



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

November 19, 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

LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES CONFERENCE HELD IN EUGENE – The annual League of Oregon Cities (LOC) conference was held in Eugene last weekend. Leading Our Cities Into the Twenty-first Century was the theme for the conference. Mayor Verger and City Councilors attended workshops ranging from Partnering with the Public to Electric Industry Restructuring and more. The City received a safety award from City County Insurance Services, Mayor Verger received a plaque and recognition for her work representing the City of Coos Bay at the State level during her term as President of the League of Oregon Cities Board, and The Lab Band performed at the LOC annual banquet receiving great reviews. One of the highlights of the conference was a presentation by Clay Jenkinson who lead the assembly on a journey back in time with Thomas Jefferson. What better way to prepare for the next century than by reviewing the lessons learned through history. President Jefferson shared his understanding of governance, and how it applies to the decision we must make for the future.

SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN! – The City of Coos Bay's annual downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held Friday, November 26th at 6 p.m. at the Convention Center located at 158 Central Avenue. The event is co-sponsored by the City of Coos Bay and the Downtown Association. There will be caroling, music, entertainment, cookie decorating, refreshments, and carriage rides provided by the City of Coos Bay, the Downtown Association, The Lab Band and the Bay Area Concert Band. Santa will arrive by horse-drawn carriage at 6:30 p.m. and children will have an opportunity to have their picture taken with him.

Winners of the Ride with Santa Drawing were announced at Tuesday evening's City Council meeting. Eight third grade students will ride with Santa from city hall in a horse-drawn carriage to the convention center. After Santa arrives he will join Mayor Verger in lighting the Christmas trees. Carriage rides will be offered throughout the evening. Those selected were: Joseph Frost, Tyler Graves, Aaron Johnson, Michael Morrisen, Alyssia Remsen, Erica Schubert, Matthew Stewart and Lauren Wood.

TIME CAPSULE 2000 – The event will be launched Saturday, Nov. 20th in the downtown central area near the Chamber of Commerce, with opening addresses by Council President Cindi Miller and Downtown Association representatives. Area residents are encouraged to join the celebration at 1 p.m. that afternoon and bring either a business card, photo, or message for the future. Items will be collected throughout the holiday season. The Downtown merchants are seeking additional ideas to be placed in the capsule. Area residents are encouraged to write down these ideas between now and Nov. 20th and drop them off at one of the following downtown businesses: The Art Connection, Fiddlesticks, The World Newspaper or Checkerberry's. The capsule will be on display downtown through early spring of 2000, at which time it will be placed by the city in a downtown location near the city hall and be left for 25 years, or until 2025, when residents will open it and get a glimpse of life as it was at the turn of the new millennium. For more information contact chairperson for this project, Gary Rifkin, 267-5443.

MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL GAME TO BE TELEVISED – KCBY-TV will be telecasting tonight's football game between the McKay Royal Scotts and the Marshfield Pirates, with playback to run tomorrow (Saturday) morning at 10:00 a.m. Thank you Coos Bay sponsors!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE CITY – The City of Coos Bay is seeking volunteers to fill positions on the Budget Committee, Design Review Board, Planning Commission, and the Tourism and Promotion Committee. Applications are available from the city manager's office during normal business hours or by calling 269-8912. Applications will be accepted during normal business hours through 5 p.m. November 30, 1999. Interviews will be conducted by the City Council and appointments will be made at the December 21, 1999 City Council meeting. Applicants will be notified when the interviews will be scheduled.

SERGEANT PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED – Chief Knight recently announced two promotions in the police department. Officer Robert Lounsbury joined the police department in 1991 after serving in the department's Explorer Post and Reserve unit prior to appointment. Officer Lounsbury has served as Explorer Post advisor, School Resource Officer, and DARE officer. Lounsbury will take over as shift commander of a patrol shift December 1st upon the retirement of Sergeant Mike Bishop. Officer Darrell King joined the police department in 1978 and has worked as a patrol officer, investigator, traffic officer, crime prevention officer, and for the past five years as School Resource Officer at Marshfield High School. Sergeant King will assume duties as patrol shift supervisor on December 1st replacing Eura Washburn who assumes her new duties as Captain in the police department. Congratulations Sergeants Lounsbury and King!

CHIEF KNIGHT PARTICIPATES ON HIRING PANEL – Chief Knight participated on a panel of employers sharing what they look for when hiring and promoting. Chief Knight joined Mike Freeman from Cardinal Services, Karen Gray from Marshfield High School, Suzie McDaniel from Bay Area Hospital, and Tom Bennett from Southwestern Oregon Community College in a panel discussion held last Tuesday. The discussion was organized by Ann Fauss at Southwestern Oregon Community College to assist interested persons in preparing for future employment or promotions within their chosen field. The meeting was attended by Students, faculty, and other interested persons.

