

On the Shelves

By Shannon Romtvedt

When you walk into the library, there is a plaque next to the entryway door that reads "Vernonia Public Library, Dedicated October 23, 1999." We are coming up on the 20th anniversary of the Vernonia Public Library in its current location. Or what is still considered the "new" location. There has been a library serving the community in Vernonia since the 1920s.

Prior to 701 Weed Avenue, the Library shared space with City Hall and the Police Department in the space now occupied by the Blue House Café. Once a month, City Council was held in the Library, as was Municipal Court. The Library served as the meeting area. According to Nancy Burch, the Library did not flood in 1996, but it was in poor condition. The building even had a condemned section and standing water you had to walk through to reach the bathrooms. A new building for all departments was badly needed.

An article printed in *The Independent* on October 20, 1999, written by Nancy Burch, announces the opening of the new library. "Vernonia's wonderful new library and its furnishings have been made possible by the City of Vernonia, a Title II Library and Construction Grant disbursed by the State Library, the Margaret Thiele Petti Foundation, and the Rose E. Tucker Foundation."

"The major part of the move took place on Monday, September 27, with library board members, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Sue Edwards and other willing volunteers cleaning and positioning shelves, moving and shelving books. Even though the original plan of numbering boxes went awry quickly, the project proceeded quite smoothly with the tireless work done by these hard working volunteers."

In the article, Nancy Burch acknowledges the Library Board, Vernonia Public Works, Ferris Sylvester, Pat and Jimmy Mueller, and Vicky Galliard for helping throughout the week.

Nancy said acquiring shelving for the building was quite a production. Since the old Library had only built in shelving, the new Library required shelving units. Chemeketa Community College sold their old shelving to the Library for \$1 a unit. However, CCC needed them removed before the new building was ready, so the transfer involved multiple moving truck trips to

the storage unit, as well as multiple trips from the unit to the Library.

As a follow-up article written for *The Independent*, in November 1999, Nancy reports: "...the month of October has seen the library being very possibly the busiest ever and the circulation and library usage in November promise to even exceed that of October. It's absolutely wonderful to see the library being used by students doing homework, by computer class participants, by arts and crafts members, by kindergarten and Head Start youngsters, by youngsters and adults using the computers, as well as the regular pre-school youngsters and adult library patrons."

The ideal month of the Library is the same to Nancy in 1999 as it is to me today. The best days in the Library are the days with a variety of usage, people working, reading in, and enjoying the Library. As Nancy writes as Librarian in September 15, 1999, prior to the dedication of the new building, "getting people to form the habit of reading and to use the library to its utmost" is something that "every librarian would like to see occur." It's wonderful to read that her dream for the new building came true.

Upcoming Events

LEGO® Designer Grant Davis

Saturday, September 21, 4 - 5 pm
Grant Davis will share his experience designing a pop-up book for LEGO®, currently for sale. Presentation includes slides of his LEGO® creations. Grant Davis is an Electrical Engineering student at George Fox University and in his spare time, designs and builds custom LEGO® models. Presentation is for students and adults.

Craft Corner (for ages 5 - 8)

Tuesdays, thru October 8, 12 - 1 pm
Register at the Library or call (503) 429-1818 to participate. Each weekly meeting will have a project with all materials provided.

Ongoing Programs

Writer's Group

Thursday, September 19, 6-7:30 pm
3rd Thursday of every month. For writers with all levels of experience.

Book Discussion Group

Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm. Discussion for September 30: *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich

Storytimes

Library Playgroup (New!)

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 am
Activity stations designed for young children, birth - preschool. Drop-in and play or stay the whole time.

Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 10:30-11:15 am
Stories, activities, and a craft for children up through age 6.

Did You Know? Publications

In need of a Driver's manual? The Library has multiple 2018-2019 copies of the Oregon Driver's Manual, Motorcycle and Moped Manual, and Commercial Driver Manuals. Also, link to the Vernonia Library Catalog on our website www.vernonia-or.gov/departments/library/. The Catalog links to Driving-Tests.org which has practice exams for the Oregon DMV test. Looking for a Voter Registration Card? The Library also keeps these in stock right inside our front doors.

Featured Titles at the Library:

Book-to-Movie

Many movies out in theaters lately started out as a book. We often get requests to purchase books when the story is released as a film. So I thought I'd share a few recent book-to-movie releases. Look for the book, movie, or both at the Library.
The Best of Enemies by Osha Gray Davidson
The Professor and the Madman: Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary by Simon Winchester
The Aftermath by Rhidian Brook
Five Feet Apart by Rachel Lippincott
After by Anna Todd
The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon
The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt (movie just released in theaters)

Hours & Contact Info

Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am - 5 pm
Tues & Thurs 12 pm - 7 pm
Sat 12 pm - 5 pm
Closed Sundays
Phone: (503) 429-1818
E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov

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