



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 8, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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MUSIC AND MORE IN MINGUS – Get ready for a fun day in Mingus Park on Saturday! Entertainment and children's activities are scheduled from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. on and around the Mingus Park Stage. Many thanks to event organizers Cindi Miller and Marty Crouse. In case of rain, the event will be held at the Downtown Convention Center located at 158 Central Avenue. A special thank you to Doug Fletcher for offering use of the center free of charge. See you there!

BOARDWALK AQUARIUM – Under the direction of Tom Rumreich, Oregon Fish and Wildlife and with help from OMI the long-anticipated aquarium was installed at the Downtown Boardwalk this week. The aquarium will be home to a large Chinook salmon and several smaller smolts. Dedication of the aquarium will be held during the Fun Festival at noon on Saturday, Sept. 16th. The City extends their appreciation to Fish and Wildlife and OMI for making placement of the aquarium possible.

NEWMARK AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS – City Staff met with Larry Lewis, TriLand Design Group, Inc., to discuss the analysis and creation of a Newmark Avenue Improvements Plan. A public meeting will be held on Monday, September 25th at 7 p.m. at SWOCC's Newmark Center, Room 228. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the planning process and to solicit input. What do people see as the opportunities and the problems for the stretch of Newmark Avenue from Staples to the "Y" (intersection of Ocean and Newmark)??? All interested parties are welcome to attend. For more information contact Laura Barron at city hall or phone 269-8918.

PROJECT UPDATES: Empire Street Scape – The Empire Street Scape Project is moving along with basically most of the sidewalk in place. Once the sidewalk is finished the bricks will be installed along the sidewalk. The new street lights have been put together and are ready for installation once the brick work is completed. Some trees have been planted along the south side of Newmark. The remaining trees will be planted this fall when they can be dug up at the nursery.

Broadway Street Scape and Parking Lot Lighting Projects – The Downtown Street Scape Project and Parking Lot Lighting Project is moving along. Brick work is being completed on Broadway with grouting in of the brick. Lights are being installed along Broadway starting at Commercial Avenue going south. Once Broadway is completed the brick work in the parking lots can begin. The landscaping of the parking lots is about 75% complete with some trees still to be planted.

2000 Street Overlay Project – The 2000 Street Overlay Project is moving ahead of schedule with the following streets completed: Wall Street, Cammann Street, Woodland Drive, Date Avenue, North 10th Street, North 6th Street, Myrtle Avenue, Alder Avenue. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of next week. Thank you for your patience with all of the above projects.

SOUTH COAST CITY MANAGERS MEET IN NORTH BEND -- City manager Bill Grile joins his colleagues from the south Coast today in a quarterly meeting to be held in North Bend. The managers gather periodically to exchange experiences and ideas, and to discuss pending issues of mutual concern.

CITY MANAGER TO GIVE SLIDE SHOW ON ARGENTINA TRIP – Next Wednesday (Sept. 13th)

at noon in the library auditorium, City Manager Bill Grile will be giving a slide show to interested city employees, sharing with them his experiences from spending two weeks in Argentina earlier this summer as part of a Rotary Friendship Exchange. “This was a great trip for Linda and I,” said Grile today. “We spent a week in La Plata with two other couples from Eugene and got to experience the Argentine culture by living with families that spent time with us in Oregon a year ago,” he added. “Then our second week was in Buenos Aires attending Rotary’s International Convention,” he continued. The slide show is intended for city employees and the format is a “brown-bag lunch.” Members of the public are welcome to attend as well if interested.

9-1-1 AWARENESS WEEK – A proclamation declaring September 9th through 17th as 9-1-1 Awareness Week was presented at this week’s City Council meeting. Dispatcher Lori Cooper read the proclamation and presented certificates to North Coos County Dispatchers Jude Isaacson, Sheri Smith, Koren Fare, Michelle Kirby, Sherri Layton, Cathy Stringer, Tammy Lounsbury, Rhonda Wilson, and Communications Supervisor Tia Akers.

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon on January 1, 1991 completed implementation of a statewide emergency telephone system utilizing three digits: 9-1-1; and

WHEREAS, Oregon is only the sixth state in the United States to implement a statewide 9-1-1 system; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service providers throughout Oregon participate in the 9-1-1 system; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of 9-1-1 emergency telephone service serves to provide all citizens with only one number to remember for reporting law enforcement, fire and medical emergencies; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of dedicated 9-1-1 telecommunicators daily serve the citizens of Oregon answering their 9-1-1 requests for assistance, and dispatching the appropriate services as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and education to the system’s existence and proper use is essential to its success.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joanne Verger, Mayor of the City of Coos Bay, hereby proclaim September 9-17, 2000 to be **9-1-1 AWARENESS WEEK** in the City of Coos Bay and encourage all citizens to join in this observance.

SAFETY TOWN VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – Several teenagers who volunteered for Safety Town 2000 were honored at the Coos Bay City Council meeting on September 5, 2000. Special presentations were made to the Bay Area Sportsmen’s Association (BASA) for their continued support of this very special program. BASA has supported Safety Town in Coos Bay since it’s inception in 1992. Awards were also presented to Susie Moore and James “Artie” George for their dedication and commitment to safety town for the past six years. The awards were presented by Coos Bay Police Officers Scott Snyder and Darrell King, and North Bend Police Officer Mike Olson.

