

EMPTY BOWLS CELEBRATES ITS 25TH YEAR THIS DECEMBER

The Empty Bowls Committee is excited to announce that 2020 is the 25th year of hosting the Empty Bowls Fundraiser benefiting Florence Food Share. Yes, it will be happening this year.

This year's event will be held at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., on Thursday, Dec. 3, from 4 to 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Like everything else this year, the event will look a little different than in the past as the event observes COVID-19 safety protocols to make it a safe, as well as fun, event for patrons and volunteers alike.

Empty Bowls will be spread out over the entire

flat floor of the Florence Events Center to allow for social distancing, among other changes.

"During the pandemic, Food Share has become even more important due to the many tourism-related jobs lost in or community," said committee member Vicki Sieber-Benson. "Your support is even more needed and appreciated than ever before."

Empty Bowls is truly a community event — with artists, sponsors, local



Empty Bowls brings together artists and restaurants in a long-standing fundraiser for Florence Food Share.

restaurants and many volunteers all working together to make this fundraiser successful.

Local artists have been keeping busy during the pandemic slow-down by creating and donating their

bowls at a record pace. They have produced over 1,100 bowls and other ceramic pieces so far.

"And we expect more to be created in the month leading up to the event," Sieber-Benson said.

At the event, bowls are sold for \$10 each, with some \$5 bowls available as well. With each bowl, sold the purchaser will receive a soup coupon good for a cup of the "soup of the day" at a participating restaurant.

The event also includes

a silent auction which features the works of many of Florence's favorite artists working in media as diverse as woodcarving, watercolor painting, sculpture and digital art.

This year, Empty Bowls will have a call-in line to allow bidders on the silent auction to call in to check on and perhaps raise their bid on the auction items, eliminating the need to make a return trip to the events center to keep current in the auction.

Admission to the event is free and all are welcome.

People may contact Empty Bowls Committee Members Bonnie MacDuffee at 541-997-9599 or Sieber-Benson at 541-999-0418 with any questions or donations to Empty Bowls.

Waiver expands food benefit options in 23 Oregon counties

A waiver approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) allows Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Disaster SNAP recipients in the following 23 counties to purchase hot or prepared foods from authorized SNAP retailers until Nov. 20.

Approved counties: Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington, and Yamhill.

Normally, SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase "hot food products prepared for immediate consumption." This restriction is being waived following the severe winds and wildfires that led to the displacement of many residents and left them without access to a kitchen to prepare meals.

Examples of allowable prepared foods include hot deli foods, fountain drinks, including but not limited to coffee and tea, a slice of hot/prepared pizza, hot soup, salad bars and sandwiches.

This waiver will last through Nov. 20 and allows SNAP and DSNAP recipients to use their benefits to buy prepared food at any participating retailer that accepts SNAP EBT cards. Restaurant purchases are still prohibited.

For more information about the hot food waiver, visit www.oregon.gov/dhs/ASSISTANCE/FOOD-BENEFITS/Pages/DSNAP-Hot-Foods-Waiver.aspx.

Oregon also received approval from FNS to provide maximum emergency allotment benefits for SNAP recipients in November. The emergency

allotments, see schedule below, will bring families not receiving the maximum SNAP allotment for their household size to the maximum for the seventh consecutive month.

Issuance date (SNAP recipients will see the benefit the following day)

- Nov. 10: Current SNAP households not receiving the SNAP maximum allotment
- Nov. 27: New SNAP recipients between Nov. 10 and Nov. 27

For more information about Emergency Allotments, and to view the maximum allotment amounts, visit www.oregon.gov/dhs/ASSISTANCE/FOOD-BENEFITS/Pages/About-SNAP.aspx.

Oregonians who receive SNAP can contact their local SSP, APD or AAA office for more information. Find a local office at oregon.gov/DHS/Offices/Pages/index.aspx.

To determine the maximum allotment for your household and view the FAQ, visit www.oregon.gov/dhs/assistance/food-benefits/pages/about-snap.aspx.

