



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

June 9, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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4TH OF JULY IN THE PARK – The City's annual Independence Day celebration will be held in Mingus Park on Tuesday, July 4th. This year's event organizer is Marty Crouse and she had done a great job of getting more activities and entertainment. The day will begin with the Children's firecracker run at 9:30 a.m. and the Mayor's 4K run at 10:00 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 and ends at 9:15 for the Kids Run and 9:45 a.m. for the 4K fun. Entry fee for the 4K is \$3 and the Kids Run is free. T-shirts are an additional \$9. Interested runners should contact Pete Dawson at 267-6329.

The festivities will begin with the dedication of the newly completed Mingus Park Stage at 10:30 a.m. Entertainment on stage will begin at 11 a.m. and will continue throughout the afternoon. Free flags, cotton candy, popcorn and flags, and activities including canoe rides, fishing derby, free swimming at the Mingus Pool, petting zoo, face-painting, build a bird feeder, and much much more. Several food booths will be set up and The Grounds will be open at 9 a.m. for early morning coffee, scones and other goodies. Fireworks will be over the bay at dusk arranged by the Coos Bay Fire Department. We hope to see you there!

SENIOR CITIZEN FILM DAY AT THE LIBRARY – The monthly film program for seniors will be held Tuesday, June 13, at 2:00 p.m. in the library's large meeting room. The film, "West to Oregon Along the Oregon Trail," follows the Oregon Trail from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon as it details the history of the 1840's migration and shows historic sites along the way. Refreshments will be served. The Friends of the Library sponsor this free program.

CHAMBER FORUM BREAKFAST – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend this month's forum breakfast on Wednesday, June 21st at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn. The forum will be "What's new... and what's news at the Airport Business Park" with Oregon International Port of Coos Bay staff as guest speakers. Call to make your reservations today at 269-0215.

ANNUAL PHONE BOOK RECYCLING DRIVE – From June 12th through July 14th the Boys and Girls Club of Southwestern Oregon will be participating in its annual phone book recycling drive. We are asking that all phone books be dropped off at a dumpster at the following locations: the parking lot behind the Boys and Girls Club located at 3333 Walnut in Coos Bay, the GTE parking lot located at 276 LaClair in Coos Bay, and the Star of Hope located at 1712 Sheridan Avenue in North Bend. This project will help raise funds that will be used toward youth programs and scholarships. Please help the Boys and Girls Club by bringing your books to the locations listed above. For more information contact Kate Gigler or Kristen Ellison at the Boys and Girls Club office at 267-3635.

POLICE RESERVES GRADUATE – Twenty police reserve officers from Police and Sheriff's Departments from Florence to Bandon graduated from Southwestern Oregon's Reserve Officer Training Academy on June 6th. Academy Coordinator and lead instructor, Coos Bay Police Sergeant Ron Robson, welcomed visiting dignitaries and presented certificates of completion to the graduates. Coos Bay Police Chief Knight was the guest speaker for ceremony.

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COOS BAY EXPLORER POST UPDATE – The Coos Bay Police Explorer Post has been quite busy recently. In addition to assisting the police officers, six Explorers were certified in an eight-hour First Aid class instructed by Captain Randy Miles of the Coos Bay Fire Department. Explorer Captain Misty Larsen has been selected to attend this year's Kiwanis Law Enforcement Camp to be held at the Oregon Police Academy in Monmouth June 17 through 23, 2000. The Coos Bay Police Department also congratulates Explorer Captain Misty Larsen upon graduation from North Bend High School and Explorer Kammie Boyd upon graduation from Marshfield High School.

