



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 3, 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

GRAND OPENING – The Mingus Park Pool Bathhouse is now complete and has been turned over to the City of Coos Bay. The Grand Opening ceremony has been planned for Saturday, March 4th, at 1:00 p.m. to honor those people who played an important part in bringing the project to fruition and to provide an opportunity for the public to see and use the final product. Following the ceremony, a “free swim” time is being offered to the public and will last until 3:00 p.m.

WATERFRONT HERITAGE DISTRICT – The environmental consultants of URS Corp. recently visited our area to view the N. Front Street properties to be targeted by the Environmental Protection Agency’s Brownfield redevelopment program. Coming up soon will be a public forum designed to inform both the community and affected property owners of the various components of the program. Representatives from the EPA, DEQ, URS Corp., and the City will be on hand to answer questions.

COMMUNITY INCENTIVE FUND – The Community Incentive Fund was authorized by the 1999 state legislature as a new source of money aimed at revitalizing downtowns and main streets, developing affordable housing near jobs and transportation and helping to rebuild rural and distressed communities. The Fund will be administered by Oregon Housing and Community Services and will receive funding through the state’s issuance of lottery revenue bonds. While the availability of those funds is uncertain pending the outcome of the vote on the ballot initiative to eliminate the state’s use of video poker, planning for the Community Incentive Fund program is continuing. City staff will attend the first of those planning sessions scheduled for March 16, 2000 in Salem. Watch for future updates on this potentially very helpful program.

SIDEWALK REPAIRS – Under City Ordinance the owners of land abutting a sidewalk are responsible for maintaining the sidewalks in good repair and safe condition. Over the next few months the City’s Code Compliance Officer will be contacting and working with landowners that have sidewalk problems abutting their properties. The effort will be City-wide and be conducted in two(2) phases. The first phase will focus on locations for which the City has received formal citizen concerns. While monitoring the repair of these sites, the City road crews will be identifying other problems that may constitute potential dangers for pedestrians. Lets make this an effort to keep our City safe for everybody. Anyone needing information on sidewalk standards and specifications contact Community Services at 269-8918.

2000 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING SAFETY WEEK – The International Building Safety Week will be held April 2-8 in 2000 and is co-sponsored by the three model code groups. This year’s theme, “Making a Difference” will focus on the premiering of the International Codes, a family of codes suitable for adoption worldwide. Building Codes Division and the Oregon Building Official Association will team up to promote awareness of IBSW. Governor Kitzhaber will be requested to issue a proclamation as he has done the past several years.

DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION PROMOTIONS PLANNED - The Coos Bay Downtown Association is planning to hold one promotional event each month to encourage people to visit and congregate in the downtown area. Watch for further publicity and information about the following scheduled events:

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- April 1, 2000 - "Downtown Alive"
- May 20, 2000 - Dedication of the Time Capsule
- June 17, 2000 - Recreational Fair
- July 4, 2000 - Fourth of July in Mingus Park
- August 26 & 27, 2000 - Blackberry Arts Festival
- September 16 & 17, 2000 - Bay Area Fun Festival

FIRE DEPARTMENT BURNS EASTSIDE HOUSE – The fire department conducted another practice burn this past week. The house in the Eastside area gave the SOMAR fire brigade a chance to practice their firefighting skills. The fire brigade members provide a valuable service to the Eastside community by responding to calls during the week.

ANOTHER FABULOUS BOOK SALE IS COMING – The Friends of the Library will sponsor another of their big used book sales this Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. with a half-price sale Sunday afternoon. Thousands of books and other items will be available. The Friends are looking for places to donate unsold books following their sales. Ideas? Call Carol Ventgen at the library.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY CALL REGIONAL MEETING – In what appears to be the first of its kind, the Coos Bay Friends group invited members of Friends organizations from around the region to a meeting at Coos Bay Library on Saturday, February 26. An enthusiastic 27 people attended from as far south as Gold Beach, as far north as Florence and from Roseburg and several other Douglas County communities. The group brainstormed on many topics of common interest, such as fundraising for libraries, and agreed to meet again in September in Roseburg.

TWO NEW ART EXHIBITS OPEN AT THE LIBRARY – A large collection of handmade quilts by members of the Coos Sand 'n Sea Quilters are now on display inside the library. The beautiful and creative quilts range from the abstract to the traditional. March 18 is National Quilting Day. An impressive group of traditional Indian baskets, Plateau-style Sally Bags, hand drums and small cedar bark bags are now being exhibited in the glass cases near the library entrance. They were made by Master American Indian Basketry artist Karen Howlingwolf and other members of her family, all from the Roseburg area. Both exhibits continue through the month of March.

"READ ACROSS AMERICA" – Mayor Joanne Verger, City Manager Bill Grile, Police Chief Chuck Knight, Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth, and Officer Andy Osborn participated in Reading Across America by reading to Coos Bay School Students this week. City staff have participated each year in the program to support our youth by encouraging reading. As a benefit to reading Chief Knight pointed out to Mrs. Dinkins 11th grade class at Marshfield High School, "reading skills will enhance communication and writing skills as well, thus making you more competitive in the job market."

POLICE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT CONTINUES – Recruitment for three vacant positions in the police department is continuing with interviews scheduled for later this month. The police department has been short staffed due to recent retirements and an officer moving out of the Coos Bay area.

COMPUTER TRAINING SCHEDULED – Staff from the Area Information Records System (AIRS) will be conducting two days of training later this month in Coos Bay for police department staff. The police department and the North Coos County 9-1-1 Communications Agency uses the Information system for computer-aided dispatch and records functions. The training is being provided by AIRS free of charge.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT – The Chamber of Commerce Community Enhancement Committee

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has designated Saturday, May 6th as the time for community "clean-up/fix-up" in recognition of their theme of "Company's Coming." This effort was very successful last spring, and the Chamber committee has high expectations for similar success this year. There will be a lot more information about how YOU can be part of the activity. Right now, mark your calendar between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on May 6th – this should be fun and a real contribution to the Bay area community. Stay tuned for further details as they become available.