



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

June 18, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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MINGUS PARK POOL BATHHOUSE – The construction phase of the new pool building will officially begin on June 21st with an on-site **Ground breaking Ceremony** scheduled for 10:00 am. The major players for this project are Rob Porter from Rich Turi Architecture & Planning and Larry Burroughs from D.L.B. Construction, Inc. as the general contractor. This long awaited addition to the community is the result of voter support and the cooperation between the Pool Management Assoc. and the City of Coos Bay.

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN MINGUS – The July 4th family celebration will be held in Mingus Park on Saturday, July 3rd. Please note the date of the celebration is **Saturday, July 3rd**.

The event begins with a Kids Run at 9:30 a.m. and the Mayor's Firecracker run at 10 a.m. The South Coast Runners Club organizes the run; for more information and registration call Pete Dawson at 267-6329. The celebration begins at 11 a.m. with the presentation of the flag and pledge of allegiance by the Boy Scouts, followed by welcoming remarks from Mayor Verger and presentation of the Mayor's Essay Contest winners. The Coos Bay Fire Department will provide the children's fishing derby, various activities for children will be around the lake, free popcorn, cotton candy and flags for all, a variety of food booths will be located along the 10th Street entrance to the park, and entertainment on the stage from 11:15 until 5 p.m. Music will feature Tumbleweed, Little Ole Opry, Mike Stewart and Opic 295, and the Frank Turner Jazz Quintet. The City's fireworks will be on Sunday, July 4th over the bay, and will be arranged by the Fire Department. The Mill Casino will have their fireworks on Saturday, July 3rd. There will be fun and entertainment for the whole family – come on out and have a great time!

A REMINDER FOR STUDENTS – The deadline for entering the Mayor's 4th of July Essay Contest "What the 4th of July Means to Me" is June 21st at 5 p.m. Call the city manager's office at 269-8912 for more information.

HM ENDEAVOUR TO VISIT COOS BAY JULY 9, 1999 – The HM Endeavour is a replica of Captain James Cook's 18th century ship of discovery. The vessel will visit Coos Bay from July 9th to July 19th as part of its west coast visit to the United States. The Endeavour is a museum-quality reconstruction of the ship in which Captain Cook explored the south Pacific as part of a scientific expedition. In addition to taking astronomical sightings and collecting samples of flora and fauna, the crew was charged by England with finding a new site for a penal colony to incarcerate American revolutionaries and other criminals their choice was Botnay Bay in Western Australia. The Endeavour's explorations were major feats of seamanship, navigation, and geography.

The ship will be open to tours daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 10 - 18. Additional information may be obtained by calling 541-269-8921. Teachers, educators, and youth groups are welcome to book tours during Endeavour's visit. Any person who would like to volunteer or help sponsor the visit may also call the Coos Bay / North Bend Promotions and Convention Bureau at 541-269-8921.

MARITIME ART EXHIBIT – The 6th annual maritime art exhibit will be held at the Coos Art Museum July 9th through September 11th. A juried exhibition of maritime art created by members of the prestigious American Society of Marine Artists (ASTHMA) featuring the work of this year's guest artist, Louis Stephen Gadal from Los Angeles. Mr. Gadal is a two-time winner ('92 & '96) of the Maritime Art Award for the "Arts for the Park" and also Region I Silver Medal winner for that same prestigious competition.

A special commemorative exhibit of the wreck of the New Carissa will be part of the exhibit. Opening Reception will be held July 9th from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The public is invited to the reception to meet some of the participating artists and cast their vote for the “People’s Choice Award”. A gourmet dinner will follow the reception at the Red Lion Inn featuring awards, a presentation by the guest artist, Louis Stephen Gadal, and lots of great good. The cost is \$40 per person and reservations may be made by calling the Coos Art Museum at 267-3901. Reservations must be made by the end of Wednesday, July 7th.

Major funding for the maritime art exhibit is provided by Security Bank. Additional support received from Sause Brothers Ocean Towing.

CB-NB CITY COUNCILS EXCHANGE VIEWS AND IDEAS – It was a landmark event, of sorts. True, the Coos Bay and North Bend City Councils have met in joint session several times before over the past couple decades, but a joint session had never been held to brainstorm and exchange views about a broad range of topics – not until last night, that is. The meeting was constructive and positive. Mayor Golder’s opening remarks recognized the long tradition of cooperation between the two cities, concluding with the comment: “If it isn’t broke, don’t fix it.” Mayor Verger likewise recognized the cooperation between the two cities, concluding with the suggestion that there is room to work on building trust.

Topics discussed included a coordinated two-city community clean-up program, city involvement in youth activities, the notion of a public ambulance service for the Bay Area, 9-1-1 emergency telephone service delivery and PEG (public) TV. The importance of working together to bring “dark fiber” and improved telecommunications to the area was raised by NB Councilor Dale Bishop. Last Tuesday evening the Coos Bay City Council directed staff to proceed with details to participate in a new three-county intergovernmental entity that is being formed to advance this objective. The possibility of additional joint council meetings and intercity committees to deal with special issues is not out of the question. Both notions were discussed last night.

A special thanks is in order to Crystal Shoji, who facilitated the meeting, and to Bay Area Hospital CEO Dale Jessup for allowing use of hospital conference rooms for the session. The meeting will air on the government access channel 14 at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Friday, June 18th, at noon on Saturday, and at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY HOSTS SOUTH COAST GATHERING – A large gathering of public officials, business and community leaders from around the south coast met for dinner Wednesday evening at Pony Village, for an informational briefing on the natural gas pipeline project. NW Natural Gas Company hosted the meeting, which featured Dick Reiten, NW Natural’s President and CEO, Sen. Veral Tarno and Rep. Ken Messerle. The meeting was pulled together by FONSI and was presided over by Doug Fletcher.

