

Transit Riders Invited to Comment and Discuss Service

CC Rider, Columbia County's transit agency, is inviting riders to talk about bus service at a May 22 listening session. Potential and current riders can speak with CC Rider administrators and staff during the 7:00 - 8:30 pm event.

"There's no better way to get constructive feedback and share challenges than in an open conversation format," said Commissioner Henry Heimuller, who will participate in the session. "We feel this is a good way to understand people's needs and how our service affects their lives," he added.

Riders are encouraged to tell their stories about CC Rider. The format of the session will allow people to talk about their experience using transit, concerns

that are important to them, and subjects they appreciate or would like to see changed or improved.

"We know our riders can give us valuable insights into using CC Rider," said Transit Administrator Michael Ray. "We want to know what those are, learn if there are any issues of widespread concern, and collect information so we can make the best decisions in the future."

Ray said at the same time, he wants to share information with customers about how the service operates and the barriers encountered in managing and expanding the system.

The outcome of the session will help Columbia County plan for a CC Rider that best serves the com-

munity, which stretches throughout the entire county.

The listening session will take place at the CC Rider Transit Center, 1155 Deer Island Road in St Helens.

CC Rider is Columbia County's transit system. With a fleet of buses that connect with Sunset Empire Transportation District to the west, River Cities Transit to the north in Longview, and TriMet in the Portland metropolitan area, the system carries nearly 100,000 riders each year, with ridership continuing to grow. CC Rider also provides a route to Portland Community College's Rock Creek campus in Washington County.

On the Shelves

By Shannon Romtvedt

Over the past month, the library has partnered with several organizations to provide an interesting array of programming for children and adults. Our *Get Rhythm at the Library* program series is now complete. Two days of workshops with Joe Seamons of Timberbound and music partner, Tina Dietz, brought Vernonia music history to life and encouraged 220 elementary students plus 20 homeschool students to not only listen, but engage with music. Clap, stomp, sing, and dance!

The Library was pleased to work with kindergarten teacher Kendra Schlegel, and Superintendent Aaron Miller to coordinate the workshop at the school. And in addition to our *Get Rhythm* program sponsors, thank you to the Vernonia Grange for hosting the concert on Thursday, April 27, a spectacular celebration with a potluck followed by singing and dancing with community members of all ages.

The Library was also selected to host a Community Conversation put on by the Oregon Folklife Network. On the evening of Tuesday, May 2, timbermen Fred Heller and Don Webb sat in front of a crowd of 30 Vernonians and told logging stories and answered questions. Along with facilitating the conversation, folklorist Makaela Kroin showed images from Fred Heller's logging museum and logging footage taken by Don Webb.

On Saturday, April 22, the Library closed for an Earth Day Clean-up Event. Thirteen volunteers put in a combined 42 hours working inside and outside the Library, weeding, pruning, spreading barkdust, moving shelves, shifting books, and reorganizing collections. Books have more room to breathe and there is space for new collections to form including a First Chapter collection for children and a Parenting collection. Thank you to Library Assistant Brandi Fennell and to Library volunteers: Donna Webb, Haily Ayres, Betty Ann Smith, Connor Fennell, Caitlyn Fennell, Haily Fennell, MaCayla Stevens, Kennedy Fish, Brady Romtvedt, Harmony Hodges, Dennis Nelson, Katie O'Shea, and Marty VanDyken. And thank you to the Friends of the Library for providing lunch for our hard working volunteers.

A reminder that the Library does a Summer Reading program for children that includes several extra programs and professional performers. The theme this year is Build a Better World and the first day of sign-ups is Monday, June 19. Look for a list of events and performers coming soon. The Library could use several volunteers over the summer. Please contact Shannon Romtvedt at the Library if you are interested in volunteering: shannonr@vernonia-or.gov or (503) 429-1818.

Upcoming Events

Homesteading in Vernonia

Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 - 8 pm
The class will describe the variety of plants, animals, waterfowl, game birds, and fish that can be grown and/or harvested within Columbia County. There will also be a follow-up discussion on raising meat on your property within the city limits or outside of them. The presenter is Chip Bubl, OSU Extension agent. The program is free and open to the public.

Movie Night

Thursday, May 25, 6 pm,
Featuring: *Bunyan and Babe* (PG)
Relax and enjoy a new movie and free popcorn at the Library!

Ongoing Programs

Book Discussion Group

Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm
Selection for May 22 (meeting one week early due to Memorial Day closure): *Matters of Doubt* by Warren Easley. Warren Easley will be coming to the Library on Monday, June 26, 6:30 pm.

Writer's Group

Thursday, May 18, 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.

Featured Book

Beartown by Frederik Backman
Reviewed by Nancy Burch
Bear Town, a small town in Sweden, is slowly dying with the only hope for survival based on the success of its junior hockey team. Even though hockey is at the heart of this novel - don't be deterred by thinking this book is only about hockey. I think "loyalty" could be considered the main theme - "loyalty to teammates," "loyalty to family," "loyalty to values." It's a superbly written work with character development unlike any I have previously read as it leads the reader to recognize right versus wrong while telling a coming of age story and revealing an unlikely hero. Frederik Backman, the author of *A Man Called Ove*, has written a beautiful novel in this latest offering, *Beartown*.

Library Closures

The library will be closed Monday, May 29 for the Memorial Day Holiday.

Hours & Contact Info

Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am - 5 pm
Tues & Thurs 1 pm - 7 pm
Sat 10 am - 4 pm
Closed Sundays

Phone: (503) 429-1818

E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov

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**Auction will be held
Wednesday
June 21**

*Please call prior
to confirm the auction*