

# City Administrator Report *continued from page 5*

2014 the library checked out 914 pieces of materials. June 1, 2014 thru September 1, 2014 the library had 41 new library cards issued. The library is happy to welcome all our new patrons.

- Painting of the outside trim of the library building will resume next week, weather is a factor for this delay. Carpets were cleaned during August.

- Our Public Works crew helped with the cutting of shrubs around the building. Members of the Library Board have been responsible in recent years for the upkeep of the library grounds. We will need to find other alternatives (volunteer groups/grants/community groups etc.) to help out with cleaning maintenance of the library building and the grounds in the future.

- The library had a "Movie Night" on September 16, 2014, "Harry and the Hendersons" was shown. Another "Movie Night" is planned for September 23, 2014. The movie will be "Lee Daniels' The Butler." If patrons like having a movie night, we could consider scheduling a movie night once a month.

- Staff completed the Oregon's Annual Public Library Statistical Report as required by the State of Oregon Library Association. Also staff completed the Summer Reading Statistical Report. Summer reading attendance was down this year compared to previous years.

Changes are being considered for next years' summer reading program to better fit the children's needs in our community.

- Because of the increasing cost of repurchasing and replacing library material (books, tapes, DVD etc.) staff has stepped up their efforts to recover missing materials and recover fines through phone calls and letters. Unfortunately this means that the library has to use a collection agency for a small percentage of patrons who don't respond to letters and calls and who have big amounts owed because of the loss of borrowed materials. Staff always wants to work with patrons to resolve problems first before collections are called.

- As we do every year, we have applied for a "Ready to Read" grant. The Library will be receiving a \$1,000 grant to help with the cost of reading programs at the library. The grant money will arrive in December for use in 2015.

- Oregon Humanities "The Conversation Project", is a program that our community has enjoyed for years. Oregon Humanities will start charging a fee for its programs. Library staff is discussing potential opportunities to fund a couple of programs for the benefit of the community.

## Administration

- The City Clerk registered with the Columbia County Elections Officer the candidates for the upcoming November 4th elections. There will be two (2) Council vacancies and one (1) Mayor vacancy. Running for Mayor, (this is a two year position), are Mayor Josette Mitchell (Incumbent) and former Mayor Sally Harrison. Also running for four (4) year City Council position, are Jill Hult and Mike Seager.

- The City Administrator met with Scott VanHoff, (FEMA Floodplain Specialist), Dan Brown (Community Action Team), Carole Connell (Vernonia City Planner), and Mayor, Josette Mitchell for a Community Assistance Visit (CAV). The CAV visit tends to identify potential violations about compliance with FEMA regulations, and assess the organization ability to bring those violations into compliance (such as flood vents covered). In short: we have the knowledge and tools necessary to properly implement floodplain management regulations. It was a very informative visit and we will continue to work on bringing those issues into compliance.

- Held the first Weekly Staff Meeting. Staff is planning to meet on a weekly basis to discuss issues relevant to City operation. Each member of the staff gave a synopsis of what is happening in their department and staff reviewed and strategized about potential solutions to mitigate and/or solve outstanding problems.

- Scheduled a combined joint meeting with the Public Works Committee for September 23rd to finalize the sewer ordinance.

- Scheduled a City Council works session on September 29th at 6:30 pm to talk about the Vernonia Community Learning

Center (VCLC) and how to better utilized this building. The building was built thanks to a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that demanded that its use be only for community based activities for five years from time of completion. The five year time frame has already expired.

- The City Administrator attended an LOC sponsored "Small Cities Support Network Meeting" in Wood Village. Representatives from the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), City/County Insurance Services (CIS) and almost thirty municipalities of Portland Metro Region 2 were in attendance. This group meets periodically to discuss Legislative Updates that might be relevant to Oregon Municipalities. Also an update from each of the different municipalities is given in order to collaborate on the solution of potential outstanding common issues.

- The City Administrator met with City Attorney (Ruben Cleaveland) to discuss ongoing legal issues. The City attorney also briefed the City Administrator and City Council (in executive session) during the Council meeting about potential legal issues and potential litigations.

- Former City Councilor Shirlee Daughtry was very kind to invite the City Administrator for a tour of the local cemeteries. Potential strategies for improvement of the grounds and facilities were also recommended to the City Administrator for potential discussion with the community and the City Council

- The City Administrator met with Mayor Mitchell and Councilor Bruce McNair to tour citywide properties and parks to identify potential opportunities for tree harvesting. During the past Council meeting the City Council had directed staff to begin preparation for a report about the opportunity and feasibility to harvest trees at City owned facilities. A report should be ready for presentation to Council in October.

- The City Administrator, and Jeff Burch (Public Works Foreman) met with Vernonia School District Superintendent (Aaron Miller) and contacted School District Ground Foreman Mark Brown to discuss immediate watering needs and procedures/protocols at Spencer Park softball and soccer fields. City and School District staff have agreed to meet and review the terms of the intergovernmental agreement to clarify scope of responsibilities as stated in the legal document. The City is working very closely with the School District, and the two entities are building a very solid strategic partnership.

## Safe Sidewalks

Skateboarding and Bicycling on Bridge St. often brings numerous complaints to the Vernonia Police Department. The Vernonia City Ordinance Prohibits the riding of bicycles, skates, skateboards, sleds, etc. on sidewalks adjacent to Bridge St. between Weed Ave. and California St. and on sidewalks between Bridge St. and Maple St. In addition, the riding of skates, skateboards, sleds, etc. is also prohibited on the aforementioned streets. Individuals in violation of the City Ordinances may be subject to fines and/or other penalties.

VERNONIA'S  
*voice*

## PRESENTS

## Meet the Candidates

A Political Forum with Candidates for  
Vernonia Mayor and City Council  
Columbia County Commissioner  
Circuit Court Judge

**Thursday, October 16th**  
**7:00PM**  
at the Vernonia Scout Cabin

A pre-selected panel of Vernonia residents will ask questions of the candidates. An open house will follow providing an opportunity for the public to meet the candidates.

**For more information contact: Scott Laird 503-367-0098**  
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