

Traffic from 1A

“All of us applying to this grant are playing on the same playing field,” Miller said. “We’re all using the same crash data from 2011 to 2015, or 2012 to 2016.”

In those years, Miller and ODOT identified the intersection of Kingwood and Ninth streets as a “hotspot,” or a specific location, like intersections or corners, where there have been fatalities or serious injuries.

“Technically, there are higher than normal crash rates,” Miller said. “Our one hot spot is at Ninth and Kingwood streets. It is the intersection that had the most accidents in the timeframe of 2011 and 2015. There were 13 accidents, and one serious. Most of the crashes were from turning at the wrong angle.”

More specifically, these included accidents when the driver did not have right of way, disregarded the stop sign on Ninth Street, followed another vehicle too closely, improperly changed lanes, was inattentive

or made a turn into oncoming traffic.

Miller also said an area that could use the “systemic approach” for safety improvements is the entire Kingwood Street corridor. These are low-cost countermeasures that can be widely implemented to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

This could include improving sight clearance, installing street lights, increasing pedestrian crossing visibility, adding flash beacons and increasing bike lane awareness.

“From Second Street up to 35th, there were 25 accidents on Kingwood Street between January 2011 and December 2015, including the 13 accidents at Ninth Street,” Miller said. “It’s interesting as we have a mixed-bag of different crashes. It was everything from angle, to turning, to hitting a fixed object.”

Miller suggested that ARTS grant funds could go toward systemic improvements along Kingwood or a circular traffic safety concept — “in other words, a roundabout.”

The new traffic pattern could fit within the intersection at Kingwood and Ninth, he said, with only minor adjustments at the corners of the surrounding lots.

“The beauty of a circular traffic calming device is that it keeps the traffic in motion,” Miller said. “This concept allows free movement and allows the dominant leg (of traffic) to be dominant.”

He said that changing the traffic pattern to a traffic light or four-way stop was not advisable, as it doesn’t keep the traffic moving.

In addition, the roundabout could have an open area that could feature colorful pavers — which will likely be a component of the upcoming Highway 101 ReVision Streetscaping Project — as well as public art.

Miller said the raised mountable curve approach, highlighted by pavers, included in the design would help emergency response vehicles “clip over the top” of the central island and drive straight through.

Councilor Joshua Greene said he was glad the program

could have “an actual art side to it.”

Miller agreed. “A roundabout or circular traffic safety concept could play off art, especially in the center. That is pretty popular in other communities,” he said.

Councilor Ron Preisler expressed concern about adding a roundabout to Florence and did not think it was the correct solution.

“Older people in our community may not have very much history of using them, and I can envision people going around the roundabout and creating more of a problem,” he said. “It’s an educational experience, and if you’ve driven in them in other (areas), they’re not easy to get used to.”

Councilor Susy Lacer countered his points.

“I think that the very first roundabout in any community is difficult, and there is a learning curve. Everyone has to figure out how to navigate it, but other communities have done it,” she said. “If you look at the research, they are such an effective way of dealing with prob-

lem intersections. I think a roundabout is a good call for this particular intersection, and I have the utmost faith in our citizens that they will figure out how to navigate it.”

Mayor Joe Henry said he’s driven on complicated roundabouts in London that were challenging, but he also was sure people could figure it out.

Greene said, “I have driven all over the world, and in Europe particularly, where roundabouts have been there since the beginning of time. They don’t use the four-way stop sign; it’s a yield, you go in, you watch traffic, you use your indicator. The idea is that the traffic will flow more readily to allow more flow of traffic without having to stop and wait.”

He encouraged engineers to look at multiple examples when creating the design.

“We’re also looking at 2022, which is a long time down the road,” Greene said.

