

Community Spotlight

Building an 'all events' center

The building of the Florence Events Center involved many people in our community.

Many ideas on what we needed were brought forward. Some ideas included: a place for meetings, festivals and conventions, a theater for shows and plays, and a big tent for outdoor events. People even considered a Quonset hut.

A review was made of many facilities. Perhaps the final center design was born on a committee trip to a facility in Yreka, Calif., and Winnemucca, Nev., which had combined the theater and flat floor. The theater size of 450 seats was a compromise between other centers that we reviewed.

Funds were obtained from the

county room tax for over \$2 million over the life of the loan on the building.

Local people from our community held a drive that brought in \$1.1 million. We were ready to fly!

Unfortunately, our bids on the project were more than our funding. Some reductions were made in the project and we had a successful bid from a local contractor.

The building of the Florence Events Center was a community project. Many people put in a lot of time and effort to make this facility a reality. The local drive for more than \$1 million shows the philanthropic nature of our community.

Bob Read

Charter member of the All Events
Center Steering Committee



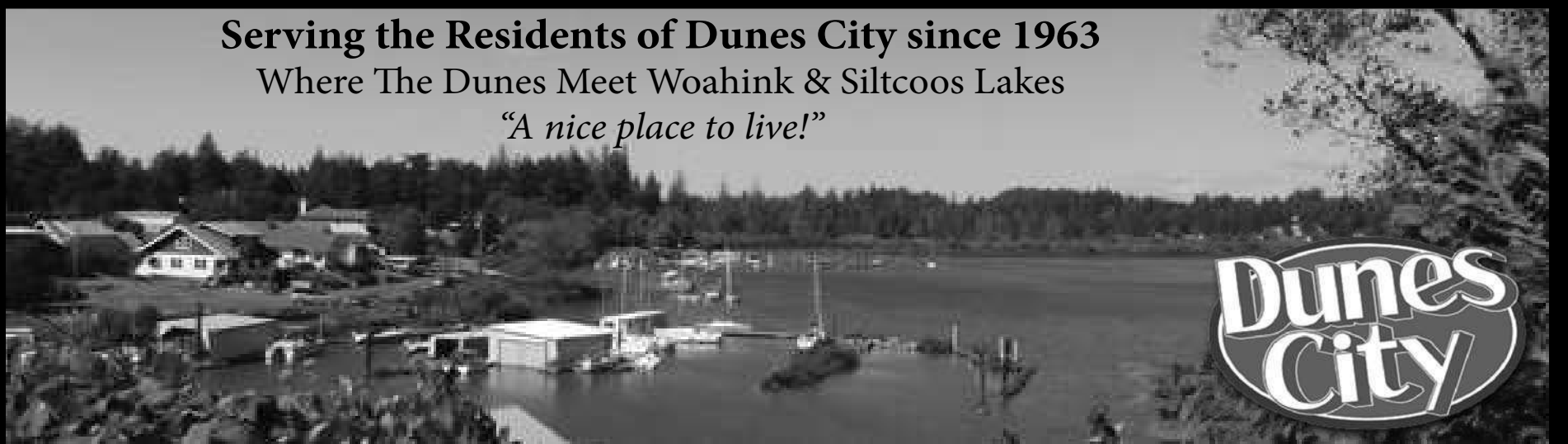
Left, community members break ground July 4, 1994, at the event center's location on Quince Street. Below, the original FEC Community Brick Campaign members prepare to begin fundraising April 10, 1996.



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