

# Vernonia City News...

## At the April 17, 2017 City Council Meeting:

**Council Approves Water Rate Adjustment** - Council approved a recommended adjustment to City water rates. (See full story on front page.)

**Council Approves Changes to Travel Trailer Rules** - The City Council approved and heard the first reading of Ordinance #913 which amended the current rules concerning habitation of a travel trailer.

Under current City rules it is prohibited for anyone to temporarily occupy a travel trailer as a dwelling, unless in a designated park or site, and lawfully connected to utilities. An occupant may obtain a permit from the City in order to temporarily occupy a trailer by making an application, having it approved by the City Council, and paying a \$100 fee.

Council amended the rules and applicants may now only receive a one-time, six month permit, which cannot be renewed. Approval of the application can now be made by staff and is no longer required by the Council. The amended rules also clarify the language

allowing and restricting the use, and state a clear procedure for applying for the permit and the criteria that must be met.

The Ordinance will be read for a second time at the May 1, 2017 City Council meeting and will take effect 30 days from that second reading.

**Mayor Appoints Shrader to Budget Committee** - Mayor Mario Leonetti, with approval from the rest of the Council, appointed Tony Shrader to the Budget Committee.

**Topics From the Floor** - Steve Whiteman suggested there is a need for signage on the Banks Vernonia State Trail that directs users to the City and local businesses. Whiteman suggested a private enterprise that could sell space on a sign to businesses and maintain the sign on City property. He was directed to discuss his idea with the Parks Committee.

Ben Fousek said he thought the downtown looked better with the trees removed, but suggested strategically placing some new trees. He said removal of the trees had identified a new issue – the need for downtown businesses to

clean up their store fronts, and suggested the City find a way to encourage property owners to do this.

**City Administrator Report** - City Administrator Josette Mitchell reported that Christine Stevenson from Oregon Department of State Lands documented violations on Bear Creek and discussed possible restorations that might help with flooding issues.

Mitchell told the Council the

City is moving forward to obtain .89 acres of land off Rose Avenue. Mrs. Elsin Creps is donating the land to the City, which can be used as a wetland and provide a benefit for City storm water issues in the area.

Mayor Mario Leonetti suggested Michell investigate needed improvements to Lagoon Way, the road leading to the Transfer Station.

### \*\*\*PUBLIC NOTICE\*\*\*

Date of Adoption: April 3, 2017

City of Vernonia Support of the Fair Housing Program

At the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on April 3, 2017 the City Council adopted Resolution 02-17: A resolution amending Resolution 04-05, A Resolution of the City of Vernonia supporting the Fair Housing Program

#### RESOLUTION NO. 04-05

##### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF VERNONIA SUPPORTING THE FAIR HOUSING PROGRAM

LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS of the City of Vernonia that discrimination in the sale, rental, lease, advertising of sale, rental or lease, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage or rental services because of race, color, religion, sex, disability (physical or mental), familial status (children) or national origin is prohibited by Title VIII of the federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988. It is the policy of the City of Vernonia to support the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and to implement a fair housing Program to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability (physical and mental), familial status (1. children, and 2. actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status or its member) or national origin.

BE IT RESOLVED that within the resources available to the City of Vernonia through city, county, state, federal and community volunteer sources, the City will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, disability (physical or mental), familial status (children) or national origin in the process of filing a complaint with the Oregon Civil Rights Division or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Seattle Regional Office Compliance Division, that they may seek equity under federal and state laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City shall publicize this Resolution and through this publicity shall cause real estate brokers and sellers, private home sellers, rental owners, rental property managers, real estate and rental advertisers, lenders, builders, developers, home buyers and home or apartment renters to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and any applicable state or local laws or ordinances.

THE FAIR HOUSING PROGRAM, for the purpose of informing those affected of their respective responsibilities and rights concerning Fair Housing law and compliant procedures, will at a minimum include, but not limited to: 1. The printing, publicizing and distribution of this Resolution; 2. the distribution of posters, flyers, pamphlets and other applicable Fair Housing information provided by local, state, and federal sources, through local media of community contacts; and 3. the publicizing of locations where assistance will be provided to those seeking to file a discrimination complaint.

