

COUNCIL from page 1A

There will be a march recognizing the domestic violence problem and the awareness month problem on Sunday, Oct. 3, at 1 p.m. Participants will gather at Veteran's Memorial Park on Bay Street prior to the march and walk down Bay Street to the Port of Siuslaw Boardwalk.

There will be a moment of silence and some brief comments from Teter and others recognizing the trauma and challenges victims of domestic violence suffer.

There were no spoken public comments for the council and the group moved directly into consideration of the remainder of the agenda. There was one written comment provided by local activist Michael Allen. It is included with other materials from the meeting at ci.florence.or.us.

The only action item on the evening's schedule was a request presented by Public Works Director Mike Miller in the form of Resolution 34, Series 2021, which requests surrender of jurisdiction of Rhododendron Drive and a portion of Fourth Avenue from Lane county to the City of Florence.

Miller asked the council for authority to submit a request to the Lane County Board of Commissioners to approve jurisdictional transfer of the ending portion of Rhododendron Drive as one of the final steps in upgrading the signature roadway and bring it under city control.

During his presentation, he highlighted the work done on the road over the past few years and the ability of Public Works

to properly maintain the road.

Miller's request was approved with little discussion as all councilors voted yes and the resolution passed unanimously.

The consent agenda for the meeting was next to be discussed, with one item, Resolution No. 36, Series 2021, withdrawn from the consent agenda for a separate vote.

The resolution was to adopt the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Policy and Language Access Plan (LAP) in accordance with the CDBG First-Draw Requirements.

According to the staff report, "As a first-draw requirement to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the City of Florence must create and maintain a Language Access Plan for Limited English Proficiency people who need access to the city's services."

The City of Florence, in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul, received a CDBG for financial support of St. Vincent de Paul's Regional Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program of Lane County. Through the program, approximately \$12 million was awarded to Oregon non-metropolitan cities and counties in 2020. After city council approved the application for the grant, the city received a \$400,000 grant for the program. The grant will be utilized to support housing rehabilitation for persons with low and moderate incomes.

Councilors talked about the language portion of the grant, with some confusion on what that entailed.

"I quite personally think it would be better off to

benefit our folks that speak English as a second language is to teach them English. I mean that is where I would like to see this money go," Councilor Margaret Wisniewski said. "I am just not comfortable with this particular consent agenda item."

In response, Henry said, "It seems to me this is fairly cut and dry. We are required to do this. We applied for a grant and we have received the money to do it and it isn't about teaching people English. It is about providing a language access plan for people who struggle with English. I don't believe it is the mission of the City of Florence to teach people English."

City Manager Erin Reynolds added, "This is a requirement of a grant we are just now receiving. ... One of the criterias of this federal funding resource is to insure a community like ours has in place a language access plan for people who have English language proficiency issues."

At that point, the council voted to pass the item.

The remaining items on the consent agenda were the requested approval for \$64,993 to purchase a gas/

electric hybrid 2022 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor; Resolution No. 35 to apply for a grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for improvements to Rolling Dunes Park; and the approval of a liquor license for Circle K. These were passed unanimously.

Councilors then gave brief recaps of city related events including the recent city-sponsored, masked and socially distanced cookout at Miller Park to celebrate the first day of school and the 25th anniversary of the Florence Events Center.

In her City Manager Report, Reynolds reviewed the City of Florence's preference to educate for compliance rather than immediately issue citations for minor violations. She also pointed to the many volunteer opportunities available to those interested in taking a more hands-on approach to participating in city related clean-up, such as the Adopt a Road program overseen by Florence Public Works. For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

The next Florence City Council meeting is scheduled for Oct. 11.

Darlings to host Chili Cookoff 2021



On Saturday, Oct. 2, Darlings Marina & RV Resort is hosting its 2021 Chili Cookoff from 3 to 5:30 p.m. People can be part of the event as either a contestant or taste-tester. For more information, visit darlingsresortrv.com and www.facebook.com/iheartdarlings.

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Mark your calendar for Sunday Oct. 3, 2021

Siuslaw Middle School

11am to noon:

**Individuals 70 and over or those with disabilities
Noon to 2pm: General Public**

Find details about

Florence Recycling Take Backs at:

EcoGeneration.org/Florence

EcoGeneration is a fully verified 501C3 Nonprofit.



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