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 541-997-3436

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City Recorder
 541-997-3437

City Manager's Office
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Public Works
 541-997-4106

Police Department
 541-997-3515

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

Focus on Florence

June 2013

"If I were Mayor" Contest Winner



Mayor Nola Xavier and Katherine Dodson.

Mayor Nola Xavier presented Katherine Dodson as the winner of the Florence "If I were Mayor" contest at the City Council meeting on May 20, 2013. Katherine Dodson is an 8th grade student at Siuslaw Middle School. Entries were judged based on creativity, clarity, structure, and relevancy to the position of mayor. Katherine's winning essay outlined five ideas that she believes would improve the Florence community. She proposed improving the sports programs at the schools, building a local mall, having an ice cream truck, building a community garden, and improvements to the Florence website. Mayor Xavier has submitted Katherine's essay to the statewide "If I were Mayor" contest hosted by the Oregon Mayor's Association.

City of Florence Introduces New Communication Tool: Budget Report to Citizens

It is a City Council 2013 **Goal** to better **communicate** the City's finances and the results of the budget process by preparing an **Annual Budget Report to the Community**. Throughout Florence's history the City Council has served as a voice for its citizens. It is our goal to further this legacy of Council **stewardship** by providing a summarized budget report. As such, the City of Florence Finance Department is pleased to announce that, once the Council has approved the 2013-14 fiscal year budget, they will prepare an informational **Budget Report to Citizens**. This report will be delivered as an insert in the utility bills mailed the first week of July.

Employee Spotlight

Parks Supervisor Mark Durbin

Parks Supervisor Mark Durbin began working with the City of Florence Public Works Department in 2010. Mark was born in Florence and has lived here the majority of his life. In his free time, Mark enjoys fishing, gardening, and building things. Mark's family includes his wife Fern who works at Peach Health, his daughter Amy who lives in Florence, and his son Craig and daughter-in-law Na Na who live in Reno, NV.



Mark Durbin has worked at the City of Florence since 2010.

was the building of the new dog park at Singing Pines Park. I enjoyed working with the rest of the Public Works crew and the volunteers. Everyone worked together to make it all happen."

Is there anything else you want to add?

"It's really nice coming to work each day where it's easy to talk to your boss, the people that you work with all get along, and the people in the community appreciate the work that you do and they tell you. I get to work with the youth and the senior citizens of the community that respect our parks, trails, and almost everything that I work on. I can see the results of my work right now."

Which is your favorite park?

"Miller Park is my favorite because it looks like what a park should be. It has activities for all ages of people to enjoy — from the family that is just starting out who bring their children to the playground to the paths that the senior citizens that walk for exercise."

What do you like most about your job?

"There is a long list of what I like about my job. Topping the list is the crew that I work with. I get to go to work every day and enjoy the beauty of the parks and trails around the Florence community."

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

"My most rewarding/proudest accomplishment

Public Work Director Mike Miller described Mark Durbin:

"Mark is one of those rare individuals. He has a great work ethic, works hard, and is respectful of others. Mark displays a high degree of integrity and responsibility, and is a person that is highly self-motivated. He is a great team player, who takes the time to not only help others but teach them how to perform tasks correctly. Mark has a great attitude and brings such good cheer that makes it an absolute joy to work with him. I am so pleased that he is part of our Public Works team!"

Interpretive Center Ribbon Cutting Set For June 28th



Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Center under construction on May 29, 2013.

More than a decade after it was first proposed, the Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Center is finally becoming a reality. City Manager Jacque Betz has announced a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Friday, June 28th at 10 a.m. at the Center's site on Bay Street, next to the Siuslaw River Coffee Roasters. City officials, Oregon Department of Transportation staff, and local dignitaries will be attending

to celebrate the opening of the highly anticipated wayside.

"The City is thrilled to publicly celebrate the official opening of the Siuslaw Interpretive Center," said Betz. "It will be a community asset that secures that the last piece of open space property on Bay street will remain undeveloped, so that residents and visitors can enjoy a phenomenal view of our historic bridge."

Construction has hit the final stretch as crews with Tom Ayres General Contractor have finished installing the irrigation system and last week, began bringing in dirt to start the landscaping.

"Construction of the viewing platform is in progress and the parking lot under the bridge is essentially done," said Public Works Director Mike Miller. "Hand rails on the foot bridge, observation deck, and at the south end of the parking lot still need to be installed along with the other furnishings."

Originally proposed to be under the north end of the Siuslaw Bridge, the project revision in 2008 moved the Center to its current location, previously known as the Barnett property, next to the Siuslaw River Coffee Roasters.

