



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

November 3, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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EMPIRE GATEWAY PROJECT – Sizing for the beams on the Gateway has been completed and an estimate of the cost for these is at the architect's office. Final cost estimates for the whole project are expected to be available any day now. The architect will be presenting this information on November 21st along with a sketch showing how the Gateway would look with the streetscape in the background to the Urban Renewal Agency, with direction about how to proceed expected after further discussion.

MINGUS STAGE FUNDRAISER IS BIG SUCCESS – A hearty thanks is due to Larry McCabe for his fine efforts bringing outstanding jazz music to the Red Lion last Sunday evening as a fundraiser for the Mingus Stage project. Larry stopped by City Hall this week to report that he expects to deliver a check with profits from the event in the near future along with a request that these be dedicated to further improvements to the stage area. These could include stairs from the upper parking lot, seating, improved handicapped access and related things. Thanks to Larry and Security Bank, the stage project is moving along!

WELCOME ABOARD SHANDA SHRIBBS – City manager Bill Grile has received numerous calls, emails and congratulations this week following the announcement that Shanda Shribbs has been selected as the new Community Services Director for the City of Coos Bay. Ms. Shribbs will assume responsibilities at the new post on December 1st, leaving her current position as Regional Coordinator for the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department where she has been responsible for managing 50 to 60 projects for Southwestern Oregon including some in the Bay Area. She is known for her creativity, high energy and tenacity in getting things done. "Shanda is going to be a great addition to our team," said city manager Bill Grile when making the announcement. "My expectations of what she needs to help us accomplish are incredibly high and I have every reason to believe she is just the right person to help move us forward," he added. Based on the feedback in the manager's office this week, there are many others who share this view and are equally excited to see Ms. Shribbs join the Coos Bay team. Welcome aboard Shanda!!

BLOCK GRANT CONSULTANT SURVEYS DOWNTOWN FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – City Manager Bill Grile has brought Community Development Block Grant specialist Kay Frances to town this week to survey the potential for a Community Development Block Grant for improving the City's commercial downtown core. Second story office space development, façade beautification, housing and theme promotion are some of the ideas being explored by Ms. Frances and city staff. To successfully secure a CDBG award for downtown a number of statistical and fact-finding elements must be developed, and this is part of the work being done as part of the week's survey. Building visits, inspections, and interviews with some of businesses and property owners downtown are all part of the work Ms. Frances is undertaking in an effort to help the City Council identify a grant project that has the best opportunity for approval.

"I'd really like to see the City figure out a way to help facilitate second story space utilization downtown," said Grile from his office this morning. "I'm optimistic about our ability to help stimulate more success downtown," he added, "but we will need to have any grant submission be part of an overall plan for the core." That shouldn't be hard to do. "I see real potential in downtown Coos Bay," Ms. Frances said with emphasis earlier this week as she began to collect information and thoughts about how to leverage CDBG funding with other grants and private investment.

The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department first introduced Ms. Frances to both Coos Bay and North Bend earlier this year, paying for her to visit the area and offer advice about how to stimulate positive development in the area. Her resume includes substantial success accomplishing urban redevelopments in the State of Idaho where she worked for many years developing and administering CDBG projects in that state.

CONSULTANTS JOIN PORT AND CITY STAFF FOR MEETING ABOUT AIRPORT MITIGATION PROJECT

– Yesterday afternoon Port manager Allan Rumbaugh, North Bend Municipal Airport manager Gary LeTellier, engineering consultants from W&H Pacific and Brown and Caldwell, North Bend administrator Gary Combs, city manager Bill Grile, city attorney Randall Tosh, wastewater manager Gary Young and city community services staff met for over an hour to discuss a proposal by the Port to use property owned by the City of Coos Bay as mitigation for a wetland fill planned for the end of one of the airport's runways near Virginia Avenue as part of scheduled safety improvements sought by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Port and its consultant feel that a City-owned mitigation site near the Eastside sludge lagoon offers the best potential in the region for the kind of mitigation project that would be required by resource agencies in order to allow the wetland fill in North Bend. City manager Bill Grile has asked for an independent evaluation of the Port's proposal, and Port Manager Allan Rumbaugh has hired Brown and Caldwell (the engineering firm that originally designed the sludge lagoon) to examine several issues requested by the City of Coos Bay. Tuesday evening, Port manager Rumbaugh will be meeting with the Coos Bay City Council in a work session beginning at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall in order to discuss the proposal. He'll be asking the Council to allow a full examination of the facts associated with the Port's proposal before making any decision. Stay tuned.

EMPIRE BOAT RAMP – About this time each year the City removes the boarding floats at the Empire Boat Ramp for storage until spring. The winter storms high waves and tides damage the boarding floats extensively. However, this year we are trying something different in order to try and meet the community's needs and desire to use the Empire Boat Ramp during the winter months. Though most of the boarding floats have been moved to storage we have left enough for launching one boat at a time. Staff will monitor the boarding floats that were left in the water for damage over the next several weeks and months. We are hoping this will meet the communities needs while reserving some of the boarding floats for the spring.

