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Police Department
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November 2014

City Recognizes Long Time Employee

Utility Clerk John Peerson was recognized at the October 20th City Council meeting for his career with the City of Florence. Mayor Xavier presented him with a Certificate of Employee Recognition and thanked him for his years of service upon retirement. She read the following statement:



Mayor Xavier recognized John Peerson for his 22 years of service (with his wife Milana Peerson).

“ Be it known that this award is presented to John C. Peerson in appreciation of his 22 years of dedication and service to the community and the City of Florence. Throughout your years of service as the Utility Clerk, your commitment to serving the citizens of Florence has been unwavering. In appreciation and recognition for your loyal service, we wish you the best of luck and enjoyment in your retirement.”

The City Council also thanked him for serving the citizens of Florence for two decades and being the face of City Hall during those years.



Community Scavenger Hunt: How much do you really know about the place where you live?

From where you live, to how you commute, planning plays a vital role in your decision making. Planning considers all resident needs and looks at the big picture: How do we improve the community today, 5 years from now, and 20 years from now? It looks at multiple issues from all angles such as social, physical, environmental, and hazards. Think about how you get to work, to school or run errands; do you drive, take the bus, walk, bicycle, or carpool? It is important to ensure that residents in a community have different options for getting around. Not everyone has a driver's license or has access to a car.

Where do you live? In a subdivision neighborhood, apartment complex, townhouse development, or in a commercial setting? Planning preserves and establishes different types of communities and housing, giving you the ability to select the type of community you would like best or best fits your needs. Planning benefits the community by maintaining



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Sergeant Shawn Morgan

Shawn Morgan began working with the Florence Police Department in 1998 after Officer Siewell suggested that he should apply. During his time with the City of Florence, he has served as a School Resource Officer and a Patrol Officer. At the October 6th City Council meeting, the City Council approved the promotion of Officer Morgan to Police Sergeant.

As Sergeant, he will be responsible for supervising and directing the activities of regular and reserve Police Officers, in addition to performing law enforcement duties. He will also have responsibilities relating to training, weapons, scheduling, crime prevention, and the Reserve Officer and Auxiliary Police programs.

Do you have any special training or certifications?

"I am certified as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), a Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) Instructor, and a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Instructor."

What do you enjoy most?

"I enjoy getting individuals Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI) off the streets and making it safer for other drivers."

Do you have any rewarding moments you would like to share?

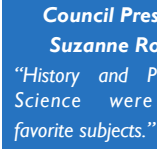
"Every day is rewarding. I do this job because I love it, not for any recognition."

MEET YOUR CITY COUNCIL

What is your favorite subject in school?



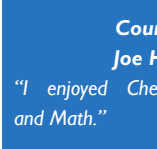
Mayor Nola Xavier
"I enjoyed History."



Council President Suzanne Roberts
"History and Political Science were my favorite subjects."



Council Joshua Greene
"My favorite subjects were Music, Art, and Drama!"



Councilor Joe Henry
"I enjoyed Chemistry and Math."

Your City's



The City of Florence, like most municipalities, is required by Oregon State law to have a financial audit performed annually. The auditor must be authorized by the Oregon Board of Accountancy to perform municipal audits and be independent of the City. The auditors are required by State law to inquire into and review:

- ✓ The principles of accounting and the recording, summarizing, and financial transactions reporting methods followed by the City;
- ✓ The accuracy and legality of the transactions, accounts, and financials reports of the City as they relate to its fiscal affairs; and
- ✓ Compliance with various requirements and regulations.

The purpose of the audit is to determine if the accounts and records of the City are maintained in a manner that will permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) which will then fairly present the financial position of the City. In addition, the auditor is required to review the City's fiscal affairs to determine if the financial operations have been carried out in accordance with legal provisions. Items reviewed by the auditor and contained in the audit report include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- ✓ For each fund, a financial schedule of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances, budget to actual;
- ✓ A schedule of property tax transactions, capital assets, and a schedule of long-term debt transactions and future requirements for the retirement of debt;

SCAVENGER HUNT, Page 1

neighborhood character, reducing environmental impacts, protection from natural and man-made disasters, preserving parks and open space, and determining where buildings, businesses, homes and roads will be located or sited.

Tools of the Trade: Planning uses tools such as comprehensive plans, surveys, zoning code that classifies land uses into different zones, design standards that set the appearance of a building or site, and Graphic Information Systems (GIS) — a computer-based system for generating maps.

