



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

October 19, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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COOS BAY LIONS LEARN ABOUT ICMA RESOURCE CITIES PROGRAM - This week city manager Bill Grile was the program speaker at the CB Lions Club meeting, with the topic being his recent trip to Bitung, Indonesia ... a city of 140,000 people located on the island of North Sulawesi. The trip was paid for by the United States State Department under a grant to the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) through its "Resource Cities Program." Coos Bay is honored to be selected by ICMA for participation in the program, which covers expenses related to technical exchanges between U.S. cities and those in underdeveloped nations. Over 50 cities and counties in the U.S. are participating in the program, including Coquille, Tigard, Gresham, Washington County and the League of Oregon Cities. Groups from Indonesia may be visiting both Coquille and Coos Bay next month. Grile's talk included a PowerPoint slide presentation about the week he spent in Bitung along with Coos Bay city attorney Randall Tosh and Port of Coos Bay marketing and communications manager Martin Callery. Other clubs and organizations interested in having the presentation should contact the city manager's office at 269-8912 to arrange a time. To learn more about ICMA and the objectives and benefits of the Resource Cities Program, visit <http://www.icma.org/go.cfm?cid=1&gid=3&sid=229> and <http://www.icma.org/go.cfm?cid=1&gid=3&sid=114&did=1239&FPF=Y>

GHOULS, GOBLINS AND GIGGLES - The library will host Steve Taylor's "Ghouls, Goblins and Giggles Show" on Saturday, October 27th at 11:00 a.m. The 45-minute performance will be part of the free Halloween Party sponsored by Friends of the Library. Taylor and his ventriloquist buddy, Rudy O'Reilly, will offer magic, ventriloquism and lots of audience participation that promises to be fun for the entire family. Taylor has been one of America's premier magical-motivational performers for over 30 years, performing between 300 and 400 times every year at schools, libraries, malls, fairs and Disneyland.

WATER SUPPLY EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE - Coos Bay North Bend Water Board General Manager Rob Schab recently reported that great progress continues to be made on the construction of the new dam at Upper Pony Creek. Completion is still on track for the first part of November. The old dam is beginning to be lowered, and breaching of the old dam should occur about mid-October. While the main part of the project is nearing completion, there are several important associated projects that will need to be accomplished. Final plans for wetland mitigation will need to be developed and formally approved by state and federal agencies. Field visits and preliminary discussions on the proposed mitigation concepts are meeting agencies' approvals. Several portions of the reservoir perimeter road will be affected by the elevated reservoir pool level. Plans are being developed to raise the road bed, as well as the installation of culverts for drainage and fish passage. As part of the permitting process, an emergency action plan for a hypothetical dam failure is required. Currently, Water Board and their engineering consultant URS Corp. staff are working with local emergency service personnel to develop a detailed plan.

THE CITY MANAGER IS ONE SMART READER - City manager Bill Grile joined community volunteers Teri Whitty and Jean Macey this week as a "SMART" reader at Bunker Hill School. "SMART" stands for "Start Making A Reader Today" and is a program of the Oregon Children's Foundation. OCF is a non-profit organization started by former Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt and the Ater Wynne law firm. The Oregon Children's Foundation is privately funded by over 6500 individuals, foundations,

organizations, and businesses working together to find comprehensive solutions for the long-term needs of Oregon's children. The Oregon Children's Foundation supports programs that prevent serious future problems, reduce public cost, and allow children to grow into healthy, productive adults. Early literacy is the Foundation's primary focus. SMART, the sole program of the Oregon Children's Foundation, is the highly successful reading program developed by the Oregon Children's Foundation in January of 1992. The vision of the Foundation is to bring SMART to every child who needs it. During the 2000-01 school year, SMART will serve over 10,000 children in 17 Oregon counties and with the goal of making the program available to children in all 36 Oregon counties by 2003. To learn more about SMART, visit <http://www.oregonchildrensfoundation.org>, or contact Ms. Amy Prouty, Director of S. Coast SMART at (541) 266-7426. City manager Grile will be reading at Bunker Hill School most Thursday morning's from 9:00 - 10:00 AM. Why don't you consider becoming a SMART reader too?

