



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

February 2, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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DARE GRADUATIONS A SUCCESS - DARE graduation ceremonies were held this week at Bunker Hill, Madison, and Blossom Gulch Schools in Coos Bay. Coos Bay Police DARE Officer Dan O'Loughlin presented graduation certificates to the DARE graduates and officiated over the graduation ceremony. The police department is extremely grateful to the participating students, school officials, and guest speakers Sheriff Andy Jackson, Coos Bay Councilor Jeff McKeown, and Mayor Joe Benetti. Councilor Judy Weeks also attended as a special guest.

OFFICER DAN O'LOUGHLIN ACCEPTED FOR GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE - Coos Bay Police Officer Dan O'Loughlin has been accepted for the Rotary Group Study Exchange visit to Sri Lanka next month. The study exchange will be of great benefit to Officer O'Loughlin and the Coos Bay community as he represents our community abroad. The group study exchange is sponsored and funded by Rotary International and Rotary District 5110. An exchange group from Sri Lanka will visit Coos Bay at a later date.

POLICE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED - At a recent meeting of the Coos County Commission on Children and Families the police was recognized for the departments proactive approach to cultural competency. The recognition was presented by researchers Colleen Flanagan and David Evans of the Coos County Hispanic Community in their 2000 report. In addition to the mandatory cultural competency training for police officers, the police offers a five percent incentive pay for passing a certifying test in Spanish language aptitude. The meeting was attended by City Councilor Cindi Miller and Police Captain Eura Washburn.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNIVERSARY'S FOR FEBRUARY - Congratulations to Police Clerical Specialist Kaaren Reiche for completing twenty-eight years of service in the police department on February 26th, and Officers Scott LaFevre and Rob Scoville for seven years of service on February 15th.

PARKING AREA CHANGES AT THE LIBRARY - The library staff and Library Board want to thank the City streets crew for all their help lately in making the library parking area a safer place to be. The turnaround past the front door and book drop, and the driveway through the parking lot are very busy places. According to library gate counts, an average of 650 people enter the library each day, most of whom have parked and crossed 6th Street to enter the building. After several reports of near pedestrian/car collisions, the street crew installed two more speed bumps on 6th to discourage through traffic, as 6th is actually a vacated street that was intended to function as a parking lot driveway. After several reports of visibility problems from people entering or exiting the turnaround because of vehicles parked along 6th, the crew installed two "no parking" signs there. They also created a red loading zone area in front of the entrance to discourage long-term parking, and installed concrete barriers at the ends of parking spaces on the west side of the lot where there is a drop-off to the chapel parking lot. Hopefully all of these measures will increase safety around the library. Thanks, streets crew!

GIANT FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE - After a two-month wait, book lovers can line up this weekend for another giant sale of used books and other items in the library meeting rooms. Sale hours are Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday noon to 4:00 p.m. Items are half-priced on Sunday. The

Special Book Room will feature collector books that will be sold via the Internet if not sold at the sale, and they're at bargain prices, too. There are books, books everywhere in the Friends storage area, so this is a very big sale. Coming up: watch for a special cookbook collection to be offered at the March 3rd and 4th sale.

INMATES WORK ALONG WOODLAND DRIVE - The Shutter Creek inmates finished the gravel walkway along the east side of Woodland Drive. The inmates spent the better part of three days over the course of three weeks to clean and place new gravel from Myrtle Avenue to Thompson Road. Inmates used a wheel barrows to move the gravel from the new hospital road to areas along Woodland. Another great job performed by the inmates.

LABOR TRENDS - 1999-2000 Revised Local Data. While final revised data have not yet been officially published, preliminary information shows that Coos and Curry counties both posted positive job growth in 2000, although trends within industrial sub-sectors were mixed. Coos County's nonfarm job total increased by two percent between 1999 and 2000. The county had a net gain of more than 400 jobs. Coos' growth rate was the best since 1996's 2.6 percent rate and was a convincing improvement over the overall negative trend of the past three years (- 0.7%). The growth rate for 1999 was a meager 0.6 percent. (*Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department*)

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE SERVICE - Congratulations are in order for all City employees recognized for their years of service earlier this week during an employee meeting. And thank you Mayor Joe Benetti for taking time out of your busy day schedule to attend and join in honoring those receiving pins for reaching major years of service milestones.

Receiving recognition for 30 years of service was Police Chief Chuck Knight. Chuck began his career with the City on April 25, 1966.

Employees with 25 years of service were Ed Jackson (Fire), Dave Main (Police), Landy Marshall (Fire), Larry Mauer (Police), Bruce Ramberg (Fire), Kaaren Reiche (Police), Carol Ventgen (Library), and Eura Washburn (Police).

Employees with 20 years of service were Lance Bjornerud (Police), Brad Carlson (Community Services Dept.), Kevin Hedgepeth (Police), Doug Hill (Police), Bryan Hudson (Community Services Dept.), Joyce Jansen (City Manager's Office), Dave Jared (Community Services Dept.), Darrell King (Police), Rod Schweitz (Police), Linda Spence (Police), and Terry Woodward (Community Services Dept.)

Employees with 15 years of service were Tia Akers (Police), Crystal Barr (Fire), Phil Christiana (Community Services Dept.), Steve Doty (Community Services), Ron Fredrickson (Community Services Dept.), Terry Gale (Police), Pam Grandstrom (Library), Marilyn Havlor (Library), Clint Haynes (Community Services Dept.), Tammy Lounsbury (Police), Nancy Price (Library), and Rhonda Wilson (Police)

Employees with ten years of service were Mark Anderson (Fire), Susanne Baker (Community Services Dept.), Rex Bales (Community Services Dept.), Randy Carpenter (Fire), Ann Couture (Library), Debbie Erler (Community Services Dept.), Bill Herman (Fire), Jude Isaacson (Police), Bill Johnson (Fire), Nick Kelsey (Fire), Michele Kirby (Police), Julie LaPram (Community Services Dept.), Robert Lounsbury (Police), Randy Miles (Fire), Jim Rowe (Police), Sherri Smith (Police), Scott Snyder (Police), and Karen Turner (Community Services Dept.)

