



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

September 2013

Florence Welcomes Japanese Delegation

On August 19th, Mayor Nola Xavier met with the delegation from Yamagata City, Japan — Florence's Sister City. The delegation (bottom left) presented Mayor Xavier and the City of Florence with a gift from Mayor Hiromasa Hayashi of Yamagata City (bottom right) stating that it symbolized good luck.



Property Tax and Compression

By City Manager Jacque Betz & Finance Director Erin Reynolds

(Final article in a three part series on "Why the City is collecting its full property tax rate.")

This month's article will provide information on compression, not the body shaping undergarments intended to give the wearer a slim and shapely appearance, but the kind that sets limits on how much property tax any property owner can pay to local governments. We will also discuss quandaries with Oregon's property tax system, and how it relates to those that reside in Florence. A little background on how we got where we are will help you to understand the dilemma we find ourselves in today. Oregon's property tax system was shaped by two constitutional amendments — Measures 5 and 50.

Compression is a side effect of Measure 5, which passed in 1990. This is the measure that sets limits on how much property tax any property owner can pay to local governments (\$10 per \$1,000 of real market value "RMV") and schools (\$5 per \$1,000 RMV). Bonds are outside of these limitations.

<p>Measure 5 Property Tax Limits Schools: \$5 per \$1,000 of RMV General Government: \$10 per \$1,000 of RMV</p>

See Compression Page 4

Employee Spotlight

Lead Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Tom Cannon

Tom Cannon is the Lead Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. He began working with the City as an operator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1995.

Tom married his wife Sherry shortly after moving to Florence from Lincoln City. They have two children—TJ age 16 and Kaylynn age 12.

In his spare time, Tom enjoys going out to the dunes and riding motorcycles. He also enjoys listening to music.

What do you like most about your job?

“The ability to have so many different job functions and my fellow coworkers.”



Tom Cannon began working with the City in 1995.

What has been your most rewarding moment since you joined the City?

“One of my most rewarding moments working with the City was seeing the completion of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2000.”

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

“The most amusing questions we seem to get, no matter how much educating we try to do, is the question of whether we are dumping into the river when there is brown foam from the algae blooms.”



Wastewater Treatment Plant Crew from left to right: Plant Operator Three Josh Hight, PW Director Mike Miller (with award), Plant Operator One Justin Heacock, Plant Supervisor Rick Mumpower and Lead Operator Tom Cannon.

City Biosolids Program Earns Recognition

The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) awarded the City of Florence with its 2013 Outstanding Member Agency award for the City’s Class A biosolids program during the ACWA annual conference July 25th. The ACWA annually honors member agencies that excel in pollution prevention, environmental leadership, or innovation in environmental management.

In the e-mail announcing the award, ACWA Executive Director Janet Gillaspie wrote, “the (ACWA) Board was very impressed with the City’s thoughtful approach to taking a waste and turning it into a valuable commodity — while saving money.”

The City’s Biosolids program started in 2010 as a pilot project and expanded earlier this year after the City was awarded a Waste Diversion Opportunity Grant by Lane County. Class A composted biosolids are a valuable resource rich in plant-essential nutrients and organic matter. Using composted biosolids improves soil health and allows the soil to hold more water while letting it drain and breath better.

Have you licensed your dog?

Submitted by Code Enforcement Officer Shari Fisher

Many of my work days consist of dogs running at large in the city. The time that I spend locating the dog, persuading it to come to me with dog treats, checking to see if it has a collar with owner information and then, if it does not, having to take it to the Humane Society could be avoided all together if the owners will take the responsibility to obtain a city dog license. It would be much easier to see the tag on the collar and return a pet to the owner(s).



Current Prices for Dog Licensing		
	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>2 Years</u>
Spayed/Neutered	\$7	\$14
Non-Spayed/Neutered	\$15	\$30

To obtain a dog license simply go down to City Hall to the Financial Counter with proof of your dog's rabies vaccination. The fine for not having a license is \$25.00, as well as the cost the Humane Society charges for taking care of your dog.

Florence City Code 6-6-020: DOG LICENSING:

