

Food Share from 8A

stages of a new fundraiser set tentatively for next September. I'm also looking for more grants for food. So, there's money out there, I just have to find it."

While any one of these issues would create a challenge for food share, all three at once have created a considerable burden on the institution. It also shows that, like most nonprofits, food share is running on razor-thin margins. And the need is great.

According to City of Florence officials, there is a housing crisis in the Siuslaw region, with home prices and rental rates skyrocketing.

Many working residents are working low wage jobs that only provide minimum hours. To supplement this, they work two to three jobs just to cover costs. Even with that, some of these workers live in their cars or tents in friend's yards.

Some senior residents are finding that programs like Social Security are stretched too thin, with more than 70 percent of their income going to rent alone. This often does not include the cost of utilities.

These economic factors have placed additional stress on programs like Florence Food Share, as its purpose is not to provide full time food for families, but to supplement them in hard times.

"Food share really helps those people who are either the working poor or the unemployed or seniors on a fixed income," Barton said. "It helps them so they don't have to choose between getting prescription medication or eating, or choosing between paying their heating bill during the winter bill or eating. Because of us they can do both."

But as wages go down and rent rises, people are relying on these programs more and more for

everyday survival.

But this does not mean that these programs are giving up.

Florence Food Share President Rick Klessig said, "I know we're at that lean time of year where funds are low for operating expenses. The pantry is doing fine. I know typically things will pick up as the season progresses."

"I would encourage the community to remember, during this season, that we need food for the shelves, we need cash for operating expenses. ... We do the best we can to fill a need. We always need resources."

He said that nonprofit organizations often have to "roll with the punches," especially as need grows among the people food share serves.

Barton also refuses to give in to despair about their setbacks.

"When I'm asked if food share is in danger, that thought never crosses my mind," Barton said. "I can't let it cross my mind."

The people she serves at food share require that she keep her optimism.

"It's hard for me when I see somebody who could be my son walking through here, it breaks my heart," Barton said. "For the elderly that are coming through here, that could be my mom or my dad on a fixed income, and they have no choice. I thank God we're here for them."

Upcoming fundraising events for Florence Food Share include the 17th annual Food Share Pounding on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Grocery Outlet, 2066 Highway 101.

The 22nd annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser will be held Friday through Saturday, Dec. 1 to 3, at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince Street.

For more information or to inquire about volunteering or donating, visit florencefoodshare.org.

Apply for Soroptimist 'Dream' grant by Nov. 15

Don't miss the chance to apply for the Soroptimist International Club of Florence's annual "Live Your Dream Award."

These awards are for women who are head-of-household and want to further their education. The funds are given directly to

the individual to help with living expenses while attending school.

The application period is open now through Nov. 15.

An application can be found online at soroptimist.org/liveyourdreamawards.html. The "Live Your Dream" link contains information

about eligibility, a video and instructions for the application process.

A local woman was awarded a \$1,000 grant by the Florence Soroptimists and her application was forwarded to the Soroptimist International of the Americas Northwest Region to be

included in a pool for an additional award. She was then selected to receive an additional award of \$1,500.

For more information about the award or filling out the application, call Nancy Bosket at 541-902-7250 or email siflorence@soroptimist.net.

Planning from 1A

WLAD employees suggested renewing operations meetings and improving internal communications. They also suggested having another open house as a way of communicating more directly with the public.

Later in the day, Langborg presented a summation of the reports from both departments and made recommendations to the directors that focused on the future of the two organizations.

"The fire district needs to take a greater role in EMS," Langborg said. "The members of SVFR want this and our community expects it. It is unusual for a fire district not to

be more actively involved in the delivery of EMS. It is time that SVFR reconsider our involvement and determine what our role should be."

Another major concern for Langborg is the inadequacy of the WLAD facility near PeaceHealth Medical Center on Ninth St.

This concern was repeated in comments from both WLAD and SVFR employees, and the stakeholders identified the facility as a priority.

"The ambulance district does not meet our current needs," Langborg said. "The replacement and/or remodel of this facility has been discussed for years."

He added that SVFR Station 2, located next to Florence City Hall in Historic Old Town

Florence, is also inadequate for current needs.

According to Langborg, the station houses critical equipment that will be needed in the event of a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake. However, since it resides in the tsunami zone along the Siuslaw River, it is ineligible for necessary seismic retrofitting.

"It is my recommendation that both districts work together to address these problems by creating a joint facility," Langborg said.

In his report, the chief director evaluated the ongoing integration of SVFR and WLAD under the IGA.

"It is my opinion that the IGA is successful," he said. "Both districts have made tremendous gains this past

year and service levels are improving."

Recommendations from the management teams from both organizations were included in the information given to the directors, including one final, significant point — it was time to begin conversations about the eventual merging of the two districts.

The current IGA establishes a shared administration for the fire and ambulance districts, but operations remain separate.

