

PARKING from page 1A

Town with posted parking restrictions are on Bay Street, from Nopal to the area just

west of the bridge; on Laurel Street, from First to Bay Street; Maple Street, from First to Bay Street; and on Nopal Street, from First to Bay Street. Signs are posted in those areas, with time limits of no more than three hours.

And that's all year long, not just in the summers.

Citation amounts begin with \$15 for the first offense, followed by a \$25 citation for the second offense, \$35 for the third offense and \$50 should the owner be cited a fourth time all in the same year.

In addition, any recreational vehicles, trailers or vehicles more than seven feet tall are not allowed to park anywhere in those restricted areas.

Frazier said it's not his intention to "catch" people, nor does he approach his parking enforcement responsibility as a game.

"Timed parking is only 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and I come through once a day — and not even every day," he says. "And I don't get out a tape measure to see which vehicles are seven feet high. But when it comes to motor homes and RVs, I feel an obligation to store owners to keep those vehicles from blocking their storefronts."

None of this is to say there isn't parking in Old Town for employees or residents if they know where to find it. For example, the city leases the parking area at the old Lotus Restaurant at the far west end of Bay Street, where as many as 60 spaces are available for parking at no cost and without a time limit. Parking is also available all day for free at the Port of Siuslaw parking lot. However, there is no overnight parking in either location.

"We realize it means employ-

ees or residents without their own parking may need to walk a block or two, but they can park there all day," said Frazier.

For those with a handicapped parking placard, the law not only allows owners of those vehicles to park anywhere marked for the handicapped, but they are also not subject to time restrictions.

"But it has to be prominently displayed," said Frazier. "Just having one isn't enough. I need to be able to see it on the dashboard or in the back window."

There are also some restrictions beyond the Old Town area that some drivers may not be aware of, such as not parking, stopping or leaving a vehicle running in a bicycle lane, which are defined as part of the highway, adjacent to the roadway, designated by official signs or markings for use by persons riding a bicycle.

Parking in violation of a bicycle lane is a Class D offense with a fine of \$142. In addition, parking in the wrong direction on the street is also prohibited anywhere, with a fine of \$110.

In the end, Frazier sees his parking restriction enforcement duties as something not everyone likes or appreciates, but that are necessary to keep the Old Town District and its businesses accessible to visitors and residents alike.

"We are a beautiful community and a great place to be, and I'm absolutely thrilled with the amount of business on Bay Street," Frazier says. "Just be aware that it's that time of year that I'm out there doing my job."

For more information on parking restrictions or city codes, contact Frazier at 541-997-3515 or visit ci.florence.or.us.



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READING from page 1A

Mittge has seen the amount of money available to purchase new volumes for the district's permanent collection rise over the past few years.

"When I first started, we had much less money, so I tended to buy really special books that we might not have been able to afford otherwise. We'd get oversized books and big art books and some expensive reference books, like the Merck Manual," he said. "We get quite a bit of money now. This year, I have \$6,900 to spend on adult books and Children's Librarian Gayle Weiss gets about \$3,000 for children's books."

The increased amount of money available for book purchases has allowed Mittge to expand the number and types of books he is able to add to the library's permanent collection while also responding to the changing role that libraries play in the lives of their patrons.

"Usually, around December, I start either ordering books or identifying books I want to order. As the fund continues to grow, I probably will have to start buying books throughout the year," Mittge said. "I also get suggestions

from patrons, and especially now, if it's a special book, I will order it and put a book plate in it and designate it as an endowment book."

Another thing the endowment fund supports is the yearly addition of great works by important American authors, published by the Library of America.

"Every year the Library of America series comes out with about a dozen or so new volumes, and we use endowment money to buy those volumes," Mittge said.

The changing nature of libraries has led to a different focus in other areas of the library as well. Most notably, the district is seeing changes in who is using the library and what they are doing while at the library.

According to the Pew data, 57 percent of women and 55 percent of 16- to 29-year-olds that went to a library or bookstore checked out a book in the previous 12 months.

Americans with college degrees visited libraries at a slightly higher than average rate of nearly 60 percent, again, primarily to check out a book.

All groups surveyed report they are using libraries as places to learn about events occurring in their area and to

hear speakers, listen to music and meet to discuss issues of importance to the community.

Surprisingly, only eight percent of Americans used mobile apps or tablets to access library resources, a slight reduction from the 12 percent rate in 2015.

This is all information that the district uses to modify the materials and presentations offered to the public.

This shift in library use has been taken into account while developing the library's popular summer reading program, according to Waiss, who coordinates the classes and workshops offered.

"The summer reading program theme this year is 'Libraries Rock!'" she said. "We have programs for everyone from birth to death. This year we hired a teen intern from the University of Oregon and she is going to do nine programs just for teens."

The first program is on the Thursday, June 21, and participants will be making pizza.

"The grand finale for teens is going to be a library lock-in that will go from 6 p.m. on a Friday to 8 a.m. Saturday, and the library will be all theirs," Waiss said.

She also wants people to know that the summer programs will have events de-

signed specifically for adults. On Saturday, June 23, Vision Quest's Get Wild series will be presenting the workshop, "Trails Locals Love."

This will be followed by a presentation the next Saturday, June 30, as naturalist Robert Bailey will be presenting "Ghosts in the Kelp: Sea Otters in Oregon."

There will also be two concerts offered in July, family movies shown on Tuesday nights and general movies screened on Thursday afternoons.

But until all that fun really gets going, Mittge and Waiss recommend checking out the new endowment books.

When Mittge was asked to select a new title he was looking forward to reading, he said, "You know, I'm stumped. There are so many great new titles. We have a number of new cookbooks and biographies and books on science and traveling. I can't pick one as there are so many interesting choices."

For more information on the Siuslaw Public Library's Summer Reading Program, or to check out one of the 600 new books that have been added to the district's collection, visit the Florence branch at 1460 Ninth St. or the Mapleton branch at 88148 Riverview Ave.

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