



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 24, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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ANNOUNCING DOWNTOWN ALIVE! – A cultural arts and events fair will be held Saturday, April 1, 2000 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the old Pacific Power & Light location (on the corner of Central and 3rd) in downtown Coos Bay. The event is sponsored by the Coos Bay Downtown Association and includes entertainment, exhibits, demonstrations, and information booths. Entertainment will feature the Jazz Band, Waterfront Players, On Broadway Theater, and children's story reading with Mayor Verger. Exhibits and demonstrations include the Coos Sand N Sea quilt guild, Bay Area Artists Association, Crafters Circle of Friends, Friends of the Library, balloon design, and face painters. Information booths will be set up for Coos Stop Crime, US Census 2000, Coos BayTime Capsule, and the Coos Historical Society Museum. The library will feature as part of the Chautauqua Series "1942" Oregon's Most Defining Year at 1 p.m. and the Coos Art Museum will be open for the Dragons and Cats exhibit. Mark your calendar for April 1st for a fun and exciting time for the whole family in downtown Coos Bay.

GOVERNMENT ACCESS TELEVISION TO EXPAND PROGRAMMING TO SOUTH COAST CITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

– This week city manager Bill Grile met in Bandon with representatives from a handful of South Coast cities and school districts to float the concept of airing program material about their organizations on Channel 14, Coos Bay's government access television channel. The City of Coos Bay wants to air more than just Bay Area programming on Channel 14 and has devised a way to accomplish this for very little investment on the part of other cities and school districts in the region. Depending on the amount of filming and air time desired, for either \$2500 or \$5000, the City of Coos Bay would take care of everything necessary to get meetings, sporting events, forums - anything related to government or education - filmed and aired on Channel 14 next fiscal year, under the proposed approach. "I can't see why every public jurisdiction in the area shouldn't rush to sign up for this great opportunity to reach out to the community," said Bill Grile after the meeting. "This is a great way to communicate with the public," he added. Channel 14 program scheduling can be viewed on the City's web site at www.coosbay.org.

FIFTH STREET PLAZA DESIGN PROCESS GETS UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT

– Kudos to Coos Bay architect Lon Samuels for his unique approach for planning and presenting design alternatives for the Fifth Street Plaza project. Samuels, who was recently selected by the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency for the project, is making all kinds of information available about it on his own WEB site at www.samuelsarch.com/plaza. The site contains the project's design statement as well as photographs, correspondence, a schedule and actual design concepts - which have yet to be developed. Most importantly, the WEB site gives the public the opportunity to "be in the know" from the ground up, literally, and to offer advice directly to the project architecture team, giving feedback as ideas are developed. Construction on the plaza is expected to be underway this summer once a design and set of public improvements are selected later this spring. "We're really excited about this project and eager to move on with it!" said assistant to the city manager Joyce Jansen after viewing the plaza's WEB site. "This will make a great gathering place downtown and will fit right in with the Coos Bay Downtown Association's plans for more weekend gatherings downtown in the coming months," she added.

UPDATE ON NEWMARK / OCEAN MASTER PLAN – At the March 7th City Council meeting staff made a presentation about the concept of developing a master plan for a new commercial shopping center between Newmark Avenue and Ocean Boulevard. The plan's concept includes improving and widening Newmark from Wal*Mart west to the intersection with Ocean at "The Y" using interest proceeds from the \$4.8 million that will be sent to the City from the Oregon Department of Transportation now that the City has accepted jurisdiction for 23 lane-miles of state highways inside the city limits. Staff will be presenting more information about this to the Council at its April 4th meeting. Tune in!

CITY REVIEWS EMERGENCY PLAN – The City's Emergency Management Team recently completed a review of the City's Emergency Management Plan. The Emergency Management Plan was developed to provide a framework in which city officials can plan and perform emergency response functions for an emergency or disaster. The plan is reviewed every year and updated as needed.

APPOINTMENT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD – Willie Sadler, III was appointed by the City Council at the March 21st Council meeting to fulfill an unexpired term on the Library Board. Mr. Sadler has lived in the Bay Area for five years and is a strong supporter of continuing to provide quality library service for the community.

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – John Kruse and Dick Jamsgard reported on plans to restore Engine 104 at the City Council meeting Tuesday evening. The engine is currently housed at the Coos County Historical Museum in North Bend and was recently donated to the Railway Society. The Oregon Coast Chapter of the National Railway Society is hopeful of developing train service between Coos Bay and North Bend and eventually to Coquille. Part of the plan would include a train depot/museum to be located in the Bay Area. The Society is currently looking into funding possibilities for the railway project. Anyone interested in the project may contact John Kruse at 269-5627 or Dick Jamsgard at 759-3332.

