



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 16, 2001

**CITY OF COOS BAY**

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**IN PRAISE OF OUR OWN!** - The recent fire at the Red Lion had a dramatic impact on the entire Bay Area community. Many meetings were relocated and event schedules were disrupted. Many individuals and companies throughout the area worked hard to help Red Lion get back up and operating. Belfor thanked its subcontractors and partners through an advertisement in The World newspaper for all the efforts to help, and included a special thank you for City Building Official Joe McClay who worked long and hard (including weekend hours!) to be sure the contractors on the job were not held up as they moved forward to get the Red Lion back in full operation. Congratulations, Joe, for your special notice and THANK YOU for a job well done!

**BUS SHELTERS** - Bus shelters were discussed at the Planning Commission hearing on Tuesday evening. The City Council will be asked to initiate an ordinance to conditionally permit the use in the city. South Coast Business Employment Corporation, which is a transit manager in this area, is interested in locating several bus shelters throughout the city.

**WATER BOARD QUESTIONS ALUM SLUDGE DISPOSAL FEE** - This week Mayor Joe Benetti and City Manager Bill Grile met with Coos Bay - North Water Board directors Arnie Roblan and Dick Vigue, and Water Board General Manager Rob Schab to review and discuss the charges set by the City for processing the Water Board's alum sludge. Alum sludge is a waste product produced as part of the Water Board's water purification process. "I believe the City's charge is fair and reasonable," said City Manager Grile after the meeting, "but welcome any ongoing questions by the Water Board about how the charge was established." Another meeting is being scheduled to continue the discussion and to allow OMI, Inc. Coos Bay project manager Gary Young to provide more details in explaining how his calculations led to the fee set by the City Council. Coos Bay Finance Director Janell K. Howard, CPA, reviewed the methodology used in setting the fee before it was presented to the Council for adoption several weeks ago, and then again this week. She'll be on maternity leave during the next meeting but is expected to offer her perspectives by memo or perhaps through a telephone conference call. "We very much want the Water Board to understand the basis for the alum sludge charge and to feel that the City has been fair in setting the charge," said Grile. "And I'll be the first one to recommend a reduction if it can be established that the analysis completed by OMI and city staff is not fair and reasonable," he concluded.

**TOWN HALL MEETING - NEWMARK IMPROVEMENTS** - The City will hold a town hall meeting to discuss suggested improvements to Newmark Avenue between Staples and the Ocean Boulevard intersection. Consultant Larry Lewis, TriLand Design Group, Inc., and Howard Stein, CTS Engineers, Inc., will present alternatives for that section of the street. The meeting will be held at the Coos Bay Public Library on **April 5<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

**BLM TO HOLD INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON THE PIPELINE** - The Bureau of Land Management will host a question-and-answer session to clear up uncertainties about the agency's environmental study process on Thursday, March 22, 2001. BLM agreed to host the meeting at the request of South Coast residents who voiced concern about how environmental studies will apply to the Coos County natural gas pipeline project. The studies are required to determine the impacts a project could have on the environment. The meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. at BLM's North Bend office located at 1300 Airport

Lane. More information is available by calling 756-0100.

**GET READY FOR A PARADE!!** - We all love a parade... the local veterans' associations volunteer many hours to put together a wonderful commemorative event recognizing all veterans for their service. The Memorial Day parade is held in downtown Coos Bay. Help from the community is needed to make this event a success; citizens are encouraged to volunteer. For more information call 267-4702. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> to attend this year's parade.

**FOURTH OF JULY FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY** - The 11<sup>th</sup>-annual Fourth of July in Mingus Park is shaping up to be a "firecracker" of an event. The all-day celebration, sponsored by the City of Coos Bay and friends, features no-to-low cost entertainment and activities for the entire family. Volunteers are being sought to help organize the event. Groups and individuals willing to share a kid-friendly activity or entertainment are encouraged to be part of this exciting event. Activities in the past have included face painting, balloon animals, free swim, relay games, fishing pond, bean bag toss, bird houses, bubble blowing, canoe rides and the Mayor's Firecracker Run. Selected food vendors will also be present during the celebration. Anyone interested in participating in the Fourth of July in Mingus Park is encouraged to call Marty Crouse at 888-4662, e-mail [martha.crouse@gte.net](mailto:martha.crouse@gte.net) or write 918 Flanagan Avenue, Coos Bay.

**TAXI ORDINANCE** - A public hearing will be held at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting for the purpose of gathering public input about issues surrounding taxi cab operations in Coos Bay. Copies of the ordinance are available from the city manager's office for review. The Council meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall.

**BURN TO LEARN-** The Fire Department will be conducting a practice burn at 555 South 11th Street on Tuesday, March 20th. The Tuesday evening burn will give department members the chance to study fire behavior in a controlled environment. Firefighters are also able to practice building search and rescue, ventilation and other skills used in a real fire situation.

**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](http://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.

**BAYSHORE STREET SCAPE PROJECT** - The Bayshore Street Scape Project is moving along from Taco Time to Fir Avenue. New lights, street trees, new sidewalks, and landscaping are part of the project. Bracelin and Yeager Trucking and Excavating, is the general contractor for the project which is scheduled for

completion in early June. Lon Samuels is the architect for the project.

**LOOK FOR NEW PROJECTS SOON** - New projects which will be starting in the next month or so are the Bayshore Theater Project and the Sportsman Pedway Project. The Bayshore Theater Project is along the west side of Bayshore from Curtis Avenue to Anderson Avenue. The project includes new sidewalks and period lighting. The Sportsman Pedway Project is between Broadway and 2<sup>nd</sup> Court. The project includes removing the Sportsman building and replacing the area with new concrete, new lights, and trees. Both of these new projects will enhance and beautify the downtown area.

**WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS FOR EASTSIDE** - A key component of the Eastside Wastewater pumping system has come on line with the completion of Pump Station No. 19. This facility, located at the foot of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, replaces two aging stations and serves over 100 acres of residential property. Alpine Construction, of Tillamook, constructed the station designed by Ralph Dunham, of Stuntzner Engineering. A portion of the work was completed by the City's wastewater contractor, OMI, which resulted in additional savings for the City. Components from other facilities were also integrated into the new design to make the new station as cost effective as possible. A hearty thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this project.

**WHEN THE LIGHT IS OUT** - Citizens are encouraged to notify the City if they notice a street light is out. Pacific Power will replace burnt out lights as soon as we notify them of the pole number. To make a report call Community Services Department at 269-8918 during normal business hours.

**COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL TO HEAR PRESENTATION** - The Coos Bay City Council will hold a meeting to hear a presentation by John Shank from the Oregon State Grange on the Coos Bay to Ontario Highway Proposal (an option for modernizing Oregon's highways). The meeting will be held on March 22, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue. The meeting is open to all interested citizens