



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 30, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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LEGISLATORS COMING TO TOWN - A public meeting to discuss the upcoming re-districting of District 47 (which includes portions of Coos, Douglas and Lane Counties) and District 48 (which includes Curry and a portion of Coos Counties) will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Friday, April 6th at 2 p.m. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Senator Kate Brown and Representatives Steve March and Don Gardner will be attending the meeting, as well as Representative Joanne Verger.

LAST REMINDER FOR TOWN HALL MEETING - This will be the last reminder for the Town Hall Meeting to be held at the Coos Bay Public Library on Thursday, April 5th at 7 p.m. Consultants from TriLand Group Design, Inc., and CTS Engineers, Inc., will be here to present improvement alternatives for the portion of Newmark Avenue between Staples and the "Y" (Ocean Boulevard). A City Council work session on the project is scheduled to follow the public presentation.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE CONCERNS - BLM will hold a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. on April 4, 2001 at the Coos Bay Public Library to identify environmental concerns regarding the Coos County natural gas pipeline project. Comments can be submitted to BLM at 1300 Airport Lane in North Bend or by e-mail at coos_bay@or.blm.gov.

SPRING BRUSH PICK UP - It is time again for the spring brush pick up! Brush pick up starts on April 30th so have your brush at the curb **before** that date. If you have any questions, please contact your garbage hauler: Coos Bay Sanitary (267-6675) or Les' Sanitary (267-2848). As a reminder, brush length is restricted to 5 feet and no dirt or leaves will be accepted.

GRANT FUNDS AWARDED! - The Coos Curry Douglas Regional Investment Board awarded the City of Coos Bay \$15,000 at its March 29, 2001 meeting as partial funding for the Downtown Strategy Review and Marketing Study. An application is in process for the remainder of the funds necessary for this project. The project will review the city's efforts for revitalization of downtown Coos Bay, recommend future steps and develop a recruitment plan specifically aimed at the downtown business core. An additional component will work with the building owners of the American Building and North Point Realty Building to determine the feasibility of seeking state grants and loans for restoration work on those two historic buildings.

LADY WASHINGTON IS COMING TO TOWN - The sailing vessel Lady Washington is coming to town and will arrive on or about April 16, 2001 and depart around April 22, 2001. She will moor again at the Coos Bay City Docks on the south side of the north dock and will be available for tours. The ship is 112 feet in length and is 22 feet wide with 4,442 square foot of sail area.

IT'S GARBAGE - Or, perhaps we should say, it's the cost of disposing garbage that has been the quiet topic of much conversation lately. Coos Bay's residents, businesses and public institutions are serviced exceptionally well by two garbage hauling companies that operate under exclusive franchise agreements approved by the City Council. These agreements include provisions that rates for collection and disposal will

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be subject to approval of the City Council following public hearings. Two weeks ago Mayor Joe Benetti announced that the City of Coos Bay would be holding a hearing next Tuesday evening to once again review the rates that have been approved for the haulers. The last time this happened was over a year ago when the County raised its rates for use of the Beaver Hill solid waste facility south of town. Currently, rates at Beaver Hill are set at \$72.60 for each ton of garbage taken there. About three weeks ago, city manager Bill Grile learned that Les' Sanitary Service and Coos Bay Sanitary Service -- the two garbage franchisees -- are prepared to truck all of the garbage collected in Coos Bay to a state-approved land fill north of Corvallis at a cost that would allow a significant reduction of local garbage rates. What makes this possible is that the cost to leave garbage at the Corvallis site is only \$48 per ton -- including shipping expenses. Les' Sanitary Service has given city manager Grile a proposed fee schedule that would reduce garbage rates by 12.5% with just one month's notice.

Sounds great, right? Not so fast. Here's the rub. If Coos Bay's garbage is sent to Corvallis instead of Beaver Hill, Coos County officials say that they might have to shut down the garbage incinerators there and perhaps even shut down the whole facility! Last Friday Mayor Benetti, city manager Grile, North Bend city manager Gary Combs, garbage haulers Les Golbek and Gary Jensen met with the County Commissioners and other County officials including Beaver Hill facility manager Steve Allen in order to learn more about the County's concerns. It was a constructive meeting. As a result, a decision was made to push next Tuesday evening's Coos Bay hearing back two weeks in order to allow the County additional time to collect its thoughts and provide more information to help the City Council and general public understand the issue. Another meeting to continue the dialogue is scheduled for April 10th in Coos Bay, a week before the City Council hearing to review collection rates. North Bend, Bandon, Coquille and Myrtle Point city managers are aware of the issue and have been invited to the April 10th meeting. Bandon nearly took up the matter at it's city council meeting earlier this week, but has also deferred consideration for at least two weeks.

