

WELCOME TO YOUR

Quarterly Update

I'm so glad you're here!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Meeting Highlights

At the November community meeting, residents heard from a number of department leaders, including utilities, gas and water, street, police, and fire. Mayor Andy Better was also on hand. Some updates are included in this newsletter as reminders.

We will plan another community meeting in early 2025 at the request of residents in order to hear more from Building and Planning. If there are topics you would like to see addressed, please let me know! Our department leaders are experts, and I welcome the opportunity to share your questions and concerns with them.

As always, you can reach me at 256-606-2033 or meubanks@florenceal.org.

Tear Down

SEARS, JC PENNEY DEMO

The Sears and JC Penney portions of Florence Mall are being demolished. This is private property, but it will allow mall ownership -- Hull-Storey -- to return these areas to green space and, potentially, new businesses that will produce tax revenues for the city.



AMI Update

DISTRICT 4 UPGRADES SET FOR EARLY 2025

At the community meeting, Mary McDuffa, Head of the Florence Utility Department, gave an update on the AMI meters that will be installed beginning in early 2025.



What does this mean to you? AMI, or Advanced Metering Infrastructure, is transforming utility services by measuring and collecting energy usage and data for each customer in real-time and seamlessly transmitting that information to the utility.

Allegiant Utility Services will be in neighborhoods in marked vehicles making these upgrades. The installation takes only a few moments, with minimal electrical interruption. An interviewer will knock on your door before installation to inform you about next steps. Each installation step will be documented in photographs, including the last meter reading.

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

- Improved accuracy
- Enhanced energy management
- Rapid detection of outages
- Cost savings
- Environmentally friendly
- AMI plays a crucial role in modernizing the grid and fostering better communication between utilities and customers.

More Questions? Concerns?

Visit the Electricity Department website at www.florenceal.org or call at 256-764-4456. Installation will take place between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Florence Police Launch App

DOWNLOAD IT FOR APPLE OR ANDROID PHONES

The Florence Police Department has developed an app that provides residents with lots of great information, including crash reports, safety tips, and crime maps.

The app was developed by city and police employees at a low cost and is being updated regularly.

In addition to information about police matters, the app has integrated the Florence Utilities outage map, so you can see at

a glance if you or your neighbors are experiencing a power outage.

Residents can also learn about how to join the police department, view traffic cameras, and submit an anonymous tip.

This time of year, it includes safety information for a regular 9 p.m. routine: lock your doors, turn your outdoor lights on, and make sure valuables are hidden from view.

A message from ME!

LET'S CHAT!

Hi! I have had the great opportunity to get to know many of you over the course of the last nine years serving as your District 4 Council Representative. It has been an honor!

What you may not know is that I am not a social media user. I sincerely enjoy and prefer in-person interactions with friends and neighbors so that we can discuss issues, concerns, or any questions you may have. If you can't visit in person, I am very quick to respond to emails at meubanks@florenceal.org, and calls or texts to my cell at 256-606-2033.

I would welcome the opportunity to visit with you!



Other Updates

SOME ITEMS OF NOTE FROM DISTRICT 4

A few department and business items of interest for you:

- A second standalone Starbucks is being built in the lot on Florence Boulevard where the old Uni 1st factory was. This has caused some issues with water lines. Please alert me if you note any changes! The Starbucks is set to open in late Spring 2025.
- Leaf collections will continue through the year and into the New Year. An updated schedule is always online at www.florenceal.org.
- District 4 continues to welcome new businesses in the area, and I invite you to visit any one of them as you complete your holiday shopping.
- Speaking of the holidays, I wish you a very happy season -- a Merry Christmas and Wonderful 2025!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!