



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 7, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420

(541) 269-8912

See us at <http://www.coosbay.org>

Email the city manager at bgrile@ucinet.com

LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES GIVE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - This year's legislative session was very busy; over 3,000 bills were submitted and one-third of them would affect local government operations. League staff presented an overview of recently passed bills to local elected officials and city staff members Wednesday at Coos Bay City Hall. The meeting was filmed and will air on the government access channel.

Of concern statewide is how to fund highway/transportation improvements. The legislatures passed HB 2142 establishing the Oregon Transportation Investment Act with \$400 million bonding package. League staff is urging cities to submit projects for the Oregon Transportation Investment Act funding – it is important that we show the Legislature there is a real need for funding transportation improvements and to keep the funding coming. Applications are available from the League's web site. Alternative methods of funding transportation will be discussed at the next Legislative session. HB 3936 established a task force for this purpose. One of the alternatives to be studied is a street utility fee. A few cities have enacted this fee; Portland for one, but it is very unpopular in that city, although other cities have found it successful.

A complete summary of bills of the 71st Legislative Session is located in the city manager's office and is available for review. Due to the length of the document, we are not making copies for everyone. If you are interested in obtaining your own copy, please contact the League office. The League encouraged the use of The City Center web site; if you don't find what you're looking for, Lynn McNamara may be contacted and she will locate the information. Check out the site at www.orcities.org Rep. Joanne Verger and Sen. Ken Messerle were commended by League staff for their good work in representing our area.

STATUS OF COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY REPORTED - Coos Bay North Bend Water Board General Manager Rob Schab issued the following comments on the status of the community water supply earlier this week. Upper Pony Creek Reservoir is continuing to draw down at a normal and expected rate. The reservoir level and the fall weather forecast indicate that the community water supply will remain adequate for current demand. Suggestions for reducing water consumption for this time of the year include:

- Check for leaks and repair leaky faucets and toilets
- Plant drought resistant trees and plants that require less watering
- Water during early morning hours to minimize evaporation from the sun and afternoon winds
- Position sprinklers so water lands on lawn or garden, not paved areas
- Visit WaterWiser at www.waterwiser.org for more tips on how to reduce water use.

For further information concerning our local water supply contact the Water Board at 267-3128 or visit www.cbnbh2o.com . For information on the weather forecast for this fall and winter visit Oregon Climate Service at www.ocs.orst.edu .

The Friday Update – September 7, 2001

Page 2

THREE FLAGS SAFETY WORKSHOP - Police Department Officers Hugo Hatzel and Sean Merritt recently attended the Three Flags Safety Workshop in Eugene. The City of Coos Bay participates each year in the grant funded program aimed at safety belt compliance and child safety. The Three Flags campaigns are run concurrently in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.

DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER TRAINING - Coos Bay Police Officer Hugo Hatzel completed training offered by County Medical Examiner, Kris Karcher for Deputy Medical Examiners. Officer Hatzel will be allowed, along with other Deputy Medical Examiners at Coos Bay Police Department, to investigate unattended and/or suspicious deaths occurring within the City of Coos Bay.

K-9 TESTING COMPLETED - This week Officer Rob Scoville and K-9 Rex underwent evaluation by Dog Master Al Carlson of the Springfield Police Department. Last week we reported the K-9 program in Coos Bay is under the supervision of Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth, who was a dog handler himself in Coos Bay nearly twenty years ago.

FIESTA OF FUN 2001 - OREGON'S BAY AREA FUN FESTIVAL - This year's Bay Area Fun Festival will feature a record setting amount of vendors and food booths. Enjoy the celebration Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16 in downtown Coos Bay and other locations throughout Oregon's Bay Area. Featuring the 22nd Annual Prefontaine Memorial 10K Run and 2 Mile Walk, 10th Annual Cruz the Coos Rolling Car Show, 7th Annual Coos Sand 'n Sea Quilt Show, Cruz the Coos Poker Run at the Mill Casino, Coos Bay Waterfront "Open House" plus much, much more. 3-4 volunteers are still needed for mall block set-up. Those interested are encouraged to call Dollie at 888-5194.

BRUSH PICK-UP IS COMING - The semi-annual brush pick-up is fast approaching. The local garbage haulers will begin on October 1, 2001 to pick-up brush in Coos Bay. For details on how and what can be placed for pick-up, contact your local garbage service for details. A flyer giving details will be in the South Coast Mailer. Additional information can be viewed through a web site at www.uci.net/~recycle/curb.html <<http://www.uci.net>> then click on news for information on the brush pick-up.

