

## Vernonia Grange News: In Jest

By Andy Nebergall

Actually, this column should be headed “ingest.” Do you like to eat? Yes? Then thank a farmer. Particularly one who belongs to the Grange. The “Grange,” officially known as the Patrons of Husbandry, is one of America’s volunteer grassroots organizations. The Vernonia Grange is the longest lasting community group in town. We are composed of families and individuals who share a common interest in community, agriculture, and doing good for our neighbors.

The Vernonia Grange meets on the second Monday of the month at 3:00 PM.

Upcoming events include the Beard Contest at Jamboree. Prizes will be awarded for: Longest, Most Well Groomed, Lincolnesque, and Weakest Attempt (that’s my category!) Watch for more details about this new event.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Grange, see me (Andy, the current Grange Master), Robb Wilson, Tobie Finzel, or Penny Costley. I can be reached at 503-4295147.

Vernonia Postal Carriers show off the 1061 pounds of food that Vernonians donated and they collected as part of the “Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive” for the Vernonia Cares Food Bank (below).



## First Yard-of-the-Month Winners Announced

By Janelle Thomas-Cedergreen

Home or commercial landscapes can be a “thing of beauty,” “eye candy,” and a work of art for those of us who enjoy what nature’s seasonal changes can produce. This month, the “Country Garden” feel of these two properties absolutely melted my butter! I have added the category of “Commercial” Yard-of-the-Month after touring around Vernonia and seeing the great efforts some of our businesses put into the care and presentation of their properties.

Vernonia Pride is happy to announce our winners for Yard-of-the-Month for May 2009:

- Residential – Steve and Susan Whiteman at 864 State Avenue  
Their gardening efforts have produced a lawn and flower beds that are manicured to the curb with purple hyacinth peeking out of the picket fence, fruit trees that are beginning to bloom, and lots of spring flowers to enjoy. Beautiful!
- Commercial – Patti and Gary Davis’ Rock Creek Bed & Breakfast at 1162 State Street  
With a romantic entrance gate with tulips, forget-me-nots, and daffodils peeking through the picket fence, their whole property evokes a “Country Garden Hideaway” feeling. Around every corner, little surprises of an old wicker love seat in between some trees and a bird house pop up to delight the eye. I understand the backyard is equally as enchanting!
- Honorable Mention to Yard-of-the-Month: Howard and Barbara Ward at 2048 Bridge Street  
This yard is small, neat, well cared for, with good balance of yard art, color, and design. Just lovely!

Please remember to nominate a residential yard or business. Ballot boxes are in place at City Hall and Sentry Market. Each month through September, look for new winners to be announced.



Janelle Thomas-Cedergreen presents Steve and Sue Whiteman with the Yard of the Month Award for June.



Patti Davis of Rock Creek Bed and Breakfast won the Yard of the Month for a Commercial Property, a new category in this years judging.

## Vernonia Graduates Third Leadership Class

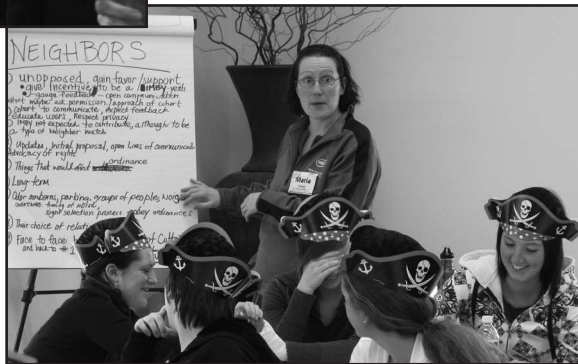
The Vernonia community graduated its third cohort of the Ford Institute Leadership Program in May, 2009.

Twenty-four local residents completed the four weekends of community leadership training, provided through funding from the Ford Family Foundation, and delivered by Rural Development Initiatives. The training is designed to provide a variety of members of a local community, including high school students, with leadership skills which they can use to enhance their work in their communities. The training includes cirrocumuli concepts that include: Community Capacity and Social Capital, Personality Types and Leadership Styles, Com-



munity Development Models, the Catalytic Leadership Model, Asset Mapping, Group Development, Models for Group Decision-making, Communication Strategies, and Volunteerism.

After completing their training, each class is required to complete a community project as a way to practice the skills they have learned in a real-life setting. The third class has chosen a Community Garden as their project. Class One designed and built the decorative metal archways



in downtown Vernonia, and Class Two built the walkway next to the Vernonia Community Learning Center (VCLC) and is completing the Courtyard at the VCLC.

The Ford Institute Leadership Program is currently being delivered in

over fifty communities in Oregon and northern California, and boasts over 2,000 graduates.

# Pretty Gifts & Things



Stop by & check out  
our selection of jewelry, gifts,  
and other new merchandise!

Shop local!

phone 503-429-4696  
786 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR

SATURDAY  
JUNE 13TH



## TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENT

AT THE BUCKHORN RESTAURANT

Registration at 5:30pm, Tournamant play starts at 6pm  
50% of fees go to Local Charities.

\$40 buy-in with \$20 re-buy. 35 Player Limit - Sign-up Now!

To register or for more information contact:  
George Tice 429-3751 or Aaron Miller 429-6049.

PRESENTED BY  
THE VERNONIA LIONS CLUB