

# Vernonia School District 47J 2016 GO Bond – SEL 803 Explanatory Statement

Following catastrophic floods in 1996 and 2007, voters approved a 2009 bond measure to move the three impacted Vernonia School District schools and District Office to higher ground. The school opened in 2012, meeting FEMA deadlines and before another major flood event occurred (December 2015).

Total cost of moving the District to higher ground was \$42 million, with approximately \$13 million coming from the 2009 bond, \$12 million from FEMA, and the remainder from state and federal grants, and individual and private foundation donations. The final \$5 million needed to complete construction was borrowed.

Fundraising efforts and receipt of grants have paid these loans for seven years, but these opportunities are no longer available. Payments on these loans will now come 100% from the general fund budget, impacting classroom programs. Further, certain key capital projects from the original campus design were never completed due to lack of funding. The proposed bond will tackle all of these issues. Importantly, the District was recently awarded a \$2.7 million matching grant from the State of Oregon; however that money will only be available if voters approve this bond.

This bond will refinance construction debt of approximately \$4.1 million. Current loan payments of \$408,000/year (equivalent to 5 full-time teachers, or 20 days of school) will be eliminated if voters approve this bond. These loan payments will continue, and be paid from general funds, if voters reject this bond.

If this bond is approved Vernonia voters will have a \$47 million dollar school campus project for the overall price of \$19.8 million in local bonded debt.

The bond and matching grants are expected to fund:

- Refinancing existing debt, freeing up resources for general operations to support classroom learning.
- Constructing, furnishing and equipping new classrooms (including a dedicated art room) and welding/metals shop.
- Protecting the community's investment in Mist Grade School by replacing roofs, gutters, siding, flooring and mechanical systems.
- Improving technology with additional equipment and wireless access.
- Installation of playground equipment at both school campuses.
- Additional investments in school safety through installation of supplementary security systems.
- Completing athletic fields and facilities on the Vernonia Schools campus.
- Installation of irrigation system for natural resource programs and landscaping.
- Other site improvements, furnishings, equipping of projects and Bond issuance costs.

For the 2009 Bond, the District estimated a tax rate of \$1.90 per thousand of assessed value. Because of low interest rates, strong growth in assessed values, and a recent refinancing of the 2009 Bond, the actual rate paid was lower. The addition of this bond is estimated to not exceed that original \$1.90 per thousand rate, with an incremental cost of approximately \$48 per year for property assessed at \$200,000. Actual rates may differ depending on interest rates incurred and changes in assessed value.

New property owners moving into the community would pay for the projects through new property taxes that could reduce the share paid by existing property owners.

# Public Notice Call for Weatherization Contractors Request for Proposals

Community Action Team's Weatherization Program is now accepting applications to establish qualified contractors to provide services for income-eligible homes in Clatsop, Columbia, & Tillamook Counties.

### Scope of Projects

- To reduce structural heat loss and reduce energy consumption by installing weatherization measures & related repairs which improve the thermal efficiency of the dwelling unit.
- To provide the health and safety of the customer by utilizing the available advanced diagnostic testing equipment to test every unit.
- To provide incidental plumbing, electrical and/or heating equipment service/repair within the scope of project.

Contractors for installation of weatherization measures and readiness repairs will be asked to submit bids per job and will be awarded through a competitive selection process. Applicants must be bonded, registered with the Construction Contractors Board, Certified Lead Based Paint Renovator (LBPR), USDOE Lead Safe Weatherization trained, along with additional required insurance coverage and preferred training/certifications.

- Contractors for Residential Energy Auditor/Inspector to complete residential energy audits & quality control inspections (QCI) including all health and safety tests utilizing blower door, duct blaster and other weatherization tools. Contractor must be REAP and/or BPI certified, REM Design & QCI certified by

standards required by the State of Oregon's Weatherization Assistance Program.

- Contractors for Electrical inspections/readiness repairs, HVAC inspections/replacements and Plumbing repairs. Applicants must be bonded, registered with the Construction Contractors Board, along with required insurance coverage & preferred training/certifications. Professional Service contractors (electricians, plumbers, HVAC) will submit price list, hourly billing rate and travel charge information as part of the Request for Proposal.
- Qualified vendors for the installation of new energy efficient refrigerators & stoves, and appliance repairs. Applicants must carry general liability, vehicle insurance and meet program insurance requirements. Follow established recycling standards set forth by EPA and USDOE. Qualified vendors will be required to complete the required bid packet and agree to contractual terms.

Contractor must adhere to all ORS statutes pertaining to employer/employee relations and also comply with Equal Opportunity Employer requirements. Minority and women owned contractors are encouraged to respond.

