



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

December 10, 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

FIBER SOUTH CONSORTIUM ELECTS COUNCILOR DON SPANGLER AS VICE-CHAIR – City Councilor Don Spangler was elected by fellow board-members to serve as the first Vice-Chair for Fiber South Consortium, an intergovernmental entity comprised of cities and counties in Coos, Douglas and Lane Counties. The decision came last Monday at the Consortium's first formal meeting, held at the SONY disk manufacturing plant in Springfield. The Consortium formed to help prevent Southwestern Oregon from becoming a "digital dust bowl," in the words of one meeting participant, and more specifically to promote the completion of a fiber-optic communication infrastructure for the region that will promote education, health, public safety, information and economic development.

Scott Chambers, President of Chamber Communications, provided the fifty or so attending the meeting with a private sector perspective of the Consortium's potential, noting that "just as yesterday's cities were built along rivers and highways, tomorrow's cities will be built along fiber routes." "Every seller is a buyer and every buyer a seller" in our new global economy," he continued. Perhaps most exciting of all, Chambers noted that the six pair of fiber controlled by the new Consortium is an asset with a value "in the millions of dollars and someday you may look back on this venture like the founding of the O&C Counties Assn." Wow!!

Also speaking to the consortium were representatives from Aptus Communications, a company with access to Wall Street capital that it uses "develop strategic partnerships to design, build, own, and operate next-generation packet-switched networks." Aptus presented a strong sales pitch for the consortium to form a partnership with them (to build a network), advocating strongly for "improved regional connectivity." "You can not be an island unto yourself," was its message.

Also attending the day's meeting were Coos Bay city manager Bill Grile, Coos County commissioner Nikki Whitty, North Bend councilors Dan Scherer and Larry Garboden, Southwestern Oregon Community College President Dr. Steve Kridelbaugh, North Bend public works director Aaron Geisler and Reedsport city manager Jim Hough. Lane County Commissioner Cindy Weeldreyer was elected Chair of Fiber South, and is widely credited as the initiator behind the creation of the new Consortium. The next Board meeting is planned for February sometime, at a location to be announced

KATHE BOURELL HONORED – During Tuesday's City Council meeting Mayor Verger presented the Governor's Fitness Award to Kathe Bourell. Mayor Verger commended Kathe for her dedication to the Bay Area's swim team and swim program over the past several years. Each year mayors throughout the state have an opportunity to nominate a citizen for the Governor's Fitness Award to be presented at the annual League of Oregon Cities Conference.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PROCLAMATION – The City Council adopted a proclamation supporting the construction of a national World War II Memorial in Washington DC. The memorial would be the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during the conflict, including all military veterans of the war, the citizens on the home front, and the Nation at-large. The memorial project will be funded almost entirely by private contributions. Local veteran organizations and supporters are working jointly with Wal-Mart to raise the approximate \$40 million still needed to fund the \$100 million project. Contributions

The Friday Update – December 10, 1999

Page 2

may be made at the Wal-Mart store or by contacting Bill Rugh at 269-7922.

PARKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED – The City Council appointed three new members to the City's downtown Parking Committee at the regular council meeting this week. New committee members include Connie Aurdahl, owner and operator of the Town House; Mark Daily, co-owner of Indoor-Outdoor; and Don Heldstab, co-owner of Bay Appliance. Congratulations and thank you for volunteering!

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. If you are interested in contributing please contact Caddy McKeown at 267-7410 or Kathy Verger Muscus at 267-5540.

LIBRARY CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAM – The library's annual festive holiday program for children ages 3 to 12 will take place at the library on Saturday, December 11th at 11 a.m. The free 45-minute program will feature presentations by several storytellers and musicians from the South Coast community, including seasonal stories, songs, treats and a take home craft. Audience participation is expected!

HELPLINE OPEN HOUSE – An open house and volunteer appreciation ceremony will be held at the new Helpline location on Sunday, December 12th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Helpline recently moved into office space at the Eastside Fire Hall, 365 D Street.

COOS COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER – The Coos County Commission on Children and Families held a celebration dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 9th, at the E.S.D. building on Teakwood Avenue. The dinner was held to honor the Commission, its partners and the past years' progress and success. Coos Bay City Mayor Joanne Verger was one honoree. She was presented with a certificate and flowers in recognition of her role as League of Oregon Cities President. She was instrumental in effecting a state-wide change providing municipal partnering representatives on each Children and Families Commission throughout Oregon.

POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFERS ADDITIONAL PATROL DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON – Police officers will be doing walkabouts of parking lots and stores, offering a friendly greeting and visible presence during this holiday season. With the local stores and parking lots jammed with holiday shoppers, officers feel their additional presence will act as a deterrent to car clouts, shoplifts and other crimes associated with holiday shopping.

NEW POLICE OFFICER JOINS COOS BAY FORCE – Monday, December 3rd, was Darrell Babb's first day on the job as Coos Bay's newest police officer. Officer Babb and his wife, Stacey, have been residents of the Bay Area for some time. Darrell comes to us after working as a Corrections Officer in the Coos County Jail for the last two years. Welcome aboard, Officer Babb!

