



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

January 7, 2000

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

CITY HALL SEEKS YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT CHANNEL 14 – Channel 14 is the local "government access TV" channel that the City of Coos Bay operates to "air" City Council meetings, Mayor Verger's "FOCUS" program and other public events like the Chamber's annual economic outlook forum. Funding to keep Channel 14 on the air comes almost completely from the Coos Bay general fund. With budget planning underway for next fiscal year, some feedback from you would be helpful. To respond, visit the City of Coos Bay's WEB site at <http://holodeck.ucinet.com/coosbayjb/> and take the 20-second survey. Your options are important to us!!

FORMER GOVERNOR GOLDSCHMIDT PUSHES LOCAL READING PROGRAM – Thanks to the organizational efforts of local resident Teri Whitty, it was a packed house – including Mayor Verger, City Manager Bill Grile and Library Director Carol Ventgen – yesterday afternoon at the Red Lion to hear former Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt and other talk about the "SMART" reading program. SMART – which stands for "Start Making a Reader Today" – is a mostly volunteer program started by former Gov. Goldschmidt in 1991 when he realized that "government can't solve our problems" and that "each of us has a responsibility to help with the community education of our young children." SMART volunteers give one hour per week to read with two students. The program started with programs in eight schools during its first year, to programs in 167 Oregon schools this year. Teri Whitty is organizing a committee to consider the possibility of a SMART program for Coos County. Stay tuned.

OUTGOING GOVERNMENT ACCESS DIRECTOR HONORED – Mayor Verger presented a framed certificate of appreciation to Stephanie Kilmer at Tuesday's City Council meeting in recognition of her dedication and commitment to producing the government access channel. Ms. Kilmer resigned as director effective December 31st due to promotion as general manager at KDOC. The City Council and staff have appreciated Ms. Kilmer's professionalism and willingness to go the extra mile. We wish Stephanie the best in her new position. Programming on the government channel will continue with Laurel Ashman taking over the duties of director.

CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – The City Council re-appointed Mike Helfrich as the City's representative to the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board at Tuesday's meeting. Mr. Helfrich has served on the Board since February 1996. Also appointed at the meeting was Councilor Cindi Miller as the Council representative to the Parking Committee. The committee was recently re-organized to include five citizen-at-large positions and one council representative.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP - The Fire Department will be picking up Christmas trees again this year. Pickup dates will be January 8th & 15th. Christmas trees will be picked up within the Coos Bay city limits or you can drop off your tree at Fire Station No. 2 at 189 South Wall. Canned food donations will be accepted and envelopes will also be dropped off for donations. Please call the fire department at 269-1191 to get on the pickup list.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DONATIONS – Coos Bay volunteer and veteran, Bill Rugh, extends appreciation to 35 City employees for donating \$70 towards the construction of the World War II Memorial in Washington DC. Local veterans groups and Wal-Mart are jointly conducting fundraising for the memorial. If you would like more information, please contact Bill Rugh at 269-7922.

CHRONIC DISORDERLY PROPERTY ORDINANCE TO BE REVIEWED – A meeting for accepting public input on the proposed chronic disorderly property ordinance has been scheduled by Police Department staff for Wednesday, January 19, 2000 at the Coos Bay Public Library Auditorium from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. 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.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are sponsoring *Business After Hours Mixer* at Gregsons Restaurant in North Bend on Thursday, February 3, 2000 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event will be hosted by Robert and Denise Gregson. Sample elegant cuisine, check out the cooking classes, and enjoy meeting new people. Tickets are \$4 per person, or 5 tickets for \$15. Tickets at the door will be \$5 per person. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 269-0215 to order your tickets. Deadline for advance tickets is January 28th.

CHAUTAUQUA PROGRAM AT THE LIBRARY – The first of four scheduled Chautauqua programs will take place on Saturday, January 15th at 1 p.m. in the large meeting room at the library. Molly Gloss, award-winning author of *The Jump Off Creek* will talk about "The Wonderful Country: How Myths and Stories of the Frontier West Have Shaped American Culture." By investigating selections from Western novels and stories, Gloss shows the ways that frontier icons such as the cowboy, the gunslinger and the cavalry have branded American culture. The program comes through the auspices of the Oregon Council for the Humanities and is locally sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

BUILDING CODES WORKSHOP - City Manager Bill Grile, Community Services Director Bill Finney and Building Codes Administrator Joe McClay attended a workshop Thursday on the provisions of Senate Bill 587. The workshop was jointly sponsored by the League of Oregon Cities, the Association of Oregon Counties, the Oregon Municipal Finance Officers Association, the Oregon Building Officials Association and the State of Oregon Building Codes Division. Senate Bill 587, enacted on the last day of the just completed Legislative session, provides for a number of changes in building code fee accounting and procedure. The City of Coos Bay will experience almost no effect from the bill's provisions since the City's Charter was amended two years ago in response to a voter mandate providing that the building code program be a self-supporting operation. The accounting and procedural changes necessary to respond to that mandate are entirely consistent with the provisions of Senate Bill 587. One more example of the forward thinking exhibited by residents of the City of Coos Bay.

COOS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION - The Coos Watershed Association held an informal meeting Thursday at the Coos Bay City Council Chamber regarding proposed new rules by the National Marine Fisheries Service. In this area it would deal with the protection of the endangered Coho salmon. Rules will set guidelines and how and/or what can be done in and around streams that have coho runs or streams that drain into streams that have coho runs. The meeting was well attended by many government officials and private landowners from the area. Public hearings in the future will be held so public comment can become part of the record on the proposed rules. If you have any questions to can contact the Coos Watershed Association at 888-5922.

PARKING LOT UPGRADE AT MINGUS PARK – City crews have finished placing the arrows in the parking and they will be repainting the old section of the lot as weather permits. The City is looking at

placing additional lighting in the lot for safety to users and opening the fence at the northeast corner to allow access to the back of the stands and the girls softball batting cage from the parking lot.

CITY MAPPING – The Community Services Department has recently installed the final series of aerial topographic maps which serve as the basis for recording all public utilities, private ownerships and physical improvements within the City of Coos Bay. These updated Global Informational Maps are tied to global elevations and locations provided by Menasha Corporation. These aerial maps are widely used by both the public and private sectors in connection with permit requirements and planning.

MINGUS PARK POOL BATHHOUSE – Swim team practice and other activities have again resumed at the City of Coos Bay's Mingus Park swimming pool while the final touches are being added by D.L.B. Construction. The new facility will be properly introduced to the community at a soon to be scheduled Grand Opening ceremony. Stay tuned for notice of this event.

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.

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.