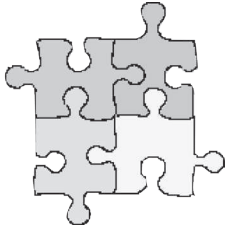


# Be a Piece of the Puzzle: Rave Reviews and Lessons to Learn



On April 8, there was a circus in town that had been marketed as family-friendly and open to all for a cover charge of \$5. Just like the old days, people came from all over-- coming from Eugene, Portland, Corvallis and the coast. Hundreds of young people, most under the age of 25, gathered on a private residence to listen to live music. Most people from Vernonia missed it, but that was the point. This event was actually a Rave.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, "Rave parties are dance parties that feature fast-paced, repetitive electronic music and accompanying light shows. Raves are the focus of youth-oriented subculture that blends music, art and social ideals." It was a well-organized event through a social media outlet and 800+ people RSVP'd to attend, including Vernonia teens and young adults.

Unfortunately, while in itself

not harmful, the culture surrounding it is devastating: youth having access to alcohol, drugs such as ecstasy, marijuana, GHB (date rape drug) and heroin. Or further yet, an opportunity for a youth to become a victim of a faceless stranger who will then leave on Sunday. U.S. Department of Justice describes that, "Rave culture all entails the use of a range of licit and illicit drugs. Drug use is intended to enhance Ravers' sensations and boost their energy so they can dance for long periods."

The local expectation was that county and state law enforcement would be able to go in and stop it. In reality, it was unsafe for officers to attempt a shutdown due to its sheer size. But more importantly, there was concern for the minors and others who would have attempted to elude police by running into the night. This would have caused emergency personnel to respond to an out-of-control situation, putting themselves and minors in harm's way.

Despite the frustration, proactive citizens called the Sheriff, wrote County Commissioners, and emailed county

clerks to ask about the policy, codes and ordinances of hosting large events in rural areas. Using the actual procedures in which to report and follow up with documentation was very beneficial in getting movement, if not resolution. While not stopping the April 8-12 event, collectively, citizens have given good cause in halting future ones.

In Vernonia, we have ordinances that help mitigate these types of large gatherings. However, much like the county, they are not as proactive in enforcement nor have they been revised for years to include references to events that attract youth in large numbers while providing alcohol. Further, there is not an ordinance that speaks to contacting the land owner(s) of the documented criminal activity on their property. The owners or custodians of the Keasey property knew nothing of the past year's events and were appalled when contacted by the County.

Ordinances are just the beginning to keeping our community safe. We need to enforce and obtain restitution for the violation of ordinances to help offset the cost of enforcement. But we need clear expectations of resolution and of enforcement of them. Some questions we should all ask ourselves are, "What are my expectations of law enforcement in the City?" "Does City Council

have that same expectation?" "Have I articulated my expectation to my city representative?" And finally, "Are we funding to those expectations?"

Until expectations are defined, these costs are mounting and our liability is ever-increasing. The lack of enforcement of simple ordinances such as property maintenance, leash laws, building codes, helmet laws, nuisance abatements, alcohol and tobacco use on city and school property, causes a general breakdown of compliance. Individually minor, but together they are eroding the positive social norms we strive to have in Vernonia. Types of events, such as raves or UAD parties are organized in rural areas because they know they have limited police presence and questionable enforcement action. It is time to speak to what we can do to limit our liability as a city and citizens during these permitted or unplanned events.

Know your ordinances-- both city and county:

**City of Vernonia**

Park Ord. 761 (Rules and Alcohol Policy)  
Public Protection Ord. 313 (Curfew)  
Public Protection Ord. 582 (Drinking in public places/Unnecessary Noise)  
Large Assemblies Ord. 457 & 767 (Security, Permitting and Public safety)

**Columbia County**

Noise Control Ord. 91-8  
Outdoor Mass Gathering Ord. 2006-9 (Permitting, Security, Public Safety)

## "Sticks and stones indeed break bones. BUT texts and phones wound also."

### What Counts as Cyberbullying?

- Cyberbullying is the use of technology to harass, threaten, embarrass, or target another person. Online threats or "flames" (rude texts, IMs, or messages) count. So does posting personal information or videos designed to hurt or embarrass someone else.
- Online bullying can be easier to commit than other acts of bullying because the bully doesn't have to confront the victim in person. Some cyberbullies probably don't realize just how hurtful their actions are.
- By definition, cyberbullying involves young people. If an adult sends the messages or notes, it may meet the legal definition of cyber-harassment or cyber-stalking.

# Rx Prescription Drug Turn-In Event

FREE: UNWANTED AND EXPIRED MEDICATIONS COLLECTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>

10:00am - 2:00pm

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office will be at both locations accepting items:

**Clatskanie Police Department**

195 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

and

**Vernonia Police Department**

1001 Bridge Street

If you miss this date come see us at the Health Fair - May 7 at VCLC



- WHAT TO BRING TO THE COLLECTION
- ◆ Expired or unwanted prescription medications\*
  - ◆ Unneeded over-the-counter medicines
  - ◆ Drugs that didn't work for you, a family member or pet
  - ◆ Drugs that are no longer used
  - ◆ Medicine from deceased family members
  - ◆ Unknown tablets and capsules
- \* Leave all medicines in their original containers if possible  
Please do NOT bring thermometers, needles or medical waste of any type.

In Correspondence with the DEA:



## Are YOU ready to be a part of the Solution?

Vernonia Prevention Coalition



Since 2008, the Vernonia Prevention Coalition has been actively been working towards making a safe and healthy community. In order to make these plans and dreams a reality, we're going to need more help.

### How Can you Help?

- Bring a voice to the table for those whom can't;
- Promote positive social change through action;
- Promote healthy choice making in our youth and community;
- Participate in trainings that support strong mentorship.

As you can see, these are all important components of our overall mission. With a small commitment from future volunteers like you, we will easily accomplish what we set out to do. You are the Solution!

DeAnna Pearl, Director  
Vernonia Prevention Coalition  
DeAnna@vernonia-or.gov  
(503) 369-7370

"The gift of time is everlasting."

## National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Are you feeling desperate, alone or hopeless? Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline a free, 24-hour hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Your call will be routed to the nearest crisis center to you.

Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
Press 1

## VERNONIA PREVENTION COALITION

5th Tuesday Community Coalition Meeting at the VCLC 6:30-8:00 PM

May 31st  
August 30th  
November 29th

For more information contact:  
DeAnna Pearl, VPC Director  
503-369-7370  
DeAnna@vernonia-or.gov