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**City Recorder**  
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**City Manager's Office**  
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**Police Department**  
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**Florence Events Center**  
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Siuslaw Bridge photo courtesy of Joshua Greene, © 2011 All Rights Reserved

# Focus on Florence

August 2012

## The Power of Community Makes a Difference

On Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, hundreds of members of the Church of Latter Days Saints (LDS) Coos Bay, Oregon Stake arrived in Florence to volunteer on various projects as part of Make-A-Difference



**Volunteers from the Church of Latter Day Saints Coos Bay, Oregon Stake worked on a new Dog Park on Kingwood Street July 21st.**

Day. Church members worked on such projects as the new Dog Park going in at Singing Pines Park, as well as assisting in installing new playground equipment at the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Pocket Park which was purchased through a volunteer effort by Florence resident Erin Linton. The Coos Bay, Oregon Stake consists of LDS Churches located between Florence and Brookings.

Make-A-Difference Day also coincided with the second annual Power of Florence. Founded by 12-year-old Kaylee Graham, Power of Florence is a day dedicated to giving back, reaching out,

helping others and making a difference in the community. The convergence of volunteers made for a truly special day that displayed just how much a group of motivated citizens can get done.

Make-A-Difference Day began five-years ago as a way to honor Pioneer Day. "The third Saturday in July is Pioneer Day, commemorating when Mormon

*See Volunteers Page 4*

## Free Recycling Event August 18th at High School

Submitted by Community Development

Do you have a few unwanted tires or appliances but you just haven't found a cheap and legal way to dispose of them? The Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) has organized the event for you. On Saturday, August 18th, from 9 am to 1 pm, EMAC will be hosting a "Black and White

Recycling Event" at the Siuslaw High School Parking lot. This recycling event will enable residents in our community to get rid of unwanted tires, appliances, and empty propane tanks free of charge. Tires and appliances are not allowed in the landfill and there is

*See Recycling Page 2*

# Employee Spotlight

## Senior Water Plant Operator Matthew Burdett

For the past 13 years, Matthew Burdett has been the man making sure Florence citizens receive clean water. An avid fisherman and rock hunter in his free time, Matthew also enjoys spending time with his wife of 30 years and his four daughters.

Matthew said he enjoys the variety that comes with operating the City's water plant.

"The variety and the changes that come up all day and night to keep the plant running are what I like most about the job," he said.



**Water Plant Operator Matthew Burdett has worked for the City of Florence for 13 years.**

### Most rewarding or proudest moment?

*"When the Bio-Filter came on-line and took out about 90% of the iron coming into the water plant."*

### Strangest question you've had from caller?

*"How do I get rid of the stinking water."*

### *RECYCLING from Page 1*

often a disposal fee if dropped off at Lane County's transfer station. EMAC has built partnerships with local businesses Central Coast Disposal, County Transfer & Recycling, Les Schwab Tire Center, and Potter Tire & Auto Repair to bring this event to Florence. Volunteers and staff will be available to help you unload your vehicle. Below are a list of the items that will be accepted August 18th:

**Small Appliances (excluding electronics):** Bring small appliances with cords including toasters, vacuum cleaners, hair dryers. Do not cut cords or dismantle.

**Large Appliances (excluding electronics):** Bring large appliances such as washers/dryers, refrigerators/freezers (must be cleaned out), dishwashers, hot water heaters, air conditioners, stoves (range). Do not drain Freon from refrigerators, freezers, or air conditioners. Do not remove compressors/motors or hoses.

**Automobile Tires:** Tires up to 22 inch rim diameter will be accepted, with or without the rims. We will accept up to 6 tires per household.

**Empty Propane Tanks:** We will accept up to 3 tanks per household.

Dropping off these items at the Black and White Recycling Event not only gets them out of your house or yard, it also makes sure that they are processed in an environmentally friendly way. Many appliances that no longer work can be used for scrap metal. A process is completed that removes any harmful elements and iron from the appliance, and in some cases, the body or case can be re-used. Tires provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes and rodents when stockpiled or illegally dumped. Fortunately, markets now exist for used tires to be used as fuel, recycled, or converted to ground rubber. For more information, call Sandra Belson, Community Development Director, at 541-997-8237.

