

Vernonia City News...

Citizen of the Month – Councilor J.R. Allen and Mayor Rick Hobart (pictured left) recognized Mike Pihl as Citizen of the Month. Pihl



was recognized for quietly volunteering his time across the community in many ways, including helping organize and donating materials for the Jamboree Logging Show, placing the timbers during construction of the Spencer Park picnic shelter, serving on numerous Boards including the CZ Trail, and Camp 18 Logger Museum, serving as the President of Timber Unity, and as a former Board member of WOEC.

At the June 15, 2020 City Council Meeting:

Grandstand Update – Stacey Pelster told the Council the Greenman Field grandstand repair project has received donated materials for repairs and has a contractor, Jim Morrison, with the repairs to the trusses expected to be completed by November. Pelster said the project has raised approximately \$9,500 in cash, plus in-kind donations.

Master Fee Schedule – Council adopted Resolution 2020-07, and accepted a revised Master Fee Schedule. Updates include: Utility Billing Fees – water loan repayment fee and sewer loan repayment fees were both reduced; Planning – fees for major lot line partition and commercial zone development were added, and added a building over lot line permit fee; Police Department – added a fingerprint fee; Parks Fees – changed language to annual parking pass.

Council Approves Fishing

Dock Signage – Council approved the design and language for signage at the fishing docks at Vernonia Lake, which would notify users to give access priority to disabled visitors.

Bonamici Holds Town Halls – U.S. Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici was scheduled to hold three telephone Town Hall Meetings June 17 at 6:00 pm, June 18 1:00 pm, and June 20 at 11:00 am.

Councilor Raises Concerns About Professionalism – Councilor Susan Wagner expressed concerns about comments by fellow Council members Dale Webb, J.R. Allen, and Mayor Rick Hobart during the June 1 City Council meeting, which she characterized as unprofessional. She formerly requested the Council re-

ceive training in appropriate conduct during meetings, and asked for an apology from the Councilors she identified. The rest of the Council made no response.

Council Meets in Executive Session – Council met in an Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2)(h) “To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.” Upon returning to open session the Council took no further action.

Council Schedules Workshop – Council scheduled a workshop to discuss the City Administrator Evaluation Form Review on Monday, June 22 at 6:00 pm.

Police Blotter June 1-15, 2020

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| <p>Reports Taken/Arrests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 1, 2020 Report of a Traffic Crash near 1st Avenue and Umatilla Street • June 3, 2020 Report of Domestic Violence and Harassment near Bridge Street • June 10, 2020 Report of a Run Away Juvenile near Bridge Street | <p>Citation/Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2, 2020 Citation issued for Driving Outside Restrictions near California Avenue <p>Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 06/01/2020 through 06/15/2020 VPD had 69 calls for service.</p> |
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The Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday January - October

**June 27
July 11 & 25**

Currently not accepting oversized items (mattresses, couches, etc.) and limiting the number of vehicles in the yard at one time.

Dates are subject to change

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

Please check the City’s website for details on upcoming City Council Meetings scheduled for 7:00 pm:

Monday, July 6, 2020
Monday, July 20, 2020

www.vernonia-or.gov

City Closures are scheduled for:
Friday, July 3, 2020
Independence Day Observed

Dates and times subject to change

Affordable PPE “Pop-Up” for Columbia County Small Businesses

County Commissioners trigger small business buying power with accessible PPE program

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) purchased in bulk will be available for small businesses to order and pick up starting Friday, June 19 at the Columbia County Fairgrounds. The program is a collaborative project between the Columbia County Board of Commissioners and Columbia County Economic Team (CCET).

Commissioners approached CCET, a member of the County’s Emergency Management Economic Recovery working group, to develop a PPE program in response to small business owner challenges obtaining PPE in order to operate safely. The availability of PPE is imperative for implementing good protective measures in order to reduce COVID risk since Columbia County was allowed to re-open under Oregon’s Phase 1 and 2 Guidelines.

“Our county has been fortunate to maintain a very low COVID-19 case impact rate relative to other counties,” said Paul Vogel, Interim Executive Director of CCET. “Especially with reopening, businesses and the public need to keep doing what we’re doing: being safe and careful, controlling what we can – and that means using masks, gloves, good practices, and following state public health guidelines,” Vogel added.

CCET will be stocking only ba-

sic supplies: face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and gowns intended for personal services sector. Medical grade supplies have been made available by County Emergency Management throughout the COVID outbreak and that will continue. As the small business PPE program operates for the foreseeable future, needs may change to different or additional items, which CCET will consider. Disposable masks may also be available for customer use at a future date.

PPE will be available for pick-up at the Columbia County Fairgrounds each Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. PPE orders should be placed in advance in order to prepare them for pick-up, to reduce waiting time and help maintain proper physical distancing. Order forms can be downloaded from CCET’s small business website beginning Wednesday, June 20. Order forms submitted by email will be prepared and available in turn during the Friday pick-up. PPE may be purchased without pre-ordering, but purchasers should expect longer wait-times. Access to the fairgrounds and the Pop-Up is through Gate 2, 58892 Selzer Road, St. Helens. Purchasers must wear masks and adhere to public health guidelines that have been put in place, including registering all parties for potential future contact tracing.

“We thank the County Fair Board for their tremendous cooperation in providing this valuable service

to small businesses,” said Robert Blumberg, President & CEO of Wauna Credit Union and President of the CCET Board of Directors. “We have heard horror stories of price gouging by suppliers and even refusal to ship small orders to individual businesses. This program will stop that, protect our small businesses, and help them and their customers successfully re-open/stay open, helping get our economy and communities moving again. That is CCET’s primary mission right now,” Blumberg added.

Hosting the PPE Pop-Up is one of many new initiatives the Fair Board is pursuing to stimulate activity and use of the Fairgrounds since County Fairs have been cancelled by state directive. Businesses should limit their orders to what they need for one to two weeks. All orders must be paid and signed for with a check or cash. In addition, purchasers must sign a commitment not to re-sell the products, which are being made available at cost.

“When available county funds can be put to direct use in helping small businesses re-open, recover, and stay open, it’s a win for our communities and our county,” Blumberg said. “The fact that we can purchase some PPE from local businesses, also putting people to work makes this even better.” He added, “Affordable, smart safety practices enabled by local workers, companies, and jobs is a win-win for Columbia County during a very challenging time.”

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