



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 19, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – The City of Coos Bay is seeking volunteers to fill positions on the Library Board, Tree Board, and Planning Commission. Applications are available from the City Manager's Office during normal business hours and will be accepted until 5 p.m. June 2nd. Appointments are scheduled for the June 20th City Council meeting.

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED – Mayor Verger presented certificates of appreciation to members of the Livability Committee at Tuesday evening's City Council meeting. The committee was appointed by Mayor Verger after the City of Coos Bay held three economic development forums in January and March of 1999. The committee was given the task of developing a strategy and funding plan for the economic health of the area. The committee worked many hours from April 1999 through February 2000 to develop the South Coast Development Council. Members included Coos Bay Councilor Jeff McKeown, North Bend Councilor Janet Rubin, North Bend Councilor John Briggs, County Commissioner Nikki Whitty, Port of Coos Bay Manager Allan Rumbaugh, John Sweet of Sause Bros., John Stephens of Roseburg Lumber Company, Timm Slater of Weyerhaeuser, and Arnie Roblan representing FONSI. Thanks to the dedication of this committee the South Coast Development Council has been formed and our community is well on their way to making a positive difference in the local economy.

BEST WISHES FOR MHS GRADUATES – The City of Coos Bay sends best wishes for a bright and successful future to the Marshfield High School class of 2000! For the past two years Meliah Masiba has reported once a month to the City Council on activities and programs at the high school. The reports have lead to a greater appreciation and understanding between city government and the high school, and is an example of another of the partnerships that have been formed between the city and the school district. Mayor Verger stated "there is nothing in the world like beauty and brains" as she presented Meliah with a floral bouquet and card in honor of her graduation. Laurie Brands has also given reports during this past school year but was unable to attend the meeting.

STATE RECYCLING REPORT – A letter of congratulations was received by the Cities of Coos Bay and North Bend recently from the Department of Environmental Quality recognizing the cities for their successful recycling programs. Our appreciation to Les' Sanitary and North Bend Sanitary for an excellent job of creating new and informative educational and promotional materials on recycling during the 1999 year. The recycling program is in compliance with Oregon Administrative Rules 340 Division 90. For more recycling program ideas check out the state's web site at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/solwste/rsw.htm>

MILLENNIUM TREE PLANTED – 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.

NEW ANIMAL SHELTER PLANNED – Pacific Cove Humane Society recently released information detailing plans for a new animal shelter for Coos County. The nonprofit group will hold a combination membership drive/fund-raiser on Saturday, May 20th at Pony Village Mall. The organization's mission statement outlines their goals: "Pacific Cove Humane Society is dedicated to the humane care and responsible adoption of homeless companion animals in Coos County. Through an active program of public education, we promote the compassionate treatment of animals, with spaying and neutering the key means of eliminating animal overpopulation and unnecessary euthanasia." Currently the organization is looking for a suitable piece of property of three to five acres. For more information, membership and donation forms contact Pacific Cove Humane Society, P O Box 361, North Bend OR 97459 or call 756-2822. Membership and donation forms are also available at any Coos County veterinary clinics.

WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD – Congratulations to Empire Community Association president Julia Spangler on receiving the Soroptimist International Woman of Distinction Award. Julia also serves on the City's Budget Committee and is active in many capacities in the community. Congratulations on your recognition Julia!

FIRE DEPARTMENT ATTENDS EXPO – Fire Department personnel took part in the annual Northwest Fire and Rescue Exposition at the Lane County Fairgrounds this past weekend. The annual show sponsored by the Oregon Fire Equipment Dealers Association is the largest fire and rescue show in the northwest. The Coos Bay fire department displayed the rescue truck that was purchased last year.

BROWNFIELDS REVOLVING LOAN FUND – The City of Coos Bay received notice yesterday that an announcement by the federal Environmental Protection Agency about Brownfields Cleanup Loan Funds was imminent. The state's Department of Economic and Community Development has applied for this funding - Community Services Director Bill Finney has been working closely with the state in order to have funds available through this program earmarked for use in the City of Coos Bay. Should the award to the state be made by EPA, which seems very likely at this point, \$500,000 would become available to the City of Coos Bay for low-interest loans to accomplish environmental clean-up work. These loan funds would tie directly to environmental assessment work in the Front Street redevelopment area that is being accomplished through a separate EPA Brownfields grant. Stay tuned for further developments - this is very good news for the City of Coos Bay.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE SCHEDULED – Everybody loves a parade! Our appreciation to the Coos County Veterans for making the arrangements for the Memorial Day parade. Mark your calendar to attend the parade on Saturday, May 27th beginning at 11 a.m. in downtown Coos Bay. Join with your friends and neighbors to celebrate our freedom and honor those who have made that freedom possible.

