



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

January 18, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TACKLES REALITY - The talk this week at the County's Solid Waste Advisory Committee was as much about MONEY as it was about garbage ... and in the reality of it all stared everyone directly in the face. "Unlike some other of the Committee's meetings that I've attended, Wednesday night the group seemed to place its arms squarely around the realities of the shocking costs Coos County will face when Beaver Hill closes and environmental monitoring begins on that facility, and the Joe Ney and old Bandon landfills," said city manager Bill Grile this morning. The Committee now understands that the Beaver Hill facility will close by the year 2013 unless some large revenue source emerges to keep it running after 2013 when a third ash trench at the site is full. It would cost about \$2 million to open a fourth trench under strict environmental requirements imposed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. No one seems to know where the money might come from to accomplish that project. Further, the County's engineers have estimated the total environmental closure and post-closure monitoring costs at \$9.4 million.

The Committee now understands that either fees will have to be increased, property taxes imposed, or some other source of revenue generated to meet this legal obligation. Discussion about how best to proceed with financial planning is just now beginning, but the Committee agreed that this is one of its next major challenges. Commissioner John Griffith commented that theoretically that "The County Forest" would be available to help cover the environmental unfunded liability. Commissioner Nikki Whitty suggested that Coos County's cities could contribute their solid waste franchise fees to the cause. On the bright side, County Solid Waste Manager Steve Allen announced that a request for proposals will be circulated to interested consultants on January 29th with hopes of selecting professional analysis and advice about the potential of generating electrical power and captured steam energy from the Beaver Hill incinerators. He indicated that local engineer Will Wright and two unnamed others helped develop the RFP, which will ask for responses by March 15th. Meanwhile, Steve Allen will circulate another draft of the Committees "Interim Report." The Committee picks up its work again at 6:00 p.m. on February 13th at the Coos Bay Public Library.

148 ACCIDENT FREE DAYS Congratulations to City AFSCME employees for achieving 148 days without on the job injuries. City employees regularly attend safety committee meetings and safety training to ensure a safe and productive work place. Their efforts have greatly helped the City keep the cost of workers' compensation insurance at a reasonable level and have also kept the number of days lost due to injuries at a minimum. Congratulations, we are proud of you!

CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED - City administrative offices and the library will be closed on Monday, January 21st in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr.

TOURISM PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT -The City Council re-appointed Larry Werhan to another term on the Tourism Promotions Committee at their regular meeting Tuesday evening. Thank you Larry for your willingness to volunteer your time and talents to the Bay Area!

THE CASE FOR LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS - Studies show that for **every dollar** spent at a locally

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owned business, **\$.60** of that dollar is **retained within the community**. This compares to only **\$.20** on the dollar retained with **chain stores** and **\$.06** on the dollar retained by large **super-store discounters**. Where are you spending your dollars? (Source: National Main Street Center)

EMPLOYEES TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE - Mayor Benetti and City Manager Bill Grile will recognize city employees for their years of service at an employee staff meeting on January 23rd at 8 a.m. in the council chambers. Employee awards will be given to: Police Chief Chuck Knight for 35 years of service; Fire Captain Ed Jackson for 30 years; Sgt. Kevin Hedgepeth for 25 years; Ann Couture at the Library for 15 years; and Police Sgt. Ron Robson and Fire Capt. Dan McAvoy for ten years. Those being recognized for five years of service include Robert Borra, Dan Crutchfield, Matt Fare, and Mike Seldon from the Fire Department, Carol Anderson from Community Services, and Sheri Layton from the Police Department. Congratulations and thank you for your dedicated service to the citizens of Coos Bay.

TRAFFIC SAFETY BLITZ TO BE SCHEDULED - The police department will be conducting a traffic safety blitz early next month in response to neighborhood complaints of high speed and other traffic violations. The safety blitz using police officers on overtime is made possible by a traffic safety grant obtained by the police department. The police department will notify local news media when dates and times for the safety blitz are finalized.

CHIEF KNIGHT TO SPEAK AT LOCAL EVENTS - Police Chief Chuck Knight will be speaking at the *Martin Luther King Day Celebration* sponsored by the Human Rights Advocates of Coos County at the North Bend Library this Saturday, January 19, 2002. On Sunday morning, January 20, 2002, Chief Knight will be speaking at College Park Community Church in North Bend.

POLICE K-9 REX INJURED - Coos Bay Police Department has learned that Police K9 Rex has been injured and is in need of emergency orthopedic surgery. K9 Rex was injured while on duty and is scheduled for surgery at a Veterinary Clinic in Beaverton, Oregon. Rex has injured his shoulder and elbow that will remove him from duty status at least temporarily. The required surgery for Rex will be as much as \$3,000. The police department is concerned about the cost of the surgery, however will be researching options. A press release has been issued to local news media. For additional information contact Sergeant Kevin Hedgepeth at the police department. Sergeant Hedgepeth's email address is khedgepeth@police.coosbay.org.

