

# Vernonia City News...

## At the April 5, 2010, Vernonia City Council Meeting:

**Council Approves Two Summer Races:** City Council gave initial approval to two requests for use of city facilities this summer-- for use of Anderson Park for the Bear Creek Run/Walk on August 14th and for Short Track Mountain Bike Races to be held at the Bicycle Skills Park on June 12th.

**Council Appoints Young to Economic Development Board--** Council appoint-

ed City Administrator Bob Young to the County Economic Development Board.

**Council Approves Selection of KLS Surveying for GIS Work--** Council authorized the City Administrator to enter into a contract with KLS Surveying, Inc., for GIS work and authorized necessary expenditures to complete the City's portion of the project. The authorized cost for the project is not to exceed \$61,000. Sewer and Water Contingency SDC Funds will be utilized to pay for this expenditure. KLS Surveying was selected

from two bids that were received. The project is to be completed no later than November 30, 2010.

**Council Reviews Strategic Plan--** Paul Koch of Engenium Consulting presented Council with a final draft of the 2010 Strategic Plan he has been developing and took final comments from Council on the proposed plan. The draft contains the subtitle "A Twenty Year Plan to Identify and Deliver the Desired Future for the Community" and includes what is being called an Economic Development

Action Plan. A Final Report will be presented to Council at the April 19th City Council Meeting.

**Council Instructs Administrator on Community Garden Project--** After a lengthy discussion, Council instructed City Administrator Young to return to the next Council meeting with a proposal for ways that the Community Garden Project could be brought under the City umbrella. The project is being proposed by the Cohort Three class of the Ford Institute Leadership Program.

## AT&T Makes Donation to Community Action Team

Community Action Team (CAT) is pleased to announce receipt of a \$12,000 grant from AT&T to assist CAT's efforts to help relocate the Vernonia Senior Center, the Vernonia Cares Food Bank and the Vernonia Health Clinic out of the path of future floods.

John Helm in Senator Betsy Johnson's office was critical in helping take advantage of the opportunity made available by AT&T. Senator Johnson has been a long-standing supporter of the Vernonia community's recovery from the devastating 2007 flooding in Columbia County. She has been instrumental in securing disaster assistance through the state and federal government for the City of Vernonia, School District 47-J, affected homeowners and area non-profits. Now, with this grant, Senator Johnson has helped enlist AT&T to



State Senator Betsy Johnson and Community Action Team's Jim Tierney accept a check for \$12,000 for the Vernonia Rose Avenue Project from AT&T's Adam Grzybicki.

support the relocation of the flooded Senior Center, Food Bank and Health Clinic.

"We wish to thank AT&T for their belief and support," said CAT Deputy Director, Jim Tierney. "This tangible evidence of their recognition of the impact that the December 2007 flood truly helps keep our relocation

efforts alive." Tierney also noted the role of State Senator Betsy Johnson. "It would have been impossible for us to make the progress we have made during the last two years without the support and guidance of Senator Johnson."

The AT&T funds are specifically contributed to provide pre-development assistance with the City of Vernonia's Rose Avenue Project, a mixed-use project which will move these local non-profit organizations to safe ground provided to the City by the State of Oregon. Over the next six months, the Rose Avenue Project will complete its design plan, and begin fundraising for construction. When complete, the project will move most of Vernonia's critical social services (the health clinic, food bank, senior center, electric co-op and other essential services) to safe ground above the flood plain.

## Make Vernonia Shine Day is April 17th

Vernonia Pride's Make Vernonia Shine Day is scheduled for April 17. This year, registration will be at the Vernonia Middle School starting at 9:00 A.M. Lunch will also be served in the school's cafeteria from 12:00 to 1:00 P.M.

This year, the event will focus on cleaning the moss from the bricks downtown, digging out from around the trees and re-barking, removing ivy from some of the trees by the river, and some general litter picking up.

A new feature has been added this year - informational tables, which will be set up in the covered play area, that will include information about recycling, clean water and the local watershed, rainwater collection, your local extension service and more.

It looks like there will be plenty of things for you to do, so put April 17th on your calendar and plan to come out and help make Vernonia Shine.

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VERNONIA'S  
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PRESENTS  
"Meet the Candidates"

A Political Forum with  
Candidates for Columbia  
County Commissioner

**Thursday, April 15th**  
**7:00PM**

Vernonia Community Learning Center  
939 Bridge Street

A preselected panel of Vernonia residents will ask questions of the candidates followed by an open house with the opportunity to talk to the candidates.

**For more information contact: Scott Laird 503-367-0098**  
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**Vernonia  
Dental**

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