- A. *Except as provided in subsections (B) and (C) of this section, every dog within the city that has a set of permanent canine teeth shall be licensed by the City. The License tag provided by the City shall be attached to a collar worn by the dog. The Owner and or Keeper of the dog is in violation of this Chapter if the dog is not wearing its collar and tag at any time. The fee for dog licenses shall be established by Resolution of the City Council and is due and payable upon the issuance of the license.*
- B. *A Owner or Keeper of a dog within the city shall obtain a license for the dog by the later of:*
 - 1. *30 days after becoming the Owner or Keeper of the dog or establishing a residence within the city, or*
 - 2. *The expiration date of a valid license previously issued to the dog in another jurisdiction in the state.*
- C. *Licenses shall not be required for dogs owned by dealers, breeders or exhibitors while such dogs are being transported by dealers, breeders, or exhibitors to and from a dog show or fair. Licenses are not required for dogs that are used as service animals for persons with disabilities. A companion or therapy animal is not a service unless the animal has been individually trained to perform one or more tasks for a person with disabilities and has been trained to behave in public. A license is not required for the period in which a dog is validly licensed in another jurisdiction in the state. A license is not required for the period that a dog is temporarily kept or boarded in a Small Animal Clinic or Animal Daycare and Overnight Boarding Facility located within the City. The City Manager, or designee, may waive the requirement that the license tag be attached to a collar worn by the dog if good cause is shown by the dog's owner for such a waiver and the owner provides an alternative method of displaying the tag, or the information on the tag, which is satisfactory, in the sole judgment of the City Manager, for identifying the dog and its owner.*



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Due to Measure 5, an increase in one government's tax rate, the creation of a new tax district, or the passage of a voter-approved levy can all cause another local government to go into compression. Furthermore, since this property tax limitation is based on RMV the problem has worsened since the collapse of the housing market in 2008.

Permanent Tax Rates
FOREVER set at 1997 rate level

In 1997 the Oregon voters passed Measure 50 which gave all existing tax districts a permanent operating rate limit and created a new term assessed value. Each district's permanent rate was determined by whatever tax levies existed locally at the time the measure passed. Some cities benefited greater than others from this. Permanent rates cannot be changed by a vote. However, voters can approve a "local option levy" which allows a government to temporarily exceed the permanent rate limit. These local option levies are limited to general governments and are restricted to five years for operations or 10 years for capital projects. Measure 50 also complicated the system by no longer taxing property at its actual value; instead, taxation is now based on the assessed value (AV). The assessed value of each individual property is an artificial calculation that is based off 1995-96 market rates and growth is limited or capped to 3% each year.

Created Assessed Value
Properties no long taxed at their actual value.

What is Compression?

Each property has a limit on how much that property owner will pay for taxes. If that limit is exceeded, the property owner doesn't pay the full amount of the tax levied, regardless of what voters approve, and local governments get less money.

Both measures determine individual property's tax obligations. Each year for each property both the real market value tax limits (Measure 5 \$10 or \$5 limit) and the assessed value (as determined by Measure 50) are calculated by the County's Assessment and Taxation Department. When a property's assessed taxes exceed the Measure 5 limit, the tax obligation is reduced – or "compressed" – to the Measure 5 limit. The amount compressed is lost forever to the district.

How does this affect us in Florence? The City is included in the general government \$10 per \$1,000 Measure 5 limit. For the 2012-13 tax year the total general government rate was only \$6.24/\$1,000. The City of Florence has been fortunate enough thus far to not experience the effects of compression because in 1997, when Measure 50 was passed, the local governments in existence at that time had comparatively speaking very low tax rates. Since then additional districts have been formed and local option levies have passed. The closer the combined general government rate gets to \$10 per \$1,000 and as real market values continuing to decline the more prone the City will be to experiencing compression and loss of property tax revenues.

If you have been following recent articles and other City media, you know that the City officials had opted to levy a reduced tax rate for two fiscal years. As City staff became aware of local option levies on the ballot, and with more sure to come, we suggested to the Budget Committee and it was eventually approved by City Council to return to levying the full permanent rate. One of the primary reasons for doing so is to collect the City's the property tax

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revenue that we are legally entitled to while we can before we reach compression. Revenue lost to compression has been growing rapidly in recent years and, if that trend continues, local governments like Florence may be forced to lower service levels. Levying the City’s full rate now allows the citizens of Florence to continue to receive the services they value a little while longer.

Below is an example that illustrates how Measure 5 and 50 can work in real life. Taking two similar houses, Home A and Home B both have a RMV of \$200,000, but different assessed values. The two scenarios shown demonstrate the calculations done to determine each property’s tax liability and the effect of compression on each.

	HOME A	HOME B
Real Market Value =	\$200,000	\$200,000
Assessed Market Value =	\$155,000	\$190,000
Measure 5 Limits		
Education:	\$5 x 200* = \$1,000	\$5 x 200* = \$1,000
General:	\$10 x 200* = \$2,000	\$10 x 200* = \$2,000
<i>*For every \$1,000 of Real Market Value (RMV)</i>		
Measure 50 Tax Rates		
Education:	\$5.45 x 155* = \$845	\$5.45 x 190* = \$1,035
Measure 5 Compression =	None	\$35.00
General:	\$11.80 x 155* = \$1,892	\$11.80 x 190* = \$2,052
Measure 5 Compression =	None	\$52.00
<i>*For every \$1,000 of Assessable Value (AV)</i>		

Sources quoted and examples used in this article come from:

League of Oregon Cities publications: *Measures 5 and 50: A Primer* published in 2011 and *Special Report: Voter-Approved Tax Levies Losing More Money Than Ever Before* published in 2013.



