



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 26, 2000

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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.

CITY HALL OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY – City hall offices will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

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.

"THE MAGICAL MYSTICAL MEANING OF MATH AND MUSIC" – Coos Bay Public Library and the Oregon Coast Music Association present "The Magical Mystical Meaning of Math and Music" at 12:00 noon on Wednesday May 31 in the library's large meeting room. The free program explores the relationships of physics and mathematics to a variety of 20th century musical innovations. Garret Gregor, professor of mathematics and Randy Sloper, professor of physics at Southwestern Oregon Community College join music department chair Chris Rosman and the college Chamber Choir in an interesting and humorous blend of music performance, images and narrative. Vocal performances range from a speaking chorus to a medley of Gershwin tunes. This is the third in a series of presentations traveling the history of Western music with particular view to the way music reflects the larger social, economic and intellectual forces of its period.

YOU'RE INVITED - HELP PLAN THE LIBRARY'S FUTURE – The Coos Bay Public Library board has scheduled its first goal-setting process in seven years, starting with a public meeting on Thursday June 1, 5:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Snacks will be available beginning at 5 o'clock. Crystal Shoji will facilitate the session. Anyone interested in the library and its future are invited to participate in a lively look at where the library might be headed in the next few years.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE – Another giant used book sale will take place at Coos Bay library on June 3 and 4. Saturday hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday hours are noon to 4:00 p.m., with all books half price on Sunday.

BRIDGING THE "DIGITAL DIVIDE" – According to an article in the Boston Globe on May 23, 2000, Senator U.S. Senator John F. Kerry and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan will be introducing a bill to offer tax credits to phone and cable companies for broadband (high speed) Internet access in poor and hard to serve rural areas. The tax credit, if adopted, is likely to have it's largest impact on the South and West, (including the Coos Bay / North Bend area). Senator Kerry was quoted in the article as saying he has bipartisan support and that he wants to get it (tax credits) "out there" fast. The City of Coos Bay is working with the Fiber South consortium to ensure Coos Bay is a involved in keeping up with the technological advances in the region.

Councilor Don Spangler is the City of Coos Bay representative on the Fiber South Consortium.

COOS BAY K-9 TRACK A SUCCESS – A residential burglary suspect was captured earlier this week when a canine from the Coos Bay Police Department was called in to assist in the search. Officer Osborn and Canine, Caesar, were called to a house break-in in the Eastside area of Coos Bay. Thanks to a “text book” canine track the suspect was quickly captured and whisked away to the Coos County jail.

CHIEF KNIGHT ADDRESSES LIONS CLUB – Police Chief Chuck Knight was the guest speaker recently at the Coos Bay Lions Club, however the topic was not law enforcement. Chief Knight presented a slide show from his recent trip to Israel to the club which meets each Friday at the Red Lion in Coos Bay.

D.A.R.E. GRADUATION DATES SET – Coos Bay D.A.R.E. Officer Scott LaFevre has announced D.A.R.E. graduation ceremonies to be held in June. Milner Crest School ceremonies will be held June 5th at 7:00 p.m. and Madison Street School ceremonies will be held on June 8th at 1:30 p.m.

GOOD NEWS ON THE ECONOMY – The Coos County unemployment rate for April, 2000 was a surprisingly low 6.6%. When was the last time the Coos County unemployment rate was 6.6%? The answer: May, 1995 and again, in September of 1995, at 6.4 percent. For almost six months in 1995 we experienced low rates of unemployment, ranging from 6.4% to 7.4% from April through October, 1995. The low April, 2000 rate may be the start of a similar run of good fortune and low unemployment for Coos County! [This information courtesy of the Oregon Employment Department]

LITTER PATROL CONTINUES CLEANING SIDEWALKS – The litter Patrol worked on the following areas this week, weeding and cleaning sidewalks and tree boxes: 3rd Street from Commercial to Anderson, Anderson from 2nd to 4th on the north side, 4th from Anderson to Market, Commercial from 2nd to 5th, 5th from Anderson to Market and in front of City Hall along Fifth Street.

BROWNFIELD'S REVOLVING LOAN FUND – Last week we reported that an announcement from the federal Environmental Protection Agency was imminent. The announcement was made on Friday of last week - the State of Oregon was awarded a \$1,500,000 grant for the low-interest loan program, \$500,000 of which is specifically earmarked for the City of Coos Bay. These low-interest loan funds will be available to property owners whose properties require some form of environmental clean-up identified through an assessment funded through a separate EPA grant to the City of Coos Bay. These assessments are to be conducted in the Front Street Redevelopment Area by a firm under contract with the City. Work on the assessments will begin the week of June 12, 2000.

CEMETERY SPRUCE UP UNDERWAY – Members of the Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters Association have been working for the last few weeks at the Pioneer Cemetery. Association members have been working with Parks department crews on mowing, trimming, brushing and doing general cleanup as part of the community project adopted by the Firefighters Association. They will also add a flag to the flagpole that stands in the cemetery in honor of Memorial Day.