LABOR TRENDS April Unemployment Data – Coos County's 6.6 percent unemployment rate for April was the lowest for that month since 1969, when a rate of 6.3 was recorded. For the first four months of 2000, Coos' unemployment rate averaged 7.7 percent, compared with 10.5 for the same period in 1999. Although it is difficult to predict exactly what 2000's average jobless rate will be, it is currently headed toward an average of 6.4 percent. That would be the lowest rate since 1966's 6.4 percent. Curry county's April unemployment rate of 6.4 percent was the lowest for that month since 1991, which had a reading of 6.1. For the third of this year, Curry's jobless rate averaged 8.3 percent, compared with 9.9 percent for the same period in 1999. That puts the county on the track of having an average of 6.1 for 2000. One goes back to 1988's 5.9 percent to find a lower rate. *(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)*

PLANNING COMMISSIONER HONORED – Planning Commissioner Phil Marler was awarded a plaque by Mayor Verger at the City Council meeting Tuesday night. Mr. Marler has served for more than four years as a member of the Planning Commission. Mr. Marler and his family are moving to Natchez, Mississippi; the South's gain is Coos Bay's loss. Thank you, Phil Marler for your dedicated service to the City of Coos Bay and take our best wishes with you.

DRAFT ORDINANCE CONSIDERATION TERMINATED – Responding to a number of citizen objections, the City Council Tuesday night terminated further consideration of a draft ordinance concerning unmanaged vegetation. The Council expressed concern that citizens' issues had apparently not recognized the "draft" stage of consideration of the ordinance. Mayor Verger commented that "there seems to be a procedural step missing." Other Council members agreed, directing staff in the future to more carefully research existing ordinance language before bringing draft ordinance proposals to the Council. The vote to terminate consideration of the draft ordinance was unanimous.

BID AWARD FOR PUMP STATION WORK – The City Council unanimously approved the bid by Alpine Construction to construct a new pump station of City owned property adjacent to the Eastside sewage lagoon and to install new gravity pipelines and a pressure line connecting to the City's existing Pump station 17. The award of \$179,312 was below the revised engineering estimate for the work. Funds to construct the new pump station are earmarked in the current fiscal year's budget; the project should be completed before the fall rainy season.

TRUST CONVERSION REQUEST NOT SUPPORTED – The City Council voted unanimously not to support a request by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians to acquire a residential property at 1325 Neese Street and convert that property into Tribal Trust Land. The Council was concerned with the loss of property tax revenue that the conversion would create for the City of Coos Bay. As important was concern for the Tribes' planning for the longer term future; that plan was not clear to the Council and consequently there was no way to evaluate the presented land conversion request. A meeting with the Tribe and the City will be scheduled in the near future to discuss each entity's goals, budgetary restrictions, and future plans.

PARKING ISSUES – The City's Parking Committee presented a proposal to the City Council Tuesday night to restrict parking on Bennett Street between 4th and 6th Streets from its current no time limit to 90 minutes.

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The Council unanimously approved the proposal. The City's Parking Committee will meet next on July 12, 2000 at Outdoor-In at the corner of Fourth and Bennett Streets. Additional information may be obtained from Captain Eura Washburn of the Coos Bay Police Department.

2000 OREGON LIVABILITY CONFERENCE – The City of Coos Bay has been invited to speak about the Front Street Redevelopment project at this conference in Portland on June 15 and 16, 2000. The conference is co-sponsored by Livable Oregon, a statewide organization of downtown development professionals and the Congress for the New Urbanism, a national organization concerned with urban growth issues. The opportunity to present the Front Street project to an audience of a potentially national scale is quite compelling. Community Services Director Bill Finney will attend the conference to present the Front Street project.

WELCOME TO COOS BAY SIGN – The Welcome to Coos Bay sign on the north end of the City along Bayshore Drive has taken on a new look. Agri-Tech did the landscaping and placed the pavers around the sign in effort to clean the area up and show off the sign. An additional light was added by Reese Electric to brighten up the sign and Pacific Power and Light removed a pole that had previously blocked the sign as vehicles traveled south on Highway 101.

LITTER PATROL CONTINUES – The litter patrol is working in the downtown area on 5th Street through 7th Street between Commercial Avenue to Bennett Avenue They also have been working in the parking lots behind the Art Museum and north of Curtis Avenue. The end this week they were picking up litter on Empire Boulevard and Newmark Avenue.