

Speed limit changing on Rhody Drive

Look for a lower speed limit on Rhododendron Drive between Lighthouse Way and Heceta Beach Road beginning Tuesday, Feb. 26. The posted speed limit in this section of Rhododendron Drive will be reduced from 45 miles per hour (mph) to 40 mph.

"Starting on Feb. 26, motorists will see a new 'Speed Change Ahead' sign and a new 40 mph sign on Rhododendron Drive in the area of Lighthouse Way as you travel north on Rhododendron. There will also be new signage traveling south after you turn onto Rhododendron Drive from Heceta Beach Road," stated Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller. "The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) recently completed a speed zone investigation as requested by the city and has established a new speed zone of 40 mph on Rhododendron Drive between Heceta Beach Road and Lighthouse Way."

Per the speed zone investigation report, this area of Rhododendron Drive has a moderate residential density and culture with an average daily trip (ADT) of 2,980. The survey, which was completed at the end of May and first of June 2018 (while school was still in session) found that the 85th percentile speed to be 44 mph. Seventy two percent of the vehicles were traveling within the pace limits of 35 to 44 mph.

There were 17 reported crashes between Jan. 1, 2014, and Dec. 31, 2016, with 10 crashes occurring in 2016. The determining factor for reducing this area from 45 mph to 40 mph was the crash rate.

Does a speed limit set at the 85th percentile speed satisfy everyone?

Society expects behavioral consistency among those driving on our streets and highways. But drivers' skills, attitudes and time pressures vary greatly, as does their perception of an appropriate speed limit. Whatever the speed limit, some will consider it too

high; others, too low. What you should expect is that, within the latitude provided in Oregon law, engineers set the most appropriate speed limits on the basis of thorough study and the application of sound traffic engineering principles.

Is it always safe to drive at the speed limit?

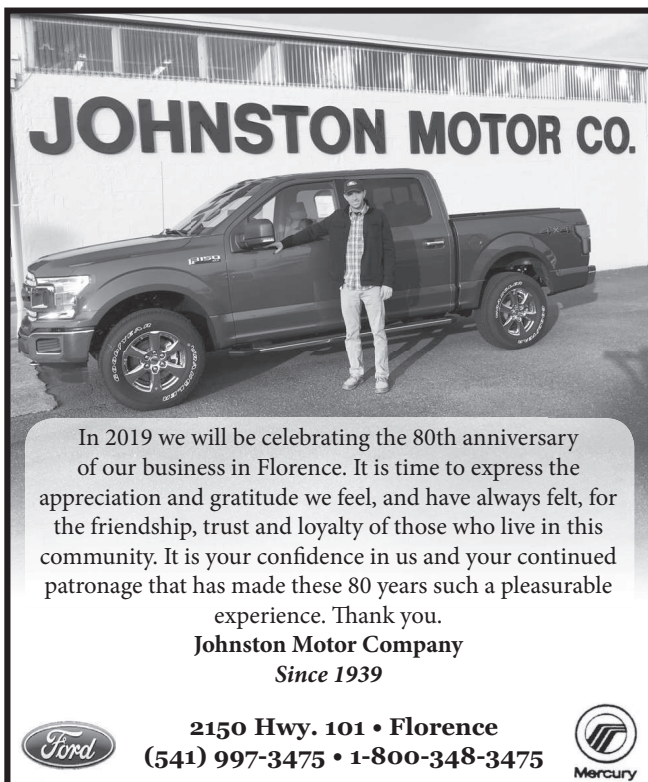
Speed limits are set for ideal conditions.

Drivers need to respond to adverse conditions. Oregon vehicle law requires that

motorists drive at a reasonable and prudent speed and with a regard for danger.

Motorists must adjust their speed according to the existing vehicle and pedestrian traffic, road surface, lighting and weather conditions. You should always maintain a safe speed.

For more details about how speed zones are established, call City of Florence Public Works at 541-997-4106.





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Meet LCC board candidate Lisa Fragala March 2

Last fall, Lisa Fragala was appointed to the Lane Community College (LCC) Board of Education and is running to be elected to the board to continue serving Lane County as an LCC board member.

"LCC had a significant impact on my life," said Fragala. "I understand and appreciate the critical role the college plays in Lane County."

As a young adult, Fragala attended LCC as she pursued a career in teaching.

She said her coursework was pivotal in building her confidence and discovering she loved math. Now she brings that love to her work with second-grade students every day at Adams Elementary in Eugene.

"I want to contribute to the growth and development of the college as a resource and as a vital part of the county," said Fragala.

Meet Fragala at a special meet and greet to be held Saturday, March 2, at the Florence Senior Center, 1570 Kingwood St., beginning at 1 p.m.

There will be a light lunch, conversation and a chance for questions and answers.

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