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These updates are primarily designed to allow those living in flood-prone areas to obtain flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance

Program at a reasonable cost, according to FarleyCampbell. FEMA and Lane County have both made public presentations in Florence in recent months to review the process as it applies to the county and

federal maps. In addition, they looked at how those changes will be incorporated into new maps to be used by the insurance industry to evaluate the risks involved in insuring Florence landowners.

The City of Florence has agreed to update its floodplain maps to reflect the new information available from the vastly improved data gathering collection systems currently available.

Most notably, the use of light detection and ranging software (LIDAR) has made the plotting of all types of boundary and topographical information easy and accurate. The increased detail provided by these images will become the foundation of all future decisions made by insurers regarding insurance availability and pricing.

FarleyCampbell reviewed the process undertaken by the city, and her department, to incorporate changes suggested by FEMA and Lane County into the final version of the city's new flood maps.

She then provided information that detailed the changes that FEMA and city staff had determined were necessary to complete the new floodplain maps. These were primarily changes in the language that

described areas in the Florence floodplain, with few changes to the actual locations likely to be affected by the updated maps.

"There were very few additional comp plan changes that needed to be made, there were maybe two definitions that are included, and the table of contents needed minor changes as well," FarleyCampbell said.

At all of the meetings held by city, county and federal representatives to update the local community, first on the need for the update and second on its results, representatives recommended that individual property owners check on their particular property to see what changes, if any, they should expect in insurance coverage.

"On March 4, we will send out notices to properties which be financially impacted, possibly, by these changes," FarleyCampbell said. "With the updated maps and the new studies we also got GIF data which will help us identify those people. ... This is

new technology for us, and it should be pretty helpful."

The commissioners took a few minutes after FarleyCampbell's request to review the packets provided, which contained the updated language in the city's floodplain plan.

They then voted unanimously to adopt the proposal. The Planning Commission meeting also included house-keeping items that were taken care of, plus a postponement of the selection of officers for the commission until Chairman John Murphey, who was not in attendance, could be present.

All of the materials presented to the Planning Commission detailing the changes to the floodplain maps and the relevant language in city code are available for public viewing at ci.florence.or.us.

The next City of Florence Planning Commission meeting is scheduled to be a public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 5:30 p.m. at Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101.

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"But there's also a lot of kids working or staying at home to watch other children while the parent works," Grzeskowiak said. "That is our number one and two reason, especially for older kids, that students miss class. We even have fifth graders staying home to watch pre-K kids. If you are economically disadvantaged, you don't have the money for day care, which costs a ton of money, and it's hard to find. We get kids that are working full time. They come to school in the morning and skip school in the afternoon. Or they go to alternative school."

Getting these kids in the system consistently is a challenge for the district. Truancy laws are worthless, as "we found that it doesn't work to harass, cite and send kids to a judge," Harklerode said. "It just makes the situation worse."

There could be other solutions, such as building a preschool at the high school. But with the failed school bond, the district just doesn't have the space, and SSA funds cannot be used to upgrade facilities.

But does giving the school \$1.14 million help with getting kids more stable home lives?

"Outside of building classes that interest students and draw

them in, it doesn't," Grzeskowiak said. "But do we have trade programs that would get them something better than a minimum wage job? That's what gets kids back."

And getting kids to want to go to school is the ultimate goal of the SSA process.

"I want school to be the highlight of the day for every kid that comes to school," Harklerode said. "I know that's not the case. Are there other ways we can make school the highlight of the day? It breaks my heart, especially when we are trying to increase attendance. Some of the kids, coming to school is just not their jam."

Parent Eileen Sapp, who attended one of the district's SSA meetings, suggested thinking like students.

"[My daughter's] teachers lets them eat in class," she said. "Giving them the autonomy to decide when they're hungry, for us it's not even a thing. But we put so many rules on these kids, they're hyped when they can eat in class. It seems ridiculous to us, but to them it's huge. You're saying, 'I trust you to eat when you're hungry and not make a mess.' That seems like such a huge part of it — letting them make decisions when they're able to, and letting them feel they're trusted and capable of making good decisions for them-

selves."

Grzeskowiak agreed, pointing out that allowing students to use the bathroom pass during his classes helped prevent students from being tardy.

ASPIRE volunteer Mary Deceault, who also attended an SSA meeting, mentioned parents helping with teaching as well.

"You can teach at home. How many parents just sometimes would rather do things like build a fence by themselves?" she asked. "It's going to take a half hour more to involve your child, but it's going to be a learning experience. It goes back to the home situation."

Whatever the solutions, the district will need the entire community to find them.

"Thinking outside the box, from left field to right field to all over the place, how can we implement programs that not only help our students, but the broader community as well?" Utz asked.

The answers could begin to be found on Thursday, Feb. 20, when the district holds its next SSA community meeting at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. The meeting starts at 6 p.m., but for those who can't make it, a general survey is available online at http://bit.ly/SIA_SNEWS.

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Encourage children to floss

Children should learn that flossing is just as important as brushing.

Learning to brush their own teeth is a lesson all children must master. Although parents ultimately may have children who become proficient at brushing their own teeth, getting them to floss is generally more difficult.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 41 percent of children aged 2 to 11 had tooth decay in their first teeth. Dental caries are common among children, likely because they have not become proficient at taking care of their teeth.

Soft, sticky foods are commonplace in young kids' diets, and these can promote decay. Even well-intentioned gummy vitamins can be sources of dental decay. Oftentimes, these foods become lodged between the teeth or on the surface of molars. If left in contact with the teeth for too long, food particles become a source of carbohydrates for oral bacteria, and cavities may appear as a result.

To remove food particles from between the teeth, children must floss, advises the American Academy of Pediatric Dentists. It is recommended that parents help their children to floss as soon as two teeth are touching and continue to do so until the child is around the age of 8, when a child should have enough dexterity to do it on his or her own.

Flossing is essential to making sure children do not experience cavities at an early age, and it can establish

practices that promote oral health throughout life. Despite being so important, many parents fail to encourage flossing or are at a loss as to how to make it enjoyable and effective.

Although regular dental floss is one of the first tools for flossing, the dexterity required to wind the floss around little fingers and then thoroughly clean the teeth may discourage children. Parents can look into the wide array of flossing helpers available at the store. In fact, many age-appropriate flossers are now available that feature fun designs and smaller profiles to fit into kids' mouths more easily. Flossers may be attached to a handle to make back teeth more accessible and promote more effective flossing. Manufacturers such as DenTek, Butler GUM, Plackers Kids, Dr. Fresh, Oral-B, and Brush Buddies offer children's flossers.

Kids who shy away from flossing may be more likely to use a children's water flosser. In lieu of string floss, a water flosser uses a pressurized stream of water to dislodge food from between teeth. Although a water flosser may be more messy, children may enjoy the opportunity to "play" with water and the cleaning sensation provided.

To prevent the buildup of plaque and the development of dental caries, parents should educate children about proper flossing techniques.

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