



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

April 12, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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EMERGENCY 9-1-1 ROUTING WORKS - All 9-1-1 Public Safety Points (PSAP's) in Oregon are required to have a back up plan in the event of line failure. Earlier this week the North Coos County 9-1-1 Answering Point located at Coos Bay Police Department had their plan put to the test when one of Verizon's fiber lines was severed. A portion of calls in the "888" exchange were without 9-1-1 service. North Coos' 9-1-1 disaster plan calls for the 888 prefix calls to be automatically re-routed to Ocean Crest Retirement & Assisted Living Center in the event lines to the 9-1-1 PSAP become unavailable. Upon notification of the line failure a Telecommunicator from North Coos County 9-1-1 equipped with cellular phone and two-way radio responded to Ocean Crest to answer calls until service was restored.

STEP CONFERENCE BIG SUCCESS - From all accounts, the STEP conference held in Coos Bay last weekend was a huge success. Our thanks to Councilor Judy Weeks for attending the opening morning session of the conference on Saturday to give Coos Bay's welcome. Also, our appreciation to Tom Rumreich for his many hours of work to put the event together.

NEWMARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE - The City Council will discuss the Newmark Improvement Project at their regular meeting Tuesday, April 16th beginning at 7 p.m. Dyer Engineering has completed the preliminary plans for improvements to Newmark Avenue from Fir Street west to Ocean Blvd. Staff, with the assistance of Councilors McKeown and Spangler, have reviewed the costs and considered funding options. Final recommendations for construction of the project and funding options will be discussed by the City Council at the meeting. City Council meetings are held in the council chambers at city hall, 500 Central Avenue and are open to the public.

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.

EMPIRE WATERFRONT CONCEPT PLAN PRESENTED - Thursday night, 25 or so interested citizens listened to the conceptual plans for the Empire Waterfront properties developed by a consultant team hired by the Urban Renewal Agency. The team, consisting of an architect, landscape architect, civil engineer and market feasibility expert, spent three days in our community seeking input from stakeholders and interested citizens about the desires of the community for the site and then developed conceptual plans for how it could all work. The concepts include historical/cultural interpretive displays in a building on the lower Bay Club property, a tower providing grand views of the waterfront and north spit, and combining the current boat ramp with the adjacent Crowley Marine property in a redesign that opens the space for various recreational uses while maintaining boat parking and access to the boat ramp. The plans were just conceptual, and may change over the multi-year process of developing the properties, but the team provided ideas to get the local minds moving in how important a corner this could be to the entire Bay area. By slowing the traffic down as it approaches that corner, maybe with a traffic roundabout or other traffic slowing device, tourists and locals

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alike will be encouraged to notice the commercial district and consider stopping to spend dollars and increase the local economy. Interpretive displays can help direct tourists to all that the Bay area has to offer - both on the waterfront and inland. The consultants provided some general direction on how to phase the project in order to break it into manageable pieces. Some of the actions will be public, others might be private development because of the public investment increasing the attractiveness of the area for private development. Some actions may be public/private partnerships.

The presentation was taped for display on Channel 14, and the drawings are being scanned by the architects so that they can be presented on the city's website in a couple weeks. Stay tuned - you'll be hearing more and more about the great opportunity that is presented by these properties. As opportunities arise for community participation, considering being on a committee to help move forward a phase of the project - energy is all that is required!

BEAVER HILL SOLID WASTE UPDATE - Wednesday evening the Solid Waste Advisory Committee met again with significant progress being made. Four proposals for the "Waste To Energy" (WTE) power generation study under consideration have been received and reviewed by County Solid Waste Administrator Steve Allen, with local volunteer assistance from Will Wright and Robert O'Brian. The former is a Mechanical Engineer and the later an Electrical Engineer. The three agreed that a proposal from Seattle based Enviromech is the best choice. The cost for the study would \$28,941 ... and a partnership with URS (another firm). This was the lowest cost of the four proposals submitted. The study will provide needed technical answers to the question of whether or not it would be feasible to start power generation at the Beaver Hill Solid Waste Facility. June 28th is the target for completion if work on the project begins next week. The County Commissioners are expected to authorize the contract soon. Allen indicated that Enviromech is "skeptical" about feasibility of power generation but "did not think the (prospects) were frivolous." DEQ's Martin Abts commented that "everyone was wanting this information since the \$7 million bond was taken out." A draft for the study will be ready as early as May 31st and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee will be meeting again to review it on June 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the CB Public Library.

