

On The Shelves

By Shannon Romtvedt

The library was one of the storytelling stops for Spirit of Christmas on Saturday, December 3. After the crowd gathered listening to beautiful music (thank you Vernonia Carolers), we read *The Mitten* by Jan Brett and made scratch art ornaments and jingle bell bracelets. Thank you to my story helper, Michael Leonetti, who helped demonstrate to the kids what would happen if a crowd of animals (including a giant bear) tumbled out of a mitten. We had a great time at this event and look forward to participating next year.

Thank you to Jeff and Sandy at Mike's Christmas Tree Farm for donating the beautiful Christmas tree in our entryway. And to Angela Stern, Brady Romtvedt, and Jack Romtvedt for helping decorate. Come by the library to see the decorations and check out a Christmas/holiday book or movie. They are all on display and easy to find.

In lieu of the Adopt-a-Book event this year, the library is encouraging community members to support through feedback by participating in a survey. Survey link and information can be found later in this article. For patrons interested

in making a monetary donation over the holidays, we would encourage you to make a donation to the Friends of the Vernonia Library. The Friends of the Library fund programs and services throughout the year. The Friends have funded WiFi, children and adult programs, craft supplies, extra books and DVDs for the collection, membership passes, furniture, and more. Donations can be brought to the library or mailed to 701 Weed Ave. Vernonia, OR 97064. Merry Christmas to all our patrons from Nancy, Brandi, and Shannon at the Library!

Upcoming Events

Family Movie Night

Tuesday, December 22, 6 pm (Family Movie): Showing a new release film. Relax and enjoy a movie and popcorn at the library. Call or visit the library for movie titles.

Winter Break Activities

Short Movie Matinee & Craft

Tuesday, December 27, 2 - 3 pm Short film with a snack followed by a craft. For families with children Pre-K and Elementary.

Family Game Night

Thursday, December 29, 6 - 7pm Come as a family and try out some of the board games in the library collection.

Ongoing Programs

K-5 Library Craft

Thursday, December 15, 4 - 5pm 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.

Book Discussion Group

No Meeting in December. Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm Selection for January 30: *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak

Writer's Group

No Meeting in December. 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 Survey

Support the Library over the Holiday Season by providing feedback! Please participate in a short survey, available at the library in paper form or online <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FXSNPRS>. Survey will be

available through Thursday, January 5. Survey responses will help decide the future of library services in our community. Whether you currently use the library regularly, occasionally, or not at all, we would like to have your feedback.

Library Volunteers

Thank you to Katie O'Shea and Donna Webb for working diligently on our newspaper archives project. With your help we are starting to make some progress and are looking forward to making Vernonia history more accessible to the public. Thank you to new Library Board member, Ginger Johns, for joining the team. Anyone else interested in volunteering, please contact Shannon Romtvedt at the library. We would be happy to have you!

Library Closures

Saturday, December 24
Monday, December 26
Closing at 2 pm on Saturday, December 31
Monday, January 2

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

Council Considers Public Works Recommendations *continued from front page*

"The mistake that was made, was not that that money was collected but that we didn't set an annual date to review the rate and tweak it each year," said Mitchell. "That would have solved that problem."

Council dealt with that exact issue next, agreeing with the Public Works Committee recommendation to set the first week of March as the time for the City to annually re-assess, and adjust if needed, both water and sewer rates. "It was the Committee's belief the whole reason for adopting a rate

structure was to be able to keep rates up to date, so that budgets are met and rates are being fairly billed to our customers," stated the Public Works Committee in their written recommendation to Council. "It has been recognized... that waiting long periods of time between rate changes usually creates large jumps in the rates and misunderstanding from the rate payers. It should be recognized that when budgets change, rates need to change also, this is why it is appropriate to take a good look at the current rates and how they meet or miss the current

budget."

The final item that Council addressed was the recommendation that all future water meters purchased by the City, to replace aging meters, be radio read meters. The City has been discussing creating a structured meter replacement program to update aging meters that are not capturing all usage by customers. According to City staff, a majority of the meters in the system are at, or will soon be, past the date of suggested replacement and are not functioning at maximum capacity.

The Public Works Committee and staff, particularly GIS and planning staff member Ben Fousek, have been studying the issue for several years. "...radio read meters will in the long run save the City money, will provide better accuracy of water usage and provide better service to our customers," said the Committee in their written recommendation. Council agreed with the recommendation and directed staff to purchase radio read meters in the future.

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