## Florence Awarded Urban Waters Protection Funds

The City of Florence was recently the recipient of a \$60,000 Urban Waters Protection Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Florence's award was the largest in the state and one of five grants awarded to the Pacific Northwest.

In October, 2009, the City partnered with 18 federal, state, tribal and local agencies on an EPA-funded project called the Siuslaw Estuary Partnership. This partnership's mission has been to protect and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitats in the lower Siuslaw watershed. This included a Surface-



From left to right: Shawn Penrod, City of Florence; Iris Benson, Stormwater Program Specialist for City of Corvallis; Tom Penpraze, Utilities Division Specialist for City of Corvallis; Tony Barber, EPA Oregon Operations Office Director; Kelly Sparks, Lower Rogue Watershed Council Coordinator; Alan Henning, EPA Project Manager based in Eugene.

and Groundwater- Monitoring Program to protect the North Florence Dunal Aquifer as well as improving and protecting the water quality in Munsel and Ackerly Creeks and the Siuslaw River. The Siuslaw Estuary Partnership is scheduled to be completed in September of this year and the Urban Waters Protection Grant will ensure that the Surface and Groundwater Monitoring Program will continue for the next two years, providing an essential tool in protecting and improving water quality on the Central Oregon Coast.

## Online Ticket Purchasing Available for Florence Events Center

Submitted by Florence Events Center Staff

During its June 4th meeting, the Florence City Council approved the implementation a new ticketing system for the Florence Events Center (FEC). Effective July 1st, tickets to all FEC concerts, plays and other ticketed events became available for purchase online through the FEC web site at [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).

The new system supports both general admission and reserved seating events, enabling patrons to view available seats online, make their selection and print out their tickets from their home or office computers. Patrons may also enjoy the feature of viewing the stage from their selected seats. Tickets will continue be available for pickup at the box office under "will call" or mailed for a nominal fee. Tickets printed at home will provide theater-goers with lots of useful information in addition to the ticket itself, including important facts about the event, news about future FEC events, and discounts and special offers from sponsors and

local merchants.

The new system also features a smartphone application for easy booking via mobile devices. Customers can visit the web site and purchase tickets directly from their mobile phone. Great for last minute decision-makers! The system includes a data analysis feature which will allow the FEC to evaluate customer information and adjust procedures to better meet the needs of both the public and the organizations that bring events to Florence. An email feature is also provided, so that FEC can target individual customers with information about events that may be of particular interest to them.

An online ticketing system has been on the FEC's wish list for several years and is a huge step forward. Now, patrons can purchase last-minute tickets without waiting in line at the box office and it will no longer be necessary to come to the FEC during weekday business hours to buy

*VOLUNTEERS from Page 1*

pioneers traveled to the Salt Lake Valley in 1847,” said Florence-area resident Dr. Brian Holmes. “Instead of simply having a picnic, we decided to turn



it into a service-oriented event. The life of Christ was about service and we try to emulate that.”

The Make-A-Difference Day event started in 2008 with hundreds of members of the Coos Bay, Oregon Stake travelling to Port Orford for various clean-up projects. Church members have since assisted with projects in Coquille, North Bend and Brookings. In



addition to helping at the parks, volunteers also assisted in cleaning up around the Florence Senior Center and removing scotch broom from various loca-

tions around town.

On Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, Make-A-Difference Day unofficially started when 18 volunteers assisted with pouring the concrete for the Dog Park sidewalk. Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller said without volunteer help, the new dog park would be significantly more expensive. “This is a classic example of citizens and local government coming together for the benefit of the community,” said Miller. “Without the help of volunteers, the dog park would have cost between \$125,000 to \$150,000 to build. Instead, we are able to build this park for approximately \$15,000.”

The City of Florence and local citizens also suc-



cessfully partnered to make new playground equipment at the 18th Street Pocket Park a reality. Erin Linton, a member of the Florence Parks and Recreation Master Planning Committee, was instrumental in securing a \$11,092 grant from BCI Burke for the purchase of new equipment. The equipment, including shipping, is valued at more than \$32,000. With the help of a \$7,500 donation from the Florence Dental Clinic, \$7,500 from the City’s Park Fund and numerous fundraising drives, the equipment arrived just in time for volunteers to help assemble.

