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City of Coos Bay,  
Oregon



# The Friday Update

**July 24, 2015**

**POSSIBLE GAS TAX** - After more than a year of study and public discussion, the cities of North Bend and Coos Bay are embarking on a cooperative effort to improve street maintenance in both communities. One idea to help pay for the desperately needed street maintenance is a proposed 5-cent-per-gallon tax on motor fuel sold in either city, with each city's proceeds dedicated to street maintenance and improvement.

What's it going to cost us drivers? Good question and the answer is that if you are a typical driver who buys 300 gallons of fuel at local stations each year then you will pay about \$15 in additional fuel taxes. That works out to \$1.25 a month or about 4 cents per day.

The proposal arises from the conclusions of a citizen task force that studied street conditions and suggested several revenue options. Officials in both cities hope the two city councils will place identical ballot measures on the November ballot for voter approval.

Before that happens, however, the cities plan two events to explain the proposal and gather citizen feedback:

- Residents of both cities are invited to an **open house** from **6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 30, at the North Bend Public Library**, 1800 Sherman Ave. Officials will explain the need for maintenance and answer questions about Save Our Streets. Among other issues, officials will be prepared to talk about their priority lists for individual street improvements.
- Residents are also invited to **participate in an informal survey**, aimed at gauging public support for Save Our Streets. The brief survey can be found online at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y27LG9V](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y27LG9V). Paper copies are available at both city halls and at public libraries in both cities. The survey will end July 31.

Engineering studies have shown that local streets are deteriorating and will fall into worse condition unless the cities invest in maintenance. Neither city has adequate revenue for street repairs. Although the cities receive a small share of state fuel tax revenue, the local share covers only a fraction of needed maintenance each year.

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Hall  
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[www.coosbay.org](http://www.coosbay.org)

Police  
Department  
(541) 269-8911

Fire Department  
(541) 269-1191

Library  
(541) 269-1101

Community  
Development  
Department  
(541) 269-8918  
or  
(541) 269-8924

Public Works  
Department  
(541) 269-8918

Finance  
Department  
(541) 269-8915

City Manager's  
Office  
(541) 269-8912

### **REMEMBERING RETIRED VOLUNTEER DEPUTY CHIEF BOB MILES**

On Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Chief (Ret.) Robert (Bob) Miles lost his battle with cancer. Bob joined the Coos Bay Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter in 1973. He served as the president of the volunteer association in 1981. Working his way through the ranks, Bob served time as a Lieutenant, Captain, and retired as a Deputy Chief in 2003. Bob is the last volunteer to have reached that rank. Over his 30 years of volunteering for the fire department, Bob participated in fighting many significant fires in the community including the Montmore Mill, Sunset Middle School, and the Coos Bay Bowling Alley to name a few. Deputy Chief Miles was a leader and motivator for the department, encouraging volunteers to be active in the community. A memorial service for Deputy Chief Miles will be held on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at the Downtown Fire Station.



**I THOUGHT THE VOTER'S LEGALIZED MARIJUANA?** - While medical marijuana was legalized in 1998 and recreational marijuana became legal in Oregon on July 1<sup>st</sup> it doesn't mean there are no rules to abide by!

This past week, Officers from the Coos Bay Police Department contacted the renters of a local commercial building in downtown Coos Bay and inquired about the reported marijuana grow at the location. With the business owner's permission the officers inspected the interior of the building where they found over 500 adult and 200 juvenile marijuana plants. The agricultural operation was reportedly for medical marijuana, although the site wasn't registered with the State and even it had been it was grossly out of compliance.

The public should also be aware that under Coos Bay's Land Use Ordinance commercial agricultural businesses (flowers, produce, marijuana, etc.) are not allowed within the City limits.

**I WANT TO KNOW** - I have had a lot of people asking what's going in at the old Curt's Barber Shop location (corner of Broadway and Hall St.) and / or the old Arby's location.

A Mini Pet Mart is going to be built at the old Curt's Barber Shop location and an O'Reilly's Auto Parts store is planned for the lot where Arby's had been located.