CITY HALL TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE – At the City Council meeting this week the Coos Bay City Council approved the purchase of an upgraded telephone system. The current telephone system was installed in 1978 when the building was constructed and no longer meets the needs of the City to conduct normal business. The upgraded system will allow for the use of digital and fiber optic technology. The phone numbers will remain unchanged and will continue to be listed in the Southern Oregon Coast telephone directory. The phone numbers for City of Coos Bay departments can be located in the phone directory Government pages (blue pages) under City Government.

CHIEF KNIGHT ADDRESSES SOROPTIMIST CLUB – Chief Knight was the guest speaker this week at the Soroptimist club, however he did not speak about law enforcement. He presented a slide program of his recent trip to Israel. The program was timely in light of the National attention which has been focused on Israel recently.

OFFICER RODGER CRADDOCK RECOGNIZED FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT – Officer Rodger Craddock has been selected as Oregon's Drug Recognition Expert of the year. Officer Craddock will be recognized for his efforts at a meeting in Beaverton on April 1st.

DOWNTOWN CARNIVAL – After extended discussion during the two most recent City Council meetings, the proposal to hold a carnival downtown this spring has been withdrawn. Mr. Larry Goodman's proposal to the City Council called for locating the carnival in the city parking lot behind the Egyptian theater. The location became the issue for discussion - the Council received comments from twenty-three downtown businesses objecting to the carnival at that location. The Council's support for the carnival as an activity led to further discussion to identify alternative sites for locating the carnival. Wal*Mart, K-Mart, the Mill Casino and the current owners of the downtown Safeway Plaza had all previously declined to have the carnival located in their parking areas. There was brief consideration about a location at the St. Monica's church

parking lot in combination with the City's library parking lot. When no alternative location that was identified seemed to meet the carnival's requirements, Mr. Goodman withdrew his proposal.

WATERFRONT HERITAGE DISTRICT UPDATE – With a \$200,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency firmly in place, the City of Coos Bay is moving ahead through a site assessment program which will target North Front Street properties identified as Brownfields. URS, Corporation, an environmental consultant, will be holding a Public Forum at noon on Monday, March 27th, at the Coos Bay Public Library to discuss the elements of the program and to answer any questions the public and area property owners may have concerning the assessment process. It is the hope of the City that this chosen area will benefit greatly from the opportunity to eliminate the barriers to redevelopment and to resolve existing uncertainties regarding liability and cleanup costs. The purpose of the public forum is to explain what the Pilot Assessment Program is, how it will be conducted, and to introduce the staff from the City's contractor, URS, to those attending. Front Street property owners who can attend will be encouraged to sign an access agreement to permit initial on-site work to begin.

MINGUS PARK POOLHOUSE – The recent Grand Opening of the Mingus Park Pool facility showcased a great return on the community's bond measure. Not only was the work completed in a timely manner; the quality workmanship by DLB Construction came in under budget. At the time of the original bid, non-building items such as lockers, bleachers, clock, etc. were not awarded. The Pool Management Association has been given the green light to prioritize the remaining needs. After building permits and related project fees are paid, they will begin the process of drawing down the remaining funds. All those contributing to the project are to be congratulated for a job well done.

BAY AREA CHAMBER FORUM – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce forum for April will be held on Wednesday, April 19th at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion. The guest speaker will be Langdon Marsh, director of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Marsh is expected on comment on department activities on the south coast aimed at cleaning up existing contamination, particularly what remains to be done at the site of the New Carissa grounding. He will also give general department updates and answer questions regarding the DEQ's permitting and regulatory processes.

Named to his current post in April of 1995, Mr. Marsh heads a state agency of nearly 700 scientists, engineers, environmental specialists and other technicians whose job it is to protect and enhance Oregon's water and air quality and to oversee the use and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes. Involved with natural resource and environmental management issues during his career, Mr. Marsh has served as commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. His professional career includes serving as general counsel and executive deputy commissioner for the New York DEC, as well as director of the governmental law center at Albany Law School of Union University.

Chamber Forums are held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn in Coos Bay. The no-host breakfast meetings include topics of community interest and are open to all Chamber members and the general public. Reservations are requested to assure adequate seating, and can be made by calling 269-0215. *[Information provided by the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce]*

COUNCIL SUPPORTS COLLEGE CONSTRUCTION BOND MEASURE – The City Council adopted a resolution supporting Southwestern Oregon Community College's proposed bond measure for capital funding at their meeting Tuesday evening. Mike Gaudette, Dean of Marketing, Recruiting and College Advancement for Southwestern Oregon Community College reported to the City Council regarding the capital construction bond measure proposed for the May 16th ballot. Mr. Gaudette explained the funding would be used for capital construction projects only and would construct new facilities in Curry County, develop a new technology center, enhance/expand community learning centers throughout the college district, construct new science laboratories on the main campus, expand the existing main campus library, and renovate and construct additional classrooms on the college's main campus. The bond measure would authorize up to \$15 million for the completion of these projects. The bond would be paid over 20 years at

the projected rate of 24 cents per \$1,000 of tax assessed value of property in the district, or \$24 per year on a home valued at \$100,000. For additional information on the bond measure, Mr. Gaudette may be reached at 541-888-7210 or 1-800-962-2838 ext. 7210.

