

Siuslaw News

# Community Voices

## NATURAL PERSPECTIVE — Nosing around the garden



By **EMILY J. UHRIG, PH.D**  
*Special to Siuslaw News*

It's the season for backyard barbeques, gardening and just generally enjoying the sun. As you take part in such activities, you may notice small dirt mounds that indicate a mole is also enjoying your outdoor space.

As nocturnal burrowers, moles are rarely seen above ground and molehills are likely the only sign of their presence. This time of year, however, young moles leave their mothers' nest and strike out alone in search of their own territory. Their journey exposes them

to wild predators like owls and coyotes, but they also fall prey to domestic dogs and cats who often leave them uneaten. Indeed, finding your pet's hunting trophy is perhaps the most likely scenario for observing a mole in nature.

Thanks to their underground existence, many aspects of mole biology are not well understood, but one area of interest is the mole's nose. Vision and hearing are of little use in a subterranean lifestyle, so moles rely mainly on their noses — but not just for

smell. The nose is highly sensitive to touch and tapping it on surfaces and objects provides the mole with information about its environment.

The skin of the nose is covered in small bumps, each of which is a complex sense organ containing many nerve endings that, when pressed against something, provide fine details of texture. In this way, a mole "sees" with its nose.

Although folks commonly refer to moles and gophers interchangeably, they are actually very

different animals. Unlike gophers, moles are not rodents, but rather are members of an insect-eating group of mammals. This diet means that moles can be beneficial to a garden by removing harmful insect pests. Their digging also aerates the soil and can improve drainage.

However, these positive activities are usually underappreciated, and moles tend to get a bad rap. Molehills are considered unsightly and, although moles eat little or no plant material, their digging

can damage roots. As a result, many folks attempt eradication. However, the success of removal tactics is often short-lived, as the moles' territorial nature means that removing one simply provides space for a new mole to move in.

So, if you see evidence that a mole is calling your yard home, consider learning to live with him. He's undertaken a perilous journey to get there and, if you can look past his reputation as a pest, he may even help your soil.

## SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE — We've been Hosed!



By **PETE "BOA" WARREN**  
*Recruitment & Retention Coordinator for SVFR*

we got it!

Recently, Siuslaw Valley, Mapleton and Swisshome Deadwood fire departments received a \$224,600 Regional Grant from FEMA for new fire hose.

After it was all said and done, our order consisted of \$160,186 worth of hose, for which we paid \$8,812, after matching 5 percent.

This grant is one of the many efforts SVFR has made towards partnering with our upriver sister departments to help improve emergency response to all citizens and visitors of the Siuslaw region.

Just how much hose does a quarter of a million dollars buy?

Well, consider a Boeing 787 cruises at about 41,000 plus feet. That's the length of hose we received.

Then we started receiving it. Pallet after pallet started filling our logistics building until it seemed like it was going to burst at the seams.

Why new hose? Well, like everything else, hose wears out. Hose typically lasts about 15 years. Today's fires are not like those of days gone by. Nowadays, fires burn hotter due to all the products made with synthetics.

In the 1970s, a person had an average of 17 minutes to escape

after the home's smoke alarm activated. The scary statistic is that now, that has been cut down to only 3 to 4 minutes to get out.

Fires are burning faster and hotter, and our fire hoses get damaged quicker.

Different sizes of hose are needed depending on the size of the fire. As we say, "Small fire, small water; big fire, big water."

We received over 10,000 feet of Large Diameter Hose (LDH). We use this as supply hose to pump water into those ever so thirsty water tanks on our apparatus. Previously, we used to pull two hoses off the first arriving engine

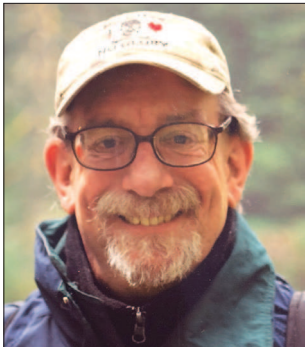
and connect to the hydrant. With LDH, one hose is all that's needed.

Amongst the order was wildland, attack and supply hose. Additional adapters and necessary items to facilitate the new hose

also came with the order.

So, if you see some shiny new yellow hose on our rigs, you'll know, our grant writers were once again burning the midnight oil, saving our district vast amounts of money.

## NOTES FROM THE SILTCOOS — Main Street



By **BARRY SOMMER**  
*Special to Siuslaw News*

I was enjoying lunch with a good friend the other day at the Brown Hen Café on Highway 101 near Historic Old Town Florence. Languishing in the warmth of conversation, the sunshine and blue sky got the old grey matter spinning. Once the sparks subsided the question coalesced — where was our Main Street, and do we even have one?

I mean, every town has a "Main Street," don't they? Main Street is as American as apple fritters, tow-headed, freckle-faced kids on bikes and Fourth of July parades. I knew we had to have one and I wanted to discover its whereabouts.

I figured that Main Street would be obvious everywhere. All cities, towns, villages and burghs have a Main Street (or so I thought) and it should be the first, or prime avenue when the town was laid out by its founders.

Oh wait — the first street laid out would be called First Street, so isn't First Street the number one (pun intended) street name? And if so, where does Main Street fit in? Ah, the questions are now starting to pile up like traffic on Main Street at the only signal light in town.

Now it was a search. I had to solve the mystery and find our Main Street, so I began by looking up the top 10 most used street names in America. To my surprise I discovered that in Oregon, Main Street doesn't even break into the top 10. In Oregon, as with many other states, the top street name is Second Street.