Langborg said, "I believe it is time to begin discussing our future and determine what our future could look like if the two districts were to move towards an operational merger."

Transit from 1A

Lang continued, "It is also because of the purchase of the vehicle. The procurement process in government is very deliberate, which makes it lengthy. This is because we have to comply with FTA (Federal Transit Administration) standards and regulations, as well as be good stewards of public funds."

To a lesser degree, LTD's delay is also due to the selec-

tion process for the "vendor," or company, that will be awarded the contract to operate and manage the as yet unnamed Florence to Yachats route.

"Because we've had such a great response from prospective service providers, we need to be fair and equitable in choosing who will be delivering service during the pilot project," Lang said. "To do so requires us to undergo a procurement process that lengthens our overall timeline for

starting the service, but we still plan to hold the pilot project for the full 12 months. It's the right thing to do to ensure that the selected vendor is the best fit for the service and for the community they will be serving."

Fortunately, the funding for the pilot program, \$290,110, has been secured as part of a larger block grant. This money will be available to purchase the vehicle as soon as it has been selected and approved by LTD management.

Lang and other LTD officials are eager to begin transit service between Lane and Lincoln counties and feel the delays, while regrettable, are all part of initiating a new service line.

"We can't wait to share more details as they are made available. We plan to provide broad outreach in anticipation of the date we begin service," Lang said.

For more information about LTD and its services, visit LTD.org.

THIS WEEK ON THE COAST**A WEEKLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY EVENTS IN THE FLORENCE AREA**

SUBMIT ALL EVENTS INFORMATION VIA EMAIL TO PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

Nov. 4**Falling Leaves Bazaar**

Sponsored by St. Mary's Women's Guild
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Open to public
St. Mary Our Lady of The Dunes
85060 Highway 101

Pre-holiday Country Store

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Open to public
Florence United Methodist Church

K9Genius Academy Grand Opening

10 a.m. to 7 p.m., 2 p.m. ribbon cutting
Open to the public and leashed dogs
1790 Highway 101 in Florence
541-590-5131

Florence, Lane County Dems Meet

1 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Senior Center

Last Resort Players Present "Annie"

7 p.m.
Tickets required
Florence Events Center
eventcenter.org

Sol Seed Reggae/Fusion Music Night

9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
\$10 cover
Bay Street Grille
1341 Bay St.

Nov. 5**Florence Ukulele Club "The Flukes"**

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. – Beginners
3 to 4 p.m. – Song Circle for all levels
All welcome – Loaner ukes available
Siuslaw Public Library
janetwellington@charter.net

LRP Presents "Annie"

7 p.m.
Tickets required
Florence Events Center

Nov. 6**Free Healthcare Assistance**

Oregon Health Plan insurance enrollment and renewal
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Department of Human Services Office
3180 Highway 101 in Florence
541-337-0661

Florence City Council Meeting

5:30 p.m.

Open to public
Florence City Hall
ci.florence.or.us

Nov. 7**Free Healthcare Assistance**

9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Department of Human Services Office
3180 Highway 101 in Florence
541-337-0661

Nov. 8**Dunes City Council Meeting**

6 to 8 p.m.
Open to public
Dunes City Hall
82877 Spruce St., Westlake

Nov. 9**Siuslaw Friendship Club Meeting**

Guest speaker Mike Bones
11 a.m.
Open to public
Shorewood Retirement Residence
1451 Spruce St.

Nov. 10**Coastal Women Veterans Luncheon**

11:30 a.m.

Open to all women veterans
Shorewood Retirement Residence
1451 Spruce St.
541-997-1249,
towanda1249@yahoo.com

LRP Presents "Annie"

7 p.m.
Tickets required
Florence Events Center

Nov. 11**Veterans Day Ceremony**

9 to 11 a.m.
Open to public
Florence Elks Lodge

Wise Woman Emerging Workshop

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
\$75 workshop
Yachats Commons
541-610-2677

Handmade Holiday Gift Gallery

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Open to public
The Studios at Jayne Smoley Design
1458 First St.

Florence Veteran's Day Parade

Grand Marshals – Korean War Veterans
2 p.m.
All patriotic groups and individuals are welcome to participate
Open to public
Historic Old Town Florence

Veteran's Day Social

4 to 5 p.m.
Meet Spruce Point veterans
Spruce Point Assisted Living
375 Ninth St.
541-997-6111

2nd Saturday Gallery Tour

3 to 5 p.m.
Open to public
Various locations in Historic Old Town
Florence and Uptown 101
2ndSaturdayGalleryTour.com

LRP Presents "Annie"

7 p.m.
Tickets required
Florence Events Center

Nov. 10 to 12**17th Yachats Celtic Music Festival**

Tickets required for most events
yachatscelticmusicfestival.org

Melody Ann Beaudro
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