

Vernonia Connects Invites You To Join Your Neighbors In "Community Conversations"

Vernonia Connects is pleased to announce the schedule for their upcoming series of "Community Conversations." All events will be held in the Vernonia Schools Library.

"Community Conversations" is a series of gatherings where all community members are invited to participate in structured discussions about topics of current interest and concern. The intent of these events is to create change within the community and engage citizens through frank and open dialog.

The first "Community Conversations" topic will focus on Community Livability and will feature conversations about Utility Rates, Emergency Preparedness, Community Pride, Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and Safety and Security. There are two opportunities to partici-

pate in each topic. Childcare will be provided. The complete schedule of "Community Conversations" is as follows:

Community Livability

Oct 8 at 7 PM

Oct 13 at 2 PM

Youth and Education

Oct 22 at 7 PM

Oct 27 at 2 PM

Community Development

Nov 10 at 2 PM

Nov 12 at 7 PM

Business & Economic Development

Dec 11 at 7 PM

Dec 15 at 2 PM

In addition to "Community Conversations," Vernonia Connects is working on a second initiative which calls for the creation of a "Community Network"

which would bring together community organizations to strengthen community life and build a better and brighter future for Vernonia. On November 7, 2012, directors, board members, volunteers, program guru's and people who get the job done are invited to this gathering to learn what programs are happening in Vernonia. The Network Gathering will be held between 5:30-8:30 at the Vernonia Community Learning Center. Invites coming soon! Can't wait? Contact DeAnna Pearl at (503) 369-7370 or Janelle Cedergreen at (503) 807-6136 for more information.

Vernonia Connects aims to strengthen community vitality by building communication, connectivity and collaboration among local leaders, organizations and community members.

PaintCare: Oregon's Paint Recycling Program Reaches Over One Million Gallons!

PaintCare's Annual Report for Oregon's Paint Stewardship Program boasts a 30% increase in the paint recycling program's second year. More than 600,000 gallons of leftovers were collected during the second year. The program has collected 1,079,136 gallons of leftover paint throughout Oregon since the program began in July 2010.

The report reveals that the Oregon pilot program, the first of its kind in the U.S., has shown significant increases in both the collection of latex and alkyd (oil-based) paint as well as the public's general awareness of the program.

In the second year, PaintCare set up 11 new drop-off sites to improve the convenience for both residents and businesses who have paint to recycle. There are now a total of 102 drop-off sites in Oregon, and 94% of all Oregonians live within 15 miles of a PaintCare drop-off site, an increase from 65% at the start of the PaintCare program. Paint retailers make up 70% of the drop-off sites; the other 30% are government-run household hazardous waste facilities, solid waste facilities, and ReStores.

"We attribute the second year's outstanding results to Oregonians who

take pride in their community - this includes the residents, retailers and those involved in the administration of the program," said Marjaneh Zarrehparvar, the executive director of PaintCare.

About PaintCare Inc. PaintCare is a non-profit organization established by the American Coatings Association to implement Paint Stewardship Programs on behalf of the paint manufacturers in states that pass paint stewardship laws. To find a drop-off site near you, visit www.paintcare.org.

VERNONIA'S
voice
reflecting the spirit of our community

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