

Vernonia City News...

At the February 1, 2016 City Council Meeting:

Topics From the Floor - Numerous citizens spoke in regards to an item on the agenda – the request to amend the Conservation Easement on the Lincoln School Property.

David Mile of Vernonia Brands, LLC told the Council he is the one looking to develop a marijuana growery at Lincoln School. He said he is working with investors and looks forward to sharing his business plan with the community. He said he intends to market a new brand of marijuana using the Vernonia name and make Vernonia a destination in the new marijuana industry. He asked the Council to delay any decision and suggested a town hall meeting where he could fully explain his business model and answer questions from the community.

Rick Hobart talked about the history of the community and said there is a timber culture in Vernonia, not a marijuana culture. He said he is concerned about marijuana grown in Vernonia being transported across state lines.

Kellie Crowdis is a neighbor of the Lincoln School and is concerned about whether the city infrastructure can support this type of industry and also raised concerns about increased traffic in the neighborhood.

Vincent Sliwoski is the attorney for Mile and Vernonia Brands, LLC and said the new marijuana industry is being strictly regulated. He thinks getting the Lincoln School back in use would be good for the community.

Sue Robertson is a 40 year resident of Vernonia and likes that it is about

family and friendships. She is concerned about this use of the old school building and what the town will become known for.

Jessica Ray is a new resident in Vernonia who said she would not have moved here if she knew this type of business would be allowed. She also asked how this business would impact water use and summer water restrictions.

Ed Crowdis asked what is the benefit for Vernonia? Mile was asked to reply said he projected \$72,000 in annual tax revenue for the City and employment for local residents.

Don Willard said that marijuana has medical uses and could provide commerce for the community.

Kim Perry raised concerns about how this business would affect quality of life in the neighborhood and in the community.

Rick Timmerman raised concerns about water use and theft, quiet, and property values in the neighborhood. Timmerman also asked about a separate issue, when the Webb Way Trail would be reopened; he was told May of 2016.

Council Discusses Ordinance Regulating Marijuana - Council was presented with a draft ordinance, prepared by the City's legal counsel, Ruben Cleaveland. The draft ordinance contains restrictions on time, place and manner for the sale of recreational and medical marijuana to the public. Specifically the ordinance would not allow any marijuana facility to be located within 1,000 feet from another, would not allow marijuana or tobacco products to be smoked or consumed on the premises, and limits the hours of operation from 9:00 am

to 8:00 pm. Council asked Cleaveland to include language to regulate odors. Council asked staff to bring back a final version of the ordinance to a later meeting.

Council Rejects Amendment to Lincoln School Easement - Council rejected a request to amend the Conservation Easement on the Lincoln School. The request was made by the owner of the property, Bud Dow and David Mile of Vernonia Brands, LLC. (See full story on front page.)

Council Approves Street Closure for Open Air Market - Council approved a request from Bill Langmaid to close Adams Avenue on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm beginning May 14, 2016 and ending September 24, 2016 for the Open

Air Market.

Council Approves Three Parks Recommendations - Council approved three recommendations from the Parks Committee.

Council approved a recommendation to have the snack trailer, deck and cover removed by the owner at Vernonia Lake.

Council approved a recommendation to increase the compensation for the park host to 10% of all space rentals at Anderson Park and Airport Park.

Council approved a recommendation to move the bulk water station from its current location at Anderson Park to the parking lot on Adams Avenue where the WOEC headquarters was previously located.

Council Rejects Amendment

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commerce commencing in September.

During the Council's discussion on the issue, Councilor Mike Seager stated, "I think the wording in the Conservation Easement was put there to protect the people who live around there and I think it's very obvious that our citizens don't want to

have a marijuana grow operation there."

Councilor Bruce McNair agreed with Seager. "I see no compelling evidence to change it, and I'm concerned about the neighborhood." When asked for a motion to change the language in the easement, Mayor Randy Parrow received no response from the Council.

What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

Upcoming Events

Food for Fines Fundraiser

February 1 – 15
Bring non-perishable food or personal care items to the library and \$1 in fines will be forgiven from your account in exchange for each item. All donations, including money paid on fines during this time period, will be donated to Vernonia Cares. A few suggestions: canned fruit and vegetables, cereals, rice, beans, protein rich foods, personal care items, baby diapers or wipes, toilet paper. Fees for Lost or Damaged items can not be waived in exchange for donations.

Movie Night

Tuesday, February 16, 6 pm

Family Movie Night

Thursday, February 25, 6 pm
Relax and enjoy a new movie and free popcorn. Call or visit the library for movie title.

The Cat in the Hat...Is Back!

Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Dr. Seuss story read by the Cat in the Hat! Birthday cake, scavenger hunt, and craft. Join the party! Sponsored by the Friends of the Vernonia Library in honor of Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss' Birthday).

Gardening Talk: Soil Amendment

Tuesday, March 15, 7 pm
Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Faculty and Master Gardener™, offers tips on improving and enriching soil for your gardens. Free and open to the public.

Ongoing Programs

Stamp Club

February 4
1st Thursday of every month, 4:30 pm
Come by for some stamp collecting, learning, and trading. Open to all ages.

Writer's Group

February 18
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

February 29
Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm
Selection for February:
Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf

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

Vernonia Police Blotter

January 16-31, 2016

REPORTS TAKEN

- January 15, 2016 Arrest on a Warrant on Missouri Ave.
- January 16, 2016 Informational report of Disorderly Conduct on Bridge St.
- January 16, 2016 Report of Criminal Mischief on Jefferson Ave.
- January 14, 2016 Report of Criminal Mischief on Jefferson Ave.
- January 25, 2016 Arrest on a Warrant on Nehalem Hwy S.
- January 16, 2016 Report of Harassment, Disorderly Conduct on Bridge St.

TRAFFIC / OTHER CITATIONS

- January 16, 2016 Fannie Mae issued a Nuisance Violation Citation around Riverside Dr. and Bridge St.
- January 16, 2016 Citation for Driving While Suspended on Hwy 47 S.

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation.
01/01/2016 through 01/31/2016 VPD had a 234 calls for service

Terry's Gym



JOIN THE TEAM!

503-901-1705
16720 Noakes Rd. Vernonia

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:
Tuesday, February 16, 2016
Monday, March 7, 2016

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, February 15, 2016
Presidents' Day

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules