

Mayor's Monthly Message: September 2018

September is Hunger Action Month, which is a month where people all over America stand together with Feeding America and the nationwide network of food banks to fight hunger. It is a month to spread the word and take action on the hunger crisis, and dedicate ourselves to a solution. Did you know hunger is real for 1 of 8 in your neighborhoods? Will you join us? I've challenged each of the Town of Florence departments to take up a collection. All town departments that participate will receive a 'Recognition of Thanks' at the first meeting in October and the department that collects the most goods will earn a pizza party.

Are you a student between the ages of 14-18 that desires to make a positive difference in our community? Florence youth are encouraged to apply for the new Florence Youth Commission open to students, 14 to 18 years old. This commission will represent the interests of youth and serve as a direct voice to Town staff and the Mayor and Town Council. Members of the commission will also be versed in the operations of town government and increase their knowledge of civic education as well. Meetings will be held monthly with officers selected at the first meeting. Deadline for applications is Friday, August 31st. Applications are available in the counselor's office at Florence High School, at the Community Center, 778 N. Main or online at www.florenceaz.gov/parks-and-recreation under Forms. For more information, call (520) 868-7699.

This past August, I had the opportunity, along with several other councilmembers and staff to attend the Arizona League of Cities and Towns Conference. The conference provided a wealth of knowledge, training opportunities, and time to network and meet with colleagues. The keynote speaker, Bruce Vincent, was very motivating and he spoke with passion. He spoke about "With Vision, There is Hope: How Local Government Can Lead the Way". He is the co-author of '*Against the Odds: A Path Forward for Rural America*'. The League of Cities and Towns said it best when they stated, "Bruce presents a powerful firsthand account of life in rural America that offers a broad, probing look at the environmental tensions surrounding the collapse of many of our rural resource communities. Mr. Vincent provides a new vision of environmentalism and a rural lifestyle based upon hope instead of fear, science instead of emotion, education instead of litigation, resolution instead of conflict and employing rather than destroying our human resources. This new vision can and should be created at the local level of government where the day to day decisions and impacts are actually felt." Overall, the conference was quite impactful and I'm looking forward to an upcoming work session, early October, where council will be able to share what they have gleaned, as well as any ideas we would like to explore and/or implement.

To find upcoming events and activities, please visit our Town website: www.florenceaz.gov. As always, stay safe and enjoy. ☺

Sincerely,

Mayor Tara Walter
Florence, AZ
tara.walter@florenceaz.gov