



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 21, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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WATERSHED WEEKS OREGON - The Coos Watershed Association and South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve are joining together to sponsor a one day field trip as part of *Oregon Watershed Weeks 2001* and *National Estuaries Day*. The theme for this daylong field trip is "Estuaries and Their Watersheds", and will be held Saturday, September 29, 2001 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. You are invited to explore the relationship of watershed and estuary restoration with hands-on investigations of the bay aboard the charter boat *Rendevous* combined with brief mini-lectures from the upper viewing deck during the early morning cruise. Travel by bus in the afternoon to visit South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and view several restoration efforts in progress to revitalize tidal marshes and channels. Space on the boat and bus are limited. Please call South Slough at 888-5558 as soon as possible to insure your place.

ON DISPLAY AT COOS ART MUSEUM - Outdoor paintings by Tony King and William Wheeler graces the Maggie Karl Gallery from September 21 through October 27. Scenes of outdoor America depicted in the works on display include views of the San Francisco and Coos Bay areas as well as Sonoma County, California, where King and Wheeler reside. Viewers will be treated to a special opportunity to compare and contrast two approaches to painting: Several of the paintings depict similar scenic views - but in the distinctly different styles of the two artists. Visitors should find the results both engaging and thought provoking. And in the Mable Hansen Gallery the Bay Area Artists Association - Regional Juried Show. Organized by the BAAA and jurored by well-known artist, teacher and author Jan Kunz of Florence, Oregon, this new exhibit presents over forty paintings - including oils, pastels, acrylics and watercolors from artists residing between Florence and Brookings on the Oregon Coast. For more information please call Coos Art Museum 267-3901.

ROCK AND GEM SHOW! - The City Council at their September 18th meeting approved downtown parking lot and street closures for the Farwest Lapidary and Gem Society's Special Event Application for an event from October 6 through October 7, 2001. The closures include use of parking lots and street closures on Central Avenue from the Chamber of Commerce up to City Hall. The Farwest Lapidary and Gem Society anticipate having vendors who will sell rough and finished rock and gem articles. Come downtown and see what's happening!

KUDOS FOR A GREAT JOB! - The Chamber office reported they received many comments at their office during and after the Fun Festival regarding how great the City looked. Tremendous efforts have been put in by the Council, staff, volunteers and concerned citizens to improve the appearance of our city. It sounds like those efforts are paying off. One visitor commented how quickly the area was cleaned up after the festival. City Streets and Parks staff worked a total of 164.5 hours of overtime over the festival weekend to insure the Festival and Prefontaine runs would go off without delays. The work during and immediately after the festival, to keep our streets clean, means that visitors want to visit Coos Bay during the festivals and every other day! Thanks to all those on the Council, staff, volunteers and locals who care about our City during the festivals and all year long!

NEWMARK AVENUE WIDENING PROJECT DESIGN AWARDED - At its meeting Tuesday evening, the City Council awarded the contract for design of the Newmark Avenue Widening Project to Dyer Partnerships, a local engineering firm. The total cost of design will be \$259,800. The cost will be covered

by interest earnings of the Jurisdictional Exchange funds and Empire Urban Renewal District funds.

6TH AVENUE TO RECEIVE OVERLAY - In other action Tuesday evening, the Council awarded a contract to Bracelin & Yeager for \$57,205 to overlay a portion of 6th Avenue from the City Limits to “D” Street. Work will be completed this fall. There may be some traffic delays during overlay work, but traffic will continue in one lane at least. Funds for the project come from the interest earnings of the Jurisdictional Exchange fund. Please contact Steve Doty at 541-269-8918 if you have any questions.

EMPIRE MONUMENTS UNDER CONSIDERATION - Architect Rich Turi presented new ideas for monuments in the Empire area to the Urban Renewal Agency at the meeting on Tuesday, September 18. The new ideas include designs similar to an extra tall light pole or similar to a water tower that could straddle the sidewalks. These designs could be used along Newmark Avenue, Empire Boulevard or on the Agency’s new property near the Empire Boat ramp. Another option included a more elaborate structure at the intersection of Newmark and Ocean Boulevard. The designs will be posted to the City’s website for public input, and a special Urban Renewal Agency meeting for public input will be scheduled.

COOS BAY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES - On Tuesday evening the Council enacted an ordinance to update the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan. The update is a Periodic Review work item required by the State and reflects changes that have been made to Statewide Planning Goal 16 (Estuarine Resources) and Goal 17 (Coastal Shorelands) since our comprehensive plan was acknowledged in 1983. Oregon’s statewide goals are achieved through local comprehensive planning. State law requires each city and county to have a comprehensive plan and the zoning and land-division ordinances to put the plan into effect.

POLICE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT - Applications for police officer openings in the police department closed September 21, 2001. Applications post marked by the 21st will be added to the applications already received. As of Friday morning the Police Department had received 80 applications; 70 from men and 10 from women. Additionally, 29 applicants are from Coos County, 37 from other areas within Oregon, and 13 from other States.

CITY RESPONSE PLANS REVIEWED - Following the terrorist attack in New York City and Washington D.C., the City activated it’s Emergency Operations Center. Participating in a disaster review and briefing were officials from the Cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, Coos Bay Schools, the American Red Cross, Bay Area Hospital, and others. The City also reviewed emergency operations plans and disaster contingencies. Coos Bay has in place a comprehensive plan for dealing with disasters and other emergencies.

POLICE DEPARTMENT K-9’S CERTIFIED - The Police Department K-9 units were all recertified this week by the Oregon K-9 Association. K-9 teams Rob Scoville and Red, Andy Osborn and Caesar, and Rodger Craddock and Cutter traveled to Grants Pass for the testing. Congratulations to each dog master and K-9’s!