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 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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**Important Reminder!**  
 Permanent business license renewal fees are due by January 20th to avoid late fees.

# Focus on Florence

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

January 2013

## Looking Forward to 2013

Submitted by Nola Xavier, Florence Mayor



As we say goodbye to 2012, it's only fitting to take time to say thanks to Mayor Brubaker for 12+ years of service to Florence, both as a councilor and as mayor.

His capable leadership has helped Florence keep a steady course through some very challenging times.

It is also sad to say goodbye to former Mayor Stu Johnston. Stu left a great legacy in Florence with his many years of service to this community. We extend our condolences to his family and thank them for sharing Stu with us. The council has named December 12<sup>th</sup> as Stu Johnston day in his memory and as a tribute of our respect.

Many start each New Year by making a list of resolutions. These are good intentions, some of which will quietly and quickly fade away. I'm not much given to making resolutions. However, I am given to contemplation about the past year with thoughts concerning what worked well, what didn't work at all, what goals were met, what is still a work in progress and, most of all, am I moving in the right direction. As I do this, it is always amazing to see how much there is to be grateful for, both professionally and personally. For the past eight years I have had the opportunity to work with some very dedicated, talented people. These are people who care about Florence and want to do their best to make sure that as we move forward that we don't

lose the Florence that we all love. The spirit of volunteerism in this town is incredible. When I look at all of the many things volunteers do to keep things running well, there is simply no way we could ever afford to pay for all their service. Given these fiscally challenging times for cities to have these dedicated volunteers willing to step up and fill the gaps saves the day!

The City's staff has also been asked to do more with less. They have rethought the way things are done and looked for ways to economize, rework and streamline so that we are becoming more efficient while maintaining service levels as much as possible. We have asked a lot and they have answered that call. All but three of the council goals set last year have been completed. The remaining ones were very long term and still a work in progress.

As we prepare to start 2013 with a new council and a new mayor, we will start again with a goal setting session. As the staff and the council work together to set those goals, we are forming the action plan that will be followed for the coming year. It is an intense process to work through so that we have a strong team approach to what needs to be accomplished.

Even as we say goodbye to 2012, I am looking forward to 2013 with excitement for what is ahead. I hope you are also optimistic about the possibilities that lay ahead too.

Happy New Year to all!

# Employee Spotlight

## Utility Worker Larry Jensen

Larry Jensen started with the City of Florence in August 2007 as the City's first facility maintenance worker. In August, 2010, Larry became a Utility Worker, primarily working in the City's water division. His day-to-day activities consist of performing maintenance and repair of water meters, water mains, water services and fire hydrants. Larry is also one of the City's meter readers, where he can be seen driving around town in one of the three wheel "meter maid" carts every middle of the month.

One of the big projects Larry has been involved with is the City's surface water and groundwater monitoring program that was part of the Siuslaw Estuary Partnership. Every month, Larry collects water samples from 16 different groundwater monitoring wells, four stream sample locations and four stormwater sampling locations.

"Larry is one of those employees that you wish you could have more of," said Public Works Director Mike Miller. "He is conscientious, courteous, hardworking, has a high degree of integrity, is responsible and continues to improve himself."



*City of Florence Utility Worker Larry Jensen has worked for Public Works more than five years.*

### **Family?**

*Larry and his wife of 28 years, Camellia, have a 24-year-old daughter and 22-year-old son.*

### **Hobbies?**

*"Hunting, fishing, guns and water sports on the lake with the boats and kids. I also enjoy playing with our old vehicles and tinkering in the shop."*

### **What do you like most about being a Utility Worker?**

*"What I enjoy most about my job is being outside and the group of people I work with."*

