

Vernonia City News...

At the August 16, 2021 City Council Meeting:

Mayor Absent from Meeting – With Mayor Rick Hobart absent, Council President J.R. Allen presided over the meeting.

Council Declines to Wear Masks in Public Meeting – All four Councilors in attendance at the meeting declined to wear masks, disregarding current statewide mandates in place requiring masks indoors in public spaces to reduce the spread of COVID.

Citizen of the Month – Councilor J.R. Allen recognized the Vernonia Jamboree Committee as Citizens of the Month for their work organizing the event this year.

Council Approves Agreement with Columbia County Sheriff for Service – Council approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Vernonia and the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) to provide coverage in the City for a fee. Vernonia Police Chief Mike Conner told the Council the Vernonia Police Department has struggled to maintain adequate police staffing and is currently staffed with four full-time police officers. According to the agreement, CCSO agrees to provide one .5 full-time employee by

stationing one Patrol Deputy in the Nehalem Valley to augment the City’s law enforcement services when needed. CCSO will provide at least 10 hours of scheduled law enforcement services per week along with 10 hours of flexible time to provide coverage when City law enforcement services are unavailable. Cost for the City will be \$45,000 for the first year, with succeeding years fees to be determined by the Sheriff’s Office by March 1 prior to the start of the next year. Terms of the agreement are in effect from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026. The Sheriff’s Office will provide the City with a report of service provided and will bill the City quarterly. Sheriff Brian Pixley was in attendance and told the Council he has secured additional funding from the County Commissioners to augment the Deputy position assigned to the Vernonia area.

Council Adopts Revised Cemetery Rules and Fees – Council approved Resolution 2021-15, adopting updated rules and regulations for the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery concerning the new columbarium, and Resolution 2021-16, adopting and updating the Master Fee Schedule which included columbarium fees.

The Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday January - October
**August 28
September 11 & 25**

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:

Tuesday, September 7, 2021
Monday, September 20, 2021

www.vernonia-or.gov

City Closures are scheduled for:

Monday, September 6, 2021
Labor Day

Dates and times subject to change

Vernonia Police Blotter August 1-16, 2021

Reports Taken/Arrests

- August 6, 2021 Report of Criminal Mischief near State Ave.
- August 7, 2021 Report of Harassment near Spencer Park
- August 13, 2021 Report of Menacing and Disorderly Conduct near Weed Ave.

Citations/Other

- August 1, 2021 Cited for Driving Uninsured and No Driver’s License
- August 6, 2021 Cited for Driving While Suspended
- August 7, 2021 Cited for Driving While Suspended near Jefferson Ave.
- August 8, 2021 Cited for Driving While Suspended and Driving

Uninsured near Grant Ave.

- August 8, 2021 Cited for Replacing Windows with Unapproved Material (vehicle) near Washington Ave.
- August 8, 2021 Cited for Improper Display of Registration Sticker, Driving While Suspended, and Driving Uninsured near Washington Ave.
- August 11, 2021 Cited for Driving While Suspended near Scappoose Vernonia Highway

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 08/01/2021 thru 08/15/2021 VPD responded to 84 calls for service.



On the Shelves

By Brittanie Roberts

Hello again Library fans, and fans in the making!

Our Vernonia Public Library has launched a new review process designed to involve local patrons – when checking out books and DVDs patrons receive a “Book or Film Review” bookmark to rate titles they check out. Upon return, patrons can leave the bookmark in the book or DVD case; books and DVDs with reviews are displayed by the library entrance and include any comments left by patrons.

While this process is taking a brief hiatus from the display stand as we highlight the COLUMBIA COUNTY READS 2021: HIDDEN FIGURES event (more on that next time), we have already received dozens of title reviews. These reviews provide diverse opinions of new and old titles here at our Vernonia Public Library that fellow patrons think are worth checking out.

Here are several titles and their reviews for your consideration:

Films

The Outpost starring Orlando Bloom and Scott Eastwood (2020): One of a handful of films that was reviewed, this film is based on the real-life Battle of Kamdesh in 2009, one of the bloodiest battles of the Afghanistan war. A patron had this to say: “Very intense war drama – surprising performances from a relatively unknown cast.” 4 out of 5 stars.

The Biggest Little Farm from Universal Pictures, starring John and Molly Chester (2019) Non-Fiction: This documentary follows the Chester family as they attempt to trade in city life for farm-life in Ventura, California. “Great family documentary. Fascinating and the kids loved watching the animals.” 4 out of 5 stars.

Books

Llama Llama, Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney (2005): Here’s a fun children’s review. Dewdney has quite a few of these Llama Llama dramas, but a patron left a review for this title, saying, “Great Book, even for babies. This book [is very] animated and fun. Simple words and rhymes.” 5 out of 5 stars – Strongly Recommended.

Mercy Watson: Something Wonky this Way Comes by Kate DiCamillo (2009): Mercy Watson is a series of First Chapter books for children transitioning from shorter, simpler stories. “Great series and this one is particularly fun. Pulls all the characters together in a creative way.” 4 out of 5 stars.

The Drowning Kind by Jennifer McMahon (2021): A new title, this horror fiction has already seen some action. “Captivating. Filled with love, loss, and creepiness. [It] brings in past and present.” 5 out of 5 stars – Strongly Recommended.

Eternal by Lisa Scottoline, (2021): Set during the rise of the Nazi party and Italy’s part in WWII, this novel addresses the individual lives of three friends coming of age during a nightmare time in history. “WWII, set in Italy. Beautiful friendship story. For historical fans.” 4 out of 5 stars.

Silent Sisters by Joanne Lee (2019) Non-Fiction: A difficult read just because it is a non-fiction account of childhood abuse and the failure of societal safety nets in protecting vulnerable children. “Absolute page turner. You feel ALL of the emotions. I could not put this [book] down.” 5 out of 5 stars – Strongly Recommended.

Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague by Maggie O’Farrell (2020): A title on my “Must Read” list, I don’t think I can say it any better than this patron’s review: “Hamnet is the imagined story of the devastating impact of plague on Shakespeare (who’s never named) in 1850’s London. Beautifully writ-

ten.” 5 out of 5 stars – Strongly Recommended.

Into Thin Air: A personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer (1997) Non-Fiction: This book is an account of the now infamous 1996 guided Everest expedition which went horribly wrong, leaving eight dead. “Looking for a story with danger, tension, and perseverance? *Into Thin Air* delivers all of that and more.” 5 out of 5 stars – Strongly Recommended.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson (2019): A personal favorite (it has a book woman, of course I am going to love it!), this book is a fictionalized account of two real life subjects in the history of Eastern Kentucky. “Showcases the importance of books and libraries, and teaches about the Blue-skinned people of Kentucky. Focus on education and acceptance, much needed today.” 5 out of 5 stars – Strongly Recommended.

Walk in my Combat Boots by James Patterson (2021) Non-Fiction: Another non-fiction account, I can’t do better than the book’s description on Amazon: “*Walk in my Combat Boots* is a powerful collection crafted from hundreds of original interviews by James Patterson, the world’s #1 bestselling writer, and First Sergeant US Army (Ret.) Matt Eversmann, part of the Ranger unit portrayed in the movie *Black Hawk Down*.” In addition to this powerful description, a local veteran who frequents the library shared with me that these were the stories that the average American does not get to hear, and they are “powerful”. 5 out of 5 stars, and Strongly Recommended, this patron simply said this book is: “Real life s*!.*”

Don’t forget to stop by our local library and check out these titles and more!

Until next time, this is Brittanie Roberts, and I am still stuck between the shelves.

