



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 5, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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POLICE DEPARTMENT HOLD WORK SESSION WITH MEDIA – A work session which included all sergeants was well attended by news media, television, and radio representatives. It was a very worthwhile meeting – the most notable outcome was in last night’s edition of The World in which the police department’s public log was printed. We are working toward making the information available electronically.

WELCOME OFFICER HATZEL – The newest member of the Police Department, Hugo Hatzel was sworn by Chief Knight last week. Chief Knight is excited to have Officer Hatzel on his staff. Officer Hatzel is a Coos County native, and is already certified as a police officer in Oregon. Officer Hatzel was employed as a Coos County Deputy Sheriff for the past four years.

CRIME STATISTICS AVAILABLE ON LINE – The Police Department has posted crime statistical data “on line” as a public service. Visitors may go to <http://www.coosbay-pd.net/crimestats.htm> to view Coos Bay Crime data from 1996 through 1999.

FRONT STREET PROGRESS – A draft for the rezoning of the Front Street waterfront area to encourage redevelopment for commercial and residential uses will be ready for public review this summer. The proposal will also contain design standards for development that will evoke, but not necessarily duplicate, the earliest days of Euro-American settlement which would include the 1880's to 1920's.

CONSIDERATION OF EMPIRE DESIGN STANDARDS – Several years ago the Empire Community Association met with Empire residents and suggested the theme “nautical waterfront” for the Empire urban renewal district. The Planning Division of the Community Services Department is in the process of drafting design standards for the theme for the area along Newmark from the “Y” (the intersection of Ocean Blvd. and Newmark) to Cape Arago Highway. A formal proposal should be ready for initial review by the City’s Planning Commission in the next month or so.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN DRILL – Fire department personnel took part in a mass casualty drill at the North Bend Airport this week. Aircraft emergencies was the focus of the exercise. Over 45 emergency responders representing 8 local emergency response organizations participated. Firefighters practiced multi-victim extrication and patient care, hazardous materials control and fire suppression techniques.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY - Happy anniversary to Leo Langlais, the Boardwalk Caretaker, for five years of dedicated services to the citizens of Coos Bay. Leo works 2 hours a day and five days a week cleaning the Boardwalk each morning cleaning it for the visitors that come by each day. Thanks again Leo for work to have done for the City.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – The Budget Committee met last evening and completed the review of the Community Services Department budget, special funds, debt service budgets, capital improvement budgets and reserve budgets. The committee will meet again on Monday, May 8th. At that time the

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committee will hear funding request presentations from non-profit organizations, and review the items that have been redlined for further discussion. The meeting will be held in the library auditorium at 7 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

MILLENNIUM TREE GROVE – The Oregon Department of Forestry has contacted Cities around Oregon to participate the Millennium Tree Program. The Program in Oregon is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Forestry in cooperation with the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture and the American Forests to present a tree to the community as part of the Millennium Grove of Oregon. Coos Bay will be obtaining a Montpelier Crape Myrtle and it will be planted in a container at City Hall. The tree has dusty pink blossoms that last all summer and is from the Virginia estate of James and Dolly Madison.

LITTER PATROL – The litter patrol has finished the Coos River Highway and has moved to the downtown core area. The patrol will be cleaning the sidewalks of grass and weeds. The area that they will be working on is from Bayshore to 7th and from Market to Curtis.

INMATES WORK AT MINGUS PARK – The Parks crew had the benefit of the Shutters Creek crew on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to perform various jobs at Mingus Park. They cut various banks with weed eaters including around the ballfield, from the kids area at the south end of the park up to Choshi bridge. They also cleaned the bank along the west side of Tenth Street from the cross walk to the first house going north. Six loads of brush was hauled just from the bank along Tenth Street. The inmates also raked all of the sand areas to make sure all debris had been removed.

LABOR TRENDS – MARCH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES – Coos County's rate of unemployment decreased from 8.4 percent in February to 7.6 in March. The number of unemployed residents fell by 220 to a level of just under 2,100. In Curry County the unemployment rate slipped by more than one percentage point from 9.3 percent to 8.2 percent. Total unemployment dropped by 90 to 670. Oregon's unadjusted jobless rate dropped from 5.9 percent in February to 5.5 in March. Once seasonally adjusted, the state's rate dropped by two-tenths of point to 4.7. The U.S. seasonally adjusted rate remained at 4.1 over the month.

EXPRESSIONS WEST – Abstract and representational paintings by western states artists will be on exhibit at the Coos Art Museum May 19th through July 1st. The Expressions West exhibit is being sponsored by Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation and the Coos Art Museum. Painters from eight western states have been invited to participate in the exhibit. The show will feature works in a variety of themes. Juried by Northwest painter Erik Sandgren, the show provides for purchase awards in the amounts of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 to the top three winning painters. A workshop headed by Mr. Sandgren will be held on the SWOCC campus June 21-25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop is entitled "Painting from Nature: Just where do we draw the line?" Sandgren's workshop is for serious painters at all and any level of experience. Beginners are welcome. Workshop fee is \$150 per student. For further information call the College at 888-7328. Erik Sandgren is an art instructor at Grays Harbor College and has a MFA degree in painting and printmaking from Cornell University. He is the recipient of the meritorious Achievement Award for Set Design from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival and has exhibited his paintings throughout the US. "My works," says Sandgren, "are a deep response to the landscape and cultures of the Pacific Northwest."