

Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

Construction on Rhododendron Drive

In response to some recent letters to the editor and also to some of the questions that we often receive from citizens, I would like to provide a brief history of the work that is being done throughout our city, especially along Rhododendron Drive.

The condition of Rhododendron Drive over the years has deteriorated and it has been one of the City Council's priorities to improve this minor arterial roadway within Florence. For the record, ODOT is not involved in this project as Rhododendron Drive is the responsibility of the City of Florence.

With the numerous projects in that area, we wanted to provide an overview of some of the Rhododendron Drive projects we have done over the past year and a few that are coming up so that our citizens can better understand the many components.

- July 2015 — 35th Street to Lighthouse Way: A chip seal was applied to the portion of Rhododendron Drive between 35th Street and Lighthouse Way in July 2015. This project was done as a temporary repair until funding is identified for a full rehabilitation of that section

GUEST VIEWPOINT

BY JOE HENRY
 FLORENCE MAYOR



of Rhododendron Drive.

- August 2015 — Ninth Street to Wild Winds: A grind/inlay was performed on the portion of Rhododendron Drive between Ninth Street and Wild Winds in order to preserve that portion of the roadway. This project was the first step in the Shoulder Extension project along that same corridor.

- Winter 2016 — Siano Loop Project: The Siano Loop project made improvements to the stormwater and sanitary sewer systems in the area of Siano Loop near Rhododendron Drive and 35th Street. Due to the location of the improvements, this project also included repaving and patchwork on portions of Rhododendron Drive and 35th Street. This was a city project and funded through the Stormwater, Wastewater and Street funds.

- May/June 2016 — 35th Street to Eden Lane Sewer Project: Phase 1 of the Rhododendron Drive gravity sewer project would be taking place this year. The gravity sewer project, currently under construction, between

35th Street to south of Eden Lane will eliminate the Sandpines sewer pump station, which will save the system maintenance, electrical and operational costs while providing for future expansion. At the completion of this project we will soon perform a grind/inlay of the roadway between 35th Street and Eden Lane. As a reminder, the chip seal done last year in this area was a temporary fix. This will help preserve the roadway for several more years.

- Summer 2016 — Ninth Street to Wild Winds Shoulder Extension: ODOT will be constructing the shoulder extensions along Rhododendron Drive between Ninth Street and Wild Winds in the early part of this summer. This project will improve the bicyclist and pedestrian safety along the corridor.

- Summer 2016 — Highway 101 to Ninth Street Waterline: This project will install a 16-inch water line from Ninth to Kingwood and

then a 12-inch water main from Kingwood to Highway 101. There are some minor stormwater improvements that will take place in conjunction with the project. We will also be widening Rhododendron Drive between Greenwood and Ninth Street adding two 6-foot bike lanes and a 5-foot sidewalk. The sidewalk will include a curb/gutter on the north and east side of Rhododendron Drive. Once the water, storm and sidewalk improvements are complete, we will be completing a grind/inlay of the entire length of Rhododendron Drive between Highway 101 and Ninth Street. By late fall, one will be able to safely walk or ride their bicycle from Wild Winds to Highway 101. In addition, we will address ADA needs along Rhododendron Drive between Highway 101 and Greenwood.

In summary, please know that these projects are not the haphazard scenario described in some recent letters but are well thought out and engineered to get the maximum benefit. Our Public Works Department has very dedicated and talented people working to maximize the results for every tax dollar spent.

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On July 2, 1839, Africans on the Cuban schooner Amistad rise up against their captors and seize control of the ship, which had been transporting them to a life of slavery on a sugar plantation in Cuba. Despite an international ban, Cuba continued to transport captive Africans until the 1860s.

- On June 28, 1862, Confederates posing as paying passengers make a daring capture of a commercial vessel on Chesapeake Bay. The conspirators planned to use the St. Nicholas to force other Yankee ships into Confederate service.

- On June 30, 1900, four German boats burn at the docks in Hoboken, New Jersey, killing more than 300 people. The combination of old wood, strong winds and fuel-filled cargo sheds made the fire spread very rapidly. The fire was so large that it could be seen throughout the New York City area.

- On June 27, 1940, the Germans set up two-way radio communication employing their most sophisticated coding machine, Enigma, to transmit information. The Germans considered Enigma unbreakable, but the British had broken the code as early as the German invasion of Poland.

- On July 3, 1957, Nikita Khrushchev takes control in the Soviet Union by orchestrating the ouster of his opponents in the government. Khrushchev's action delighted the United States, which viewed him as a more of a moderate.

- On June 29, 1967, blond bombshell actress Jayne Mansfield is killed instantly when the car in which she is riding strikes the rear of a trailer truck on I-90 east of New Orleans. A thick white fog from a mosquito sprayer may have obscured the truck.

- On July 1, 1979, the first Sony Walkman goes on sale for \$150 after a breakneck development phase of only four months. The initial production run of 30,000 units looked overly ambitious when only 3,000 were sold the first month.

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VIEW FROM UPRIVER



Hope, for the 4th of July

WESLEY VOTH
 Guest Viewpoint

This morning I am full of it — hope. Belief in the power of love, of ideas so compelling and tantalizing they will not die even in the ugly face of despicable acts. Make America great again? Yes, some things used to be better, although we may not agree on what. But let's start by living up to our promises.

We live in a society rife with unequal power. Unequal wealth, size, status, privilege, weaponry, access to everything from education and healthcare to safe water and environment. The greater the inequity, the longer the road to either democracy or justice.

Justice begins by being born wanted. Born welcomed at least, even if not completely planned. Justice cannot flourish if one's whole existence is an unwanted and unintended consequence of power inequities (rape masquerades in such a rainbow of forms), youth, or the many forms of not thinking or other impairment. Abortion exists for the same reason that courts exist — trying, however imperfectly, to apply damage control and keep things from being worse. It is an attempt to make things less horrible when the best solutions are no longer an option.

The idea that the composition of the Supreme Court can be shifted to take away the right to an abortion, a right that is at its heart more fundamental than the right to vote, is ludicrous — it will not work. Firestorm, reaping the whirlwind are terms that come to mind.

Mapleton's Fourth of July fireworks celebration will be at dusk on the holiday itself. The fireworks will be set off slightly downriver from where they have been in the past, and Terry Saubert, who is making it happen, tells me the 126 bridge or Port of Siuslaw dock will be the best public viewing. Donations to cover the costs are still being accepted at the Mapleton branch of Banner Bank.

A special invitation goes out to Florence residents who may not know or have forgotten that through their property taxes and Port of Siuslaw assessment they own, and have right to, the port property, including restroom and dock behind the store and just below the bridge in Mapleton. I plan to attend even though in light of recent events anything sounding like gunfire is going to make me cringe, and bring to mind anything but celebration. But I also agree that silence is not the right response either.

The opinion expressed above is solely that of the contributor and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Siuslaw News.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous and anonymous letters as well as poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:
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