

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

Finance Department
 541-997-3436

Building/Planning
 541-997-8237

Inspection Request
 541-997-2141 xt. 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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Anniversary Edition!
 Celebrating one year of
 informing Florence citizens.

Focus on Florence

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

July 2012

Florence to host Oregon Mayors Conference

The City of Florence is proud to be host to the 2012 Oregon Mayors Association's (OMA) annual summer conference July 26 to 28th.

"We are delighted to be hosting more than 100 Oregon Mayors and guests here in Florence this summer for our annual Oregon Mayors Association conference," exclaimed Florence Mayor Phil Brubaker, who also serves on the OMA Board of Directors. "Many of these folks will be visiting Florence for the first time in years, and we hope they will return home to share great impressions of our little City."

The Conference begins on Thursday, July 26th with a special Oregon Mayors Afterschool Summit. Events for the Mayors will be held through-



out the Florence area, including tours of Sea Lions Caves, the Heceta Head Lighthouse Station, the Siuslaw Estuary Ecology and Historic Old Town.

"The annual Oregon Mayors Association conference will provide a time for

valuable educational seminars from experts in communication, disaster preparedness and public safety, as well as briefings from State department heads about current events in Oregon. It is also a time for Mayors to share ideas among one another, and return home with renewed perspectives on their important roles," said Brubaker.

For more information on the OMA Conference, visit www.oregonmayors.org.

Open Seats for Mayor and Council Positions

Submitted by City Recorder

On November 6, City voters will elect the following open positions...

- ◇ Mayor (position currently held by Phil Brubaker) – 2 year term
- ◇ Councilor (position currently held by Nola Xavier) – 4 year term

- ◇ Councilor (position currently held by Paul Holman) – 4 year term

The City of Florence Mayor and Councilors are volunteers who serve as the governing body for the

See Elections Page 4

Employee Spotlight

Senior Police K-9 Brasso Von Dog

For seven years (49 in dog years), Officer Ken Larson and Senior K-9 Officer Brasso have patrolled the streets of Florence. Brasso retired last month after a distinguished career and was honored during the June 4th, City Council meeting for his service.

A longhaired German Shepard, Brasso made his way to Florence from the cold and snowy lands of Czechoslovakia. Over the past seven years, Brasso's specialty was the ability to track individuals in the most extreme conditions. During that time, he was instrumental in apprehending more than 50 suspects.

In October of 2011, Officer Larson had noticed a change in Brasso's behavior. It turned out Brasso had sustained a significant spinal injury. After a couple of surgeries, it was decided that Brasso had completed his service for the community.

"Without the help of City Manager Jacque Betz and Chief of Police Ray Gutierrez, Brasso would most likely not be here today," said Officer Larson. "With their support, it has allowed Brasso to have a quality of life that will allow him to relax into retirement."

According to Officer Larson, Brasso will spend his remaining days protecting the Larson family property, where he is looking forward to camping trips and long walks on the beach.



Officer Ken Larson and former Senior K-9 Officer Brasso Von Dog. Brasso recently retired after seven years in the Florence Police Department.

Brasso's Hobbies?

"Play ball, chew on toys or anything he can really sink his teeth into."

His favorite things to do while on the job?

"Brasso loved barking orders and riding around in the police car."

Most rewarding or proudest moment?

"After neighboring police agencies had a lengthy pursuit with a homicide suspect, Brasso was able to track them down and found them hiding in brush. One of the suspects was still armed with a gun when they were located."

Favorite snack?

"Brasso was introduced to Pita Chips. Now whenever the Pita Chip bag comes out, he sits and drools waiting for his share to be tossed to him."

A Blast From the City Council's Past

46 Years Ago
July 29, 1966

The Florence City Council held a special meeting during which Mayor Stuart Johnson proclaimed and declared Measure Nos. 500-501 had passed with 132 affirmative votes and 49 votes against. The measures approved the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$150,000 for the construction and equipping of a new combined City Hall and Library. The new City Hall/Library was officially dedicated on Rhododendron Festival Saturday, May 20th, 1967.



Florence City Hall circa the mid-1970's

Florence Events Center: The Ideal Conference Facility

Submitted by Florence Events Center Staff



The Florence Events Center is located at 715 Quince Street.

Anyone who has attended an out-of-town conference or other gathering lately knows what kind of facility it takes to put on a good event. Florence's community-owned facility; the Florence Events Center (FEC), is an ideal venue to accommodate groups of anywhere from 20 to 300. The FEC is fortunate to host a number of conferences each year and these groups attract people from out of town that stay in local lodging facilities, eat at local restaurants and shop in local stores. So as a conference center, the FEC has a significant impact on the city's economy.

