



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 27, 2002

City of Coos Bay

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THE CITY COUNCIL CALLS FOR ELECTION TO SAVE PUBLIC SAFETY JOBS – Following a brief hearing attended by only a handful of citizens and with only two appearing in person to offer advice, last night the Coos Bay City Council took decisive action to place a five-year public safety special operating levy on the ballot for a special emergency election that will be held December 3, 2002. The levy asks the voters to decide whether to enact a five-year public safety levy that calls for up to \$1.03 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Based on assessment records, the average house value in Coos Bay is approximately \$84,000. If approved, the average house would pay about \$86.47 more for the services the levy would support ... which are exclusively public safety services. If the levy fails, then the likely result would be the loss of five police officers, one police clerk and three firefighters.

Next Tuesday night City Manager Bill Grile will present a slide presentation with considerable detail about the proposed reduction in personnel that will affect every department except the Library, which is supported by a countywide levy. Service cuts and layoffs are under consideration because, as one city council candidate put it last night, "The city is finally at the crossroads of Ballot Measures 5 and 47," the Bill Sizemore sponsored property tax measures enacted by Oregon voters over the past decade.

CITY WIDE BRUSH PICKUP – It's time again to clean up our yards! If you have yard debris that you would like picked up, call your garbage provider **BEFORE September 30th** and get on the list for pickup. There are a few limitations, so make sure you ask for the details. Coos Bay's solid waste management franchise is with Les' Sanitary Service and Coos Bay Sanitary Service, and as part of the franchise agreement, both services provide a city wide brush pickup program twice a year – once in the spring and once in the fall. Residents are limited to a five-yard maximum with brush cut into lengths of not more than five feet, and grass clippings or other similar material are not accepted. A fee schedule for amounts in excess of five yards is available by contacting your garbage service provider. **Les' Sanitary Service at 267-2848 or Coos Bay Sanitary Service at 267-6675.**

FINAL CONCERT A SUCCESS - The final concert presented by Music on the Bay (MOB) was held on Wednesday with a huge turnout. The energizing music of Pink Martini based out of Portland, Oregon gave a great performance. The group has a variety of music they play using string, percussion and brass instruments. Staff spoke with the manager of the group and he indicated that the group was extremely pleased with the reception and the enthusiasm from audience during the concert. Pink Martini stated they would be happy to return anytime. An estimated 1,500 people turned for the concert. We look forward to next years music in the park series as presented by MOB. Contact Larry McCabe at 267-4110, if have questions or want to help in anyway. The concerts during this month have been wonderful and we are very appreciative of the work and effort of the members of Music on the Bay – thank you so much!

FUN FESTIVAL A BIG SUCCESS – Our thanks to the Fun Festival committee and volunteers for the many hours of work required to organize the festival. Also a big thank you to city employees for their help with street barricades, tables, trash receptacles, and the dozens of other tasks they perform. Councilor Cindi Miller, who serves as Chair of the Fun Festival Committee, said "the festival wouldn't be possible without city employees helping before, during and after the event".

FUN FESTIVAL PARADE -- At last weekend's Fun Festival parade Aerial 8151 of the Coos Bay Fire Department took first place honors. Members of the department had decorated the truck in red, white, and blue to go with this year's parade theme. Congratulations to all who worked on the truck.

WELCOME CADETS -- This past week the fire department welcomed the 2002-03 group of firefighter cadets. The cadets attend classes at Southwestern Community College and are housed at the Coos Bay Fire Department. In return for lodging at the fire stations the cadets work 7-24 hour shifts a month for the department and receive on the job training and experience.

PROBLEM SOLVING IN THE COMMUNITY – Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs, Fire Chief Stan Gibson and Police Chief Chuck Knight met Monday night with neighbors from the 16th and Teakwood neighborhood to discuss their concerns about traffic through their neighborhood. In the last two weeks, the city has had its speed trailer in the neighborhood reminding travelers that there is indeed a speed limit. The gravel roads are frequently used by non-

neighborhood folks, evidently as a shortcut to 14th St. and to avoid the intersection at Thompson and Coos Bay Blvd. While the official speed limit in the neighborhood is 25 MPH, anything over 15 MPH has an extremely detrimental impact to the neighborhood because of the narrow, gravel roads. Children and adults alike have been forced off the road because of drivers who are not paying attention to the conditions. City staff will continue to work with the neighborhood to try to solve their problem. Initially, some additional signage to remind drivers of the neighborhood conditions will be used, and then staff and the neighborhood will evaluate the impact and consider other alternatives.

NEW BROCHURE IN USE – Community Services has created a new brochure that will be given to boaters who arrive at the city docks downtown. The brochure lets boaters know what services and amenities are available in downtown Coos Bay. Hopefully, the boaters will use the brochures, visit our downtown and then take the brochure with them to share with others! Bandon Dunes has agreed to have our brochure available for their boating customers, and the Port of Coos Bay has agreed to keep some brochures in their office in Charleston so folks know what is available in downtown Coos Bay. The brochure was created for a very small amount of money, only for the cost of a new small map to use, by using an interested student intern from Southwestern Oregon Community College. The brochure is printed as needed in Community Services so we will be able to make changes quickly as our downtown grows and adds amenities.

THANK YOU, PORT OF COOS BAY – Staff from the Charleston Marina of the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay spent time this week with Community Services staff to review maintenance of our downtown docks. Our staff are not experienced in dock maintenance and staff have been concerned that we may not be completing needed maintenance as necessary to get the most life out of our docks. The specialists from our local Port made recommendations on items we should be completing annually, and we discussed ideas for some additional items that are needed now. We'll also be looking to continue replacing the tall electrical stands that have proven to be a vandalism draw. We really appreciate the port staff taking the time to share their knowledge with us. Many of their recommendations will be relatively easy to implement, and others will need to be budgeted for. All in all, a couple of hours spent this week will extend the life of our wonderful resource!

WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY – Huffman-Wright, of Roseburg, is well into the reconstruction of the City's Wastewater Pump Station No. 7. Located at 421 N. Morrison Street, this station serves approximately 2800 residents. Originally constructed in 1956 for the City of Empire, it was rebuilt in 1974, and modified in 1982, 1986, and 1990. It has been at capacity for some time and cannot keep up with flows during peak weather events. The new design implements the latest technology and will accommodate the area's growth for many years to come. Although there will be occasional road closures during various stages of construction, the final product will be well worth the temporary inconveniences.

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CITY OF COOS BAY RECOGNIZES BRAD CARLSON WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE – Maintenance Foreman Brad Carlson celebrates 25 years of public service this month with the City of Coos Bay. Brad Carlson was one of the employees that came on board when the City of Eastside became part of the City of Coos Bay. Brad works in the Streets Division of the Dept. of Community Services and has amassed a vast amount of knowledge regarding our street infrastructure. Congratulations Brad!

FAREWELL OFFICER WOLGAMOTT – Coos Bay Police Officer Ryan Wolgamott will be leaving the police department at the end of the month in order to take a similar position with the Eugene Police Department. Officer Wolgamott has been with Coos Bay Police since January of this year. Chief Knight expressed regret at the loss of Officer Wolgamott, stating he is a man of high integrity and will certainly be missed. Officer Wolgamott is married and has one child.