HALLOWEEN DRAWS GHOST & GOBLINS TO FIRE STATION – Sparky the Fire Dog, a.k.a. Firefighter Cadet Wally St. Julian, was kept busy on Tuesday night. As one of the many stops on the Coos Bay Downtown Associations Safe Trick or Treat route the fire station was a popular stop along the way. Along with his candy bearing partners, Firefighter Cadet Christian Lorenz and Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Sparky greeted more than 125 spooky characters.

F.E.M.A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS COOS BAY – F.E.M.A. Executive Director, Ms. Lynn Canton visited Coos Bay City Hall earlier in the week while in Coos Bay visiting relatives. Ms. Canton's niece is married to Coos Bay Codes Enforcement Officer, Mike Martin. While in Coos Bay, Ms. Canton accepted an invitation to join Coos Bay staff members in a discussion of emergency management issues facing the City of Coos Bay. Attending the meeting with Ms. Canton were City Manager Bill Grile, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Codes Enforcement Officer Mike Martin, Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Police Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth. Coos Bay staff members were able to talk about issues relating to emergency preparedness, fire services, emergency operations center issues, and a variety of other topics. Coos Bay staff members had high praise for Ms. Canton's willingness to meet and discuss these vital issues. For more information about the Federal Emergency Management Agency Executive Director, Lynn Canton, visit the FEMA web page at <http://www.fema.gov/about/canton.htm>

COOS BAY EXPLORER POST ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS – Coos Bay Law Enforcement Post 511 recently held promotions to fill two vacant positions. Explorer Randy Thompson was promoted to Explorer Post Captain, and Explorer OJ Webber was promoted to Explorer Post Sergeant. Randy is a senior at

Marshfield High School and has plans to attend college after graduation. He has a goal of becoming a police officer upon graduation from college. OJ is a sophomore at Marshfield High School and is also interested in a career in law enforcement. The Coos Bay Police Department has sponsored Law Enforcement Explorer Post 511 for the past 25 years. Current Explorer Post 511 Advisors are Sergeant Robert Lounsbury of the Coos Bay Police Department, and Tammy Lounsbury, a dispatcher at the North Coos 9-1-1 Communications Center.

POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF ANNIVERSARY DATES – Members of the Coos Bay Police Department hired during the month of November include Officer Andy Osborn with 3 years of service, Officer Rodger Craddock with 5 years, 9-1-1 Dispatcher Cathy Stringer with 8 years, and Sergeant Robert Lounsbury with ten years of service. Officers Osborn, Craddock, and Sergeant Lounsbury were all members of the police reserve unit prior to joining the department full time. Additionally, Osborn and Lounsbury were members of the Law Enforcement Explorer Post 511 prior to joining the police reserve unit.

SUCCESSFUL JOINT WORK SESSION – On Monday, October 30th the City Council and Planning Commission held a joint work session on proposed design standards with a historical theme for a portion of the Empire district and N. Front Street. A lively discussion filled with enthusiasm, and some questions, centered on the Empire area that would fall under the design standards and goals. The city is exploring possibilities of financial incentives to encourage business owners to renovate their building facades.

LABOR TRENDS – Unemployment Rates – The jobless rate in Coos County fell from 7.5 percent in August to 6.8 in September, comfortably below the year-ago rate of 7.5. The last time that the rate for September was this low was in 1995, when a rate of 6.5 was recorded. Prior to that, you have to go all the way back to 1978's 6.4 percent rate. The number of unemployed residents in Coos County fell from nearly 2,100 in August to just under 1,900 in September. A year ago, about 2,000 Coos residents were estimated to be unemployed. (*Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department*)

BOARDWALK PAINTING PROJECT MOVES AHEAD – Thompson Painting company of Coos Bay has been working on the Boardwalk painting all of the railings and the fence along the highway. It has made a huge impact on the appearance of the Boardwalk. The project included painting the railings along the Boardwalk, the railings in the pavilions, the bullnose rail along the Boardwalk and the fence along the highway. The decking has also been sealed to protect it from the weather.

INMATES PERFORM VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE CITY – The Shutters Creek inmates perform a valuable service to the City and citizens with the work they perform along the streets and in the parks. The City is able to utilize the workers to clean along the streets and sidewalks. The inmates have been concentrating on the Ocean Boulevard area the past couple of weeks. They worked on the east side from Central Avenue to Butler Road this week.

PETROLEUM BASED DISCHARGE - An investigation into the origination of a petroleum based discharge in Coos Bay is currently underway by the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the City of Coos Bay. The discharge was transported through the storm water system and was first reported in the vicinity of Central Ave. and Broadway at 1:30 pm on Sunday, October 29th. Any information relating to this discharge should be reported to Jason Smith of the U.S. Coast Guard at (541) 266-5430. As part of the clean-up, a 20,000 gallon tank has been temporarily located at the Chamber parking lot (the northeast corner). The tank is used to "settle out" the oil and water from the petroleum cleanup. This location will provide a more efficient cleanup operation due to its proximity. The tank could be at this location up to three weeks.