For further information please contact the Weatherization Program at (503) 366-6587 by 5:00 pm on September 30, 2016.

# On The Shelves

By Shannon Romtvedt

Something you might not expect to have available at the library: free membership passes. The library currently offers an OMSI pass for check-out, admitting up to 6 individuals for free to the museum. Does OMSI have anything for young children? Yes. OMSI now has a Discovery Lab for children, ages 0 – 6, including hands on activities. So, there is definitely something for all ages to explore. To reserve the pass, contact the library. Passes can be checked out for 48 hours.

Thanks to a donation to the community by Vernonia Hands on Art, the library now offers two membership cards to the Oregon Historical Society (orhist@ohs.org). Each card allows the bearer free admission to the society's museum exhibits and research library. The following info is provided by Vernonia Hands on Art: "Vernonia Hands on Art's mission is "to provide a high quality learning environment that celebrates the creative spirit by exposing the community to the arts and honors the community's heritage." In line with this objective and our relationship with the Vernonia Pioneer Museum, a program of Hands on Art, we want to increase awareness of the history of our community and the state in which we reside. To this end, Hands on Art has purchased a membership in the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) which has many valuable resources.

We believe that having access

to the archives and exhibits of the Historical Society will be a valuable asset to our community. The membership entitles us to two cards that allow the bearer(s) free admission to the OHS Museum exhibits and research library, a ten percent discount on purchases at the Museum Store, and other benefits including periodic free access to other reciprocating museums across the state. This year's offerings include Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in September, Washington County Museum in October, the World Forestry Center in December, and Deepwood Museum & Gardens in all months of 2016."

The Vernonia Public Library has a monthly event calendar, accessible at the library and on our website [www.vernonia-or.gov/Resources/Library](http://www.vernonia-or.gov/Resources/Library). We have a Facebook page and programs can be found in every edition of the *Vernonia's Voice*. Please watch out for the addition of another membership pass released this fall as well as a variety of interesting programs. Mark your calendars for Oregon Humanities Conversation Project program "Life after War: Photography and Oral Histories of Coming Home" by James Lommasson on Saturday, November 5, 4 pm.

### Upcoming Events at the Library

#### Author Night: Warren C. Easley

Thursday, September 22, 6:30 – 8 pm  
Oregon author of the Cal Claxton mysteries. Most recent title in the

series is *Not Dead Enough*, available for check-out at the library. Reading, Q&A, and book signing.

#### Movie Nights

Tuesday, September 20, 6 pm *Showing a documentary based on the book "Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown*

Thursday, September 29, 6 pm *Family movie night, showing a newly released live action remake of a Disney classic.* Relax and enjoy a movie and popcorn at the library. Call or visit the library for movie titles.

### Ongoing Programs

#### K-5 Library Time (New)

Third Thursday of every month, 4 – 5 pm. Snack and craft for students K-5 and parents. Older kids/teens welcome as long as there are enough materials.

#### Homeschool Library Time

October 12, 1 – 2 pm\*  
\*Tentative date, Second Wednesday of every month, 1 – 2 pm. Call or visit the library if interested as plans for this program are still in progress.

#### Book Discussion Group

Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm  
Selection for September 26: *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

#### Writer's Group

September 15, 6 – 7:30 pm  
Third Thursday of the month. For all levels of writing experience. New members always welcome.

#### Baby and Toddler Time

Mondays, 10:30 – 11:15 am  
Songs, short stories, toys, and bubbles

for 0 – 3. Older siblings welcome.

#### Preschool Storytime

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

### Library Volunteers Needed

The library is seeking volunteers for the following:

**Program assistance:** Help prep crafts for programs, storytimes, and/or our craft box. Volunteers are also needed during children's programs.

#### Newspaper Archives project:

Volunteers are needed to help with a project to make archived historical newspapers (*Vernonia Eagle* and *The Independent*) more accessible to the public. Attention to detail, basic computer skills, and an interest in local history is a must. Contact Shannon Romtvedt at the library (503) 429-1818 or [shannonr@vernonia-or.gov](mailto:shannonr@vernonia-or.gov) if interested or want more details.

**Library Board:** Currently one open position for our seven member Library Board. Board members work to improve library services and update policies. If interested, pick up an application at the library or City Hall, or on the City of Vernonia website [www.vernonia-or.gov](http://www.vernonia-or.gov).

### Hours & Contact Info

Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am – 5 pm  
Tues & Thurs 1 pm – 7pm  
Sat 10 am – 4 pm  
Closed Sundays

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