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www.ci.florence.or.us

City Manager's Office
541-997-3437

Building Department
541-997-2141

Code Enforcement
541-902-2180

Finance Department
541-997-3436

Florence Events Center
541-997-1994

Municipal Court
541-997-3123

Planning Department
541-997-8237

Police Department
541-997-3515

Public Works
541-997-4106

Senior Center
541-997-8844

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

January 2016

2016 State of the City Submitted by Mayor Joe Henry

Early last year, as the new Mayor, I had the opportunity to stand before our community to deliver the State of the City address. The goal of that address was to describe the state of the City as one moving from hibernation, as a result of the recession, towards a City ready to breathe new excitement into our community with what was coming in 2015 and beyond.

The past year has been a very exciting one filled with challenges and opportunities. Early on we adopted the concept of a “City in Motion” and the City Council developed seven broad goals with objectives and tasks, which included filling the position of City Manager as the first priority. That was accomplished in short order with the promotion of our Finance Director, Erin Reynolds, and she has proven to be an excellent choice. Once the City Manager was on board, she filled the position of Police Chief with Tom Turner to kick start 2015.

With those key objectives accomplished, the City Council and staff tackled the city work plan and made excellent progress in all areas of the plan throughout 2015. The seven broad goals are ongoing and strive to make our community Oregon’s premier coastal community. Many of the objectives and tasks have been completed, while others are in process.

The City Council met with staff in December for our Goal Setting session to review the goals and work plan. During that meeting, we discussed items that were complete, what would be continued into 2016, and the new items that should be incorporated. As a result of that discussion, we were able to refine our goals for the City moving into 2016.



City Attorney Ross Williamson presented to the Florence City Council and Management Team at the 2016 City Council Goal Setting Session on December 16, 2015 at the Florence Events Center.

In 2015, our City focused on ramping up and of developing partnerships. My thanks to the City Council and the staff for meeting our challenges and opportunities head on to help move our “City in Motion” forward and make Florence Oregon’s premier coastal community.

See State of the City, Page 2

STATE OF THE CITY, Page 1

It has been a fun and exciting time in the City. I would encourage our citizens to get involved through our various volunteer opportunities and join our "City in Motion." I am proud to have served as your Mayor this past year and am looking forward to 2016 with even more excitement as we shift our emphasis a little away from ramping up and focus a little more on doing.

I would like to invite members of the community to come to the State of the City address on January 21st to hear about what we have been working on in greater detail.

City of Florence
INVITES YOU TO THE
STATE OF THE CITY

JANUARY 21, 2016
Florence Events Center

PROGRAM

5-7 PM BUSINESS AFTER HOURS OPEN HOUSE
5:30 PM **STATE OF THE CITY**
Presented by Mayor Henry

SUPPORTED BY



City of Florence
A City in Motion



For more information, contact
City Hall at 541-997-3437.

**Join Us
Online!**

The City of Florence and the Florence Events Center are both on social media. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Vimeo. Watch for updates on meetings, events, videos, and other important information.

Like Us On



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Watch Us On



[www.vimeo.com/
florenceoregon](http://www.vimeo.com/florenceoregon)

Your Stormwater Dollars at Work— Siano Stormwater Drainage Improvements

If you have been out Rhododendron Drive lately, you may have seen the various phases of construction activity for the City's project just north of 35th Street. In November, crews from Ray Wells, Inc. started the project by clearing vegetation and beginning to construct a new stormwater swale on the north property line of several homes on Siano Loop. The new swale is intended to capture surface water drainage coming from the vicinity of Royal St. George and the Sand Pines Golf Link prior to entering a soon to be decommissioned network of failing corrugated metal pipes that have created sink holes on private property. This project was identified as one of the top stormwater priority projects in the City's 2000 Stormwater Management Plan.



Crews from Ray Wells, Inc. installing jute mat along bottom of drainage swale.



New inlet structure for the 42-inch stormwater system.

The new stormwater swale now connects to a new inlet structure where the stormwater will be conveyed in a pipe to the location of the existing stormwater outfall to a natural drainage corridor on the west side of Rhododendron Drive. The project replaced the old corrugated metal pipe under Rhododendron Drive with a new 42-inch PVC storm pipe and reconstructed the stormwater outfall (outlet) with an energy dissipater in order to reduce the velocity of the stormwater as it leaves the pipe and does not cause erosion.

