

Grant from 1A

The film was put together while Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) was doing "The Addams Family Musical."

"It was nice because we could show kids coming off the school bus and into the theater for a free performance. It helped cement the idea that the arts are for everybody," Connor said.

Rhodes said three things made the application successful: The matching funds from the Friends, a nonprofit group; promoting arts for youth with Kids Konzerts and special showings throughout the year; and the "green" element of switching to LED lighting.

"This grant will enable us to put in LED lighting, which will save tremendously and will qualify for more rebates," he said. "Eventually, it will pay off the investment that the city makes towards it."

The City of Florence also put in \$40,000 toward LED lighting retrofits at the FEC. This replaces lighting in the offices, flat floor spaces, exterior of the building and the parking lot.

Anderson Group International is doing the lighting work. The group also donated \$6,500 at a nonprofit discount towards the project total.

The LED stage lighting will streamline lighting design for FEC staff, McDiarmid and other volunteer stagehands who need to change color gels for the various shows and per-

formances held on the main stage. Now, the LEDs will include several colors on each fixture.

"It's a lot less labor to change lighting," Connor said. "It gives more capability, which will be really cool for the various functions."

A new sound system will provide better coverage to the entire seating area and will be better able to accommodate performances.

Connor said audiences don't notice when theater lighting and sound work well; they only notice when something goes wrong.

"All of this will make shows in the theater brighter, crisper and clearer in sound," she said.

Connor estimates that the lighting and sound systems will be installed

within the next two months.

"Because it's such a high grant award — and, I must note, the second highest in the county, and the eighth highest in all of Oregon — there are quite a few restrictions. We need to give them updates and feedback at the end," she said.

The Friends will provide matching money for the remainder of the \$70,000 project.

"All the Friends of the Event Center's money goes into one pot," Rhodes said. "The Dancing with Sea Lions certainly gave a good foundation to supply that matching money."

The Friends raise money throughout the year with the Winter Music Festival, the Indoor Yard Sale and Florence Festival of Books, among

other events.

"They have enough funds, but they're still looking for donations. A \$30,000 draw will take a chunk out of their funds," Rhodes said. "Overall, our community is trying to become an arts destination. The Friends highly support that with what they do for the events center."

Connor said the Oregon Cultural Trust especially commented on the records the Friends of the FEC keep.

"They said the financial records were well in order and easy to read. That's thanks to Bonnie MacDuffee, who puts all of our records together and works so hard and does an amazing job at that," Connor said.

Rhodes agreed. "You don't always get good

records with volunteer organizations. Having someone like Bonnie saves us," he said. "The Friends also recently went through a random audit, and she led them through and came out with no glitches."

This all goes to show that the FEC isn't just fundraising locally — it is matching funds and seeking grants and other sources of revenue.

It's why the FEC is still relevant, Connor and Rhodes agreed. The FEC is not a one-trick pony.

"It's been a lot of work on the part of the Friends over the years to get to this point," Connor said.

Rhodes added, "Anybody that wants to help contribute to Florence becoming an arts destination is always welcome."

Dunes City from 1A

The medical-only facility would use state approved fertilizers to grow organic products.

No products from the site would be discharged to any type of drainage system, no odor issues would occur due to the use of a "state of the art charcoal filter system," security cameras would be put in place and no water would be used from the lake or any streams.

At the end of the April meeting, city counselors expressed regret that they could not legally stop the grow, as it did not reflect the opinions of the majority of Dunes City residents.

Then, Ruede noted that she hoped new grow site applicants would be sensitive to the feelings of the residents. She agreed that Cain-Mathis seemed to be sensitive to concerns after hearing her present.

During an Aug. 9 public meeting, Councilor Duke Wells mentioned that he was hearing complaints about the facility's existence and was looking for ways to prevent it, including bringing legal action against the state.

Mills stated that to stop such facilities, it would have to be approved by voters in the Nov. 6, 2018 election.

In this Thursday's meeting, the council introduced Ordinance 245, which would put an emergency ban on all medical and recreational marijuana producers, processing sites, wholesalers and dispensaries until city residents could vote on the issue in 2018, halting Cain-Mathis' project in the meantime.

The ordinance explained the

emergency request as "being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety."

The public outcry against the site began immediately after Forsythe's swearing in when citizen Catherine Caudle requested a resolution be made to stop a well Cain-Mathis had developed.

