

What’s Happening at the Vernonia Library

By Shannon Romtvedt
Ongoing Programs

Preschool Storytime
Fridays, 10:30 am, starting September 9
Storytimes are back to Friday mornings for the school year. Stories, movement activities, and a craft designed for children up through age 6. September themes: Back to School, Music, Fall, Pirates.

Writers’ Group
1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, September 1 and 15, 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.

On Display at the Library
Our Friends of the Library display case has a new collection on display: Steve Calhoun’s antique bottle collection. He has 29 different antique bottles and containers on display, each one labeled with information and dates. Steve Calhoun’s passion for finding antique bottles stemmed from a college course



called “U.S. Western Movement.” Where’s a good place to dig for bottles? Old outhouse sites! Visit the library to see the collection, learn about each bottle (beer, bitters, and medicine bottles, ink wells, Chinese soy sauce container, chicken water crock, and more), and read Steve’s story.

Upcoming Meetings

Library Board
Wednesday, September 7, 6 pm
at the Library. Public welcome.

Friends of the Library
Tuesday, September 13, 6:30-8 pm
at the Library. New members welcome!

Library Closures
Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day

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

Contact Info
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

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 6, 2022
Monday, September 19, 2022
www.vernonia-or.gov

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, September 5, 2022
Labor Day

Dates and times subject to change

Where is the Vernonia Police Department? continued from front page

approved by the City’s legal counsel.

The City of Vernonia has received inquiries regarding the status of the Vernonia Police Department. Although it is not appropriate to share confidential personnel related details, it is appropriate to share basic information. This information is intended to provide a brief explanation of what the City is currently facing and what can be expected in the future.

The Vernonia Police Department currently has two employees that are on a leave of absence that is allowed by law. Their positions are secure and available to those employees upon their return.

The City of Vernonia is currently in an arbitration process with former police officer Abbie Hanson, we anticipate this process will conclude by the end of this year.

The City of Vernonia is currently under contract with the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office, this contract allows for a 0.5 FTE “Nehalem Valley Deputy” to patrol the Nehalem Valley for the Sheriff’s Department. Roughly 20 hours a week are patrolled by this deputy in the Nehalem Valley. The City Council was presented with a proposal earlier this year in which the Sheriff’s Department would take over the law enforcement services for the City of Vernonia, the City Council is not interested in pursuing that proposal at this time.

The City of Vernonia has hired a new employee Mr. William Kendle. Officer Kendle is currently doing field training with Sergeant Carnahan until he enters the Police Academy this Fall-Winter.

The City of Vernonia Police Department has experienced staffing issues before and will in the future. It is difficult to staff a department in a rural community. This is primarily because Vernonia cannot offer the wages and activity that other jurisdictions provide. The City of Vernonia understands that we may always be a training ground for new officers, and that eventually those new officers will be drawn to bigger communities. This current situation we find ourselves in could not have been expected by anyone, and we will return to our fully staffed “on duty” crew as soon as possible. Even when we are fully staffed, the City will continue to rely on assistance from the community by asking our citizens to be aware and communicate with the Police Department if there is something that requires investigation.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless work of Sergeant Carnahan through this challenging time. Sergeant Carnahan is a dedicated employee who genuinely cares about our community!

The Vernonia Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday, January - October

September 10 & 24
October 8 & 22

Dates are subject to change

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Volunteers are needed to serve on various City Committees. Participating on a City Committee is a rewarding experience, providing an opportunity to learn and share your skills. It also enables volunteers to become involved in their local government.

VERNONIA PLANNING COMMISSION
The Planning Commission shall control the subdivision of and may make recommendations to the City Council, to the public officials, and to individuals regarding land use; location of thoroughfares, public buildings, parks and other public facilities; and, regarding any other matter relating to the planning and development of the City and the surrounding area. The commission may authorize and supervise studies, hold hearings, and prepare reports and recommendations on its own initiative or at the request of the City Council.
Meeting Day and Time: 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, as needed
Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 2 vacant seats, of which 1 may be from out of town (Within 5 miles)

AIRPORT COMMITTEE
Meeting Day and Time: 4th Tuesday of the month, As Available
Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 3 vacant seats for in-town residents

CEMETERY COMMITTEE
Meeting Day and Time: 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm
Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 3 vacant seats for in-town residents

PARKS COMMITTEE
Meeting Day and Time: 4th Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm
Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 2 vacant seats for in-town or out of town residents

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Meeting Day and Time: 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm
Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 2 vacant seats for in-town or out of town residents

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS
General duties and responsibilities of committees include:
• Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council.
• Promote the general welfare and economic benefit of the city and its citizens.
• Participate in studies, and prepare reports and recommendations on their own or at the request of the City Council

HOW TO APPLY
Please complete an application for Appointment (www.vernonia-or.gov) and return to City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR 97064, Fax to 502-429-4232 or email to sborst@vernonia-or.gov. Any questions please call the City Recorder at 503-429-5291 ext. 105.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Proposed Variance in the City of Vernonia, File No. VAR 22-01

When: Planning Commission: September 15, 2022, at 7:00 pm

Where: 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR 97064. The meeting is also streamed online. 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 varying length driveway with a minimum length of 19’8” (between the property line and the garage door) due to riparian setback limitations to the rear of the home. The applicant is requesting a variance from Section 9-10.03-10.C.1 which requires a minimum 20 foot front setback. The applicant is seeking a minimum 15 foot setback due to the riparian setback limitations in the rear of the home.

Location: 2008 Nickerson Loop, Vernonia, OR 97064. Map 5N 4W Section 34 CD Tax Lot 1300

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.



reflecting the spirit of our community

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