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Florence Events Center
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Suslaw Bridge photo courtesy of Joshua Greene, © 2011 All Rights Reserved

Focus on Florence

February 2013

Old Town Construction Projects

Submitted by Mike Miller, Public Works Director

It all started as an idea: How to improve water pressure and flows within the Old Town area and upgrade other critical City infrastructure such as sanitary sewer and stormwater systems. The answer was the formation of the Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA). After many years of patience, property tax increment financing was put into place and FURA started the process of improving and upgrading the City infrastructure. Phase I construction started on Quince Street in April, 2012 and completed in June. Phase II started in November, 2012 and is projected to be completed, weather dependent of course, by the end of February, 2013.

The City of Florence is happy to announce the third and final phase of the infrastructure improvements to the Old Town area will begin February 4, 2013. Crews from K & E Excavating, Inc. will begin potholing (exploratory digging) of the existing underground utilities to determine exact alignments and bury depths followed with the excavation for the new 12-inch water main on Bay Street.



The purpose for these projects is to replace small diameter and very old water mains with new larger water mains that will bring much needed additional fire suppression water to the area. What does this mean? The small diameter water mains were only able to provide, on a good day, 900 gallons per minute of water flow. With the completion of the projects, we will now be able to deliver in excess of 3,200 gallons per minute of water to the Bay Street area during fire flow conditions. This project will also replace the existing fire hydrants along Bay and Nopal streets, some of which are the smaller two port models. Along with the fire hydrants, the individual water services and water meters will receive a much needed replacement.

Stormwater system upgrades include the installation of a new technology that includes filtration and biological treatment in one unit. The Contech UrbanGreen Biofilter is a system that can be utilized where stormwater runoff mitigation goals can't be met through infiltration and rainwater harvesting, but biofiltration can provide a high level of treatment and partial reduction of runoff volume. The UrbanGreen BioFilter is a compact, versatile and reliable alternative to

See Old Town Page 6

Employee Spotlight

Building Permit Technician Eric Rines

Eric Rines has worked for the City of Florence for 22 years. For the past eight years, Eric has been the face of the City's Building Department serving as the Building Permit Technician.

As the Building Permit Technician, Eric has a variety of duties.

"I take in applications, process the permits, take in money, schedule inspections, check for compliance with the Planning Department, do monthly activity reports as well as quarterly state surcharge fees," said Eric, who also assists with the Planning Department, when needed.

One of Eric's major accomplishments in the Building Department has been the implementation of the City's first Building Permit Program. Thanks to Eric's efforts, contractors can now pull their permits on-line, which helps streamline the permitting process.

When not working, Eric enjoys hunting, NASCAR and all things Oregon Ducks. He also enjoys spending time with his wife of 10 years, Joyce, his four children and two grandchildren.

What do you like most about being a Building Permit Technician?

"Having the ability to help people find answers to their questions. Because I have lived in Florence since 1968, I try to apply my local knowledge, along with City and Building Codes."

What is your most rewarding/proudest moment at the City?



Eric Rines has worked for the City of Florence for 22 years; 14 in Public Works and the past eight years in the Building Department.

"Brad Wilson (retired Public Works employee) and I were working in Sandpines late one afternoon. We had heard that an elderly lady had been missing from the Siuslaw Village area since early that morning. As we were leaving our job, I noticed an elderly woman walking towards Rhody Dr. and decided to drive by her and ask if we could help in anyway. When I talked to her, she was not very responsive to my

questions and she did not know where she was, so I knew at that time she was the one that had been missing. We notified the Police and Brad and I stayed with her until they came to take her home."

What is the strangest request or incident you've had at the City?

"We had received a call from City Hall to go help a resident that had a wild animal inside her house. When we arrived and knocked on the door, a woman screamed 'HELP ME, HELP ME.' We opened the door and there she was, on top of her kitchen table, yelling that there is a Bobcat behind her couch. So... we left the door open, got a good grip on the couch, pulled hard, and yelled real loud hoping the Bobcat would run out the open door. There it went, running out the door, as scared as the lady was. Our plan worked just like we hoped it would. That was the scruffiest squirrel I had ever seen! We

LANE COUNTY BUDGET SHORTFALLS IMPACT CITY OF FLORENCE MUNICIPAL COURT

Submitted by the Honorable Richard B. Brissenden



*Honorable Richard B.
Brissenden*

It is no longer headline news that the Lane County government is experiencing budget shortfalls, though it is hard to pick up a newspaper anywhere in the county on any given day without seeing some indication of the fact. Local communities throughout the county are clearly feeling the impact of the County's troubles. It should come as no surprise to anyone, then, that this impact is being experienced by our local justice system as well.