"Relocating the Interpretive Center to the Barnett property not only ensured that the estuary and the Siuslaw Bridge will be visible from the viewing platform, but more importantly, guarantees that one of the last open spaces in Old Town will be preserved for future generations," said Miller.

Eight additional parking spots have been constructed under the south-side of the Siuslaw Bridge, providing some much needed extra parking in the Old Town area, while not interfering with the popular "Cathedral Arch" view of underneath the bridge that is so popular with photographers and artists. Benches in the parking lot facing the Siuslaw River will provide visitors an area to rest while taking in the breathtaking views.

INTERPRETIVE CENTER, Page 3

In 2009, the City was awarded a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Siuslaw Estuary Partnership project. Along with developing efficient and effective stormwater management policies, the partnership work plan also included a Stormwater Demonstration project at the Interpretive Center. A pathway will take visitors by a rain garden, existing tidal wetlands, constructed wetland enhancements, and a stormwater treatment swale providing a convenient location to observe the stormwater cleansing process.

“The stormwater treatment swale was designed in accordance with the City’s Stormwater Design manual,” said Miller. “It’s a great educational opportunity and gives us a chance to demonstrate how efforts to improve stormwater quality can be both functional and attractive.”

Construction of the Center was managed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and funded with a combination of federal, state, and local funds with contributions from the Federal Scenic Byways Program, Oregon State Highway and Exchange Funds, the Florence Urban Renewal Agency, and the City of Florence.

“Public-private partnerships bring incredible value to a community,” said Betz. “Even though it has taken twelve plus years to complete, the historic preservation and educational opportunities this project bestows are simply timeless.”

2012 Water Quality Report to be Released June 15th



As a water supplier, the City of Florence is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide an annual Consumer Confidence Report. Commonly known as a Water Quality Report, it informs customers of the location of our City water sources, the City’s source water protection programs, if there are any contaminants in their drinking water as well as the water analyses undertaken to ensure that the water delivered is safe and of the highest quality.

The 2012 City of Florence Water Quality Report will be released on June 15th on the City of Florence website in a downloadable PDF at www.ci.florence.or.us/publicworks/city-florence-2012-water-quality-report. Paper copies will only be mailed by request or a copy can be picked up at the Public Works building at 989 Spruce Street or City Hall at 250 Highway 101.

The City of Florence is proud of the high quality of our water supply, which consistently meets or exceeds all state and federal water requirements, and committed to providing residents and business with top quality water service. For any questions regarding the Water Quality Report or water quality in general, please contact Public Works at 541-997-4106.

Code Enforcement: Garage Sale Signs

Submitted by Shari Fisher, Code Enforcement

Summertime is now upon us. As you drive through town on any Friday or Saturday, you can see the numerous signs posted on telephone poles and stop signs indicating the various garage sales happening on any given weekend. As the weather gets better and better, there are more and more signs being posted.

In the past, I would stop and remove the signs without talking to the sellers regarding the City Code. On Saturdays I would remove anywhere from 10 to 20 signs which would take me approximately 1 to 2 hours. In April, I began removing the signs and going to the residence which is conducting the sale and educating them on the Florence City Code (4-7-8-A-3) regarding placement on telephone poles and stop signs.



I strive to educate residents by telling them that signs shall not be placed in any public right-of-way which includes sidewalks, streets, street signs or utility poles. Any sign that is installed near a street intersection must not obstruct clear vision of traffic. They are also instructed to place their signs on stakes in the ground rather than to poles and signs. Their signs need to include an address and days of the sale and they are instructed to remove the signs once the sale is over.

Since the beginning of April, I have spent approximately 3 to 4 hours per week educating citizens regarding this matter. Even though it is time consuming, I believe it is working. I am finding fewer and fewer signs that have been placed on telephone poles or street signs. In fact, on May 25, 2013 I drove around the city of Florence and did not have to stop to remove any garage sale signs. So the extra work is paying off and is freeing up the time it used to take me to pull signs every weekend so that I can concentrate on the other duties my job entails.

Florence City Code 4-7-8: Temporary Signs

- A. *Temporary signs may be erected and maintained in the city only in compliance with the regulations in this chapter, and with the following specific provisions:*
- 1. Except as approved in connection with a community event, no temporary sign shall be internally illuminated or be illuminated by an external light source primarily intended for the illumination of the temporary sign.*
 - 2. A temporary sign shall be attached to the site or constructed in a manner that both prevents the sign from being easily removed by unauthorized persons or blown from its location and allows for the easy removal of the sign by authorized persons.*
 - 3. Except as provided in this code, temporary signs shall not be attached to trees, shrubbery, utility poles or traffic control signs or devices.*
 - 4. No temporary sign shall be erected or maintained which, by reason of its size, location or construction constitutes a hazard to the public.*

We Get By with a Little Help from Our Friends

The Friends of the Florence Events Center provide important help and support to the FEC in three key areas: fundraising, volunteering, and event planning.

