

## City Department Updates: September 29-October 10, 2014 *continued from page 7*

Vernonia has such a nice library for community use? Thank you to the city for their support of the library.

### City Administrator /Administration

- The City Administrator, Mayor Mitchell and Dan Brown (Community Action Team) met to discuss the request of the Vernonia School District to release funds pertaining to the New Spencer Park Project that were held in escrow. The issue will be presented to City Council for consideration and resolution at the October 6th Council Meeting.
- Beginning Monday the 29th the internet connection at City Hall was intermittent and at times completely down. By Wednesday the internet was completely down. Ben Fousek (GIS Consultant) assisted the IT consultant in determining that the problem was originating from the library. Staff has determined that 4 of the 8 computers at the library were infected with malware that was maliciously attacking the City's internet connection. The 4 offending computers were disconnected and the CPUs placed in the library office. A thorough investigation of other computers in the organization and a review of the security of City Hall's and VPD's networks disclosed that networks are completely secure and only share an internet connection with the library. Staff investigation strongly suggests an outstanding and systemic failure of the organization and the library to establish and implement routine/good practice policies and protocols to use and protect the computers, network and to enforce them systematically. Among others, staff findings reported: The library has used unknown and undocumented IT support. IS Outsource's contract does not include the library. The computers are running a Home Edition of the Windows 7 operating system. Anyone can install software and change OS settings. There are no protections against malicious software.

During recent staff meetings City Administrator and Department Heads were made aware of the fact that some Library patrons routinely disregard time limits (for computer use), install games and other software, and blatantly disregard City/library policies in front of staff, and ignore direction to follow the policy without repercussion. In some cases, young adults have used intimidation of library

staff. City Staff is reviewing policies and protocols on how to better protect the organization's personnel and property. Once the investigation is completed, staff will prepare drafts for improved policies and protocols, and recommendation will be presented to City Council for review and implementation.

- The City Council directed staff to write a Library Policy. The policy will govern how Library staff and the community use the Library.

- The City Administrator and Mayor Mitchell met with Dan Brown (Community Action Team) to review financial documents pertaining to the closing of the transaction for the transfer of the Old Vernonia Health Center (record and close the escrow) and review the timeline and guidelines for the demolition of the building. Dean Larson Inc. the contractor that will be working on the demolition of the building is in the process of testing the building for asbestos and lead. Demolition of the Old Vernonia Health Center building will need to be completed by October 31, 2014.

- City Administrator met with Dan Brown to review progress of work at the New Spencer Park. Also, Staff was made aware of concerns that there was a potential "geese problem" at the park - geese eating the grass seed.

- City Administrator attended City Council Workshop to discuss and define short and long term strategies for the use of the Vernonia Learning Center. Members of the Senior Center Board, and Jim Tierney (Executive Director Community Action Team) were in attendance. The Council met with representatives of the Senior Center to discuss the request of the Senior Center Board to use the Vernonia Community Learning Center during construction of the new facility (Senior Center/thrift store). Also the Council discussed the fiscal situation of the Learning Center and started strategizing about potential uses/activities to make the Learning Center a viable entity again. City Council directed the City Administrator, Gian Paolo Mammone to meet with the Senior Center Board, and Jim Tierney to draft potential guidelines for an agreement that would allow the Senior Center to utilize the Learning Center building. City Council will make a final decision after a specific recommendation from this meeting.

- The City Administrator met with Jim Tierney (Executive Director, Community Action Team) and representatives of the Senior Center Board to discuss potential lease terms for the Vernonia Learning Center. Once the draft of the document is completed, staff will present it to City Council for review and consideration.

- City administrator met with Larry Snethen (Lake Park Host) to discuss current conditions, operations, concerns and possible improvements necessary to improve the Lake Park and its operations. Conversation focused on immediate necessary repairs and improvements, as well as projected long term ones.

- City Administrator and Police Chief Conner met with Paula Hanson to hear concerns about locals and tourists biking on the sidewalks. Staff is in the process of collecting information. Among other issues relevant to downtown, this issue is under consideration for potential improvements.

- City Administrator and Finance Administrator met with Jon Forrester (Otak) and Brad Bogus (Tetra Tech Engineering) to review proposed schedule of Bidding & Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

- City Administrator met with Utilities Billing Clerk, Mayor Mitchell and Councilor McNair to discuss concerns about current language standards and protocols pertaining to some areas of the Utilities (Water) Ordinance. Staff will review sections relevant to "Billing and Collection," "Payment Arrangements" and "Temporary Vacancies" and will prepare recommendation for amendments and City Council for review, discussion and adoption.

- The City Administrator worked on the draft of an Ordinance Establishing a Tax on the Sale of Marijuana and Marijuana-infused Products in the City of Vernonia. The intent of the ordinance is to impose a gross receipts tax on the sale of medical marijuana, recreational marijuana (should it be legalized, through Ballot Measure 91, by Oregon voters in November) and marijuana-infused products. The City Attorney is presently reviewing the draft. The Ordinance will be presented to the City Council for review, discussion and adoption at the Council Meeting on October 20th.

## Readers Lend Their Voices... *continued from page 5*

shook the hand of the woman and to my disbelief commended her for taking the parenting class. Unfortunately, I cannot remember the exact words because I could not believe that the judge hearing the case was shaking the hand of the accused and congratulating her all in front of myself and my family before she passes sentence. She is not protecting anyone. PERIOD. This child abuser was on television soon afterward saying that she did not commit the crime although she plead guilty to it. This judge who claims to protect victims could not even be bothered to look in our direction. I know now that she spent her career defending criminals and it was obvious that she doesn't understand that a judge should be impartial and unbiased. Martwick granted me custody of my son and then made it apparent that she was

aware of my public comments about her. Her words are nothing more than campaign gibberish.

Crystal Nagel  
St. Helens, OR

To the Editor,

I support Cathleen Callahan and would like to respond to a previously submitted letter to the editor. There were a number of misleading comments in a recent letter to the editor. The first misconception is that Martwick won the primary "handily." I don't call 126 votes and 1.6% difference between Martwick and Cathleen Callahan "handily." I call that "barely" winning. The next thing is...I don't think there is any such thing as the "Governor's Expert Committee on

Judge Appointments." True, the Governor appoints judges to fill mid-term vacancies, but I very much doubt he requires an "Expert Committee" to do so, especially since that person will be required to go through the formal election process in order to continue in the position. Also, from what I understand, the Bar is pretty much 50-50 with their support since the bar poll came back at 22 for Martwick and 21 for Callahan. As a comparison, the only other contested judicial race is in Hood River and the governor appointee received 51 votes with the challenger receiving only 6 votes. Someone who has been in the office for a year should have won the bar poll, umm,...handily. These numbers say to me that Cathleen has been endorsed by her peers and Martwick is not the preferred choice for many of

the attorneys who work in our courts. I don't have personal knowledge about the painting of her office nor is that something that voters should care about. I would be more interested in hearing about her involvement in the community other than parades and such. Cathleen has a long list of organizations in the County that she has worked with for 20 years. Martwick has lived here for what, 3 years? How involved could she be?

Kiersten Angulo  
St. Helens, OR

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