Caudle produced documents claiming the well was too deep.

"They hit water at 171 feet, and they kept going," she said. "Woahink Lake is at 80 feet. The well is now 430 feet deep."

A well that deep could eventually dry up other wells in the area, a fear heightened by the fact that each marijuana plant uses one gallon of water per day to hydrate.

The council stated they would review the documents and make a decision on a resolution at a later date.

The meeting was then opened to public comments.

"I was shocked. How could I not know about this?" one speaker asked. "I contacted several of my neighbors and they too were unaware and quite shocked. As more and more people in the area were asked, it became more and more apparent that no one knew."

The grow operation and its location had been discussed in public meetings before, with videos and written minutes of those discussion available at the Dunes City website.

One resident stated, "I understand this type of business is unable to use banks. There's a huge amount of cash on their premises. This can attract crime and Dunes City has no police department."

The speaker went on to say that such facilities require large amounts

of electricity, which could lead to brownouts in the city.

After his comments, the majority of the audience broke out into applause, as it did with all speakers who spoke out against the grow.

Dunes City resident Tom Basset, who has property neighboring the site, stated that he was allergic to marijuana, and that even the smell could set off a reaction.

He then read a letter from resident Richard Bailey, who had spoken out against the grow to the council earlier. Bailey was unable to attend the Thursday meeting.

In the letter, Bailey, who holds a degree in horticulture, stated, "You would have already received a myriad of reassurances from these farmers that the grows would be self-contained and would not affect the surrounding environment. No one can possibly ensure that the activities involved will not affect the environment. Over time, things age and require maintenance. Once this happens, there will be malfunctions which will negate any and all insurances you have been given."

Eventual malfunctions could include water seepage, air ventilation issues, toxic waste that would affect the watershed and the need for loud generators to produce more power to the facility, Bailey opined.

Another speaker was concerned with the tree removal on the site.

"We were assured the pristine appearance of the area would not be altered the way it has been now," the speaker said. "That is the first step, to ignore or overwhelm local governments and do what you want."

Cain-Mathis then spoke in defense of the facility.

"I'm very happy to see all of the

people who've come, I'm sorry you weren't here when we discussed this originally," she said.

Cain-Mathis went on to state that the well was a requirement by Oregon Liquor Control Commission, and she pointed out that one of their representatives came to speak on behalf of the work they did for the site.

"It was very informative," she said. "I'm sorry that people didn't get to see it. I didn't think there would be such an uproar."

She also stated the facility has separate water tanks underground that will be filled once a month by a commercial source.

"I just feel like there's so much anger and animosity for something people don't know a lot about," she said.

Cain-Mathis suggested that if citizens had questions regarding the facility, they contact her directly or come see the site itself.

She also asked the council to enact a stay on the vote, considering she had just learned about the resolution a day ago.


She had already placed a significant amount of money into the project, she said, and a year delay could be financially devastating.

As the official public comment period ended, the crowd began to erupt, with people vying for more speaking time.

Forsythe then allowed additional people to speak.

See **DUNES CITY 8A**

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SEPTEMBER 8-10

How To Participate

The fee to participate is \$20. An ad for the Community Wide Garage Sale with a map of all participation sales will be published in the Siuslaw News on September 6th and 9th. Because of print deadlines, the registration deadline is 5pm Thursday August 31 2017.

You will also receive two official Community Wide Garage Sale signs as well as a tip sheet on how to have a great sale. Please post signs only on private property with the owner's consent. Posting signs on City utility poles, street or signal light poles, and median strips is against the municipal code. Maps will be available at the Florence Visitors Center.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Subdivision name (if any) _____

Dates (CIRCLE): Friday 9/8 Saturday 9/9 Sunday 9/10

Times: _____

15-word description: (Date, times and address are included. Addition words over 15 are \$0.50 each.)

Bring form and payment to 148 Maple St in Historic Old Town or mail to Siuslaw News PO Box 10, Florence, OR 97439
Call 541-902-3526 | florencechamber.com
Deadline is August 31st at 5pm to be included on the map.

Siuslaw News **Florence**
OREGON COAST Area Chamber of Commerce

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www.churchofchristflorence.org

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To be included in this directory contact the Siuslaw News at 997-3441, or drop off information at 148 Maple St., Old Town, Florence.