“We could not accomplish even half of the things we need to do without the continuing support of the Friends,” says FEC Director Kevin Rhodes. “Whatever we need, whether it’s help setting up rooms for an event to planning and carrying out major fundraising campaigns, the Friends are critical to our success.”

In 2012, the Friends contributed \$25,000 towards the purchase of 400 new (and much-needed) banquet chairs and 120 black folding chairs used both in the theater and for off-site rentals. In addition, they made a substantial contribution toward the installation and storage of the FEC’s new emergency generator. The American Red Cross has designated the FEC as an emergency shelter and, due to its size and location, it is the shelter of choice for the community in case of a catastrophic event. Thus it is extremely important that emergency power be available throughout the facility at all times.

Expenditures planned for 2013 include repairing the movable walls on the flat floor, re-caulking 44 tower windows, and purchasing additional track lighting for our art galleries.

This year the Friends will spearhead a major fundraising campaign with the installation of new commemorative brick walks across the front of the Center. The existing brick walk is getting a face lift as Friends volunteers will be replacing deteriorated bricks from the original brick campaign that happened in 1996 when the FEC opened.

Volunteers will be contacting local residents and businesses to ask for their participation in the new brick walk project and all members of the community are encouraged to get involved. Now is a great time to add new family members to the brick walk. A new brick can be purchased for \$100. Funds raised will be used primarily for additional equipment upgrades at the FEC.

In addition to fundraising, the Friends have a team of more than 60 active volunteers who assist in all aspects of FEC’s

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BRICK CAMPAIGN, Page 6

daily operations. This includes receptionist and ticket office duties, acting as ushers and ticket takers at events, gallery docents, set-up crews, lighting and sound technicians, and backstage assistance.

The Friends are also responsible for sponsoring and promoting the Winter Folk Festival, Celebrate Arts!, the Florence Festival of Books, and numerous other community and entertainment events. Friend volunteers will be seen this summer carrying out their duties at the Michael Jackson tribute concert, *Leading Ladies*, and the Baby Boomer Comedy Show.

Support the arts and the Florence Events Center by becoming a Friend. Any member of the community can become a Friend by filling out an application and paying only \$15 in annual dues. Participation in committees and other volunteer activities is optional, but certainly encouraged! The application is available online at www.eventcenter.org or in the office during regular business hours from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Upcoming FEC Events



Leading Ladies

It's About Time Productions, a new theatre company in Florence, will present *Leading Ladies*, a hilarious romp by Ken Ludwig, author of *Lend Me a Tenor*. The show will be performed on the flat floor of the Florence Events Center, so seating will be limited. Times and dates are Friday and Saturday, June 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 7 p.m., with matinees at 2 p.m. on Sundays, June 9 and 16. Mark your calendars now for an evening of good fun.

Michael Jackson Tribute Concert

Fans of the late great Michael Jackson will want to be at the FEC on Friday, June 28th for a tribute concert—Michael Knight's *Unbreakable*. Tickets for this show are \$25.

Michael Knight began to follow Michael Jackson at the very young age of 14. Knight was so inspired by Jackson's talent he began to dance and eventually duplicated Jackson's art of dancing to perfection.

It wasn't until 2009 that Knight discovered he had another one of Michael Jackson's talents and that was his singing. Knight was inspired by Jackson's talent but more so by his humanitarianism. He believes that the children are the world. He has often performed for children, not for money but out of the kindness of his heart because "it brings a smile to the child and lifts their spirits to keep fighting." He also loves nature, animals but mostly his fans. He says "Without my fans I am nothing and I love them all."





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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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.

June 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 SHS Band Concert FEC 7 pm | 4 | 5 SHS Choir Concert FEC 7 pm | 6 | 7 Leading Ladies FEC 7 pm | 8 Leading Ladies FEC 7 pm |
| 9 Leading Ladies FEC 2 pm | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 FEC Committee Meeting 10 am | 14 Leading Ladies FEC 7 pm | 15 Yard Debris Disposal Day 27th St 9 am - 2 pm ... Leading Ladies FEC 7 pm |
| 16 Leading Ladies FEC 2 pm | 17 City Council Meeting 7 pm | 18 | 19 | 20 EMAC Meeting 2 pm | 21 | 22 Indoor Yard Sale FEC 8 am to 2 pm |
| 23 | 24 | 25 Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm | 26 FEC Committee Meeting 10 am ... TAC Meeting 1:30 pm | 27 | 28 Michael Jackson Tribute Concert FEC 7 pm | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |