



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 11, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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GET READY FOR A PARADE!! - We all love a parade... the local veterans' associations put together a wonderful commemorative event recognizing our veterans every year in May. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 26th to attend the Memorial Day Parade in downtown Coos Bay. They need our help to make the parade happen and are asking volunteers to contact them at 267-4702.

NEWMARK IMPROVEMENTS PLAN - The City Council will receive the completed report and recommendations on the Newmark Improvements Plan at their meeting Tuesday, May 15th at 7 p.m. Improving the section of Newmark between WalMart and the intersection of Ocean Blvd. has been one of the City's priorities for some time. The meeting is open to the public and will also be on Channel 14.

FIRE CHIEF ELECTED - Congratulations to Fire Chief Stan Gibson on being elected first-Vice President of the Coos Bay Lions Club. Chief Gibson has been a member of the Lions for 16 years.

NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK - May 6-12 is National Arson Awareness Week. The theme for this years Arson Awareness Week will focus on arsons in abandoned buildings. The attention to abandoned buildings will also honor the firefighters from Worchester, NJ who were killed this past year while fighting a blaze in an abandoned building.

POLICE FAMILY ACADEMY - The Police Family Academy for family members Coos Bay Police Officers got off to a great start last month. The family academy was designed to provide support for family members of those who have sworn to protect and serve the citizens of Coos Bay. The academy introduces family members to various aspects of the unique police profession. Presenters for the academy include members of the Coos Bay Police Department, city employees and professionals from the Coos Bay / North Bend area. The classes run two hours each Tuesday evening for eight weeks. Additionally two Saturday sessions have been scheduled for technical skills orientations.

COOS BAY POLICE CHANGES RADIO FREQUENCIES - In order to correct a communications safety concern, the police department will be changing radio frequencies. Radio licensing was simplified by the police department merely swapping the transmit and receive frequencies on their repeater system. The transition started earlier this week when technicians began reprogramming department mobile and portable radios. The change is being made to eliminate Coos Bay's radios from being covered by another Oregon Law Enforcement agency.

POLICE DEPARTMENT MAY ANNIVERSARIES - Members of the police department celebrating anniversaries with the department during the month of May include: 9-1-1 Dispatcher Tammy Lounsbury with 19 years, 9-1-1- Dispatcher Sheri Sedy with 13 years, Police Clerical Specialist Melanie Johnston with 4 years, and Officer Steve Myers with two years of service.

SANITARY SEWER LINE REPAIRS CONTINUE - In spite of the south coast's dry winter and spring weather, emergency repairs to the aging sanitary sewer lines continue throughout the City; to the tune of approximately one repair every two to three weeks. The work is done by local contractors who are able to

respond quickly to problems as they arise. The City is grateful to these firms who partner with us in maintaining the strict guidelines imposed by the Department of Environmental Quality.

CHOSHI BRIDGE REPAIRS - The City is currently looking at options to make temporary repairs to the glu-lam beams and railings on the bridge. Once the repairs are made then the bridge can be reopened for pedestrian traffic, thus allowing the City some time to look at funding sources and other options for the bridge.

SPORTSMAN PEDWAY PROJECT - The Sportsman Pedway Project is moving along with the installation of the storm water system and the pouring of concrete walks. The south building wall has some minor cracks and loose concrete that will be repaired before the wall can be painted and finished.

FUND EXCHANGE PROGRAM - City staff attended an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) meeting on Wednesday regarding the State's Fund Exchange Program. The State's Fund Exchange Program has been discontinued and replaced with another program. This program as outlined by ODOT will be substantially different than the current program. Staff is researching the program to fully understand how the City can best utilize the new program.

WRITER'S PANEL DISCUSSION - "The Phrasemakers: Three Writers Talk About Writing" is scheduled for Saturday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the Myrtlewood Room. Published authors Timothy Zahn, Jerry Smith and Jack Mullen will share their experiences in a panel discussion and take questions from the audience. Zahn is best known for his series of Star Wars novels based on the George Lucas films. Smith is a journalist and editor for motorcycle magazines who has written mystery novels based on the southern California motorcycle scene. Mullen has written crime novels based on his twenty-year career with the San Diego police department.

MAY ART EXHIBITS AT THE COOS BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY - Lobby cases feature motorcycles with "Full Throttle: A Glimpse at Motorcycles, The Past, Present and Future." Model motorcycles, Harley-Davidson products, posters, photographs and memorabilia are on loan by Mike Quinn and Jerry Smith. Watercolor paintings by award-winning Reedsport artist Christine Davis adorn library walls.

LIBRARY HOSTS MEETINGS - Two regional library meetings will soon take place at the Coos Bay Public Library. On Wednesday, May 16, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. a focus group will be held for the purpose of evaluating the federal Library Services and Technology Act. The session is one of seven held around the state by a consultant who has been contracted by the Oregon State Library to carry out the evaluation. This evaluation is a federal requirement prior to consideration by Congress of the LSTA re-authorization. Coos County libraries have not received LSTA grants in recent years. Coos Bay Public Library will also host a meeting of the Southern Oregon Library Federation on Friday, May 18 at 11:00 a.m. Public and academic librarians from six counties are expected to attend the meeting. This organization has existed since 1968 for the purpose of developing cooperative library projects in the region. The group sponsors continuing education sessions for library staff throughout the year and gives scholarships to support staff for attendance at state conferences.

LADY WASHINGTON POPULAR WITH COOS BAY - During her brief stay in Coos Bay the Lady Washington brought a lot of visitors to the Bay Area. The Chamber of Commerce visitor counts during that week was 718; the average per week for April is 238. The Chamber also received many phone inquiries about the ship and people from Medford and Eugene drove to Coos Bay just to tour the Lady Washington. Not only is the ship a popular draw for students and visitors, but the crew looks forward to visiting our friendly community. It is anticipated the Lady Washington will make a return trip in September or October.