



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

December 30, 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

UP TO THE MINUTE ON-LINE Y2K INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF COOS BAY –

Greetings from Coos Bay City Hall, and an early best wishes to you for a Happy New Year! Thanks to the proactive efforts of CB Police Sgt. Kevin Hedgepeth, the City of Coos Bay and the Coos Bay Police Department will be providing local citizens, the news media and other interested persons up to the minute information pertaining to crime, Y2K, and other pertinent information between the hours of 9:00 p.m. on December 31, 1999 and 3:00 a.m. on January 1, 2000. This will be accomplished through an Internet WEB site that will be updated every 15 minutes commencing at 9:00 p.m. PST on New Year's Eve. The Internet address for the site is <http://www.coosbay-pd.net/y2k.htm>. Information posted on this page during the above date and hours will be posted live from the command center at the Coos Bay City Hall.

Y2K PREPAREDNESS – Just a last minute reminder to everyone to have a few things on hand as 2000 comes around. Although the Fire Department anticipates no problems it is recommended that everyone have available a battery operated radio, flashlights, drinking water and a few staples just in case! The Coos Bay Fire Department would like to wish everyone a safe and happy new year!

PUBLIC SENTIMENT STRONGLY FAVORS PROPOSED SOUTH COAST DEVELOPMENT

COUNCIL – On November 5th Mayor Verger's Livability Committee outlined a proposal to create the South Coast Development Council (SCDC) – a local public/private economic development partnership whose purpose will be to aggressively recruit new businesses to the area. Once established, the Council will launch its efforts with a proposed \$250,000 budget comprised of funds from local governments and area businesses. A public opinion poll at Coos Bay's WEB site posed this question: "Will you be encouraging their efforts?"

With survey results still being tallied, an overwhelming 3 to 1 majority are saying that they WILL be encouraging the efforts of the Livability Committee and the SCDC. Here is what folks are saying in response to the question posed:

"Yes, most definitely!"	222 "votes" (73%)
"No"	65 "votes" (21%)
"Undecided"	18 "votes" (06%)

Progress forming the SCDC is expected as the new year begins. As the survey results confirm, we're on the right track! Thanks for participating in this poll, if you did. Watch for a new survey question soon.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! – The City Council and Staff wish you a happy and safe new year. City offices will be closed on Friday, December 31st for New Year's Eve.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP OFFERED – The Fire Department will be picking up Christmas Trees on January 8th and 15th. Please call 269-1191 to make arrangements for the service. Donations of canned food will be accepted.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HOSTS SHORE ACRES – The Fire Department hosted the Shore Acres light

show on Tuesday. This very popular annual event will be open until Sunday, January 2, 1999, don't miss it!

EVENING FIRE TESTS NEW SYSTEM – A fire on Wednesday evening gave the fire department the chance to try out the newest piece of apparatus. The department's new rescue truck is equipped with a cascade air compressor system. This system allows the department to fill the air bottles at the scene of the fire instead of making the trip to the Eastside fire station for filling. This new system allows for more efficient use of City resources in firefighting.

REMEMBER THE PERMIT RULE – Some contractors are in the habit of beginning work on projects prior to obtaining the required permits. Some contractors have forgotten that various laws or rules require that the permit be issued prior to beginning work and that the permit must be displayed on the job site. In some cases, the contractor has been referred to Building Codes Division's (BCD) Compliance Section, brought before boards for noncompliance, and required to pay penalties for beginning work without a permit being issued. **REMEMBER:** The permit is required to be issued and on the job before beginning construction or installations. Any competitor, customer, inspector or other person can file a complaint with the BCD which is required to investigate all complaints. If you have any questions on whether a permit is required or has a permit been issued for a particular project, please contact the Building Dept. at 269-8918.

MINGUS PARK PARKING LOT PAVING – With the recent good weather, Johnson Rock Products was able to pave the old tennis courts next to the ballfield. Both the Parks Commission and the City Council had approved the change from tennis court to a parking lot due to the maintenance of the court over past years. The court was in such a low area, that during winter months water was coming up through the playing surface, causing the surface to fail and create liability problems.

