

Mayor's Monthly Message: November 2019

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 16th, at noon, 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 16th at 12:00 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 12:00 p.m. on November 16th. 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 35th year of the run of the Pony Express.

November 11th, we will honor Veteran's Day in the Town of Florence. The community's first Veterans Memorial Plaza will be dedicated on Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11th at 11:00 am. The new structure, composed of a monument, eagle statue and flag poles, is located immediately south of the Library and Community Center. "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 30th, we will kick off Junior Parada, the oldest Junior Rodeo in the United States, celebrating its 87th 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). For more activities and events, please visit: <http://www.florenceaz.gov/calendar/>

As always, there are great things happening in Florence, AZ. We have the best community and people! Stay safe and enjoy. 😊

Sincerely,

Tara Walter
Mayor of Florence, AZ
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