Get Involved!: Keep informed of planning issues in your community. Serve on the Planning Commission or attend the meetings, participate on or in committees or forums, visioning sessions, and growth discussions in your community. The City of Florence is looking for volunteers to guide and shape the community's growth. See the list of volunteer opportunities in this newsletter on page 7. Find out more about building a vibrant community at www.planning.org/community/.

Scavenger Hunt: Florence is a special community. The following scavenger hunt gives you fun ways to begin exploring the different pieces that make-up our community. Each item asks you to do something or find something in Florence. You can draw or take a picture, write a poem or get a signature or a receipt. Be as creative as you like. With the items you pick to scavenge create a scrapbook or collage. Feel free to submit your creative community collection to the City for display and City Officials will select winners based on creativity, presentation and diversity of collection. **Submit your collection by December 1st to the Florence Planning Department at 250 Highway 101.** Have Fun!

See what you can find!:

- A map of Florence and a map of Oregon that shows where Florence is located.
- What year was Florence established?
- Leaves from 5 different trees found in Florence.
- Rubbings of 3 different building materials found in Florence.
- Something that shows the best thing about Florence and the worst thing about Florence.
- Sign or flyer for a community event.
- Picture of a sign for a local park or playground or a picture of the best thing in it.
- An interview with someone who has just moved to town. Find out what they like best and least.
- Something that shows the noisiest thing in Florence and something that shows the quietest thing.
- Something that shows you have ridden the Rhody Express, the green public bus.
- Something that shows the place where Florence' water comes from. Hint: visit Munsel Greenway Park.
- Pictures of four different buildings, each built in a different year.
- Rubbing of some decoration found on a building or of a historic marker on a building or other feature.
- Something that shows what Florence is known for. It might be a historic event, museum, interesting building, natural site, or tourist attraction.
- A count of some of the things in your town, like the number of schools or restaurants. You can find this information by counting listings in your Yellow Pages.
- Pictures of four different animals or birds found in Florence.
- Something that shows Florence's main industry.



Property Tax Season... Is that even a thing?

November — the time of year when leaves change color, pumpkin-flavored foods abound, and property tax statements arrive in mailboxes. As property tax statements make their appearance, many citizens of Florence may wonder where their tax money is going. So what exactly do property tax dollars collected from Florence property owners' fund? In our community various governmental entities work to provide core services with the property tax dollars for schools, social services, police, fire, ambulance, port and the library.



2014-15 Actual Tax Rate by Category for City of Florence Properties

Taxing District	% of total	Rate/\$1,000	Detail of what each rate includes:
County	13%	\$ 1.89	County Jail Levy \$.55 and County General Obligation Bond \$.10
City	24%	3.44	City Permanent Rate, General Obligation Bond rate \$.29 and Urban Renewal Tax Increment \$.38
Schools	45%	6.44	District 97J and Lane Community College rates and related General Obligation Bonds
Special Districts	18%	2.51	Port of Siuslaw, Siuslaw Public Library, Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue, and Western Lane Ambulance District
Total per thousand	100%	\$ 14.28	

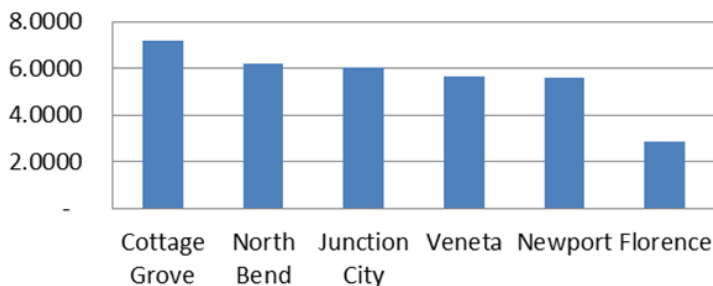
How does Florence spend it?

The City of Florence and the Urban Renewal Agency receives 24 cents out of each dollar of property taxes that residents pay. The remaining 76 cents goes to Lane County, the local school district, Lane Community College and other Special Districts. Florence has three tax rate categories that consist of a permanent tax rate, general obligation bond, and a tax increment for the Urban Renewal Agency. Florence has a permanent tax rate of \$2.86 per \$1,000 of assess value. As the chart below illustrates, this rate is low compared to cities of similar size and geographic region.

