

# Vernonia City News...

## At the October 7, 2013 City Council Meeting:

**Council Hears Request to Re-Open Police Contract**-Council approved a request by the Vernonia Police Association (VPA) to re-open the "Health and Welfare" section of their contract. The current contract became effective July 1, 2012 and was agreed to based on a newly developing Health Care plan through Kaiser. All details of the plan were not available at the time of negotiations. The VPA has since discovered that additional changes were made to the plan and that they would not have chosen the plan if they had known these details. They asked that police employees be allowed to revert to their original plan which would have negative budget implications of \$4,308 annually for the City of Vernonia. Vernonia Police Chief Mike Conner said he would offset the cost difference by reducing fuel, overtime and uniform expenses so there would be no budget overage. Council requested a chance to review the exact wording of the proposed changes to the contract and have it reviewed by their legal counsel and tabled the request until their October 21 meeting.

**Council Approves "Food for Fines" Program**-Council approved a recommendation from the Library Board for the "Food for Fines" program. The program allows Vernonia Library patrons

## An Opinion: Jail Levy *continued from page 3*

Police Department. During my evening, we arrested an individual who had to be transported to the County jail. Our trip there and back, plus the time it took to process the suspect took well over two hours. That was time that our Vernonia officer was not patrolling locally. That was time when our officer was not available to respond to an emergency in his jurisdiction. That was time that our community was left unprotected.

If the Columbia County closes our jail police officers in Columbia County will have to transport suspects to Portland, or maybe even further away, to find jail space to house them. They will be away from their towns and their citizens for even longer periods of time.

I know citizens are reluctant to tax themselves, especially when times are so tough. But Columbia County residents need to put safety first and pass this levy and fund our County Jail.

to pay off their fines by donating food items for the Vernonia Cares Food Bank between November 30 and December 16.

**Council Approves Parking Marking**-Council directed staff to apply for a permit from ODOT to install marking for parking along Rose Avenue in front of the West Oregon Electric Cooperative office. According to Police Chief Mike Conner there has been confusion about the intended use for the extra space along the street and it is a safety issue. According to Conner the space is intended as parking and should be marked so it is not used as a turn lane.

**Council Approves Emergency Phone Upgrade**-Council approved a request from police Chief Mike Conner to use Emergency Management funds the City holds to wire the City Hall phone system to the emergency generator. Conner estimated the expense to be \$1500; the fund has \$2500.

**Council Approves Appointments**-Council approved the appointment of Audeen Wagner to fill a vacated position

on the Library Board and re-appointed Susan Wagner to the Budget Committee.

**Topics from the Floor**-Bill Sword asked Council to consider honoring an easement across Anderson Park he says was given to him by the City Council around 1983-85. Sword requested that a 12 foot wide roadway be installed, that he would pay for, from his bridge through Anderson Park to Adams Street. Council directed staff to look into whether there is any mention of the easement in past City Council minutes.

**Council Approves Inhabiting Trailer Application**-Council approved a request by David Garlington to allow someone to temporarily inhabit a travel trailer at his property at 1164 Douglas Street. Garlington said he has given the inhabitant a time limit for occupancy to end prior to winter weather setting in. Council approved the request for six months.

**Council Approves Declaration of Surplus Property**-Council approved the declaration of computer equipment at the Vernonia Community Learning Center to be surplus property and no longer

needed for public use.

**Mayor Proclaims Domestic Violence Awareness Month**-Mayor Josette Mitchell read a proclamation from SAFE of Columbia County declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Vernonia and encouraging all citizens to join in the observance. According to the proclamation there were 55 domestic violence related deaths in Oregon last year and a total of 158,665 calls for help were answered by Domestic and Sexual Violence programs in Oregon. SAFE of Columbia County answered 1,563 of those calls.

**Council Discusses Passenger Trailer Permit**-Police Chief Conner informed Council that City Ordinance does not allow the transport of people in trailers on city streets. Conner used the example of hay rides during Salmon Festival, which according to the City Ordinance is illegal. Conner explained that having a parade permit allows for normally disallowed uses. Council directed staff to investigate establishing a permit for transporting people in trailers.

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

During the month of October 2013, individuals and communities all across Oregon and in Columbia County will join together to raise awareness of domestic violence and promote healthy, safe relationships. Despite the many efforts aimed at preventing domestic violence and supporting survivors, domestic violence continues to be a health and safety problem in our community. In 2012, SAFE of Columbia County, formerly Columbia County Women's

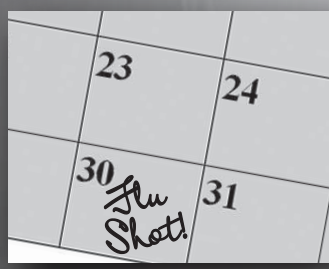
Resource Center, provided 3,857 services to 573 survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking locally.

A candlelight vigil will be held in St. Helens on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:15 PM in the Columbia View Park Gazebo. These vigils are to remember the victims of domestic violence who have lost their lives this year. SAFE invites everyone to come join in these vigils. Cider, coffee and cookies will be served.

## Flu Shot Clinic

for seniors at the Vernonia Senior Center

**Wednesday, October 30th**  
**in Vernonia**  
**11am-2pm**



**By Banks Pharmacy**

## Experienced Cook Wanted

**6 hours per day Mon-Fri**

**Submit resume at the  
Vernonia Senior Center  
446 Bridge St.  
between 9 am - 3 pm**

**Equal Opportunity Employer**

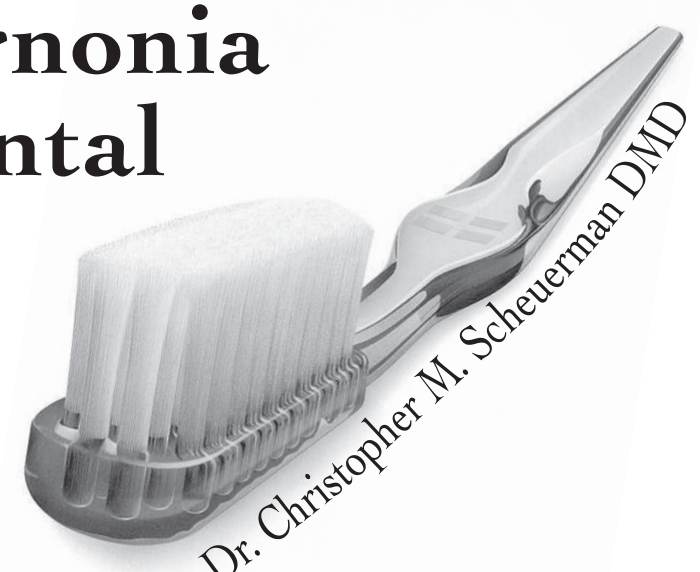
## Co-mingle Recycling is Moving!

from Waste Management Transfer Station  
to D.A.D.'s Recycling  
**2024 Mist Drive**



Now available  
Tue, Thr, Sat  
10am-5pm

## Vernonia Dental



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