

## Meet Your Police: The Veteran, Shawn Carnahan

The Vernonia Police Department has gone through several changes over the last few years. With two new officers and a new Chief, Vernonia's Voice decided to sit down with each of the officers at the VPD and bring our readers and the public they serve a profile of each of these "men in blue." We started our series back in our March 27 issue with a profile of Chief Mike Conner. This month we give you a chance to meet Officer Shawn Carnahan.



Vernonia Police Officer Shawn Carnahan has been working for the Vernonia Police Department for over three years. With two brand new officers--Brent Thompson and Matt Brady--that makes Officer Carnahan, after Chief Conner, the veteran of the force.

Shawn Carnahan comes from a family that values public service. His grandmother was a registered nurse. His grandfather was an Oregon State Trooper, then the Chief of Police in Junction City and then a Resident Deputy in Monroe for the Benton County Sheriff's Office. Carnahan's father is a Paramedic in Florence, where he is a supervisor with Western Lane Ambulance and also a battalion chief with the fire department. "Public service runs in the family," says Carnahan.

Carnahan himself started as a Reserve Officer with the Scappoose Police Department after attending the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Reserve Academy where he graduated and received the top overall reserve award. He worked with the Scappoose PD for five years until the reserve program was disbanded in 2005. Carnahan was hired by the Scappoose Police Department in May of 2008 as a full time Police Officer and later joined the Vernonia Police Department as a Reserve Officer in late 2008 and was hired in January 2009.

He completed Police Academy in the spring/summer of 2009, where he graduated as the Top Shooter.

Carnahan says he enjoys working in a small town. "I love the small town atmosphere. Everybody knows each other and the job is more community oriented, as opposed to a bigger agency where you can be just a number. Here in Vernonia everybody knows you, everybody waves at you."

With the addition of two officers who are just finishing Police academy, the work load is finally starting to lighten for Carnahan and Chief Conner. As the only two officers on the force for almost fourteen months, both Carnahan and Conner have constantly been either on duty or on call for over a year. Carnahan was recently recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Vernonia City Council for his outstanding performance, dedication and commitment and for going beyond the call of duty during the long stretch when the department was shorthanded.

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## "Great American Bash" July 4<sup>th</sup>

Vernonia will once again celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with a parade, concert and fireworks.

The annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade begins at 5:00 PM and starts at City Hall, heading north on Bridge Street.

"The Great American Bash Concert" featuring Jesse Cain begins at 7:30 PM at the Vernonia Sports Fields. Gates open at 4:30 PM. The Vernonia Boosters will open the Snack Shack and sell hot dogs and hamburgers. Tickets are \$2 per person or \$5 per family.

A fireworks show, provided by the Vernonia Rural Fire Department will follow the concert at dusk.

The 2012 Great American Bash Concert is sponsored by the Vernonia Prevention Coalition and the Vernonia Rural Fire Department and is a Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free event. All proceeds go to Vernonia Youth Programs.

## Look Who's 5!

This month Vernonia's Voice is pleased to be celebrating our fifth anniversary. That's right, we have now been around for five whole years!

In celebration, we took a look back and have published, on pages 10 and 11, some of our favorite photos, from some of our favorite and most important stories from the last five years.

We hope you enjoy this look back at our town and the people who live here.

We look forward to continuing to bring you stories and photos that reflect the spirit of our community.



### "We Will Because We Can" weekend proves to be an inspiration and success

A large group of energetic, compassionate and committed women took the city of Vernonia by storm on the first weekend of June. Under beautiful blue skies with sunny weather, they hit the streets, literally, riding bikes, and raising awareness for a cause they all feel very strongly about, cancer awareness.



The inaugural "We Will Because We Can" event was held in Vernonia May 31- June 2. The multi-faceted weekend, which centered on various bicycle rides, was created by Carol Larkin and friends, as a way to raise awareness about breast cancer, as a celebration for all cancer survivors, and as support and healing for family and friends of cancer survivors. The event was held at Cedar Ridge Retreat Center and included workshops, entertainment, meals, and the bike rides.

### Vernonia's "First Friday" well-received

Vernonia's very first "First Friday" artwalk was considered successful by all those in attendance on Friday June 1st. About six downtown merchants took part in the monthly celebration of the Arts that was being introduced in Vernonia for the first time. The inaugural event was held from 6 to 8 pm, and featured art displays, snacks, music, and extended shop hours by merchants.

## Mario Leonetti: Serving Vernonia for Over 40 Years

If you have been to Mariolino's restaurant in Vernonia recently, you may have noticed some changes. New menu items, more freshly prepared food, and a change in the atmosphere are just a few of the adjustments that Mario and new General Manager Letha Tunstall are implementing. And more changes are on the way.



Mario Leonetti and restaurant manager Letha Tunstall at Mariolino's.

Tunstall brings a family restaurant background to Mariolino's and is looking to add a more home cooked style to the establishment. "I know how to cook and I come from a family of chefs and family members who owned restaurants, so I learned a lot," says Tunstall. "Now we're doing a lot more ourselves—we make our own salad dressings, BBQ sauce, and salsa. We're making our own bake goods like corn bread, biscuits and muffins and sometimes cakes or pies."

Tunstall is really looking to upgrade the menu and make Mariolino's more of a family restaurant. She features New England Clam Chowder as the house soup everyday along with a second soup weekly and makes her own potato, macaroni and pasta salads. She has also added breakfast or dinner specials like Strawberry Waffles or BBQ Ribs or Lasagna.

Sitting down to talk with Mario Leonetti about his restaur-

rant business is like taking a trip through recent Vernonia history. He has been serving meals here since 1970, in a variety of forms and locations, never staying still for too long.

Leonetti was the owner of the Timber Tavern before moving to Vernonia in 1969. He says he originally bought the buildings that now makes up the Cedarside Tavern on Bridge Street. "It was the Card Room, The Squeeze In Cafe and something else," Leonetti remembers. Leonetti originally opened it as a take-out pizza restaurant, "It was just Mario's Pizza, nothing else," he explains. He then expanded to a few tables for sit down in what had been the The Squeeze In and eventually opened the whole building in July of 1970 as a full restaurant. "There was plenty of dining area and half the room was for kids with pool tables and game machines. We were open more or less twenty-four hours a

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