

Vernonia City News...

At the February 17, 2015 City Council Meeting:

Council Discusses Anderson Park Issues - Council spent time discussing issues surrounding monthly guests and conditions at Anderson Park. Council and staff agreed there are concerns and changes that need to be made. Council encouraged staff to enforce rules and clean up the Park.

Council Approves Property Use for Open Air Market - Council approved a request from Bill Langmaid for use of the property at the corner of Bridge Street and Grant Avenue for use by the Open Air Market this upcoming summer. The site is where the former health center building was located. The Open Air Market will be held on Saturdays from June through September. The Council

denied the first choice location on Adams Avenue which would have required a street closure every week. Council also agreed to waive business license fees for participating vendors at the market.

Council Passes Two Resolutions - Council Passed Resolution 03-15, Amending City Council Rules and Procedures, and Resolution 04-15 Amending Ordinance 880 which establishes the organization of City Committees. Both resolutions made minor changes. Resolution 03-15 adds an Action Item Summary to City Council meetings in Section 10 describing the Order of Business at a City Council meeting. Resolution 04-15 adds verbiage to sections 3 and 7 of Ordinance 880, stating that two members of a City Committee may be appointed from outside city limits, adding "within

the Vernonia School district Boundaries," and adding the statement, "In an event there is not a full committee, a quorum relates to its current capacity of members until filled."

At the March 2, 2015 City Council Meeting:

Mayor Resigns to Accept Assistant City Admin Position - Mayor Josette Mitchell read a letter to the Council and audience announcing her resignation as Mayor in order to accept a staff position as Assistant to the City Administrator/City Recorder. (see full story on front page) Council President Randy Parrow was nominated and accepted the role of Mayor and Councilor Kim Tierney was elected the new Council President.

Council Moves Forward with Timber Harvest on Mill Site - Council authorized staff to prepare a bid summary to harvest merchantable timber from the old mill site. Potential contractors for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) project may consider mining clay to seal edges of the raised lagoons that are part of the project and the City intends to remove any merchantable timber prior to the WWTP project starting.

City Administrator Report - Council heard a report from the City Administrator on recent work. Council questioned the City Administrator about the meeting he held with downtown businesses about streetscape trees and instructed him to report to Council with solutions at the April 6 City Council meeting. The City Administrator also brought up the idea of a City car for use by staff and was instructed to bring back a cost analysis to Council.

continued on page 6

City and Ridge Riders Reach Agreement for Arena Use

The Vernonia City Council negotiated and approved a Settlement Agreement and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Vernonia Ridge Riders equestrian group for use of the Equestrian Arena at Anderson Park.

Council is awaiting final approval from the Ridge Riders legal representative, but both parties have agreed in principle to the terms of both agreements.

The Settlement Agreement concerns the dispute between the two parties over the validity of the most recent lease from August 2006 which has regulated use of the site.

The Settlement Agreement document mutually rescinds the 2006 lease and all prior agreements between the parties. It also dismisses all claims in the matter that were scheduled to be heard in Columbia County Circuit Court. In addition, the Settlement Agreement states that use of Anderson Park Equestrian Arena will now be governed by the new Memorandum of Agreement between the two parties.

The new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) calls for the Ridge Riders to receive twelve days of use at the arena per calendar year which begins February 1. Scheduled clean-up, preparation and maintenance days are exempt. The Ridge Riders will also have two "community benefit days" per calendar year. All other days of use will

be subject to general equestrian permit and fees adopted by the City Council.

The MOA requires the Ridge Riders to provide a schedule of their upcoming events by October 1, for the following year. The MOA requires the Ridge Riders to carry \$2 million in insurance and maintain active non-profit status. All members must carry a valid Ridge Riders identification when on the premises. The Ridge Riders will be responsible for paying water and electric utilities and for garbage removal. The MOA is subject to renewal every five years.

According to the MOA, the Ridge Riders are responsible for maintenance of the arena area and the City is responsible for maintenance of the area surrounding the arena.

The City has the right to rent the arena to other users when it has not been reserved by the Ridge Riders. Any improvements that are made to the arena or equestrian area are the property of the City of Vernonia.

The Ridge Riders may terminate the agreement at any time with thirty days notice to the City. The agreement may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of both parties. The City may terminate the agreement if the Ridge Riders fail to comply with any terms or conditions within ten days of receiving written notice from the City specifying the nature of the failure to comply.



Council Approves Agreement With Ridge Riders - Council voted to approve a Settlement Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Vernonia Ridge Riders equestrian group for use of the Equestrian Arena adjacent to Anderson Park, based on acceptance by the Ridge Riders. (see full story on page 5)

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:
Monday, March 16, 2015
Monday, April 6, 2015

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, May 25, 2015
Memorial Day

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

Vernonia Police Blotter February 14-28, 2015

REPORTS TAKEN

- February 21, 2015 Stolen Vehicle recovered near Stoney Point.

CITATIONS

- February 15, 2015 Citation for Violation of the Basic Rule 70 mph in a 50 mph on HWY 47 South
- February 15, 2015 Citation for Trespass II in the 400 Block of Bridge St.

- February 15, 2015 Citation for Violation of the Basic Rule 70 mph in a 55 mph on HWY 47 South.

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation.
02/14/2015 through 02/28/2015 VPD responded to 19 calls/incidents.

TREE SALE
RAIN OR SHINE

Saturday, March 14, 2015
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

24 species including 'Elite' Douglas fir, western red cedar, noble fir, coastal redwood, golden-chain tree, and 19 others. Some bag quantities

Pacific Pride (Lawrence Oil) Hwy 30, St. Helens

Proceeds support Columbia County students and staff.

COLUMBIA COUNTY SMALL WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION
Information: (503) 556-8800 or (503) 397-5997

Friends of the Library

Fri, March 13
10am-5pm

Sat, March 14
10am - 4pm

Book SALE

Vernonia Library
701 Weed Avenue
503-429-1818

Terry's Gym

JOIN THE TEAM!

503-901-1705
16720 Noakes Rd. Vernonia