

# Vernonia City News...

## At the October 18, 2021 City Council Meeting:

**Citizen of the Month** – Councilor Donald Normand nominated, and the Council recognized, Shawn Gibson for her work to help organize the annual Salmon Festival and her involvement in the creation of the Intercultural Society of Vernonia.

**Council Removes Territory From City Limits** – After holding a third Public Hearing at which there was no public testimony, Council voted to adopt Resolution 933, completing the process to remove a small piece of property from the city limits at the request of the property owner.

**Council Discusses Process for Filling Vacancy** – Council was presented with a staff report reviewing the past process the Council used to fill a vacancy for an open seat on the Council, in which they had four applicants and the Council appointed Donald Normand. The Council now has another open seat following the passing of Councilor Grant Williams on September 5, and the three other previous applicants who were not chosen, Susan Wagner, Cherise

Ash, and Charles Kibben, have said they are still interested in the seat. Mayor Rick Hobart opened the discussion saying he had one other citizen who expressed interest. Council agreed to open the position to the public for new applicants and to recruit a Citizen Panel to interview all applicants, along with the Council, for the position, and will hold interviews on December 4, meaning the seat will have been vacant for over three months.

**Mayor Appoints Calhoun to Planning Commission** – Based on a recommendation from the Planning Commission and with approval from the majority of the Council, Mayor Rick Hobart appointed Steve Calhoun to the Planning Commission; Councilor J.R. Allen abstained.

**Smoke Testing Results** – The Council heard a report from staff member Ben Fousek on the results from the smoke testing conducted on the City sewer system. The testing revealed three primary issues where stormwater is

entering the wastewater system: open/uncapped cleanouts, broken laterals and wastewater lines, and private stormwater infrastructure and roof drains connected to wastewater. The Public Works Department will repair issues that are the City's responsibility and repair issues with numerous manhole covers, and landowners where issues occurred will be notified and required to make the repairs; reimbursements for repairs on private land may be available to property owners.


**The Vernonia Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday January - October**

**October 23**

**The Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in November & December**

**November 6 & 20  
December 4 & 18**

*Dates are subject to change*



1001 Bridge Street  
Vernonia, OR 97064  
(503) 429-5291

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Proposed Variance in the City of Vernonia, File No. VAR 21-02

**When:** Planning Commission: November 4, 2021 at 7:00pm  
**Where:** See Agenda for Details  
**Why:** The applicant is requesting a variance from Section 9-01.03-10.C.7 which requires driveways to be 24 feet long. The applicant is requesting a 21 foot driveway (between the property line and the garage door) due to riparian setback limitations to the rear of the home.  
**Location:** 2016 Nickerson Loop, Vernonia, OR 97064. Map 5N 4W Section 34 CD Tax Lot 1200


NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vernonia Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the Type III Variance outlined above.

SAID PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the Vernonia Planning Commission. This will be a public hearing at which time proponents and opponents of the variance will be heard.

A staff report will be available to the public at City Hall one week before the hearing and may be copied for a nominal fee. Public testimony is welcome, and written statements will also be received before the hearing.

The meeting location is online, and therefore accessible to persons with disabilities.

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



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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL  
Proposed Street Vacation in the City of Vernonia, File No. VAC 21-01

**When:** Planning Commission: November 18, 2021 at 7:00pm  
City Council: December 6, 2021 at 7:00pm  
**Where:** See Agenda for Details  
**Why:** Vacation requested by a petitioner.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vernonia Planning Commission and the City Council, will conduct two separate public hearings for a request by David Strickland to vacate a portion of the un-constructed street and un-constructed alley west of Louisiana Avenue and east of Columbia Avenue (unconstructed). The alley to be vacated is north of 917 Louisiana Avenue and the street to be vacated south of same address. See map on opposite page.

SAID PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the Vernonia Planning Commission on November 18, 2021 and before the Vernonia City Council on December 6, 2021. The Public Hearings will be held at **7:00 pm**. These meetings may be on-line only, in person, or hybrid depending on the COVID restrictions in place at the time. The agenda will clarify. This is the scheduled time proponents and opponents of the proposed Vacation will be heard.

A staff report will be available to the public at City Hall one week before the hearing and may be copied for a nominal fee. Public testimony is welcome, and written statements will also be received before the hearing. Failure to raise an issue in a hearing, in person or by letter or failure to provide statements or evidence sufficient to afford the decision-maker an opportunity to respond to the issue precludes appeal to the board based on that issue. Public testimony is welcome, and written statements will also be received before the hearing.