According to Miller, Oregon’s Region 2 — consisting of 25 percent of the state’s highway miles and covering the Willamette Valley, the north and

central coast, the Coast Range and the Cascade Pass, including the counties of Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Lincoln, Benton, Linn, Lane and the western portion of Washington County — will receive 35.7 percent of the STIP funding, or approximately \$10.4 million per year for three years. Any approved ARTS Program project will require a 7.78 percent local match.

Miller said he and city staff are working with ODOT to create a competitive package, and that they do not have a cost estimate for the project or the city’s match. The brief grant application period only runs the months of April and May.

The four councilors in attendance approved the resolution to apply for the grant.

For more information on the City of Florence and its roads, the community is invited to attend an open house on the final design of ReVision Florence on Tuesday, April 25, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. Visit ci.florence.or.us for more information.

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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

Thursdays through 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 21

Boat Safety Inspections
With Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 52
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Open to public
Breen Marine
4390 Highway 101

Vision Quest presents “Bring the Wild Alive”

With Cascades Raptor Center
10 to 10:45 a.m.
Open to public
Siuslaw Public Library

Vision Quest presents “Raptors Up Close and Personal”

With Cascades Raptor Center
10:45 to 11:15 a.m.
Open to public
Siuslaw Public Library

Annual Shred Day
Hosted by Oregon Pacific Bank
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Oregon Pacific Bank, 1365 Highway 101

Last Resort Players holds Auditions for “Grey Gardens”

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Open to public
Class Act Theatre

“What’s New With Oregon’s Sanctuary Statute Petition”

With Cynthia Kendoll
2 to 3:30 p.m.
Open to public
Patriot Place, 175 Nopal St.
www.PatriotPlaceFlorence.com

April 22

Vision Quest presents “Bird-watching for Beginners”

10 a.m.
Open to public; \$5 parking or pass required
Siltcoos Recreation Area

Florence Ukulele Club “The Flukes”

1:30 p.m. — Beginners
3 p.m. — Song Circle for all levels
Loaner ukuleles available
Siuslaw Public Library

janetwellington@gmail.com

Auditions for “Grey Gardens”

2 to 4 p.m.
Open to public
Class Act Theatre

Annual Bahá’í Ridvan Festival

Celebrating diversity in music, poetry, dance, prayer and storytelling
Open to public
Florence Playhouse
208 Laurel St.

April 23

Bahá’í Community Presents “Happening” Documentary
12:30 and 6:30 p.m. showings
Free to the public — no tickets required
City Lights Cinemas

Spring Kindergarten Pre-Registration, Meet & Greet

6 to 7 p.m.
Open to parents and 2018-19 kindergarten students (Who are 5 years old on or before Sept. 1)
Siuslaw Elementary School

April 24

Author Chat with Jennifer Chambers
“Abigail Scott Dunaway and Susan B.

Anthony in Oregon”
1 to 2 p.m.
Open to public
Siuslaw Public Library

April 25

ReVision Florence Open House
Public review of final designs for new Highway 101 corridor
4 to 6:30 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Events Center

Free Economic Literacy Seminar

With “Free Market Warrior” Loren Spivack
5 to 8:30 p.m.
Patriot Place, 175 Nopal St.
www.PatriotPlaceFlorence.com

West Lane Translator Meeting

6 p.m.
Open to public
Siuslaw Public Library

April 26

Florence Green Movie Series: “Wasted”
12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Free with donation to Food Share
City Lights Cinemas

Florence Pub Talks

5 to 7 p.m.
\$15 admission
LCC Florence Center

April 27

FlorenceFest ‘18
2 to 8 p.m.
Tickets required
Florence Events Center

April 28

FlorenceFest ‘18
Noon to 8 p.m.
Tickets required
Florence Events Center

Patriot Place presents Candidate Sam Carpenter

Republican candidate for governor
1 to 3 p.m.
Patriot Place, 175 Nopal St.
www.PatriotPlaceFlorence.com

Dowsing Workshop with John Stead

Time TBA
Open to public
Siuslaw Public Library

Visit rivercal.org for more calendar events.

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