Vernonia City **News...**

At the September 19, 2016 City Council Meeting:

Topics From the Floor – Brett Costley, Chair of the Vernonia School Board addressed the Council and encouraged all Vernonia voters to support the School Bond.

David Sterner brought forward a plan for placement of a food cart he would like to operate on City property across the street from Spencer Park. Council suggested he work further with city staff on the location of the business.

Council Discusses Staff Appreciation – At the request of Councilor Bruce McNair, Council discussed providing staff with a reward for their improved performance. McNair suggested an additional paid day off from work this year. "During the last ten years that I've been involved in the City business I noticed a marked improvement in the City staff, especially in the last few years," said McNair. "Given the budgetary restrictions we have, it's my proposal that we give them something to show our appreciation for their hard work. The change in the culture of the staff across the board has been fantastic. And this won't cost us anything." McNair attended a staff meeting on September 28 to inform staff of the Council's decision to give them an extra day off on October 21.

Council Approves Travel Trailer Permits – Council approved applications for Inhabiting Travel Trailer Permits submitted by Dawn Scott on a property at 915 2nd Avenue, and for James Wanless on a property where he is building a new home. Initially Councilors Mike Seager and Bruce McNair suggested that Council not approve any more Inhabiting Travel Trailer Permits until Council reviews the ordinance on this issue at a workshop in October, but were overruled by Councilors Kim Tierney and Jill Hult, along with Mayor Randy Parrow, who agreed that the City has current rules overseeing this and should continue to follow them until the Council makes a change.

Council Approves Contract Amendment – Council approved by consensus an amendment to the contract with city engineering firm Tetra Tech for the Waste Water Treatment Plant project that includes an additional scope of work to prepare an evaluation of ammonia treatment the City plans to add to the project.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council that staff has begun removing selected trees from the downtown corridor as part of the plan to replace the trees with something more suitable.

Mitchell told Council the City has received final engineered plans for the picnic shelter that will be constructed at Spencer Park from lumber salvaged by the City from Washington Grade School.

At the October 3, 2016 City Council Meeting:

Council Approves Night Closures at Parks – Based on a recommendation from the Parks Committee, and a plan presented by city staff, Council approved the first reading of Ordinance 911, which amended Ordinance 881, limiting hours of use in certain parks. Shay, Ora Bolmeier and Hawkins Parks will now be closed from dusk until dawn; Vernonia Lake will be closed from 11:00 pm until 5:00 am; Spencer Park will be closed from 11:00 pm until dawn; and Anderson and Airport Parks will be closed during quiet hours to non camping guests from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am.

Topics From the Floor – Susan Wagner complained about the lack of signage on Highway 47 heading south at the Green Bridge and said it is a hazard for motorists. Vernonia Police Chief Mike Conner said he had spoken to ODOT about the issue, who responded that, "there have not been enough fatalities there" to warrant any action from them. Conner said he would investigate further.

Bill Langmaid, representing the Vernonia School Bond Committee, encouraged everyone to vote in favor of the School Bond. He also introduced a new community event, the Graveyard Run, on October 29 at 10:00 am.

Council President Appoints Walton to Planning Commission - In the absence of Mayor Randy Parrow, Council President Kim Tierney, with approval from the Council, appointed Jeff Walton to the Planning Commission. Walton is the owner of Vernonia Springs Outdoor Events Park.

Council Approves Travel Trailer Permit Request – Council approved a request from Stewart Grady to allow Vance and Alicia Hansen to occupy a travel trailer on his property at 1363 Knott Street for six months.

Waste Water Project Receives Savings – Finance Director Angie Handegard informed Council that the City will save $51,699 in annual interest payments by taking advantage of a lower interest rate when they close the USDA loan that helped fund the project this month.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told Council she was told by HBH contractors that the owners of the remaining lots at Nickerson Ridge Estates have not authorized any work to fix the storm water drainage issues, which was supposed to be completed this fall. Mitchell said she then received an email from the owners, stating they were, "in good faith" beginning the plans. Mitchell expressed disappointment in the lack of progress. She emphasized that there are two separate issues, the storm water, and the conditions of the streets that will not allow the City to accept the streets as their responsibility. Mitchell said fixing the storm water issue will allow

continued on page 9

Calling All Artists and Cultural Activists!

2017 Cultural Coalition Grant application now online

The Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC) is pleased to announce that funding for the grant year 2017 is available for projects and events that advance the culture, art and heritage of Columbia County. Grant application forms and guidelines are on the CCCC website www.columbiacultural.org/forms. Applications should be submitted to Kannikar Petersen at kpetersen@akaandesign.com by Friday, November 18, 2016. Grant awards range from $500 to $2,000. Eligible applicants are either 501(c)(3) non-profits, government agencies, or individuals/groups that have 501(c)(3) sponsorship.

The CCCC is made up of volunteers from Clatskanie, Rainier, Scappoose, Vernonia and St. Helens. Their mission is to fund projects and activities in the arts, local heritage and the humanities. The priorities of the Cultural Plan include protecting existing cultural assets, helping people experience a variety of venues, and increasing access to, and participation in, cultural events.

The coalition has awarded close to $100,000 since 2005 with funds allocated by the Oregon Cultural Trust (OCT). Established in 2001, the OCT is a public/private partnership that makes annual grants to county and tribal groups. The OCT website, www.culturaltrust.org, contains information about its programs and the matching gift tax credit available to donors.

The CCCC has supported public art and performances, historical restoration, community events and other projects across Columbia County that have enhanced people's lives.

Help finding non-profit sponsors and/or completing the application is available. They would be happy to answer any questions. Please contact Cici Bell at cicibell@juno.com.

Vernonia Police Blotter • September 15-30, 2016

REPORTS TAKEN

- September 15, 2016 Arrest on a Warrant near Heather Lane
- September 16, 2016 Recovery of a stolen vehicle near Louisiana Ave.
- September 18, 2016 Arrest on a detainer near Bridge Street
- September 18, 2016 Report of Assault near Vernonia Lake
- September 19, 2016 Report of possible suicide attempt
- September 21, 2016 Arrest on a Warrant near River Street
- September 28, 2016 Arrest on a detainer for probation violation near Jefferson Avenue
- September 28, 2016 Arrest for Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, more than an ounce.
- September 30, 2016 Arrest was made for a Domestic Harassment and Disorderly Conduct near State Street
- September 30, 2016 Arrest on a Warrant near Weed Avenue

CITATIONS / OTHER

- September 12, 2016 Cited for Driving Uninsured near Bridge Street
- September 21, 2016 Cited for Driving While Suspended/Uninsured and Expired Tags near Rose Avenue
- September 25, 2016 Cited for Violation of the Basic Rule, driving 71 mph in a 55 mph near HWY 47
- September 29, 2016 Cited for Driving While Suspended/Uninsured near Bridge Street
- September 29, 2016 Cited for No Operators Endorsement near Rose Avenue

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 09/15/2016 through 09/30/2016 VPD had 182 calls for service.

The Vernonia Transfer Station is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday

October 8 & 22
November 12
December 10

Dates are subject to change due to weather

Three positions on the Vernonia City Council (Mayor and two Councilors) will be open for the General Election in November.

The following persons are running for City Council:
Two Council positions (4-year term)
Bruce McNair (incumbant)
Mike Buffum
Susan Wagner

The following persons are running for Mayor:
One Mayor position (2-year term)
Kim Tierney
Mario P. Leonetti

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:
Monday, October 17, 2016
Monday, November 7, 2016

City Closure is scheduled for:
Friday, November 11, 2016
Veteran's Day

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules