

On the Shelves

By Shannon Romtvedt

One of the most frequently asked questions at the Library relates to our Out of City Limit fee. Why would I need to pay for a library membership if my address says Vernonia? It's a good question and I want to take some time here to answer it.

Shouldn't Libraries be Free?

In general, libraries are funded by a mix of local, county, state, and federal taxes, but the mix is unique for every library. Anyone who uses a specific library is contributing funds to keep that particular building open, staffed, books on the shelves, and providing services. There is no cost to borrow books, dvds, and other items, but only because members pre-pay for the service through their taxes or a membership fee.

How is the Vernonia Library Funded?

The Vernonia Library is funded specifically by City property taxes. If you live inside of the City limits, you are paying every year for the Library, whether or not you use it. If you live outside the City limits, you pay only if you are interested in a membership. The fee to use the Vernonia Public Library is currently \$25 per year, per household. It was reduced from \$40 back in March 2016, with approval from City Council, to make the Library more accessible for people who live outside of the city limits.

I have never been asked to pay for a Library Membership.

If you have moved from out of the area and feel like you have never had to pay for a library before, it's because a library doesn't ask for a membership fee if the money is coming out of your taxes based on where you live. If you lived anywhere in Washington County for example, you were paying for the library system through your property taxes.

The fee is not there to discourage people from using the Library. We love welcoming new members. But out of fairness to the people in Vernonia who pay for the Library, we require a membership fee from households outside of the City boundaries.

Sponsorship Program and Free Cards for Children

For people who have a tight budget and the \$25 fee is problematic, the Friends of the Library offer a sponsorship program. If you contribute \$5 to

your membership, the Friends kick in the rest. Just ask staff for a sponsorship application when you apply for a card.

Youth, under the age of 18, who live within the boundaries of the Vernonia School District are eligible for a free card, with a checkout limit of 1 movie and 10 total items.

Oregon Passport Program

Being a member of the Vernonia Library means you are also eligible to get a free card at other Libraries that are part of the Oregon Passport program. If you live outside of the City limits, and the \$25 fee applies, you will be able to use that membership to get a free card at the St. Helens Library, Scappoose Library, Washington County Libraries, Multnomah County Libraries, and other Passport libraries.

Being a Member of the Vernonia Library

As a member of the Vernonia Library you have access to our books, dvds, audiobooks, board games, membership passes (OMSI, Hillsboro Aquatic Center, Rice Rock Center, Oregon Historical Society Museum) and more.

Friends of the Vernonia Library

The Vernonia Library is supported by a 501(c)(3) organization called the Friends of the Vernonia Library. While taxes go toward Library building, operations, materials, and staffing, the Friends of the Library fund special projects, programs, services, and equipment. If interested in supporting the Library outside of a Library membership, consider joining the Friends. More information and membership applications are available at the Library.

Questions or Concerns?

If you want to know whether or not the membership fee applies to you or if you have any concerns regarding the Out of City Limit fee, please contact Shannon Romtvedt shannonr@vernonia-or.gov. I look forward to talking to you.

Upcoming Events

Family Movie Night

Tuesday, January 23, 6-7:30 pm
Featuring: *My Neighbor Totoro* (G, 88 min.) Free movie and popcorn.

Author Night: Brian K. Friesen

Thursday, January 25, 6:30 pm
Portland author of *At the Waterline: Stories from the Columbia River* will be coming to the Vernonia Library

for a reading, Q & A about his book, and book signing. Sponsored by the Friends of the Vernonia Library. Light refreshments served.

Jugglemania! with Rhys Thomas

Saturday, February 10, 1 pm
Rhys taught himself juggling, comedy, and physics and went from a Seattle street performer to performing internationally. He has opened shows for James Taylor and Weird Al Yankovich and performed at NBA half times. He is also a favorite juggler for libraries in the Pacific Northwest. Program sponsored by the Vernonia Lions Club.

Puppetry Workshop

Tuesdays, 4-5 pm
January 16-February 27
Students will make their own puppets, learn puppetry skills, and work towards a performance of *Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses*. Puppet show is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 6:30 pm. For a successful performance, students must plan on attending as many Tuesday classes as possible. Registration is now full for this class. Please contact the Library (503) 429-1818 or shannonr@vernonia-or.gov if interested in future opportunities.

Ongoing Programs

Kids Book Group

Friday, February 9, 4:30-5:30 pm
February Selection: *Quinny & Hopper* by Adriana Brad Schanen. Meetings once a month, second Friday at 4:30 pm. For kids and families with children grades 3-5, or thereabouts. 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.

Book Discussion Group

Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm. Discussion for January 29: *Astoria* by Peter Stark.

Knitting Group

Saturday, January 20, 10 am-Noon
For knitters with all levels of experience. Contact Caitlin at boylandknitworks@gmail.com if you are new to knitting and need materials or more information.

Writer's Group

Thursday, January 18, 6-7:30 pm
Third Thursday of the month. For all levels of writing experience. New members always welcome.

Storytimes

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 (through the end of January)
Stories and a craft/activity for up to age 5. Older siblings welcome!

February-March the Library will have a Family Storytime on Thursdays, 6:30 pm

Did You Know?

Ballot Drop Location

The Vernonia Library is an official ballot drop location. Oregon Special Election Day is Tuesday, January 23. To be counted, ballots are due by 8 pm on Election Day. The Library will be open extra hours on Tuesday, January 23, 9 am-8 pm. The Ballot box is just inside the lobby doors of the Library.

Featured Titles:

Adopt-A-Book Fundraiser

The following are a few highlighted titles added to the Library collection through the Adopt-a-Book fundraiser, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Thank you to 16 Library patrons for purchasing a book for the children's collection through this fundraiser.

Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow by Jessica Townsend

The Elements Book: A Visual Encyclopedia of the Periodic Table by DK

The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid by Colin Meloy (Portland Author, lead singer of The Decemberists)

Peaceable Kingdom *Cauldron Quest Cooperative Potions and Spells Game* for kids

Awesome LEGO Creations with Bricks You Already Have by Sarah Dees

How to Talk So Little Kids Will Listen: A Survival Guide to Life with Children Ages 2-7 by Joanna Faber

A Boy, a Mouse, and a Spider – The Story of E.B. White by Barbara Herkert

Library Closures

Monday, February 19
for Presidents' Day

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

Report Hunt Results by January 31 *continued from page 4*

and hunting seasons," said ODFW Game Program Manager Tom Thornton. "We really appreciate hunters taking a few minutes of their time to complete the report, even if they did not hunt or were not successful."

ODFW used to get this data through phone surveys but these became more difficult and expensive as hunters moved or screened their calls. The mandatory reporting program was put in

place in 2007.

A penalty of \$25 was added several years ago because even after several years promoting the program and providing incentives to report, only about 40 percent of tags were being reported on time. This rate was too low for ODFW to even use the data.

After the penalty was implemented for 2012 tags, reporting rates jumped to 80 percent or more. This has

allowed ODFW to phase out big game survey calls; the agency no longer makes these calls.

Information from the mandatory surveys about how many hunters went hunting, how many big game animals were taken, antler points and success rates is available at ODFW's Big Game Hunting Harvest Statistics page, <https://myodfw.com/big-game-hunting-harvest-statistics>.

Chance to win special big game tag

Hunters that report on time are entered into a drawing to win a special big game tag. ODFW selects three names each year and the winners can choose a deer, elk, or pronghorn tag. Hunters who win get an expanded hunt area and extended season, similar to auction and raffle tags that hunters can pay thousands for.