

## Test smoke alarms when you turn back your clocks Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 5, marks the end of daylight saving time and serves as a good reminder for Oregonians to test their smoke alarms.

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is urging residents to test their smoke alarms before automatically changing the batteries.

“Smoke alarm technology has advanced and many now come with 10-year batteries and some are tamper-resistant,” said State Fire Marshal Jim Walker. “So, I encourage residents to test their alarms before changing the battery, and to be sure to replace any smoke alarm that is 10 years old or older.”

Oregon law requires ionization-only smoke alarms that are solely battery powered to come equipped with a hush feature and a 10-year battery. Because of this technology, the national

slogan “Change your clock, Change your battery” may not apply to Oregon residents who have these ionization-only smoke alarms.

Other types of alarms are also being sold with either a 10-year battery or a standard-life battery.

“Ensuring you have working smoke alarms in your home is the single most important step you can take to increase your family’s safety from a home fire,” adds Walker.

To test your alarm properly,

1. Push the test button to be sure the battery is working.
2. When replacing batteries, follow the manufacturer’s instructions for the correct battery type to use.
3. Always reset alarms after installing new batteries.
4. Replace any alarm that fails to operate after installing a new battery.

5. Inspect your alarms to determine if they are 10 years old or older, and replace any smoke alarm 10 years old or older. Look for a date on the back of the alarm. If there is no date, your alarm is more than 10 years old and should be replaced.
6. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for regularly cleaning your alarms of dust and cobwebs.

Working smoke alarms provide a critical early warning to a fire, allowing you vital minutes to escape, which increase your chances of survival.

Additional safety tips include:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, in each bedroom and outside each sleeping area (hallway).
- Never disconnect or remove batteries from smoke alarms for other uses.

- Use the smoke alarm’s hush feature to silence nuisance alarms.
- Make a home fire escape plan and practice it with family members.
- Practice your home fire escape plan at least two times a year at different times of the day/night.
- Children, older adults and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Ensure that someone will help them.

For more home fire escape planning information visit [www.oregon.gov/osp/SFM/Pages/escapeplan.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/osp/SFM/Pages/escapeplan.aspx).

For more smoke alarm and fire safety information, contact your local fire department or visit [www.oregon.gov/osp/SFM/Pages/CommEd\\_SA\\_Program.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/osp/SFM/Pages/CommEd_SA_Program.aspx).

## Florence Community Suppers continue

Four churches in Florence work together each month to provide free dinners for community members.

Florence Community Suppers are held Wednesday night from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The dates and locations are as follows:

- Nov. 8 — New Life Lutheran Church, 21st and Spruce streets
- Nov. 15 — St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 19th St.
- Nov. 29 — Florence United Methodist Church, Second and Kingwood streets

St. Andrews Episcopal, New Life Lutheran, Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw and Florence United Methodist Church provide these dinners as a service to anyone who would like to join in a friendly meal once a week.

Donations towards the cost of the meals will be accepted but are not required. People are encouraged to attend the meals, with no strings attached.

## International magazine features local artist

The acclaimed magazine “International Artist” is featuring Florence-area artist F. Michael Wood in its October/November issue.

Wood is nationally and internationally recognized for his land, sea, animal and figurative works, and his paintings are represented in private collections internationally.

As Wood says, “Art first came to my attention in a serious way as a boy fortunate enough to spend many of my formative years in Europe while we were stationed there as a military family. I was hooked when I discovered an old impressionist oil painting of a French countryside in a storeroom in our house overseas. I stared at it a long, long time trying to imagine how one could paint such a



COURTESY PHOTO

**Artist F. Michael Wood is an oil painter and instructor at Florence Regional Arts Alliance.**

scene.”

It was at that early age Wood resolved to learn to paint like that.

As Wood explains, “I’m an impressionist, which to put it simply, is painting simply!”

He emphasizes the emotional content and mood, light and shadow, while merely suggesting detail in a manner convincing to the eye.

Wood’s works are represented by Christopher Queen Galleries in Duncans Mills, Calif, and the Garden Gallery in Half Moon Bay, Calif.

Many of his paintings can also be viewed on his website, [www.fmichaelwood.com](http://www.fmichaelwood.com).

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), located at 120 Maple St. in Historic Old Town Florence, is proud to be able to have Wood as an oil painting instructor at its Art Center. Wood’s classes are offered on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Contact [www.fraaoregon.org](http://www.fraaoregon.org) for more information.

## K9 Genius Academy has grand opening today

A new dog trainer in town is ready to teach all dogs new tricks.

K9Genius Academy is holding a Grand Opening Party and Ribbon Cutting today from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at its location at 1790 Highway 101.

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will be there at 2 p.m. for a ribbon cutting.

“We are a dog training facility that specializes in fixing problem behaviors, obedience training and working with with therapy dogs,” said owner Crystal De La Cruz, who recently moved to the area.

She called the K9Genius Academy her “dream business.”

“I have been training for over 10 years and am so excited to be starting an actual facility here in Florence,” De La Cruz said.

This event is open to the public and leashed, behaved dogs are encouraged to attend.

“Dogs are welcome if they are friendly, and we will deal with those not so friendly guys at a later date,” she said.

For more information, or to inquire about classes or Florence Chamber member discounts, call 541-590-5131 or visit K9Genius on Facebook.

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**Soroptimist International of Florence** held its second annual “BRAS FOR A CAUSE” fundraising event on Saturday, October 21, 2017.

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**FLORENCE VETERANS DAY PARADE**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2017**

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**PARADE BEGINS AT 2PM**

**Great viewing along the Port Parking Lot and Bay Street.**  
Tributes and treats for Veterans will be available at Veterans Memorial Park and at several local restaurants including the Firehouse and Three Rivers Casino Resort.

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