

Vernonia City News...

Citizen of the Month

At the March 21, 2022 City Council Meeting Councilor Charise Ash nominated Rachael Organ for Citizen of the Month. Organ was selected because of her community beautification projects which include organizing the mural project around town, multiple planting projects including the Vernonia Senior Center/Vernonia Cares, organizing the annual Community Garden Tour, and helping distribute COVID food boxes.



At the April 4, 2022 City Council Meeting: City Sends Letter of Support for Holce Trailhead – Mayor Rick Hobart read a Letter of Support for a grant application by Columbia County to fully develop the Holce trailhead at the end of Knott Street with interpretive signs, restrooms, picnic tables, and additional parking.

Topics From the Floor – City Recorder Stephanie Borst read a letter from Mike Spry asking Council to not spend any tax payer money to repair the Greenman Field Grandstands.

Jessica and Aaron Milstein asked the Council for administrative help in completing planning and engineering permits for new construction of a house they are trying to build and specifically for the construction of a private driveway. Council agreed to schedule a workshop to include the Milsteins and the City Planner.

Council Approves Engineering Design for Budget – Council voted to include two design phase engineering projects for Knott Street and State Avenue in next year's budget.

Council Rejects Motion to Fund Grandstand Repair – Council voted 4-1 to reject a motion made by Councilor J.R. Allen to spend \$50,000 of City funds to help repair the Greenman Field Grandstands. (See full story on this page.)

Council Approves Using ARPA Funds at Anderson Park – Council voted to use

\$1,450 from ARPA Funds to reimburse the Park Host at Anderson Park for funds that were lost last year during the COVID eviction moratorium when a camper did not pay. The Park Host is paid 10% of revenue from the park and the park lost \$11,450 in camping fees.

Council Approves Cemetery Budget Additions – Council voted 5-0 to approve a recommendation from staff to include a line item in next year's budget to build a covered chapel at the Memorial Cemetery. Council also voted 4-1 to approve \$4,162.25 to install power to the shed at the Cemetery, split 1/3 of the cost to come from the Cemetery Fund and 2/3 coming from the General Fund. Councilor Donald Normand voted against the motion to install power.

Council Approves Funds for 4th of July Fireworks – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council the VRFPD fireworks show is still short about \$3,915 to fund the annual fireworks display. Council voted 5-0 to approve a \$1,000 donation to help with the show.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council West Oregon Electric will be installing seven light poles at the Vernonia SK8 park in the next several months. She said the parking area at the skate park will be cleaned and restriped prior to the Grand Open ceremony on April 23 at 12:00 pm.

Mitchell said poles are installed for the reader board at Spencer Park and the rest of the sign should be installed soon.

Councilors Thanks Volunteers and Staff for Skate Park – Councilors Dale Webb and J.R. Allen thanked the numerous volunteers, staff, and Randy Holce for working to complete the Skate Park project.

Council Rejects Motion to Fund Grandstand Repair

The Vernonia City Council voted 4-1 to reject a motion made by Councilor J.R. Allen at their April 4, 2022 meeting to use \$50,000 of City funds to help repair the Greenman Field Grandstands at Spencer Park.

Allen's motion was seconded by Mayor Rick Hobart, who then voted against the motion when it came to a vote.

A written report by City Administrator Josette Mitchell reminded the Council that a request had been made to the Council by Stacey Pelster, on behalf of the Grandstands Committee and the Intercultural Society of Vernonia at the February 7, 2022 Council meeting, asking the City to contribute \$50,000 this year and \$50,000 next year to assist in the repair of the Grandstands. Council had requested staff to investigate whether American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds the City has been awarded could be used for the project. Mitchell wrote that the ARPA funds were not eligible to be spent on this type of project and said there was not an appropriate fund in the City Budget that has \$50,000 that is not already allocated. She wrote that Ms. Pelster had requested that the Council take a vote on the request at this meeting.

It is unclear what the fate of the Greenman Field Grandstands will be. The City owns the structure but has leased it to the Intercultural Society, who is responsible for its maintenance under the current agreement.

