



December 2013



Mayor
Crystal Shoji



Council President
Stephanie Kramer



Councilor
Gene Melton



Councilor
Jennifer Groth



Councilor
John Muenchrath



Councilor
Mike Vaughan



Councilor
Mark Daily



Our Cultural Legacy

By Coos Bay Mayor Crystal Shoji



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The passion, vision, and drive of our forefathers provided the cultural "bones" of a thriving industrial port city. Nostalgia is popular because life looks simpler in the sepia tones of the past, but life was never so simple as an old photo.

When Empire was Coos County's shipping center/County seat and Marshfield was a young town, government funding for cultural endeavors was not expected. In Oregon today, there are limitations on tax revenues coupled with continuing new requirements from state and federal government. Coos Bay, like other cities, searches for ways to fund basic services.

Over the decades Bay Area citizens have continued to "step up to the plate," supporting cultural infrastructure essential for a "great" community. Here is sampling of unique local cultural amenities:

- **Art is for everyone!** Coos Art Museum, a center for artistic education, art and creativity for all ages, is the only art museum on the Oregon Coast. The Museum recognizes and promotes artistic expression. Check out the murals on 2nd Court Alley in downtown Coos Bay, which just won a statewide award; perhaps you will recognize the names of some young local artists. A youth program, ORCO Arts for Kids, develops leadership through community involvement; youth from this program developed the lively storm drain art by the Coos Bay Visitor Center and in the Pedway. As you know, the South Coast boasts many talented artists, and a number of galleries.

- **Choshi Gardens and Morning Song Bridge** beckon as we enter Mingus Park. A symbol of our sister city heritage, the graceful Japanese bridge was developed through partnerships and donations. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Beverly Meyers involves others to maintain the gardens.

Continued on page 2

Our Cultural Legacy

Continued from page 1

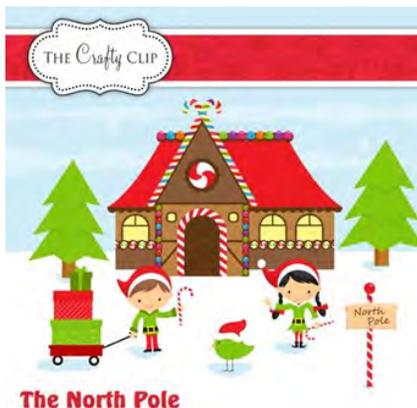
- **Live Theater Rocks!** Little Theatre on the Bay, performing in our community for 66 years is now kicking off fundraising for restoration / redevelopment of the grand old Liberty Theatre. The Dolphin Players produce live theater at their new community-gathering place in our historic Empire District. Getting the sign up on the newly renovated “old” Sunset Theater is a future project.
- **The Egyptian Theatre** is on the National Historic Register. Thanks to Helen Doving who prepared the detailed application. Kudos to ETPA President Greg Rueger, and hundreds of donors and volunteers who are saving this iconic national treasure and preserving a downtown event venue. You will be amazed when you see the gorgeous backdrops that have survived from vaudeville days at the Egyptian.
- **Music, Music, Music!** Groups, festivals and events for all tastes and all ages. The Oregon Coast Lab Band showcases youth who play great jazz.
- **Marshfield High School:** When Jerome Kersey of the Portland Trailblazers was here recently for the Rip City Relay kickoff, he exclaimed several times about the unique and beautiful art deco inspired Marshfield High School campus. The auditorium and gym have quality components that we will likely not be able to replicate in the future. Wouldn't it be great to leave a legacy by getting these facilities on the historic National Register?
- **We love our Libraries.** The Coos County Library Service District and the cities of Coos County support a stable and thriving library system that keeps growing.

Community support is key to developing and showcasing creativity, which is essential to the wellbeing of our citizens. I will share my thoughts about just one example, Coos Art Museum. We are inclined to take the Museum in its beautiful downtown building for granted because it is an institution in a grand old building, but we should never do that.