## CHIEF GUTIERREZ'S DRIVING PET PEEVES PART II

Submitted by Chief of Police Ray Gutierrez

I heard from a number of you since Part I was printed last month and thank you for sharing with me your driving pet peeves. If anyone else has any feel free to drop me a line, I would like to hear them.

Okay, this one drives me nuts... It's the, "I NEED TO MAKE A CALL OR ANSWER MY PHONE WHILE DRIVING" one, or "I NEED TO ANSWER OR TEXT RIGHT NOW WHILE IT'S STILL ON MY MIND". Come on people I see this everyday. Please pull over at a safe place if you need to do this.

In 2012 the Oregon Legislators made it easy for law enforcement to enforce this law by removing the loop holes. There is no more "I was talking to my place of employment". They have outlawed the use of handheld cell phones by all drivers. Cell phones with hands-free attachments are allowable only for those over 18 years of age and text messaging banned for all drivers. Drivers under the age of 18 with a learner's permit or intermediate license is prohibited from using cell phones or text messaging while driving. The ban applies to all cell phone use, regardless of whether a hands-free device is employed. See ORS: 81 I.507 for additional information.

According to the National Safety Council in 2010 there were 5,419,000 crashes, 1,546,000 of them were injury crashes that caused 2,243,000 people to get injured. 30,196 crashes were fatal crashes that killed 32,885 people.

It is estimated that 21% of fatal, injury and property damage-only crashes are likely attributable to talking on cell phones while driving in 2010. The risk of text messaging has not been studied to the same extent as it has for talking on cell phones. A range from 8 to 23 times increased risk is currently the best estimate. It is estimated, that 160,000 to 490,000 crashes are likely attributable to text messaging in 2010.

The National Safety Council estimates at least 28% of all traffic crashes- or at least 1.6 million crashes each year are caused by drivers using cell phones and texting.

I would like warn everyone who insists on violating this pet peeve of mine, that we will periodically be looking for violators while operating an un-marked patrol vehicle. I suggest you violators watch for us watching you. Operating a motor vehicle while using a mobile communications device is a Class D traffic violation and the fine in Florence is \$110.00.

In case you're interested, in 2011 there were more than 2,800 American adults polled, answering questions about driving while distracted. According to a HealthDay Poll the results showed the following statistics:

- Approximately 86% of drivers said they ate or drank while driving at some point, and 57% said they do it "sometimes" or "often."
- Over 1/3 of drivers (37%) have sent or received text messages while driving, and 18% said they do it regularly.
- Forty-one percent of adult drivers have set or changed a GPS system while driving, and 21% do it "more frequently."
- Many adult drivers (36%) have read a map while driving, and 10% do it "sometimes" or "often."
- One in five drivers have combed or styled his or her hair while driving. One in ten does it regularly.
- About 13% of adult drivers have surfed the Internet while driving.
- Results of the poll showed that younger drivers were more likely to engage in distracted driving. Men were more likely to drive while drowsy, drive after drinking, read a map, use GPS system, and use the Internet.
- A large percentage of the people said they know distracted driving is dangerous, but do it anyway.

Stay tuned I have many more....

Chief Ray Gutierrez



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](http://www.ci.florence.or.us)

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# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the City of Florence is to meet community expectations for municipal services, provide a vision for civic improvements, maintain a quality environment and position Florence to have an economically viable and sustainable future.

## 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

# August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Ballet Fantastique FEC 7 pm	4 SHS Hall of Fame Dinner/ Auction FEC 3:30 to 10 pm
5	6 City Council Meeting 7 pm	7	8 FEC Volunteer Luncheon 11:30 am to 2 pm	9	10	11 ArtWalk FEC 3 to 5 pm
12	13 Lane Blood Center FEC 11:30 am to 5:30 pm	14 Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm	15	16 EMAC Meeting 2 pm	17	18 Black & White Recycling Event High School Parking Lot 9 am to 1 pm  Yard Debris Disposal Day 9 am to 2 pm  Coin Show FEC 9 am to 5 pm
19 Coin Show FEC 9 am to 4 pm	20 City Council Meeting 7 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	