



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

January 8, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY	500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420	(541) 269-8912
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MAYOR TO ATTEND LEGISLATURE SESSION – Mayor Joanne Verger will be attending the opening session of the legislature on Monday, January 11th as President of the League of Oregon Cities. Issues regarding cities are infrastructure funding, transportation, PERS issues, and youth at risk.

CITY APPROVES PORT OF COOS BAY EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Last night the City Council completed its review of the comprehensive plan amendment and zoning ordinance changes sought by the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay to allow development of its Eastside property known as “the old Eastside Airport.” This is the land across the channel from the Coos Bay Boardwalk, and just to the north of the new Eastside Boat Ramp. More information about the Port’s plans are available at www.coosbay.org/comm_ser/eptrplan.html.

At the conclusion of last night’s two hour meeting, a universal round of “kudos” were extended to new Coos Bay Planning Administrator Laura Barron for the truly outstanding job she did pulling the Port’s application material together into an approvable package. Port general manager Allan Rumbaugh thanked Ms. Barron for the great job she did, with echoing praise from Mayor Verger, city councilors, and former Coos County planning director and now Coos Bay city manager Bill Grile. “This is one of the most complicated applications I have ever seen,” he said. “We are grateful to have Laura as part of our team!”

MINGUS PARK BATH HOUSE PLANS APPROVED – Tuesday night the City Council reviewed plans for the new swimming pool bath house presented by architect Rob Porter. The Council enthusiastically approved the plans, and a call for bids is expected by the end of the month. Actual construction dates are still under consideration. The goal is to avoid disrupting use of the new pool, yet completing the project during a time of the year when costs will be lowest.

CITY COUNCIL MOVES FORWARD WITH ‘PEG-TV’ – Continuing with its strong support of public access television, Tuesday night the City Council approved a request by city manager Bill Grile and authorized committing another \$1000 to the “interim” operation of the “government access” programming being broadcast on Channel 14. This will allow Channel 14 to keep on the air while the City of North Bend continues to decide whether or not it wishes to partner with Coos Bay for a permanent solution that will restore the full range of public TV programming that had existed in the Bay Area prior to BAPA-TV running out of money last year. Growing somewhat impatient at the time taken to respond to the Coos Bay proposal forwarded to North Bend last October, Tuesday night the City Council indicated that it would like to have an answer from North Bend – one way or the other – by the end of the month. If North Bend decides not to partner with Coos Bay, then Coos Bay will proceed with a permanent solution on its own. The City of Coos Bay is strongly committed to public access television.

YERGEN AND MEYER PRAISE CITY FOR ANOTHER FINE AUDIT – Tuesday night the City Council and staff received high marks from it’s auditing firm, Yergen and Meyer LLP for still another fine audit report. In remarks to the Council, Y&M partner Jessie Bridgham noted the challenges overcome by the

City during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 1998, a period when the city manager was without a permanent finance director on staff. Congratulations and “thanks” are in order to new Coos Bay Finance Director Janell K. Howard, CPA, for her great efforts assisting with the preparation of the audit report, which is available for inspection at City Hall for those interested in seeing it.

SHORE ACRES HOLIDAY LIGHTS – Hooray, congratulations and a hearty “thanks” to event organizers David and Shirley Bridgham. Here’s a preliminary report on this year’s event, in their own words: “Despite thunderstorms, wind storms, nearly nine inches of rain, and snow and freezing temperatures, more than 43,000 people visited the 12th annual Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres. They consumed 36,000 cookies and 1200 gallons of hot cider and punch. Not to mention gallons of coffee. One of our volunteers, Al Aslakson in Reedsport, is still pouring over the guest books for the final numbers of cities, counties, states, countries, and continents. We will send you the final statistics as soon as we have them. This year’s numbers are down from last year’s 65,000 (near perfect weather in '97), but satisfaction was high, donations generous, and the comments in the guest books are truly wonderful. All of us who work on this ‘community tradition’ feel very appreciated and motivated to make it even better. As you know, it takes more than 1,000 volunteers along with dedicated state park staff to make it happen. It also takes businesses and individuals helping with the purchase of new lights (100,000 each year), and donations of and discounts on all the products and services we use.

“The B&B tickets sold out by mid-December and Ann Daubenspeck from Westlake (near Florence) won with #53 - the second ticket she purchased. “Take-down has been happening all week with a big push to finish this coming weekend, January 9-10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Everyone is welcome to come out and help! We have some exciting plans for '99 – more about that later.” Again, “thanks” to the Bridghams and to all the service groups and volunteers who step up to the plate each year to make this great event happen.

“The sense of belonging to something bigger than you are ... and that's community. This is what public service is all about.” – David Bridgham in remarks to the Coos Bay - North Bend Rotary Club, January 5, 1999.

COUNCILOR SPANGLER APPOINTED TO THE TREE BOARD – Tuesday night Councilor Don Spangler was appointed to the City’s Tree Board, commenting: “I never met a tree I didn’t like.”