WINTER FIRE SAFETY TIPS - With the evenings getting cooler its time again to fire up those wood burning stoves and fireplaces. The Coos Bay Fire Department would like to offer a few fireplace, wood stove and chimney fire safety tips. Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned by a professional. Home flues equipped with wood burning stoves should be inspected once a year and check them regularly for any obstructions (i.e. squirrel or birdnests, debris, etc.). Burn only seasoned wood to help keep creosote buildup to a minimum. Make sure you have a spark shield/arrestor or wire basket on top of your chimney. Clean ashes out of your fireplace or wood stove regularly and dispose of them properly.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT HIRING PROCESS- The Fire Department will be conducting a hiring process to develop a hiring list for the position of Firefighter/Engineer. The selection process will include a written test, physical fitness test, oral interview, background investigation and medical exam. Those interested in a career in the fire service can pick up a job announcement with the basic job requirements and an application packet at the City of Coos Bay Finance Office at 500 Central Ave., Coos Bay, OR 97420 or call 541-269-8915. The application process will close on November 16, 2001 at 5:00 p.m.

CHALLENGE OF CHANGE ATTENDEES RETURN - Several attendees from the Bay Area, including staff from CCD Business Development, the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Cardinal Services, and representatives from Coos Bay, North Bend, Coquille, Coos County, Port of Coos Bay and the South Coast Development Council, returned to the area this week fired up with new ideas, better ways to partner and a continuing enthusiasm for the South Coast. The Challenge of Change is the annual Governor's community and economic development conference. Governor John Kitzhaber was the keynote speaker for lunch one day. Other speakers presented information on the future for economic development. However, as in previous years, the best information came from networking with others around the state to learn how they have capitalized on opportunities in their areas and then talk with those from our area to figure out how to apply those ideas in our area. Stay tuned-the Bay Area is on its way!

FIRE DEPARTMENT SAYS THANK YOU TO STREETS CREW! - Lunch for the City Streets Crew on Thursday was provided by the Coos Bay Fire Department staff at Station 1 (Downtown) as a thank you for all the assistance the Streets Crew provided the Fire Department during construction of their new concrete apron. It was great to be able to talk to each other in a relaxed atmosphere, and to together enjoy the view of the great new apron. If you haven't checked out the new walkway to the door of the station, stop by. Thank you Fire Department, and thank you Streets Crew!

4TH ANDELROD OVERLAY PROJECT - The project is moving forward with the paving of Elrod Avenue on Wednesday and 4th Street on Thursday and Friday. If work cannot be finished by late Friday afternoon, then the final panel will be laid on Saturday morning. Once 4th Street is completed, Bracelin & Yeager's paving crew will move to Front Street to begin the overlay work scheduled there from Market Avenue to Fir Avenue. The work on Front Street is expected to be completed next week, contingent upon the weather. Once the Front Street paving has been completed, the paving crew will move to 6th Avenue and pave from

the south City limits to “D” Street.

HANDBILLS AND POSTERS - The City in recent months has had more and more handbills, posters, advertisements, etc. being placed on City signal poles, light poles and trees around downtown. This is in violation of Ordinance #99, Section 23, subsection 1, Notices and Advertisements. The person responsible for illegal posting shall be liable for the cost incurred in its removal. City staff will be making a special effort to keep poles clear, and for informing folks posting flyers informed of the illegality of their act. Please help us keep our City clean and free of unwanted posting on these poles and trees and make a better view for citizens and visitors traveling through the City.

GETTING READY - The City is preparing for the coming wet season with a few preventative measures around town. Tenth Street Park and Minnesota Avenue will be adding storm drain components to help alleviate the flooding experienced in past years. Now is the time to check ditches, culverts and catch basins to ensure proper drainage.

VOLUNTEER - Our thanks to Fidel Cervantes, owner of Bay Area Forest Evergreens and Services, for his work along Highway 101. Cervantes is donating his time and know-how to making the north entrance to Coos Bay more attractive by removing brush along the highway. As a landscaper, he sees this work as his opportunity to give back to the community he now calls home.

WATER CONSERVATION ALERT - Yesterday, Coos Bay / North Bend Water Board General Manager Rob Schab issued the following comments on the status of the community water supply. Since the beginning of September, below normal precipitation has hampered replenishment of the community’s water supply. Drawdown of the Upper Pony Creek Reservoir is exceeding projections, which were based on average predicted rainfall for the beginning of the fall season. The utility has begun treating ground water from the dunes aquifer system to augment the supply. The community has responded to the Water Board’s “wise use of water” media releases by a reduction in residential and commercial water use of approximately 11% during July, August and September. At this time, however, the Water Board is issuing a water conservation alert. This alert corresponds to a request for customers to stop all unnecessary outside uses of water which include, but not limited to, landscape irrigation, vehicle washing, washing of sidewalks, decks, and driveways and recreational uses. Indoor water use should also be reduced further where possible. Visit WaterWiser at www.waterwiser.org for more tips on how to reduce water use. For information about the fall and winter forecast visit Oregon Climate Service at www.ocs.orst.edu. Customers may contact the Water Board at 269-3128 if they have further questions about our local water supply