

FIRE/EMS from page 1A

The joining of administrative staff and chief officers from both groups has already occurred and the joint organization is now known as WLFEA. The expected integration of WLAD and SVFR is scheduled to continue, although there are some board members from both groups who are concerned with the loss of autonomy which could occur.

There has been another significant change in operations and the scheduling of firefighters and WLFEA officers, which Schick believes will be an additional benefit to district customers of both groups.

“SVFR just transitioned from

Monday through Friday daytime staffing with career firefighters to around-the-clock staffing with a combination of career, part-time and volunteer firefighters,” the chief said. “This means the men and women of SVFR are getting to fires more quickly than in the past and, in some cases, they can begin medical care before their WLAD partners are on scene.”

The cross training of first responders at WLAD is also progressing and WLFEA Operations Chief Matt House is hopeful that training will continue to improve the skill sets of employees from both organizations.

“We would like to have as many of our paramedics as possible go through fire training

over the next year,” House said. “Once certified, the WLAD paramedics will be able to assist SVFR career and volunteer firefighters on fire calls.”

And while there is now a certified paramedic available for some shifts at SVFR, the goal is to have the first responders from both organizations trained to both provide medical assistance at emergency scenes and also work as firefighters when needed.

“Having a paramedic on scene quickly, whether from an engine or an ambulance, provides the best possible outcome for our patients,” Schick said. “The district boards and staff are constantly looking for additional areas in which we can cooperate

to provide better care and to be more cost effective. That’s really the entire purpose of forming WLFEA — increase service to our citizens without an increase in costs. This again illustrates that SVFR and WLAD are much stronger when working together and I am very excited that our citizens are receiving an advanced level of care at no additional costs.”

Griswold is the department’s first firefighter/paramedic, but Schick said he hopes to continue supporting firefighters who wish to certify at a higher level.

SVFR provides an all-hazards emergency response to 14,000 people over 100 square miles. WLAD provides emergency medical service to 17,500 people



Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue's Colten Griswold

over 980 square miles. Together, the agencies include full-time, part-time and volunteer personnel that respond to an average of 3,800 calls per year.

For more information, visit svfr.org and www.westernlaneambulance.com.

COMMITTEE from page 1A

This goal also includes Workforce Development, recruitment, training and partnerships.

Under housing, the CEDC will look at developing programs that support more “missing middle” housing in the city; hosting Builder’s Forums for people to learn about residential code; creating a Florence Rental Housing Market Study; and more.

The committee’s work in parks will be to complete a Parks Master Plan, which will include an expansion to Gallagher Park, the completion of the Quince Street Estuary Trail Project and the installation of a disk golf course.

At the close of the meeting, CEDC members added a short note to the Florence City Council regarding the work to be done during the upcoming year.

“The CEDC is excited to

start working on their proposed work plan projects with the city council’s approval. Though this list is comprehensive of the committee’s interests and desires, the committee is open to new ideas from the city council and working together on future projects,” members stated.

The next scheduled meeting of the CEDC is April 15, beginning at 4 p.m.

For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

PLANNING from page 1A

between Lots 13 and 14 of the Sandpiper subdivision, addressed as 1499 and 1545 20th St.

This request has been the subject of previous discussions by the Planning Commission and the commissioners were familiar with the specifics of the request. After a brief correction to the actual address was requested by the applicant, the commission approved the vacation of the property.

There were few comments made during the report section of the meeting, although Commissioner Brian Jagoe did ask that a timeline for the Planning Commission returning to Florence City Hall to conduct business be examined and a determination of a return date be decided upon.

The next regular session of the Florence Planning Commission is scheduled for April 13, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

Library to reopen for browsing April 1

The Siuslaw Public Library will begin offering browsing at its facilities on Thursday, April 1.

In Florence, Siuslaw Public Library will match its curbside pickup and drop-off hours, so Monday through Thursday, the hours will be from 11 a.m.

to 2 p.m. and on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mapleton will provide browsing from noon until 5 p.m. on Thursdays only. Days open, including weekends, and the number of hours, will increase as conditions allow.

Patrons will continue to

be required to wear masks inside the library. Appointments are not necessary.

The library has new touch less check-out stations. There will be no seating at this time and meeting rooms are not available. You can bring your kids in to select books but toys are

not available and we cannot accommodate play groups or meet-ups.

Restrooms will also be closed to the public.

The library will continue to offer curbside service for those who wish to pick up their library materials that way, though the carts will

now be located inside the library proper.

For more information about the Siuslaw Public Library or its programs, stop by 1460 Ninth St. in Florence or 88148 Riverview Ave. in Mapleton after April 1, or visit www.siuslawlibrary.info.

Buying or Selling? I can help.

New Listing

1601-529 Rhododendron Dr – A fully furnished gem in Greentrees Village. The home features a secluded backyard area that buffers up against the hillside, giving you privacy just minutes from the beach. Make this your forever home or your coastal escape. **\$295,000.** #3184-21619735

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Easter Services

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Resurrection Lutheran Church
Easter Celebration
Palm Sunday Services, 8:00 am
Easter Sunday Services, 10:00 am
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ST. MARY
OUR LADY OF THE DUNES
CATHOLIC CHURCH
You are welcome to join us in our journey toward Easter

Mass of the Lord's Supper
Thursday, April 1, 6:00 pm

~

Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord
Friday, April 2, 6:00 pm

~

The Easter Vigil of the Holy Night
Saturday, April 3, 8:30 pm

~

Easter Sunday
April 4
11:00 am ℒ
1 pm Children Mass

~

85060 Hwy 101 S, Florence (1.5 miles south of the bridge)
541.997.2312