

Growing Gardens for the Community *continued from front page*

providing fresh food for Vernonia Cares (last year they donated about 50 pounds of food, and have already topped that this year); educate the community about gardening and growing their own food, with an emphasis on children; and getting the school involved in the Community Garden. “We really want this to be a place where the community can come and hang out and learn about gardening,” says Lynn.

One of the volunteers who was instrumental in reviving the Community Garden was Rachael Organ. Rachael has worked on numerous beautification projects around the community and started calling those the Vernonia Improvement Project, which is engaging volunteers and tackling local landscaping endeavors. Her most recent project was to landscape the completed Vernonia Senior Center and Vernonia Cares



Left: Rachael Organ and family at the new Vernonia Senior Center/Vernonia Cares building. Rachael's Vernonia Improvement Project has been organizing landscaping projects around the community.



during the COVID shutdown, and Rachael has been helping maintain them. She is selling plants from the greenhouse for the UNWC at the Vernonia Open Air Market on Saturdays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (corner of Bridge Street and Grant Avenue) and donating any produce to Vernonia Cares.

Rachael says she is also hoping to do some more landscaping at the Vernonia

Post Office and has been maintaining the landscaping at the Vernonia City Hall through the Vernonia Improvement Project.

If you are interested in learning more about, or volunteering to help with the Vernonia Community Garden please go to their Facebook page. For more information about the Vernonia Improvement Project contact Rachael Organ at RachaelOregon@gmail.com or (503) 830-6919.

building.

Rachael says she stepped up to help with the Senior Center after landscaping was cut from the budget in order to reduce initial spending. She worked out a design for planting, arranged for donations of low maintenance and draught tolerant plants from community members, and organized a work party of about 20 people who helped get the plants in the ground. Susan Ely and her family donated plants and work time, as did Randy Ward, a member of the Vernonia Parks Committee. Lynn and Bar-

ney Hayes also helped out. West Oregon Electric Cooperative and a local arborist donated wood chips. Mike Pihl Logging will donate a log, and some large rocks will help complete the look. In the fall, the back of the building which faces the Linear Trail will get seeded with an eco lawn which will be low maintenance.

Rachael has also been working with the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (UNWC) in their greenhouse on the Vernonia Schools campus. UNWC started raising vegetable starts (tomatoes, peppers, squash, green beans, pumpkins) in the greenhouse this spring



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