



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

July 2, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY TOURS THE CITY – This week the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency toured the City to visit projects being undertaken by both the Agency and the City of Coos Bay. The Agency, which is comprised of members of the Coos Bay City Council, uses urban renewal property taxes and other proceeds, like grants, to revitalize deteriorated areas and help improve the community and our economy. Projects given attention during the tour included activities in Eastside, downtown and Empire. With last week's announcement that a new multi-million dollar historical museum will be built on or near the site of the existing Chamber of Commerce building downtown, the Agency will be looking to adjust its priorities and direction to staff to accommodate the museum project.

FRONT STREET REDEVELOPMENT REMAINS A PRIORITY! – A few questions have come to City Hall since last week's announcement about the historical museum, with folks wondering if the city was scrapping the Front Street redevelopment plan. The answer is a clear and resounding: NO!! Front Street remains a priority and the City is moving forward to implement the Front Street Master Plan.

It would have been great to site the museum on Front Street, but there are many more good reasons to site it at the Chamber downtown location. City staff is moving ahead with details related to the recently announced \$200,000 Brownfields environmental cleanup grant, and remains interested in acquiring property for off-street public parking in the Front Street area.

Plans are also still being considered to overlay Front Street and its connectors to Highway 101, but difficulties with the Rail Road have complicated this project somewhat. Additionally, the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) is taking its time deciding what the rules are going to be concerning the waterfront zoning that restricts Front Street bayside land uses to only those that are water-related or water-dependent. City manager Bill Grile predicted that LCDC would become a major impediment to the redevelopment of Front Street as soon as this state agency staff announced that it would not support the City's proposed rezoning plan while LCDC pondered rule changes. "The State has been playing around with this issue for months now," commented Grile earlier this week. "I just wish they would get on with their decision so that we could move forward with the priority city project." Eugene land use attorney Al Johnson has been assisting the City with its Front Street zoning problems thanks to hands-on special attention from Chris Claflin, local economic development officer with the Oregon Economic Development Department. The City really appreciates this special assistance and the great support it has received from Governor Kitzhaber's Community Solutions Team.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR OUR TELEPHONE SYSTEM! – The City's antiquated telephone system will hopefully soon be replaced. Funds have been budgeted to replace the system, which has caused multiple problems and inconveniences for both the public and City staff. "We sincerely apologize for the inconveniences and appreciate your patience as we consider alternative systems in the weeks ahead," said city manager Bill Grile this morning. "It was particularly troublesome this week to have a conversation with a local business prospect cut off for no apparent reason." The new system will be most welcome at City Hall!

DARK FIBER INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSORTIUM MOVE AHEAD – Discussions with fiber-optic providers and local government officials in Lane, Douglas and Coos Counties are progressing, as are efforts to officially form a new inter-governmental entity that will be charged with the task of negotiating with private companies to bring fiber and better voice and data communication capabilities to our region. The Coos Bay City Council has already endorsed the concept of joining the new consortium, and will consider formally doing so at the July 20th Council meeting.

NEW CARISSA EXHIBIT DRAWS CROWD – The New Carissa Exhibit on display in the temporary trailer parked in the Chamber of Commerce parking lot downtown Coos Bay has now drawn over 500 visitors! Want to volunteer a morning or afternoon to staff the exhibit? Contact Beve Saukko at the City of Coos Bay-North Bend Tourism and Promotions office: 269-8921. We'd appreciate the help, and can promise you'll have a great time for the effort. Want to learn more about the New Carissa incident? Visit <http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay/infocenter/blm-page.htm>.