Following the vote Councilor

Allen made a second motion for the City to donate \$50,000 of ARPA funds in next year's budget to the Logger Stadium project, which is working to raise funds to build a covered seating area at the Vernonia School District campus field where football and track and field events are held. "That way every single person in this town can enjoy it, from kid to old to anyone else who goes to a game," said Allen when making his motion. "That would satisfy me if we're trying to help everybody in the town." Mitchell told Council she was unsure whether the project would qualify under ARPA guidelines. Allen's motion did not receive a second, and was not voted on. Mitchell told Council she would further investigate and clarify the use of ARPA funds.

Vernonia Police Blotter March 15-31, 2022

Reports Taken/Arrests

- March 23, 2022 Report taken of Eluding, Reckless Driving, and Reckless Endangering near HWY 47 South

Citations/Other

- March 21, 2022 Citation issued for Careless Driving near HWY 47 South

Vernonia Police Department had 125 calls for service from 03/01/2022 to 03/31/2022.

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Vernonia, Columbia County, State of Oregon, to present the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, will be held on April 26, 2022 at 6:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message, the budget document and to establish the agenda for future meetings. No deliberation will take place at this meeting and no public comment will be heard.

An additional separate meeting of the Budget Committee will be held to take public comment. Any person may appear to discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. This meeting will be held on May 3, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Budget Meetings will be held at the Cabin in Vernonia at 901 Park Dr, Vernonia, OR 97064 from 6:30-9:30 pm.

A copy of the budget document will be available after April 26, 2022 at City Hall located at 1001 Bridge St between the hours of 8 am-5 pm Monday - Friday.

This notice is also posted on the City's website: vernonia-or.gov

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, April 18, 2022
Monday, May 2, 2022

www.vernonia-or.gov

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, May 30, 2022
Memorial Day

Dates and times subject to change

What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

By Shannon Romtvedt

Upcoming Events

Computer Help Sessions

Saturdays, April 9 and 16, 1-3 pm

Tuesdays, April 12 and 26, 1-3 pm

One-on-one computer help sessions are now being offered at the Library! Need help setting up an email account, navigating the internet, uploading documents to a form, accessing eBooks? Schedule a help session with the Library. Please call (503) 429-1818 to reserve a time slot.

Your Environmental Handprint

Wednesday, April 13, 6:30 pm

Presentation by Jon R. Biemer, author of *Our Environmental Handprints: Recover the Land, Reverse Global Warming, Reclaim the Future*. This program is sponsored by the American Library Association's, Libraries Transforming Communities, Small and Rural Libraries Grant.

Low-Water Gardening and Native Plants

Wednesday, May 11, 6:30 pm

Presentation by Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Service and Columbia County Master Gardeners. Program sponsored by the American Library Association's, Libraries Transforming Communities, Small and Rural Libraries Grant.

Ongoing Programs

Writers' Group

1st and 3rd Thursday of the month,
April 7 and 21, 6-7:30 pm

For adult and teen writers with all levels of experience. Writing prompts, opportunity to share current work for feedback, and information on local opportunities for writers.

Chess @ the Library

3rd Tuesday of the month,
April 19, 6-7:30 pm

Open to anyone interested in playing or learning to play chess. For all ages.

New Baby and Toddler Time

Mondays, 1-1:45 pm

Short story, movement activities, bubbles, and toys! Designed for littles, birth - age 3.

Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 10:30-11:15 am

Stories, movement activities, and a craft for children up through age 6. Each week's stories and crafts are based on a different theme.

Did You Know?: Rice Rock Museum

The library has a pass to the Rice Rock Museum (Hillsboro, OR) <https://ricenorthwestmuseum.org>.

With a library membership, you can call to reserve the pass for a free visit to the museum, admitting up to 4 people. The Rice Rock Museum is enjoyed by children (even littles) and adults. Definitely worth a visit! The pass is funded by the Friends of the Vernonia Public Library.

Featured Book: Run, Rose, Run

We've had several people ask about a newly published James Patterson book, co-authored by Dolly Parton! The book, *Run, Rose, Run* by James Patterson and Dolly Parton is in our collection at the Library. You can place a hold by visiting our online catalog <https://vernonia.biblionix.com/catalog/>, and entering your library card number and phone number. You can see what other books and DVDs have been newly added to our collection by clicking on the "What's New" tab.

Current Hours & Contact Info:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 am - 5 pm
Tuesday, Thursday: 12 pm - 7 pm
Saturday: 12 pm - 5 pm

Contact

Phone: (503) 429-1818

E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov

Website: www.vernonia-or.gov/departments/library/

Social Media: Follow us on Facebook and Instagram