

# Vernonia City News...

## At the November 7, 2016 City Council Meeting:

**Council Approves Sale of Photo Solutions Property** – Council approved Resolution 16-06, recommending the use of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds for the purchase of the property at 603 California Avenue, where the Photo Solutions business is located. The buy-out is the final property in Vernonia where FEMA funds will be eligible for use from the 2007 flood. The City had worked diligently to find a site and a way to relocate Photo Solutions in Vernonia, but the owner, Brad Curtis, eventually ran out of time and chose the FEMA buy-out option. Following the buy-out the building will be removed and the property will become permanent open space managed by the City.

**Council Approves Second Reading for Park Closure Hours** – Council approved the second reading of Ordinance 911, amending Ordinance 881 and setting hours of closure for certain city parks. According to the new rules Shay, Ora Bolmeier, and Hawkins Parks will now be closed from dawn to dusk; Spencer Park will be closed 11:00 pm until dawn; Vernonia Lake will be closed from 11:00 pm until 5:00 am; and Anderson and Airport Parks will be closed to non-campers from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am.

**Council Approves Library Policy** – Council approved a newly created Circulation and Membership Policy presented by Library Director Shannon Romtvedt. The official policy was created from standing rules the library has been operating under and will guide basic transactions between library staff and the public. The policy covers membership, use of the library by minors, alternative memberships, loan and renewal periods, and fees and

finances and included a minor change in the Master Fee Schedule involving a reduction in fines for certain overdue materials.

**Council Receives Library Statistical Report** – The Council received a statistical report from Library Director Shannon Romtvedt that compares data from 2015-16 to 2014-15. Romtvedt told the Council the data was submitted to the Oregon State Library in October and the returned 13 page report is required to be presented to the Council. Among the highlights of the report: Library visits increased from 18,512 to 20,614; total circulation of materials increased from 20,372 to 24,710; the number of children's programs increased from 112 to 127 and the number of persons attending children's programs increased from 944 to 1,979; the number of programs for adults increased from 25 to 35 and the number of persons attending programs for adults increased from 137 to 162.

**Council Discusses City Planner Position** – Council discussed the need to decide about their City Planner position. The City currently contracts with CREST, but they recently reduced their staff size. City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council the employee at CREST who had assumed responsibility for Vernonia's work has taken a new job and is leaving the firm. CREST is in the process of interviewing for a replacement. The Council discussed the possibility of rehiring Carole Connell, their former City Planner who resigned in June 2015 over disputes with the former City Administrator. No decision was made.

**Council Approves Two Requests From Chamber** – Council approved a request by the Vernonia Area Chamber

of Commerce to block the entrance and exits at Anderson Park on December 3 from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm during the Ugly Sweater Run. Vehicles will be able to use the park as directed by volunteers when runners are not on the trail.

Council also approved the City Administrator writing a letter of support for the Chamber for their grant funding requests for the Great American Bash to be held on July 4.

**City Administrator Report** – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council that a 10 day test on the Wastewater Treatment Plant's DAF was scheduled to start on November 8. She said the contractor was cleaning up the site and preparing for an inspection by DEQ. She said there are still items that need to be completed and those might be delayed until spring because of the especially rainy and wet month of October we experienced.

Mitchell reported the RFQ for architecture for the Rose Avenue Senior/Food Bank building has been published with a deadline for proposals

of December 1. Proposals will be reviewed and scored by a committee including members of the Food Bank, Senior Center, city staff, city engineer, and a Council representative.

Mitchell reported there have been a few emails back and forth with the owners of the Nickerson Ridge Estates, but no real progress has been made in resolving the issues. She also reported that she has had no response from WOEC about the purchase of property across from the WOEC headquarters.

Mitchell reported that the City has received two of the four reimbursement payments from FEMA from the December 2015 high water event that caused damage.

**Council Changes Date of Workshop** – Council changed the date of a scheduled workshop on downtown trees from November 11 to November 28.

## Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

**City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:**  
Monday, November 21, 2016  
Monday, December 5, 2016

**City Closures are scheduled for:**  
Thursday, November 24, 2016  
Friday, November 25, 2016  
*Thanksgiving Holiday*

*Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules*

## The Vernonia Transfer Station is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in November/December

**November 19  
December 3 & 17**

*Dates are subject to change*

## Clatskanie Cultural Center Hosts New Year's Eve Ball

The second annual New Year's Eve Ball in the Clatskanie Cultural Center is set for Saturday, December 31, beginning at 6:00 pm in the elegant ballroom of the beautifully-restored I.O.O.F. Hall, at 95 S. Nehalem Street in Clatskanie.

All interested persons, 21 years of age and older, are invited to attend the event which is being held on the 90th anniversary of the original grand

opening of the historic building.

The celebratory evening will include a full-course dinner with a choice of entree - prime rib, stuffed pork chop, or vegetarian fettuccine.

Dancing to live music provided by the Bob Nelson Band will be featured from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. New York City's celebration will be live-streamed on the ballroom's large screen, and as

*continued on page 9*

## Police Blotter • November 1-14, 2016

### ARRESTS / REPORTS TAKEN

- November 6, 2016 Report of Theft III on Jefferson Ave.
- November 12, 2016 Report of a Violation of Probation near Bridge St.

### CITATIONS / OTHER

- November 7, 2016 Cited for Driving While Suspended and Failure to Maintain Lane near Bridge St. and Rose Ave.
- November 7, 2016 Cited for Expired Registration near N. Mist Dr.
- November 8, 2016 Cited for Violation of

- Posted Speed Limit 52 mph in a 35 mph near Rose Ave.
- November 9, 2016 Cited for Passing in a No Passing Zone, and Expired Tags near Bridge St.
- November 13, 2016 Cited for Violation of Posted Speed Limit near N. Mist Dr.

*Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 11/01/2016 through 11/14/2016 VPD had 176 calls for service.*

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10-5 Tue-Sat  
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