



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

June 14, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE CITY OF COOS BAY - Coos Bay received a copy of a new National League of Cities booklet this week that includes reference to the City and a project completed locally a couple of years ago to inventory housing needs in the area. "Strengthening Partnerships for Housing Opportunities: Practical Approaches to Affordable Housing Challenges" is a hands-on guide for local officials, outlining key components of affordable housing development and strategies for making them work for local communities. Coos Bay's entry discusses how the local Affordable Housing Opportunity Partnership used the resources of the University of Oregon Community Planning Workshop to assist with our project and thereby leveraged the limited funds available and received a well documented housing needs assessment of the area. The local planning group included Coos Bay, North Bend, realtors, banks, local housing authorities, Community Action, the Chamber and many other related groups. Congratulations on a project well done.

BAY AREA RESCUE MISSION HELPS CITY - The Bay Area Rescue cleaned the tree planters along Newmark this week from the "Y" to Cammann Street in the Empire District. The planters had begun to grow rather large weeds and grass when the spring rains came. The Bay Area Rescue already does sidewalk and gutter cleaning and window washing in the central area of Newmark from Cammann Street to Empire Boulevard. Thanks again for the help to beautify the main highway to the beach.

INTERVIEWS HELD FOR COUNCIL VACANCY - Wednesday evening the City Council interviewed nine of the 11 applicants for consideration for appointment to fill the vacancy on the Council. Two more applicants will be interviewed prior to the regular council meeting on June 18th. The City Council will make the appointment at the June 18th meeting and the oath of office will be given at the July 2nd meeting. The City Council extends their appreciation to all the citizens who expressed interest in serving on the council.

A NEW FACE AT OMI - Karen Frasier has joined the OMI team as their new Administrative Specialist. The position became vacant when Kim Fassett, moved into the laboratory/testing position. OMI's practices are strongly focused on cross training and promoting from within. It is those practices that gave Kim the opportunity to transfer to the technical laboratory position. In a few months, watch for Karen to start receiving her introduction to the lab. All this cross training means that in any situation, our sewer system is covered by quality staff! Thanks, OMI!

PEDWAY PROJECT MOVES FORWARD - This past week several items on the Pedway project were completed including placing of the new light poles, benches and installing the trees and planters. The wall will be painted once the shotcrete and sealer have had time to dry completely. Drive by and take a look there is large improvement in what you have seen the past several months compared to what is there now.

TIS THE SEASON FOR EARLY MORNING ACTIVITIES - This time of year crews are out early in the morning to complete projects before the day's traffic begins. This week, the City Streets crew was out at 5:00 a.m. to complete a re-striping project on Johnson Blvd. between Bayshore and South Front Street. The project used the wide street to provide a safety lane for the left turn into the new Oregon Federal Credit Union parking lot, while maintaining a lane that turns right into Fred Meyers AND a lane to go straight. All work on the re-striping was complete by 9:15 a.m.

The OMI crew has also been out working early - they have been coming to work at 4:00 A.M. to clean some of the downtown sanitary sewer lines. The decreased traffic in the early-morning hours enables the crew to perform the tasks in less time, reduces risk to staff and to the public, and prevents traffic snarls that would

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otherwise exist.

The flexibility exhibited by these crews is how they show their dedication to serving the Coos Bay public.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE HELPS THE COLLECTION SYSTEM - Laurel hedges, and our beautiful trees look great above ground, but underground, in our wastewater collection system, they mean considerable damage. Tree and shrub roots seek out failures in the collection system as a source of food. These roots, once inside the pipes, grow at an incredible rate. The roots can eventually cause a blockage of the pipes, which in turn can cause sewer back-ups. OMI staff has been applying a root retardent to several sanitary sewer lines in the last few months using an applicator purchased with funds budgeted in the 2001-02 fiscal year. OMI reports that TV analysis indicates this chemical treatment appears to be highly successful. The chemical not only kills the root, but allows removal of the root mass using conventional methods.

CITY STREET CREW INVESTIGATES SINKING STREET - The City's Street crew this past week has been investigating an area on Wasson at Taylor that has been sinking over the past several years. The crew dug up the street to see what was causing the problem and discovered that section of street had pieces of an old log that had rotted creating pockets and allowing the street to slowly settle over time. The crew found the woody material in the 8 - 10 foot range. The City has rocked the area at this time and will be paving it in the near future, but want the area to sit and make sure that compaction is at an optimum.

JULY 4TH IN MINGUS PARK - The annual 4th of July celebration in the park [held on the 4th] will begin with the Children's Fun Run at 10 a.m. in Mingus Park with the Mayor's Firecracker Run at 10:30 a.m. Activities, vendors, and entertainment begin at 11 a.m. and go through 4 p.m. There will be many activities for children and entertainment at the stage for all ages. Mark your calendar and plan to have a great day! Don't forget about the fireworks – the Coos Bay Fire Department will be providing fireworks over the bay at dusk.

SKATEBOARDING COMPETITION TO BE HELD - The City of Myrtle Point will be holding their first annual "Bull of the Bowl" skateboard competition [for all ages] on Saturday, June 22nd at the Myrtle Point Skateboard Park located at 2nd and Ash Streets. Registration is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. with competition beginning at 10 a.m. The cost of registration is \$10. Rules for participants: Minors must have a parent or guardian present, registrations must be notarized [a notary will be present], all participants will wear judge-approved safety helmets and pads, and any participant suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be disqualified. For more information contact Myrtle Point City Manager's Office at 572-2626.

RELAY FOR LIFE SPAGHETTI DINNER A SUCCESS!! - Last evening, the City of Coos Bay/Crow Clay Relay for Life Team held their second annual spaghetti dinner fund raiser in downtown Coos Bay. The event was well attended, an estimated 250+ dinners were served, and it was deemed by all to be a great success. Members of the Coos Bay Fire Department provided entertainment – and support for fellow Firefighter Bruce Ramberg – by shaving their heads. Bruce, who will celebrate his 30th anniversary with the CB Fire Department on July 1st, is a cancer survivor and will be participating in the Relay for Life event. For the daring, Steve Clay provided rides on his Harley motorcycle for \$5. There's still time to get out and support your favorite Relay for Live Team – the event will be held the weekend of June 22nd.

SWOCC GRADUATION - Congratulations to all the students graduating from Southwestern Oregon Community College this evening. We wish you the best with your future endeavors.