FOURTH AND ELROD OVERLAY PROJECT BEGINS - The South Fourth Street and Elrod Avenue Overlay Project started this week with repair of the sidewalks and placement of new handicap ramps throughout the area. Paving is expected sometime towards the end of September. Two new large overhead signs will be installed along Anderson Avenue and along South 4th Street to direct traffic to Highway 101. Bracelin and Yeager is the general contractor on the project with the Dyer Partnership overseeing the engineering work for the City.

CHOSHI GARDENS VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE - If you haven't had a chance to visit Choshi Gardens yet this summer, take advantage of our wonderful end of summer weather to take a stroll. The Gardens are located just northwest of the red bridge in Mingus Park. Choshi Gardens is a Japanese-style garden that is maintained primarily by a group of volunteers headed up by Beverly Meyers. Just since January of this year, Beverly has spent a total of 233 hours, her group of dedicated volunteers hours have totaled 305, and the Shutter's Creek inmates have spent 66 hours. The results of their work is easily seen in the beautiful setting that has been created. This is a great example of volunteer community service work that makes our City a great place to live! Thanks Beverly and to all of the other volunteers and behind the scene work that is done!

OMI's EARLY RISERS - OMI's collection crew has been working early mornings (5:00 am) for the last

The Friday Update – September 7, 2001

Page 3

four weeks to clean storm lines and catch basins, and the work is nearing an end. This last week was spent working the graveyard shift cleaning the sanitary lines that run down major thoroughfares like Broadway, Bayshore and Thompson Road. Although this work could have been done during normal work hours, the OMI associates elected to work off-hours to keep traffic flowing freely during the day and provide a safer work site for its employees. Without having to set up traffic control every time the VacCon truck was repositioned, more footage of lines were cleaned using less labor and fewer hours.

This is the third year that OMI has systematically cleaned catch basins. During the past month, over 510 basins have been inspected, and cleaned if necessary. There still will be a concern when the leaves fall and the rain washes them down to the catch basins, but the Streets department is quite efficient in keeping the streets cleaned during this time of year. By working jointly, the City and OMI's collection crew is being pro-active to reduce the amount of flooding associated with plugged catch basins when the rainy season arrives.

OREGON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION TO COME TO COOS BAY - A contract has now been signed that will bring the Oregon Downtown Development Association to Coos Bay the first week of October to work with local property and business owners, city staff and officials and other interested parties to consider options for revitalizing downtown Coos Bay. ODDA will spend three days meeting with interested parties to help us develop the next steps in increasing the energy in downtown. Focuses for the group will be recommendations on how to leverage the Urban Renewal projects that have been completed, development of a business recruitment plan for downtown and meetings with the Coos Bay Downtown Association to aid them in determining their next steps. Work will be coordinated with the Oregon Arts Commission who will also be coming to town to assist the city in considering options for public art and the business of art as one component of revitalizing the downtown area. If you are interested in attending meetings with ODDA, and do not receive other mailings, please contact Shanda Shribbs, Community Services Director, at 269-8918, so we can be sure to include you.

CITY SIGNS CONTRACT WITH MENASHA - The City has signed a contract with Menasha Forest Products Corporation to allow application of bio-solids (the sludge left over after treatment of sewage at our wastewater plants) to forest lands owned by Menasha. The contract is a benefit to both parties. While the City has had a contract with a local farmer to apply bio-solids on farmland, application could only occur during the summer months, and then could not occur if we had a particularly wet year with a high water table. Application of bio-solids on forest land will be possible year-round, regardless of the weather. Menasha gains great nutrients for its young trees, encouraging greater growth in the first ten years of the tree's life. OMI Project Manager Gary Young assisted the City in negotiations with Menasha, and will lead the process of obtaining permits from the Department of Environmental Quality prior to application beginning.

UPCOMING PAVING PROJECTS - North Front Street will be a busy place as work preliminary to paving gets underway next week. Bracelin-Yeager, contractor for the City, will be working in conjunction with Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad to rehabilitate portions of the track that traverse the length of the project. The paving limits will be from Fir to Market Avenue and include Alder, Birch, and Cedar Streets east of Bayshore Drive. The majority of the work will be financed by ODOT Fund Exchange monies with remaining costs supplemented by the Coos Bay Downtown Urban Renewal Agency. The local engineering firm, The Dyer Partnership, will be supervising the project and coordinating the phasing of the work to help with access issues to local businesses during the construction period.