

Spring Fling

The Florence Labor Day Committee is finalizing plans for their Spring Fling fundraiser. This year's event will be Sunday, April 28th at Grandview Park.

New this year will be a Flinthills Muzzleloaders campground set up on site, with Mountain Men and blackpowder demonstrations. Also new, is a Chili Cookoff. Entries will provide a taste of their special recipe chili, and the tasters will vote for their favorite. The entry fee for cooks is only \$5.00, and all the fees will be paid out in prizes. Tasting kits will be \$2.00 and include a spoon, napkin, bottle of water, and a 2012 Labor Day button to be used to cast your vote. So whip up your best recipe and enter to win. Tasters can enjoy a variety of recipes and vote for their favorite. Entry forms will be available at the City Building, Cottonwood Valley Bank and Auntie M's diner.

An Auction of dessert items and tickets to sporting events, plus a Family pass to the Florence Pool, will be held. A Raffle will also be held for an American Girl Doll, an I Pad mini, and an I Pod touch. Raffle tickets may be purchased at Cottonwood Valley Bank and the Florence City Office. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

Schedule of Events:

- 3:00 – Kids games and Cook off begin
- 4:30 – Votes tallied for Cook off
- 5:00 – Dinner served
- 5:30 – Live entertainment begins
- 6:00 – Auction and Raffle

Florence Farmers Market

The Farmers Market will begin its 2013 season on Tuesday, May 7th at its usual location in the Moses Shane Park. There will be a meeting for marketers prior to that date.

April 2013 VOTE!

Tuesday, April 2nd is the date for local elections. The Masonic Florentine Building is the voting location for Florence residents, like always. The candidate for Mayor is incumbent Mary Shipman, Ward 1 (south of 6th St) council seat is open for write in votes, and Ward 2 (north of 6th st) has 2 candidates, incumbent Ed Robinson, and Pameila Wells. Make your wishes known and get out and VOTE!

Florence Fire Department 125 years & still going strong

2013 is the 125th anniversary of the formation of the Florence Volunteer Fire Department. This entry in the diary of T. P. Alexander, a Florence businessman in the early days, was made.

June 23, 1888:

“The Florence Fire Department made its first run to a fire this morning at about 6:00 am. The fire was in the Santa Fe coal chute. Hose No. 1 got there first and soon put the fire out”. More information on our department and its history will continue in future editions of the Crossroads.

Harvey House Events

Recently, the Harvey House was visited by author Kim Vogel Sawyer. She is doing research for a novel she is writing that will be set in the Clifton Hotel in Florence. She has published several novels already, and it will be interesting to see how much Florence history she works into this novel. If you are interested, her web-site is www.kimvogelsawyer.com.

Beginning in April we will be again opening the Harvey House for 2 hours every Friday and Saturday. We are looking for volunteers to help with this project. You needn't be a

Historical Society member, or even know that much about the museum to donate your time. If you would like to become a member, contact Phoebe Janzen at 620-382-4191 or e-mail her at janzeph@gmail.com. Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of every month at the Harvey House, and dues are \$10 per year.

This year the annual Fish Fry will be held in June to honor Fred Harvey whose birthday was in June. Keep watching the Crossroads for an exact date.

Newest Home in Town



New home in town, Only Chickens need apply. Built by Natasha Brenzikofer-Craig for her girls 4-H project

Florence Methodist Church

Starting the first Sunday in April, the Florence Methodist Church will be opening a coffee bar on Sunday mornings. You are invited to come out for coffee. There will be regular “Joe” those who like their coffee black. There will also be flavored coffee along with flavored creamers, and lemonade and iced tea will be available for those who do not drink the elixir of life. Snacks will also be served, because we all know nothing goes better with coffee than a nice donut or cinnamon roll. There will be a donation jar for those who would like to donate, but if you cannot that is just fine. All donations will be directed toward mission projects both in and outside the community. So come on out, we’ll have a cup waiting.

Wednesday evenings, Karen Williams is holding an exercise group at the Church. Cost

is \$3.00 per visit, and you can join the fun. Exercises are available for those with limited mobility, and you can participate at your own level of ability.

