

NEW ART PIECE TO BE UNVEILED AT CITY HALL

Two months ago, a call and a grant went out to find an artist that could complete the City of Florence's vision for public art. Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) formed a committee and spearheaded the project with the Port of Siuslaw, who donated the site.

The committee wanted a piece of public art to help identify the area's artistic community to the visiting public. Like all great cities across the country, art is an established way to recognize a city for its culture and beauty.

The art piece had to withstand rains, amazing winds, salt air, and the test of time on its own. It was to depict the scenes of Florence, wildlife, the harbor, its culture, etc.

Artist Kat Cunningham read the grant proposal and knew she had what the city needed.

Cunningham, a seasoned artist and product designer of 35 years, saw the piece as having three iconic views that related to the town's activities.

"This is the people's art," Cunningham said.

Cunningham's medium for the piece would be hand painted tile murals.

Three 6-by-3-foot scenes, on a 2-foot base, will make the art



COURTESY PHOTO

Artist Kat Cunningham paints tiles that will be part of her artwork symbolizing the Florence area. The public art piece will be unveiled on Friday, Sept. 18, at 4 p.m. at the Port of Siuslaw.

piece very visible and recognizable by everyone.

Cunningham said the piece

needed to make residents proud and make visitors not want to miss all the things that

Florence has to offer.

The perfect site in Old Town was donated by the Port.

The location, next to the parking lot and harbor walk and across from ICM, would provide good visibility to the public.

Cunningham assembled a veteran team to assist with the public art project. Jack Smoot, of Jack Smoot Welding, cut and welded the structure. Todd Ohran, of Cutting Edge Tile, helped assemble and complete Cunningham's column of hand painted tile murals. These experienced professionals were proud to be a part of the city's new approach to artistic vitality.

Now, two months into the process, the city has poured the base and everything is in place for the public's viewing.

Florence residents are invited to the dedication of its new landmark, "Florence Scenic Column," at the harbor site, on Friday, Sept. 18, at 4 p.m.

FRAA will host the reception at 120 Maple St. from 4:15 to 6 p.m.

All are invited to meet Cunningham and her professional team and find out more about how the area gained its newest public art piece.

Ride Rhody Express with Councilor Greene Sept. 16

Do you have a great idea or thought you would like to share with the Florence City Council?

The City Council began the "Ride with a Councilor" program so that citizens can share their thoughts. Each month, a City Councilor or Mayor Henry will ride the Rhody Express to answer questions and hear suggestions from the community.

Hop aboard and talk to Councilor Joshua Greene during the next Ride With a Councilor Day, which will be Wednesday, Sept. 16, from

11:20 a.m. to 1:20 p.m. on the Rhody Express.

Fares for the Rhody Express are \$1 per trip or \$2 per day.

For more information about the program, call the City Manager's Department at 541-997-3437.

For a detailed bus schedule, pick up a brochure at the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, or online at www.ltd.org/rhody.

For information about the Rhody Express service, call the Rhody Express at 541-902-2067.

Annual Habitat BeachWalk is today

The Habitat for Humanity BeachWalk is fast approaching and is off to a great start. It's time to put teams together and gather sponsors and donations.

The BeachWalk will be today, Sept. 12, starting at the North Jetty parking lot. Walk the beach from the jetty to Driftwood Shores, any time between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join in this fun event, including leashed dogs. Walkers will be entertained with music, be treated to refreshments, can

hunt for glass floats and keep what they find, and participate in a sand-sculpture contest with awards.

Any walker raising at least \$100 will be given a Habitat BeachWalk T-shirt.

Other benefits include a relaxing walk on the beach, burning calories, improving bone strength and toning muscles, making it a win-win for everyone.

Every donation raised goes to purchasing building materials to build Florence Habitat for Humanity homes in the

community.

Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 to eliminate poverty housing in the world.

Florence Habitat is always seeking passionate individuals and organizations to join the fight against substandard housing. Anyone who would like to join the BeachWalk can pick up a registration form at the Florence Habitat for Humanity office in the Grocery Outlet shopping center.

For more information, call 541-902-9227.

OPB, LCC partner for business class

"Grow Your Business," a free workshop, will be presented by Lane Community College Small Business Development Center Professional Advisors in partnership with Oregon Pacific Bank.

Both start-up and well established business owners are welcome to attend and learn about valuable resources and tools to take your business to the next level. The course will include topics on how to improve sales, identifying a

target market, understanding finance, managing effectively, marketing and more.

The workshop will also feature one-on-one business and marketing advising sessions with experienced professionals.

The workshop is free and open to the general public.

The class will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the LCC campus in Florence, 3149 Oak Street, in room 103.

There will be a morning workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 1

p.m., with individual advising sessions from 2 to 4 p.m.

Register online at bizcenter.org/locations/eugene/events

Click "Managing a Business," then click: "Grow Your Business-Lane Florence Campus."

For more information, contact the LCC Small Business Development Center at 541-463-6200 or OPB's marketing coordinator Ellen Huntingdon, at 541-902-1509.

GREENTREES VILLAGE

COMMUNITY WIDE

YARD SALE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

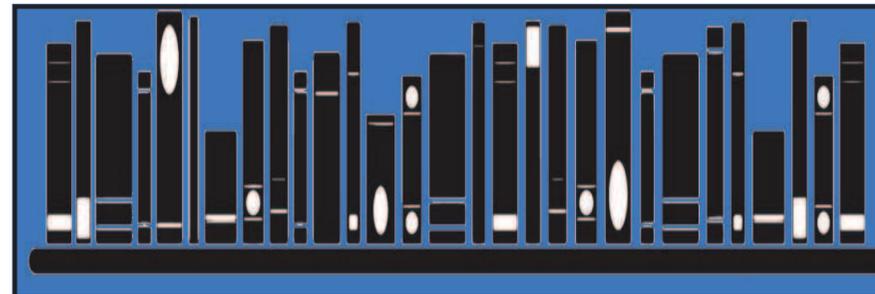
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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1600 & 1601
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Florence Festival of Books

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday,
September 26

Florence
Events
Center
715 Quince Street
Florence, Oregon

www.FlorenceFestivalofBooks.org

Friday, September 25

3 p.m. Publisher's Panel
A free event to introduce authors to the publishing process.

7 p.m. Jane Kirkpatrick
Hear from the renowned Oregon author. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door.



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