So why isn't First Street the top name? My laptop was silent but for this explanation from the Washington Post; The most convincing explanation anyone has come up with so far is that in many towns the primary thoroughfare is Main street instead of First street. Because those two names split the honor, so to speak, they tumble in the rankings. But if true, why is Main Street not the number one name if it is indeed the primary historical thoroughfare? And isn't all this an insult to Second Street as well? Ah, now my hair was be-

ginning to hurt. I needed to find out what states have Main Street as their primary road and more importantly, will the answer reduce the follicle throbbing? Hint, it didn't.

There are only two states that have as their number one road Main Street — Utah and Maine. Yes, the jokes write themselves, but in the interest of not offending Mainers, I'll let them go for now.

Florence has Second Street, but is it a Main Street? Maybe, as it does connect with Bay Street.

Highway 101 is not Main Street even though it hosts parades and other gatherings. Main Street should pass directly through the oldest part of a town — and skirting the western edge of Old Town as 101 does is not quite close enough.

And how about Bay Street, does that qualify as our Main Street? Well it is the street that accesses Old Town, starting from behind the Dairy Queen at the north end of the bridge, but few use that route anymore. That way was one of the original

paths from the highway down to Old Town before the bridge was built.

Today, getting to Bay Street usually entails for most of us a turn from either Second or Third streets off Highway 101, where the sign for Old Town is.

So let's see if I can connect the dots on the map. First through Fourth streets connect with Old Town, but Second Street is a direct connection to Bay Street. Using historical logic, mirrors and incantations, Bay Street is for all intents and purposes the Main Street for Old Town. Second to Bay to Main. My three-legged stool is now complete.

Of course, this solves the immediate problem of our Old Town Main Street, but it does not address where Main Street is outside of Old Town.

To be called Main Street, there should be specific requirements, and those include buildings over 100 years old, almost no electric traffic signals, a speed limit of no more than 25 mph, sidewalk sitting for people watching, free parking, a slower atmosphere

with softer conversation and the immediate scent of coffee swirled with history.

Highway 101 has little if any of these identifiers.

No offense to the 101, but if I want to see the richness and the past of Florence, I won't get it from whizzing past Pizza Hut, Safeway, pot shops and innumerable gas stations. If I want to get from the bridge to Fred Meyer with little visual distraction and only three signals, then 101 is the way. If I want to see, feel and breathe the bones of our town I look for a place to rest on Main Street. Sorry, Bay Street. Wait, Second Street...

The soul of a city rests in its past. However aged a town is, whether new like Dunes City, created in the mid 1960s, or really old like Coos Bay, which sprang to life in the mid 1850s, finding the Main Street is where the story starts.

Finding that perfect free parking space helps a lot too.

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## Yard Debris Disposal

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**at the Kingwood entrance to the airport,**  
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<b>COST</b>	2018 Collection Dates:	<b>Bring:</b>
<b>Pickup load</b> \$10	<b>JULY 21</b>	• Tree Clippings
<b>Small Utility Trailer</b> (Single Axle) \$10	<b>AUGUST 18</b>	• Leaves
<b>Medium Utility Trailer</b> (10-12 ft) \$15	<b>SEPTEMBER 15</b>	• Grass Clippings
<b>Large Utility Trailer</b> (12-18ft) \$21	<b>OCTOBER 20</b>	• Weeds
<b>Greater than 20 cubic yards</b> \$21 +\$5/yard over		• Prunings
		• Brush

**DO NOT Bring your:**

- Food & Household waste
- Animal Waste
- Plastics
- Construction Debris
- Hazardous Waste

For questions, please contact the  
City of Florence Public Works Department at 541-997-4106

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**Hours Open: Wed-Fri 11am-5pm,**  
**Sat 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-5pm**

## Classes, Workshops & Events

### Poetry Writing Class with Jeff Lovejoy

Tuesday, September 11th, 6-8 pm. All levels welcome! Recapping a bit to get back into the swing of it. Short readings, exercises, why we write poetry! Contact Jeff for questions and registration: [jlovejoy54@gmail.com](mailto:jlovejoy54@gmail.com)

### Painting with John Leasure

Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm  
No painting experience required.  
Contact: [jnleasure@hotmail.com](mailto:jnleasure@hotmail.com) or 541-991-2754 for details and fees.

### Whimsical Hand Building Ceramics w/ Alissa Clark

Wednesdays, 3-5 pm & Thursdays, 6-8 pm  
**Open Lab Ceramics on Saturdays**  
Drop in, work at own pace. Sat 12-5 pm  
Call Alissa with questions, 503-957-5222.  
*All ceramics classes held at Alissa's Studio. 180 Laurel Street.*

### Writers on the River - Creative Writing w/ Catherine Rourke - Writing to Heal Your Life

Saturday, July 28th 10 am - 12 noon  
Journaling/storytelling for transformation. Perfect for those who journal, write short stories, poetry or memoir. All writing levels and genres, Contact: [CJReditor@gmail.com](mailto:CJReditor@gmail.com), 541-708-2120

### Big Wave Poetry 1st Tuesday Open Mic

Tuesday, August 7th at 6:30 pm.  
Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

### Next Art Change-Out Day

Monday, September 10th, 9-11 am  
Please pick up your artwork and bring something new to help keep the art at FRAA fresh to our visitors.

**For more information about classes, visit [fraaoregon.org](http://fraaoregon.org). To register for these classes, please call or visit FRAA at our Art Center on Maple Street.**