LABOR TRENDS – Curry County's non-manufacturing sector lost 170 jobs in January. Reductions occurred in all sectors, led by trade and services, including tourism-related jobs in restaurants and lodging. Coos County has had strong gain in non-manufacturing over the past year, posting a net gain of 860 jobs. About two-thirds of this gain occurred in the services sector. This came about in part because of expansion in lodging, golfing, and customer calling services. Health care, retail trade, and construction also boosted non-manufacturing totals. Curry County, in comparison, lost 90 non-manufacturing jobs in the past twelve months. Reduction in both construction and education were only partly offset by gains in trade, services (also boosted by golf course construction, finance, and other local government.)

EMPIRE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION – The Urban Renewal Agency heard on Tuesday night from the spokesperson for the Empire Business Association about some preliminary ideas concerning building design in the Empire business district. Julia Spangler, speaking for the Association emphasized the preliminary nature of the ideas the Association was discussing. She did, though, want the Urban Renewal Agency to have the benefit of the Association's thought. The Association had thought that the services of a design professional might be made available to business owners to business owners who were considering new construction or re-modeling a building. These services would relate solely to achieving continuity of design, color and exterior finish treatment to enhance the Empire area theme of "Waterfront Historical." Ms. Spangler presented several photographs illustrating the type of development and building facade treatment that the Association was interested in promoting. There will be considerable further work on these suggestions; the preliminary information was welcomed and well received.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR NORTH COOS COUNTY 9-1-1 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY – The North Coos County 9-1-1 Intergovernmental Council is seeking volunteers to fill vacancies on the Budget Committee. Applications are available from the Coos Bay Police Department at Coos Bay City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, during normal business hours, and will be accepted through 5:00 p.m., April 14, 2000. Appointment will be made at the April 26, 2000 Intergovernmental Council meeting. Further information can be obtained by calling Linda Spence at (541) 269-8914, extension 233, during normal business hours.

CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE – The questionnaire assistance center program is an effort to provide assistance to persons who may have questions about the Census or who otherwise need help in completing the census form. In partnership with the Complete Count Committees, local and tribal governments, and community-based organizations, the Census Bureau has established questionnaire assistance centers in communities during Census 2000. These centers will be open during scheduled hours specific to each site between March 8th and April 14th. The centers are located in easily accessible and well known community based organizations, city halls, libraries and social and health service offices. The Census Bureau has provided training to volunteers willing to work in these centers. In some locations, there will also be paid Census employees. Specific centers will be staffed with bilingual census representatives where needed. Locations in the Bay Area include:

Coos Bay Public Library, 525 Anderson Avenue – Monday 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday and Friday 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m..

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw, 338 Wallace Avenue – Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Coquille Tribe, 3050 Tremont (North Bend) – Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Newmark Center, 2110 Newmark Avenue (SWOCC) – Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about Census 2000 contact the Eugene local census office at 541-465-6670.

DOWNTOWN SURVEY LEAVES CITY STAFFERS SCRATCHING THEIR HEADS – Tuesday night Downtown Association President Ken Larson briefed the City Council about the results of a survey his organization recently circulated. One of the questions addressed the two-way "Anderson Alternative," which would convert Anderson Avenue into a two-way street from Bayshore (Hwy 101 northbound) to Second Street (the Rite Aid corner) in order to give better access to Central Avenue for traffic heading north along the waterfront, and in order to help keep the Oregon Dept. of Transportation from wanting to order on-street parking removed from Broadway in "The Theatre District." The two-way plan would also provide for more parking and diagonal spaces along Anderson from Fourth Street to the east end of the Coos Art Museum, but ONLY IF the two-way street scheme is limited. But CBDA's survey leaves City staff scratching its head. A majority of the handful responding to the survey said they didn't want the two-way street scheme for those short two blocks, but DID want the increased on-street diagonal parking that would be created if the plan is ever implemented." "I have to take some responsibility for the obvious confusion here," commented city manager Bill Grile this morning. "We've done our very best to involve downtown merchants and property owners in the Anderson Avenue planning process but we obviously need to do more because CBDA's survey results clearly demonstrate that the plan's concept is still not understood," he added. One City Councilor commented after Tuesday night's meeting that implementing the two-way "Anderson Alternative" might be the very thing that can keep the long-rumored Rite Aid relocation from happening. Rite Aid's manager indicated as much to city manager Bill Grile and community services director Bill Finney a few weeks ago. Any advice?