Many local residents are affiliated with a variety of organizations throughout the state, such as service clubs, government entities, business associations and church groups. Attracting these organizations to the Florence community benefits

everyone. The majority of people would probably agree that word-of-mouth is one of the most effective methods of advertising. So the next time you are attending an organizational function, we encourage you to spread the word that the City



The Florence Events Center's theatre can seat up to 457 people.

of Florence has a wonderful venue that's perfect for hosting their next gathering.

The FEC consistently receives glowing reviews from

conference attendees. We are proud of the service we provide including a clean facility, attentive staff and affordable rates. Not only do we have a great setting, but Florence is a unique and attractive coastal community appreciated by thousands of visitors each year and we want to continue to promote our community and all that it has to offer in order to benefit the local economy.

FLORENCE MUNICIPAL COURT — VIOLATIONS BUREAU

Submitted by the Municipal Court

DO YOU:

- ⇒ **HAVE A GOOD DRIVING RECORD?**
- ⇒ **DESIRE A REDUCTION IN THE PRESUMPTIVE FINE AMOUNT?**
- ⇒ **WANT TO RECEIVE A FINE REDUCTION WITHOUT HAVING TO APPEAR IN COURT?**

If you have answered yes to these questions, you may want to know more about the Violations Bureau at Florence Municipal Court.

- The Violation Bureau handles citations for traffic violations only, NOT traffic crimes.
- The Violation Bureau handles citations that do not involve an accident.
- If you have less than two moving violation convictions in any state, or same offense convictions within the past 36 months you may qualify for a reduction of the presumptive fine.
- To qualify for traffic diversion, you must have no moving violations within the last 36 months and no more than one moving violation in any state in the last ten years. Some violations will not qualify for traffic diversion; please contact the court office for more information, either in person, by phone, or by letter. For example, CDL holders do not qualify for traffic diversion.
- You must appear either in person, by phone, or by writing a letter to the court at Florence Municipal Court, 900 Greenwood Street. Bureau hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you are unable to pay the scheduled fine and assessment in full, the Violations Clerk will set a payment schedule. **A \$10.00 payment agreement fee is required to be paid at the time of payment arrangements.** You may contact the court at (541) 997-3123 to utilize the Violations Bureau option over the phone using a MasterCard or VISA debit or credit card.

To have this matter handled by the Violations Bureau, you must waive your right to appear in front of a Judge. The scheduled fine, which the Violations Clerk is required to impose, is equivalent to the fine that would ordinarily be imposed if you appeared in court and plead no contest or were found guilty. You may also choose to enter a plea of Not Guilty and request a trial date where you will appear in front of the Judge to state your case along with the officer.

To contact the Florence Municipal Court Violations Bureau, please call 541-997-3123 or e-mail muni.court@ci.florence.or.us

ELECTIONS from Page 1

City of Florence. The City Council works as a collective unit to pass laws, fees, policies, budget and to supervise the City Manager and Municipal Court Judge positions. In order to be versed enough to make such decisions, serving on the Council requires countless hours of studying the pressing issues of the City of Florence as well as attendance at regular meetings, work sessions and other external meetings where the Councilor/Mayor will represent the City and its interests.

The Mayor is the presiding officer of the City Council and thus officiates City Council meetings in order to preserve order. The Mayor also works directly with the City Manager to determine the order of business of City Council meeting agendas, and serves as the figurehead for the City of Florence.

Serving on the City Council or as Mayor is a uniquely interesting and rewarding job that requires applicants to be

dedicated to uplifting the City by understanding the citizen's values and goals. The Florence City Council conducts its regular meetings on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

To run, all Mayor and City Council candidates must be registered voters and have lived in the City of Florence for at least one year preceding the election. More information about these positions can be found on the City of Florence website at <http://www.ci.florence.or.us/citymanager/2012-city-elections> including information on the process for running for office. Completed initiative petition forms must be filed with the City Recorder by **August 16, 2012.**

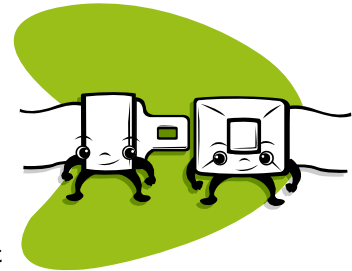
Please consider serving your community through this very worthwhile opportunity! Contact City Recorder Kelli Weese at 541-997-3437 or via email at kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us for more information or to set up a meeting.

CHIEF GUTIERREZ'S DRIVING PET PEEVES

Submitted by Chief of Police Ray Gutierrez

I'm sure everyone who drives has them, police officers most certainly have them and I have a few of my own. I'm talking about "Driving Pet Peeves." They are in no particular order, but they are all head shakers....