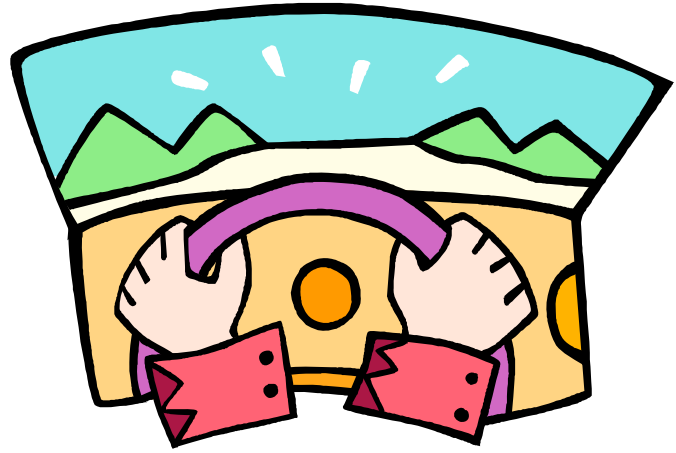


# CHIEF GUTIERREZ'S DRIVING PET PEEVES

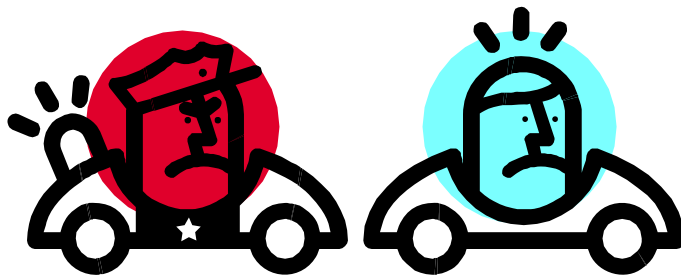
Submitted by Chief of Police Ray Gutierrez

**H**as this ever happened to you? Were you the impeder, speeder, tailgater, or a combination of any of these?

Picture this, it is Saturday and you are on your way to Eugene. You've been traveling behind a slow moving car since you were on the east side of Mapleton. The car is traveling between 5 and 10 miles per hour below the posted speed limits. You are unable to pass due to the heavy oncoming traffic making their way to the coast, coupled with the limited opportunities on the curvy highway. The cars are stacking up behind you as you finally approach that first passing lane. As you prepare to pass you notice the car behind you riding your bumper, an indicator that driver is also anxious to pass, and the car behind him is riding his/her bumper. In fact, when you look at the line of cars in your rearview mirror, you notice that everyone is on each other's bumper all in preparation to pass. You're determined not to let the car behind you pass, so you find yourself on the bumper of the car in front of you. You are all thinking the same thing... GET AROUND THE SLOW CAR!!



You hit the passing lane and accelerate and guess what? The car you're attempting to pass also accelerates. You go faster and it goes faster. Before you know it you're 20 mph over the speed limit but you're determined. You finally pass that (*insert your own description of the driver*). Just as the passing lane ends you notice the car that was behind you is even more determined, barely making it around the car you just passed, nearly causing an accident in the process. And yes, as expected, the initial slow moving vehicle once again reduces its speed 5 to 10 miles per hour below the posted speed limits. Who's at fault? Perhaps the following ORS's will help you determine if it was you.



## 811.111 Violating a speed limit

(1) A person commits the offense of violating a speed limit if the person:

(a) Drives a vehicle on an interstate highway at a speed greater than 65 miles per hour or, if a different speed is posted under ORS 810.180

(Designation of maximum speeds) (3), at a speed greater than the posted speed.

*In the United States it is always unlawful to exceed the posted speed limit regardless of the reason.*

**811.130 Impeding traffic.** (1) A person commits the offense of impeding traffic if the person drives a motor vehicle or a combination of motor vehicles in a manner that impedes or blocks the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. (5) The offense described in this section, impeding traffic, is a Class D traffic violation.

See Pet Peeves Page 4

## Business License Renewals Due by January 20<sup>th</sup> to Avoid Fees



Florence Business Licenses are valid through the end of the calendar year from the date of issuance. In November of every year, the City Recorder's office issues business license renewals for each permanent business. These business license renewals are due by **January 1<sup>st</sup>** of each year. All renewals received after January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 will be subject to a penalty fine of 1/2 the value of the business license (\$40 for permanent, \$22.50 for home occupation) and legal business status will be suspended.

### *PET PEEVES from Page 3*

**811.410 Unsafe passing on left; penalty.** (1) A person commits the offense of unsafe passing on the left if the person violates any of the following requirements concerning the overtaking and passing of vehicles: (a) The driver of a vehicle that is overtaking any other vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left of the other vehicle at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. (b) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted under ORS 811.415, **the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of an overtaking vehicle and shall not increase the speed of the overtaken vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.** (c) The driver of a vehicle shall not drive to the left side of the center of the roadway in overtaking and passing a vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless the left side

is clearly visible and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit the overtaking and passing to be completed without interfering with the operation of a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or a vehicle overtaken. (d) An overtaking vehicle shall return to an authorized lane of traffic as soon as practicable.