Always Something Happening

541.997.1994 | 888.968.4086

715 QUINCE STREET | FLORENCE, OR 97439 | WWW.EVENTCENTER.ORG

Have you visited the FEC recently?

Did you know that tickets for upcoming shows can be purchased online at any time? Visit the FEC website for more information and to reserve your seat today! www.eventcenter.org

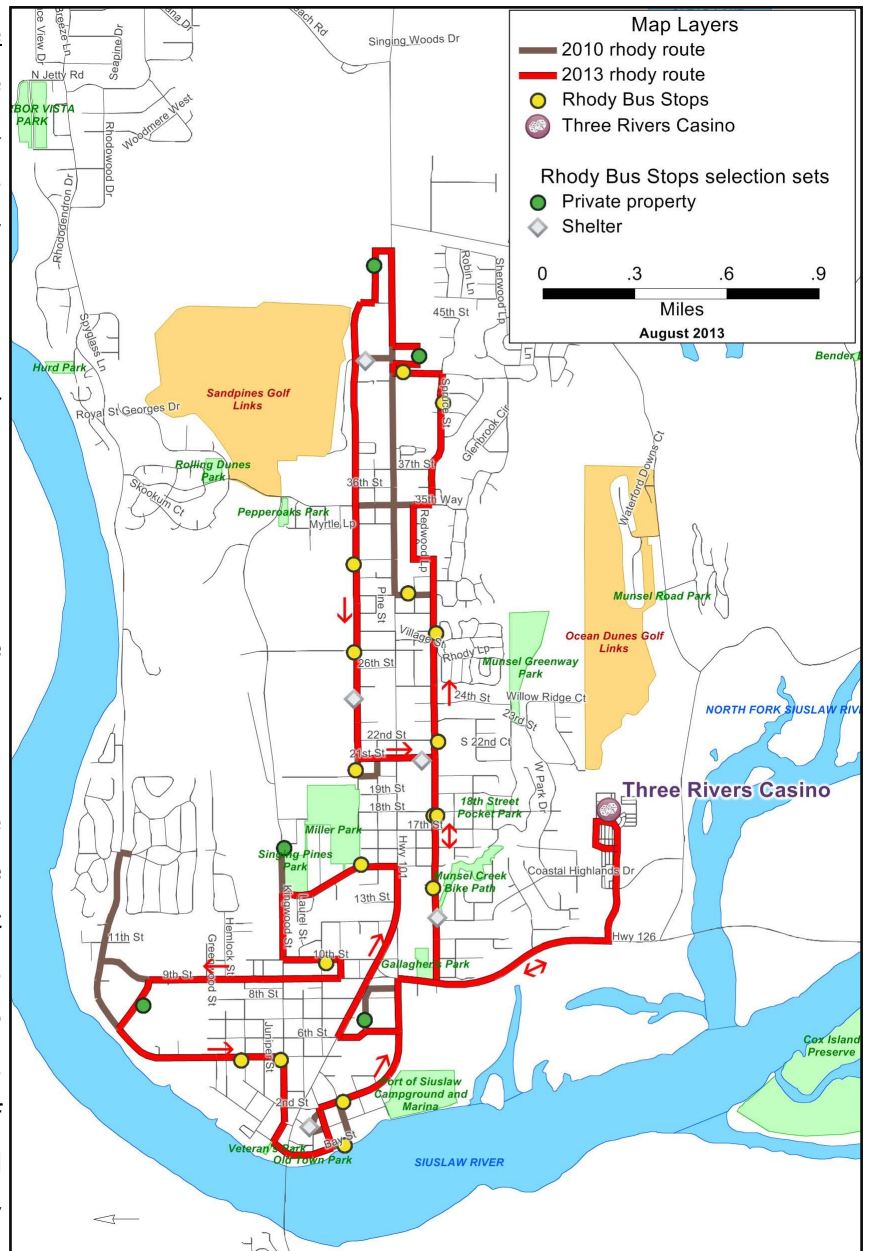
Don't forget to check out the City Calendar on page 8 for a list of upcoming events happening at the FEC in September.

City Considers Rhody Express Route Change

On September 16th at 7 PM at the Florence Events Center, the City of Florence will be holding a public hearing regarding a proposal to alter the Rhody Express bus service. Below is a list of changes currently under consideration:

- Refine the service at the Safeway Stop
- Refine the service at the Fred Meyer Stop
- Remove service on Highway 101
- Remove service to and from Greentrees Village
- Remove service to and from the Florence Senior Center
- Add service to Three Rivers Casino

There were two factors leading to the creation of the proposal to re-route the Rhody Express, those being: 1) a request from the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians to provide service to Three Rivers Casino, and 2) Lane Transit District's knowledge of decreasing ridership numbers, which could lead to loss of grant funding for the Rhody Express.