Administered by Oregon Department of Human Services, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to approximately one million eligible, low-income families and individuals in Oregon, including many older adults and people with disabilities. Oregonians in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP, childcare, cash assistance and Medicaid. Learn more at govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-benefits.

For local resources in your area, such as food or shelter, please call 2-1-1 or reach out to the state's Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) at 1-855-OREADRC or 1-855-673-2372.

Local studio seeks art submissions for fundraiser

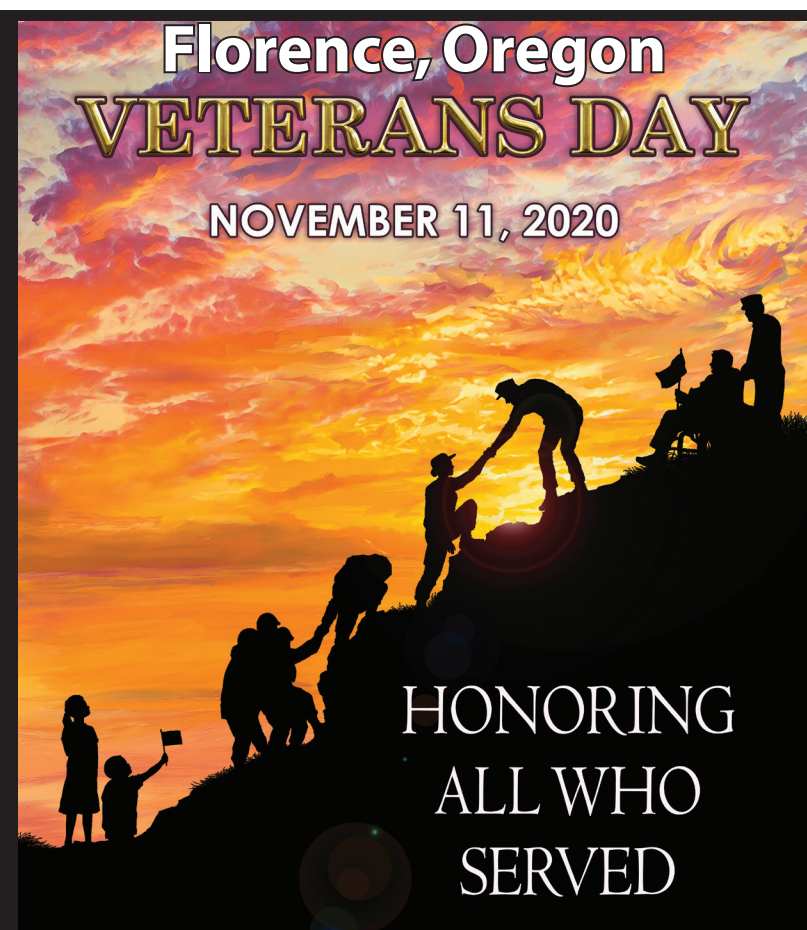
Serene Abundance Studio will be hosting a winter holiday online art show and benefit auction between Nov. 14, 2020, and Jan. 3, 2021. Proceeds of this event will be donated to Oregon relief funds for families recovering from the events of 2020, including wildfire and COVID-19 assistance. The theme is "Art as Inspiration."

Serene Abundance is seeking between one to five art pieces per artist to be donated for sale at

the auction. Any media and size is acceptable for online work. Deadline for submissions is Monday, Nov. 9.

Artists will be responsible for shipping any work sold directly to buyers. All costs will be covered by the auction. Studio staff will be available for technical support.

To apply, email serena@sereneabundance.com with examples of artwork and artist biography. Artists will be contacted with more details.



VETERANS HONOR CRUISE

November 11, 2pm

We appreciate and honor our Veterans. In compliance with restrictions to keep everyone safe and healthy there will be a Veterans Honor Cruise instead of a parade this year.

Participants will follow a route starting in Historic Old Town and a drive past Shorewood, Spruce Point, and Regency.



Veterans, we've got your back

Complement your VA coverage with a Regence Medicare Advantage plan. You'll get more benefits and provider choice at no additional cost.

Contact:

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