TOM HARDY EXHIBIT COMING TO COOS ART MUSEUM - The Coos Art Museum has announced it will be featuring the work of Oregon Sculptor and artist Tom Hardy in an exhibition opening January 25, 2002. Hardy's works are held in museums throughout the country, including the Seattle Art Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and Coos Art Museum. He is particularly well known in the Coos Bay area, having been featured in exhibitions at the Coos Art Museum and other local venues many times over the years from 1955 to the present – perhaps most notably in 1974 when the Museum hosted solo shows of his work. Hardy has also taught locally and presented a number of workshops to Coos area artist over several decades. The coming exhibit, will feature new sculpture and monoprints by Mr. Hardy, who has recently celebrated his 80th birthday – and a very productive year – with an open house at his Portland studios. In addition to Hardy's latest work, the exhibit will include a retrospective and "Coos Reminiscences" – a show of works from the Coos Art Museum's Permanent Collection and of pieces loaned by local collectors. Curator, Maggie Karl, advises that she is looking for a limited number of works to complete the retrospective. Parties interested in the possibility of loaning works by Tom Hardy from their private collections for the show are invited to call the Museum at 267-3901 for details or to bring any submissions – paintings, drawings, or sculpture – to the Museum between 12 noon and 3 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2002 for consideration.

DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION REVIEWS THE DOWNTOWN PLAN - The Coos Bay Downtown Association will meet in an open house format at the Design Renaissance, 160 South 2nd Street to review the

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final report presented by the Oregon Downtown Development Association, and to begin to develop further action plans around the recommendations. City staff will be available to help answer questions. This is a time to look at the recommendations, provide your best input to the Downtown Association and offer your help in building on the advantages downtown Coos Bay has to offer. The open house will begin at 5:30 PM on Thursday, January 24th. Contact Chris Coles, Downtown Association president at 269-4065 if you have any questions, or to request copies of the ODDA final report and recommendations.

WALMART EXPANSION IS ON ITS WAY - Trees are cleared and excavation of the site will start within the next three weeks. The Wal-Mart expansion will almost double the size of our current Wal-Mart store. It is estimated the 10-12,000 20-yard dump trucks will be needed to excavate the site to provide the space needed for the expanded store and parking. Various sites in the Bay Area will receive fill. Routes for the trucks are being finalized now, and there may be changes as other development projects benefit from the materials being moved by Wal-Mart. It is expected that excavation will be completed well before the tourist season begins. Please contact Community Services at 269-8918 if you have questions.

IMPROVEMENT PLANNING - The newly annexed area bordering Old Wireless Lane in the Englewood area has successfully acquired a new sanitary sewer system through a Local Improvement District. By joining forces, this neighborhood homeowners association shared the costs of the design and construction of the new system. This method of finance can be applied to many needed improvements such as street paving, sidewalks, drainage, and sewers. Coos Bay residents are encouraged to learn more about this opportunity to improve their surroundings by calling Community Services at 269-8918 or stopping by to speak to a staff person. Information packets on the process are also available. Winter is a great time to plan for summer construction projects.

NEWMARK AVENUE PROGRESS - The preliminary design for the widening of Newmark Avenue between Fir Street and Ocean Blvd. is nearing completion as The Dyer Partnership gathers information from the many agencies affected. The project involves changes to water, sewer, power, postal, signage, and communication services. Traffic and access issues must also be considered to accommodate existing and future growth.

OPENINGS ON THE CITY BUDGET COMMITTEE - There are three positions open on the Budget Committee. Two positions are for three-year terms and one position is to complete an unfulfilled term which will expire December 31, 2003. Applicants must reside in the City of Coos Bay and are appointed by the City Council. The committee is responsible for reviewing the proposed budget and the meetings are held during the months of April and May in the evening. Applications are available from the city manager's office during normal business hours or by calling 269-8912 and will be accepted through February 11th.

LOCAL TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED FOR THE SOUTHWESTERN CAMPUS - "TechView 2002," a symposium about technology and the opportunities it brings, is scheduled for February 15th, 2002 from 7:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center at Southwestern Oregon Community College. High speed, broadband technology is coming to the South Coast. We are going to be WIRED! What does that mean for us? "It is time to think outside the box," says City of Coquille Community Services Director Ann Steeves. She and a handful of others have put this event together to help get the rest of us up to speed. If you work in the areas of education, health care, small business, local government, social services, or have an interest in the economic and workforce development picture for the South Coast you won't want to miss this technology symposium.

Keynotes include:

Peter O'Dell - Supertracks, AutoDesk, Microsoft, Online Interactive, Digital Equipment

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Corporation, Criton Technologies and UCA.

Bill Scott - Director of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

Panelists include:

Education	Teri Pointer, South Coast ESD
Data Intense Business	Dan Parker, CyberRep
Local Government	Bill Grile, City of Coos Bay
	Ann Steeves, City of Coquille
Health Care	Bob Adams, Bay Area Hospital
Human Services	Richard Whitwer, Human Services
Small Business eCommerce	Grant Roholt, Green-PC
Technology & Rural Economics	Link Shadley, OECDD

The afternoon promises to be interactive with small group discussions exploring future strategies and projects in the technology realm. Cost for the day is \$20.00 and includes both breakfast and lunch. Interested? Please R.S.V.P. to 541.888.7100. Checks can be sent to the Coquille Chamber of Commerce, 117 N. Birch Street, Coquille, Oregon 97423. Credit Card payment will be available the day of the event at registration, but please reserve your space in advance by calling the number above. For further information, please call 541.888.7100 or 541.396.5131.