Composition of the Florence Tax Rate	
Unrestricted Permanent Rate	\$ 2.38
Restricted for Special Programs	0.39
General Obligation Bond(s)	0.29
Florence Urban Renewal District	0.38
Total Tax Rate for 2014-15*	\$ 3.44

*Rate per \$1,000 of assessed value

Comparison of Local Property Tax Rates



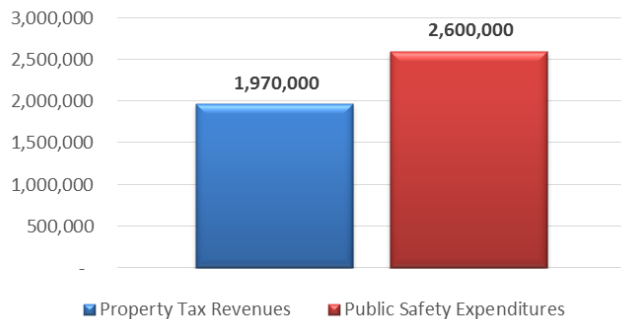
Public safety services (police and 9-1-1 emergency dispatch) are one of the core services provided by the City of Florence and these services are important to the safety of Florence citizens. The City of Florence dedicates all unrestricted property tax revenues to public safety. The chart on page 5 illustrates Florence's budgeted property tax revenue compared to public safety costs for 2014-15.

PROPERTY TAXES, Page 4**How do I get more information?**

Along with annual financial statements and budget documents, the City of Florence has published a Budget in Brief that provides an overview of the City's finances. These important financial documents can be found on the City's Finance Department website www.ci.florence.or.us/finance.

For answers to questions frequently asked during property tax season we recommend that you access the Lane County Assessment and Taxation website and read the "Tax Time FAQs" document www.lanecounty.org/Departments/AssessmentandTaxation.

2014-15 Public Safety Costs and Property Tax Revenue Comparison

**AUDIT, Page 2**

- ✓ Compliance with cash deposits and investment of public funds;
- ✓ Comments whether the City complied with laws pertaining to programs funded by other governmental agencies, legal requirements pertaining to the usage of motor vehicle fuel taxes, and compliance with Oregon Public Contracting Code, and;
- ✓ Comments regarding the City's compliance with the preparation, adoption, and execution of the budget.

Although the audit is performed once a year, it is City Management's responsibility to establish and follow acceptable financial policies and procedures throughout the year, maintain an effective and adequate system for safeguarding of assets, and devise a system of internal control that will, among other things, help assure the production of proper financial statements. The City's Finance Department demonstrates this responsibility by producing timely and reliable monthly and annual financial reporting and by following best practices and procedures used in daily operations that support responsible stewardship of public funds.

Your City's Elected Officials and Management take their fiduciary duty to the public very seriously. It is our belief that the annual audit process is just one of many ways that your City Officials fulfill their role in ensuring that resources are properly managed and accounted for. Visit the City's website for a copy of the most recently issued Audit Report.

The Last Resort Players presents
A new production of Boublil and Schönberg's

Les Misérables

Stage Director: Leah Goodwin Musical Director: Laura Merz
November 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 2014
Florence Events Center - 541-997-1994 - www.eventcenter.org
Les Misérables is licensed by Music Theatre International (MTI) by arrangement with CAMERON MACAUSTON LTD.

Les Misérables Comes to the FEC

The Last Resort Players (LRP) will be presenting Les Misérables at the Florence Events Center (FEC) for six showings. Tickets are just \$15 for all ages. Specific dates and times can be found in the City Calendar on page 9. Visit the FEC website at www.eventcenter.org for more information on this production and to purchase tickets.

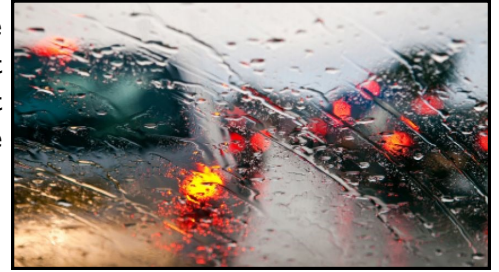
Did you know you can read an interview with Les Misérables' Director Leah Goodwin in the November issue of Center Stage? Each month, the FEC and the Siuslaw News produce Center Stage to promote the upcoming events and activities happening at the Florence Events Center. Go behind the scenes with production and learn about featured artists. Copies of Center Stage can be picked up at the FEC or found by clicking the Center Stage link (pictured above) on the FEC website.



Safe Driving Tips—Winter Road Conditions

Submitted by Sergeant Shawn Morgan

A person can have enough trouble with ordinary driving situations these days. Bad weather can make things even more difficult. In light of recent weather and reported accidents on our local roads, here are a few different driving conditions we may experience during the winter months on the coast and some tips for dealing with them.



