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FLORENCE, OREGON

Visitors Center to get updates

Construction set to continue through March 17



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center was closed Tuesday for the start of renovations. The center will be open throughout the week, though visitors will be directed to use the back door.

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center, 290 Highway 101, is undergoing renovations this week. Construction is scheduled to be completed on Friday, March 17.

"We'll be remodeling to increase the usable space and increase our efficiency," said Chamber Executive Director Bettina Hannigan. Some of the changes include updating electric power and adding ethernet cables.

BY CHANTELLE MEYER Siuslaw News

Lofy Construction and Full Spectrum Computers are completing the construction and electric work, respectively.

The biggest change will be relocating the visitor's area from its current location right inside the lobby to a new office.

"The change will give us a lot of real estate on the walls to represent information for our members," Hannigan said.

One of the important things, she said, is to keep volunteers happy and engaged. The changes will help create a friendly environment for both chamber volunteers and those visiting the center.

The current check-in area will be walled off, creating a conference room and work space.

"It will be a lot more efficient use of the space," Hannigan said. "It's going to make it a little bit easier to find a place for everyone."

The new space will allow room for the chamber's board of directors, event committees and volunteers to meet and work together from a "warm and welcoming environment," Hannigan said.

"It makes it a lot nicer to have this here, with the close access to our kitchen for those long meetings," she added.

The electric updates will add additional outlets and lay cables for future projects, such as the possibility of digital phones and touch-screen monitors for tech-savvy visitors.

There will be new cabinetry throughout the building to store materials and supplies.

"It's exciting, but it's kind of overwhelming," Hannigan said of the project.

The center was closed Tuesday at the start of construction, but the Visitors Center will remain open as much as possible throughout the 10-day project.

"We're going to try to keep greeting people through the back door. Limited service will still be available, and our volunteers will be giving what assistance they can to people who stop in," Hannigan said.

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce can be reached at 541-997-3128. It is always open online at www.FlorenceChamber.com.

21ST ANNUAL FLORENCE HOME & GARDEN SHOW

BIG weekend for tiny trends



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS



More than 3,200 people attended the 21st annual Home and Garden Show at the Florence Events Center this weekend. A wide variety of vendors from Florence and other parts of Oregon shared products and information with attendees. Events Center Director Kevin Rhodes said, "This year's attendance at the Florence Home and Garden Show had an overwhelming response, even with the inclement weather. Coast Radio owner Jon Thompson works extremely hard every year to put on a great event and the 2017 show was no different. Siuslaw News co-sponsors with Coast Radio and, between the two organizations, they continue to put on a top quality show. One attendee told me afterwards, 'I believe this year's show was the best one yet, I had a really fun time.' That just tells us it was not only informative, but entertaining as well." The three-day show featured tractors, a tiny home, tasty treats and Laurel Bay Gardens' "Taste of Spring" centerpiece display, along with giveaways and prize drawings. The Florence Home and Garden Show is sponsored by Three Rivers Casino Resort, Bi-Mart and Central Lincoln PUD. It is presented by Coast Radio and the Siuslaw News.

Florence improves fire flow capacity

City combines multiple projects to create economy-of-scale savings

BY JACK DAVIS Siuslaw News

City of Florence Public Works has contracted Carter and Company, Inc., from Salem, to expand water line capacities in several locations west of Highway 101 to increase fire hydrant fire flow.

Public Works Director Mike Miller said, "We are installing a 16-inch water main from Second Street and Kingwood Street, north to Rhododendron Drive and then out Rhododendron Drive back to Ninth Street. We are also extending a 12-inch water line from the intersection of Kingwood Street and Rhododendron Drive, east to Highway 101.

"This will allow us to provide additional water out towards



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Construction workers install larger water mains along Rhododendron Drive to improve fire hydrant fire flow.

Peace Harbor Medical Center. That area is lacking in fire flows. If the hospital wanted to expand in the future, they wouldn't be able to unless this infrastructure is in place."

In addition, the city hired

Johnson Rock Products, from Coos Bay, to install an 8-inch water main across Highway 101 at Eighth Street.

This project is part of the city's larger waterline replacement project that is scheduled

for late fall from Maple to Quince streets.

"The timeline for the water-line crossing of Highway 101 at Eighth Street was accelerated in order to provide needed fire flows to the Options Counseling Center project, located on Maple Street across from the U.S. Post Office," Miller said.

The water main upgrades are being done in conjunction with several other projects in the area, including storm water infrastructure improvements, retention walls, bike paths and concrete sidewalks.

"There are a lot of economies-of-scale in the fact that the water and storm water project is going forward. The additional cost of doing a full pave, as opposed to

See PROJECTS 7A



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