



Florence City Hall
 250 Highway 101
 Florence, OR 97439
www.ci.florence.or.us

Finance Department
 541-997-3436

Planning Department
 541-997-8237

Building Department
 541-997-2141

Inspection Request
 541-997-2141 ext. 3

City Recorder
 541-997-3437

City Manager's Office
 541-902-2182

Public Works
 541-997-4106

Police Department
 541-997-3515

Florence Events Center
 541-997-1994

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Siuslaw Bridge photo courtesy of Joshua Greene, © 2011 All Rights Reserved

Focus on Florence

February 2014

Déjà Vu

By Interim Police Chief Lynn Lamm



Déjà Vu seems to say it all as it relates to my wife and I returning to Florence and my subsequent return as your Chief of Police, albeit, on an interim basis. In addition, we have purchased the Lamm family home (built prior to 1890) in which I was raised. We previously sold the home in 2005 upon my retirement from City employment. My wife believes the return to the job and family home to be divine providence... maybe so.

Upon retirement from the City of Florence in 2005, I left for Baghdad, Iraq, as a Police Instructor. I was tasked with teaching Iraqi police on how to “police in a democracy”. I was stationed at Camp Shields Forward Operating Base (FBO) in Baghdad. It was just a stones throw from the Tigris River. The base was small, four or five blocks square and surrounded by 12 foot high concrete walls for safety reasons. They assigned me to the Management Training Unit, in which I was responsible for training senior ranking Police Officers including

See Chief Lamm, Page 2

City's Financial Software Update

By Finance Director Erin Reynolds

The City's Finance Department recently updated its financial software to the newest platform offered by the City's software provider Caselle. The City has been using the Caselle *Classic* version of the software since 2002. Upgrading software is never an easy or quick project. In fact, when I began at the City of Florence as the new Finance Director in 2011, the City had already set in motion the process of upgrading the financial accounting software to Caselle's new version called “*Clarity*”. As the new Finance Director I was tasked among other things to complete the conversion process.

The *Clarity* upgrade was the final step of a four part process that was a City Council goal titled “**Connect departments and city buildings** through dedicated data connections and provide internet”. Beginning in June 2013, the Finance Department was ready to tackle the accounting

“The City's most recent version of the updated Long-Range Financial Plan report was produced using Clarity.”

A copy of the report can be obtained from the City's website at <http://www.ci.florence.or.us/finance>

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Employee Spotlight

Executive Assistant Megan Messmer

Megan Messmer has worked as the Executive Assistant to the City Manager's Office since February 2013. Prior to coming to Florence, Megan graduated from Portland State University with a Masters in Public Administration specializing in local government.



Megan is from Silverton, Oregon, where her parents live. She has a younger brother attending Oregon State University. In her free time, Megan enjoys reading, quilting, meeting new people, visiting new places, and spending time with family.

What are your job functions as Executive Assistant to the City Manager's Office?

"As Executive Assistant, I assist the City Manager and City Recorder. Some of my responsibilities include business and special events licenses, airport leases, City Council meeting support, Urban Renewal meeting support and projects, website and IT management, and creation and distribution of the City newsletter. I have been fortunate enough to have the

opportunity to work on a few special projects such as the Budget Report to Citizens, the FEC Sustainable Funding Committee, and the Siuslaw River Interpretive Signs."

What is the most rewarding aspect of working with the City?

"I enjoy working in a small community where I can see the results of the work we are doing on a day to day basis and how it affects the citizens of Florence. It is rewarding to be able to help citizens when they come in with questions or need assistance."

What is the strangest request or incident you've had working for the City?

"Answering the main City Hall phone line has resulted in many interesting questions. Some of the interesting questions I have received include: How is the weather? Where can I go surfing in town? Do you know any home remedies to treat poison oak? Why can't I get the Duck game on my TV? Can I have the license plate off the city car to add to my collection?"

Florence Hires Correction Officer Rick Alexander

Rick Alexander was sworn in as the City of Florence's new Correction Officer on January 13, 2014 (see photo). Officer Alexander has lived in Florence since 2004. He has served as a sworn Reserve Officer with the Florence Police Department since June 2010 working as additional back up for the officers. In March 2012, he was promoted to solo Reserve Officer status where he was able to serve as a patrol officer.