POLICE & SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES – The partnership between the Coos Bay Police Department and Coos Bay Schools has been enhanced by the assignment of Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth as supervisor of the department’s School Resource Officers. A work schedule has been prepared by Sergeant Hedgepeth to ensure police officer presence at Marshfield High School and the middles schools. The D.A.R.E. program will also guarantee police department presence in the elementary schools. Coos Bay police officers working in the schools this year are Scott Snyder, Scott LaFevre, and Dan O’Loughlin.

DOWNTOWN PARKING TO BE DISCUSSED – The City Council has scheduled discussion of the status of downtown parking for their Sept. 19th meeting. The Council has invited the Parking Committee and the Downtown Association to participate in the discussion. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting. The discussion will take place during the regular Council meeting.

SHUTTERS CREEK INMATES – Community Services is planning on using inmates from Shutters Creek Correctional Facility on a more regular basis. Staff has been working with Shutters Creek to schedule the crews to do litter patrol and cleaning of sidewalks around town. The inmates will be used in the Parks for general maintenance as needed.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2ND ANNUAL TRADE FORUM – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce will hold their 2nd annual international trade forum Wednesday, September 20, 2000 at the Red Lion at 7:30 a.m. The forum is entitled “Doing Business in China, Taiwan & Hong Kong”. Attendees will learn about the opportunities and challenges of conducting business in Southeast Asia: Sunun Setboonsaring will provide specific and practical information about doing business in China. Larry Qualman will discuss his participation in the State of Oregon’s recent trade mission to China. Scott Goddin, John O’Connell and Patty McWayne will be available to talk about how their organization can assist your business. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the Chamber office at 269-0215.

LIBRARY USAGE RANKS HIGH – Results of a survey on public library usage released recently show that Oregon ranks fourth in the nation in circulation per capita at 9.95 checkouts per person. Ohio ranked highest at 12.36 circulations per person served with the nationwide average standing at 6.50 per person. A check of Coos Bay Public Library circulation for the same year as that surveyed - 1998 - showed circulation at 11.80 per person, so local library users certainly exceed most of the nation in visits to the library!

Since new expanded open hours went into effect, usage of the library has increased even more, routinely surpassing 1,100 items circulated per day. Circulation at Coos Bay Public Library now represents approximately 40 per cent of all Coos County checkouts. Sometimes there are bursts of extra activity; for example, the day after the recent Labor Day closure, 1,802 items were checked out, representing 41.77 per cent of all countywide activity.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES RESUME AT THE LIBRARY – Fall promises to be a very busy part of the year. Story time for preschool and Kindergarten aged children began this week, to continue every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and Thursdays at noon. Sessions are free and typically include stories and a craft activity. Library tours are now being scheduled for preschools, Head Start classes, day care centers and elementary students. An invitation for tours is being sent to every Coos Bay D-9 teacher. Classroom visits by children's staff will continue as part of the library's commitment to community outreach programming.

MARILYN HALVOR CELEBRATES 15 YEARS AT COOS BAY LIBRARY – Office Manager Marilyn Halvor passed the fifteen mark at the library this month. Marilyn is a key member of the library team who has many diverse responsibilities, handling all of them with accuracy, efficiency, and a terrific customer service attitude, plus necessary good humor. She keeps library expenditure ledgers up to date, purchases supplies and maintains an inventory, handles memorial accounts, prepares bills for payment and many other office manager duties, but also is the overdues librarian, preparing notices, handling accounts and answering patron questions or concerns. She works at the public service desks each week as well. Congratulate her when you see her, and encourage to stay a few more years!

CAPTAIN WASHBURN CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE – Coos Bay Police Captain Eura Washburn recently completed 25 years of service with the police department. Captain Washburn was hired as a crime prevention specialist in 1975. She was later appointed to the position of police officer. Captain Washburn served as a patrol sergeant prior to her promotion to the rank of Captain in 1999.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS WITH THE CITY OF COOS BAY! – Congratulations to Coos Bay Public Library Director Carol Ventgen and Coos Bay Police Captain Eura Washburn for achieving a major milestone this month: 25 years of outstanding service to the City of Coos Bay!! Join us in celebrating their outstanding record or exemplary service to our community. Both are highly respected in their fields. And both are role-models setting a great example for others to copy. Congratulations Carol and Eura. We’re all grateful to have you as leaders on our team!

SPEAKING OF EMPLOYEE CELEBRATIONS – Fifteen years of service is no small accomplishment

either! CB Fire Department office manager Crystal Barr and CB Police dispatcher Rhonda Wilson both reached this milestone next week. Quality employees committed to outstanding public service to the community is what these fifteen years represent. Congratulations Crystal and Rhonda ... and thanks for your commitment!!

LABOR TRENDS – Building Permit Trends – Based on data available through June 2000, the number of building permits issued in Coos and Curry counties in 2000 will fall below the figure in 1999. Higher interest rates working their way through the economy may reduce the total number of housing units slated to be built. In 1999, a total of 162 units received building permits in the two counties. Of that figure, 115 were for single family dwellings, while 47 were for multi-family units. For 2000, the total figure is projected to fall to about 85 units, a significant drop. And, so far single family units make up all of the units for the year. That could change by the end of the year, of course, as could the total number. It must be noted that, for Coos County, data are being reported since 1999 only for the communities of Coos Bay, Lakeside, and North Bend. Data for other communities or for the unincorporated part of Coos County is being included in data for the “Rest of State.” Until the data can be broken out, data for Coos County and, hence, Region 7, will be understated accordingly. *(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)*