Employees recognized for five years of service were Lori Cooper (Police), Roger Craddock (Police), Koren Fare (Police), Valerie Fisher (Library), Bill Grile (City Manager), Mike Hurley (Fire), Tom Jackson (Community Services Dept.), Melanie Johnston (Police), Scott LaFevre (Police), Dan McAvoy (Fire), Joe McClay (Community Services Dept.), Gary McCullough (Police), Anita Miller (Police), Cal Mitts (Police),

Amy Munhall (Library), Ron Robson (Police), Jean Rugh (Police), Rob Scoville (Police), Barbara Shamet (Library), Marjorie Simmons (Library), Catherine Stringer (Police), Russ Thackery (Fire), Randall Tosh (City Attorney), Janet VanCleave (Library), Doug Vetter (Fire), Tony Wetmore (Police), and Carol Zuvich (Library).

Congratulations everyone!

STATUS OF COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY - Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board General Manager Rob Schab issued a public announcement yesterday regarding the community's water supply:

As we are all aware we have been experiencing low rainfall levels, as is much of the Northwest. During the months of October, November and December 2000 and January 2001 we received only 50% of the normal precipitation for this time of the year. As a consequence the Upper Pony Creek Reservoir has not yet filled. While immediate water supplies are adequate we are concerned that storage for the summer and fall months has not yet been met. We are currently supplementing the Upper Pony Creek Reservoir with the new pumping facilities located at Joe Ney Reservoir.

We ask that our customers review their already wise use of water. Suggestions that we have for this time of year include:

- * Check for leaks and repair leaky faucets and toilets
- * Run dishwashers and washing machines only when they are full
- * Turn off the water after you wet your tooth brush or as you shave
- * Install water saving shower heads or flow restrictors
- * Visit WaterWiser at www.waterwiser.org for more tips on how to reduce water use

During the next several months the Water Board will update the community on the status of the water supply through media releases and the display board located at the Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board offices. For more information contact the Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board at 267-3128.

METH. NOT HERE. NOT NOW. NOT ANYMORE... - Methamphetamine; an ugly drug; even uglier facts: Coos County has one of the highest incidences of meth abuse in the USA. Someone who knows what to buy can build a meth lab with simple materials that cost just \$77 in local hardware and grocery stores. Meth makes users crazy. Sometimes when it is sold it is mixed with rat poison; some users die. Users hallucinate and think they have bugs crawling out of their skin. They steal and sell the drug to support their habit. Meth users physically abuse and neglect their children. Meth abuse drains 11.6 million dollars from health care resources in the Bay Area alone, every year. There are not adequate enforcement resources here. The money's not there. There are not adequate treatment facilities here. The money's not there, either. Users often go to jail for a few days, then back on the street. Back to your neighborhood. And back to meth. You live here. ***What are you going to do about it?***

Watch the panel of experts on Channel 14 detail the terrible extent of the plague of methamphetamine abuse that exists on the South Coast, today. Tune in to Channel 14 for show times. Then attend the Community meeting at McAuley Hall at St. Catherine's in North Bend on Thursday, February 15th at 7 p.m. Bring your ideas and your resolve. Call 751-7648 for more information. **Join the rest of us who have decided... Meth. Not here. Not now. Not anymore....** *Sponsored by The World, St. Catherine's Residence and Nursing Center, Cardinal Employment Services, Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary, and the City of Coos Bay.*

CITY COUNCIL REVIEWS GOALS AND SETS PRIORITIES - The City Council met in a special work session this week to review goals and set new priorities for itself and the city manager. The new goals and

priorities will also be considered by the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency which, although comprised of the individuals on the City Council, is a discrete legal entity responsible for its own goals and priorities.

Agreeing with a recommendation by new community services director Shanda Shribbs, all the City's goals and activities will be motivated by the strong desire to be "Business Friendly" and "Family Friendly." A more detailed report on the Council's decisions will follow soon. A couple of big decisions were reached after careful deliberation. For one, the Council will be asking the Urban Renewal Agency to postpone construction of the water feature planned with the plaza improvements under consideration for the area in front of City Hall.

As a downtown priority, look for the City to be developing a comprehensive downtown redevelopment plan. This will include a historic building redevelopment element that may include a low interest loan program for building owners. The downtown historical society museum will remain a priority and on the not-near-term horizon, a parking structure may be given serious consideration. Completion of the pedestrian plaza on the Sportsman site downtown is to remain a major priority. In Empire, the Council wants to see development of the former Bay Club Property developed - perhaps for a scenic overlook - along with some major project on the Crowley Marine property near the boat ramp site.

A list of the Council's updated goals and priorities will be listed at www.coosbay.org <<http://www.coosbay.org>> in near future.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS - The City Council holds their regular meetings the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The City's Urban Renewal Agency meets on an as-needed basis, however, with so many projects in the works, they have been meeting as regularly as the City Council. Council meetings are held in the council chambers at city hall and begin at 7 p.m. If an urban renewal meeting is schedule, it is usually held following the adjournment of the council meeting, unless otherwise scheduled. All meetings are open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend. Public comments are on both the council and urban renewal agendas and are welcome. The meetings are also filmed and shown on the government access channel (Channel 14). Agendas and minutes are posted on the city's web page.