As with most of our project's, we endeavor to combine projects whenever possible to address other infrastructure issues within the project area. This project is no exception, as we have included replacing a section of sanitary sewer on 35th and Siano Loop as part of the project. Our contractor is currently installing the replacement sanitary sewer from the west side of Rhododendron Drive along 35th Street to Siano Loop and then up Siano Loop for 200 feet. This portion of the project addresses a reverse flow sanitary sewer line.

In addition, we are taking this opportunity to address drainage issues on 35th Street between Siano Loop and Rhododendron Drive. This will eliminate the ponding that typically occurs on the north side of 35th at Rhododendron and standing water along the curb and gutter on Siano at 35th Street. Once all of the pipe work is completed, the contractor will repave 35th Street from Rhododendron Drive to Siano Loop and a small portion of Siano Loop from 35th Street to the project terminus.

Total construction project costs are \$348,693. The project is funded from a combination of sources, including \$220,000 from stormwater; \$67,373 from wastewater; and \$67,410 from streets.



Contractor installing a section of 42-inch stormwater line across Rhododendron Drive.

For more information regarding this or other City capital improvement project, please contact Florence Public Works at 541-997-4106.

Winter Weather Preparation— Be a Force of Nature!

Winter is a Killer: Simple Steps to Stay Safe



Winter Prep: Simple Steps to Stay Safe

Winter is more than just snowy scenes. The season contains significant dangers such as wind storms, high surfs, snow storms, ice storms, and freezing temperatures.

Winter hazards can strike before you're ready. Recently, a raging snowstorm in Buffalo, NY trapped [drivers in their cars](#) for 24 hours. Would you be prepared? The past few years have also seen cities like New York, Philadelphia and Washington shut-down by blizzards. Atlanta was reduced to gridlock by a couple inches of snow. Now, we don't usually get extreme amounts of snow, but we have experienced high winds with corresponding damages. You need to ask yourself, if the roads were impassable, could you survive at home for several days?

Preparing for winter isn't complicated or expensive. While winter is dangerous, a few simple steps can help you and your family stay safe this season. Here is what NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) recommends:

I. Know your risk

High winds, ice storms and freezing temperatures can be a killer for the unprepared. Make sure that you're aware of the risk that winter brings. Here's what you need to know:

- A few inches of snow or ice can shut down a city and leave you trapped at home for days.
- Driving on ice and snow-covered roads can lead to car wrecks, injuries and death.
- Snow, ice and wind associated with winter storms can have a huge impact on travel, infrastructure, schools and businesses.
- Some winter storms can cover nearly half the nation, affecting tens of millions of people. Annually, damages from winter storms add up to over \$1 billion.
- Frostbite may develop on exposed skin when temperatures are below freezing. Add wind to below freezing temperatures and frostbite can set in even quicker.
- Other winter dangers include hypothermia and avalanches in the mountain areas.
- [Flooding](#) is also possible due to snowmelt and coastal storms.

Check the forecast at [weather.gov](#) before you leave the house. Familiarize yourself with winter watches, [warnings and advisories](#) so you know what to do when the National Weather Service issues one for your area.

*WINTER WEATHER, Page 4***2. Take Action**

While the weather outside might be frightful, it doesn't mean that you're powerless. Prepare for winter with these simple steps:

- Before you go out: check the forecast at weather.gov to make sure you're prepared for the elements. Follow NWS on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay up to date with the latest weather news.
- At home: have an [Emergency Preparedness Kit](#) with three days of food, water, prescription medications and other supplies. Also consider obtaining a [NOAA Weather Radio](#).
- Make sure your cell phone is fully charged when a storm is approaching and also anytime you're planning to leave the house. It could become your life-line should disaster strike.
- In your car: make sure you have food, water and blankets in your trunk. Stay off the road when advised to do so by local authorities.
- Dress for the season: wear loose, warm clothing in layers.
- Don't forget your pets! Keep them inside during cold weather.
- During and after the storm: never use a generator or kerosene heater indoors - carbon monoxide poisoning is a silent killer.
- After the storm: take breaks when shoveling snow or clearing debris and stay clear of downed power lines.

**3. Be A Force of Nature**

Being an example works. By sharing your preparedness story, you will inspire others to also prepare for winter. Be a Force of Nature in Florence:

- Write a post on Facebook. Share with your friends and family the details of how you're winter-ready.
- Tweet that you're prepared with #WinterPrep. Help the NWS build an online community of the prepared.
- Create a [Family Communication Plan](#) so that your loved ones know how to get in touch during an emergency.
- Help your neighbors before and after winter storms - especially the elderly, who are particularly vulnerable.
- Look for opportunities to help our community to prepare, such as volunteering with the [American Red Cross](#).

