

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Vernonia Community,

We are Vernonians for Racial Justice and Equality. We are a peaceful, newly formed group of diverse Vernonians with members representing life-long and new residents, people of color and white residents. We gathered to demonstrate after the killings of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor to stand in solidarity with the global cry against police brutality and racial injustice.

Our initial goals were simple: 1) to signal to Vernonia that there are some in the community who stand against racism and 2) to start conversations about racism in our community.

After three successful demonstrations at Spencer Park and over 300 comments on social media we felt our initial goals were met, and yet there is still work to be done. We want to:

1) Engage with Vernonia City Council and Vernonia Police Department to help make Vernonia a more wel-

coming place for people of color to visit, live, work, and play.

2) Educate our community about historic and systemic racism through art, events, and presentations and in partnership with Vernonia School Board.

3) Facilitate difficult conversations about racism within our community by hosting and organizing structured, moderated discussions between community members.

Some people feel that racial issues are irrelevant to Vernonia, since it is over 94% white and therefore pointlessly divisive for the community. We disagree. Racism is experienced by people of color living in and visiting Vernonia. Examples of this include: racial slurs uttered in person inside a local business, racial slurs written in social media posts by a school employee, a resident person of color being told "you don't belong here" inside a local business, and general coldness or incivility towards people of color.

Vernonia prides itself on being removed from

the hustle and bustle of bigger cities and providing for a quiet, peaceful way of life. But some Vernonians can be unfriendly and sometimes hostile towards those considered to be "outsiders." This is problematic because Vernonia businesses rely on tourism revenue and Vernonia is likely to continue growing as it is a "bedroom community" relatively close to Portland with available land and space.

Also, Vernonia historically had a very active KKK chapter and minority residents were segregated. While our history might not be as violent as other places in the U.S., it still requires honest reflection and reckoning. We must examine past racism to understand and dismantle its painful legacy today.

We invite community members and leaders to join us, to seize this moment of racial reckoning, and make Vernonia a more inclusive place for people of color and more welcoming to new residents and visitors.

Vernonians for
Racial Justice and Equality

Vernonia Weather June 2020

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	69	38	0
2	74	40	0
3	71	43	0
4	67	46	0
5	68	47	T
6	60	38	.21
7	60	40	T
8	62	47	.49
9	66	55	.06
10	73	53	.05
11	74	51	T
12	58	48	.17
13	56	46	.35
14	66	52	.40
15	61	48	.38
16	65	43	.02
17	70	43	0
18	77	47	0
19	86	56	0
20	70	56	T
21	70	44	0
22	83	46	0
23	89	57	0
24	73	55	0
25	80	48	0
26	82	49	0
27	61	50	.09
28	68	46	T
29	71	48	T
30	61	51	.02

Ave/Tot 69.7 47.7 2.24

Weather data is collected at the U.S.
Weather station at the Vernonia Water Plant



The Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Board of Directors
will meet by teleconference for their regular
board meeting Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm
Public access is available.
Call Toll Free: 1 (866) 899-4679
Access Code: 826-511-573



AA Meetings

Open Meetings
Mondays & Thursdays 6:30-7:30 pm
Vernonia Christian Church
410 North Street

Or find a meeting at: <https://www.oregonaadistrict18.org/>

NOTICE OF POSITIONS OPEN CITY OF VERNONIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the General Election will be held on the 3rd day of November 2020, at which time the legal voters of the City of Vernonia will be entitled to vote for candidates to certain city offices.

OFFICES OPEN FOR ELECTION:

- VERNONIA MAYOR TWO YEAR TERM
- VERNONIA COUNCIL MEMBER FOUR YEAR TERM
- VERNONIA COUNCIL MEMBER FOUR YEAR TERM

Election packets will be available May 27, 2020 at the office of the City Recorder, 1001 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR 97064. Nominating petitions can be filed no sooner than June 1, 2020, and filed no later than Friday, August 21, 2020, by 4:00 p.m. with the City Recorder. For more information call Stephanie Borst, City Recorder at 503-429-5291 ext. 105.

The City of Vernonia is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions and ideas. Please include your name, address and phone number, limit your letters to 300 words or less. *Vernonia's Voice* reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters space permitting. Deadline is the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Email: scott@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

Vernonia's Voice is
published twice each
month on the
1st and 3rd Thursday.
Look for our next
issue on August 6.



Columbia Humane Society



Featured Dog

Albus (of the Dumbledore family) is a happy, bright addition to the CHS clan. With such a magical background he is sure to bring many smiles and much laughter to the family that he chooses. With being just over a year old, he is still learning about everything life has to offer him. He is a relatively recent addition from a shelter in Texas, where he lived for a time in a foster home. He is very excited in the shelter and really likes all the attention he gets. He enjoys playing with his toys and playing with all his dog friends in playgroup. We don't think Albus will do well in a home with other dogs as he likes to guard. We are not sure what his experience is with cats. He will not make a good candidate to live in an apartment as he is about 45 lbs and needs to have a fenced yard. Albus has a hearing issue so he

will do well in a home without kids. We are looking for someone with experience with dogs with hearing loss, even though he has been conditioned to hand signals already.

As with all pets available for adoption through CHS, we do try to find the best fit for each family. We ask that prior to just showing up at the shelter you please email animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org and we will send you an application to fill out. Once the application is approved we will then schedule a time for you to come and meet the pet that you are interested in. It is our duty to make the best fit for our adopters and our animals.