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## Vernonia Police Blotter October 1-15, 2021

**Reports Taken**

- October 8, 2021 Report of Hit and Run, Reckless Driving, Driving While Suspended and Driving Uninsured near North Mist Drive.
- October 12, 2021 Report of Criminal Mischief x11 near Bridge Street
- October 12, 2021 Report of a Death Investigation

**Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 10/01/2021 thru 10/15/2021 VPD responded to 53 calls for service.**

## Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

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

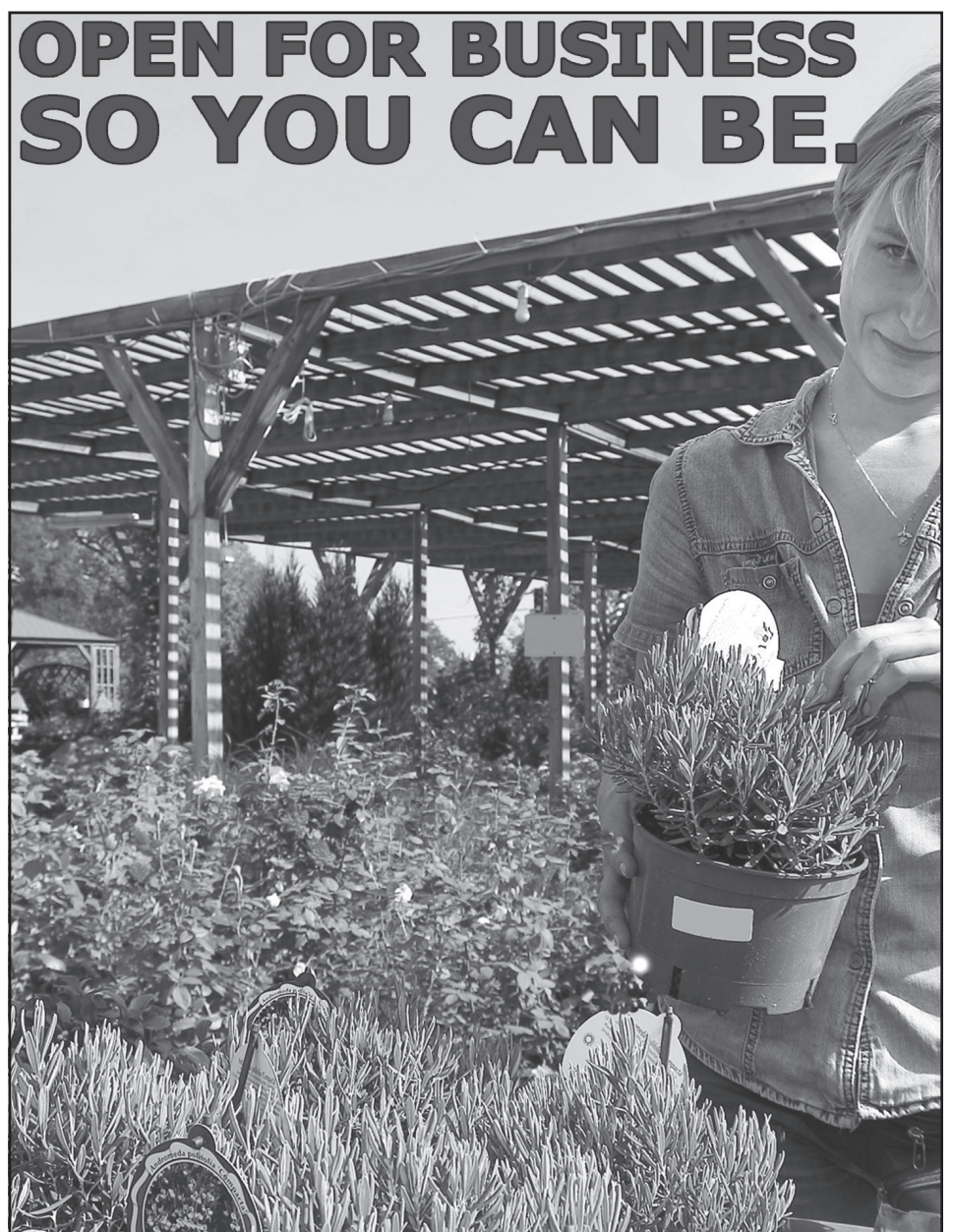
Monday, November 1, 2021  
Monday, November 15, 2021


[www.vernonia-or.gov](http://www.vernonia-or.gov)

**City Closures are scheduled for:**

Thursday, November 11, 2021  
*Veterans Day*  
Thursday, November 25, 2021  
*Thanksgiving Holiday*  
Friday, November 26, 2021  
*Thanksgiving Holiday*

*Dates and times subject to change*





reflecting the spirit of our community

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