CHRONIC DISORDERLY PROPERTY ORDINANCE – At Tuesday's City Council work session, staff and council members received a draft proposal for a new City ordinance titled "Chronic Disorderly Property Ordinance." A Blossom Gulch School and Community Group appeared before the council to speak about the proposal and its possible beneficial impact on the quality of life in all of the City's neighborhoods. Blossom Gulch School Principal Vicki Jenkins was the spokesperson for the neighborhood group. Coos Bay Police sergeants all reviewed the draft proposal and Sgt. Darrell King represented their input. City Attorney Randall Tosh effectively addressed the only issue the sergeant had as a concern.

The proposed ordinance would allow for civil penalties and remedies when an enforcement officer receives a report alleging the occurrence of four prohibited activities at or within 200 feet of residential property within 60 days. Some of the prohibited activities include loud, tumultuous, disorderly and fighting behaviors, alcohol violations, criminal trespassing, criminal mischief, assaults and discharge of weapons. All

the offenses listed in the proposal are behaviors police and neighbors associate with drug houses, after (bar closing) hours drinking brawls in neighborhoods, and troublesome locations that persist in ongoing, disruptive, threatening, and/or violent actions.

Councilor Dan Spangler inquired about the fact that only residential properties are affected by the proposed ordinance. He suggested that commercial property be included and protected by the ordinance as well. Councilor Kevin Stufflebean suggested that 60 days was too short a time period to document the prohibited activities. He and Randall Tosh agreed that 180 days may be more reasonable.

Copies of the draft proposal are available for review at the Police Department's reception area during normal business hours. Comments from City residents are eagerly solicited on this matter. Although the Police Department is not taking an administrative position on the ordinance proposal until further information and discussion occurs. Citizen comments are welcome in Captain Washburn's office, Monday through Friday, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., (541) 269-8914, extension 230.

COUNTERFEIT MONEY CIRCULATED IN COOS BAY – The Police Department received a report from a local business regarding a suspicious looking \$20 bill they had received from a customer. During the prior week there were reports of additional counterfeit bills from other businesses in the Bay Area. Reportedly, the bills are all in the denomination of twenty dollar bills. These bills appear to be very crudely constructed of a poor grade of paper that feels different from legal tender. They also have a very poor ink quality which is smeared, and in the wrong shade of green. Some of the bills contain duplicated serial numbers. This time of year retailers are vulnerable to counterfeiting schemes due to the high volume of consumer shopping. This puts pressure on sales staff to work harder and faster to accommodate the needs of holiday shoppers. To assist citizens involved in money exchange, the police recommend the use of counterfeit detector pens available at most office supply stores. The ink on these pens turns different colors when marked onto currency, depending on whether or not the currency is legitimate. Any individuals or businesses who may have received suspicious currency are encouraged to contact the Coos Bay Police Department at (541) 269-8911.

FIRE STATION HOSTS TREE LIGHTING – Empire Fire Station No. 2 hosted Santa's arrival sponsored by the Empire Community Association last Saturday. Over 150 people attended the annual community event to usher in the Christmas season. A big thank you to the Empire Community Association for supply and decorating a beautiful Christmas tree at the fire station for all to enjoy.

POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARD ALERT – The Coos Bay Fire Department has been made aware of a potential fire hazard from candles sold at this year's Bay Area Fun Festival. These candles were sold at a booth on the corner of 2nd and Commercial Streets. The candles are made with potpourri inside and are extremely flammable when the wax melts. The potpourri catches fire turning the candle flame into a torch. If you purchased one of these candles please do not attempt to burn it. Any questions may be directed to Fire Chief Stan Gibson at 269-1191.

SWOYA GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY – The SWOYA Boys and Girls Club Phase 4 ground breaking ceremony was held this week with Mayor Verger and Mayor Golder both exclaiming that the facility is something to be proud of for our community. Roger Gould also stated that this facility will be the largest club in the U.S. This project is a joint partnership between SWOYA and a Community Development Block Grant.

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS "VISION 2010" -- Tuesday night the City Council voted unanimously to adopt "Vision 2010: A Ten Year Economic Development Vision for Oregon's Bay Area." The vote followed a short presentation by Port of Coos Bay marketing director Martin Callery and Pacificorp's Angie Van Burger, who had shepherded preparation of the visioning process for the Bay Area Chamber's Economic Development Committee. The document provides a comprehensive listing of goals and local projects and "dreams"

The Friday Update – December 10, 1999

Page 4

identified by the Cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, Coos County, the Port, Chamber and others, and is used to secure public and private grants and bring multiple interests to a common focus. Among other things, “Vision 2010” provides a two-page, detailed summary of the more significant regional accomplishments that occurred between 1996 and 1999. For more information, contact either the Chamber of Commerce or the City Manager’s Office.

FIVE TO SEVEN TALL SHIPS TO VISIT THE BAY AREA? – Congratulations and a round of kudos are in order for Beve Saukko who, as director of the Coos Bay / North Bend Promotions and Conventions Bureau arranged for a meeting today with Steve Barker, racing director for the American Sail Training Association. The meeting provided an opportunity for Mr. Barker to outline details about his association’s “Tall Ships Challenge,” a sailing event that features five to seven large (+/- 250-foot long) tall ships that race from port to port around the world promoting “character building” for the young sailors that “man” the vessels.