MINGUS PARK STAGE – The Mingus Park Stage Project started on Tuesday with the excavation for the footings and sewer line replacement. The Project is scheduled to be completed on July 1, 2000. Starting next week forming will begin for the footings and poured around May 30, 2000. Block work will begin shortly after that and should be completed about the 10th of June.

LITTER PATROL CONTINUES DOWNTOWN WORK – The litter patrol did weeding and litter pick-up in the following areas this week: 2nd and 3rd from Anderson to Commercial, commercial from Bayshore to 3rd, Anderson from 2nd to 3rd. As the litter patrol weeds areas along the streets the material is placed in the gutter and sweep up the next morning by the street sweeper, thus saving time to bag all the debris and haul it to the dump.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS WAS THE TOPIC OF THE DAY – Kudos to Southwestern's Jon Richards at the Business Development Center for setting up yesterday afternoon's informal meeting to learn more about the Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet) and the State of Oregon Enterprise Network (SOEN). Attending for the City of Coos Bay were Councilor Spangler (also representing Fiber South Consortium),

Police Chief Chuck Knight and City Manager Bill Grile. Representatives from Coos Bay and North Bend Schools, Southwestern, the South Coast ESD, the Coquille Indian Tribe and local Internet service providers were also present.

NoaNet is a non-profit corporation that provides access to broadband telecommunication facilities on an open, cost-based principle. It's executive director, Greg Marney, briefed those present about the organization's services and vision and will discuss how NoaNet is assisting rural communities by utilizing available Bonneville Power Administration fiber-optic lines for telecommunications. Preceding Mr. Marney was a presentation by SOEN's Philip Krug, who explained that the State hopes to see savings of as much as 30% to agencies if a new contract can be developed with a private sector provider(s) for the new system that would encompass coordinated comprehensive service delivery for all state agencies. Local governments and school districts will also have the opportunity to hook in to the new system, he explained.

DRAFT ORDINANCE ON UNMANAGED VEGETATION – The City Council will be reviewing an ordinance on “unmanaged vegetation” in the near future. As proposed, the ordinance would consider grasses, other than ornamental or grass grown for agricultural purposes, over 12 inches in height, scotch broom or gorse and any shrub, bush or tree pruned or maintained by other than good technique and generally accepted horticultural practice to be “unmanaged vegetation”. The City is asking for comments on the proposal before it is considered by the Council. If you have comments please contact the City at 269-8912.

WASTEWATER SAFETY - Construction season is here and the City has awarded a contract to Crisman Drilling to replace a failed system that protects underground piping from rusting. This “cathodic protection” will be installed at three locations; the wastewater piping that crosses under Isthmus Slough, the Pump Station located at the foot of Montana Ave. in Englewood, and the Pump Station located on Thompson Road. This work will extend the life of the subterranean metal components at these existing facilities as well as add a measure of security against further decomposition and the liability that can result from spills.

LABOR TRENDS – The Labor Department’s employment-cost index, a closely watched gauge of wage and benefit costs, grew 4.3 percent in the 12 months ended in March, the sharpest increase in more than eight years. Much of the growth reflected rising health-insurance costs and the tight labor market. Last year, total compensation rose 3.4 percent. The size of the surge in compensation cost surprised and alarmed many analysts. Indeed, one of the mysteries of the continuing expansion has been the near-absence- despite exceptionally low unemployment- of large increase in wage and benefit costs. This contradicted long-held economic theories arguing that tight labor markets could force companies to raise their wages substantially to attract and retain workers, ultimately passing those higher costs on to consumers by raising prices. But in recent years, for reasons analysts still struggle to explain, many workers haven’t demanded huge pay raises, allowing companies to avoid having to institute price increases. That dynamic may finally be changing, raising the real possibility that a scarcity of workers in the midst of a booming economy may finally trigger widespread inflation. (*Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department*)

BOARDWAY STREET SCAPE AND PARKING LOT LIGHTING – Tuesday night the Urban Renewal Agency unanimously approved ward of the contract for construction of this project. The project will provide new street lighting on Broadway between Commercial and Curtis, and new street lighting on the north side of Curtis to Second Court (the parking lot behind the Egyptian Theatre). New street lighting will be installed on South Second Street (beside the former Penny’s building) out to Anderson. New lighting will also be installed in the parking lots behind the Egyptian Theatre and behind the Island Sun/Bakery building. The project construction contract was awarded to Johnson Rock Products; Lon Samuels Architecture and Planning performed the design work for the project.