The current exhibit at the Museum provides a once in a lifetime opportunity. Original fine art prints by the masters, including Rembrandt and Picasso, are at the Museum through the first week in December. This amazing exhibit is made possible through Oregon State University and Raven Frame Works, Inc, Eugene, OR. The Art Museum is here because people with passion took leadership. Individuals and civic organizations can support this asset, and continue the legacy by visiting the Museum, being a member, making a donation, sponsoring an exhibit, volunteering, or providing and other cultural assets is a wonderful legacy that we can give to future generations. Money for the museum in your will or estate. Maintaining the Art Museum and other cultural assets is a wonderful legacy that we can give to future generations.



Holidays at the Library



The North Pole

The Coos Bay Public Library will be hosting a family movie matinee. Come to the library on Saturday, December 14th at 2:00 pm for an afternoon of popcorn, refreshments, and an express trip to the North Pole! The library will be screening the classic holiday movie, *The Polar Express*. All children will receive a special surprise. Come for an afternoon of family fun! See the Library's website for more details at <http://bay.cooslibraries.org/>

The Coos Bay Public Library's annual Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 21st at 11:00 am. Get in the holiday spirit with festive live music, cookies, Christmas crafts, and activities for kids! Don't miss out on the local musical talent of Les Engle, Theresa Erskine, and Jim Thornton. Can you sing along to Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer with a mouthful of cookies? Come find out.

If science is your thing, OMSI is coming to Coos Bay in January! Check the library's website for upcoming details. All programs are sponsored by the Friends of Coos Bay Public Library.



Hours

Library:

Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Friday - Saturday 12:00pm - 6:00 pm

Sunday Closed

Friends of the Library Book Store:

Wednesday - Saturday 12:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Christmas Trees

What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion – "Keep the tree watered."

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start most tree fires. Well-watered trees are typically not a problem — a dry and neglected tree can be. To view a graphic example of the volatility of a dry tree and additional safety tips check out http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxaUj_rfkN4



Selecting a Tree for the Holidays



Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source including a fireplace or heater vent. The heat will dry out the tree causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame, or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

The Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighter's Association offers a free Christmas tree pick up program on the first or second Saturday in January. For more information, please call the Fire Department at 541-269-1191.

LIFE NET

Coos Bay Fire Department has a new addition to its historical display items in the lobby at Station No. 1. Although it is certainly not new to the Department since it has been around since the 1950's.

This is an antique "jump net" or "life net" used in the first half of the 20th century. It is also called a "Browder Life Safety net" or "fireman's trampoline." They were carried on fire ladder trucks and used to rescue people from fires as they had to jump out of a burning building. It took several firefighters, usually 10-12, to hold this in place as victims landed. It can be folded in half for easier storage and transport. The frame has steel springs and hangers to counteract the weight of a landing person on the canvas. This jump net was manufactured by Atlas Life Saving Machine Co.

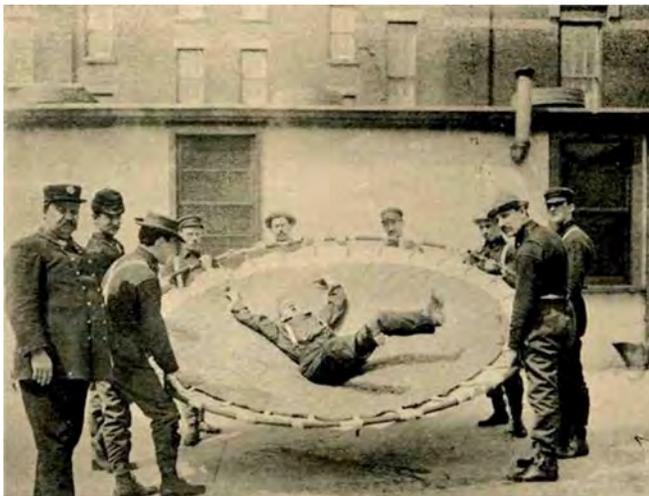
The Browder Life Safety Net is named after its inventor Thomas Browder of Ohio — a Civil War soldier and teacher. When used in the proper conditions, it allows people on upper floors of burning buildings the opportunity to jump to safety. Invented in 1887, it was an integral part of firefighting equipment for close to a hundred years. Due to advances in firefighting technology, it became obsolete by the 1980's.