County officials continued to evaluate the matter at a meeting yesterday afternoon in Coquille. A range of questions were presented and discussed with the conclusion that more information is needed. A range of options were considered, including the prospects of County lay-offs caused by Beaver Hill closure and post-closure environmental monitoring costs, and litigation against the City of Coos Bay should local disposal rates be reduced. Ironically, nothing in the City's franchise agreements with the two local haulers dictates where they take the garbage once it is picked up, other than that the waste must be disposed of at a facility approved by the State of Oregon. That means the garbage could be taken to Beaver Hill, Corvallis or any other approved disposal facility.

So what's it all mean? "Constructive public discussions about how to operate most efficiently are always beneficial," said city manager Bill Grile this morning. "I appreciate the leadership Coos County has taken in regional solid waste management issues in the past and am certain the City Council will listen closely to the County's concerns before making any decision to role back garbage rates charged in Coos Bay," he added.

WELCOME CHIEF BOB GROSS TO REEDSPORT - Coos Bay Police Department extends a welcome to the South Coasts newest Police Chief, Bob Gross. Coos Bay felt honored to assist in the selection of Chief Gross by providing assistance to Reedsport in their transition. Retired Coos Bay Captain was appointed interim Chief of Police, Chief Knight participated in the selection process, and Detective Larry Mauer was picked to conduct the necessary background investigations for the City of Reedsport. The police department was honored with a letter of thanks from Reedsport City Manager, Jim Hough. An open house to meet Chief Gross is set for April 2, 2001 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Reedsport.

POLICE MOTORCYCLE UPDATE - The Police Department took delivery last week of a 2001 Harley-Davidson Motorcycle. The motorcycle, equipped with the Road King Police Package was obtained without

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the use of City of Coos Bay General Funds. The police department was able to utilize other resources to lease the motorcycle from a Bend, Oregon dealership for \$500 a year and it will be replaced each year. Highway 101 Harley Davidson company in Coos Bay will provide scheduled maintenance and servicing. The motorcycle will be used to enhance traffic safety efforts in Coos Bay.

POLICE AUCTION UPDATE - The auction has been set for Saturday, April 21, 2001 at the Milner Crest School Gymnasium. Public announcements will be made in The World newspaper viewing and auction start times. Additional details will be posted on the City of Coos Bay web page. This years auction is being conducted by the Coos Bay Police Reserve Officers.

IN-CAR COMPUTERS UPDATED - Representatives from Data Radio are in Coos Bay this week installing new equipment in police cars as part of an upgrade of the data radio / laptop computer system used by the police department. The police department is using block grant funds to update the system to allow for faster data retrieval by police officers while on the patrol. Officers utilizing the system are allowed full access to the Department of Motor Vehicle files, Criminal History, Computer Aided Dispatch, and files stored in the Regional Information System. Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth is project manager for the system upgrade.

TIME CHANGE - Its that time of year again - Saturday night is the time to "spring ahead" and move your clocks forward one hour. It is also the perfect time to check your smoke alarm. Test your alarm and clean out any dust. Batteries should be changed every 6 months. If the alarm is more than 10 years old it should be replaced. The new smoke alarms have a 10 year lithium battery that is in a sealed unit - with a hush button to silence the alarm in case you burn the popcorn!

COASTAL STEAMER BRINGS 'A BOATLOAD OF JAZZ' TO THE CELEBRATION CENTER - Saturday April 7th at 7:30 p.m. Robin DeVour and Coastal Steamer play a benefit concert for the Oregon Coast Music Festival at the Celebration Center (formerly the Port theater) in North Bend. This fine jazz sextet based in nearby Florence has become a favorite among audiences from Newport to California. Pianist Robin DeVour, reedman and vocalist Paul Biondi, flugelhorn master John Polese, trumpet king Phil Sands, veteran drummer Bob Haick and jazz bassist Josh Britton make up this ensemble, playing an impressive repertoire of jazz standards and original compositions. "Coastal Steamer has such a great sound," said OCMA President Nancy Price. "We're honored to have their company for this special concert appearance." Tickets are \$10, \$8 for OCMA members and \$5 for students (adult students, please show school ID) and are available now at Checkerberry's Flowers and Gifts and Harvest Book Shoppe in Coos Bay. Tickets, if still available, will be for sale at the door April 7th one half hour before performance. Call the Music Association office at 267-0938 for more information.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD - For 30 years, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, has been sponsoring the Week of the Young Child to help people become more aware of the special needs of young children. This year's theme is Early Childhood: Where Our Future Begins. The Coos County Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children is sponsoring events from Saturday, March 31st to Saturday, April 7th, primarily at Pony Village Mall. The Art Show and Family Resources Spotlight is an attempt to help families and organizations become more aware of the fine services that already exist in our community and to encourage them to support additional resources in the future. Below you will find a text version of the information if the attachment doesn't work. For more information contact Mary-Margaret Stockert, Coos County OAEYC Chapter President at 267-6736.