

Firefighters Celebrate and Honor



Firefighters march in remembrance of 9/11

Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters took time off to relax with family and friends at their annual BBQ at Cedar Ridge in September. The Volunteers invite all past and present members, board members, and EMS First Responders to join them for an afternoon get together with fun, food, and family. Looks like a good time!

The Firefighters also honored those fallen heroes from the 9/11 tragedy, with a march through down town Vernonia, as they have done every year since 2001.



A few of your Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters... (left to right) Luke Ellis, Ben Davis, Dean Smith, Chad Doyle, and Dan Owens.

Vernonia Lions Club Announces Upcoming Fundraisers

The Vernonia Lions Club has announced a change to their regular fall fundraiser this year. Instead of the usual roses the club sells in November, the club will have Poinsettias and Christmas Cactuses. "The cost of the roses has just gotten too high," said club President Terry Schaumburg. "We decided to try something different this year." The sale, an annual tradition in Vernonia, will begin in early November.

In addition, the Lions will be selling hot dogs and hamburgers at the Salmon Festival on October 4th and are planning a Chocolate Auction at the Senior Center in February before Valentine's Day. The Lions have also been holding a Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament on the second Saturday of each month at the Buckhorn Restaurant. "All the proceeds from our fundraisers stay in the community and benefit local charities and groups," said Schaumburg.

The Lions will also be delivering about forty Christmas baskets to long time Vernonia residents and doing a courtesy check on smoke detectors as they do every year. The Lions are asking for help in updating their list of residents who might enjoy a Christmas basket and visit from the Lions this year.

The Lions Club is always looking for new members to join in their work of supporting our community. It is a very active group with many ways to volunteer and participate. For more information, contact Terry Schaumburg at 503-429-6050, George Tice at the Buckhorn, 503-429-3751, or any Lions Club member.

Vernonia Hands-On Art Center

Celebrating the creative spirit through the arts - Honoring our community's heritage

The Vernonia Hands-on Art Center was established in the spring of 1996 to provide the children of Vernonia creative outlets to help them deal with the emotional effects of the devastating flood in February of that year. Two Portland artists, Luna Braun and Skyler Weager, led the original program. As they phased out, a local artist and art educator, Michele Kunkel, became the program's director in December of 1996; several volunteers including Isabelle McDaniel, Michelle Blum, and Cathi Black assisted her. Hands-on Art received its non-profit 501(c)(3) designation in 1998.

The program was based at the Vernonia Grange. For the first year of its existence, participation in all Center programs was free of charge to all. Funding was provided by various grants received as part of relief funds targeted for survivors of the flood. Since that time, operations have been sustained through user participation fees, fund raising events and small grants.

As the need for the flood recovery program diminished, Hands-on Art, under the leadership of Madeleine Gendron, became Vernonia's art and music organization. Madeleine led the Vernonia Community Orchestra, Band and Choir that gave annual concerts. Fundraising dinners were held with entertainment provided by local musicians and dancers. Hands-on Art also provided opportunities for residents to express their creativity through programs such as "Art in the Park" for children and art workshops for adults.

When Madeleine passed the leadership torch to the current board, the organization changed once again to become the umbrella organization for arts and heritage in Vernonia while continuing its mission to provide opportunities to learn and experience the visual and performing arts especially for the children of the community. School budget reductions have adversely affected the arts. Hands-on Art Center is committed to providing expanded art, music and drama opportunities for the youth in our community.

Recent Hands-on Art sponsored events include Hip Hop Dance classes for youth in the summer of 2006, variety shows - with both children and adults performing - each November since 2005, Art in the Woods day camp this summer, and a number of other cultural events. Thanks to a grant from the Columbia County Cultural Coalition in 2007, the Vernonia Community Orchestra was reborn. The orchestra, Strings on Fire, performed at a number of events in the past year and put on an excellent spring benefit concert in May as well as participating in the re-birth of the traditional Vernonia Maypole Dance in Hawkins Park.

The newest program of Hands-on Art is the Floating Gallery which is held periodically in a variety of venues from the Cabin in the Woods (Scout Cabin) to the Vernonia Grange and the Open-air Market on First Fridays. The Floating Gallery displays and sells works of local artists with a percentage of the sales given as a donation to Hands-on Art to support its programs. Other groups under Hands-on Art's 501(c)(3) umbrella are Gateway Projects (Ford Family Foundation Cohort 1), Vernonia Partners (Ford Family Foundation Cohort 2), and the Vernonia Pioneer Museum Association (volunteers responsible for artifact conservation and museum hosting at the Pioneer Museum). The current officers of Hands-on Art are Josette Mitchell, President; Erika Paleck, Vice President; and Tobie Finzel, Secretary/Treasurer. Hands-on Art welcomes volunteers to participate in fundraising, First Fridays or to share crafting skills with children and adults.

Hands-on Art's email address is VernoniaArt@aol.com; the mailing address is P.O. Box 195, Vernonia, OR 97064; and the telephone contact is 503.705.2173.

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in time.

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Now accepting 15 participants for projects forming this fall!

On November 4, voters have the opportunity to keep this essential 9-1-1 service working for all of us. The renewal measure on the ballot would maintain this valuable service at a rate lower than voters first approved in 1998. Please vote and return your ballot in time for it to count. Thank you. For more information, go to www.columbia911.com or call 503-397-7255.