Skids

You can prevent skidding in bad weather by driving slowly and carefully – especially on curves. Try these tips:

Respond to skids. The first step in regaining traction is to recognize that you are experiencing a skid. Regardless of the cause of the skid, look and steer toward your intended path of travel. Keep your eyes focused on where you want the vehicle to go.

Responding to front tire skids. Smoothly ease up on the accelerator. This will transfer more weight to the front wheels, increasing the front tires' traction.

Responding to rear tire skids. Avoid using the brakes. As the rear tires regain traction, continue steering toward your intended path of travel.

- Steer and brake with a light touch – don't brake hard or lock the wheels.
- Maintain mild pressure on the brake pedal.
- Remain calm – if a skid starts, ease your foot off the gas and steer in the direction you want the car to go.
- Avoid slamming on the brakes in cars without an anti-lock brake system (ABS) – steering into the skid will bring the back end of your car in line with the front.
- Brake firmly in cars with ABS – steer into the skid.

Hydroplaning

Hydroplaning is when your car slides on a thin layer of water between your tires and the road. Hydroplaning can cause you to lose contact with the road surface, skid or drift out of your lane or off the road completely. To avoid hydroplaning, you should:

- Keep your tires properly inflated
- Maintain good tread and replace tires when necessary
- Slow down when roads are wet
- Try to drive in the tire tracks left by the cars in front of you



If you find yourself hydroplaning, do not brake or turn suddenly. Ease your foot off the gas until the car slows and you can feel the road again. If you need to brake, do it gently with light pumping actions. If your car has anti-lock brakes, just brake normally; the car's computer will use a pumping action when necessary.

Stay in control. Practicing responses to simulated emergency situations under safe conditions can reduce emotional impact and increase chances of correct performance.

The driver who knows what to do in an emergency is more likely to stay in control when driving in bad weather.

Join a City Committee—Make a Difference!



The City currently has vacancies on six committees. These positions offer citizens an excellent opportunity to volunteer their services and get involved in decisions on significant matters. City of Florence boards, commissions and committees are a vital part of City business. Committee members make invaluable contributions to the Mayor, the City Council, and the City itself.

The following boards and committees are currently filling vacancies for varying term lengths, with positions set to begin on February 1, 2015.

- ◆ Audit Committee – 1 open position
- ◆ Budget Committee – 2 open positions
- ◆ Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) – 2 open positions
- ◆ Florence Urban Renewal Agency – 1 possible open position
- ◆ Florence Events Center Advisory Committee – 8 open positions
- ◆ Planning Commission – 2 open positions
- ◆ Transit Advisory Committee – 2 open positions (1 for high school student)

More information about all the City boards, commissions and committees can be found on the City website under City Leadership – Boards & Commissions. Here is a short introduction to each of them:

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing the City's annual financial audit, including working with independent auditors. It consists of the Mayor, a member of the City's budget committee, and a citizen with interest/experience in audits and municipal accounting. Meetings are held as needed during and in preparation for the audit process. Members serve for a term of one year. For more information about the Committee and its meeting times please contact Finance Director Erin Reynolds at 541-997-3436 or erin.reynolds@ci.florence.or.us.



Budget Committee

The Budget Committee serves as the fiscal planning board for the City of Florence. The Committee reviews the proposed budget rendered by City Staff. The Committee may approve the proposed budget intact, or change part of all of it prior to final approval. The Budget Committee consists of the City Council and an equal number of citizen members. Members serve for a term of three years. For more information about the Committee and its meeting times please contact Finance Director Erin Reynolds at 541-997-3436 or erin.reynolds@ci.florence.or.us.

Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC)



EMAC serves to inform the public and the City Council on issues concerning solid waste management and fees. EMAC also strives to improve public knowledge on conserving energy and material resources, promoting resource recovery (e.g. yard debris, biosolids), and protecting the health of the environment through public disposal events and programs. It consists of seven members, of which the majority must be residents of the City. Members serve for a term of three years. EMAC meetings are held as needed, generally on the third Thursday of every month. For more information about the committee and its meeting times please contact Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell at 541-997-8237 or wendy.farleycampbell@ci.florence.or.us.