Firefighters believed that the practical height limit for successful use of life nets was about six stories; although in a 1930 Chicago fire, three people survived jumps from an eight story into a life net. One suffered a skull fracture and the other two had minor injuries.

The results of life safety net use are very mixed. There are accounts where

people were saved, and also many accounts where the device did not work and people later died of other injuries that were a result of their jump.

In 1958, a Fire Department official in Eugene, Oregon expressed reservations saying that the term "life net" was misleading and that they should be used only as a last resort. As late as 1961, though, the Chicago Fire Department still emphasized the life net in its training programs. However, the modern aerial apparatus often known as a ladder truck has made the life net obsolete. Modern firefighting and rescue equipment make it possible for firefighters to carry out rescues more safely, at greater heights, and with smaller crews.



Safe Shopping During the Holidays

The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared, or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors. The Coos Bay Police Department wishes you a safe, happy, and peaceful holiday season.

Automated Teller Machine (ATM)

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a Police Station, mall, or well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

Shopping

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your driver license or identification card along with necessary cash, checks, and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.



Happy
Holidays!



COOS BAY

Coos Bay is located in Coos County in the southwest region of Oregon. Coos Bay is the largest city on the Oregon Coast and has a population of 16,060. The city provides law enforcement, fire protection, 9-1-1 dispatch, library services, parks, wastewater, stormwater and building inspection.

Road maintenance needs are a growing problem for Coos Bay, and so the city has had to divert money from other services, such as public safety.

2013 City Property Taxes at a Glance³³

\$370

City property tax per capita

\$5,947,637

City property tax imposed

\$379

Taxes lost to compression

\$6.36 per \$1,000 AV

City permanent property tax rate

No city voter-approved temporary tax rate

\$0.57 per \$1,000 AV

No city bond rate

Total rate: \$6.93 per \$1,000 AV

³³ All property tax information on this page is from the Oregon Department of Revenue FY2012-13 Property Tax Report unless otherwise noted. For detailed information on compression and more on

City Calendar

- Dec. 3rd Coos Bay City Council** - The meeting will be held in the council chambers in City Hall and will start at 7:00 p.m.

- Dec. 3rd Coos Bay Urban Renewal** - The meeting will be held in the council chambers in City Hall and will start at the conclusion of the City Council meeting.

- Dec. 10th Coos Bay Planning Commission** – The meeting will be held in the council chambers in City Hall and will start at 6:00 p.m.

- Dec. 12th Coos Bay / North Bend Visitors Convention Bureau** - The meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Red Lion and will start at 8:30 am.

- Dec. 17th Coos Bay City Council** - The meeting will be held in the council chambers in City Hall and will start at 7:00 pm.

- Dec. 17th Coos Bay Urban Renewal** - The meeting will be held in the council chambers in City Hall and will start at the conclusion of the City Council meeting.

- Dec. 18th Coos Bay Library Board** – The meeting will be held in the Cedar room at the Coos Bay Public Library and will start at 5:15 pm.

- Dec. 19th Coos Bay Parks Commission** - The meeting will be held at the City Hall's conference room and will start at 4:00 pm.

- TBA Egyptian Theatre Restoration Steering Committee** – The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Coos Bay Visitor's Center and will start at 5:30 pm.

Coos Bay
City Hall
500 Central Ave
Coos Bay, OR 97420
www.coosbay.org

Police Department
(541) 269-8911

Fire Department
(541) 269-1191

Library
(541) 269-1101

Public Works
Department
(541) 269-8918

Community
Development
Department
(541) 269-8924

Finance Department
(541) 269-8915

City Manager's
Office
(541) 269-8912

For additional information on City meetings contact City Hall
at (541) 269 – 8912