

On the Shelves: What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

By Jennifer Moloney

Columbia County Libraries Bring You "Columbia County Reads 2013"

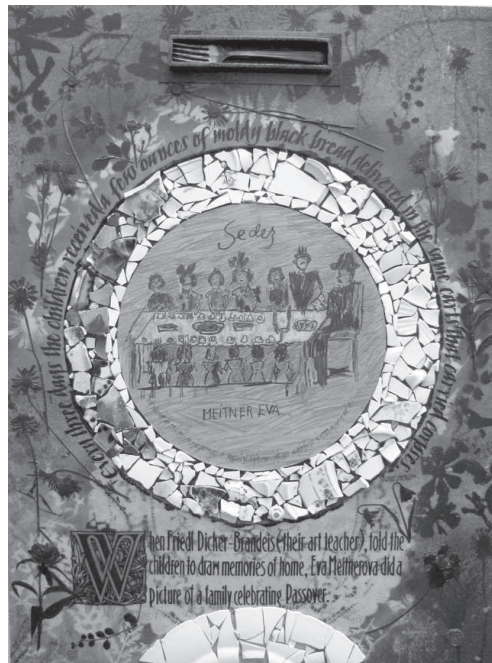
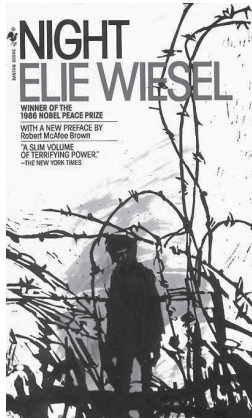
"But because of his telling, many who did not believe have come to believe, and some who did not care have come to care. He tells the story, out of infinite pain, partly to honor the dead, but also to warn the living – to warn the living that it could happen again and that it must never happen again. Better that one heart be broken a thousand times in the retelling, he has decided, if it means that a thousand other hearts need not be broken at all."
- Elie Wiesel

Libraries across Columbia County are inviting their communities to read a common book related to this year's "Columbia County Reads" theme: the Holocaust. The purpose of

Columbia County Reads is to bring reading to the forefront of public discourse. If everyone reads the same book at the same time, it is hoped that it will inspire discussions, connections and a shared perspective among Columbia County residents. This year's adult selection is "Night," by Elie Wiesel and the teen selection is "The Devil's Arithmetic," by Jane Yolen.

Speakers from the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center will be hosted in the communities of Rainier, Vernonia and St. Helens.

Evelyn Banko will be speaking at the Vernonia Public Library on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 4:00 PM. Evelyn was born in Vienna, Austria in 1936. Her family fled first from the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews in Austria, then from the Russian invasion of



Artwork by Dave Anderson will be exhibited at the Vernonia Public Library and the St. Helens Public Library.

Latvia to America by way of China and Japan.

Dave Anderson, a Columbia

County artist with work in the permanent collection of Pacific University, will be exhibiting his artwork at both the Vernonia Public Library and the St. Helens Public Library. These works are a tribute to the drawings and poems of the children of the Terezin Concentration Camp. From 1942-1944, approximately 15,000 children were imprisoned at Terezin, Czechoslovakia – fewer than 100 survived. Art will be on display in Vernonia on Saturday, March 9th following Evelyn Banko and Monday, March 11th time TBA at the Vernonia Learning Center.

Information regarding these and additional events can be found at the Vernonia Public Library. All events are free and open to the public.

It's time for the Spring Book Sale!

Saturday, March 2, 2013 at the Vernonia Community Learning Center, 939 Bridge Street. Times to be announced soon

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Vernonia Lions Club, and a representative of a commercial pump vendor to assess options for a replacement pump at the lake to draw water from the Nehalem River. Lion's Club envisions that they will be the project sponsor. The City will be involved in reviewing plans and specs, reviewing construction, and ultimately in operating.

WASHINGTON GRADE SCHOOL SALVAGE

The City made an agreement with Custom Excavating to purchase a variety of salvaged materials from the deconstructed Washington Grade School. The City intends to acquire approximately 140 pieces of lumber (e.g. 2x12 and 2x14 – 20 foot lengths; 12x12 and 12x19 inch nine to 15 foot lengths) that will be used to build the picnic shelter, be refinished as benches and used as architec-

tural elements in construction projects. This will allow the legacy of the former school to live on in the replacement park project now in design.

DIRT DELIVERED TO VERNONIA AIRPORT AND AIRPORT PARK

The City is coordinating with an area ODOT road improvement project to accept fill material at the City Airport to be used for future land leveling projects at the Airport and park facilities.

GENERAL CITY ADMINISTRATION

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT UPDATE

As we informed you earlier this year, FEMA's national Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) have numerous changes that begin rolling out January 1, 2013. The Biggert-Waters

Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 requires FEMA to take steps to eliminate a variety of existing flood insurance subsidies and calls for a number of changes in how the program operates.

Changes in Effect or Coming –

Here are a few of the immediate changes that we will see impact the community: **(1) Change starts January 1, 2013:** Subsidized premium rates for pre-Flood Insurance Rate Map (pre-FIRM) non-primary residences in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) will begin to increase by 25 percent a year until they reflect full-risk rates. A pre-FIRM building is one that was built before the community's first flood map became effective and has not been substantially damaged or improved. **(2) There will be more changes in the future:** Some older residences in high-risk zones have been receiving subsidized insurance rates based on their pre-FIRM status. Subsidies will be phased out for severe repetitive loss properties consisting of 1-4 residences, business properties, and properties that have incurred flood-related damages where claims payments exceed the fair market value. The City Attorney and City Administrator discussed options with the City Planner, and CAT Flood Recovery Manager. The City will embark on a focused code enforcement program to attempt to bring all parties that are out of compliance into compliance with a working goal of completing all improvements in the near future. The underlying rationale is to allow the City in the future to be an applicant for Community Rating System NFIP flood insurance reductions. To be invited to participate in CRS we must have 100% compliance with code enforcement.

Next steps for the City –

- The City will create a master list for all property owners within the floodplain. The City will contact all property owners from this list to inform them of the compliance issues that are now in effect.
- The City will contact the parties on the 1996-1998 to date Community Assistance Visit to update their compliance status.
- The City will work with code enforcement protocol to enforce the ordinance that the City has in place.

As a result of this compliance process, the City will develop an internal protocol to han-

dle concerns and likely complaints raised by this enforcement. We intend to also meet with the local realtors and bankers to make sure these professionals understand the rules associated with selling property in the floodplain.

ROSE AVENUE PROJECT

The City met with the key stakeholders (i.e. Vernonia Health Clinic, Vernonia Cares Food Bank, and Vernonia Area Senior Center) and their project managers (i.e. Scott Edwards AIA and Community Action Team). This meeting established the framework for making decisions jointly on this project. The two project managers made a commitment to establish a regular meeting schedule and a commitment to work toward shared goals. Through this process they intend to create a site development master plan for all to use in site planning. The City made a commitment to inform the project managers of the City of Vernonia entitlement process (i.e. Planning Department and Planning Commission, Public Works Department and City Engineer, City Attorney, and Building Official). The City Attorney and Planning Director will work together to create a land partition to create the leasehold for the clinic (this is the first project moving forward and a legal land partition is needed to establish the bounds for the project). The City Attorney will develop a land lease for all three entities, again the focus will be the clinic, but this is a universal document. The City Attorney will develop the access easement that all parties will sign when appropriate that will also include a maintenance agreement. At this time, the Vernonia Health Clinic is aggressively moving forward with their development schedule as they hope to be under construction this summer and in their new building by the end of the year.

WOEC REIMBURSEMENT DISTRICT

The City will work with WOEC to develop a reimbursement district that will allow the Co-op potential access to capital from commercial development on property that abuts improvements that they invested in 2011/2012. The Rose Avenue Project development teams are apprised that this external cost is applicable to their projects capital budget planning.

Call For Volunteers

Dig Into Reading! Join us for the 2013 Summer Library Program at Vernonia Public Library

Dear Parents and Friends:

The Vernonia Public Library is looking for volunteers to help us offer more programs for our summer program. "Dig Into Reading" is designed to encourage children to continue reading during vacation so that valuable reading skills won't be lost. We hope to offer a variety of activities for children. If you are interested in helping us, please fill out the form below and return it to the library by February 28, 2013.

Yes, I want to help at the library this summer. I am willing to:

- Help with registration and recording of books read by children
- Solicit donations of incentive prizes from local businesses
- Take oral book reports
- Assist the librarian with storytime or other programs
- Offer or help with a craft program
- Create a display or help decorate the room
- Chaperone a reading party or field trip
- Provide refreshments for a special event
- Offer a workshop using a special skill I have

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

2013 Dig Into Reading