CITY STAFF AND TRUCKERS TO MOVE TOWARD RESOLUTION – A Saturday morning meeting between local truckers and City staff last weekend drew a small group and Councilor Judy Weeks. The meeting had been called to address legitimate public concerns and issues that merit attention, raised by both citizens, the City and the truckers themselves. Staff believes that these can be addressed satisfactorily without a comprehensive ordinance for citywide truck parking restrictions. During Saturday's meeting, it was agreed that a final set of recommendations concerning the matter will be forwarded to the Coos Bay City Council for consideration on July 20th City Council. Those present were in nearly complete agreement about the balance that is sought to satisfactorily resolve the issues raised. Stay tuned.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS SECURE GRANT – Congratulations to the Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters Association on securing an economic development grant from the Coos, Curry, Douglas Regional Strategies Team for steamer restoration. The grant amount of \$13,419 will go with Association funds to do the estimated \$45,000 in restoration costs to return the 1904 Knott Steamer to like new condition. To those spearheading the grant, Matt Fare, Randy Booker, Steve Schneiderman, Steve Doty, Judy Weeks, a job well done!

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN MINGUS PARK – There will be fun, games, food and entertainment in Mingus Park on Saturday, July 3rd celebrating our Country's Independence Day. Beginning with a Kids Run at 9:30 a.m. and the Mayor's Firecracker run at 10 a.m. with presentation of the flag at 11 a.m., followed by welcoming remarks and presentation of the Mayor's Essay Contest winners by Mayor Verger. The Coos Bay Fire Department will provide the children's fishing derby, various activities for children will be around the lake, free popcorn, balloons and flags for all, a variety of food booths will be located along the 10th Street entrance to the park, and there will be entertainment on the stage from 11:15 until 4 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 provided by the Coos Bay 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!

MARITIME EVENTS SLATED FOR COOS BAY – The **New Carissa exhibit**, located next to the Chamber of Commerce, is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except on Wednesdays when it will be closed and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit will be open through September 20, 1999. Additional information may be obtained by calling Beve Saukko at 541-269-8921. Thanks to BLM's Alan Hoffmeister, you can now take a "virtual visit" to the New Carissa Exhibit. Alan prepared a WEB site presentation of the incident's significant events. Visitors to the exhibit can view the site on a PC set up in the trailer. You can view the site by visiting <http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay/infocenter/blm-page.htm>.

The **HM Endeavor** will be arriving at the Coos Bay City Dock on July 9th and will be open for tours until July 18th. The Endeavour is a museum-quality reconstruction of the ship in which Captain Cook explored the south Pacific as part of a scientific expedition. The ship will be open for tours daily from 10 a.m. to 6

p.m. July 10th through 18th. Additional information may be obtained by calling 541-269-8921.

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.

ANNUAL COOS BAY-NORTH BEND CHALLENGE SOFTBALL GAME – Members of the City Councils and staff of the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend will play their annual challenge softball game on Saturday, July 17th at 4 p.m. The game will be played at Ferry Road Park in North Bend and is part of North Bend Heritage Jubilee. Come on out and cheer your favorite team!

OREGON COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL – Be sure to mark your calendar for July 17th through 31st for the Music Association's annual Oregon Coast Music Festival. For ticket information contact The Box Office at 269-2720 or stop by at 181 South Broadway. For information about the festival contact the Oregon Coast Music Association at 235 South Anderson, P O Box 663, Coos Bay OR 97420, phone/fax 541-267-0938, e-mail at ocma@mail.coos.or.us Or check them out at <http://www.coosnet.com/music>

Festival limited edition poster signed and number by artist, Dutch Mostert are available for \$25 before the festival, during and after the festival for \$35 and may be purchased at festival concerts, The Frame Stop in Coos Bay, The Framery in North Bend and The Clock Tower in Bandon.

POLICE OFFICERS ON BREAK FROM ACADEMY – Officers Kevin Shaw and Steve Myers are home from the Basic Police Academy in Monmouth during a two week break in academy classes. The two officers will be working with field training officers while back in Coos Bay. Both officers are scheduled to graduate from the academy on August 13, 1999.

POLICE RESERVE OFFICERS SWORN IN – Two Reserve Police Officers were added to the department this week. Aaron Kohl and Pete Kirk after passing a rigorous testing series and back ground investigation were sworn in by Chief Knight as the department works to beef up the reserve unit. Pete Kirk is 26 years old, lives in Coos Bay resident and is currently working Harmon Construction. Aaron Kohl is 23 years old, lives in North Bend and works for North Bend Bus Company. Both of the new reserve officers completed the Reserve Officer Training Academy at Southwestern Oregon Community College.

