

The Friday Update

January 10, 2003

CHOSHI GARDENS VOLUNTEERS – Again this year the Choshi Garden volunteers have provided the City with almost 700 hours of service to keep and maintain the gardens. The group headed up by Bev Meyers has work parties several times a month to work in and around the gardens. With the decrease in the Parks Division personnel and operating budget, the volunteers have provided a much needed boost to keep this part of Mingus Park a beautiful area for all to enjoy. Thanks again to all the volunteers who have helped maintain the garden over the years.

MARSHFIELD PARKING DISTRICT APPROVED – Permit applications went out to area residents in December for the new Marshfield Parking District. Over two-thirds of the residents have returned their applications and requested the free permits. Area residents will have the ability to park on area streets, with the permit, but students will need to park on campus or further away. If you have questions about the program, please contact Community Services at 269-8918.

THANK YOU VERENA MATTHEWS – The City Council expressed their gratitude and bade their farewells to Verena Matthews at the Council meeting on Tuesday. Verena has served on the Planning Commission for 12 years and has decided to take some time off to pursue other endeavors. We thank Verena for her years of service to the city. We will miss her experience and willingness to participate.

Prior to the meeting, the Council interviewed four applicants for the Planning Commission. In every case, the applicant was well qualified for service. The Council re-appointed Bruce Harlan and appointed Chris Hood to fill vacancies for the next four years. Welcome, Bruce and Chris! We look forward to working with you.

SEWER RATE INCREASE APPROVED – At its meeting on Tuesday night, the City Council approved an increase to the sewer rate residences and businesses pay within the City of Coos Bay. The increase will begin appearing on bills in February. The rate increase is necessary to cover shortfalls in operations and maintenance, begin to pay for past due repairs and prepare for major overhauls and required upgrades to our plants and pump stations. The Council had foregone increases many times over the last few years, but agreed that the time had come to increase rates sufficiently to begin to deal with an abundance of system needs. Please contact Community Services at 269-8918 if you have questions.

BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWALS – It is time once again to renew your business license; the deadline for renewal is January 31st. After January 31st the fee will increase due to the 10% penalty per month. Drop by or mail your renewal for today. If you have any questions or need a new form, call us at 269-8918.

LIBRARY TO CLOSE FOR COMPUTER CHANGES – Coos Bay and other Coos County public libraries will be closed all day on Wednesday, January 15th, to complete a migration to new Internet access. The changes are necessitated by the fact that the library system's Internet provider, Coosnet (Comp-U-Talk), is switching bandwidth providers. This involves re-addressing routers and servers at both Coosnet and at all the libraries, and adaptations in the Coastline software. The maneuver involves technical work and coordination by Comp-U-Talk, our software provider, and our library forces. If all goes perfectly, the changes will take just a few hours, but since there is a certain unpredictability, and there will be no Coastline while the work goes on, libraries plan to close all day.

AUTHOR'S NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY – Latest in the library's Author's Night series will be Dr. David Reynolds, discussing his book A Handbook for Constructive Living on Thursday, January 16th, 7:00 pm. Dr. Reynolds' book is a guide for taking control of your life and imbuing it with greater meaning and productivity. Using anecdotes and practical exercises, he brings insight to the experienced learner and novice alike. The free program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

TAX FORMS ARE HERE – The library is receiving supplies of tax forms for the 2002 tax year now. Oregon

forms, and basic federal forms have been received, but no federal instruction booklets have arrived, nor notebooks of reproducible forms. Library staff can download forms from other states from the Internet for people. We ask the public's patience on waiting for the other paper materials to arrive.

ELECTION – The Coos Bay Public Library will again be a drop site for ballots for the upcoming election on statewide Ballot Measure 28. Ballots will be mailed mid-week and must be received by the Elections Office by January 28th.