

Vernonia Lions Club – Not Just BBQ Sandwiches

By Scott Laird

Many people in Vernonia know the Lions Club as the guys who cook and serve the BBQ Beef sandwiches during the Jamboree every year. But during recent conversations with some members, I found out the Lions Club does so much more.

“As needs come up, we get involved,” said former president George Tice. “We are the service organization in Vernonia. We fill the bill for many things.”

The Lions hold various fundraisers through out the year. “We raise money so we can give it away,” said Tice. “All the money we raise goes back into the community.”

Recently the Lions have helped Head Start at Christmas with presents for the kids of books, and helped send Middle School students to Washington DC. They are very active in supporting law enforcement, sponsoring National Night Out, the Drug Free Coalition, and supporting canine officer Kruger with the purchase of a vest. They have offered support to Vernonia Pride, Vernonia Cares, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and various churches in the community.

A fundamental piece of the Lions work is their sight and hearing programs. The Vernonia Lions along with other Oregon Lions form the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation, which pays for surgery for those in need. “The foundation enables small communities to have access and get services they would be unable to get on their own,” said local member Randy Aultman. “We raise money and donate in to the program, and in return get help for local citizens who qualify. Everything is paid for.” Hearing aid and eyeglass help is also available through the local chapters.

“Our Lion’s Club was incorporated in 1946,” said Aultman. “Our last charter member, Bill Horn, who spent his whole life in Vernonia, just passed away this past year. Robert (Red) Curl, who joined in 1962, is now our longest stand-

ing member.”

There are currently about thirty members in Vernonia, and they are constantly recruiting. They try to recruit younger members, who bring new energy and enthusiasm, “The Lions used to be a professional men’s organization made up of bankers and doctors. Now we actively recruit couples to join the group and have a mix of professions among our members,” said Tice.

“We try to have fun while doing service,” said Tice. “We always have food drink and fellowship at our meetings.”

Another special service the Vernonia Lions offer is the rental of the large white tent that is used at most festivals. Groups in the community had expressed the need for cover during events and the Lions stepped in and purchased a 45’ x30’ tent that is available for rent, allowing groups an opportunity to host events. “During both the KUPL concert and Cycle Oregon we set up and rented the tent for the beer gardens. Both those groups made money for their projects. It’s just another service we are providing for the community,” said Tice.

“The Lions want to help the community,” said Aultman. “It would be hard to total up all the contributions the Lions have made to Vernonia since 1946.”



The Lions Club would like to invite anyone interested in learning more about the Lions and what they do to please come to a potluck on September 18th at Anderson Park at 6:00PM. They will have a presentation on their organization and what they do for the community. They are campaigning for new members to help them continue their efforts.

Helping Hands Home Makeover - Vernonia Style

By Scott Laird

The folks from Helping Hands are at it again. On August 18th the group finished a home restoration with the help of sixteen volunteers who pitched in and helped one of our own, giving Sue Jenkins’ home a face lift. Jenkin’s home on Birch Street received a remodeled bathroom, new kitchen counters, new paint, new laminate floors throughout, and even some donated living room furniture.



“You can’t believe how gratifying it is to be involved in something like this,” said Lisa Edgar, who with her husband Ben organized the project. “It’s such a positive feeling to be able to make this much of a difference for someone’s family.”

Helping Hands is an organization that comes together to help local families who are in need with home improvement projects. Local contractors donate their time to do the skilled work and volunteers pitch in to do the manual labor.

Edgar noted one volunteer story in particular. Donna Raagas came up from Forest Grove to donate a sofa for the living room, and stayed the whole day, helping with the restoration.

“We are looking for donations from the community, and more help with the labor,” said Edgar. “Anyone who has construction materials, paint, plumbing fixtures, home furnishings--anything that is in good shape--we can use it. And of course, the more hands we have the easier it is to complete the project. We want everyone to share in the feeling of accomplishment that comes from helping out a fellow member of the community.”

Jenkins, who recently lost her husband, has one child, a granddaughter, and her mother all living with her.

Helping Hands is planning another home improvement project for September. Contact Lisa Edgar at (503) 429-7387 for more information.



Parks Committee Seeks Secretary

The Vernonia City Parks Committee is seeking a secretary to assist the committee in its work. This is a volunteer position that requires good note taking skills, access to a computer and email.

The expected time commitment is minimal; the committee meets once a month on the third Wednesday evening for about two to three hours, and then time is needed to compile the minutes. This is a great opportunity to get involved in city business and serve your community. Could be good opportunity for a student.

If interested please contact Scott Laird at (503) 429-0520.

A Thank You

I would like to say, “Thank you” to the Vernonia Jamboree Committee for the honor of Citizen of the Year. Vernonia businessman Pete Brunzman said it best many years ago. He had it painted on his delivery truck. “It’s a privilege and a pleasure to live in Vernonia.” That is still true today. Thanks for giving me a wonderful memory.
-Shirlee Daughtry

Congratulations!

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Mom, Dad, Megan
and Morgan**