



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

November 1, 2002

City of Coos Bay

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TRICK OR TREAT!! – City Hall received several unusual visitors Thursday afternoon..... *trick or treat!!* rang through the halls as munchkins, goblins, witches and assorted characters trick or treated city staff. Employees in the front offices wore costumes and provided treats for Bay Area children on Halloween as part of the Downtown Association's "Safe Trick-or-Treating" program. The Fire Department also participated again this year in the Downtown Association's program and handed out treats from staffed fire trucks parked in neighborhoods around the City. This activity is another way fire personnel are involved in the community that they proudly serve.

NEW VERIZON JUNCTION BOX – A new Verizon Northwest, Inc. cross connect cabinet is being installed on Central Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets, next to the Hall Building. Verizon obtained an easement from the City to place the cabinet on City property. The new cabinet is part of a \$100,000 upgrading of the telecommunications technology in the downtown core area. This will improve the telecommunication services downtown allowing for additional options when seeking tenants to fill vacant office and retail space.

SIDEWALK PROJECT MOVES FORWARD – The downtown sidewalk project is almost complete. All of the sidewalk and trees to be removed have been removed. The remainder of the concrete being poured will be completed this week. The trees will be replaced near the end of the project to maximize appropriate weather conditions. The new trees will be 12 - 15 feet tall and about 1 ½" in diameter. The older big trees presented a risk by uplifting the sidewalks and creating a potential hazard to pedestrians. In some instances, the roots have been trimmed enough to prevent the tree from being removed. Any questions about the project can be directed to the Department of Community Services at 269-8918.

COUNCIL PERFORMS ANNUAL REVIEW OF CITY MANAGER'S PERFORMANCE – The City Council held their annual evaluation of City Manager Bill Grile in an executive session meeting held October 29, 2002 at city hall. The review and evaluation was based on standards and criteria previously adopted by the City Council. The consensus of the governing body's review of Mr. Grile's performance is that he has excellent skills in many areas that are important for municipal management. His work ethic and dedication are incredible and unquestioned. Using those skills to create a more flexible, open and collaborative style of management would make Bill a manager without equal. "The City Council is pleased to have Bill as Coos Bay's city manager," said Mayor Benetti, "and we look forward to continuing our good working relationship with him. Bill's experience and knowledge will be very helpful to the City Council and staff in meeting the challenges facing our community."

In keeping with the City Council's acceptance of a recommendation from non-represented employees in July to defer this year's budgeted salary increases, a salary adjustment will not be made to the city manager's salary at this time. Bill Grile has served as city manager of Coos Bay since his appointment in October 1995. He is a long-time resident of Coos Bay and prior to his appointment, served 16 years as Coos County's planning director and three years as Coos Bay's city planner. Mr. Grile also served on the Coos Bay City Council from 1986 through 1994.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS A NEW OFFICER – The Coos Bay Fire Department has promoted one of their volunteers to the position of volunteer Lieutenant. City Council member Jon Eck had held the position, but due to work-load, resigned the position as of September 1st. The Fire Department conducted a promotional exam and interview process last Thursday. Brett Weidemiller, a volunteer firefighter with Coos Bay since 1995, has been selected as the new volunteer Lieutenant. Responsibilities of this position include mentoring new firefighters, teaching and organizing volunteer training activities, and supervising small work groups (divisions) in emergency operations.

POLICE SERGEANTS ATTEND SUPERVISION COURSE – Coos Bay Police Sergeants David Main and

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Gary McCullough are currently attending the two week Supervision Course at the Oregon Police Academy in Monmouth. The training focuses on supervision as well as liability issues in law enforcement and is provided at no cost to the Police Department.

RED RIBBON WEEK – This week Coos Bay is celebrating "Red Ribbon Week." Each year Red Ribbon Week is celebrated in October as a commitment to a healthy anti-drug-free lifestyle. Red Ribbon Week began as the result of a murder in 1985 in which a Federal Drug Enforcement agent was killed in the line of duty while investigating illegal drug trafficking. Coos Bay joins the rest of Coos County in taking a stand for clean and healthy drug-free living.

CONGRATULATIONS TERRIE GALE AND SUSANNE BAKER! -- Let's pause for a moment and tip our hats to these two outstanding Coos Bay employees! Coos Bay Police Department officer Terrie Gale celebrates here twentieth anniversary with the City on November 9th, and Community Services Department office administrator Susanne Baker celebrates her fifteenth this coming Tuesday. "Three cheers to both and a sharp salute," said city manager Bill Grile this week. "This represents 35 years of combined dedication by two of our finest," he added. Congratulations Terrie and Susanne. We appreciate you both!!

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER DOES POWERFUL WORK -- And that powerful work is done from the heart of downtown Coos Bay in the Old Hub Building. At an open house this week, Center Director Janet Evans took the time to explain her program to City Manager Bill Grile when he joined others in the community dropping in for a first hand look at the Center's offices. In short, the Center's mission is to provide services to kids and families ravaged by the trauma of child abuse. The program aids in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases by working with the medical community and local law enforcement.

Coos Bay Police Captain Eura Washburn praised the Center, offering comments from her office yesterday afternoon: "(The Center is) a safe, friendly environment that's pleasant for children to visit who've been traumatized by child abuse. We use it extensively because we do have very high incidences of cases here in Coos Bay. We probably use it twice a week for interviews and consultations with medical professionals. These folks are very professional and exemplify true partnerships between the business community, social services, law enforcement and the medical profession for the safety betterment and welfare of our children."

For more information about the Center, contact Janet Evans 541.266.8806 or email her at jevans@co.coos.or.us.

POLICE BUSY HALLOWEEN NIGHT – The dispatch center in Coos Bay received eighty-two calls for service during the evening and early morning hours of October 31, 2002 and November 1, 2002. Activity reported to the police included several calls of houses being egged, criminal mischief, thefts, multiple calls of juveniles loitering in various neighborhoods, a minor auto-bicycle accident, loud parties, and two burglaries.