As the first Corrections Officer for the City of Florence, Officer Alexander will be responsible for the day to day operations of the jail, booking and release of inmates, inmate health and nutritional needs, the inmate work release programs, inmate transports, and the reporting needed to insure the facility meets or exceeds the department's guidelines and policies as well as those of the State of Oregon.



CHIEF LAMM, Page 1

Majors, Colonels, and Generals. What a learning experience! I also instructed at the Officers Academy where we trained Lieutenants and Captains. The training at both levels consisted of Ethics, Values, Democratic Policing, Rule of Law, Police Administration, and Community Oriented Policing. Training in the Officers Academy also addressed Internal Affairs training, Use of Excessive Force, and Accountability. It was of course a war zone so life was occasionally quite tenuous. We instructors were armed and in “full battle rattle” as they say. We experienced mortar and small arms fire on more occasions than I like to remember. During my assignment in Iraq, two suicide bombers gained access to the Academy grounds and detonated, killing 46 students and slightly injuring two fellow instructors. I was at Headquarters, in the Green Zone in Baghdad, at the time so did not have to experience the horrors of the incident.



After serving approximately eight months at Camp Shields FOB, I was transferred to the City of Irbil, in Northern Iraq. Northern Iraq is home to the Kurds, the largest indigenous population of people (30+ million) who have never had their own country. They are a great people who love America and Americans in general. While in Irbil, I taught “rank and file” Policemen, including Border Patrol, Traffic Enforcement, and Station Officers. I finished my Irbil deployment after eight months and returned home. A couple of weeks later I learned that a terrorist suicide bomber from Southern Iraq had detonated outside the building where I taught and that my classroom was destroyed. No Americans were hurt or injured, but sadly several Kurdish students and police officers were killed.



My next assignment came in December of 2007 with deployment to Beirut, Lebanon. Ten instructors were selected to pioneer a basic police academy for the Lebanese Internal Security Force. It was a demanding assignment which involved many hours of planning and development before we could open the doors to training. We were charged with writing curriculum, instructor development, scheduling, writing standard operational procedures, and providing input on facility construction. We opened the doors for training in approximately four months after our arrival in-country. The scope of the program grew over the next several years. I am extremely proud of the team accomplishment in completing such a mission. I returned home after a year in Beirut and was deployed again in 2010 to serve another year. Beirut is a beautiful city with all the amenities that can might expect. The Lebanese are pro American and treated us with the utmost friendship and respect. It was a great assignment and I have developed lifetime friendships with many of the Lebanese people I met. My wife was also able to join me in 2010 and spent four months in-country.

In June of 2012, I deployed to Nepal, as a trainer of UN Peace Keeping personnel. These are Nepalese Police that are selected for required UN mandated training before they can be deployed to serve as UN Police Keepers in other countries. I trained local police in Kathmandu, Nepal’s largest city, as well as the Academy for the Nepalese Armed Police Force in the small village of Kakani, which is located at 8600 feet in the Himalayan Mountains. The air was thin and during the first couple of weeks my breathing was akin to the sound of a bellows. The view from our “hooch” was unforgettable. On a clear day we had a spectacular view of the Annapurna range. Mt. Everest was to our South, but was not quite visible. The team was “on the mountain” for two months. We came down to Kathmandu on weekends by way of “hold your breath road,” which was an adrenalin rush to travel. While in Nepal, my wife was able to join me for two weeks and she enjoyed her stay immensely. I returned home in late September of 2012 and, as they say, the rest is history. I am happy to be back serving the City of Florence.



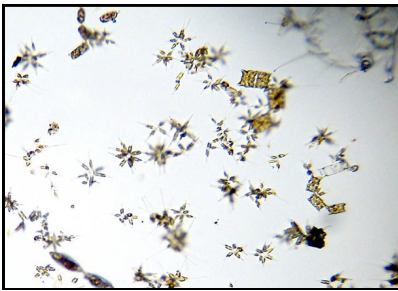
Brown Beach Foam can be a Sign of a Healthy Ocean

Every year, visitors and locals alike have been puzzled and concerned by the appearance of brown foam on the beaches and along the Siuslaw River. Some people have guessed the foam was caused by an oil spill, raw sewage or other forms of water pollution. The truth, however, is actually the opposite: the brown foam is a natural phenomenon and a sign of a healthy ocean. The foam is made up of diatoms, a single-celled plant (phytoplankton) found in both fresh and salt water. Because of their numbers, diatoms form an important part of the marine food chain and can support large populations of shellfish.



Smashed up cells of phytoplankton and the nutrients they release when pounded by waves make up the brown foam.

During certain times of the year, the Florence-area can experience a major diatom bloom. These blooms are very healthy and give filter feeders, such as razor clams, a banquet to feast upon. During winter, spring, and early summer, diatoms rapidly multiply in the surf zone. They can absorb large amounts of nitrates and phosphates that are delivered to the ocean by coastal rivers, contributing to diatom population explosions.



Diatoms are single-celled plants found in fresh and salt water.

Everything in the ocean feeds on diatoms and other plankton, either directly or indirectly. Even the great baleen whales, like the Gray Whale, filter plankton and diatoms as part of their diet. When the surf zone becomes too saturated with diatoms, they wash ashore, creating 'brown foam' that also floats up the Siuslaw River during the incoming tide. Wave action smashes up the diatoms and other phytoplankton that make up a bloom, but also pulls in air bubbles to produce foam.

When diatoms do wash ashore, it is in such great quantities that they can resemble an oil spill or other forms of water pollution. This was the case on December 18, 2013 when the river was as smooth as glass. Visitors, however, were concerned with the large amounts of brown foam floating on the river during the incoming tide change. That brown foam was actually a result of 10-12 foot breaking swells at the mouth of the Siuslaw River, which travels up with the incoming tide. Diatom blooms can give the appearance that a pollutant has contaminated the water, but these naturally occurring nutrients pose no harm to humans or marine life.



Brown foam gives the appearance of pollution but are actually naturally occurring diatom blooms.



Legislative Update: Smoking in Vehicles

ODOT/Driver and Motor Vehicle Services *January 2014 Traffic Newsletter* reported that "**Senate Bill 444 (2013)** creates a new offense of smoking in a vehicle while a person under 18 years of age is in the motor vehicle. This offense is a Class D traffic violation for the first offense and a Class C traffic violation for the second and subsequent offenses. The bill defines for applicability: "smokes" means to inhale, exhale, burn or carry a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, weed, plant, regulated narcotic or other combustible substance. The bill specifies that officers may enforce this offense only as a secondary action when a driver has been detained for some other offense."

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software conversion. In July and August we worked behind the scenes with Caselle support staff and our IT consultants to install the software on all *Clarity* users' workstations. We prepared the existing data for conversion and did a trial run "mock conversion". During September we were able to practice using *Clarity* in the mock environment and attend various training webinars to prepare for the real thing.

In November 2013 the "real thing" happened. At the completion of payroll, accounts payable, and all other daily functions, we closed the financial day in our old Classic software for the last time. The software company technicians at Caselle took our data and "converted" it to be compatible with the new *Clarity* software over the following two days. The following week, we had two Caselle trainers on-site to provide live training for 3 ½ days. We closed the Utility Billing/Finance Department office for Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning to allow us undivided attention to the training that would benefit us all (cash receipting and utility billing). Over the remaining 2 ½ days the trainers provided sessions specific to the applications that we use – accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, business licenses, service orders, and general ledger. After the trainers left I am happy to report that we have been able to operate *Clarity* with little to no incident. A few improvements and better functionalities of the *Clarity* software are highlighted below:

1. **Better reporting:** *Clarity* provides the reporting capabilities that a 21st century user would expect. At the most basic level reports can be modified and enhanced to provide the data that one needs and the desired appearance in one report and straight from Caselle. Previously we would have to run various reports and inquiries and then manually summarize the information in a readable manner in excel. In fact the City's most recent version of the updated Long-Range Financial Plan report was produced using *Clarity*.
2. **Better connectivity - MiViewPoint:** Now that the City is connected by a fiber City secure network employees from various locations can be connected to the dedicated Caselle SQL Server. MiViewPoint is a secure connection using the Internet Explorer to allow authorized users to view the financial data in *Clarity* no matter their physical location. For the first time ever, the City Manager, Department Directors, and other authorized employees will have access to their department's budget and accounting information in "real-time".
3. **Improved Accountability:** *Clarity's* Utility Management application is very robust and will help the Finance Department to implement the changes to the Utility Billing process and code that we will be proposing to City Council during 2014. It is our goal to better manage and hold customers accountable to pay for the services that the City provides. The improved reporting capability will allow us to have better communication with the Customers and Landlords through enhanced bill formats, service orders, and letters.
4. **Unlimited Possibilities:** We intend to continually improve the financial reporting and inter-department services. *Clarity's* options are vast and we will create more efficient and effective processes in order to take advantage of the software's new functionalities. Along with the Utility Billing function, we expect to improve the accounts payable request and approval processes in the year to come.

"Clarity's Utility Management application is very robust and will help the Finance Department to implement the changes to the Utility Billing process and code that we will be proposing to City Council..."

The Finance Department Staff appreciates that the City Council and the City Manager places a high value on reliable and effective financial reporting. We are very thankful for this important upgrade and investment in the financial reporting technology. It is our goal to take full advantage of all *Clarity* has to offer.

What's Happening at the Senior Center?

New Watercolor Classes at the Senior Center

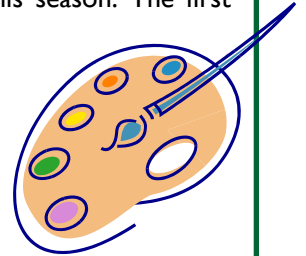
If being more creative is one of your New Year's resolutions, then the watercolor class at the Florence Senior Center may be just the ticket. Instructor Kenneth Kent will offer two six-week watercolor classes this season. The first begins February 6th; the second starts April 24th. All classes are held at 1 p.m. on Thursdays.

Kent will hold a pre-meeting before each session to go over exactly what each participant will need. The pre-meetings are scheduled for Jan. 30 and April 17.

Seniors wanting to learn the basics of watercolor painting can sign up at the Senior Center in person or by phone at 541-997-8844.

No previous training or drawing experience is required. Kent provides pre-drawn images on watercolor paper and demonstrates how to apply the watercolors. The instruction is free, but participants will be asked to contribute \$6 to the senior center and about \$12 for instructor-provided materials. Since he began his classes at the center, Kent has helped close to 100 seniors learn the basics of watercolor painting.

The Florence Senior Center is located at 1570 Kingwood. Volunteer receptionists are at the Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday to take reservations and answer questions. The Center offers daily meals and a variety of classes and activities for area seniors 60 or older. Information is available at the center's website: www.FlorenceSeniorCenter.org.



Win a Gourmet Dinner for 10 People

How would you like to treat yourself and nine of your friends to a gourmet prime rib dinner for just \$10? The Florence Senior Center is offering an opportunity for you to do just that with their annual dinner raffle fundraiser.

Senior Center chef Larry Osgood will be preparing a five course feast for ten people. The winner of the raffle will be drawn on St. Patrick's Day. The raffle is open to the community and all ages are encouraged to participate.



"We are excited to reach out to the community at large," said Beth Johnston, Senior Center Board President. "Larry is an amazing chef and his dinners are fabulous. This is a 'don't miss' opportunity."

Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the activities and operations of the Florence Senior Center. The Senior Center offers daily meals and a variety of classes and activities for area seniors 60 or older.

Only 300 tickets will be sold, so don't delay. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 at the Senior Center, 1570 Kingwood, between 9 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday. You can call 541-997-8844 to reserve a ticket in your name. Senior Center Board Members also have tickets for sale.

Memory Loss Respite Center

Let us help you care for your loved one with memory loss. Our trained volunteer staff will share a fun-filled four hours, which includes lunch, games, music, etc. in a safe environment. Our program is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and can be attended any or all of those days.

The Memory Loss Respite Center is located in our lovely private rooms at the Florence Senior Center at 1570 Kingwood St.

The cost is \$10 per day, with scholarships available if needed. Phone us at 541-902-8539 or drop by for more information.

We would love to become acquainted with you and your loved one.



From left to right: Councilor Joe Henry, Councilor Brian Jagoe, Mayor Nola Xavier, Councilor Suzanne Roberts, Councilor Joshua Greene

Visit the City of Florence online at www.ci.florence.or.us

City E-mail Addresses

Mayor Nola Xavier
nola.xavier@ci.florence.or.us

Council President
Suzanne Roberts
suzanne.roberts@ci.florence.or.us

Council Vice-President
Brian Jagoe
brian.jagoe@ci.florence.or.us

Councilor Joshua Greene
joshua.greene@ci.florence.or.us

Councilor Joe Henry
joe.henry@ci.florence.or.us

City Manager Jacquie Betz
jacque.betz@ci.florence.or.us

City Recorder & Interim
Planning Director
Kelli Weese
kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us

Public Works Director
Mike Miller
mike.miller@ci.florence.or.us

Finance Director
Erin Reynolds
erin.reynolds@ci.florence.or.us

Florence Events Center
Director Kevin Rhodes
kevin@eventcenter.org

Police Chief Ray Gutierrez
ray.gutierrez@ci.florence.or.us

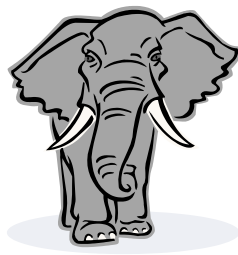
Newsletter Editor
Megan Messmer
megan.messmer@ci.florence.or.us



Elementary Science Lab needs your help! They serve 200 local 4th and 5th grade students weekly. They are a volunteer run and supported program teaching students science fundamentals by re-engineering recycled trash into hover craft, buoyancy divers, hand blasters, balloon cars, and more!

Please drop-off, clean items to a Science Lab collection tub located at either Florence City Hall, on Hwy 101 or Siuslaw Elementary Office, on Oak Street.

- Plastic milk jug lids (any color), By Feb 28
- Colored plastic rings from mouth of plastic drinking bottles, by Feb 28
- Clear squeeze bottles with flip-tops (ketchup, syrup, mayo), by March 21
- Plastic or wooden sewing spools, by April 25
- Squeezable Kool-Aid-Burst juice drink plastic bottles, by April 25
- One-liter clear plastic (water/soda) bottles with tight fitting caps, by May 9



- Rubber bands (assorted sizes and colors)
- Aluminum pie pans (any size)
- Old used felt tip highlighters (yellow, green or orange)
- Any "science-y" books, toys or stickers for student prizes

Florence area residents recycled around 2,993 tons of materials in 2013. That is 119 garbage trucks, 362 Bush elephants, 375 street sweepers, or 4,534 male sea lions. All those diverted sour cream containers, cereal boxes, soda cans, and toilet paper tubes are saved from a fate in the Short Mountain Landfill south of Springfield and instead get the opportunity to be remade into something else for you to buy, recycle and reuse... and so the cycle goes. GOOD JOB, Keep it up! Have a question about recycling? Call Wendy FarleyCampbell at 541-997-8237 in the Planning Dept. or your local hauler.

City Calendar

For more information about meetings (days marked in yellow), contact City Hall at 541-997-3437. For information on events & concerts (days marked in blue), contact the Florence Events Center at 541-997-1994.

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Crab Crack FEC 4 pm
2	3 City Council Meeting 7 pm	4	5	6	7	8 Heart to Heart FEC @ 10 am ... Side Street Strutters FEC @ 7 pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Indoor Yard Sale FEC 8 am—2 pm
16 FloTones & Yachats Big Band FEC 2 pm	17 Presidents' Day City Hall & FEC Closed	18	19 TAC Meeting 1:30 pm	20 EMAC Meeting 2 pm	21	22 Emerald City Jazz Kings FEC @ 1:30pm ... Spirit of Aloha FEC @ 7 pm
23	24	25 Planning Commission City Hall 7 pm	26 FURA 6:30 pm	27	28 Home & Garden Show FEC 2 pm—7 pm	