OFFICERS ATTEND K-9 TRAINING - Coos Bay Police K-9 Officers, Rob Scoville and Rodger Craddock recently attended a training and evaluation course sponsored by the Oregon Police Canine Association at Camp Rilea near Seaside, Oregon. The training was open to all law canine officers.

THE BASKETS ARE BACK - The hanging baskets along North Bayshore Drive have returned and look great. Country Garden Nursery delivered and installed the baskets Thursday and the Parks crew hooked up the drip water system that automatically waters the plants each day. Take a drive and check them out. The baskets should last through the summer and into the fall.

CANDIDATE FORUM FOR COMMISSIONER POSITIONS 2 AND 3 - The Coos County League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women will present a candidates forum on Tuesday, April 30th frm 7 to 9 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall. The format will include introductory remarks by each candidate, followed by written questions from the audience. The voting public is encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the candidates running for Coos County Commissioner during the primary election. Any questions about the forum may be director to Jennifer Groth at 267-6662 or Judith Van Duzer at 267-6508.

HOME SHOW 2002 - The 11th annual Home Show will be held April 26, 27 and 28 at the SWOYA Boys

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and Girls Club Center, 3333 Walnut, Coos Bay. Admission is \$2 per person and children under 12 are free. Free shuttle service from K-Mart will be offered by Jerry's Taxi. Enter to win Rainbow Playground System (valued at \$4,200), garden fountain display by Giftabel.com (valued at \$500), \$500 toward construction by Zyta Construction Company, and spray-on truck bed liner by Line-x of Oregon (valued at \$500). All proceeds from admission will go into the local education scholarship fund. The show opens Friday, April 26th at 5 p.m. Hours for Saturday are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

TRAILS EXPERT TO SPEAK AT THE LIBRARY - William L. Sullivan will present a slide show tour of the new trips and trails he discovered while researching his newly released book when he appears during "Author's Night at the Library" on Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m., at Coos Bay Library. The second edition of his book, "100 Hike/Travel Guide: Oregon Coast and Coast Range," has just been issued. He spices the show with tips on local geology, history, flowers, and wildlife along the way. The free event is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

COMPUTER CLASSES OFFERED AT THE LIBRARY - Coos Bay Library Reference Librarians are offering free classes at the library over the next two weeks. "Introduction to Library Services" will be given Friday April 12 at 9 a.m. and will focus on using the library's electronic resources for research. "Searching on the Worldwide Web" will be presented on April 18, 19, 25, and 26, also at 9 a.m. before the library opens to the public. It will give basic information on browsers, web pages, search engines, and searching strategies. Class size for these one-hour hands-on classes is limited and pre-registration is required.

LIBRARY ART EXHIBIT - The colorful paintings and collages of North Bend artist Emily Ashworth will be shown throughout the month of April at Coos Bay Public Library. She has donated special bookmarks containing some of her images that are for sale at \$2.00 each as a benefit for the Friends of the Library.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED TO WATER BOARD - At the regular monthly meeting of the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board April 4th, election of officers was held. The results of the election were: Greg Solarz as Chair, Mike Helfrich as Vice-Chair, Dick Vigue as Secretary, and Arnie Roblan as member.

CHANGE OF COMMAND / COAST GUARD AIR STATION - A change of command ceremony was held this week at the Coast Guard Air Station in North Bend at 9 a.m. Friday, April 19th. Capt. Darrell Folsom will be assuming command of the Coast Guard Group/Air Station, replacing Capt. John Miko. Local officials and the media have been invited to attend the ceremony.