

# Visitor Center announces grand re-opening

This evening, May 17, the public is invited to the grand re-opening of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce's Visitor Center at 290 Highway 101.

"We're inviting the entire community to come from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and see the fabulous changes here at the visitors center," said executive director Bettina Hannigan. "Bring your friends, enjoy some refresh-

ments, visit with local business and government leaders, and see how we're greeting our out-of-area visitors and local residents to promote the Florence community."

Bids were requested and the project was awarded to Lofy Construction of Florence. The project, budgeted by the Chamber's board for the 2016-17 fiscal year, cost approximately \$17,000.

Lofy Construction is one of the Chamber's Distinguished Sponsors.

"We've repurposed space that was not being utilized to its potential," Hannigan said. "We now have more usable space for staff to work in, a better conference room for board members or our committee members to meet in, and a more efficient and attractive welcome center in which to greet guests."

Hannigan said the Visitors Center is staffed by 22 volunteers who love meeting new people and talking about all the fun things to do in and around Florence.

"They give between 2,500 and 3,000 hours of their time. A comfortable and efficient workspace is vital to their success... and now they have it," Hannigan said. "With this remodel, we are able to offer local artists to have a place to exhibit their work. Right now we have two artists, Digital Dunes Photography and Lakeshore Myrtlewood, exhibiting in the lobby."



COURTESY PHOTO

The newly remodeled Visitors Center has been expanded to offer a more inviting space.

Each month, the Chamber will feature two- and three-dimensional exhibits by local artists and galleries.

For more information about the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, and how to join or volunteer, visit Florence

Chamber.com online, stop into the Visitor Center or call 541-997-3128.

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## New FEC Gallery Committee members announced

The Friends of the Florence Events Center's Gallery Committee has welcomed new members Pattie Brooks-Anderson and Jane Connelley.

Both are active in the art community, and both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the committee.

Brooks-Anderson is a well-known painter, printmaker, multi-media artist and children's book author, with a background in teaching.

She has been a member of Backstreet Gallery since 2006, where her artwork is on display.

Connelley says her artwork



COURTESY PHOTO

Patti Brooks-Anderson and Jane Connelley

has been described as "realism with unrealistic departures."

She is also a teacher, having recently taught a six-week class to Siuslaw Middle School students through Lane Arts Council.

Connelley's work can be viewed at Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), where she is a member.

The Gallery Committee, through the Friends of FEC, present one- and two-month art

exhibits in Galleries One and Five at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. in Florence.

They jury, hang and strike exhibits, work with the exhibitors and promote the exhibits.

The calendar for 2018 is currently being planned, so anyone interested in having a show as a single artist, or wish to put on a group exhibit, should contact the FEC at 541 997-1994 for an application.

Don't miss The FEC's current exhibit for May in Gallery One: "Fresh Impressions," put on by Kim Pickell's Siuslaw High School art students.

To become a volunteer member of the Gallery Committee, email cignatieff@live.com for more information.

*My Flag*

Oh! I saw more than one yesterday;  
They have a special little hole in the concrete;  
where their pole is set, and, they can freely wave along our highway.

Yesterday, they were set, in remembrance, of World War II;  
much, was paid, for the freedom for all, not just a few.

Some are hung from tall flag poles, and are proudly displayed;  
and every time, I look upon her, a tear is shed, and a thank you said,  
for the many, who age their life, so the price of our freedom was paid.

We try to remember them all;  
Whether it be their name on a grave stone,  
or chiseled on some marble wall.

In the nightly news;  
there are a few that don't share our views.

It is sad, that for their freedom, so many had to die, in that war;  
and, there is my neighbor, who's son, will no longer walk,  
through his mother's front door.

Those few, spit upon it, stomp on it, burn it, and, call it every vulgar name;  
don't they understand, that the wars that were fought,  
and the soldiers that died, for our freedom, was not a game.

They, can do what they want with it, and, even call it a dirty old rag;  
but each day I go by mine, I touch her gently, and each day I again,  
say thank you to those who died, for my freedom,  
that allows me to display my flag.

*Charles Myrick*

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| Wednesday 5/10 | Nancy Paul<br>Steven Pfeifer     | Florence<br>Florence | Safeway/Florence<br>Grocery Outlet                 |
| Thursday 5/11  | Ed Larsen<br>Paul Ricard         | Florence<br>Florence | Best Thai Cuisine<br>Grocery Outlet                |
| Friday 5/12    | Susan Franc<br>Jeff Gray         | Florence<br>Florence | Safeway/Florence<br>Safeway/Florence               |
| Saturday 5/13  | Cliff Walker<br>Vicki Wigton     | Florence<br>Florence | Safeway/Florence<br>Cheveux Spa                    |
| Sunday 5/14    | Ken Ory<br>Linda McPhedran       | Florence<br>Florence | Safeway/Florence<br>Safeway/Florence               |
| Monday 5/15    | Dee Hartley<br>Shannon Warren    | Florence<br>Florence | Safeway/Florence<br>RiteAid/Florence               |

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