It’s looking like the Oregon legislature is going to support the \$20 million dollars in funds that would be matched against a like amount from passage of a countywide bond measure that would be needed to bring natural gas to Coos County, in a project that would build a “lateral” from Interstate 5. The election would take place in the fall, with a “double-majority” of favorable votes required to authorize the sale.

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION OFFERS DARK FIBER TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS – BPA’s Bob Barnes briefed South Coast officials this week about his agency’s plans and projects being undertaken to bring “dark fiber” to the region. “Dark fiber,” which might be likened to ultra-thin glass-like wire, is the media used to rapidly exchange voice and data between remote points. Thanks to CCD’s Judy Weeks for arranging the meeting, and to Coos County Commissioner Nikki Whitty for her dedication and commitment to the ongoing efforts to form a new intergovernmental entity among local governments, “the South Coast Fiber Consortium,” in order to take advantage of immediate opportunities to acquire dark fiber for local economic development and public purposes. What’s this mean to us? BPA is offering pairs of fiber to local governments but doesn’t want to deal with each one individually. Hence, the new consortium is being formed. Once in place, the consortium will also be negotiating with private

companies that are also undertaking projects to bring fiber right under our very noses, and likely will be willing to offer fiber and/or equipment needed to “light” that fiber to local governments in exchange for support and certain other concessions. This is all very much great news for the Bay Area, and another fine example of what can be accomplished when our communities pull together to accomplish common objectives.

BASKETBALL NET AT MINGUS PARK – Sometimes it’s just the little things, but have you noticed? Thanks Community Services parks crew! The kids in our area will love you forever!

FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000 BUDGETS ADOPTED – Tuesday evening, in separate actions, the City Council and Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency adopted annual budgets that will move the community into the new millennium. Copies of both budgets are available for inspection in the Finance Dept. at City Hall, at the Coos Bay Public Library, and will soon be summarized at the City’s WEB site.

CITY SETTLES LONG-STANDING DISPUTE WITH CHARLESTON SANITARY DISTRICT – With perhaps less fan-fare than the matter deserves, Tuesday evening the City Council adopted a “settlement agreement” that had been approved previously by the Charleston Sanitary District, and that provides for payment of nearly \$71,000 to the City in arrearages that had been carried for some time. The City provides wastewater treatment services to the people of Charleston and Barview through a contract with the District, which collects the waste and transmits it to Plant 2 in the City. “It’s nice to have the matter resolved once and for all,” commented city manager Bill Grile this week.

COOS BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY CLOSURE – The Coos Bay Public Library will be closed on Friday, June 18th, along with other public libraries, for annual upgrade to the count computer system. Coos Bay Library will then remain closed through July 11th so staff and volunteers can move more books, shelves and furniture ahead of the next phase of building construction.

TREES REPLACED AT EMPIRE FIRE STATION – The Fire Department has replaced trees surrounding the Empire Fire Station on Wall St. The trees are flowering cherries the same as others located in the Ed Lund Park next door to the station. The original trees were removed due to damage they were causing to the sidewalks. The sidewalks have been replaced and the new trees will have root barriers in place to protect the new sidewalks.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE SLED – A high volume nozzle and pump has been added to the fire departments rescue sled housed at Eastside Station No. 3. With this addition to the boat it will allow the Fire Department to fight a fire from the bay side of any building or dock located on the bay. The 250 gallon per minute pump allows for greater versatility in firefighting capabilities.

LABOR TRENDS According to an April 1999 State of Oregon Employment Department Analysis “Employment is projected to grow during the next year by 2.0 percent, a rate that is slower than in the past few years. The Asian financial problems are expected to affect Oregon more severely than most states, due to the relatively high level of trade between Oregon and the affected countries. This will tend to moderate employment growth in many manufacturing and trade sectors. Moreover, cost to businesses have been rising faster in Oregon than in the U.S., and these cost increases will create additional drags on economic expansion. However, continuing trends of economic growth at or above the U.S. average are expected to continue in the extended future.” (economist David Cooke) Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department

TRUCK AND TRAILER PARKING – Another informal session has been scheduled at City Hall on Saturday, June 26, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. Everybody who is interested in this issue is invited to attend.

“F” STREET PROJECT – The “F” Street project is moving along with curb and gutters finishing up this

week. Look for paving in the near future. Any questions about the project can be directed to the Dept. of Community Services at 269-8918.

EMPIRE BOAT RAMP – Community Services staff have applied to the Oregon State Marine Board for emergency money to repair the south boarding floats at the Empire Boat ramp. The Marine will be sending a design to retrofit the boarding floats so they will be able to removed in the fall and placed back in the spring. Once the City receives the plans, quotes will obtained and forwarded to the Marine Board with a request for funding.

CODE CHANGE PROPOSALS DEADLINE AUGUST 1, 1999 – Code change proposals for the 1998 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) must be received by the Building Codes Division by August 1, 1999, in order to be considered for an effective date of October 1, 2000. For anyone who would like to change any of those “stupid, ridiculous, insane, foolish...” code requirements, here’s your opportunity! To obtain a code change submittal form or if you would like more information please contact Community Services at 269-8918.

STATE AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN COOS BAY – Bay Area Post 34 and Auxiliary Unit 34 recently announced that all convention plans are in place to host 700 delegates and guests during the State Legion Convention being held in Coos Bay on June 22nd through 26th. Delegates and guests will begin arriving on June 21st and many have planned charter fishing trips and other activities while in the Coos Bay - North Bend area. Any questions about the convention may be directed to Post 34 Convention Chairs John Martin and Ron Wood, and Unit 34 Chair Marie Martin. Welcome all delegates and guests to Oregon’s beautiful Bay Area!!