*COMMITTEES, Page 7***Florence Events Center (FEC) Advisory Committee**

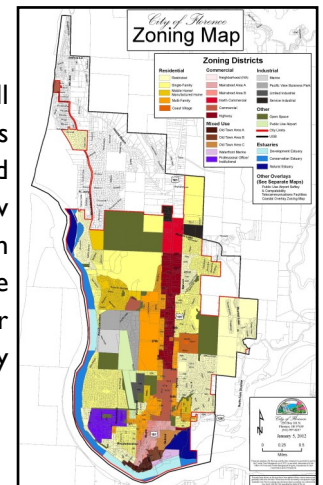
The FEC Advisory Committee serves to support and guide the FEC Director on specific issues including policies and procedures, rental agreements, finding adequate funding, and reviewing budgets. The committee consists of seven to eleven members, one of which is a local high school student. Members serve for a term of three years, except for the student who serves for a term of one year. For more information on the committee and its meeting times please contact FEC Director Kevin Rhodes at 541-997-1994 or kevin@eventscenter.org.

**Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA)**

The mission of the Urban Renewal Agency is to revitalize the Florence Downtown Area as the primary cultural, tourist, commercial and community core to serve all Florence's citizens and visitors, encouraging continuing growth, development and enhancement consistent with Florence's small-town ambiance and character. The board has 10 members: the Mayor of Florence, two City Councilors, member nominated by the Lane County Board of Commissioners, the Western Lane Ambulance District, the Port of Siuslaw, the Siuslaw Library District and/or citizens at large. Board members serve for a term of 3 years. For more information about FURA please contact the Assistant to the City Manager Megan Messmer at 541-997-3437 or megan.messmer@ci.florence.or.us.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission serves to advise the Mayor, Council, and Planning Director in all matters concerning planning and land use. The Commission reviews and makes recommendations on the Comprehensive Plan, subdivision and zoning ordinances, and other planning rules and regulations. The Commission also serves as the Design Review Board and in doing so holds public hearings on these and other actions. The Commission consists of five members, of whom four must be residents of the City and one may be resident within the Urban Growth Boundary. Members serve for a term of three years. For more information about the Commission please contact Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell at 541-997-8237 or via email at wendy.farleycampbell@ci.florence.or.us.

**Transit Advisory Committee**

The mission of the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) is to advise the City Council concerning the City of Florence Transit System including the Rhody Express bus service. This advice includes recommendations on possible route adjustments, distribution of educational materials, and attendance at promotional events. For more information about the Committee please contact Planning Technician Glen Southerland at 541-997-8237 or via email at glen.southerland@ci.florence.or.us.

Applying for a position is easy. Applications are available at Florence City Hall and can be downloaded from the City's website at www.ci.florence.or.us. City Hall is open Monday thru Friday; 8 am to 12pm; 1pm to 5 pm. All qualified persons are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2014. Applicants will be interviewed by the City Council on January 14th and 15th, 2015. For more information about the duties and responsibilities of these bodies, residency requirements of applicants, term lengths, or any other questions, please contact City Recorder Kelli Weese at 541-997-3437 or at kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us.



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

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WINTER DRIVING, Page 6

Counter-steering. Steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go, toward your intended path of travel. Most drivers tend to steer this way instinctively in their attempt to correct a rear-tire skid. When you counter-steer, straighten the wheels as soon as you feel the rear of the vehicle begin to realign with your intended path of travel.





Be careful when you counter-steer — it is not enough to correct for only the first over-steer skid. The rear of the vehicle may swing back in the opposite direction of the first skid (“fishtailing”). Be ready to counter-steer quickly if more skidding occurs. You need quick and correct reactions for successful skid recovery.

A smart driver adjusts his or her speed to the wet road to avoid skids and hydroplaning. The truth is slowing down whenever the driving conditions are less than “Normal” is the best tip.

City Calendar

For more information about meetings contact City Hall at 541-997-3437. For information on events & concerts contact the Florence Events Center at 541-997-1994.

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Les Misérables FEC @ 7 pm	8 Les Misérables FEC @ 7 pm
9 Les Misérables FEC @ 2 pm	10 Audit Committee City Hall 1:30 pm Planning Commission 7 pm @ City Hall	11  City Hall & FEC Closed	12	13	14 Les Misérables FEC @ 7 pm	15 Les Misérables FEC @ 7 pm
16 Les Misérables FEC @ 2 pm	17 City Council Meeting 7 pm @ City Hall	18	19 ODOT Open House: Bridge Project 4:30pm—6pm City Hall Eugene Ballet's The Nutcracker 7 pm @ FEC	20	21	22 Monkey Bugs FEC 10 am—4 pm Portland Cello Project 7 pm @ FEC Tree Lighting & Santa's Arrival Old Town Park 4:30 pm—6 pm
23	24	25 Planning Commission 7 pm @ City Hall	26	27 Happy Turkey Day City Hall & FEC Closed	28 FEC Closed	29  Civil War Game
30 Festival of Trees @ FEC 12 pm—3 pm Gala 4 pm—6 pm						