

Monthly Mayor's Message

By: Mayor Tara Walter

October was a very busy month starting with many highlights, including: Domestic Violence Awareness Month, complete with Town Hall lit purple for awareness, Fire Safety Week, 16th Annual Cities and Towns Week, Make a Difference Day, and the Halloween Fest on Main Street, with Florence Teen Council's Haunted House. In addition, our business community is growing. Sun Life opened a new facility, complete with a drive-thru and indoor pharmacy open to the public. The Main Street Vault Restaurant re-opened, complete with a new menu and redesign. As we move into November, I am thankful for the participation of our community as a whole for working together to make a positive difference.

On November 4th, the Pony Express will ride into Town. Traveling back in time, the discovery of gold followed by California statehood in 1850, created a need for quicker mail to the growing western state. California's population swelled to over 380,000 people making a new form of communication critical to the state's economic health. These reasons were the predominant factors which created the Pony Express in 1860. For 19 months, before the invention of the telegraph, 127 riders, averaging about 75 miles per day, delivered mail, messages and newspapers to all points between St. Joseph, Missouri and San Francisco.

Florence residents can get a taste of the old west when Pony Express riders arrive at Town Hall on Saturday, November 4th at 12:30 p.m. Prior to their arrival, Florence residents can put stamped mail into a drop box located at the Community Center, 778 N. Main Street. All stamped mail will then receive the official Pony Express logo and be delivered. Riders will also accept stamped mail at Town Hall, 775 N. Main Street by 12:30 p.m. on November 4th.

I am looking forward to greeting the riders and handing over the drop box of mail to the riders in a brief ceremony. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend. This is the 33rd year of the run of the Pony Express. Riders have previous stops on Saturday in Eloy and Coolidge before arriving in Florence and then head to Queen Creek and Gilbert.

November 11th, we will honor Veteran's Day in the Town of Florence. "Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause." - **Abraham Lincoln**

In the Town of Florence, we believe that every hero should be honored. We do this several times a year in the form of our nation's flags flying proudly from street poles throughout the Town, honoring our brave men and women. Most recently, Florence has become a Purple Heart City. I personally want to thank all of our hometown heroes, veterans, and their families for their bravery, devotion and sacrifice. Thank you for your service.

On Saturday, November 25th, we will kick off Junior Parada, the oldest Junior Rodeo in the United States, celebrating its 85th year. Florence is filled with cowboy spirit, as floats line Main Street for the annual parade, starting at 10:00 am. Following the parade, head out to the Charles Whitlow Rodeo Grounds (11608 S. HWY 79 Florence, AZ 85132). After the rodeo, head back down to Main Street for a street dance on Historic Main Street.

For more activities and events, please visit: <http://www.florenceaz.gov/calendar/> .



Thank You for Working Together to Make a Positive Difference:

On October 28th, volunteers from across the country united for 'Make a Difference Day', one of the largest annual single-days of service nationwide. Since 1992, volunteers and communities have come together on 'Make a Difference Day' with a single purpose: to improve the lives of others.

In the Town of Florence, we had various projects around town ranging from assisting citizens in cleaning up their yards, working to clean up and plant in the community garden, painting the tables and benches at the Main Street Park, applying shellac and new flowers in the planter boxes on Main St., cleaning the trash receptacles, painting the back deck and railing at the Silver King, picking up the debris and trash along the roads, recycling, cleaning up our parks and painting rocks to add some beauty along the way.

Thank you to everyone who participated in planning, as well as implementing this day. I'm extremely proud of our community for pulling together with the unified mission of community service....making a difference. As we are looking forward to growing the event next year in participation and projects, we already have individuals and groups eager and excited to participate. #FlorenceMakesADifference

Respectfully Yours,

Tara Walter
Mayor of Florence, AZ