

# City Department Updates *continued from page 12*

- Staff will be working on repairs to City Hall and Library roofs.
- Staff replaced the water meter for Nehalem View Trailer Park this week. This water meter is a 4" meter that was installed in the mid 1980s.
- Staff replaced a meter curb stop at 998 Bridge St. This required disruption of water service to more residents than expected. We are very sorry for the inconvenience.
- Vandalism at Lake Vernonia continues to be an issue and staff is discussing possible solutions.
- Public Works staff helped City Hall staff with moving of City owned property from the Learning Center in preparation of the Senior Center moving into this location.
- Staff repaired roof tiles at City Hall and the Library that had blown off. Both roofs are close to their life expectancy and will most likely need replacement in the near future.

## Planning / Building

- The City has received its letter from FEMA after the September 4, 2014 Community Assistance Visit (CAV) with a detailed information package which summarizes the findings and discussions from that meeting. The City has 60 days to respond with a plan on how the City will submit the required documentation to FEMA and to close the CAV in a timely manner.
- A primary purpose of the CAV visit was to assure enforcement of Vernonia's Flood Hazard Reduction Ordinance. Continued enforcement enables the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to continue allowing flood insurance to be sold throughout the city.

## Library

- The Library, "On the Shelves" column is back in *Vernonia's Voice*. The column will include library program information and book recommendations as well as other information. The column will be in the paper once a month but look for library programs

and hours in every issue of the paper.

- The library shelves are full beyond capacity. Library staff are removing items from the collection to make space, looking for books and materials that are damaged, not checking out, and out dated. Items that are in good condition will then be put in the Friends of the Library Book sale. Profits from the sale fund library programs and services. Mark your calendars for the Spring Book Sale: Friday, March 13 – Sunday, March 15.
- The Library Director is reviewing circulation statistics for each magazine as it comes up for renewal, canceling subscriptions that do not check out and purchasing new ones of interest. Now is a good time to make a suggestion to consider for the collection!
- The Library had exciting visitors on Wednesday, January 21. Children from Head Start came to the library for a special storytime. The class is currently learning about animals so the Library Director shared fun animal stories, rhymes, and songs.
- The Library Director ordered new books for the collection this week. New materials (including Books, DVDs, and AudioBooks) are ordered for the library every 2 weeks. The Library Catalog displays new items added to the collection. You can view the library catalog from home by linking to the library page from the City of Vernonia website: [www.vernonia-or.gov](http://www.vernonia-or.gov).
- Library Director visited the Vernonia School libraries to take a tour and meet with Vernonia High School librarian, Dana Hyde.
- The Oregon Reads Committee gave the library approval to spend grant money on a project in 2015. Money needs to be spent on poetry or writing related materials or programs. The library applied for and received a \$500 grant for Oregon Reads 2014, William Stafford Centennial Celebration. The grant money was not spent for the original project. The Library Director is working on a plan and will report to the Oregon Reads Committee once the project is complete.
- Library staff created "Library Craft Boxes" that will be available starting February 2.

There are two boxes, one for Pre-K and one for K-6. Children and parents can sign out for a box at the desk and make a craft in the library. Crafts will be switched out every 3-4 weeks. The first craft has a Valentine's Day theme.

- The library will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday on Tuesday, March 3, 6:00 pm. Take a picture with the Cat in the Hat! Birthday Cake! Find Dr. Seuss characters hidden throughout the library and enter to win a prize. This program is a Read Across America event, sponsored by the Friends of the Vernonia Library. Read Across America is a National Education Association project focused on motivating children and teens to read.

## City Clerk / Administration

- City Recorder is ending one year and beginning another following the retention rules.
- City Recorder will be working on the Flood Hazard Reduction Ordinance to bring to Council on February 2, 2015
- The City web page has been updated and is more user friendly.

## City Administrator /Administration

- City Administrator Attended County/ City Dinner Meeting held at the Cabin in Vernonia. The meeting was sponsored and hosted by the City of Vernonia. Among Mayors, Councilors, City Administrators, and other managers in Columbia County, other attendees were Commissioners Fisher, and Hyde.
- The PW crew did a great job at the cemetery. All PW department members worked to clean the fields, and to grade and restore the internal vehicular paths. Thanks to Shirlee Daughtry who, in addition to presenting to the City Council her concerns (and showing pictures) about the bad conditions of the cemetery, raked all the leafs from the grounds and piled them for easy collection from our crew.

It is very nice when we can rely on

the assistance and support of our citizens... and it is rewarding when we see that our residents feel comfortable to come to City Hall to voice their concerns and discuss their worries about City operations. Constructive criticism from our residents will do a lot in helping us improving our ways and means, and in becoming a successful organization and community.

- The City Administrator attended a "Readiness Training Identification and Preparedness Planning Workshop" in St. Helens. The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) establishes guidance for Columbia County's actions during response to, and short-term recovery from, major emergencies or disasters.
- The City Administrator and Police Chief "walked their beat" in downtown and visited some businesses. This is going to be (for now) a weekly event with the City Administrator and the Police Chief (or another officer) walking downtown to make the PD presence more visible, to get to know businesses owners, to get residents familiar and comfortable with our officers, to meet residents and tourists and to hear about concerns. This is what people expect police to do: to reach out to their community and residents by being an active presence and also taking care of problems and...getting the bad guys.
- The City Administrator attended the DEQ hosted Public Information Meeting relating to the proposed Oregon LNG project's 401 water quality certification, on Thursday, January 29, at the Cabin in Vernonia, 6:00-9:00 pm. A large number of local residents were in attendance
- The City Administrator, along with the Mayor and Councilor Parrow met with representatives of the Ridge Riders. This was an informal meeting aimed at rebuilding a City collaborative relationship with the Riders, understanding each other's concerns and preferred options, while trying to forge a strong and long lasting strategic partnership that would benefit the community at large.

## Boosters Buzz

Booster basketball is well underway and going strong. The 3rd and 4th grade girls are small in numbers but a mighty team. They have a 3-1 record. The girls are being coached by Bob Zavales and assisted by Stacy Adams. The 3rd and 4th grade boys are pretty mighty themselves with a 3-0 record. The team has a couple of high scoring players and is being coached by Mac McCallum and assisted by Matt Tesdall. All 3rd and 4th grade teams play in the Forest Grove League as in years past. The 5th and 6th grade boys and girls are playing in a more competitive Beaverton League this year. The teams

are playing at the Beaverton Hoop YMCA. It has been a challenge and adjustment for the teams. The boys team is coached by Matt Poetter and assisted by Jake Handegard. The boys have a 0-4 record, but are working hard and getting better each week. The girls team is coached by Amy Cieloha and assisted by Mike Neiderkorn. The team has 12 girls, all returning basketball players and are acclimating well to the adjustment of richer competition as well as high school rules. The girls have played 5 games so far, with a 2-3 record. Their last game was pretty exciting with only a 6 point loss! We are proud of all our basketball teams

and coaches.

With basketball going strong and with plenty of season left it is hard to believe that baseball, softball and T-ball is just around the corner. Our first night of spring ball sign ups was held on Thursday, January 29th with the second and last night of sign ups on Tuesday, February 17th from 6-8 PM in the school cafeteria. Payment is due at registration and all checks are made out to Vernonia Boosters. Booster meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at the school library at 7:00 PM.

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Jim Morrison, Jr.  
General Contractor  
CCB# 112057

Ph: (503) 429-0154  
[MorrisonRemodeling@hughes.net](mailto:MorrisonRemodeling@hughes.net)  
Vernonia, OR 97064

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