



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

October 15, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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Y2K FORUM SCHEDULED – The City of Coos Bay has received high praise for the work done in preparation for the year 2000. Citizens who may be interested in knowing what the City of Coos Bay has done and is doing in preparation for the year 2000 will have an opportunity learn first hand at a public forum scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 18, 1999 at the City Council Chambers in Coos Bay. In addition to the presentation of the plan City staff will present contingency plans prepared by each division within the City. For example, the Police Department has established an Internet Web site for updates for the local media and public to obtain information regarding calls for crime and Y2K related activity within the City of Coos Bay. The web site which will be updated every 15 minutes will be activated at 9:00 p.m. PST on December 31, 1999. Updates will continue until 3:00 a.m. on January 1, 2000 or until the Emergency Operations Center is deactivated. The Internet address for the site is: <http://www.coosbay-pd.net/y2k.htm>

CITY MANAGER EVALUATION GOES WELL – Yesterday Mayor Joanne Verger issued the following statement: "The City Council of Coos Bay held its annual evaluation of City Manager Bill Grile in executive session on Tuesday, October 12th at 7 p.m. at Coos Bay City Hall. Following a discussion of written evaluations submitted earlier by Councilors, an oral dialogue completed the productive meeting. Applauded for his outstanding organizational skills, budget preparation, and commitment to his job, the city manger received words of sincere appreciation from his council. Completing his fourth (4th) year at Coos Bay City Hall, Mr. Grile scored outstanding and excellent in over thirty-five (35) categories rated by the Council. 'We are lucky to have you,' expressed one Councilor as others nodded their heads in agreement."

"I'm grateful for the Council's support and pleased to be a part of a great team here at the City of Coos Bay," said Grile following his evaluation. "With the Council, department heads and our dedicated employees all pulling in the same direction for the betterment of our community, my job as city manager has been very satisfying," he added. "I'm looking forward to carrying on with the work and challenges confronting us."

URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY TO ACCELERATE PROJECT COMPLETIONS WITH PLANNED BOND SALE – Coos Bay's Urban Renewal Agency is in the process of selling bonds to accelerate the completion of planned community development and infrastructure projects in its two Urban Renewal Districts. The Downtown District is scheduled to bond \$2.71 million and the Empire District, \$1.32 million. The City's bond counsel, Harvey Rogers, issued an opinion this week that the planned sale will be "tax exempt," which means lower interest expenses associated with the borrowing. The City's financial advisor for the action is Carol Samuels of Seattle Northwest Securities. She has indicated that Coos Bay should have the proceeds in hand by November 8th, following the expected approval of loan documents by the Agency on November 2nd.

"Leveraging tax increment resources with bonds is a great way for us to continue the improvements downtown and in Empire that so many people have said they like," said city manager Bill Grile this week. "And the best part is that it can be done without raising anyone's property taxes a single penny!" he added. With the ability to proceed more quickly than would be possible without the bonding, by next summer look for better lighting in downtown parking lots and along Broadway in the Theater District, a fresh new streetscape with sidewalks and lighting along Bayshore north of Bayshore Chevron and on Newmark east of McKay's to the intersection with Ocean, and possibly action to advance redevelopment of the Front Street area along the historic Marshfield waterfront.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORUM SCHEDULED – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a forum on Wednesday, October 20th at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn. The topic: Oregon's School Funding... is there a crisis? Guest speakers include Rick Howell, Superintendent of South Coast Education Service District; Giles Parker, Superintendent of Coos Bay School District; Phil Waber, Superintendent of Coquille School District; Jim Howard, Superintendent of North Bend School District; and State Representatives Mike Lehman and Ken Messerle. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the Chamber at 269-0215.

K-9 OFFICERS GRADUATE – Coos Bay Police Officers Rob Scoville and Andy Osborne recently graduated with honors from the Canine handler training in Virginia. The officers and K-9s, Caesar and Rex are back in Coos Bay and ready for duty. Congratulations Rob and Andy, and thank you again to the local community for your financial support which made the K-9 program a reality.

DETECTIVE SPARKS SELECTED – Coos Bay Police Detective, Randy Sparks, has been selected as the new Undersheriff for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. Randy's last day on the job in Coos Bay will be October 22, 1999. We wish Randy and his wife, Cindy the best of luck as they relocate to the St. Helens area. Randy is an excellent Detective with high moral values and integrity, he will certainly be missed here in Coos Bay.

BLOSSOM GULCH SCHOOL SAFETY MEETING HELD – Members of Coos Bay Police Department and the South Coast Interagency Narcotics Team met with School Officials and concerned parents at Blossom Gulch School last Tuesday night to discuss safety issues. Speakers at the meeting included Blossom Gulch Principal Vickie Jenkins, Police Chief Chuck Knight, Officer Lance Bjornerud, and Barb Dellinger representing the Narcotics Team. The meeting was very positive and resulted in a coalition of parents, faculty, narcotics team members, and law enforcement who will be working together in a variety of ways to eradicate criminal behavior in or near the school property. The City of Coos Bay is concerned for all persons in our community, we are committed to making our community a better, safer place to live, work, or visit. We offer a special thank you to Vickie Jenkins and Barb Dellinger for making this meeting possible.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY PLAN Y2K PROGRAM – The Friends of the Coos Bay Library have scheduled a special program on October 21, 7:00 p.m., in the library meeting room on personal preparedness for Y2K. A panel of guest speakers from the grocery community, from local banking, from a pharmacy, from the County Sheriff's office and from Pacific Power will discuss various issues surrounding personal preparedness for Y2K. There will be a question-and-answer time following the panel discussion and refreshments will be served. The program is free and open to all.

AUTHOR TO VISIT THE LIBRARY – Susan Fletcher, successful author of many children's and young adult books, will visit the Coos Bay Library on Saturday, October 23rd at 11:00 a.m.. She will talk to young people of any age at this free program about "How I Became a Writer and How a Book is Made." Her visit to the library is sponsored by Friends of the Library and is part of a partnership with Coos Bay, Coquille and North Bend Schools whereby she will visit several classrooms on Friday, October 22nd.

FALL PROGRAM AT THE LIBRARY – "The Tom Question Halloween Performance for Children" will take place in the library meeting room on Saturday, October 30th, 11:00 a.m. Tom Question is a popular juggler from Eugene who will be loved by children of all ages. The free program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

BUILDING CODES FORUM – The League of Oregon Cities together with the state's Department of Consumer and Business Services will host an open forum discussion on strengths, weaknesses and opportunities within the state's building code system. The forum will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 21, 1999. The Building Codes Division provides permitting and inspection services for both commercial and residential construction. The cost of those

services was increased this year by more than twenty-five percent; that cost increase and the manner in which the state Division provides its service has been criticized throughout the state. The open forum discussions have been scheduled statewide to allow the state Building Codes Division the opportunity to hear directly from the public that they serve regarding the Division's performance. The city's Community Services staff are working with the Homebuilder's Association to promote attendance at the October 21st forum. The public is cordially invited to attend.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ADOPT IOOF CEMETARY – The Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters Association voted at their monthly meeting this week to adopt the IOOF Cemetery next to Marshfield High School as a community project. The Association will perform the necessary maintenance throughout the year to keep this most important community landmark look good. The volunteers will begin their task on the weekend of October 23rd 24th anyone who is interested can join in on the effort.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEDIUM RESCUE TRUCK – The fire department received word this week that production has begun on the medium rescue truck ordered by the department. Delivery is expected around the first of the year. The addition of this equipment will allow the department to send one of the light rescues already in service to Eastside Station No. 3 to reduce wear and tear on the fire engine housed there.

LABOR TRENDS Most of the increase in non-farm employment on the South Coast in August came on the non-manufacturing side of the economy. Manufacturing employment fell slightly (-20) in Coos County, where job losses in logging and sawmills were partly offset by job gains in the seafood industry. On the other hand, factory jobs in Curry County rose by 40. Job increases there took place in the wood and seafood sectors, as well as in the rest of manufacturing. Over the year, Coos County's manufacturing figures increased by a total of 30. Higher employment in food products and among nondurable goods firms offset declines in durable goods. Curry's manufacturing sectors lost 50 jobs over the years, all in wood products. Non-manufacturing employment in Coos County rose by 180 in August. Trade, services, and local government had the largest increases. Curry edged higher by 90 jobs, with the largest gains coming in transportation, restaurants, and services (Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department).

MINGUS PARK PARKING LOT RESURFACING – The Parks Commission at its August meeting made a recommendation to the City Council to turn tennis court "B" (by the 10th St. crosswalk) into a parking lot. This was due to poor condition and continued maintenance of the courts. Some questions were raised about the situation and the Parks Commission again discussed the court with several tennis people at its October meeting and explained the reasoning behind their decision. They again recommended to Council to proceed with paving of the court for a parking lot. Council approved the recommendation to overlay and strip the area for a parking lot. The City has received bids and cost will be about \$10,000. The project is temporarily placed on hold due to the fact that there is no asphalt available in the area. One contractor has their asphalt plant in Curry County and the other is only making mix for their paving company due to the shortage of rock.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD – The City of Coos Bay is the recipient of a travel scholarship for the EPA Brownfields '99 Conference to be held on December 6-8 in Dallas, Texas. Bill Finney, Community Services Director, will be representing the City for this event sponsored by the International City/County Management Association. The focus for the conference is "Alliances for 21st Century Livability: Environmental Challenges and Solutions".

COOS BAY LIBRARY RANKED AS 13TH BEST IN OREGON – American Libraries magazine has just announced results of an independent nationwide survey of 9,000 public libraries that ranked them on the basis of collection size per capita, rate of use, circulation of materials and other performance factors. Among Oregon's 124 public libraries, Coos Bay was ranked thirteenth behind Corvallis-Benton County, Lake Oswego, Beaverton, Newport, Agness, Cedar Mill and Eugene, in that order. Highest score for Corvallis was 848 and Coos Bay's ranking was 727. Lowest score was Amity at 129.

LIBRARY STAFF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES – Opportunities coming up in October and November for library staff include a workshop November 5th for reference librarians on "Health Information on the Internet;" A series of four classes at Comp-u-talk on using new software and operating system geared specifically towards library application from November 4th through 19th; a teleconference at the college October 28th on "Building the Earth's Largest Library;" and a stress management seminar on October 20th.

LIBRARY TO OFFER PROGRAM ON TOURING ANTARCTICA – A road map for a journey in the footsteps of the great explorers to the fascinating continent of Antarctica will be presented by Captain Brian Shoemaker, U.S. Navy retired, in the Coos Bay Library meeting room on Saturday, November 13th, 1 to 3 p.m. Captain Shoemaker spent many years in Antarctica while in charge of Navy operations there and has been a frequent visitor since. He will describe, through a slide show and talk, what it's like to cruise the fiords among the icebergs, viewing penguins and other wildlife.