

City News *continued from page 5*

storm water, building maintenance, and the police department reserve program.

Police Report – Vernonia Police Chief Michael Conner provided the Council with a report comparing statistics on the activities for the Police Department during 2014, 2015, and 2016. Conner pointed out that the number of total crimes committed (including crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against society), has dropped significantly, from 213 in 2014, to 153 in 2015, and to 90 in 2016. He also noted that traffic citations and warnings written have increased during the same time period, to 33 citations and 309 warnings in 2014, 38 and 262 in 2015, and 82 and 558 in 2016.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell updated the Council on the final stages of the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project. She told the Council that DEQ and USDA are reviewing the additional plan for ammonia treatment options and have called for a meeting with the City and their engineer.

Mitchell told the Council there are several items that are required for approval before the City can draw on the CDBG grant funds for the new Senior Center project. Those items include the creation of a plan to ensure fair access to the project by contractors, and a plan that ensures that the City has tools in place to communicate with non-English

speakers. Mitchell also told Council the City will have an initial meeting to go over paperwork with Scott Edwards Architecture, the firm chosen to design the new Senior Center/Food Bank.

Mitchell reported she has had no contact with representatives from the Nickerson Ridge Estates developers, but when questioned by an audience member did locate a recent email that she had missed. She told Council she would update them at their next meeting.

Mitchell reported that the City has received the final reimbursement from FEMA in the amount of \$18,282 from the high water damage in December 2015 and said those funds would be put back into the specific fund line items

from which it had been originally spent.

Mitchell told Council the demolition of the former Photo Solutions building was scheduled to begin the following week.

City Receives Letter About Cemetery – Councilor Bruce McNair read a letter the City received from Michael Johnson that offered thanks for the "...attention and good care you provide for the Memorial Cemetery. It is always in good condition when we come to visit." The letter included a donation of \$100 for the cemetery fund. McNair asked that the letter be forwarded to the Cemetery Committee.

On the Shelves

By Shannon Romtvedt

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the library survey. We received surveys online and in paper form with a total of 117 responses. Results will be compiled and used to plan for the upcoming budget year(s). A summary of results will be presented to the Library Board and City Council and will appear in the newspaper. Any questions about the survey can be directed to Shannon Romtvedt at the library (503) 429-1818 or shannonr@vernonia-or.gov.

Looking ahead to a time when the snow melts and the temperature rises, the library has several events coming up for children and adults. The 3rd Annual Dr. Seuss event, featuring the Cat in the Hat, will be held on Thursday, March 2, 6 pm. This event has been one of our most well attended and it's quite a party. We are looking forward to another celebration with cake, door prizes, a reading by the Cat in the Hat, and other Seussish activities.

Library staff is also pleased to announce that we are a recipient of a grant from the Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC) in the amount of \$1,140. The grant funding is matched by contributions from the Vernonia Lions Club, the Friends of the Vernonia Library, and individual donors. The focus of the project, to be carried out in April 2017, is

music in early education. Among other activities, the library will host Andy Ferguson of Red Yarn, folk music and puppetry, a percussionist from the Oregon Symphony, and Joe Seamons of the band, Timberbound. A schedule of activities and details for the *Get Rhythm* project will be made available in February.

Please check out the following section of upcoming events for details on February programs, including a presentation by Jim Buxton on the Total Solar Eclipse and a visit by author and song writer, Willy Vlautin. Library events can always be found in the *Vernonia's Voice* and on the Library Event Calendar available in the library and linked to our website and Facebook page.

Upcoming Events

Family Movie Night

Thursday, January 26, 6 pm (Family Movie): Showing a classic story based on the book *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford. Relax and enjoy a movie and popcorn at the library. Call or visit the library for movie titles.

The Solar Eclipse Experience

Thursday, February 2, 6 pm. Presentation by Jim Buxton on the Total Solar Eclipse coming up on August 21, 2017. Includes a slideshow, things to look for, tools to use, where to be, and information on

the physics of the eclipse as well as eclipses of the past.

Author Visit: Willy Vlautin

Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 pm. Willy Vlautin is a nationally recognized author of four novels including *Lean on Pete* and *The Free*. He founded the band *Richmond Fontaine* in 1994 and put out a debut album in 2014 with his new band, *The Delines*. He currently lives in Scappoose, Oregon. His Vernonia visit will focus on the book *Lean on Pete*, with a Q&A about his novel and song writing. He will be bringing his guitar and books to sign.

Ongoing Programs

K-5 Library Craft

Thursday, January 19, 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

Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm. Selection for January 30: *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak

Writer's Group

Thursday, January 19, 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.

Did You Know? Online Catalog

Patrons often ask how they can find out what is new to the library. If an item we have is not on the shelf, you can find it in the online catalog and place a hold on it using your account number and phone number. Link through the city website or go directly to <http://vernonia.biblionix.com/>. To see what is new in the collection, click on "What's New" on the right hand side of the page. You can narrow down your search to "Books," "DVDs," or "Audiobooks," etc. and by time frame (last week, month, 2 months). The library receives donations added to the collection and purchases new materials. All new (or new to us items) can be found through this search.

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

Friends of the Vernonia Public Library

Membership Dues:

Family: \$10.00 Individual: \$5.00
Minimum: \$1.00 plus 2 hours minimum of work in the library

Make checks payable to: Friends of the Vernonia Public Library

Mailing Address: 701 Weed Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

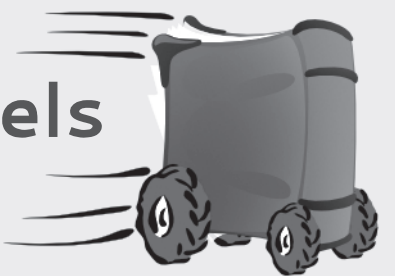
Phone _____

Date _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I am interested in helping with the following committees (optional):
Please Circle • Membership • Endowments • Book Sales • Publicity & Public Relations • Fund Raising • Library Services • Finance-Budget-Legal Matters

Books on Wheels

A NEW SERVICE
AVAILABLE THROUGH THE
VERNONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY



Library volunteers will deliver books to citizens who are homebound or physically unable to come to the library.

To apply or find out more details, call Audeen Wagner (503) 429-9700 or the Library (503) 429-1818.

Vernonia Public Library • 701 Weed Avenue