

Home Show from 1A

"We have a whole bunch of new products this year," Laurel Bay owner Lisa Walter Sedlacek said. "People will learn about growing vegetables in Vegepods, self-sustained growing systems that can go on your patio."

There will also be an international flair, with Italian style pottery and fountains and hammered metal yardart from a fair-trade coop in Haiti.

"We're very excited to show what we have this year," Walter Sedlacek said.

A total of 38 exhibitors will be at

the show, both indoors and out front.

Thompson said, "We have a couple of new vendors that will have very interesting booths," including Willamette Custom Woodworks, Siuslaw Broadband and ReVision Design Build."

The home and garden show regularly features businesses and products from the Siuslaw region, as well as from further into the Willamette Valley and beyond.

"The home show gives businesses outside of the area that want to do business in Florence the chance to come here and bring their products and services," Thompson said.

Some of this year's product vendors include Kitchen Craft, a regular at the Florence Home and Garden Show, CJames Nursery and special Down Under Pots, Cedar Works Spa and Sauna, N-Hance Wood Refinishing, Sand Ranch and Scentsy. In addition, Beach House Gifts, Polished Boutique and Salon and Word of Mouth Home Décor will have a variety of products for the home.

Roby's Furniture & Appliance and The Mattress Shoppe is one of the biggest exhibitors at this year's show.

"We got Roby's in for the first time in quite a few years," Thompson said.

"Since Bob (Sneddon) came from Coast Radio, he knew how important it was to be involved in Florence's only home show. They have three booths going."

Laurel Bay and exhibitors such as C James Nursery, Winter Green Farms and the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will show attendees the kinds of plants, vegetables, fruits and flowers grow best on the Oregon coast. A variety of vendors including Celia's Gourmet Foods, Kimo's Dips and Spiritopia will offer tasty samples.

Interior vendors feature kitchen and home products, landscaping services,

health care alternatives and more to facilitate spring home and garden to-do lists. Contractors and services will also be on hand to help plan for those projects outside of the do-it-yourself range.

The Florence Home and Garden Show is sponsored by Three Rivers Casino Resort, Bi-Mart and Central Lincoln PUD. It is presented by Coast Radio and the Siuslaw News.

It will run three days this weekend, Friday, March 2, to Sunday, March 4, at the Florence Events Center.

Tickets are \$2, or free admission on Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Districts from 1A

The chief then updated directors on the two bids received for seismic upgrades to SVFR Station No. 4 near Sutton Lake, informing the group that a contractor had been awarded the contract.

"We received two bids, and they were well under what we had put in for the grants," Langborg said. "We awarded the contract to Partney Construction and they started work at Sutton Lake Feb. 22 ... doing some drilling to determine the potential for liquefaction out there."

Partney Construction has agreed to a project completion timeline of 115 days.

Building permits for the seismic construction have been submitted and Langborg believes work should begin on that project in six to seven weeks, after the preliminary work is done off site.

Langborg finished his report by updating the directors on positive developments in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement that may increase the amount the district receives for transportation services.

SVFR Operations Chief Jim Dickerson's report indicated that the district responded to three fire and 13 medical assistance calls in January, totalling 53 calls of all types during the month.

Dickerson also gave updates on training and equipment. He asked the SVFR directors for approval of an unbudgeted, unexpected equipment expenditure totaling approximately \$8,500.

"On Engine 7, we had an estimate for \$5,500 to have everything replaced on it ... so it would be ready to run," Dickerson said. "We sent it to Oregon Apparatus Repair and they asked if they could do an NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) check at the same time. I thought that was a good idea ... unfortunately, the labor hours went to 110 hours at \$100 an hour, so it blew our estimate ... and the total bill came to \$14,283."

However, Dickerson added that the work done on Engine 7 would allow for additional training and possibly extend the life of the vehicle.

Following this report, the board convened an executive session to discuss matters of payroll and the upcoming labor negotiations with union representatives for SVFR and WLAD.

After nearly an hour in executive session reconvening, the directors resumed the regular meeting and approved the unexpected expenditure for the repair for Engine 7, as well as the payment of \$169,796 for January's bills.

The WLAD board meeting was held the following day,



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Valley firefighters Oaren Wraye and Holly Lais receive certificates for the successful completion of EMT Basic training at the SVFR Feb. 21 board meeting.

Feb. 22, with only three board members in attendance. There was still a quorum in attendance.

Public comments were limited, with WLAD Paramedic Darrek Mullins addressing the board with a letter he entered into the record.

The letter requested that members of Union 851 be present at all meetings and planning sessions regarding labor issues and a new contract between the district and its employees.

Langborg then made a brief presentation to the board,

similar to the information given to SVFR. He also nominated two new members for the openings on the budget committee, Casey Farm and Jodi O'Mara.

These nominations were accepted and approved by the board.

One issue that required more discussion was the upgrade costs associated with planning for a new structure to house the district's vehicles.

According to Langborg, the bids were well over the budgeted amount. He suggested that WLAD re-examine the needs of the district and modify the structure to reduce the total costs.

EMS Operations Chief Matt House recapped the monthly call outs for directors and told the board of an unexpected, nonbudgeted expense for the installation of a power loader in one of the district's ambulances.

The additional expenditure was for \$21,000 and was approved by the three directors in attendance. The directors also approved the payment of January's bills.

The final topic at WLAD's board meeting was a brief discussion as to adapting WLAD's strategic plan to reflect the possibility of a consolidation of functions with SVFR in the future.



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