



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

November 5, 1999

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LIVABILITY COMMITTEE UNVEILS "THE SOUTH COAST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL" –

Several months ago Mayor Joanne Verger and the Coos Bay City Council sponsored a series of forums on the local economy, bringing private and public sector experts together for the purpose of sharing views and offering recommendations about how best to help move the local economy forward. The result was the formation of the Livability Committee, an ad hoc group established to come to agreement on a specific plan for action to recruit new business to the community.

Last night Livability Committee chair John Sweet and his committee unveiled plans for establishment of the South Coast Development Council – a local public-private economic development partnership whose purpose will be to aggressively recruit new businesses to the area. Once established, the Council will launch its efforts with a proposed \$250,000 budget comprised of funds from local governments and area businesses. The City of Coos Bay has pledged \$50,000 this year to help jump start the new program, with a three-year commitment being asked of all participating local governments and businesses.

A copy of the proposal is available at the city manager's office in Coos Bay City Hall, and will be posted to the City's WEB site in the near future. The committee is seeking public comments about its proposal, and requests that these be directed to Ms. Joyce Jansen at City Hall.

By the way, we'd like the benefit of your opinion about the proposal. Cast your "vote" by visiting Coos Bay's WEB site at <http://holodeck.ucinet.com/coosbayjb/index.html> then looking for the public opinion survey under the column, "What's Hot?"

CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB BUILDING PROJECT

– Tuesday evening the City Council voted to execute a \$1,071,928 construction contract with Don Thompson Construction in order to move ahead with the long-awaited interior finishing of the Boys and Girls Club facility in Coos Bay. With available funding limited to \$1,150,000, project alternates totaling \$390,072 had to be cut from the planned project. Funding to support the project is from three main sources:

\$600,000	City of CB Community Development Block Grant
\$300,000	SWOYA cash donations
\$250,000	Grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust

This is a great project. Construction will soon begin with completion expected late this spring. Hooray for everyone who has helped make this dream come true. It's the kids in our community who will get the benefits!

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE KICKS OFF IN CYBER-SPEED

STYLE – The Chamber's technology committee met last Monday at the Newmark Center and, among other things, established a name for itself: The Bay Area Tech Team. BATT's purpose is, essentially, to accomplish, essentially, two things. First, it will provide a community forum to provide answers to three questions -

1. "What is possible with technology?"

2. "What can 'it' do for us?"
3. "What is 'it'?"

The second, it will work to prepare individuals and the community to take advantage of technology through hands-on applied learning. BATT will meet again on November 15th to continue its work.

TIME CAPSULE 2000 – This week a great new event was announced by Coos Bay downtown Association member Gary Rifkin. “Time Capsule 2000” is an event being brought to you by CBDA and the City of Coos Bay. The capsule will be filled with memorabilia from the current day. Items such as photos of current Bay Area residents, autographed business cards, phone books, street maps, newspapers, messages to the future, locally produced books and artwork, etc.

The event will be launched Saturday, Nov. 20th in the downtown central area near the Chamber of Commerce, with opening addresses by Council President Cindi Miller and Downtown Association representatives. Area residents are encouraged to join the celebration at 1 p.m. that afternoon and bring either a business card, photo, or message for the future. Items will be collected throughout the holiday season. The Downtown merchants are seeking additional ideas to be placed in the capsule. Area residents are encouraged to write down these ideas between now and Nov. 20th and drop them off at one of the following downtown businesses: The Art Connection, Fiddlesticks, The World Newspaper or Checkerberry’s.

The capsule will be on display downtown through early spring of 2000, at which time it will be placed by the city in a downtown location near the city hall and be left for 25 years, or until 2025, when residents will open it and get a glimpse of life as it was at the turn of the new millennium. For more information contact chairperson for this project, Gary Rifkin, 267-5443

UPDATE ON PERMANENT STAGE IN MINGUS PARK – Fund-raising continues on this project, but with only about \$3000 collected to date. “Bricks” and “blocks” are for sale, with donors’ names to be engraved to memorialize the individual and community investment in this planned facility. Proceeds from the sale of a residential property owned by the City, “the Park House,” can help fund the project, but the sale has stalled due to damage the property suffered as the result of a sewerage spill. Please contact the Community Services Department at City Hall if you’d like more information about this important project. You CAN make a difference here by getting involved!

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING ... THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING! – The Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club and the Bay Area Rotary Club invite you to meet a delegation of Russian entrepreneurs who are visiting Oregon’s Bay Area as part of the Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP), run by the Center for Citizen initiatives. PEP brings Russian business leaders to the United States to study with their American industry counterparts. The recipients of the training will then return to Russia to pass on the knowledge they have gained, creating a multiplier effect.

