



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

April 5, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CB BUDGET: READ BEYOND THE HEADLINES! - The World, the Bay Area's daily newspaper, does a great job keeping the public informed about many of the things happening at the City and throughout our community. Staff writer Andrew Sirocchi's story that appeared in Wednesday's paper about the City's budget challenges was well written and easy to understand. The headlines to his story, however, simply were not. "COOS BAY POLICE OFFICE TO CLOSE" and "Budget Cuts: Layoffs set to begin next week" the headlines proclaimed. At first glance, readers were lead to believe that doom had bestruck the CBPD and that its days of service to the Community were over. Not so!

Hopefully more people read at least the first paragraph of the subject article and if they did, they quickly realized that their headline-induced panic was, in fact, unfounded. With due credit intended to The World and staff writer Sirocchi, here's that first paragraph:

"The front office at the Coos Bay Police Department likely will be closed to reduce financial and work pressures created by the city's budget turmoil after layoffs go into effect later this month."

That's right just the "front office." This month's layoffs of one and a half clerical staffers in the Police Department is prompting Chief Knight to do what is common practice in many police offices across the land. Closed circuit television cameras will be used to access other police personnel that will be working and available 24 hours a day, every single day of the year.

"I don't want to understate the seriousness of our current budget challenges," said city manager Bill Grile at city hall this morning. "But the sky is not falling and the layoffs necessary to balance next fiscal year's budget will not produce devastating impacts in service delivery," he added. "Clearly, many things will not get done next year, or will not get done as quickly as we'd like given the layoffs, but for the vast majority of Coos Bay citizens and taxpayers, the service cuts will be barely noticeable for several months," said Grile.

The city manager's budget recommendations will be printed and released for public review on April 11. Copies will be available for inspection at City Hall and at the Coos Bay Public Library. Public meetings of the Coos Bay Budget Committee are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the Coos Bay Public Library on the following dates:

Monday April 22

Tuesday April 23

Thursday April 25

Tuesday April 30

Thursday May 9

Monday May 13

In the meantime, copies of a PowerPoint slide presentation on the city budget continue to be available by sending an email with the request to bgrile@coosbay.org

TIME CHANGES THIS WEEKEND - "Spring Ahead" - it is time to turn your clocks forward one hour on Sunday morning. This is also the perfect time to check your smoke alarms. Change the batteries if necessary and vacuum them to remove dust and cobwebs. If your smoke alarm is over ten years old it is time to replace it with a new ten-year lithium battery alarm. If you have any questions please call the Coos Bay Fire Department at 269-1191.

EMPIRE WATERFRONT DESIGN MEETINGS SCHEDULED - Four consultants are coming to town April 9th - 11th to our area to develop a conceptual plan for how to develop the three properties purchased by the Empire Urban Renewal Agency. A small steering group of local residents will work closely with the group to provide local input. Two opportunities have been set for citizens to be a part of the process to develop conceptual designs for the Empire Waterfront. The evening of **April 9, 2002, 5:30-7:00 p.m.**, at the Empire Fire Hall, citizens are encouraged to come and review the work that took place earlier in the day bringing out all the options, constraints and opportunities that need to be considered for the three properties. Anyone interested in development of the site should come and be sure their idea, or their concern, is expressed. On **April 11, 2002, 6:00-7:30 pm**, at the Council Chamber in the Confederated Tribes Administration Building (2145 Fulton) the consultants and the local steering group will present the final conceptual plans. Contact Community Services if you have any questions at 269-8918.

CHANGES APPROVED - On Tuesday evening the City Council approved changes to the Land Development Ordinance to clarify notice and hearing procedures for land use applications in order to streamline the process as much as possible. Information was added to the appeals and rezone procedures to help the applicant anticipate problems or questions that may come up before and after the process begins. It is our intention to make what can be very confusing processes as clear and reasonable as possible while still following state law.

MINGUS PARK POOL TO CLOSE FOR MAINTENANCE- The Mingus Park pool will be closed April 1st through April 5th for routine maintenance and safety inspections. Each year the City is required by the State to open the boiler up for inspection. At the same time, city crews remove and place new sand in the filters that the pool water goes through. The City also will be placing a new chemical controller that monitors and injects the chemicals into the water to keep the water at a safe level for the swimmers. During the closure, the City also will replace a valve and other miscellaneous tubing that is beginning to leak and show signs of wear. It is anticipated that the pool will be up and running by Saturday, April 6th barring any significant problems/complications with the closure.

THE LADY WASHINGTON IS RETURNING - The Lady Washington is returning to Coos Bay for a another visit. She will be in port from April 20th to May 5th and will be moored at the Coos Bay City Dock along Highway 101. Stay tuned for more information on the activities that the ship will have when in port. For more information contact Beve Saukko with the Coos Bay/North Bend Promotions & Convention Bureau at 541-269-8921 or e-mail tourism@harborside.com.

THE SPRING BRUSH PICKUP IS COMING - To get signed up for the spring brush pickup that starts on **May 6th**, call your garbage provider. There are limitations as to size and what can be accepted, please be sure to ask your garbage provider what the limitations are when you call.