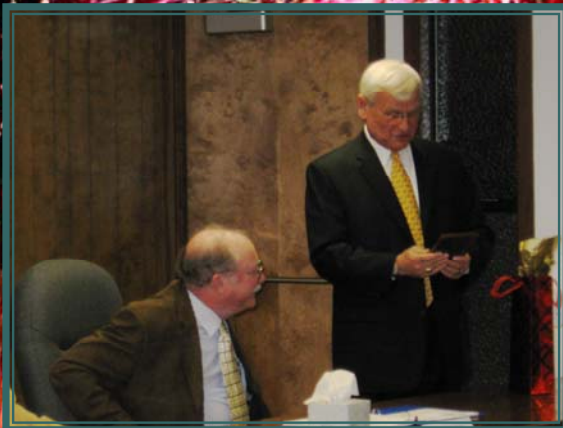
**811.485 Following too closely** (1) A person commits the offense of following too closely if the person does any of the following: (a) Drives a motor vehicle so as to follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of the vehicles and the traffic upon, and condition of, the highway. (3) The offense described in this section, following too closely, is a Class B traffic violation.

Are you or have you been one of these drivers? Please drive safe!

Chief Ray Gutierrez

# New Year, New Council

Florence citizens, councilors and City staff had a chance to say goodbye to two long-serving members of the Florence City Council during the January 2nd, 2013 meeting. The January 2nd meeting was the last for Mayor Phil Brubaker and Councilor Paul Holman. The meeting was also the introduction of new Mayor Nola Xavier, as well as newly-elected councilors Joshua Greene and Joe Henry.





## Work Begins on Siuslaw Interpretive Center



*Contractors began work last month on the Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Center on Bay Street. Once completed, the new Center will provide a scenic wayside for tourists, travelers and residents to enjoy the historic Siuslaw River Bridge. A viewing platform and interpretive signage will introduce visitors to the history of the bridge and the surrounding area. The Center is expected to be substantially completed by the end of April, 2013.*

## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The City of Florence is looking for the City Volunteer of the Year! Do you know someone that makes an outstanding contribution to improving the quality of life in this city by contributing their time, energy and expertise to the City of Florence? Any citizen can nominate any city volunteer they deem worthy of the honor. The winner will receive a plaque and be recognized at the Volunteer Appreciation Night, Thursday, February 21, 2013.

All nominations will be presented to the selection committee for review. Submissions must be in by Friday, January 18, 2013 at 5 pm. Please call Kelli Weese, Interim Planning Director/City Recorder with any questions at 541-997-3437. To obtain the nomination form simply go online to <http://www.ci.florence.or.us/boardsandcommissions/volunteer-year-nominations>, or you can obtain a copy at Florence City Hall (250 Hwy 101).

You may submit your nomination by the following ways:

- Mail to: Kelli Weese, 250 Highway 101 N, Florence OR 97439
- Email: [kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us](mailto:kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us)
- Fax: 541-997-4109
- Bring to the City Manager's Department at City Hall



Former Mayor Phil Brubaker presents Police Auxiliary volunteer Andi Belk with the 2012 Volunteer of the Year award.



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

City E-mail Addresses

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Councilor Joshua Greene  
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 Shawn Penrod  
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Sunset at City Hall — December 5th, 2012



Photo By Katya Reyna

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.

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Years Day City Departments Closed	2 City Council Meeting 7pm	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 City Council Committee Interviews 5:30 pm	10 City Council Committee Interviews 5:30 pm	11	12 City Council Goal Setting Session FEC 8 am
13	14	15	16 FURA Meeting 5 pm	17	18 Trio Voronezh Concert FEC 7:30 pm	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day City Departments Closed	22 City Council Meeting 7pm	23	24 Winter Folk Festival Kids Concert FEC 8 am to 3 pm	25	26 Winter Folk Festival FEC 10 am
27 Winter Folk Festival FEC 10 am	28	29 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	30	31		