

Why Columbia County is Asking You to KEEP IT LOCAL

Local organizers of Keep It Local Columbia County want to put more money into independent businesses, thus decreasing leakage of money outside of Columbia County and strengthening our local economy.

The group received grant funds from The Ford Family Foundation to partner with the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA), a non-profit specializing in establishing successful buy local campaigns in communities.

Results of an on-line survey and feedback from workshops held last summer, in partnership with AMIBA, demonstrate how consumers and business owners shop local, their needs, and their perspectives on how to increase local dollars spent in our community.

153 residents participated in the on-line survey along with 51 business owners. The top three businesses residents said they wanted to see in Columbia County were:

- #1- Healthy/Affordable Restaurant
- #2- Shoe/Specialty Retail Stores
- #3- Fresh Produce, Specialty Food or Grocery Store.

Results of the survey also showed that residents want more options and extended hours to shop at local businesses. Results also highlighted a

need for communication about the variety and selection of products and services already available locally.

To assist consumers and businesses, a comprehensive countywide local business directory is available at www.keepitlocalcc.com. It is being populated now and will soon put all businesses on one page so consumers can look up hours and available products in one place.

The business directory will help to increase business to business referrals, as well as the number of customers buying local, by making information about local products and services more easily available.

Natasha Parvey, Director of Keep It Local, stated, "Having a county wide directory will put all of Columbia County on one page to increase local spending and engage the community in keeping dollars local. This will ensure that we have more services and choices, more jobs, a healthier environment, and a stronger economy." Learn more about the top reasons to buy local at www.amiba.net/resources/localhero. Local businesses and organizations in Columbia County can now add their business, and upcoming events, to the Directory at www.keepitlocalcc.com.

HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions and ideas. Please include your name, address and phone number, limit your letters to 300 words or less. Vernonia's Voice reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters space permitting. Deadline is the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Email: scott@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

Vernonia Weather April 2016

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	74	36	0
2	68	33	0
3	71	41	.23
4	56	36	.06
5	60	35	0
6	75	35	0
7	87	39	0
8	79	38	0
9	68	37	0
10	60	46	0
11	59	42	0
12	56	37	.23
13	56	41	.47
14	52	33	.32
15	58	40	T
16	70	34	0
17	81	39	0
18	88	40	0
19	89	41	0
20	83	49	0
21	74	50	.54
22	61	41	.35
23	61	41	T
24	54	35	.01
25	58	31	T
26	59	32	.02
27	59	36	T
28	59	44	T
29	61	32	T
30	67	33	0

Ave/Tot 66.8 38.2 2.23

Weather data is collected at the U.S. Weather station at the Vernonia Water Plant

Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Annual Meeting 4:00 pm on Saturday May 21, 2016

at the Vernonia Grange Hall, 375 North Street

Presentation: Working with Weyerhaeuser by John Souder, OSU Assistant Professor.

For more info call (503) 429-0869 or email maggie@nehalem.org



Friends of Stub Stewart State Park and Banks-Vernonia State Trail Monthly Meeting April 28, 2016 7-9 pm

The Dairy Creek West Meeting Hall Stub Stewart State Park 30380 NW Hwy 47 Buxton, OR 97109

Interested public welcome Steve Kruger, Park Ranger 503-324-0606 x223



Upcoming Events

9th Annual Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, May 21, 7:00 am-noon at the Vernonia Fire Station. Payment by donation only. Benefits Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters and Vernonia Ambulance Assoc. Garage Sale May 21-22 to benefit 4th of July fireworks.

Pet Fair - Saturday, May 21, 10:00 am-3:00 pm at Creatures Pet Shop parking lot, 998 Bridge St. This is a fundraiser for Bailey's Pantry.

Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Annual Meeting - Saturday, May 21, 4:00 pm at the Vernonia Grange, 375 North St. Presentation: Working with Weyerhaeuser by John Souder, OSU Assistant Professor.

"Beyond the Scoreboard: Sports

in Our Lives and Communities," a free conversation with Andrew Guest - Tuesday, May 24, 6:30-8:00 pm at the Vernonia Public Library, 701 Weed Ave. This program is hosted by the Friends of the Vernonia Public Library and sponsored by Oregon Humanities.

Jr. Salmon Auction - Thursday, May 26, 7:00 pm at the Vernonia Schools Commons. Supports school arts and Hands-On Art programs.

Volunteer Job Fair - Thursday, June 9, 5:00-9:00 pm in the large gymnasium at the Vernonia Schools. Contact Bill Langmaid at bill@rangelights.com.

Your Event - Saturday, July 16, 4:00-8:00 pm at Hawkins Park. Youth and community BBQ, music, games and more.

FREE COOKING & NUTRITION CLASS FOR LOW INCOME ADULTS

Columbia Pacific Food Bank will host a 6 week Cooking Matters Class!

This class is for low income adults. Income verification is not required.

You'll learn how to:

- Make the most of your food budget
- Cook nutritious, delicious food
- Shop wisely at the grocery store
- Learn time-saving techniques
- Learn recipes

Where: Grace Family Fellowship
Address: 967 State Street, Vernonia
Day/Time: Thursdays, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Dates: June 2 - July 7

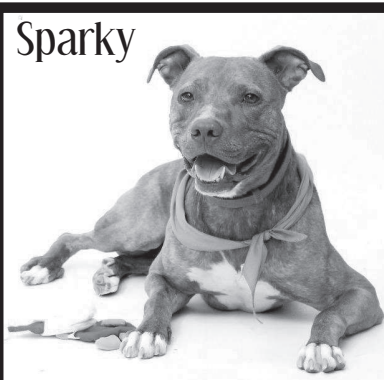
SIGN UP TODAY - SPACE IS LIMITED!

For more information or to sign-up, contact Casey Wheeler, 503-397-9708 or casey@cpfoodbank.org



Cooking Matters is a program of Share Our Strengths and Oregon Food Bank.

Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet



Sparky

My name is Sparky and I am a 3 year old Pitbull mix. I have been at the shelter now for quite sometime. I would love to go to a new forever home. My previous family was unable to care for me any more. Shelter life is a little hard for me, as I have a tendency to get very nervous with everyone looking at me all the time. I love to spend time in the play yard and I love to go for nice long walks. I don't really care much for cats, (they run and are so fun to chase!!). I would like to be an only dog in my new home. I weigh right around 63 lbs. Stop in and see me today. Please ask the staff to look at me as I'm not available in the public adoption kennels as I get so worked up with people looking at me all day. My adoption fee is \$200.00 Please don't hesitate to call or email for more information.

Web: www.columbiahumane.org

Phone: 503-397-4353

Email: animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org

2084 Oregon Street
St. Helens, OR 97051