Register for [America's PrepareAthon!](#) to learn how to stay safe during disasters. Winter weather can be deadly. But with a few simple steps, you can stay safe.

Submit Business License Renewals January 20th

Florence Business Licenses are valid through the end of the calendar year from the date of issuance. In November of every year the City Recorder's office issues business license renewals for each permanent business. These business license renewals are due by **January 1st** of each year. All renewals received after January 20, 2016 will be subject to a penalty fine of 1/2 the value of the business license (\$40 for permanent, \$22.50 for home occupation) and legal business status will be suspended. If you have questions please contact Florence City Hall at 541-997-3437.



Recorder's Corner

News from the December Council Meetings

The Florence City Council ended the 2015 calendar year with a series of three Council meetings (totaling nearly six hours) on December 14th making for a very late evening for the City Council, Planning Commission, and staff. The Council started off the evening with an executive session to review the first year performance for City Manager Erin Reynolds, congratulations to Ms. Reynolds on her outstanding job performance over 2015. After completion of the executive session, the City Council held their December business meeting and followed that meeting up with a combined meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission at 7:00 p.m. Over 80 people attended the Public Hearing to discuss land use code amendments for Marijuana businesses and Old Town Area A manufacturing and wholesale. After over 17 people commented on the items, the Planning Commission and City Council made their recommendations and decisions, respectively, on each matter.

On December 16th, the City Council held a work session to begin discussions on goal setting for the 2016 year, including reviewing the accomplishments of 2015 and holding a bit of training for good measure. We look forward to getting started on our updated work plan for the new year.

During December the City Council also completed the following:

- Approval of a liquor license for a change of ownership to Spice Restaurant
- Completion of the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2015.

For more information about Florence City Council meetings and actions, please contact City Recorder Kelli Weese at 541-997-3437, or via email at kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us. Information on all Council meetings and actions taken can be found on the City of Florence website at www.ci.florence.or.us.

Citing the Municipal Code Garbage Control & Persistent Wildlife

We are starting the New Year with an area of our Florence City Code (FCC) that comes up a lot. Lately I spend a lot of time dealing with dogs that are making too much noise and too often. FCC Title 6 Chapter 6: Animal Control explains the code provisions related to animal behavior and, more importantly, owner responsibility. The part I would like to focus on this month is FCC 6-6-040: Animal Nuisance. Now that the weather is colder, pets tend to not like being outside as much. I know mine don't. We cannot allow them to bark non-stop or howl for prolonged periods of time. To be a good neighbor, if the dog is barking for extended periods of time they need to be brought in the house, put in the garage, or some other area.



There are several places where this is an ongoing problem. I take no joy in citing anyone particularly this time of year; however, it is not fair to our neighbors to subject them to the constant disturbance of animal noises. Let's all do our part and be good neighbors.

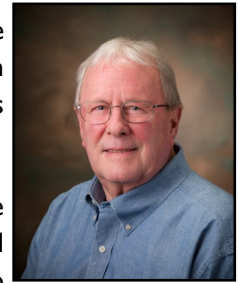
Remember, bringing pets in during cold weather isn't just to avoid nuisance violations. Pets get cold during winter weather and suffer from weather related issues. You can read more about protecting your pets during winter and cold weather at www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/cold-weather-safety-tips.

I wish each and every one of you the very best in the coming year.

Dan Frazier, Code Enforcement Officer

Ride with a Councilor on the Rhody Express!

Do you have a great idea or thought you would like to share with the Florence City Council? The City Council has started the “Ride with a Councilor” program so that you can share them! Each quarter, a City Councilor or Mayor Henry will ride the Rhody Express to answer your questions and hear your suggestions.



January 19th
1:30 pm—3:30 pm

Hop aboard and talk to Councilor George Lyddon on Ride with a Councilor day, which will be held January 19th from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM on the Rhody Express. Councilor Lyddon invites all members of the public who have not yet ridden the Rhody Express and may be interested to come aboard and experience the service as well as have the opportunity to share your thoughts. All members of the public are welcome and fares will be FREE during this event

For more information about the program, call the City Manager’s Department at 541-997-3437. For a detailed bus schedule, pick up a brochure at the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, or online at ltd.org/rhody. For other questions concerning the Rhody Express service, call the Rhody Express at 541-902-2067.

Recreational marijuana is legal. Driving under the influence is not!

Members of [Governor’s Advisory Committee on DUII](#) are reminding motorists that it is illegal to drive under the influence of marijuana. In Oregon, there is no presumed blood level of marijuana in a driver’s system that implies that the driver is impaired. The most important thing is, no matter what the substance – legal or illegal – if it impairs you, you shouldn’t get behind the wheel.

“In Oregon, and in the majority of other states, impairment is impairment,” said Chuck Hayes, chair of the committee and a nationally recognized drugged driving training expert with the International Associate of Chiefs of Police. “We know marijuana affects reaction time, short-term memory, hand-eye coordination, concentration and perception of time and distance – all of which are vital functions for driving safely.”

Increase your awareness. Safety advocates in Oregon are busy gathering facts about how marijuana, now that it is legal to use recreationally, affects driving, according to Dan Estes, ODOT’s [Impaired Driving Program](#) manager. “There’s a myth out there that marijuana doesn’t affect behavior behind the wheel or otherwise, but evidence shows that it does,” he said. “Now we need to increase awareness about that and prevent impaired driving.”

Trained officers know the impacts. Oregon has approximately 200 officers statewide that are trained as Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) — **Florence currently has one officer trained as a DRE.** In addition, Oregon continues to increase basic drug-detection training to police officers through the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement ([ARIDE](#)) program. According to Oregon DRE Coordinator Sgt. Evan Sether of the Oregon State Police, more than 400 police officers have been trained in ARIDE, and more training is scheduled for 2016.

The Governor’s Advisory Committee on DUII, tasked with helping raise awareness of the dangers of DUII and getting communities involved in reducing DUII, hopes that Oregonians, like those who don’t drink and drive, will consider the tragic consequences that can occur when marijuana and driving mix – and then take personal responsibility for making safe choices.



The State of Oregon has provided a resource website with the new rules associated with Measure 91. Learn more at whatslegaloregon.com.

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City Council Meetings

Council Chambers
City Hall, 250 Hwy. 101
(unless otherwise noted)

Regular Meetings
Mon., January 11, 6 PM

Work Session
Wed. January 27, 10 AM

City Council regular meetings are open to the public, televised on cable Channel 191, and available for online viewing the following day. For the most current agenda & materials call 541-997-3437 or visit www.ci.florence.or.us.

COUNCIL GOALS

Deliver efficient and cost effective City services. ■ Expand and diversify the Florence economy. ■ Improve the City's livability and quality of life. ■ Sustain the City's strong financial position. ■ Strengthen and Improve the City's Organization and Capital Plant. ■ Improve the City's communication program to better tell the City's story and strengthen citizen trust where possible. ■ Improve the community's safety and perception of safety.

CITY CALENDAR: JANUARY 2016

Questions?

Contact City Hall at 541-997-3437.
Contact the Florence Events Center at 541-997-1994.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				HAPPY NEW YEAR	1 New Year's Day City Hall & FEC Closed	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Public Art Committee 10 am, City Hall	9 Artistic Visions Award Show 2 pm, FEC
10	11 Public Art Committee 10 am, City Hall Economic Dev. Committee 2:30 pm, City Hall City Council 6 pm, City Hall	12	13 Committee Interviews 1:30-6 pm, City Hall	14 Committee Interviews 1:30-6 pm, City Hall	15 Winter Music Festival 6:30-11:30 pm, FEC	16 Winter Music Festival All Day, FEC
17 Winter Music Festival All Day, FEC	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day City Hall & FEC Closed	19 City Councilor Ride Along 1:30—3:30pm, Rhody Express	20 TAC 1:30 pm, City Hall Main Street Presentation 2:30 pm, FEC Siuslaw Business Awards 6 pm, FEC	21 EMAC 2 pm, City Hall City of Florence Business After Hours 5—7 pm, FEC State of the City 5:30 pm, FEC	22	23
24	25 Public Art Committee 10 am, City Hall	26 Planning Commission 7 pm, City Hall	27 City Council Work Session 10 am, City Hall FURA 6 pm, City Hall	28	29 Jesse Cook 7 pm, FEC	30 Jazz Kings "In the Mood" 2 pm, FEC
31						