LABOR TRENDS – HB 5015, aka the "Oregon Community Development Fund", is currently before the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Economic Development, so it is extremely important that we contact committee members as well as our local legislators as soon as possible to support this Oregon Economic Development Department (OEDD) budget request. \$2.5 Million of the Oregon Community Development Fund (OCDF) is earmarked for the state's network of Small Business Development Centers, one of which is located on the campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College.

A recent study (April, 1999) conducted on the economic impact of small business development counseling activities in Oregon found that 90% of business which received SBDC counseling felt it was beneficial. The approximately 570 businesses responding to the survey generated \$644.6 million in new sales, received \$92.7 in new financing and created 3,847 new jobs during 1998. They also generated \$17,675,366 in new state and federal taxes, for a return on investment of \$4.52 in new tax revenues for every

\$1.00 spent on the SBDC program. For areas with high unemployment, such as Coos County, the work done by the SBDCs becomes even more critical to the success of the current and future small businesses which continue to create new jobs here (If its not too much trouble, please send the Chamber of Commerce a copy of your letter).

MINGUS PARK ADDITION – The construction phase of the Mingus Park Poolhouse officially began on Monday, June 21st with a ground breaking ceremony at the existing building site. Representatives from the City, the architectural firm of Richard Turi, the Pool Management Association, and many community supporters joined Mayor Joanne Verger in the kick-off celebration. Following directly on the heels of the year's end state swim meet, the current construction will continue into November of this year. During this period, local swimmers will make use of the North Bend pool as well as the many rivers, lakes and beaches in the vicinity. This poolhouse project represents many years of hard work by many individuals and groups. But also, it represents the choice of the area's voters to do something for the community's youth and to bring form to the dream. For that, supporters and swimmers alike give their thanks.

BUILDING CODES DIVISION FEE INCREASE APPROVED BY SB 287 – On May 27, 1999, the State of Oregon House of Representatives approved SB 287, which increases Building Codes Division's structural and mechanical permit fees 30% and surcharge fees in all program areas (i.e. structural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, manufactured dwelling placement, etc.) from 5% to 7% effective July 1, 1999. The good news is that in May of 1997, Coos Bay voters amended the City Charter and provided guidance to place city building inspection services under a user-fee basis and provide a dedicated fund for building inspection services. Consistent with voter direction, the City Council approved a fee increase of 24% to balance costs with revenues effective September 1, 1998. The bad news is that the City must comply with the State's surcharge increase in accordance with SB 287, therefore the city will increase the state surcharge fee from 5%-7%.

NEW LIBRARY YOUTH LIBRARIAN ON BOARD – Patricia Flitcroft began her duties as Coos Bay Public Library Youth Librarian on July 1st. Patricia comes to the library after many years as Director and teacher of a Montessori pre-school. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Wales at Cardiff. Her previous experience includes teaching at the high school and middle school levels. On her first day on the job, she had an abrupt introduction to the life of work in a construction zone as she joined the rest of the staff members who were facing a deadline to move several thousand books ahead of the next phase of the building project. "Miss Pat," as she is known by attendees at her pre-school, brought several graduates of the school as well as her husband, Jake, into the library this week to help with the tremendous job of book moving. Welcome, Patricia!

BOY SCOUTS HELP AT THE LIBRARY – Several members of the Boy Scouts helped library staff with moving of books this week as part of the construction project. Scouts with Mark Stueve's Troop 68 and Robert Donahue's Troop 151 were on hand to help with the book brigade. The Scouts and their family members and leaders did a great job – thank you!

LIBRARIAN ELECTED TO REGIONAL OFFICE – Nancy Freeman, Reference Services Librarian at Coos Bay Public Library, was recently elected as President of the Southern Oregon Library Federation (SOLF). Her two-year term of office begins in September. SOLF is composed of all types of libraries in seven Southern Oregon counties. For over 30 years, SOLF has sponsored numerous cooperative library projects, many with grant funds, and has provided continuing education opportunities for librarians.