

Vernonia Citizens Show Support for City Staff

Approximately 100 citizens turned out at the Vernonia City Hall on Monday May 21, to show support for City Administrator M.R. "Dick" Kline and his staff. Eight individuals, including elected officials, city staff members, and citizens took the microphone to express their support for Kline, and talk about their view of his job performance.

The rally was organized by citizens who were concerned that Kline has been facing unwarranted criticism from the local press, and had become the subject of misleading statements made by individuals. City staff has been under fire as well and has been working under significant distress for weeks.

The rally was kicked off by Mayor Sally Harrison, who welcomed the crowd and introduced the speakers. Among the speakers in support of Kline were County Commissioner Tony Hyde, Jim Tierney from Community Action Team (CAT), Parks Committee member Casey Mitchell, City Councilor Shirlee Daughtry, Planning Commission Chair Dan Brown and Community Learning Center Director Jessica Jones. Tierney, who works closely with many city officials and staff in his position with CAT, stated "Dick Kline is the best city Administrator I have ever worked with." Citizens held signs that read "We Love Vernonia," "Vernonian's for a Bright Future," and "Dick Kline - We Support You." A petition was circulated and signed, expressing support for city staff.

Kline has been criticized in the local media recently for his inability to give satisfactory answers

to questions about the city's financial situation. In addition, local media sources have complained that the city is not responding to their requests for public records, and that the media is being over-charged for the preparation of those requested documents.

Kline has expressed dissatisfaction with the current situation, and in his "ability to effectively perform my duties," due to these distractions. In meetings with city officials he has stated that he may not stay in Vernonia. This prompted a quick response from rally organizers, who instigated the gathering on short notice through emails, phone calls, face-to-face conversations and flyers.

Kline came to Vernonia last year as interim City Manager, and was hired permanently two months later, after City Administrator Robin Bassett left the position. Kline inherited a budget that was facing shortfalls, and several community projects that were under-funded, including the wastewater treatment facility, the Community Learning Center, and the Bicycle/Pedestrian sidewalk project on OA Hill.

When asked later to comment on Kline's performance as City Administrator, Mayor Sally Harrison said, "The decision to hire Dick Kline was the best decision I've ever made. I can go in at any time and get answers to my questions. He is a joy to work with."

Kline, in the midst of preparing the city budget for next year, has not announced any decisions about his future in Vernonia.



1984 mist drive, po box 321 vernonia, oregon, 97064

MIKE PIHL LOGGING CO., INC

503-429-1470

cell 503.789.1268
shop 503.429.1473
fax 503.429.0252

Specializing in Private Timber
Free Estimates

New Day Massage and Bodyworks

847 Madison Avenue, Vernonia OR 97064
For appointments call: 503-429-4677

Health Maintenance & Stress Reduction
Heather Lewis, LMT, LMP, CLT
Insurance accepted #10732

CALL ME TO BABYSIT

YOUR KIDS ARE SAFE WITH ME!

I AM 13, MATURE, RESPONSIBLE

& CERTIFIED IN CPR & FIRST AID.

I HAVE REFERENCES & TRANSP

CAN BE ARRANGED.

503-755-2412
Kelsey

Ernie's Filling Station

Prime Rib Fridays!
8oz • 10oz • 16oz

Stop in and fill up on our tasty home cooking!

Toll Free 888-755-0910
11126 Hwy 202, Birkenfeld, OR

advertise here

contact us at
ads@vernoniasvoice.com

Jessica Davis Dance Camp

June 25, 26, 27

ages 4 & up
ballet classes
all experience levels

429-0850

ABSOLUTE
CCB#159794

MARBLE & GRANITE

Quality Fabrication & Instalation

phone (503)429.2617
fax(503)429.0941 absolute@agalis.net

Derek Handegard & John Stacey, owners

STEVE HEMEON—YOU CALL, WE HAUL

Crushed Rock
All sizes
Pit run

Quality Sandy Loam, Topsoil & Barkdust

Mist, OR 503.755.2767

The Clever Cricket

New, used & handmade items for children and their families

503-429-5049
www.clevercricket.com

728 Madison Avenue
Vernonia, Oregon, 97064
open Wed. to Sat., Noon to 6pm

PAYROLL PLUS, LLC

Payroll - Federal & State Deposits,
Quarterly, Year End Forms, Reports
Prepared & Filed

PLUS Bookkeeping & Manuscript Typing

Edi Sheldon

503-429-1819 Vernonia, OR

Gretchen's Saddlery
Custom Leather Crafting & Repair

503.429.1012
Gretchen Johnston
Custom Saddle Maker
Free Estimates & Consultation
715 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR, 97064

Spiratz Salon

karin, owner
kim, becky, lori

(503) 429-8484
712 bridge st., vernonia, or, 97064

10-5 TUES.-SAT. Padlocks Available
12-4 SUNDAYS

STORAGE TOO

503-429-STOR [7867]

58605 Nehelem Hwy South, Vernonia, OR

Monday-Friday 11-6 Saturdays 10-5

Sundays Best

men's & women's clothing,
flip flops
jewelry & bead supplies

503.429.2530
884 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR

BIKES • NEW & USED • REPAIRS & SERVICE

phone 429-1011
717 Rose Avenue
Vernonia, OR, 97064

TRIPPLE S
bike service