



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

August 24, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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HAVE A FUN-FILLED FESTIVAL WEEKEND!! – The 19th Annual Blackberry Arts Festival will be held in downtown Coos Bay this weekend. The festival is sponsored by the Coos Bay Downtown Association and organized by the Bay Area Jaycees. Everyone is invited to enjoy a full weekend of entertainment, blackberry treats, arts, crafts, jewelry, woodworking and much more.

MUSIC ON THE BAY – Many thanks to the Music On the Bay (MOB) folks for bringing Spyro Gyra to Coos Bay. The Marshfield High School auditorium was filled to capacity with folks eager to enjoy the free concert Wednesday evening. Funding for future entertainment and cultural events will be primarily from private individual and corporate sponsorships. For more information contact MOB at P O Box 96, North Bend OR or Larry McCabe at 267-4110 or at www.musiconthebay.org

COOS BAY / NORTH BEND ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS 7TH ANNUAL OREGON COAST AIR FAIR - Saturday, September 1, 2001 at the North Bend Municipal Airport from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Featuring monoplane and jet aircraft aerobatics, helicopter aerobatics and comedy act, aircraft static displays and flybys, skydiving exhibitions, rotor vs motor airplane car race plus ABATE of Oregon motorcycle exhibition and classic car & truck show and competition. The City of Coos Bay commends the Coos Bay / North Bend Rotary club for it's involvement each year in bringing the air fair to the south coast. For additional information contact the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-824-8486 or (541) 269-0215.

AIR FAIR SEEKING VENDORS - AirFair organizers are seeking unique food and aviation related vendors for the AirFair audience. Vendor applications are available by mail at PO Box 1175, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420. For more information contact Brian Newton, AirFair Vendor Coordinator at 267-9595 or email at mbnewton@earthlink.net.

BAY AREA ARTIST'S ASSOCIATION "ARTIST OF THE MONTH" ARTWORK ON DISPLAY - Merrie Holbert, a well-know Coos Bay artist, will be exhibiting at the Coos Art Museum throughout the months of August and September. The artists work is primarily in watercolor. Holbert has garnered several awards, her most recent was at the Maritime Art Exhibit at Coos Art Museum in July.

5th ANNUAL CHAUTAUQUA TO BE HELD AT SWOCC – Rep. Peter DeFazio will deliver the keynote address at the Southwestern Oregon Community College/Hatfield International Understanding fifth-annual Chautauqua on Sunday. This year's event is titled, "The Energy Crisis: How Will it Affect Oregonians and What Should We Do About It?" DeFazio will focus on the energy situation in Oregon and the origins of the energy crisis. The event will be held in Empire Hall and the address will be given at 7:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES SALARY ADJUSTMENTS - With contracts now settled for AFSCME and the CB Police Officers Association, Tuesday night the City Council followed suit and adjusted salaries for management and non-represented personnel a similar amount equal to roughly 5%. Only the contract for the CB Firefighters Association remains unsettled but this week a state mediator went back and forth between management and the Association and as a result, it now appears that a negotiated settlement is very close. The police contract was "settled" through binding arbitration, with an independent arbitrator ruling in favor of the Association's "last best offer" in lieu of one presented by the City. Under Oregon's Public Employee

Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA), police and fire personnel are prohibited from striking when wage disputes are not settled; in such cases, independent arbitrators determine the amount of compensation for these public safety employees and the City is left to cover the cost, regardless of any arguments that it cannot afford to do so.

CITY COUNCIL MOVES CLOSER TO HIRING AN ENGINEER FOR THE NEWMARK AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Tuesday night the City Council moved closer to advancing the widening of Newmark Avenue by reviewing a recommendation from City staff concerning the appointment of a civil engineering firm to design the actual project and prepare plans and documents needed to put the project out for bid. After reviewing several proposals for contracted services, City staff favors the appointment of Dyer Partnership, Engineers and Planners, Inc. at a proposed cost of \$92,950 for the job, which would produce construction drawings for widening Newmark from Wal-Mart to LaClair. A variety of funding sources are under consideration for the project, including interest proceeds from money given to the City by the Oregon Department of Transportation (the so-called "Jurisdictional Exchange" funds), urban renewal funds and private contributions from businesses abutting Newmark. The College may want to consider helping with sidewalks along Newmark since student safety is one of the project's objectives. The Council will be giving additional thought to its options at a special meeting scheduled for next Wednesday evening. At that time, Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs will be presenting additional information requested by the Council. Staff will continue to urge a decision to proceed as doing so will help create economic development benefits from a commercial project being planned on private land at Newmark and LaClair.

ANDERSON ALTERNATIVE MOVES AHEAD - Anderson Avenue from South 4th to South 2nd Street will begin to see a new look beginning next Tuesday. As part of the Anderson Alternative, city crews will be moving the centerline a little to the north to allow for the diagonal parking to be installed along the south side of the street between 2nd and 4th. Also included in this first phase will be the removal of the crosswalk at the Art Museum and installation of a new crosswalk at 3rd Street. The street will be closed for a period of time first thing in the morning to allow crews to move the centerline, remove the crosswalk and place the lines for the new crosswalk. The Oregon Department of Transportation anticipates that the signal change allowing a turn off of Bayshore to the west onto Anderson will take place sometime around the first of November. City crews will then complete the concrete island at 2nd Street and other legends to make right/left only turn at the intersection.

SHUTTERS CREEK INMATES CONTINUE WORK FOR THE CITY - The inmates with the summit program have continued to provide a valuable service to city. They are completing work that, while important, may not otherwise have been done in a timely manner. Lately the inmates have been working around City Hall trimming, weeding and placing new bark. They are working under the direction of the Parks crew. This week the inmates have started working along Ocean Boulevard clearing the sidewalk of debris and litter. Thanks again to the inmates and the Shutters Creek personnel for the work they have provided to the City.

IMPROVEMENTS HAPPENING AT PLANT TWO - OMI associates are in the process of re-roofing the main building at Plant Two located along Cape Arago Highway. Sections of old roofing have been removed and the entire roof covered with new roofing paper. New roof drains have been installed and several old drains lowered to facilitate the removal of rain water. Associates are using an old hot tar machine that once belonged to the city and was auctioned off in 1993 after it had not been used for eight years. An OMI associate who knew the new owner of the tar machine suggested that since the new owner never used it he might be interested in donating it back to the city. The person who bought the tar machine donated it back to the city last year and OMI associates rebuilt it. Since that time, 3 roofs at Plant One and ten pump stations have had their roofs re-coated. Re-roofing such as this prolongs the life of the roofs, and considerable savings have occurred from doing the work internally. OMI plans to re-roof 3 more pump stations this year before the rainy season. This kind of creative work allows us to stretch every dollar paid by residents for sewer services.