

Get Ready for Vernonia's City-Wide Bash!

Parade, music, games, and fireworks highlight 4th of July event

The Vernonia community will gather to celebrate the 4th of July this year with the City-Wide Bash, hosted by the Intercultural Society of Vernonia.

The event starts at 5:00 pm with a parade down Bridge Street with free entry, starting at the Vernonia Library and ending at Spencer Park.

Spencer Park will be the location of the rest of the event's activities, with a free entry concert featuring local artists from 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm - no tickets needed to enter!

One of the best fireworks displays in the region will be put on by Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District, starting at approximately 10:00 pm, entry for the fireworks is also free.

Get ready for tons of fun for the whole family at the Bash celebration following the parade! The Kid's Corner will have a \$5 bracelet with unlimited play for kids (cost covers fee for the inflatable obstacle courses). There will be face-painting, arts and crafts, sand castle play, and more. There will also be a FREE-FOR-ALL splash play area with sprinklers and water toys for kids to soak in, so parents - make sure you bring your kids' swim suits and towels!

At 7:00 pm the Adult Field games will begin! There will be 4-person relay races, tug-of-war, water balloon toss, and more! Have your 4-person team ready to register at the event entry.

There will also be vendors selling food, along with other goodies, and there will be a large number of raffle items, so get ready to buy your tickets to put in your favorite raffle box!

Finally, warm up to the 4th by grabbing a CITY PASS at a local participating business, or clip out in this issue of *Vernonia's Voice* (page 14). Visit local businesses and fill it out in the days prior to the 4th, and bring it to the Bash entry table at Spencer Park BEFORE 7:00 pm to receive a free raffle ticket entry for some great prizes!

We hope to see all of you on the 4th of July for this year's City-Wide Bash!

Vernonia Garden Tour Showcases Local Landscapes

The Vernonia Improvement Project will host a garden tour featuring local gardens and properties around Vernonia.

10 local gardens will be on display from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on June 29, 2019. The tour begins at Spencer Park in Vernonia where you can register and pick up a map to the participating locations. Tickets are \$20 and are available at True Value Hardware or at Spencer Park on the day of the event. Proceeds from this first Vernonia Garden Tour will benefit the Vernonia City Parks.

A variety of gardens were selected, each with unique and interesting features, including: urban chickens, raised beds, edibles, perennials, hardscaping, water features, deer tolerant, drought tolerant, potting sheds, she sheds, out buildings, cottage style, modern style, small farm, historic properties, shade, full sun, eco-lawns, and more!

Educators will be on site to answer your questions about the gardening techniques on display. Free classes will be provided throughout the day on pruning, pollinators, eco-lawns, and more! Several small nurseries with display gardens will be included on the tour map as well as the local farmers market and garden shops.

If you have questions or need more information send an email to VernoniaGardenTour@gmail.com.



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School District Reduces Plans for Bond Classroom Addition

Increase in costs causes funding shortfall; other bond projects will be completed as planned

By Scott Laird

Vernonia School District Superintendent Aaron Miller told the School Board and audience at the June 13, 2019 School Board meeting that he expects to reduce the size of the proposed four classroom addition that was to be paid for from funds raised with the second school bond voters passed in 2017.

Miller said the two bids from contractors the District received for the two-story expansion were \$700,000 and \$1.2 million over the \$1.8 million

the District had budgeted for the project.

After meeting with the School Board in a workshop on May 30 to discuss adjusting plans, Miller is now suggesting the District construct a one-story art classroom that will be designed with the ability to add on to it at a future time. Miller said architects are currently designing the new addition.

Plans for the expenditure of the grant funds have not gone as planned, according to Miller who cited a competitive construction market that increased costs over those estimated about three years ago.

After receiving voter approval for the \$6.8 million bond in November of 2017, the District used approximately \$4.5 million of that to pay off

debt from the original construction of the new campus, eliminating annual payments of \$450,000 the District was making from their general fund budget. The remaining \$2.3 million in bond funding was matched by the State of Oregon Department of Education through a special grant program, giving the District \$4.6 million for project upgrades.

With those funds the District has already completed the construction of a new track and field/football facility, made much needed repairs to the Mist Elementary School, and contracted for construction this summer of a new metal/welding shop.

Miller says the Board has prioritized the use of any remaining funds

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