bay is one of twelve Oregon libraries participating in the grant project. Other displays in library exhibit cases feature quilts by members of Coos Sand 'n Sea Quilters that are based on traditional quilt patterns as well as several pieces of the Norwegian folk art of rosemaling by Gold Beach artist Joanne Fedje. The three exhibits give current interpretations of traditional folk arts that have become part of Oregon's cultural heritage. All three can be seen in the library throughout the month of October. Two programs are part of the grant project: 1) "Scraps of Memory" writing workshop will be given Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, by writer and teacher Melissa Madenski, co-sponsored by Friends of the Library. Participation was limited to 20 and there is a waiting list in case openings occur at the last minute. 2) On Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m., there will be a visual journey through slides, "Traveling Oregon Via the Folk Arts," shown by Oregon History Center folklorist Laura Marcus, followed by a performance of Mexican Mariachi music by master requinto guitar teacher Candelario Zemudio.

**YOUNG READERS CHOICE BOOK AWARDS** – Books nominated for the Young Readers Choice Award (YRCA) will be on display in the Children's Department throughout the month of October. Readers grades 4 - 8 will vote for their favorite in March. They must have read at least two of the nominees to be eligible to vote. The YRCA is the oldest regional book award program in the nation.

**LIBRARY LAUNCHES INDEPENDENT READING PROGRAM** – Here is the chance for children in grades K-12 to win a great prize during Coos Bay Public Library's "Hooked on Books" independent reading program. From now until November 22<sup>nd</sup> young readers can try to win one of four great prizes by reading, or having read to them, books or unabridged audio books from the library. For every 100 pages an entry can be dropped into a box for the prize of choice. Children can enter as often as they want.

**JOHN TOPITS PARK TOUR** – Community Services Director Bill Finney, Operations Administrator Steve Doty and Parks Foreman Phil Christiana toured John Topits Park with John to see what the City can do to help the volunteers that work in the Park every Saturday. John has several visions on cleaning up certain areas to open the forest areas for better visual effect. Most of that work would be to remove limbs and blown down trees to make the area more user friendly. There are some very peaceful areas off the main trail for visitors to see. The trails are primitive, but are walkable by most individuals. The Shuttles Creek inmates could be utilized for most of work in clearing and staff could haul the brush away.

**DOWNTOWN PARKING DECISION** – At its Tuesday evening meeting this week, the City Council approved a suspension of parking time limit enforcement in all municipal parking lots in the downtown area. Enforcement of parking time limits for on-street parking will continue -- only parking lots are affected by the Council's decision. Parking permits already purchased for the October through December time period will be credited for those payments. The Council will review the effects of this decision after the first of the new year.

**FIRE DAMAGE AT MINGUS PARK POOLHOUSE** – Early Wednesday morning a construction worker engaged in the poolhouse re-construction project noticed smoke in one of the yet to be completed rooms of the building. The Coos Bay Fire Department responded and found lots of smoke, but very little actual fire. Lots of insulation was damaged by the smoke and minor damage to some wood framing was sustained. The

architect for the project is examining what will be required to repair the damage; estimates are that the project will not be significantly delayed. The cause of the fire is being investigated by the Coos Bay Fire Department.

**BUILDING CODES DIVISION MEETING OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup>** – BCD will be conducting a series of open forums across the state to discuss the building codes system in Oregon; its statutory framework, policy boards and state and local administrative structure. Oregon's building codes system has been in place since 1973 and could benefit from open and frank discussions regarding its strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. The meeting for this area will be held October 21, at City Hall in the Council Chambers located at 500 Central Ave. Coos Bay OR. The meeting will begin at 7pm. If you have any questions please contact Community Services 269-8918.

**EPA BROWNFIELD GRANT** -- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> marked the beginning of the new Federal fiscal year and the official start-up of the Brownfield Development Pilot Project. The pilot, or redevelopment area, involving 30 separate ownerships has been identified as the Waterfront Heritage District and involves properties along N. Front Street just north of the present Coos Bay Boardwalk. The City is now seeking a qualified environmental consulting firm to assist it in identifying potential barriers to redevelopment. There has been a tremendous response to the Request for Proposals currently being advertised.