The program is premised on the experience of the Marshall Plan, which rebuilt Europe after World War 11, and demonstrated to the world that a change in surroundings can change thinking. “Until you take the Russian entrepreneurs out of their native environment, they can’t see all of the possibilities”, says Sharon Tension, President of the Center for Citizen Initiatives.

During their visit eleven non-English speaking managers of Russian wood processing facilities will learn about all aspects of the American wood processing industry in a training program organized by the Southwestern Business Development Center. These Russian managers will also meet with local businesses related to the process of wood and the marketing of wood products. If you are interested in learning more, or if you have Russian language competency, you may call the Coos Bay/North Bend Promotions and Convention Bureau at 541-269-8921. *[Article courtesy of Beve Saukko, CB-NB Promotions and Convention Bureau.]*

INVITATION TO A RECEPTION FOR THE VISITING RUSSIANS – A public wine and cheese reception for the visiting Russian delegation will be held from 5:30 - 7:00 PM at the Coos Art Museum on Tuesday, November 9th. The event is being sponsored by the Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club and the Bay Area Rotary Club, and is open to the public.

CIVIL WAR FOOTBALL GAME TO BE TELEVISED – KCBY-TV will be telecasting tonight's annual civil war football game between the North Bend Bull Dogs and the Marshfield Pirates, with playback to run tomorrow (Saturday) morning at 10:00 AM. David Walker will be calling the play-by-play action, with the production being a NFL-style show complete with instant replays and slow motion cameras.

CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES GRANT AND LOAN APPLICATIONS FOR WATER SUPPLY PROJECT – Tuesday night the City Council authorized the submission of grant and loan applications needed to finance half of the planned \$20 million water supply project to be undertaken by the Coos Bay - North Bend Water Board. The City of North Bend will be doing likewise to finance the other half. Debt incurred for the project will be repaid completely from water user fees collected by the Water Board. Water Board general manager Rob K. Schab told the City Council Tuesday that he believes the Board will require only a very minimal rate hike in order to cover the new debt, and that this may perhaps be as little as 1% above that which system users are paying currently.

To date, the Water Board has spent about \$2 million for environmental work needed to support project permits and another \$500,000 for the design of the new dam and dunes wells. Once completed, the new system will allow for residential growth for another thirty years while meeting the peak demand experienced here once every twenty years. Major industrial growth in the area would not be accommodated by the expansion.

COOS BAY URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY FORMALIZES BOND SALE – Tuesday night the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency formalized the approval of a pair of bond sales needed to jump-start development in each of the City's two urban renewal districts. Under the resolutions adopted Tuesday night, the Empire and Downtown districts will receive \$1.32 million and \$2.71 million, respectively. These will accelerate work on a number of planned and pending projects that will help improve the livability of our community. The bond proceeds are expected in about a week.

RIDE WITH SANTA CONTEST – All Coos Bay Area third graders are invited to enter a contest for an opportunity to ride with Santa in a horse-drawn carriage during the City's downtown tree lighting ceremony. The event will take place on Friday, November 26th at the Convention Center at 158 Central Avenue.

Entry blanks are available at the Coos Bay Public Library and Coos Bay City Hall. To be eligible children must live in School District 9's boundary, be in the third grade, and have your parents' permission. Eight names will be drawn and announced at the November 16th City Council meeting. The city manager's office will notify contestant winners the following day. Santa and students will meet at city hall at 5:45 p.m. on the 26th to begin the ride with Santa down Central Avenue to the convention center. For more information contact the city manager's office during normal business hours at 269-8912. Deadline for entering the contest is Monday, November 15, 1999 at 5 p.m.

SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN! – The City of Coos Bay's annual downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held Friday, November 26th at 6 p.m. at the Convention Center located at 158 Central Avenue. The event is co-sponsored by the City of Coos Bay and the Downtown Association. There will be caroling, music, entertainment, refreshments, and carriage rides provided by the City of Coos Bay, the Downtown Association, The Lab Band and the Bay Area Concert Band. Santa will arrive by horse-drawn carriage at 6:30 p.m. and children will have an opportunity to have their picture taken with him.

The City extends a special thank you to Chris Rosman of SWOCC for leading the singing, Dr. John Flanagan for donating the beautiful trees, Doug Fletcher for donating use of the convention hall, and Explorer Troup #511 for taking pictures with Santa. And a very special thanks to Santa for stopping in Coos Bay for the event!

