

from the editor....

Welcome to Autumn! It's time for back to school, the fall harvest and getting ready for winter.

Near the end of August, a chill late afternoon breeze blew as the temperature dropped in Vernonia, and I knew summer was over. Next early morning as I walked my dogs, the town was socked in by that dense Vernonia morning fog, and my feelings from the previous day were confirmed. The end of summer arrives so quickly and always catches me by surprise, and each year I am surprised by my surprise. Talk about dense- will I ever catch on?

Fall, of course, brings its own activities, inspiration and beauty here in northwest Oregon. Changing colors. Friday night football games. Foods that take too long to prepare in a hot summer kitchen return to our menus. The harvest of potatoes and carrots from the garden- maybe even a tomato or two if I'm lucky. Pumpkins. Salmon Festival. Kids' soccer and Little Guy Football. Hunting season. Seasonal beers to try. Fires in the wood stove again. Wool sweaters. There are lots of reasons to embrace the change of seasons and enjoy the diversity of Oregon.

You may have noticed over the last few months Vernonia's Voice adding a growing number of contributors to our ranks. More and more folks are stepping forward and contributing stories, articles, events, and press releases. Many new ideas, thoughts and information are finding their way into our pages, and I think it's great! Vernonia's Voice is really becoming the voice of all of us, and I appreciate the interest and support it shows for what Vernonia's Voice is trying to do - reflect the spirit of our community.

Speaking of support- I wanted to take an opportunity to thank my copy editors, Erika Paleck and Tobie Finzel, for their continued support and hard work. These two community members have stepped up over the last year and given not just countless hours of their time but really their heart and soul to making Vernonia's Voice successful. Their belief in this publication and their contributions help keep it moving forward and grammatically correct. Their tireless effort often goes unrewarded and unrecognized, and I just wanted them and our readers to know how important their effort has been. Thank you Erika and Tobie for being part of this.

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
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