

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Siuslaw Station seeks volunteers

The local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is looking for a few good volunteers. With nearby inland waterways, ocean, fishing and recreational boating, Station Siuslaw River is a busy place that counts on that support.

The station's responsibility includes a large area from about Cape Perpetua south to the Siltcoos River, with much of the activity right here on the Siuslaw River.

The auxiliary is a group of volunteer members forming a uniformed unit called a Flotilla. They assist the active-duty Coast Guard in a myriad of ways, offering unique volunteer opportunities to give back to the community.

Members sometimes work alongside active-duty personnel and share the Coast Guard's motto "Semper Paratus," or "Always Ready!"

Individuals from Oakridge to Florence make up the local Flotilla 52 membership, which is assigned under the Department of Homeland Security, just like the active-duty U.S. Coast Guard.

As an auxiliary member,

volunteers can bring and often use past skills and talents, as well as learn new skills in areas like vessel inspections, safety checks, teaching boating safety courses and participating in boat crew operations. The auxiliary patrols inland waterways and lakes, and provides water safety materials at marine dealers and sporting goods stores.

Administrative and technological tasks are also necessary to support the auxiliary team and station.

Hands-on, online and classroom training are offered to auxiliaries, depending on their interests.

There is no upper-age limit to join the auxiliary if there is something that you can contribute — and no need to do 50 push-ups.

Volunteers should just be capable of safely accomplishing the missions they choose.

For more information, contact Flotilla Commander Norm Hoffman at 541-688-6069 or Flotilla Vice-Commander Bradley Hooper at the station, 541-997-2486, option 3, or visit www.cgaux.org.

Vision

from 1A

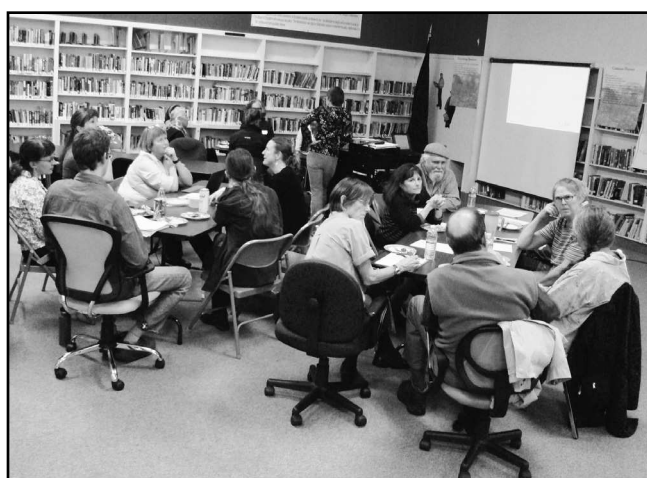
"The feedback in our initial community meetings last year was that the connection between the upriver communities and Florence/Dunes City was important and needed to be strengthened," Goehring said, adding that core issues identified include the need for reliable, affordable transportation between upriver communities and Florence.

"People struggle to get to Florence for medical appointments, to shop and to take their kids to events. Another is affordable rental housing. There just isn't enough supply for the demand," she said.

Barth added, "We are filling in a painting of the Siuslaw Region 10 years from now. What's missing in the details? What are the unique ideas to add? This process is bringing those into focus and these community meetings are a chance to add more."

The SRV team will meet over the next month and prepare an overall vision based on the community's input. For more information, call Jane Barth at 541-760-4693

Follow Jack on Twitter @SNews_Jack. Email him at jack@thesiuslawnews.com.



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Residents from the Mapleton area gather to discuss the Siuslaw regional 10-year vision plan during the Jan. 21 meeting at Mapleton High School. Below, Florence-area residents review one of six vision stations at another vision meeting Jan. 28 at the Florence Events Center.



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Barber

from 1A

"We're doing this because we want to give back to the community and to people who don't really have the opportunity to do stuff themselves," Shawnell said.

Along with two Camp Florence counselors, the youths set up two chairs in the front room on Feb. 15 at Helping Hands Coalition and began cutting guests' hair for free.

While they worked, they chatted with the men and

women who were there for a meal or other services.

"We've been in positions like this before, too. We just like to give back," Shawnell said.

He said the three could do any style for men and women. Salvador gave one man a mohawk when he asked for one.

"I'm proud of them," one leader said.

He added that Shawnell, Austin and Salvador came up with the idea on their own.

The youths plan to provide haircutting services at Helping

Hands once a month. Their next scheduled day is Monday, March 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We're here to cut hair for as many as want us to do it," Shawnell said.

Helping Hands Coalition, 1339 Rhododendron Drive, provides members in the community with food, clothing and other essentials, as well as a hot meal every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Helping Hands at 541-997-5057.

Admin

from 1A

"The time is really now to look into a strategic partnership that may or may not work," Langborg said. "The ambulance district is basically here to ask our board if you are interested in exploring the feasibility of this. At this point, no one is committing to anything, but researching the financial feasibility and functionality of it."

In an interview on Thursday, Langborg said that he, Burright and the districts' current administrative staff members would be meeting as early as Monday, Feb. 22, to explore administrative services and to

see which processes could be compatible.

"Off the cuff, I'd say that we're doing more than 65 percent identical administrative processes and using a lot of identical software," Langborg said.

Webb said, "When our director Henry Hanf got sick and passed away last year, and then when our administrator left the district, we were forced to outsource some services. ... Julie has helped us out and we've been able to bring some of that back in."

"Basically we're looking to fill the position for our director. This agreement is one avenue we need to explore. I think the time is right to do so."

This option was one of several ideas for filling the director's position that came out of WLAD's strategic planning process.

Burright said, "We want to make sure that people don't jump too far ahead and think the districts are merging. Some of the benefits of this scenario if it's approved is that it does set the stage for better communication, better understandings between the boards and more motivation and inclination to start looking at some of the steps to successfully do a future consolidation or merger."

Langborg and Burright said that the WLAD and SVFR boards of directors broached the idea of a merger in the past.

"I think our approach this time has been a little different. Our approach has been more of efficiency and cost savings. From the fire district's standpoint, we know that financially we're sound and doing good. We want to maintain that," Langborg said.

Burright asked, "Is there a way to respond to emergencies more efficiently, more effectively and be cost effective, and do it together? I think that's what brought up the discussion."

SVFR board member John Carnahan said at the board meeting, "All you're asking for is to look into it and see what you research. I'd say go ahead."

Webb said, "If it works out the way I envision it, it could be a very smooth, seamless transition and really beneficial for both groups."

The current timeframe for the districts is to gather information now and present initial findings to both boards in March in a combined work session, with the IGA finalized in April.

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WORD ON THE STREET

What was your favorite book that you recently read?

Stop by Siuslaw Public Library on Friday, Feb. 26, at 1 p.m. to hear the staff's selection of the best books of 2015 during "60 Reviews in 60 Minutes."



"The Last Policeman" by Ben Winters. It's about a policeman who is promoted to detective at the same time the world is coming to an end. It's funny and sad."
—MEG SPENCER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR



"Golden Son" by Pierce Brown. It's about someone who lives underground on a planet and finally realizes that there are people living up on top."
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"The 'Chief Inspector Armand Gamache' series by Louise Penny. He is a very compassionate person and kind and has a good relationship with his wife and kids."
—SUSIE VOTH, MAPLETON LIBRARIAN



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