

# Vernonia City News...

## At the April 21, 2014 City Council Meeting:

**Council Approves Wastewater Funding Scenario** - Council approved a funding scenario for the Wastewater Upgrade Project which would have the City refinance an existing DEQ loan at a lower interest rate and then apply to finance the remaining \$5.5 million through a USDA loan at 1.13%. According to information provided to Council the City could also be eligible for up to a \$1 million grant from USDA. This financing scenario would reduce the total proposed debt for the project by \$1.3 million.

**Council Approves Two Temporary Public Works Positions** - Council approved the hiring of a full-time temporary Public Works employee for five months. According to information provided to the Council, Public Works Foreman Jeff Burch will be working on the Sewer Rehab Project and his hours will be charged to that line item, freeing up funds in the Water and Sewer Account to cover the cost of the temporary employee. The temporary employee will fill in for a Public Works employee who is unable to work due to knee surgery. Council also approved the hiring of a part-time temporary employee to work on streets. This employee will be paid through a grant the City received for street improvements.

**Topics From the Floor** - DeAnna Pearl, representing the Vernonia Prevention Coalition and Sandy Welch spoke in favor of having Council approve a one year moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries in the City of Vernonia. Scott Laird spoke against the moratorium.

## Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

**City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:**  
Monday, May 5, 2014  
Monday, May 19, 2014

**City Closures are scheduled for:**  
Monday, May 26, 2014  
Memorial Day

*Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules*

**Council Approves Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Facilities** - Council approved Ordinance 894 and declared a moratorium on medical marijuana facilities in any area subject to the jurisdiction of the City of Vernonia. This moratorium includes facilities that dispense marijuana through ORS 475.314, Oregon's Medical Marijuana law. The moratorium begins May 1, 2014 and sunsets in one year on May 1, 2015. The Resolution was based on a sample provided by the League of Oregon Cities (LOC). According to the LOC ninety-one cities have already enacted a moratorium. Council noted that this one year moratorium allows the City the opportunity to study and better manage and protect themselves and their citizens with regards to this changing issue.

**Council Approves Update to Hazard Mitigation Plan** - Council approved an update to the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan which is part of the Columbia County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The City had organized a Steering Committee to identify local threats and hazards and developed actions. These were reviewed by community members, business owners, and federal, state and local agencies and then submitted their plan to be included in the County plan.

**City Codifies Public Safety Ordinances** - Council approved Resolution 893,

codifying Title 3 Public Protection of the Vernonia Municipal Code and repealing numerous previous ordinances. By this action all Public Safety rules are in one place in the City ordinances.

**Council Approves Betterment Fund Application** - Council approved a Betterment Fund Recipient Application form for 2015. Betterment Funds are received by the City through the businesses in the Enterprise Zone and are designated to benefit local community groups/organizations. Applicants will be juried and picked as recipients by the Vernonia City Council.

**Bleacher Repairs** - Council discussed the repair of bleachers, owned by the Vernonia Logging Show and shared with the City, and approved a Parks Committee recommendation to spend Parks funds in a collaborative effort with the Logging Show to make repairs. It was agreed that the City will no longer use the bleachers after the repairs are done and the Parks Committee and Logging Show will work together to find funding to eventually replace the bleachers with new ones.

**Council Discusses More Test Bores** - Council discussed a recommendation from the Public Works Committee to have Shannon & Wilson Inc. conduct more test bores. The testing is part of the Wastewater Upgrade Project and would be used to see if the hyporeic trench

could be moved further north and reduce the expense. Council tabled the recommendation and asked for more information from the Public Works Committee.

**Council Approves Separation of Debt in Water and Sewer Funds** - Council approved a recommendation from the Public Works Committee to separate the Operations and Maintenance and the Debt Service line items to help clarify the billing statements so customers will see what they are paying for, as well make it clearer for accounting and budgeting purposes.

**City Administrator Report** - Mayor/City Administrator Josette Mitchell told Council she had a discussion with Rick Gardner, the current President of the Ridge Riders, and informed him that the lease under which they had been using the Horse Arena has been found legally invalid. Mitchell said she is working on an agreement with the group for use of the area based on a recommendation from the Parks Committee. Mitchell also informed the Council that Park Hosts have been placed at both Anderson and Airport Parks and that a temporary seasonal Parks employee has been hired.

**Mayor Appoints Two to Airport Committee** - With the approval of Council, Mayor Josette Mitchell appointed Doug Davenport and re-appointed Tim Bero to the Airport Committee.

## Vernonia Police Blotter

### April 1-27, 2014 (Updated)

#### REPORTS TAKEN

- April 4, 2014 Arrest on an outstanding warrant at 735 Jefferson Ave.

- April 3, 2014 Responded to a Theft and Criminal Mischief, located in the 200 block of E St. Investigation currently ongoing.

- April 3, 2014 Responded to a Theft and Unlawful entry into a vehicle at the 2000 block of Nickerson Loop. Investigation currently ongoing

- April 6, 2014 Took a report of a stolen vehicle from behind 733 Bridge St. Vehicle is described as a dark blue 2001 Volkswagen Jetta.

- April 7, 2014 Took a report of a suspected hit and run (vehicle) at 735 Jefferson Ave. Investigation still ongoing.

- April 7, 2014 Responded to a Theft of Identity in the 1600 block of Heather Lane. Investigation still ongoing.

- April 7, 2014 Responded to a reported Assault at 1000 Missouri Ave. Suspect is a juvenile. Investigation will be turned over to the Juvenile Department.

- April 7, 2014 Took a report of a Theft at 1000 Missouri Ave. Suspect is a juvenile. Investigation will be turned over to the Juvenile Department.

- April 17, 014 Responded to a

reported Theft at the 100 block of North St. Investigation is still ongoing.

- April 18, 2014 Responded to a possible Restraining Order Violation at 500 block of Madison Ave.

- April 25, 2014 Responded to a reported Theft at the 1000 block of Washington Ave. Investigation is still ongoing.

#### TRAFFIC/OTHER CITATIONS

- April 2, 2014 Issued a traffic citation for improper display of tags. On Bridge St. and Adams.

- April 23, 2014 Issued a traffic citation for Speed Racing. On Bridge St and Grant.

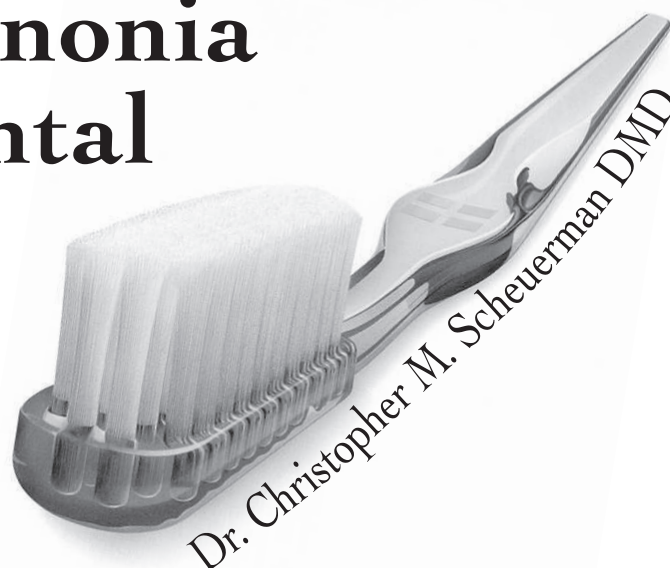
## Terry's Gym



**JOIN THE TEAM!**

503-901-1705  
16720 Noakes Rd. Vernonia

## Vernonia Dental



622 Bridge Street Vernonia, OR 97064  
phone (503) 429-0880 -- fax (503) 429-0881

## Vernonia Community Preschool OPEN HOUSE

Fri. May 9th  
10:00-11:30AM

Space is limited for the 2014-2015 school year.

Call Amy Cieloha with questions or to register  
(503) 429-0745



Grace Family Fellowship Church  
957 State Avenue