



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

October 13, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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OPEN HOUSE EVENTS BRING IN CROWDS – The Fire Department would like to thank all those who attended the open house activities this week. Each of the three open houses brought in 150 to 200 people. Visitors enjoyed a barbecue dinner, demonstrations, and activities for the kids. The annual open house events gives the Fire Department an opportunity to open up the stations and show the public our appreciation for their support all year long.

FIRE PREVENTION GOES TO SCHOOL – Fire Department personnel went back to school this week to talk about home fire safety. This year's theme "The Great Escape: Check it Out!" is the last year of a three year program dedicated to helping families develop and implement a home escape plan. Approximately 400 kids from the four Coos Bay elementary schools took part in the activities which of course included a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog!

BOARDWALK AQUARIUM UPDATE – This week city manager Bill Grile and local artist Dutch Mostert met at the Boardwalk Aquarium to discuss the possibility of painting a mural on its side. "I really like Dutch's idea of seeing of the local artists league or some local muralist could paint an aquarium view-scape on the structure's side," reported Grile after the meeting. "I'm hoping something can come together," he added, "but it's unrealistic to expect anything in the immediate near term." ODFW fish biologist Tom Rumreich has stressed that fish mortality in the little tank will happen from time to time but that this is nothing folks should be alarmed about. Coos Bay parks foreman Phil Christiana and his crew are working on techniques to keep the tank's glass and water column clear and is encouraged that the aquarium will be a fine feature for the Boardwalk given a little time to work out details.

We hope you'll stop down for a look-see if you've not done so already! By the way, we hope you'll also answer the new survey question about the aquarium which appears on Coos Bay's home page at www.coosbay.org.

OREGON PLANNING INSTITUTE – Last week members of the Community Services Planning Division attended the Oregon Planning Institute (OPI) in Eugene for two days full of information on current and pending issues, changes, techniques and tools to help achieve a balance in our daily direction and decisions. OPI is held annually to bring local planners, consultants, state agencies, etc. together, not only to attend value-packed sessions, but to allow and encourage sharing of experiences and solutions to not-so-uncommon problems. The theme for this year was "Keeping Oregon Oregon". Sessions ranged from ethics in the internet age, to "urban forests", to information on land-use legislation expected in the 2001 Legislature.

WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS – Two new additions to the City's wastewater system are currently under construction and scheduled to come on line within the next two months. The first new pump station is located in the Eastside District and will replace two existing aging stations, move the facility to city property, and reduce long term maintenance costs. The second new pump station is located in Englewood District and will service the small community along Old Wireless Lane - a newly annexed area to the City.

MINGUS PARK STAGE – Security Bank has approached the City of Coos Bay with the idea of spearheading support to raise funds to continue with the improvements to the Mingus Park Stage. Ideas that

have been mentioned include seating of some type, an accessible area for wheelchairs, and stairs from the parking lot. Security Bank has shown great community spirit and pride to further the idea of community events in Mingus Park. Stay tuned!

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY SCHEDULED – A ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the Government Access Channel studio at the Ed Lund Building has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th at 1:30 p.m. The channel currently runs tapes for School District 9, City of Coos Bay, City of North Bend, and Coos County. All local government entities are invited to subscribe for the service. For more information contact the city manager's office at 269-8912.

PUBLIC FORUMS ANNOUNCED – The League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women will be co-sponsoring two public forums next month. The first forum will be held Thursday, October 19th at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall and will present information on seven measures appearing on the November ballot. These include ballot measure numbers 6, 7, 8, 9, 88, 91 and 93. The second forum will be held Thursday, October 26th at 7 p.m. (also at city hall council chambers) and will be a candidates forum. Candidates participating in the forum include Senate Dist. #24: Roger McCorkle vs Ken Messerly; Representative #47: Christina Alexander vs Joanne Verger; Representative #48: Barbara Dodrill vs Wayne Krieger; and Coos County Commissioner: John Griffith vs Keith Schroeder. Free voter guides are available on state candidates and measure from the League of Women Voters; for more information contact 267-5306, 267-6508 or 756-5290.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION – The Planning Commission (PC) met on Tuesday, October 10th and approved the placement of radio transmitting panel antennas on an existing 80-foot tower in the Maxwell Road area. Recent input resulted in a lengthy discussion on design standards for the Empire area and for the proposed plan amendments and rezone of N. Front Street. A PC work session will be scheduled to review the input. The process requires the PC to make a recommendation to the City Council who will then make a final decision. The Commission's next hearing is scheduled for November 14th at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING ON LOWER PONY CREEK WATERSHED STUDY – The Lower Pony Creek Watershed Committee hosted a public meeting last Monday evening in the North Bend Public Library meeting room to present the draft report of the Lower Pony Creek Watershed Assessment. In short, the draft study calls for more water quality monitoring along with some near and long-term remedial actions to eliminate the flooding inside the City of North Bend near Waite Street. The City of Coos Bay has not shared in the cost of the \$35,000 study but has supplied maps and technical advice to the team working to find solutions to the problems that have been identified. For additional information, please call project manager, John Craig (Corps of Engineers, 267-6484), or Jon Souder (Coos Watershed Association, 888-5922).

COOS BAY DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION GETS BRIEFING ON NEW MUSEUM – Tuesday morning the CBDA received an update briefing on the Coos County Historical Museum project being planned for downtown on or near the site of what now is the Tourist Information Center at the foot of Central between Bayshore and Broadway. The briefing by Historical Society Board member Steve Grief and project architect Steve Clay showed conceptualls for how a new building at the location could meet a number of identified needs, including housing a new tourist information center and downtown public restrooms in a "rest-stop" type environment. Everything is still preliminary and as concepts become more settled there will be opportunities for public input and feedback. Watch for details!