

Franchise from 1A

Staff also defined a 10-year term for the agreement; kept police powers; set out insurance and non-discriminatory policies; and required that the service availability include the entire city in its service area.

“Our service area is our entire city limits. Any time that a property is annexed into the city, we provide that information to Charter and it becomes part of that service area. If the area is already receiving service from one of the franchisees, that is added to our fee that we receive,” Messmer said.

Florence receives 5 percent of gross revenues provided within the city as the franchise fee, as well as access to the Public, Education and Government (PEG) Channel, which airs Florence City Council meetings for Charter Cable customers, and free cable drops to city government buildings, Siuslaw School District and Siuslaw Public Library.

First, Florence City Council

had to repeal Ordinance No. 24, Series 2003, set in place before language was added to the Florence City Code about communications providers, and approve Resolution No. 5, Series 2018, the franchise agreement with Charter.

“Based on our legal counsel’s advice, since we have our code language now, future franchise agreements for communications providers will be done through resolutions,” Messmer said.

According to the staff report, passing franchise agreements via resolutions that reference Florence City Code allows for a simplified process for updating an agreement.

At a request from Charter, the franchise agreement only addresses cable. Separate laws govern agreements for phone and internet, but Charter is primarily a cable company who also provides the other services.

“Internet and voice is addressed in our city code,” Messmer said. “They have been paying fees on those since we enacted that.”

Franchise fee revenue supports

General Fund services, such as streets and public safety.

Councilor Joshua Greene asked some clarifying questions about the fees for cable, voice and data.

Messmer said that fees can’t come from data usage, as “there are really strict rules that say, ‘You can’t tax the internet.’ We don’t base our franchise fee on the amount of data you use, but on gross revenue of what you pay.

“As a consumer, I use Charter internet, and I pay the same each month whether I am home all month or gone.”

She reiterated that the Telecommunications Ordinance still applies to Charter as a communications provider, but this agreement specifically looks at it as a cable service.

“We’re very thankful for our legal counsel in helping us to understand this, since it is very complicated,” Messmer said. “There are many state and federal regulations that manage it, and they can be interpreted in different ways. ... We’re not taxing the internet. We’re charging a fee for the right of way because they are

using it.”

Charter Communications likely passes the 5 percent fee to the customers.

“By doing this and by keeping current with our franchise agreements and the Telecommunications Ordinance, you as a city council are creating a fair playing field for all providers,” said City Manager Erin Reynolds.

Messmer agreed.

“Now, every (service provider) gets noticed at the same time,” she said. “Everybody has the same opportunity to provide service, everybody is charged the same fee based on the same city service area for what type of service they provide. We’ve outlined it and it applies to everybody. It’s not a case-by-case basis, which is what it was prior.”

Councilors heard two readings of Ordinance No. 1, Series 2018, an ordinance repealing

Ordinance No. 24, Series 2003, and approved it in a roll call vote. Afterwards, councilors approved the franchise agreement in Resolution No. 5.

Unitarians hear about the Prophet Mohammed

Sunday, April 8, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the Rev. Dr. Ruth Miller will lead the worship service titled: “The Blessed Prophet Mohammed’s Ascension.”

Soon, all of Islam will be celebrating an event that is the reason they consider Jerusalem one of their sacred sites. Although The Prophet lived, fought and died in what is now Saudi Arabia, he had a vision — what may even have been a physical experience — that took place on the site of what is now called “the Dome of the Rock” on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Miller will share the story and its significance for Mohammed’s followers — and for us, today.

Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road, is wheelchair accessible.

Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each worship service.

For more information, visit florenceuuf.org.

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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

Mondays and Thursdays through April 14

Tax Prep Assistance
AARP Foundation Tax-Aide
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Siuslaw Public Library
aarpfoundation.org/taxaide

Thursdays from April 12 to May 24

New Testament Class on St. Matthew
Taught by Joel Marks, adjunct professor of American History
6:30 to 8 p.m.
Open to public; refreshments served
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

April 7 to 8

Watercolor Society of Oregon Spring Conference 2018
Registration Required
Florence Events Center
watercolorsofOregon.com/news-events/exhibitions-and-convention/2017-western-fed/

April 7

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
Donations accepted

9 a.m. to noon
Pregnancy and Parenting Center
1525 12th St.
541-902-2273

Single Ladies & Widows Oil Change

9:30 a.m. to noon
Open to single women; free
Cannot service diesel vehicles
Florence Church of the Nazarene
1536 12th St.

Florence Area Democratic Club Meeting

11 a.m.
Open to the public
Siuslaw Public Library

April 9

SAPPSA Meeting
3:30 p.m.
Open to public
Siuslaw Public Library

April 10

Florence Startup Happy Hour
Presented by RAIN
Open to 21+ entrepreneurs and businesses
Beachcomber Pub

Us TOO Florence Prostate Cancer Support Group

With Dr. Bryan Mehlhoff
5 to 7 p.m.
Open to public
Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw
541-999-4239

April 11

Florence Garden Club
1 to 3 p.m.
Open to public
Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw

April 12

“Essential Oils to Help Your Cancer Journey” with Elaine McMillian
Cancer Health and Education Group
1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
OPB Financial Center — elevator available
1365 Highway 101

April 12 and 13

Exhibit: “Architecture of Internment: The Build Up to Wartime Incarceration”
All day
Open to public
Siuslaw Public Library
www.grahamstreetproductions.com

April 13

Coastal Women Veterans Luncheon

11:30 a.m.
Open to women veterans and their families
Rosa’s Mexican Restaurant
RSVP to cjwright13@gmail.com or 559-817-9027

Florence Household Hazardous Waste Roundup

Noon to 5 p.m.
Free for households; small fee for businesses, schools, churches or non-profit
Florence Transfer Station
2820 Rhododendron Drive

April 13, 14 & 15

CROW presents Disney’s “Tarzan”
Featuring Reveler’s Aerial Works
7 p.m. showings: Friday, Saturday
2 p.m. showings: Saturday, Sunday
Tickets required
Florence Events Center
crowkids.com

April 14

Florence Household Hazardous Waste Roundup
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Free for households; small fee for businesses, schools, churches or non-profit
Florence Transfer Station

2820 Rhododendron Drive
“DNA: What’s It All About?” Family History Seminar
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Registration required
Florence Events Center
www.siuslawgenealogy.org

Early Rhody Flower Show
Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society
1 to 5 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Events Center

2nd Saturday Gallery Tour
3 to 5 p.m.
Various locations in Old Town and Uptown Highway 101
2ndsaturdaygallerytour.com

April 15

Early Rhody Flower Show
Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Events Center

Visit rivercal.org for more calendar events.



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