



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

November 30, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CITY COUNCIL TO HEAR PRESENTATION ON BROADBAND FOR THE COMMUNITY-

Tuesday evening the City Council will be hearing a presentation by the Coquille Indians Economic Development Corporation about the organization's plans to bring broadband fiber-optics to the Bay Area. Last week the North Bend City Council heard a similar presentation and gave general support for the proposed effort, but pulled up short of adopting a resolution requested by CEDCO saying that no other private sector entities will be providing similar services in the area in the near future and at a reasonable cost. North Bend plans to give additional consideration to this issue at it's next meeting. Coos Bay's discussion starts at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers next Tuesday evening, and as with all City Council meetings, will be rebroadcast on Channel 14 for those unable to attend.

URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY TO CONSIDER GATEWAY MONUMENTS AND FACADE PROGRAM NEXT WEEK

- Following Tuesday night's Council meeting, the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency will be again considering two projects that have proven more difficult to advance than anyone would have ever thought. One is the "Facades Program." This proposal would have urban renewal funds purchase scenic easements on the facades of certain properties along Newmark in Empire, then improve them to meet the creative and attractive design standards recently adopted for the area. Staff has spent a considerable amount of time and effort putting this proposed program together and it has been strongly supported by the Empire Community Association and a few others, but a recent survey of properties along Newmark revealed practically no support by the property owners along the area affected by the proposed program. Staff needs direction to either continue the effort or table it for the time being, and has recommended the latter given the apparent support for higher priorities. The other project is the "Gateway Monuments and Welcome Sign" project that is a high priority of the Empire Urban Renewal Plan. A number of design alternatives have been considered and rejected over the past few years, with the latest posted for review and feedback on Coos Bay's web site at www.coosbay.org. Four options are presented there. You can "vote" online and let us know your preference. Spirited discussions seem to ensue every time these projects come before. Staff remains eager for direction so it can carry out the Agency's preference.

BROWNFIELD ACTIVITY - As a part of the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Economic Redevelopment Initiative, the City of Coos Bay has been offered the opportunity to apply for additional funding for the North Front Street Waterfront Heritage District. This Supplemental Assistance, if received, could enable more of the prioritized properties to complete the next phase of environmental site assessments and cleanup planning presently underway under an EPA grant. Funding from many agencies has been focused on this area - seen as the northern anchor of a historic parkway which stretches from the site being developed for the South Coast Historic Railway Society, through the Boardwalk, and terminating at the Marshfield Sun museum

STORM CLEAN-UP PERFORMED THIS WEEK - The City Parks and Streets employees along

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with the Shutter Creek inmates have been busy this week cleaning up around town after the most recent storm that blew through the area on Tuesday and Wednesday. Quick action by the Parks crew averted major damage to the new Mingus Park pool building when it was discovered around noon on Wednesday that a large Hemlock was leaning towards the building and hung up in two other trees. Staff called a local climber/faller to rig a block and tackle and then use the Parks vehicle to pull the tree away from the building. The only damage was to a large rhododendron bush. Good work guys.

COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER IS ONLINE - The Coos County Animal Shelter now has its own online site showcasing animals currently up for adoption, as well as linking to pet care, pet supplies, and online pet freebies. Check it out at www.CCAnimals.cjb.net

COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY STATUS REPORTED - Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board General Manager Rob Schab recently issued the following comments on the status of the community water supply. Significant gains in precipitation during the month of November have eliminated near-term water supply concerns; however, sustained normal rainfall will be needed to refill the Upper Pony Creek Reservoir to meet summer demands. At this time the Coos Bay - North Bend Water Board is removing its water conservation alert, though customers are encouraged to continue exercising the wise use of water. Customers may contact the Water Board at 267-3128 or the Water Board's website at www.cbnbh2o.com for more information on the local water supply or visit www.waterwiser.org for more tips on how to reduce water use.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY - The Fire Department would like to remind everyone to exercise fire safety during the holidays. Make sure your tree is fresh and set up away from heat sources. Do not put your tree near or in front of an exit. Trees should have a fresh cut end and check the water level every day. Inspect indoor and outdoor lights for frayed or broken wires before they go up. Never light or burn candles in or around your tree. Make sure to put your candles in stable holders and never go to sleep or leave the house with candles burning. Don't forget to clean and check your smoke alarm. Your fire department wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!

WINTER VOCAL CONCERT - The Marshfield Vocal Music Department is proud to present the 62nd Annual Winter Vocal Concert December 12th and 13th, in the historic Marshfield Auditorium. Performances include the traditional "Procession of Candles", and the invitation for Alumni to join in performing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" during the second night of performance. Also featured this year will be selections by the Bay Areas premier hand bell choir, The Carrollons. Admission is \$5.00 - Families, \$3.00 - Adults, \$2.00 - Students and Seniors, Children 12 and under - Free. Please join us in celebrating the season through the voices of our communities fine young musicians.