



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

February 8, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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FINAL DECISION - On Tuesday evening the City Council approved the Final Order denying the proposed street vacation for portions of 7th Street and Myrtle Avenue for an application submitted by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. There is a 21-day appeal period in which the decision may be appealed to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals.

COOS BAY CITY UPDATE ON THE RADIO SUNDAY MORNING -- City manager Bill Grile will be providing an update on Coos Bay program this coming Sunday morning on the "In Touch" show produced by New Northwest Broadcasters. Tune in and listen to general manager John Pundt interview Grile at 7:00 a.m. on any one of four stations: 94.9 FM, 107.3 FM, 1340 AM or 1230 AM.

MUSIC ON THE BAY MOVES FORWARD - Music on the Bay (MOB) President Larry McCabe reported this week that they are completing their Spring schedule for concerts in Coos Bay. Three concerts have been scheduled for the Marshfield Auditorium and one is planned for Southwestern's new Performing Arts Center. These concerts will be fundraisers for the outdoor free series they plan this summer at the Mingus Park Stage. MOB is very interested in facilitating more concerts in the area from nationally recognized musicians. Larger groups mean more powerful requirements for electricity. In the short term, MOB plans to use generators for their summer series. However, their hope is that the series will become so popular in the area that they can partner with the City and other funding sources to provide permanent electrical and other improvements at the Mingus Park Stage. Stay tuned for MOB's press release about entertainment this spring and summer, and watch them grow! It will benefit the entire community!

SOUTH COAST PUSHES FOR REGIONAL HOUSING CENTER - At its meeting on Tuesday, February 5th, the City Council appointed Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs to be the city's representative at an organizing meeting for a new Regional Housing Center. The south coast has not historically taken advantage of some of the opportunities for housing rehabilitation programs, but is moving forward together to remedy that. Coos and Curry cities and counties will be meeting soon to develop the final documents to form a Regional Housing Center so that the area is eligible for Community Development Block Grants and other funding sources for low interest or no interest deferred payment loans for housing rehabilitation. The Regional Housing Center will also serve as a one-stop center for information on housing programs and offer assistance in accessing federal and state programs that exist for first time home purchasers and down payment assistance. The Coos-Curry Counties Housing Authority, Community Action and Umpqua Community Development Corporation are assisting with the organizing efforts.

QUILT RUN A GREAT SUCCESS! - The nine days of the first Oregon Coast Quilt Run was a great success, even with the first weekend keeping some individuals from leaving their homes in the snowbound Willamette Valley. Organizers estimate 700 quilters traveled the coast route to stop at 13 quilt stores to have their passports stamped and to register to win cash prizes. The quilters reported that the only city that did anything extra for them was COOS BAY! The Coos Bay Downtown Association, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Bay Area Tourism and Convention Bureau and RSVP worked together with Threads that Bind and Dyeing Arts Studio to provide and staff a small quilt show in a downtown space across from Threads that Bind. The South Coast Quilters provided their best quilts to show the travelers the quality of our quilters.

Local woodcarvers added to the display, and tourism information to encourage the folks to return was available. Great job Sharan Thompson and Linda Mason, business owners, and THANK YOU to all the volunteers that made the Quilt Show a success!

CHOSHI BRIDGE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS GOING OUT - Last spring, the city completed temporary repairs to Choshi Bridge to keep it open for pedestrian traffic, and planned to seek input from architects or engineers on a permanent repair or replacement for the bridge that had been seriously damaged by dryrot. The request for proposals for the permanent action will go out this week, and proposals will be received by February 28th. City Councilor Judy Weeks has agreed to assist staff in reviewing the proposals prior to the recommendation for who to hire going back to the full Council. It is hoped that an architect or engineer can be on board by mid-March.

DILIGENCE PAYS - Wastewater contractor for the City, OMI, recently discovered a sewer-related problem in a remote canyon off Kingwood Avenue. As a component of their ongoing maintenance policy, all public main lines located in hard to access areas within the city limits are checked on a regular basis. This requires hiking through the many undeveloped areas beyond improved roads. In this case, they were able to remedy a plugged line and contain a minor spill. Our thanks to the OMI crew.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN (TSP) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - The search for a consultant has begun for the development of a Transportation System Plan for the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend. Because the transportation facilities in each city are heavily impacted by the needs and traffic of the other, the Oregon Department of Transportation awarded each city \$90,000 to be used toward hiring a single consultant who will work with the area to develop plans for each city. The TSP will provide long range (20 year) direction for the development of local transportation facilities and services and help to connect land use planning and transportation planning.