LTD Proposed Rhody Express Route

At the September 16th meeting, the Florence City Council will hear a report from Lane Transit District concerning the proposed pilot program and associated route changes. A public hearing will be held on the proposal to hear input from the community. Public Comment will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 13, 2013, and can be

The City of Florence
is **Listening.**

Rhody Express

sent via email to kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us, or via regular mail to Florence City Hall, 250 Hwy 101, Florence, OR 97439. For more information, please contact the City of Florence at 541-997-3437.

Blast from the Past — Planking in Florence

Today, laying face down with one's arms at their side in strange places has become a popular fad known as planking. As US cities developed during the 19th century, communities across the country built planked wooden sidewalks and streets. Thus, planking was the process of covering an area with wooden planks.

In March of 1894, one year after incorporation, the Board of Trustees for the Town of Florence¹ passed Ordinance No. 10 creating a streets commissioner and a plan for improving the streets and sidewalks. One of the new tasks for the streets commissioner was to grade and plank the streets in town. Wooden planking over the streets was used to provide stability to sandy streets and create a clean area for walking.

Members of the Ladies Aid Society of Florence assisted in raising the funds prior to the incorporation of Florence. Various people in town assisted in building the firsts streets and sidewalks in the area that is currently known as Old Town. As growth occurred, the town government assessed properties and the owners paid for the expansion of the streets and sidewalks past their homes and businesses. The first attempts to use asphalt to stabilize the streets occurred in 1914 on Laurel Street; it was not successful and planking of the streets continued.²



Planked street and sidewalks at the west end of Front Street with the first attempts at paving shown near the center of the photo.

Front Street, Florence - Photo Courtesy of Siuslaw Pioneer Museum

¹ In 1914, citizen approval of a new charter changed the name from the "Town" of Florence to the "City" of Florence. Along with the name change was the change to a City Council rather than a Board of Trustees. (*The Florence Book*, p. 82)

² Information courtesy of: The Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, *The Florence Book*, 2nd Ed., 2008, p. 23-24.



Flag Raised at City Hall to Honor Local Air Force Retiree

On August 12, 2013, Mayor Nola Xavier accompanied Ben and Linda Milam as their son's military retirement flag was flown at Florence City Hall. Senior Master Sergeant John Alan Milam was born and raised in Florence and joined the Air Force shortly after he graduated high school. He will retire from the Air Force this fall after 25 years of service. Mr. and Mrs. Milam have also flown the flag at the local cemetery to honor SMSgt. Milam's grandparents. They will send the flag to England, where SMSgt. Milam is stationed, to be presented to him at his retirement ceremony.

Left: Ben Milam, Linda Milam, and Mayor Xavier with Senior Master Sergeant John Alan Milam's retirement flag flying at Florence City Hall.



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 Jacque 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

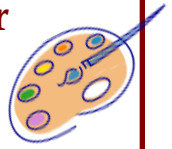
Finance Director
Erin Reynolds
erin.reynolds@ci.florence.or.us

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

Fall Watercolor Class at Senior Center



Water color instructor Kenneth Kent will begin a new six-week watercolor class at the Florence Senior Center this fall. Seniors wanting to learn the basics of watercolor painting can sign up at the center by phone, 541-997-8844, or in person.

No previous training or drawing experience is required. The instruction is free, but participants will be asked to contribute \$6 to the senior center and about \$9 for instructor-provided materials.

All participants should plan to attend a one-hour pre-class meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 1 p.m. Kent will explain his process and outline the supplies each participant will need to provide. Classes will begin the following Thursday, Sept. 26, at 1 p.m.

Since he began his classes at the center, Kent has helped more than 80 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 calls 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.

In a separate wing, the center offers respite care and activities for individuals with memory loss three days a week. To learn more about the Memory Loss Respite program call 541-902-8539.

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.

September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 LABOR DAY City Hall & FEC Closed	3 City Council Meeting 5:30 pm	4 New Gallery Shows Open FEC	5 FEC Committee Meeting 10 am	6 Taste the Coast FEC 5pm-10pm	7 City Wide Garage Sale Rods n' Rhodies Car Show Old Town
8 Rods n' Rhodies Old Town	9	10 Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm	11	12	13	14 Model Car Show, FEC 10am - 5pm Coast Radio Night at the Movies Miller Park 7pm
15	16 City Council Meeting 7 pm	17	18 TAC Meeting 2 pm ... FURA Meeting 6:30 pm	19	20	21 Yard Debris Disposal Day 27th St., 9am - 2pm
22	23	24 Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm	25	26	27	28 Florence Festival of Books FEC 10am to 4pm
29	30					