The fact is that cuts in funding to the Lane County Jail, District Attorney's Office and Justice Courts has shifted a disproportionate amount of the justice burden for our end of the county onto the City's court, prosecutor, police department and jail. What is fortunate is that we are up to the challenge. Collectively, City court, prosecutor and police personnel are deep in experience and training.

At the court, we are committed to providing a fully professional justice system. Florence Municipal Court is a court of record, one of only five such municipal courts in the state. As such, our decisions are reviewable only by the appellate courts, and only for significant errors of law. Thus, for all practical purposes, our judgments are final 99+% of the time. We take that responsibility very seriously. We at the Court –and I think I speak for the Police Department and Prosecutor's office as well – believe strongly in the concept of local control when it comes to the administration of justice. In this, we have followed the will of the Florence community, which has long supported a local police department, jail and court. Given the current financial crisis in Lane County, this is very fortunate.

The Court is busy. There is no question about that. The police and City Prosecutor are bringing more and more cases to the Court that used to go to Circuit Court as felonies. This is quite simply because we can give these cases the focus and attention they need and Circuit Court cannot. We are constantly working on new ideas and techniques to efficiently manage the pressure of this new reality.

Those of us in the City of Florence justice system are fortunate to work with a city leadership and City Council that is responsive to our needs and sensitive to our concerns. The high level of professionalism, and universal willingness to communicate and cooperate allows us to think and work together effectively to meet these challenges and create innovative solutions to the problems they present.



NEW CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2013 GOALS



The 2013 Florence City Council is sworn in at their January 2nd, 2013 meeting.

Every January, one of the first tasks that the Florence City Council takes on is establishing and prioritizing goals for the upcoming year. On January 12th, 2013, new Mayor Nola Xavier and

two newly elected councilors, Joshua Greene and Joe Henry, joined existing councilors Sue Roberts and Brian Jagoe at the Florence Events Center for an all-day goal-setting session with the City of Florence Management Team. Each team member gave a brief presentation on what their respective departments do and outlined some of the projects they feel should be a priority for the year.

After careful deliberation, seven goals were established by the Council, with finding permanent funding for the Florence Events Center as their top goal for 2013.



Finding permanent funding for the Florence Events Center was identified as the City Council's top goal for 2013.

See Page 5 for a list of the 2013 adopted Council goals in order of priority.

City of Florence

2013 City Council Goals

1. Research permanent funding and make recommendations to Council on sustainability of the Florence Event Center.

2. Continuation of strategic plan for records management.

3. Assess Florence utility code and fees (bring it into the 21st century). Assess business licenses, special events process, and city dog license fees.

4. Assess the amount of police officer's time spent in the jail, on transports, court days, and arraignments for justification of an additional officer.



5. Research locations and funding sources for a new public works facility for 2015.

6. Revise Old Town parking requirements.

7. Prepare annual budget report to the community.

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conventional designs.

The UrbanGreen BioFilter has soil media that is optimized for pollutant removal, hydraulic conductivity and biological vitality. Pollutants are primarily removed by



Once installed, the UrbanGreen BioFilter will provide a high level of treatment and partial reduction of stormwater runoff.

filtration during a storm event and are transformed, assimilated and/or absorbed between runoff events by the soil and plant community. The UrbanGreen BioFilter may also include one or more stormfilter cartridges which provide reliable pollutant removal for the portion of the design storm that exceeds the capacity of the biofilter bay.

We will also be installing a stormwater biofilter swale along the south side of Bay Street on the

west side of the intersection of Kingwood Street. Stormwater biofilter swales are a reliable and time tested method of treating stormwater prior to discharge into receiving waters, in this case the Siuslaw River.

Other stormwater system improvements include replacement of the stormwater line on Nopal between 1st and Bay streets. This project will also include the installation of new stormwater catchbasins at the corner of Bay and Nopal streets that will allow us to install a raised pedestrian crossing in the future.

The City's and contractor's commitment is to minimize the impact of this major construction project upon the businesses and residents in this very busy area of Old Town. It is never a good time to have a major construction project occur in existing built-up areas, especially with two other projects under construction, but we have planned the construction well and will be working hard

to minimize any inconveniences. The City and design engineers met with area residents and business owners November 14, 2012 to discuss the project and made modifications to the contract documents to address the concerns raised concerning the timing of the construction. From that input, we included a contract requirement that limits construction on Bay Street from Nopal to Hwy 101 from March 16 – 31, 2013 in order to accommodate the influx of tourists during Spring break.

Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Project

Project Update

If you have been in Old Town lately, you may have noticed construction activity on the south side of Bay Street under the Hwy 101 bridge and between the Siuslaw Coffee Roasters and Water Front Depot. Crews from Tom Ayres General Contractor, Inc. have been busy working on the Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Project. This project, over 12-years in the making, will provide an overlook deck next to the Siuslaw River with great views of the historic bridge and estuary.

In December, just before Christmas, construction crews completed the installation of the six pilings to support the observation deck. During January, the contractor has

been busy forming and installing the concrete footing and retaining walls for the project.

Once completed the project will

provide much needed additional parking (there will be eight parking stalls under the bridge); a stormwater demonstration area showcasing how natural systems can treat stormwater; viewing platform (deck) and picnic/sitting areas along with an abundance of native plantings.





EARTH DAY 2013



GREENER FLORENCE AWARD

In recognition of Earth Day 2013, the Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) of the City of Florence is accepting nominations from the public for Florence area businesses or service organizations which have made significant efforts towards a more environmentally friendly Florence. All accomplishments in the areas of **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** and **Compost** will be considered.

Annually, the nominee with the greatest contribution will have their name inscribed on a perpetual recognition plaque which will be on view in the lobby of City Hall.

Nomination forms are available at www.ci.florence.or.us or at City Hall or by contacting Katya Reyna at 541 997-3437 or online at katya.reyna@ci.florence.or.us. The completed nominations must be submitted to Katya Reyna online or at the City Planning Department by April 5, 2013. The nominee with the greatest contribution will be announced April 22, 2013.





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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Blast From the Past

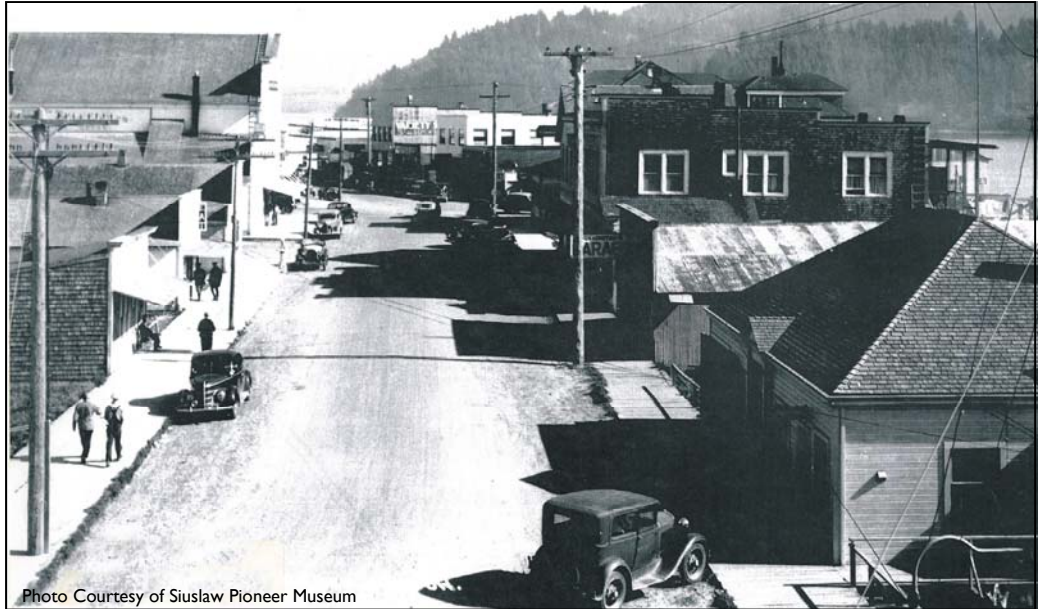


Photo Courtesy of Siuslaw Pioneer Museum

Bay Street, 1939. Florence City Hall is on the lower right foreground.

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.

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Indoor Yard Sale FEC 8 am to 2 pm
10	11 Lane Blood Center FEC 11:30 am to 5:30 pm	12 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	13	14	15 Jazz Kings Concert FEC 7:30 pm	16 Peace Health Heart to Heart FEC
17	18 Presidents Day City Departments Closed	19 City Council Meeting 7pm	20 Van Fans Fundraiser FEC 11:30 am	21 Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) Meeting 2 pm	22	23 International String Trio FEC 7 pm
24	25	26 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	27 FURA Meeting 6:30 pm	28		