POLICE DEPARTMENT STILL IN BUSINESS - At the April 2nd City Council meeting, Police Chief, Chuck Knight announced plans to revise the method in which visitors to the police department will be waited upon. The police department will be making modifications in order to continue to provide quality service to the community in light of impending budget reductions. The changes apply only to the police department office reception, and will have no impact upon police officer service delivery to the community. Later this month the police department will be laying off a Records Clerk/Receptionist and a half time Evidence Custodian, who also provides receptionist support in the police department. Visitors to the police department

will have full access by way of an intercom and closed circuit television system rather than the face to face contact as present. For after hours visitors, the changes will be an enhancement to what is currently available. Currently access to city hall is limited only to the outer lobby during evenings and weekends. When the equipment is installed visitors will have full access to the police department lobby for business such as waiting for a police officer, dropping off or picking up accident reports, and other business. Chief Knight has stressed that the changes are being made in order to maintain the high level of service which Coos Bay residents have become accustomed to. The police department will remain a twenty-four hour a day, seven-day a week operation. City residents will continue to receive the high level of professional service that they currently enjoy from the Coos Bay Police Department. Chief Knight also pointed out that the use of intercom and video access is used in many other police departments across the country. The changes will be closely monitored and will be adjusted as needed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPLETES EMERGENCY VEHICLE TRAINING - Members of the police department participated in a refresher course in “Emergency Vehicle Operation” this past month. The training included classroom instruction and actual driving under simulation conditions including backing, discretionary lane changes, collision avoidance, and other skills. Instructors were Coos Bay Police Sergeant Robert Lounsbury, and Coos County Deputy Rod Roberts.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATION - A graduation ceremony was held April 3rd for the first class to graduate from the Citizen Police Academy co-sponsored by the North Bend and Coos Bay Police Departments, and the Coos County Sheriff’s Office. Coos Bay Chief Chuck Knight, North Bend Chief Steve Scibelli, Coos County Sheriff Andy Jackson expressed gratitude to the participants and looked forward to co-sponsoring the Citizen Police Academy again next year.

SAFE PLACE FOR NEWBORNS - Coos Bay Fire and Police Departments along with other agencies have been designated at “*A Safe Place for Newborns*” under a law passed by the Oregon Legislature during the regular session this year. The designation under SB199 provides an option for a distressed parent to give up a baby safely, legally, and confidentially. Additional information on this new law may be obtained by calling 1-800-723-SAFENET (1-800723-3638.)

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH - The City Council adopted a proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month at their meeting Tuesday evening. Bob Moore speaking on behalf of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) reported Coos County has the highest child abuse rate in Oregon, equaling 30 children per 1,000 population. The proclamation declares the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month and a number of events have been planned throughout the month to help raise awareness in our communities, and help prevent child abuse and neglect. Mr. Moore invited the City Council and citizens to bring a candle and attend the Light of Hope event on Saturday, April 13th at 7 p.m. on the boardwalk.

SENATOR WYDEN TO HOLD TOWN HALL MEETING - Senator Ron Wyden will hold a town hall meeting in the council chambers at Coos Bay city hall on Sunday, April 7th beginning at 1:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for citizens to ask questions, share opinions and concerns with the Senator.

COOS BAY SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETINGS - The School Board will hold a special meeting to hear public comments on the recommendations made by the Resource Advisory Committee regarding school configurations for next year. The first meeting was held Wednesday, April 3, 2002 at Sunset Middle School. The second meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 10, 2002 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at Millicoma Middle School. Interested citizens are welcome to attend. A special Board meeting has also been scheduled for **Monday, April 15, 2002 at 7 p.m.** at which time the Board plans to take action and give direction to Coos Bay School administrators in order to prepare the 2002-03 budget. This meeting will be held in the City Coos Bay Council Chambers, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay. For more information contact the superintendents office at 267-3104.

TREE CITY USA - Gary Schulz, Oregon State Forestry Department, presented Mayor Benetti with the Tree

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City USA flag at Tuesday night's council meeting in recognition of the city's tree program. Coos Bay has been a designated Tree City USA since 1994. Trisha Neal, representing the 2002 Bay Area Arbor Day Celebration Committee, reported events will be held throughout the Bay Area during the month of April in recognition of Arbor Day. Elementary students will read about trees all month, Story Tree will be held at the Coos Bay Library April 10th at 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. and April 11th at 12 - 1 p.m., tree identification treasure hunt will be held April 20th at Simpson Park, free Douglas Fir seedlings donated by Menasha will be given out at the North Bend Visitors Center, and dedication of the first Arbor Day Tree to honor U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Bryan Bertrand will be held April 26th; just to name a few of the activities. For more information call 541/888-2569.

We extend our appreciation to the members of the Arbor Day Celebration Committee for their dedication and work to put the Arbor Day Celebration together, to the many volunteers who will help throughout the event, and to citizens, organizations and businesses who donated time, materials, and funds to make the event possible.