



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

December 8, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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WELCOME SHANDA SHRIBBS – The City of Coos Bay's new Community Services Director, Shanda Shribbs, started work on December 1st. There will be a reception to meet the Director on December 14th in the City Council Chambers starting at 4:00 p.m.

BALLOT MEASURE SEVEN HAS BEEN ENJOINED – The news is two days old now, but Ballot Measure 7 has been stayed in a ruling this week by Judge Paul Lipscomb. Had Judge Lipscomb's order not been issued, the controversial ballot measure would have gone into effect yesterday, causing Oregon's cities and counties, and the state itself, to be accepting claims for compensation in situations where regulatory restrictions diminished the value of real property in certain instances. Audrey McCall, Governor Tom McCall's widow has filed a suit to block implementation of the measure, as has the League of Oregon Cities. The text of Judge Lipscomb's decision and order in the McCall and LOC cases, granting a preliminary injunction against Measure 7's enactment, is now posted on the LOC Measure 7 site (www.orlocalgov.org/loc/issues/Measure7/m7page.html <<http://www.orlocalgov.org/loc/issues/Measure7/m7page.html>>). Tuesday evening the Coos Bay City Council joined scores of other municipalities in Oregon by adopting an ordinance directing the procedure that must be followed in filing a claim for relief under Ballot Measure 7. With Judge Lipscomb's order, this is all on the back burner for the time being while legal wrangling continues.

UPDATE ON THE EMPIRE GATEWAY – Tuesday night the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency once again took up consideration of plans for the Empire Gateway. Acting on new information from Agency member Don Spangler, City staff will be asking the project architect to consider another plan for the gateway arch that would be less costly than the iron structure that has been considered to date, and that would be more along the lines of the two gateways recently erected in Old Town Bandon. Stay tuned.

CITY TO ADMINISTER GRANT FOR FIFTH STREET HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD – This week the City Council gave the green light to a request by staff and residents of Fifth Street to allow the City to administer a \$5,000 grant by the State Historic Preservation Office. The grant will advance efforts by the Fifth Street neighbors to establish a historic district for their street, to be bounded on the north by Golden and the south by Johnson. Details will follow. City community services staff will be scheduling a neighborhood town hall meeting to discuss the project. Contact community services director Shanda Shribbs at 269-8918 if you have questions.

FIBER SOUTH CONSORTIUM UPDATE – Tuesday night Councilor Don Spangler briefed the City Council about negotiations between Fiber South Consortium and PCI, Inc. to bring fiber-optic telecommunications into the community. He also serves as Vice-chair of the Consortium, which is an organization of cities and counties that has the right to fiber provided by Williams Communication. The City Council authorized an expenditure of just under \$7200 as Coos Bay's share for Consortium expenses generated to date, but with the understanding that future costs will most likely be replaced with revenue to the City and / or better telecommunications services as a result of the Consortium's efforts.

URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY ANNOUNCES INTENT TO PURCHASE CHOICE EMPIRE PROPERTY

– Tuesday night the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency took action move the Agency closer to acquisition of choice property adjacent to the Empire Boat Ramp. Known as the Crowley property, and owned by Crowley Maritime, the Agency voted unanimously to submit an offer of \$200,000 cash for the waterfront property, which includes a dock and submerged lands, and plans for development of a public recreation facility at the site. This may include an RV park, according to City Manager Bill Grile, although the Agency will need to make that decision after further consideration of options. Crowley has tentatively accepted the Agency's offer. Purchase of the property is possible through use of urban renewal funds. These resources are generated by property taxes already paid into Agency coffers. No tax increases are necessary as a result of this Agency decision.

DOWNTOWN TREE LIGHTING THANK YOU

– The Downtown Association and the City of Coos Bay extend their appreciation to everyone who worked to make the annual tree lighting event a success. From the donation of cookies to the Lab Band performance to carriage rides to the Explorers helping with traffic and pictures with Santa, and of course, Santa himself, thank you so very much!! A special thanks to Doug Fletcher for again donating the downtown convention center. A great community effort and a great way to begin the holiday season. This year was also the second holiday window decorating contest with the winners being: first place Gloria's Gifts, second place Checkerberry's Flowers & Gifts and third place Weddings Etc.

MORE HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

– The Empire Community Association will hold their annual tree lighting and Santa's arrival tonight (Dec. 8th) beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Empire Fire Station on Wall Street. There will be entertainment, refreshments and of course, Santa Claus will arrive to visit with the children. The World newspaper is carrying a complete list of community activities for the holidays.

THANKS TO PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT

– A big thanks to Pacific Power & Light's line crew for helping the Parks crew install the light on the two trees in front to City Hall. PP&L has been helping the City for a number of years installing the lights on the trees. If not for the their generous work the City would need to rent a large lift truck to perform this service. Thanks again for community involvement.

SHUTTER CREEK CONTINUES ON

– The City continues to use the Shutters Creek inmate crews on various projects within the City. They have working along Ocean Boulevard cleaning grass and debris from the sidewalks. This past week they were in the Mingus Park raking the rest of the leaves that have fallen. If not for the inmates a lot of projects would be delayed or not get completed. If you see the crews give them thumbs up, they provide a wonderful service to the area. Thanks again Shutters Creek.

CITY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

– Looking to volunteer in your community? The City of Coos Bay has openings on the Budget Committee, Design Review Board, and Parks Commission. Applications are available from the City Manager's Office during normal business hours and will be accepted through December 15th. There are three openings on the Budget Committee; two positions on the Parks Commission, and five positions on the Design Review Board. The openings on the Design Review Board are for two citizen at-large, one downtown property owner, one representative from the Empire Community Association, and an unexpired term for Empire business owner. Interviews will be conducted by the City Council and appointments made at the January 2nd City Council meeting. Applicants will be notified when the interviews will be scheduled.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

– The Fire Department would like to remind everyone to exercise fire safety during the holidays. Make sure your tree is fresh and set up away from heat sources. Trees should have a fresh cut end and check the water level every day. Inspect indoor and outdoor lights for frayed or broken wires

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before they go up. Never light or burn candles in or around your tree. Your fire department wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!

HOME CANDLE SAFETY – Several recent fires involving candles, one fatal, has prompted the Coos Bay Fire Department to issue a warning to consumers regarding decorative candles. With their soft light, rich fragrances and cozy glow they are more popular than ever. However if not used with caution they can be dangerous. A few common-sense precautions, such as, never leaving burning candles unattended, placing them well away from curtains, bedding and other flammable materials and always extinguishing them before going to bed or leaving the house could save your property and your life.

AROUND TOWN – Beginning on Monday, December 11th, JBS Construction, Inc. will be replacing failed underground utilities at several Coos Bay locations. Some of these improvements were originally constructed by the City of Marshfield as early as 1905 and 1927. Residents in affected areas will be notified the day before work is to begin.

“BETTER THAN CHOCOLATE” – That’s how one visitor to Shore Acres State Park described her visit to the gardens for an annual viewing of the Shore Acres Christmas Lights. City manager Bill Grile served a hitch at the park last night hosting at the Gardener’s House with the Coos Bay - North Bend Rotary Club and can testify with personal experience that this year’s lights are better than ever. The City of Coos Bay hopes everyone will get an opportunity to drive down south of Charleston over this holiday season to see the lights for themselves - all 225,000 of them illuminating the five acre garden with the spirit of the holidays. The Garden House is open nightly from 4:00 - 10:00 PM with hot cider, coffee, punch and cookies. If you can’t make the visit in person, and even if you can, a “virtual visit” is available online at www.prd.state.or.us <<http://www.prd.state.or.us>> and www.shoreacre.com <<http://www.shoreacre.com>>. And by the way, thanks and congratulations to David and Shirley Bridgham for leading the volunteer effort to make this great experience possible for all of us!