MINGUS PARK POOL BATHHOUSE – The new year will mark the beginning of many events - one of which will be the usage of the newly finished bathhouse to the Mingus Park Pool. Many swimming activities have been temporarily suspended or held at the North Bend pool during the construction phase of the facility. Practice for the swim team will begin on Monday, Jan. 3, 2000 with building occupancy following as soon as final permit inspections are completed. The community will be notified of swimming schedules as they become available. A new phone system will soon be in place to notify the public of upcoming events.

CENSUS TAKERS NEEDED – The Millennium is coming to Coos Bay and so is Census 2000! The US Census Bureau is recruiting and hiring people 18 and above to work on this once every ten year (decennial) event. At least 160 census taker and team leaders are needed to accurately count the population of Coos County. Tests will be given each Wednesday at the County Commissioner's Conference Room (in Coquille) and Thursdays at the Oregon Employment office in North Bend. Alternate testing sites will be available from time to time throughout the county. To reserve a place call (collect if you like) (541) 465-6410. Wages start at \$8.25 per hour plus 31 cents per mile for fieldwork. For local questions call or leave a message at (541) 396-3121 ext. 224.

CONNECTING OREGON COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED – The Oregon Economic and Community Development Commission has appointed four Oregonians from around the state to the newly-formed Connecting Oregon Communities advisory board. The appointments were made at the commission's Dec. 14 meeting in Portland. One remaining representative from southern Oregon will be appointed by the commission in early January. Board members will serve a four-year term.

The Connecting Oregon Communities advisory board will oversee implementation of Senate Bill 622, passed in the 1999 legislative session. The bill establishes alternative regulation for telecommunication companies to trade regulation of their profits for a system of price caps and floors. Carriers electing to take advantage of the program are required to meet different service quality standards and create a telecommunications infrastructure account to finance telecommunications projects. A portion of the account

is earmarked for K-12 education in the state. For example, US West, the state's largest telecommunications company, recently announced it would opt into the program effective Dec. 30, 1999. The company will establish an account of approximately \$120.4 million, \$50 million of which will go to education, with the remainder for infrastructure.

"In general, the advisory board members will each bring a regional perspective of the telecommunications needs and solutions for their area," said Sherry Sheng, telecommunications manager. "Together, they will forge a statewide direction." The board will review proposals for use of the telecommunications infrastructure account and make recommendations to the commission on project funding, Sheng added. The Oregon Economic and Community Development Commission has final authority on funding for each project.

Connecting Oregon Advisory Board members are as follows: Central Region - Eric Alexander, senior vice-president for external operations, St. Charles Medical Center, Bend. Coastal Region - Dr. Edwin Parker, president, Parker Telecommunications, Gleneden Beach. Eastern Region - Steve Eldrige, general manager/CEO, Umatilla Electric Cooperative, Hermiston. Southern Region - To be appointed. Valley Region - Barbara Peschiera, executive director, the Columbia Foundation, St. Helens.

"Senate Bill 622 promotes fair competition in the telecommunications marketplace and allows rural Oregon the chance to become connected to the communications revolution sweeping the world. Both of these developments are important to Oregon's future," said commission chair Brett Wilcox. "I'm confident that the individuals appointed to the Connecting Oregon Communities advisory board will ensure successful implementation of the new law and its resulting benefits to Oregonians."

Revised schedule for deposits into accounts established through Senate Bill 622

Connecting Oregon Communities Fund	Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund - remainder	When
\$25,284,000	\$10,836,000	1/1/00
\$25,284,000	\$10,836,000	1/1/01
\$0	\$24,080,000	1/1/02
\$0	\$24,080,000	1/1/03

For years 2000 and 2001, the first \$25 million of Connecting Oregon Communities Fund is allocated toward K-12 public schools. SB 622 specifies the use for the balance, which should be \$284,000 each year for years 2000 and 2001. Given the level of available funding, it appears that Oregon Wide Area Network of the Department of Higher Education will be the only beneficiary of the remainder of the Connecting Oregon Communities Fund. Other allocated uses, including Oregon State University, Office of Community College Services, etc. will materialize only if more carriers elect the alternative form of regulation under SB 622.

Information contributed by Sherry Sheng, Oregon Economic and Community Development Dept. (503) 986-0089.