Resolution 04-05 As amended by Resolution 02-17 on 4/3/2017.

### \*\*\*PUBLIC NOTICE\*\*\*

Date of Adoption: October 17, 2016

City of Vernonia Grievance Procedure for complaints of alleged discrimination based on disability

At the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on October 17, 2016 the City Council adopted the grievance procedure for complaints of alleged discrimination based on disability.

#### CITY OF VERNONIA Grievance Procedure For Complaints of Alleged Discrimination Based on Disability

**Policy Statement:** The City of Vernonia does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in employment, or access to its programs, services, facilities and public contracts.

If you are an employee of the City of Vernonia or an Oregon Community Development Block Grant project beneficiary and you believe you have been discriminated against on the basis of a disability, the City of Vernonia has adopted the following procedure for handling the grievance:

1. Submit complaint in writing for resolution to:

Michael Conner, Chief of Police  
City of Vernonia  
1001 Bridge Street  
Vernonia, OR 97064  
503-429-5291  
Office Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Monday through Friday

2. A record of the complaint and action taken will be maintained. A decision by Michael Conner, Chief of Police will be rendered within 15 working days of receipt of the complaint.

3. If the complaint cannot be resolved to your satisfaction by Michael Conner, Chief of Police, the complainant may request a hearing, within 15 working days of the response, before the Vernonia City Council for resolution. The request should be submitted to Michael Conner, Chief of Police, at the address above.

4. Within 30 calendar days of the hearing, the complainant will receive a final resolution in writing (or a method understood by the complainant) as proposed by the City Council. The decision of the City Council is final.

5. All complaints received by Michael Conner, Chief of Police and responses from Michael Conner, Chief of Police or City Council will be kept by the City of Vernonia for a period of three years.

Other arrangements for submission of a grievance such as a personal interview or tape recording will be made available for the individuals with visual or motor impairments.

## Reserve Police Officer Job Announcement

The Vernonia Police Department has openings for Reserve Police Officers. Interested citizens can obtain an application and complete job description in person at the Vernonia Police Department. Minimum qualifications include, but not limited to: must have a high school diploma or GED; must be at least 21 years of age and be a U.S. Citizen; have a valid Oregon driver's license; be able to pass a criminal background investigation; and pass medical and psychological evaluations. Questions regarding the position should be directed to Chief Michael Conner (503) 429-7335 ext. 110.

## Police Blotter • April 1-17, 2017

### Reports Taken/Arrests

- April 1, 2017 Report of Theft III near Jefferson Avenue
- April 3, 2017 Report of Mail Theft near Bridge Street
- April 3, 2017 Report of Vehicle Accident with Injury near North Mist Drive and East Bridge Street
- April 4, 2017 Report of Seized Drugs near Bridge Street
- April 5, 2017 Report of Other Agency Assist. Vehicle Accident with Injury near North Mist Drive and Pebble Creek
- April 9, 2017 Report of Vehicle Recovered, Other Agency Assist near "B" Street
- April 9, 2017 Report of Theft III near "B" Street
- April 9, 2017 Arrest on a Warrant near Bridge Street and Madison Avenue
- April 10, 2017 Report of Theft I and

Unlawful Entry of a Motor Vehicle near California Avenue

- April 13, 2017 Report of a Stolen Vehicle near Madison Avenue
- April 15, 2017 Report of an Abandoned Vehicle near Nehalem Highway South
- April 16, 2017 Arrest on a Warrant near Madison Avenue

### Citations/Other

- April 1, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended near 1st Avenue and Cougar Street
- April 5, 2017 Cited for Failure to Carry Proof of Insurance near Bridge Street and California Avenue
- April 11, 2017 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed, 70 mph in a 55 mph on Nehalem Highway South
- April 13, 2017 Cited for Careless Driving near North Mist Drive and Cherry Street

**The Vernonia Transfer Station is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 8am-2pm**

**April 22  
May 13 & 27**

*Dates and times are subject to change due to weather*

## Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

**City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:**  
Monday, May 1, 2017  
Monday, May 15, 2017

**City Closures are scheduled for:**  
Monday, May 29, 2017  
*Memorial Day Holiday*

*Dates and times subject to change*