

Vernonia City News...

At the October 12, 2015 City Council Meeting:

October 5, 2015 Meeting Canceled – The regular October 5, 2015 City Council Meeting was canceled due to a lack of a quorum. Mayor Randy Parrow, and Councilors Bruce McNair and Mike Seager were not present. The meeting was rescheduled for October 12 and the agenda carried forward.

Council Discusses Downtown Tree Removal – Council discussed a report from city staff on the costs associated with removing two trees in downtown. The removal was an experiment to see what would be involved in the City's plan to remove all 46 trees and replace 21 of them. Some of the trees are causing damage to the sidewalks and some business owners have complained that the trees block their signage. When removing the two trees staff noticed that the tree roots are becoming entangled with utilities under the sidewalk. Staff told Council six of the trees have caused noticeable damage to sidewalks. Council agreed to remove those six trees immediately and wait before removing any more, although they did agree all the trees need to be removed before they cause more damage.

Council Moves Forward With Pre-design Plan for Ammonia Removal – Council agreed to move forward with predesign plans to add an element to

the wastewater treatment plant upgrade project for the removal of ammonia from the final discharged effluent. The City has been told by DEQ that the City will be required to meet new standards once upgrades have been completed.

Council Approves Staff Restructuring Plan – Council held a workshop following the conclusion of meeting to discuss a restructuring of City Hall staff. City Administrator Josette Mitchell and Finance Director Angie Handegard presented a plan to hire a new City Recorder and add some Planning Duties to the GIS Analyst position and included new job descriptions for these two positions. The GIS Analyst/Land Use Planning Assistant position will become full time. The restructure plan also reassigns some other duties within already created positions. Council approved the plan.

Council Passes Resolution Approving Transportation District – Council approved Resolution 14-15, approving a Columbia County order to form a Transportation District with a permanent tax rate. The Transportation District would be brought before voters on the May 2016 ballot.

Council Approves Cemetery Fee Changes – Council approved Resolution 15-15, amending the Master Fee Schedule and increasing most of the rates at the Vernonia Memorial and

Pioneer Cemeteries.

Council Discusses Ridge Rider Utility Bill – The Council discussed a request from the Vernonia Ridge Riders to consider what they saw as a discrepancy in their water bill for service at the horse arena. The Ridge Riders shut off the service during the winter months, and a leak was not discovered until service was reconnected in the summer. Because the City did not record the meter readings that occurred during the winter shut off, Council agreed to split the charge for the leak, which totaled \$141.95.

Council Approves Lot Line Adjustment at Cemetery House – Council approved a plan to adjust the lot line on the property that served as the home for the Cemetery Caretaker. The City intends to remove the current shed, sell the property and install utilities for a host site at the cemetery.

Council Informed of Move of Water/Sewer Service on Property – Council was informed by staff that they have had a request to move the water and sewer service hook up on a property owned by Dennis Weller. Weller said he intends to sell a portion of that property. Council agreed that Mr. Weller should be responsible for any costs involved in moving the hook up.

Topics From the Floor – Courtney Tice, President of the Vernonia Ridge

Riders, asked to meet with members of Council and staff to discuss some parts of the MOA signed between the City and their group for use of the horse arena. Mayor Randy Parrow and City Administrator Josette Mitchell said they would schedule a meeting.

Kate Laird asked Council to reconsider their decision to remove the trees in the downtown corridor, stating that the City has already removed trees at Spencer Park, on the old Mill Site, and along Webb Way. She said removing the trees would ruin the charm of the downtown.

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:
Monday, October 19, 2015
Monday, November 2, 2015

City Closures are scheduled for:
Wednesday, November 11, 2015
Veterans Day Holiday

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

KGW's Rod Hill to Address Columbia County OSU Extension Service

KGW Meteorologist Rod Hill, will be in Columbia County to discuss Weather and Gardening and talk about how the changing weather patterns will affect this region and our gardens. The event is hosted by the OSU Extension Service at 505 N Columbia River Hwy, St Helens, OR on October 22, 2015, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The public is welcome.

Why is the weather changing? What can we expect in the future? Rod Hill's forecasting career has spanned more than 20 years, taking him from the hurricanes of South Texas to the lake effect snows of Michigan, the tornadoes of the Ohio valley and the hard to predict weather of the Pacific Northwest. Rod grew up in Missouri and graduated from Mizzou. He later earned his certificate of broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State. Soon after, Rod earned the seal of approval from the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association. His forecasting achievements include two Emmy awards for best meteorologist and three Associated Press awards for best weather-cast in Oregon.

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What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

Upcoming Events

Oregon Author Visit: Molly Gloss
Monday, October 26, 5:30 pm
Special guest author Molly Gloss will be attending Book Discussion Group to talk about her novel, *Falling from Horses*. Call or visit the library to reserve a copy of the book.

Movie Showtimes
Thursday, October 22, 6 pm
Thursday, October 29, 6 pm
Relax and enjoy a new movie and free popcorn. Call or visit the library for movie titles.

Ongoing Programs

Stamp Club
November 5
1st Thursday of each month, 4:30-5:30 pm
Open to all ages! Come join us for some stamp learning, collecting, trading, and all around fun!

Tabletop Gaming
October 27, 4 pm
2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, 4pm. For Teens and Adults. New and experienced gamers welcome. Primary game will be Pathfinder, but Game Master's of other titles are welcome to bring their game of choice. Sign up at the library.

Writer's Group
October 15

3rd Thursday of every month, 6 – 7:30 pm
Opportunity for writers with all levels of experience to get together, write, and get feedback.

Book Discussion Group
October 26
Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm
Selection for October: *Falling From Horses* by Molly Gloss (with special guest, Molly Gloss)

It's Always Craft Time at the Library. Ask at the checkout desk about our Craft Box. Activities are switched out every couple of weeks.

Storytimes
Baby and Toddler Time
Mondays, 10:30 – 11:15 am
Songs, rhymes, books, toys, and bubbles! For ages 0 – 3. Older siblings welcome.

Preschool Storytime
Fridays, 10:30 – 11:15 am
Stories and a craft/activity. For children up to age 5.

Library Hours & Contact
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 – 5
Tuesday, Thursday: 1 – 7
Saturday: 10 – 4
Closed Sundays

Phone: (503) 429-1818
E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov

Police Blotter October 1 - 12, 2015

REPORTS TAKEN

- October 2, 2015 Report of a Court Stalking Order violation on Bridge St.
- October 2, 2015 Report of a Court Stalking Order violation on Bridge st.
- October 2, 2015 Report of Theft II on

Mississippi Ave.
Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 10/01/2015 through 10/12/2015 VPD had a 99 calls for service.

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Our next issue will be November 5th.