I'll start with seatbelt violations, and although it wasn't the law way back when I went through "driver's education," I do remember my instructor Mr. Rudzek, telling us that we needed to "buckle up" prior to starting the car. I was the first and Mr. Rudzek said I would be the last that he would allow to drive on the newly "at that time" widened five-lane interstate. Taking after my dad, I entered the interstate and immediately headed for the fast lane (far left lane). You would have thought that Mr. Rudzek was going to have a heart attack with all the yelling and arm waving he was doing. Mr. Rudzek made certain that we were all fastened and seemingly said, "BUCKLE UP" a little louder when I got behind the wheel after that interstate incident. As fate would have it he later became my football coach.



In December 1990, the seat belt law went into effect in Oregon that required occupants to wear seatbelts. You would be surprised of how many people who still don't remember to fasten their seatbelts until they have made eye contact with a police officer. (Refer to ORS 811.210, Failure to properly use safety belts). The fine for violating this Class D traffic violation is: \$110.00. Save yourself some money and "buckle up." The best part about seatbelts is that they really do save lives.

One pet peeve of mine that I'm seeing less but it still happens from time-to-time is misuse of the "Special Left Turn Lane" or commonly known as the center or turning lane. The special left turn lane is "not" a travel lane. I have seen cars travel in this lane for nearly a full block. Usually, these violators are trying to get into the lane to the right of them but the flow of traffic is preventing them from doing so, or, they don't see the need to get into the travel lane because they are planning to make a left turn somewhere down the road. ORS 811.346 states: A person commits the offense of misuse of a special left turn lane if the person uses a special left turn lane for anything other than making a left turn either into or from the special left turn lane. A person who turns into a special left turn lane from an alley, driveway or other entrance to the highway that has the special left turn lane is in violation of this section if the person does anything other than "stop" in the lane and "merge" into traffic in the lane immediately to the right of the person's vehicle. A special left turn lane is a median lane that is marked for left turns by drivers proceeding in opposite directions. The offense described in this section, misuse of a special left turn lane, is a Class B traffic violation and the fine is: \$287.00.



So then there are the crosswalk violations. The law has changed a couple times over the last few years and most recently it changed in June 2011, so I understand why some people are still a little fuzzy on this one. But, since it has been a year, I believe people should be familiar with it by now, thus becoming a pet peeve of mine.

When it comes to stopping for a pedestrian the rule of thumb "I use" is that when I see a pedestrian stopped at a crosswalk facing the street and he or she is looking both ways for traffic to stop so that they can proceed, I stop. Under the new law, moving just the tip of a person's foot into the road with the intent to cross requires drivers to stop, assuming the pedestrian is in a crosswalk. In Oregon, there is a crosswalk at every intersection, even if it is not painted on the road. A pedestrian is still at fault if he/she "suddenly leaves a curb or other place of safety and moves into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard."

Another part of this law where I see a lot of people still confused about is when to go after being stopped. Every day I see good people stopping for pedestrians and waiting until the pedestrian crosses their lane of travel, the lane



From left to right: Councilor Brian Jagoe, Council President Nola Xavier, Mayor Phil Brubaker, Council Vice-President Suzanne Roberts, Councilor Paul Holman

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

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Police Chief Ray Gutierrez
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PET PEEVES from Page 5

adjacent to their lane, the special left turn lane and the other two opposite travel lanes until they proceed. **DON'T DO THAT....** Once the pedestrian crosses your lane of travel and the adjacent lane next to yours you may then proceed. If you want to make sure that everyone besides you sees the pedestrian crossing, turn on your hazards while the pedestrian is crossing in your lane of travel and the lane adjacent to yours. Make it a habit to look at both ends of the crosswalk about a 1/2 block prior to reaching it. In 2004 over 550 pedestrians were injured and 45 were killed in motor vehicles crashes in Oregon. Failure to stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian is a Class B traffic violation and the fine is: \$287.00.

Stay tuned for the Chiefs Driving Pet Peeves "Part II"

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

July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Fourth of July Holiday City Hall Closed	5	6	7
8	9 City Council Meeting 7:00 pm	10 Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm	11	12	13	14
15	16 City Council Meeting 7:00 pm	17	18	19	20	21 Make a Difference Volunteer Day & Power of Florence Day Yard Debris Disposal Day 9 am to 2 pm
22 US Army Band FEC 2 pm	23	24 Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm	25 26 27 28 City of Florence Hosting Oregon Mayors Association Summer Conference			
29	30	31				