



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

October 20, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CITY RECEIVES CLEAN AUDIT – CPA Rob Wall presented the audit report of the City's financial records for Fiscal Year 1999/2000 at Tuesday's City Council meeting. Mr. Wall reported the City has a clean unmodified audit and commended staff for an excellent job of handling the City's financial records. A clean audit also benefits the City when applying for grant funds. Mr. Wall explained new computer programs in the Finance Department will help with tracking accounts payable records, fixed assets, and will provide more accurate financial information. "The audit report demonstrates once again that Finance Director Janell Howard does a great job ensuring the public trust that Coos Bay's funds are managed as required by Oregon Budget law," said City Manager Bill Grile this week.

NEW FACE FOR THE BOARDWALK AQUARIUM – Improvements to the boardwalk aquarium were discussed at Tuesday's City Council meeting with the Council agreeing to fund the city manager's request for a mural on the west and south sides of the facility. Some concern had been expressed about the look of the aquarium, maintenance, and fish mortality. The city manager explained while some mortality is to be expected, the problem a few weeks ago was due to a mal-function of the water circulation pump. Tom Rumreich of ODF&W has been the driving force behind this project, developing the design and lining up volunteers for the project, will be updating the Council at the November 7th meeting. Yesterday the city manager met with local Leann Hale Blair to discuss her ideas for a mural to improve the aquarium's aesthetics. Stay tuned!

NEW MUSEUM DIRECTOR INTRODUCED – Helen Scully introduced Reed Lockhart to the City Council as the Coos Art Museum's new director. Mr. Lockhart stated he is excited about working with the community and continuing the great service provided by the museum to citizens. Mrs. Scully expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the museum's director for the past 6 ½ years and invited everyone to attend the opening dedication for the new permanent collection facility on November 3rd. She also reported the new web site for the art education program is now available at www.coosart.com

URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY MOVES AHEAD WITH PROPERTY PURCHASE – The Urban Renewal Agency authorized staff to proceed with purchasing property located on Bayshore near Hall Street (across from McDonalds). The Oregon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society has a plan to build a depot/museum and place Engine No. 104 at this location. The railway historical society is a non-profit organization and is actively seeking grants for the project. Anyone interested in the project or the association may call Dick Jamsgard at 759-3332, John Kruse at 269-5627 or Roy Johnson at 267-6227.

JOINT CITY COUNCIL/CONFEDERATED TRIBES MEETING – The City Council and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians will hold a joint meeting on Monday, October 23rd at 7 p.m. in the Library Auditorium, 525 Anderson Avenue, Coos Bay. The agenda will include a presentation by the Tribe on their plan for obtaining US Forest Service lands and summary of the City's land use plans. The meeting is open to the public.

CANDIDATES FORUM SCHEDULED – The League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women will be co-sponsoring a candidates forum on Thursday, October 26th at 7 p.m. 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 at the library and city hall on state candidates and measures provided by the League of Women Voters. For more information contact 267-5306, 267-6508 or 756-5290.

STATE BUILDING CODES FORUM – The State of Oregon Building Codes Division will hold an open forum meeting to discuss services provided by the State in Coos County. The meeting will be held Wednesday, October 25th at 6 p.m. at the North Bend Library, 1800 Sherman Avenue. The meeting is part of an ongoing outreach effort intended to give citizens with an interest in building-related issues an opportunity for direct access to top building codes division staff. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting to express their ideas and concerns.

POLICE AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS MEET – Coos Bay Police Department and Coos Bay School District has started what will become monthly meetings to discuss areas of mutual concern and ways to enhance the already excellent working relationship between the police department and the schools. The first meeting has been deemed as a success in which Police Department Sergeant Hedgepeth moderated a meeting which was attended by police department administration and school resource officers, school administration staff, and principals from each of the Coos Bay schools. The police department and school officials are committed to keeping our schools safe for all students.

POLICE CHIEF SPEAKS AT ELDER WISE MEETING – On October 16th, Police Chief Chuck Knight spoke to the Elderwise program for senior citizens. Chief Knight presented a slide program and talk about his trip last year to Israel. In light of recent developments in Israel the presentation was very timely and was well attended. The Elderwise program is an outreach program of the Outreach and Professional Development unit at Southwestern Oregon Community College.

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.