On Sunday May 5th there will be a potluck at 6:00 pm to honor this years Florence graduating seniors. The dinner is open to any and all who would like to honor our graduates. May 19th will kick off the first in a series of musical events that will be taking place at the Florence UMC. These events will be similar to the Gaither Homecoming events, but on a less grand scale, entertaining nevertheless. It is designed to provide local talent a showcase for their gifts. If you or someone you know would be interested in performing in any of these events contact Pastor Jeff at 641-780-3890 or fireworks7462@yahoo.com. Maybe you know of a group or individual whom you think would be interested but are not sure how to contact them. Just let us know and we will try to get in touch with them with an invite. Spread the word it’s going to be a good time of gospel music.

Community Garden News

March 16th, with the moon in the proper phase for planting, a group of volunteers gathered to plant potatoes, turnips, beets and onions in the Community Garden. Workers ranged in age from 4 years old to 80 years old.

Beginning the 3rd Saturday in April, there will be workshops held to learn about using and growing herbs.



Where Were You?

There was free food and groceries handed out on March 14th at the Florentine Masonic Center in downtown Florence. Apparently people don't want or need food that is free. All that is required of you is number of persons living at your address, and your signature. You are eligible for commodities (free food) if your income for one person is less than \$1211 per month, for each additional person add \$450.

Volunteers sack up groceries for 36 families in Florence. In January and March only about half of them picked up free food. Where were you?

Florence volunteers receive notification of commodities about a week ahead of the day they are brought to Florence by more volunteers. Joe Heath and Roger Steward are the transportation volunteers. Lois Winter, Betty Ireland, Bud and Rose Vinduska and Harold and Shirley Grinstead handle the packing up and handing out. Gayla Ratzlaff, Coordinator for Marion County Department on Aging is our contact for information..

Florence Public Library News

The Florence Public Library has been awarded \$400.00 from the Kansas Book Festival to spend on books. Also our new computers are in, so come on down and check them out. In April we will be holding a fundraiser.

“A Bedding Washathon”

April 16 – 20, 2013

Let us clean and bag your winter bedding (Laundry type only)

PRICES:

Blankets – Twin size \$5.00, Full size \$7.00, Queen/King \$10.00

Bedsread – Twin \$5.00, Full \$7.00, Queen/King \$10.00

Comforter – Twin \$7.00, Full \$10.00, Queen/King \$12.00

Mattress pad, any size \$10.00

Quilts, any size \$12.00

Pillow shams, any size \$1.00 / pair

Contact – Ali Johnson at 620-878-4649

Drop off/Pick up site – Florence Library 4th and Main

If you don't have a way to get to the Library, call the above number to schedule Free pickup and delivery.

Sponsored by – Marion Dry Cleaning and Laundry, Billy and Donna Rosiere owners

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO FLORENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Welcome



Meet our new utility clerk, Dana Gayle. She is a member of the 2013 Leadership Marion County class. The leadership program has been active in Marion County for over 20 years, and has about 200 alumni. Congrats to Dana for wanting to take the class to learn more about Marion County, and becoming more involved in our community.

Note of Thanks

A very heartfelt Thank You to the Big Hearted guys who cleaned the snow from the driveways and sidewalks of the older folk here in town. It was a very thoughtful gift to us. John and Joanna Lehman

City News

On April 9, 2013 there will be a town meeting in the Ambulance Building at 12:30 with Post Office representatives to discuss the future of the Florence Post Office.



Our New Postal OIC (Officer in Charge), Lynn Stroup.

April 20th, Representative Don Schroeder will be in Florence at 9:00 am in the Ambulance Building for Coffee Talk. Come meet our representative and discuss any issues that you may have.

There will be a Vet Clinic in April at the City Building. The Date has not been confirmed as of now, but watch the board downtown for more information.

May 6th through the 10th will be Clean-Up week in Florence. Mark your calendar, and get your spring cleaning done in time to throw it all away.

Visit "Get Florence" on Facebook



Come On! Hurry Up. Jessica & Susan enjoying one of the nicer spring days....Between Snowstorms.

See more great pictures and get up-to-the-minute snippets of what's going on in Florence on a daily basis. Thanks to Phoebe Janzen for sharing all of her great photography with us helping us to see what is going on in town and the surrounding world. On Facebook, go to the page Get Florence and like the page.

Happy Birthday



Bunk Ludwig celebrated his 80th birthday at the Doyle Creek Mercantile Corral. Congrats to Bunk, and don't forget this lovely venue when you are planning your next special occasion.

Thanks to everyone who helped by contributing information to this issue of the Florence Crossroads. See. If you have something you would like to include in the Crossroads take it to the City Building and they will make sure it gets to the editor.