To view the Request for Proposal visit the following internet site and click on "Bids & Requests for Proposals," then, "Proceed to Current Bids and Proposals" where you will find the listing for Coos Bay and North Bend: <http://www.odot.state.or.us/ssbpublic\pcms\pcmsinter.htm>.

SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM - Just a reminder that the Coos Bay Fire Department is still conducting a smoke alarm give away program for City of Coos Bay residents. The program targets low income households, those with young children and elderly residents. If you are in need of a smoke alarm, or just a check of your current smoke alarm, please call the fire department at 269-1191. Prevention is the best way to avert fire related tragedy's in your home!

LIBRARY PHASES IN COMPUTER UPGRADE - Coos Bay Public Library experienced it's second closure this week to make the transition into the Coos County Library Service District computer upgrade. Last week changes were made at the central computer site at North Bend Library. This Thursday, February 7th, a new router was installed in Coos Bay Library. Work also proceeded to exchange the library's twenty-one "dumb" terminals, fourteen for public use and seven for staff use, for PCs and to change their connections from hard-wired to telnet access through the Internet. The other thirty-three PCs already installed in the building, seventeen for public use and sixteen staff terminals, will also be connected to the network, for a total of fifty-four access terminals. It was necessary to close because Thursday's work incapacitated all functions of the Coastline system for the day. Library staff members are ready to acquaint patrons with use of the new catalog PCs. During a later stage of the transition, exciting new features will be added to the public catalog terminals, i.e., graphic interface, access to special data bases, links to selected web sites. For the time being, however, the catalog terminals will continue to show text-only catalog listings.

AUTHOR'S NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY - Next in the series of author talks at Coos Bay Public Library

is a presentation on Thursday, February 14th, 7:00 p.m., by Clemens Starck. Starck says after he dropped out of Princeton he began his education: riding freight trains, working as a ranch hand, being a newspaper reporter on Wall Street, doing a stint as a door-to-door salesman, serving in the merchant marine. For the last twenty years, he has worked in construction and carpentry. These experiences have fueled the scholarly side of Starck's life. His poetry collection, "Journeyman's Wages," received both the William Stafford Memorial Poetry Award and the Oregon Book Award in 1996. "Studying Russian on Company Time" came out in 1999 and "China Basin" is forthcoming this year. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

VALENTINE'S DAY AT THE LIBRARY - Coos Bay Public Library will host a Valentine's Day event for children on Saturday, February 9th, 11:00 a.m., in the Myrtlewood Room. Popular Oregon musician and storyteller Ann-Louis Sterry will present music, song, and storytelling with lots of audience involvement. Sterry has been a teller at Newport's annual Stories-by-the-Sea festival for many years and hosts "Kazoo," a children's radio program on public station KBPS in Portland. The free, 45-minute program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

TRAFFIC SAFETY BLITZ STARTS THIS WEEKEND - The Police Department is participating with law enforcement agencies in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia in a traffic safety blitz February 8th through 17th. The safety blitz using police officers on overtime is made possible by a traffic safety grant obtained by the police department. The primary emphasis in Coos Bay will be on problem areas within the city including Newark Avenue, Woodland Drive, Southwest Blvd., and others.

OFFICER LANCE BJORNERUD RETIRES - Coos Bay Police Officer Lance Bjornerud was honored last week at a dinner honoring his more than 22 years of service to the Eastside and Coos Bay Police Departments. Officer Bjornerud began his career in the City of Eastside and joined the Coos Bay Police Department when Eastside and Coos Bay Consolidated in 1983. Officer Bjornerud served in the city in many areas including patrol, detectives, SCINT, and was in the Empire Neighborhood Patrol Unit. Many of the safety measures initiated by Officer Bjornerud are still in use making Coos Bay a safer and better place to live. Congratulations Lance, you will be missed at Coos Bay P.D.

OFFICERS ATTEND TRAINING - Coos Bay Police Officers Randy Sparks and Scott Rogers complete a two week critical skills training course this week in Dallas, Oregon. The course focus is on use of force, personal defense, and liability. The training is part of Coos Bay's ongoing training program to enhance professionalism within the police department. Sparks and Rogers will be able to instruct officers at Coos Bay on the skills learned at the training session.

UPDATE ON POLICE K-9 REX - Rex (Coos Bay Police K-9) was checked by the veterinarian on February 6th and is progressing well from the surgery. Rex is currently undergoing physical therapy. His return to work date is tentatively set for early March.