FIREFIGHTER NEWS AVAILABLE ON-LINE – Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighter Jon Eck was kind enough a couple weeks ago to let us know that www.firehouse.com is now available on line. Described as “the premier emergency services website,” a visit to it provides interactive emergency service news and information. The site is designed to be both an extension and an enhancement to the Firehouse Magazine publication. Are you interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter or learning more about careers and training in the field of fire sciences? The site may peak your interest. Thanks for the lead, Jon!

COOS BAY PARKING COMMITTEE TO MEET NEXT WEEK – Coos Bay’s newly reconstituted Parking Committee will meet for the first time on Thursday, January 14th at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, and will begin to consider proposing minor changes to the Downtown Parking Plan approved last fall by the City Council. The committee is empowered to make recommendations to the City Council, which alone has the authority to approve changes. Mayor Verger recently commented: “No City policy is ever so solidly set in concrete that it can’t be changed where improvements are possible.” Amen.

URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY EXPRESSES INTEREST IN BONDING – Tuesday evening the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency approved a request from city manager Bill Grile to consider issuing urban renewal bonds so that identified infrastructure and community improvement projects can proceed at a more rapid rate. Issuance of bonds would not increase property taxes since existing available urban renewal property taxes would be used to finance these loans. Without raising taxes, the Agency could borrow \$3.0 -

3.5 million dollars, which would be used for a range of identified needs. Building a new fire station in Empire is emerging as a high priority, and is one of the City's recently adopted goals.

WELCOME NEW DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS – Welcome new Design Review Board members: Robert MacFarlane, Norma Frost and Cliff Plummer. The board advises the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency, which made the three appointments Tuesday evening.

IT'S COMING ... – What's coming? The public unveiling of the City of Coos Bay's new rebuilt WEB page. We're a couple of months away from the big day, but WEB surfers and repeat visitors will like the fresh new look, new features, and rapid location of key information that will be available on the new page. Stay tuned. Err ... stay on line!

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP – The Fire Department will once again be picking up Christmas trees within the Coos Bay city limits. Trees will be picked up on January 9th & 16th. The department will be accepting canned food donations as well as leaving behind envelopes for donations. Trees may also be dropped off at Fire Station No. 2 at 189 South Wall. If you would like your tree picked up please call the fire department at 269-1191 to leave your address.

OSSOM CLUB FORMED AT SUNSET MIDDLE SCHOOL — Coos Bay Police Officer Robert Scoville is the advisor for the newly formed OSSOM club at Sunset Middle School in Coos Bay. Officer Scoville teaches the D.A.R.E. curriculum at Madison and Charleston Elementary Schools in addition to his School Resource Officer duties at Sunset Middle School.

CAPTAIN BUSHMAKER AWARDED MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE — Captain Jack Bushmaker has been awarded the Management Certificate by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. The certificate is issued based upon years of service, college education, and management training which has been approved by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. Congratulations Captain Bushmaker!

SISTER CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE – Eight Coos Bay students, along with chaperones Scott Peters and Rex Miller, will be participating in the 50th Pininsula Run on January 9th and 10th in Choshi, Japan. Funds for the trip were raised by the sale of wreaths during the holidays. Rex Miller, who also serves on the City's Tree Board, promised pictures and a report when the group returns and an article for the next issue of the City News.

ART MUSEUM EXHIBIT PLANNED – The Coos Art Museum will display Die Kunst des Geistes The Art is of the Spirit: Teen Spirit! beginning January 22nd with an opening night public reception 5:30 - 7 p.m. The exhibit will continue through February 27, 1999. Students from South Coast school districts will compete in the annual Vision '99 exhibit, co-sponsored by Southwestern Community College Foundation and the Coos Art Museum. Scholarships and cash awards are part of the competition.

Fifty-eight works of art by German youths, ages 10-18, will depict "historic preservation" as seen through the eyes of the student artists. Students come from the towns and cities of Bad Windsheim, Bayreuth, Gunzenhausen, Radebeul, Roth and Rothenburg o.T.

Visit the museum's rental/sales gallery and gift shop for latest original art, including paintings, cards, pottery, glass, and silk scarves. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 1-4 p.m. The museum is closed Sunday and Monday and all major holidays.

WORLD WAR II – A COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE – Southwestern Oregon Community College has scheduled an oral history class presented by local participants that will help recreate the human drama and

add understanding to the impacts of World War II. The class will be presented by Rick Evans Thursdays 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Eden Hall, Room 1 from January 7th through March 11th. There is no charge for the class. Please call the Office of Outreach and Professional Development at 888-7415 to reserve your space.

THE STATE OF COOS COUNTY – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce January forum will be held on Wednesday, January 20th at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn. The program is entitled The State of Coos County through a new commissioner's eyes and will feature Commissioner Nikki Whitty as the guest speaker. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the Chamber office 269-0215.