

## On the Shelves

### By Shannon Romtvedt

Before making the transition into fall, I wanted to take a moment to thank some of our summer volunteers and sponsors. Thank you to Kendra Stefan, Kaylee Bartolomucci, Sky Williams, Connor Fennell, Haily Fennell, and CiCi Bell for their help over the summer. And thank you to the R&S Market for donating candy for the kids to throw off the Library Jamboree Float. We appreciate the support and the kids had a lot of fun.

The Library's regular storytime schedule started back on Friday, September 8. We host Baby and Toddler Times every Monday, 10:30 am, and Preschool Storytime every Friday, 10:30 am. In October, Friday Preschool Storytimes will feature "Community Helpers" including the Vernonia Police, the Freewheelers, and more. Schedule of visitors will be coming soon. Thank you to staff member Brandi Fennell for organizing this series. We are looking forward to it!

The Friends of the Library received a grant from the Vernonia High School Community 101 class back in May 2017. The grant supports the Library's upcoming Food for Fines fundraiser. Any food or personal care items donated between Monday, October 16, and Tuesday, October 31, waives \$1 in fines or lost/damaged fees from your patron account. Donations can

also be taken to "pay it forward." All donations go to Vernonia Cares. VHS Community 101 grant money will go towards replacing lost/damaged items and purchasing new materials for the children's collection.

The Library is seeking one more member for our seven member board. Meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month, 6 pm. If interested in this special volunteer position, please contact Shannon Romtvedt (503) 429-1818, shannonr@vernonia-or.gov, or pick up an application at the Library. We are looking forward to having a full board to move forward on several projects over the winter.

### Upcoming Events

#### Food for Fines Fundraiser

Monday, October 16 - Tuesday, October 31  
Each canned food or personal care item donated waives \$1 in fines off of your account. Thanks to the VHS Community 101 class grant, the Library can also accept donations for Lost/Damaged fees as well as fines. All donations benefit Vernonia Cares.

#### Kids Book Group \* New

Friday, October 13, 4 - 5 pm (first meeting)  
For kids and families with children grades 3 - 5, or thereabouts. Book selections will range in reading level. First meeting will be a get together to talk about favorite books

and select the first discussion title. Copies of books will be available following the meeting. If interested in the book group and want to be on a contact list, email shannonr@vernonia-or.gov or contact the library (503) 429-1818. Meetings are once a month, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 4 pm.

#### Just a Number: Aging and Intergenerational Friendships

Thursday, October 19, 6:30 - 8 pm  
Aging is a life-long experience that is both universal and different for everyone. While most of us agree that people of different generations have wisdom to offer those who are ahead of or behind them in life's journey, barriers to connection often persist between generations. Oregon Humanities Conversation Project program with facilitators, Simeon Dreyfuss and Jenny Sasser. Sponsored by the Friends of the Vernonia Library.

### Ongoing Programs

#### Book Discussion Group

Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm  
Selection for September 25: *My Abandonment* by Peter Rock

#### Writer's Group

Thursday, September 21, 6-7:30 pm  
Third Thursday of the month. For all levels of writing experience. New members always welcome.

### Storytimes

October Preschool Storytimes feature Community Helpers! Police, Freewheelers, and more. Schedule TBA.

#### Baby and Toddler Time

Mondays, 10:30 - 11:15 am  
Songs, short stories, toys, and bubbles for 0 - 3.

#### Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 10:30 - 11:15 am  
Stories and a craft/activity for up to age 5. Older siblings welcome!

#### Did You Know?

#### Books on Wheels

The Library has a service for homebound individuals or anyone physically unable to come to the library to select books. Books on Wheels is a program developed by the Library Board. Current program coordinator is Ginger Johns. If interested in an application, they are available at the Library, or call the Library (503) 429-1818. The program coordinator can visit and get you set up with the service. We would love to get some books to you.

#### 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

## New Rental Assistance Program in Columbia County

### Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) makes funding available to low-income Columbia County renters over the age of 58

Community Action Team (CAT) has received new funding through the Oregon Elderly Rental Assistance (ERA) program. To qualify for rental assistance, members of a household must be homeless or unstably housed and at risk

of homelessness. In addition, one member of the household must be at least 58 years old. Eligible households must have a total annual income no greater than 50% of the area's median income (AMI) based on the number of people in their household. For example, for a household of two in Columbia County, the maximum household income is \$29,900 per year. For four-member households the maximum is \$37,350 per year.

The new program can pay for

a range of housing stabilizing services. Funding comes from legislatively approved state general funds. Oregon Legislature ended the rental assistance once-a-year refund program at the Department of Revenue (Form 90R), so those dollars are now managed by community action agencies at the local level.

To get more information or check eligibility, contact Community Action Team by calling (503) 397-3511 or visiting their office at 125 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street in St. Helens.

Community Action Team is a locally controlled, private, not-for-profit corporation serving Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. Community Action Team's main focus is to mobilize resources and address the needs of the economically disadvantaged.

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Look for our next issue October 5.

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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**

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I am interested in helping with the following committees (optional):  
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