CITY CONSIDERS REVERSE 9-1-1 – A system which will allow city residents and merchants to be alerted to potential disasters, crime information, or other emergencies is currently under consideration by city staff. A system known as "reverse 9-1-1" will allow individuals within a given area to be contacted by telephone and warned of potential hazards. Reverse 9-1-1 will allow a recorded message to be sent out to multiple businesses and residences simultaneously. If implemented, Coos Bay would become the first municipality in Oregon to have such a system. Police Chief Knight is working with Sigma Micro corporation in researching the feasibility and cost effectiveness for Coos Bay.

LIGHTS GO UP AT SHORE ACRES – The lights went up this past weekend at Shore Acres Park. Fire Department members participated in their annual field trip to do their part to help get ready for the holiday season. The 13th annual Holiday Lights & Open House at Shore Acres begins November 25th and goes through January 2, 2000 (including Christmas Eve, Christmas and New Year's Eve and New Year's). Don't miss this community tradition complete with hot cider, punch, coffee and homemade cookies.

FIREFIGHTER TRAVELS TO FIRE ACADEMY – Firefighter Bill Johnson returned this week from the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Bill attended classes as the training officer for the Hauser Fire Department. The class "Challenges for Local Training Officers" will be a benefit not only for the Hauser Department, but also for Coos Bay Fire where Bill serves as a Lieutenant.

SWOYA PHASE 4 CONTRACT AWARD – The City of Coos Bay received the \$250,000 Meyer Trust check from SWOYA this week. This check represents a significant portion of the \$1.15 million needed for completion of Phase 4. The balance of the funding is from an Oregon Community Development Block Grant for the Oregon Economic Development Dept. and SWOYA funds.

TENNIS COURT PAVING – The City Council’s action to convert two tennis courts by the softball field at Mingus Park to a parking lot is being held up by the weather. Just after the Council gave the go-ahead for this project, hot-mix asphalt supply all along the South Coast just disappeared; paving contractors could not find a supplier anywhere. Then the rain started. And, unfortunately, has continued for long enough to keep the paving work from proceeding. To do the paving correctly, the air temperature should be at least 55 degrees and the newly laid asphalt should be dry for about twenty-four hours. That combination of conditions is becoming an increasingly rare thing. The paving work may wait a while before being completed – the City Council wants the work to be done correctly – when the weather cooperates, the work will proceed.

STREET SCAPE PROJECTS – City staff met with Architect Lon Samuels on Thursday to do a walk through on the Downtown Street Scape and Parking Lot Lighting Projects. The walk through helps with the design and gives the Architect an idea of what the City is looking for in a design. Another walk through for the Empire Street Scape and Gateway Projects is planned for Monday morning with Architect Rich Turi. Once the walk through is completed, a preliminary plan can be drawn up and submitted to the Urban Renewal Agency for review and comments. After the review final plans can be drawn and put out to bid in the spring, with a completion date in May or June.

DONATIONS FOR TIMING SYSTEM – The South Coast Aquatic Team is accepting donations to purchase a new timing system to be used for area swim meets. At Tuesday’s meeting the City Council approved donating \$2,000 towards the purchase price of \$15,050. Several local organizations have donated toward the purchase. If you are interested in contributing please contact Caddy McKeown at 267-7410 or Kathy Verger Muscus at 267-5540.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH CENSUS BUREAU – The U.S. Census Bureau has employment opportunities available as census takers and office clerks for Census 2000. Job qualifications include working approximately 25 to 40 hours per week, some evening and week work possible, vehicle required for some positions, bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply, and applicants must take a 30 minute written test. Pay is \$7.50 to \$9.75 per hour. To schedule an appointment for testing please contact Eugene Local Census Office at (541) 465-6585, ext. 120.

COOS HISTORICAL MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANTS – The Coos County Historical Society recently received two grants, totaling \$1,540 to assist in publishing a brochure and purchasing reference materials. The Oregon Tourism Commission awarded \$400 to the museum and seven other cooperating organizations of the Southwestern Oregon Museums Association, which contributed \$400 each, to produce 15,000 copies of “Museums of the South Coast.” The handbill, listing all eight facilities, is available at the Museum, as well as local visitors centers.

Trust Management Services of Waldport awarded \$1,140 to the Coos County Historical Society Museum to buy reference books for its library, rolls of microfilm of Coos Bay Harbor, an index to naturalization records, abstracts of Oregon donation land claims, IRS assessment lists and registers of lighthouse keepers. Trust Management Services makes grants to nonprofit organizations that emphasize education, community service, youth activities, and cultural and historical preservation.

The Coos County Historical Society has established a building fund to assist in the construction of a new museum, following receipt of several large pledges and gifts made recently for the purpose of funding a new facility to replace its existing 50-year building. For information about membership in the society or contributing to the building fund, contact director Ann Kopyy at the museum, 1220 Sherman Avenue in North Bend, 756-6320.