

Vernonia Improvement Project Cleans Up Post Office

A large group of loosely organized community volunteers, calling themselves the Vernonia Improvement Project, spent several hours on Sunday, August 12 cleaning up the grounds around the Vernonia Post Office by weeding, installing new plants, and spreading some bark dust.

The project was organized by Rachel Organ, but she says it was really the community that inspired this day of volunteer action.

"The community really pushed this," says Organ, a mother of three, who is expecting the arrival of a new baby any day. "I went down to the Post Office several weeks ago to do some weeding because I want my kids to be positive, contributing members of their com-

munity, wherever they find themselves. Instead of complaining about the weeds we decided to buy gloves and pull them. And then people just started giving me money and donating plants. They really wanted to see something get done."

With just a few weeks until her due date, Organ set a date for a work party and put out the call to friends and family and 23 volunteers showed up.

"I was just blown away by how many people showed up to help," said Organ.

Organ extended a big thank you to her neighbors who own ION Grass, a landscaping company, for their assistance, along with Lorna Poetter at Farmwoman's Nursery, Susan Ely and Kathy Larsen, who all donated



plants, and to R&S Market for their support.

While Organ says she would like to tackle some other projects around the community, they may have to wait until after her new baby arrives, although

she says some others that took part in the work party may move forward with some other beautification projects. She has started a "Vernonia Improvement Project" Facebook page to keep people informed about upcoming projects.

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