



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

September 24, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CITY OF COOS WEB SITE GETS POSITIVE FEEDBACK – The City continues to receive positive feedback about it's new WEB site. If you've not visited the site, do it now without further delay at <http://holodeck.ucinet.com/coosbayjb/>.

See for yourself what others have to say to the site's current survey question: "Would you use natural gas if it comes to Coos Bay?" Visit <http://holodeck.ucinet.com/coosbayjb/> and express your opinion by "voting." The City will be changing the question frequently, so check back!

COUNCILOR SPANGLER APPOINTED TO FIBER SOUTH CONSORTIUM – Two weeks ago city manager Bill Grile signed the intergovernmental agreement that formalized the City of Coos Bay's membership in the new Fiber South Consortium. Tuesday night the City Council formally appointed Councilor Don Spangler to a seat on the new Consortium Board of Directors, with Police Chief Chuck Knight named as his alternate.

The Consortium, which is growing to become a collection of local governments in Coos, Douglas and Lane Counties, is negotiating for access to fiber optic cable being installed between Bandon's AT&T facility at Merchant's Beach and Eugene-Springfield, and has already secured a grant of twelve fiber (six pairs) from Williams Communication Company.

"FOCUS" FEATURES GARY LeTELLIER – Tune in to television Channel 14 for the airing of this month's Focus program. This month, Mayor Joanne Verger is interviewing North Bend Municipal Airport Manager Gary LeTellier about issues that affect all of us. Each month Focus will bring you a contemporary topic as a cooperative project of the City of Coos Bay and Marshfield High School.

GET READY FOR ANOTHER COMMUNITY-WIDE CLEAN-UP! – Using the theme "It's time for a clean sweep" the Community Enhancement Committee of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce is asking area residents and businesses to do a little picking and sprucing up in October along area streets and highways.

"Hundreds of volunteers turned out last March and made the area look great," says committee chair Margery Whitmer. "We thought it was time for a little touch-up work before the rains come."

Volunteers are welcome to join in the effort Saturday and/or Sunday, October 9 and 10, between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 PM. Litter bags, instructions and street or highway assignments can be picked up at the Coos Bay and North Bend information centers. Participants are urged to bring their own gloves.

Co-chair Chuck Holloway has subtitled the effort "Get in Shape for the Holidays," suggesting litter pick-up provides great aerobic exercise – brisk walking, stretching and bending, and lifting and carrying bags to pick-up spots.

Committee members have developed a list of areas which appear to be most in need of clean-up work. Additional suggestions are welcome, according to Whitmer and Holloway, and can be called in to the Chamber office, 269-0215, during office hours (9:00 am to 5:00 PM Monday-Friday, and 10:00 am to 4:00 PM Saturday).

The Chamber group is also applying for grants to help pay for new trees and shrubs to be planted this winter by committee member Steve Skinner, who handled the massive brush clearing project this past spring as part of the successful "Company's Coming" spring clean-up. The committee will soon begin planning for that annual effort, too, tentatively set for late April of 2000.

[Article courtesy of Kathi Joy, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.]

MURALS FOR THE TOSCO TANK FARM -- The petroleum product storage tanks at the northern city limits on Highway 101 look really disgraceful. The rusty "76" emblem doesn't say good things to tourists entering the City of Coos Bay. City Councilor Don Spangler has spoken frequently about the need to get those tanks re-painted. Community Services staff have contacted the owners, Tosco, with a request for permission to re-paint the tanks with murals at no cost to Tosco. Tosco has refused, saying that the property is for sale and that a prospective buyer might not enjoy murals on the tanks. This sounds like rather twisted logic, and the Chamber of Commerce has followed up with a letter to Tosco, business to business, asking them to re-consider. We are anxiously awaiting a reply. We'll keep you informed.

MAYOR VERGER AND CITY MANAGER TOUR TOPITS PARK – Yesterday afternoon Mayor Joanne Verger and City Manager Bill Grile toured Topits Park to see what's been happening with improvement efforts by a small dedicated group of volunteers. Their tour guide? None other than John Topits. Talk about dedication! John, his son Keith, and about a half dozen dedication volunteers show up at Topits Park every Saturday for about two hours of brush clearing and grooming. If you'd like to get involved, contact Steve Doty in Community Services at 269-8918. He'll point you in the right direction.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE – If you want a really good deal on used books and at the same time help support special programs for the public library; then visit the Friends of the Library used book sale Saturday and Sunday, October 2nd and 3rd in the library auditorium.

COOS COUNTY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTER – The Business Enterprise Center presently houses six entrepreneurial businesses that have created 15 new jobs that pay above minimum wage. Due to the success of the businesses, the Business Enterprise Center has expanded to include a 5000 square foot light-manufacturing space. The new space is equipped with a 12 foot roll-up door, private entrances, three-phase electricity, forced air gas heat, plus all the other benefits of being located in a business incubator across the street from the North Bend Airport.

The Business Enterprise Center is seeking new or expanding businesses that are light manufacturing, technology, or telecommunications. Anyone interested in the facility may contact Shirley Liberante at the Coos County Business Enterprise Center, 2455 Maple Leaf, North Bend OR 97459; phone 541-756-6678, fax 541-756-5404, or email bec@iceinternet.com

FALL BRUSH PICK UP – The fall brush pick up is just around the corner and will start on October 4th. The local sanitation companies will be providing the pick up. Whoever picks up your trash will be picking up the brush. There are several changes from previous years with only five yards allowed and anything after that a fee is involved. The reason the City is not providing this service is because of the new franchise agreements with the sanitation companies. The agreements were presented to the Council and approved with the brush pick up being a portion of the new agreements. Residents need to call their sanitation company to get on the pick up list. The numbers are 267-2848 for Les' Sanitary Service and 267-6675 for Coos Bay Sanitary Service.

OPEN HOUSE SUCCESSFUL- A big thank you goes out to the many fire department personnel who came

down to help out with the open house during this years Fun Festival. Many people came out during the fun festival to visit their local fire department, keeping the many volunteers busy! All three fire stations will be holding an open house in early October in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week - stay tuned for more information.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AWARD - The Coos Bay Fire Department has been presented with a Life Safety Achievement Award for by the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI). The fire department qualified for this annual award because it recorded zero fire deaths in structures during 1998. A total of 33 fire departments in Oregon received this award. The RFSI is a public interest group whose mission is to reduce residential fire deaths and injuries by advocating the use of residential fire sprinklers, smoke alarms and teaching people fire safe behavior.

CONTINUING EDUCATION - Several members of the Community Services Department attended the annual OMOA Fall Educational Institute in Wilsonville, Oregon this week to update their mechanical, plumbing, and building inspection certifications. These credentials are required by the State of Oregon to insure that all building repair and new construction within our jurisdiction is done according to the rules established by the State Building Codes Agency. These standards are continually being revised to accommodate new materials and ensure uniform inspection practices within the industry.

CITY AUCTION: There will be an auction on surplus building materials left over from the Library Remodel at the City Shops, 1295 S Broadway, on Saturday, September 25th. Viewing to the public will begin at 9:00 am. with the auction to follow at 10:00 a.m.

SALMON DERBY --There will be Salmon Derby at the Eastside Boat ramp on September 25, 26, 1999. The derby is put on by the Coos River Salmon Enhancement Program. There will be events for mens, women, team and lids. Prizes will be given each day of the event. You can pick up a ticket for the derby Friday night after 6:00 p.m. at the boat ramp or Saturday and Sunday before the starts. The Derby starts at daylight both days and at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. If you have any questions, you can contact Carla Lathom at 888-9400.

OMI PRESENTATION -- Operations Management International (OMI) personnel were on hand in front of City Hall last Tuesday evening to exhibit new equipment authorized for purchase by the City Council. The new TV van and camera used for sewer and stormwater line inspections were the most popular items on display. Following this impressive exhibit, Gary Young, OMI's local manager, presented to the Council OMI's Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. In this third year of operation, OMI has made numerous improvements to the City's sewer and stormwater system, made a significant capital investment in conversion of treatment plant processes from chlorine to sodium hypochlorite and, for the third straight year, returned a rebate to the City of Coos Bay -- the amount of that rebate for the third year of operation was \$21,285.50. Attaboy, OMI!!!!!!

ODOT JURISDICTIONAL EXCHANGE -- At their meeting Tuesday night, the City Council approved the concept of a jurisdictional exchange with the Oregon Department of Transportation of roadways within the city limits and authorized the development of an agreement with ODOT to formalize the exchange. The agreement will provide for the City's assumption of maintenance responsibility for Ocean Boulevard, Newmark Avenue from Fir Street to the city limits at Wisconsin Street and the Coos River Highway from the east side of the Isthmus Slough Bridge to the west side of the Catching Slough Bridge. In exchange, ODOT will provide the City of Coos Bay with \$4.8 million over the next three years. The Council's deliberation on this matter has extended over several months and will continue as the agreement with ODOT is developed for approval.

BAYSHORE DRIVE PARKING -- In another action last Tuesday night, the City Council approved a change in parking designation for the east side of Bayshore Drive. All parking on the east side of Bayshore Drive will be free parking. Previously, parking between Anderson and Market had been two-hour parking

with permit parking allowed. Parking signs are being changed today to reflect the City Council's decision.

FIFTH STREET PLAZA -- The plaza area in front of City Hall took on a different perspective this week with the removal of the Western Blue cedar trees and other vegetation from the plaza. This action had been thoughtfully considered by the city's Tree Board, who recommended the removal to the Urban Renewal Agency. The work has "opened up" the plaza area, providing an opportunity for studied consideration of how the plaza area might be used in the future.

POLICE CAPTAIN POSITION CLOSES – The application deadline for persons desiring to compete for the position of Police Captain closed September 24th. Testing procedures to select the finalist will include written testing, interview panels consisting of police professionals and community leaders, oral presentations, and an interview with police department management staff. The finalist for the position will be selected on or before November 8th.

POLICE OFFICER TESTING CONTINUES – Thirty-five applicants participated in the next phase of testing with the Coos Bay Police Department. A hiring list is being established in the anticipation of retirements later this year.

F.B.I. NATIONAL ACADEMY RETRAINING – Police Chief Chuck Knight recently attended the retraining session for F.B.I. National Academy graduates. The training on criminal profiling was held September 16-17th near Portland. Chief Knight graduated from the Academy in 1983.