

Mayor's Monthly Message: October 2018

The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs invited non-partisan women from across the country to participate in the Women Mayors of America White House Conference on September 20, 2018. The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs serves as the primary liaison between the White House and state, county, local, and tribal governments. The office focuses on building and maintaining relationships with state and local officials. I was humbled to be among 98 mayors from 27 states selected to participate. The White House communicated, "Today, female mayors and community leaders from across the country gathered at the White House to discuss shared priorities and coordinated efforts between Federal, State, and Local government."

On Thursday morning, we began with a White House tour and spent the afternoon hearing from Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen Pence, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Linda McMahon, Assistant to the President Kellyanne Conway, and other key U.S. administrators. Vice President Mike Pence stated in his introduction, "President Trump's administration is committed to improving relationships between the federal and local governments and creating opportunities for all Americans."

Topics of discussion included:

- Career opportunities for military spouses
- Education support for all students, both non-traditional and traditional students
- Fighting the opioid epidemic
- Public and Private Partnerships
- Solutions Oriented, Global Economy

- Tax incentives to encourage long term investment in low-income and rural communities

This opportunity was a very beneficial and unique experience to network with, and hear from, top White House and Administration officials. We were able to ask them questions about issues that impact us on the local level. I also had the opportunity to meet other women mayors from around the country. As well as spend time with Mayor Mila Besich Lira from Superior and discuss issues that impact our part of the state and our communities.

The Community Services Department Fall and Winter 2018 Activity Guide was sent to homes over a year ago. The guide lists programs and events from Recreation, Senior Services, Library, Aquatics, and Fitness thru December 2018. We have received an overwhelmingly positive feedback. The information is also available on our website. However, we are working diligently to keep everyone informed.

Last week, the Town of Florence and Pinal County hosted the Arizona State Transportation Board here in Florence. Festivities included a golf tournament, Board Dinner at the Windmill Winery, Continental Breakfast, and ultimately the ADOT Board Meeting.

The Public Works Department is currently conducting our annual Polymer Modified Asphalt Rubber (PMAR) and HA5 paving programs. This year's PMAR program started the week of September 17th and will result in 83,859 square yards of paving. The HA5 program will begin September 24th and will result in 143,584 square yards of paving.

The Florence Community Services Department is working with the Pinal County Attorney's Office to host a Domestic Violence Awareness event on Thursday, October 4th. The event will begin at Padilla Park at 5:30 p.m. and will conclude with

a candlelight walk down Main Street to the Suter House, where victims and witnesses of domestic violence will be displaying works of art. A small reception will be held at the Suter House.

On Saturday, October 27th, the Town of Florence will celebrate our 2nd Annual Florence Makes a Difference Day. I would like to thank everyone that was involved from the planning of the projects, as well as those who volunteered on this very special day. As a community we are planning on making and packing 5,000 meals, in a partnership with our local United Way. We are currently collecting items to create hygiene kits and birthday bags that will help those in need. Many volunteers, including our local youth are planning on assisting by picking up trash at Heritage park, highway clean up, F-Mountain, and other desert areas that had collected debris; participated in the cleaning up of the local community garden, private homes and yards of those who needed assistance. Also, the FHS Boys' Basketball Team is partnering with Good Will to collect donations, whereas they will receive .10/lb. for their collected items. Another unique project is a local youth who is organizing a book collection to assist local teachers with classroom libraries.

To find upcoming events and activities, please visit our Town website:

www.florenceaz.gov. As always, stay safe and enjoy. 😊

Sincerely,

Mayor Tara Walter

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