

City from 1A

families to be ready at all times.

"We are happy to be able to highlight these local efforts by designating Florence a Coast Guard City."

Coast Guard City designations are part of an official program to recognize the special efforts demonstrated by local communities in what they do for the men and women of the service.

The designation follows what has been a long process that began in early 2015, when Florence Mayor Joe Henry and a group of volunteers began the task of assembling an application package to submit to the U.S. Coast Guard for consideration.

Deborah Heldt Cordone, a U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River Auxiliary member, led the effort to prepare the package with help from the Oregon Coast Military Museum, as co-sponsor of the effort, along with the City of Florence.

"In addition to compiling an award-winning application package full of awesome pictures and letters of recommendation from many community leaders and elected officials, a Coast Guard Appreciation Military Ball was held at the Florence Events Center," said Henry.

The full-dress event, held last October, drew dignitaries from all the city's military groups as well as police and high ranking elected officials to mark the submission of the completed application package.

This past Monday, Henry received official notice from Rear Admiral David Throop, Commander of the 13th Coast Guard District in Seattle, Wash., of the application's approval.

"This distinguished designation is the result of a lot of hard work and support from the entire community," said Henry. "According to Admiral Throop, our application package was one of the best that

has been submitted and we feel fortunate to have been selected."

The Coast Guard City designation recognizes a special relationship between a local Coast Guard station and the community it is located in.

A ceremony to be presided over by Rear Adm. Throop will be held at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Aug. 16.

The event and reception are open to the community.

"Making Coast Guard men and women and their families feel at home in their home-away-from-home is an invaluable contribution to morale and service excellence," Throop said in a statement released from the Coast Guard on Monday.

Henry responded by saying he was especially thankful for the employees and their families at Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River and for what they do for the Florence community and its many visitors.

"Not only do they keep our river and the adjoining miles of coastline safe for boaters, they are an integral part of our community, an important partner to our city, and they contribute greatly to what makes Florence Oregon's Premier Coastal Community," said Henry.

The Coast Guard City designation is bestowed by the commandant of the Coast Guard with approval from Congress and lasts for five years, at which time it will be evaluated.

"It is an indicator of the relationship between the city and the Coast Guard, one that we hold in highest regard," Henry said of the designation.

Community members are encouraged to attend the August ceremony and hear about how Florence became a Coast Guard City, what the designation means and meet members of the community who have helped to achieve this community goal.

The formal portion of the program will begin at 11 a.m., and refreshments will be available.

Power from 1A

Florence Mayor Joe Henry and Kaylee welcomed the enthusiastic crowd at the steps of the Florence Christian Church and thanked those in attendance for the ongoing support that the Power of Florence receives from residents.

The duo then popped paper confetti corks to signal the start of the walk.

Shannon was understandably pleased with this year's turnout.

"This was, by far, the best Power of Florence yet, and definitely had the highest attendance. We started the morning with 75 people at the Power Walk. There were also service projects around Florence and tons of volunteers," she said.

Power of Florence featured a record total of 46 events, run by 238 people with a total of 1,132 volunteer hours donated, and some totals are still being calculated by organizers.

Henry echoed the sentiments expressed by Shannon and commented on the overall impact the project has had on the city.

"The Power of Florence event started seven years ago with the idea of one young woman, Kaylee. Her idea was that we could do great things in our community if each one of us gave up one day to make a difference in our community," Henry said. "From this simple idea evolved the awesome event that happened on Saturday with

46 improvement projects being completed and numerous other fundraising events held for many organizations in the community."

Over the years, Power of Florence has touched many residents and spurred them to participate in many different ways.

"More than 304 pounds of food was collected for the Oregon Coast Humane Society. Florence Food Share's Beavers vs. Ducks Food Collecting Contest brought in 3320 pounds of food. The Ducks were the clear winners after a generous \$1,000 donation," Shannon said.

She also reported that 141 books were donated to Florence Little Libraries and the PeaceHealth's Can and Bottle Drive for Food Backpacks for Kids filled an ambulance two times, with 4,343 donated cans and bottles.

Additionally, 12 bags of clothing were collected for Siuslaw Outreach Services. The Lion's Club stated that 35 people were screened through vision, glaucoma, blood sugar, and blood pressure screening stations.

The list of service projects positively impacted by the Power of Florence this year included trimming foliage and a more extensive cleanup of Gallagher Park, home of the Welcome to Florence sign; power washing of the Siuslaw Public Library and the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce buildings; pulling non-native

Scotch broom from the dunes; and cleaning and weeding Veteran's Memorial Park on Bay Street.

Following tradition, the use of parking lot of Grocery Outlet was donated by businessman Woody Woodbury again this year for the use of local nonprofits. The busy location was utilized by 22 organizations to set up tables, grill burgers and hot-dogs, share information, work towards enlisting volunteers and raise donations and money.

This generosity did not go unnoticed by the Grahams. Parents Todd and Shannon and kids Taylor and Kaylee made an effort to visit many events throughout the busy day.

"Woody says this was the best attended year yet at the Party at the Parking Lot," Shannon said. "He also believes between 1,800 and 2,000 people attended the events there."

Across the street, Florence Regency held a carnival to raise money Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW), where the primary draw was the chance to "dunk" Henry, KCST

Coast Radio's Wayne Sharpe, Siuslaw News Editor Ned Hickson, Queen Rhododendra Claire Waggoner and doctors and staff at Regency.

2017 is Kaylee's final year as Power of Florence coordinator. The great weather, unprecedented participation and abundance of goodwill that was apparent at all of the venues this year made for a bittersweet but anticipated transition for the Graham family.

"We are blessed with all of the support shown to Kaylee for the past seven years and are looking forward to Ella and Ava Glowacki taking charge and the incredible things they will do, along with support from our community. The Power of Florence could not be in better hands," Shannon said.

2017 co-coordinator Ava Glowacki and her family will lead the next Power of Florence.

For additional updates, visit PowerOfFlorence.org.

For more photos and a video of the day's events, visit www.TheSiuslawNews.com.



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