If you miss Santa on November 26th, you have another opportunity to greet him on December 4th. Santa is scheduled to arrive at the Empire Fire Hall on Saturday at 7 p.m. For this visit Santa arrives on a very large red fire truck. There will be a welcome from Mayor Verger, and music, entertainment, and refreshments provided by the Empire Community Association. We hope to see you there!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE CITY – The City of Coos Bay is seeking volunteers to fill positions on the Budget Committee, Design Review Board, Planning Commission, and the Tourism and

Promotion Committee. Applications are available from the city manager's office during normal business hours or by calling 269-8912. Applications will be accepted during normal business hours through 5 p.m. November 30, 1999. Interviews will be conducted by the City Council and appointments will be made at the December 21, 1999 City Council meeting. Applicants will be notified when the interviews will be scheduled.

Budget Committee – There are three positions open, one position will fill an unexpired term of one year. Applicants must be a resident of the City of Coos Bay, and are appointed for a three-year term. Budget Committee meetings are held during the months of April and May in the evening. Committee members review the proposed City Budget and submit their recommended budget to the City Council for adoption.

Planning Commission – There are three positions open. Applicants must be a City resident for at least one year, one member may reside outside the City limits if the person owns property within the City limits. Appointments are made for four years, and the Commission meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the evening. The Commission functions primarily as a comprehensive planning body by proposing policy and legislation to the City Council and by implementing regulations relating to the growth and development of the community.

Tourism & Promotion Committee – The opening is for a Coos Bay resident or business owner. The appointment is for two years and the Committee meets on the second Thursday of the month at noon. The Committee is responsible for promoting events and attractions in the Coos Bay-North Bend geographic area, so as to attract tourists and foster an important component of the local economy.

Design Review Board – The opening is for a representative from the Downtown Association. The Board serves in an advisory capacity to the City of Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency regarding the Agency's two urban renewal districts. In making its recommendations, the Committee shall consider the natural beauty and visual character of the site of the project to the end that buildings, landscaping and other improvements are suitably related to the site and to the surrounding area, and shall give due regard to the aesthetic qualities of the area, of the exterior appearances of structures and of other improvements and their relationship to surrounding structures.

RECYCLING AWARENESS WEEK – Gov. John Kitzhaber has declared the week of November 8th through 15th to be *Recycling Awareness Week 1999*. This year Oregonians can celebrate that 1998 is the seventh consecutive year the State's recovery rates have risen (up from 35% in 1997 to 37% in 1998) – evidence of Oregonians' dedication to recycling and strong commitment to preserving natural resources. However, the data also shows that we need to reduce, reuse, and recycle even more aggressively because waste generation rates have also continued to increase.

To learn more about how specific businesses, schools, hotels and hospitals are eliminating waste and saving money, visit the "Commercial Waste Reduction Clearinghouse" (CWRC) web site at: www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cwrc.html or call Keri Morin, Public Information Specialist in DEQ's Solid Waste program at (503) 229-6299 or dial (toll-free within Oregon) 1-800-452-4011 ext. 6299.

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED TO COOS BAY VOLUNTEER – Mayor Joanne Verger and Police Chief Chuck Knight presented the City's Public Service Award to Empire Police Substation Volunteer Kay Straub in recognition of her outstanding contribution. Kay has been an active volunteer with the Coos Bay Police Department since July, 1998, and has donated more than 800 work hours with the Police Department. Kay currently acts as Liaison between the Empire Police Substation and the Main Station, schedules work hours for the other seven volunteers to ensure the Substation is manned from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Chief Knight commended Ms. Straub for her dedication and enthusiastic attitude. Thank you, Kay, for your hard work and commitment to making Coos Bay a better place to live.

SWOYA PHASE 4 CONTRACT AWARD - The City Council awarded Don Thompson Inc. the Boys and Girls Club (SWOYA) Phase 4 project at their 11/2 meeting. There will be a preconstruction conference on Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the SWOYA facilities with the actual construction beginning within the next few days. The project is anticipated to be completed by May 25, 2000. This is an exciting project for our community and has been a joint cooperative effort between SWOYA, OEDD, City of Coos Bay, Don Thompson Inc., and McSwain & Woods.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP – The City of Coos Bay would like to thank the Oregon School Employees Association, Chapter 33 for continuing the clean up work at the I.O.O.F Cemetery this past weekend. They continued the work started by the Coos Bay Volunteers Firefighters several weeks ago. This is the third year that the Employees Association has work on the Make a Difference Day, even though they had to do it a week later due to conflicting scheduling. If you haven't seen the work these two volunteer groups have done at the Cemetery, drive by and take a look. Good going to all.