

What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

Ongoing Programs

Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 10:30-11:15 am

Storytimes are back to Friday mornings for the school year. Stories, movement activities, and a craft designed for children up through age 6. Join us!

Writers' Group

1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, October 6 and 20, 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.

Upcoming Meetings

Library Board

Wednesday, November 2, 6 pm at the Library. Public welcome.

Friends of the Library

Tuesday, November 8, 6:30-8 pm Check with the Library for location. New members welcome!

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/

Online Catalog: https://vernonia.biblionix.com/catalog/

Social Media: Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Vernonia City News...

At the September 19, 2022 City Council Meeting:

Citizen of the Month – Mayor Rick Hobart nominated Theresa Kilgore as the Citizen of the Month for her work as the manager of the Bargains on Bridge Street thrift store, as one of the cooks at the Vernonia Senior Center, along with managing the Cabin in Vernonia – all which benefit the senior citizen community of Vernonia.



Topics From the Floor – Dorrie Fridlund complained to the Council about a homeless woman she says has been living in a white Volvo outside Anderson Park on Adams Avenue and causing conflict in the park and harassing neighbors near the park.

Council Hears Complaint About Alley Maintenance – Councilor J.R. Allen complained about a lack of maintenance of the alley behind his house on Texas Avenue. City Recorder Stephanie Borst insisted Councilor Allen state a Conflict of Interest since he could benefit from any decision the Council might make on the issue. Allen says the alley has needed repairs for years and has been told the City does not perform maintenance on alleys. Allen asked that the Council consider creating a policy to address the issue. Council asked staff to prepare a report for a future workshop on the issue.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell, who was absent from the meeting, provided the Council with a written report on current activities. Mitchell's report updated progress on the planning grant for a new campground at Vernonia Lake; sidewalk ramps at Spencer and Umatilla

avenues; the small business marketing class hosted by Keep it Local Columbia County at City Hall; and the installation of new play equipment at Nehalem River Campground.

At the October 3, 2022 City Council Meeting:

Council Hears Presentation From ODOJ on Bias Reporting System – Council heard a brief report from Johanna Costa from the Oregon Department of Justice (ODOJ). Costa was invited to address the Council by Vernonians for Equity and Racial Justice (VERJ) who are working with the City to create a tracking process for bias incidents across the community. Costa told the Council a state-wide reporting system opened in January 2020 which includes a victim reporting hotline to address bias incidents involving race, color, religion, gender, sexual preference, disability, and nation of origin. Examples of bias include hate speech, offensive flags, other civil rights violations, or anything making people feel unwelcome. Jan Cockrell and Jana Swedo were in attendance on behalf of VERJ. Council agreed to have Costa make a full presentation at a workshop at a later date with the public invited to attend.

Alley Improvement Work Session – Council scheduled a work session for October 12 at 6:30 pm to discuss maintenance and improvements to alleys in city limits.

Mayor Appoints Hart and Kroll to Parks Committee – Based on a recommendation from the Parks Committee and with approval from the rest of the Council, Mayor Rick Hobart appointed William Hart and Spencer Kroll to the Parks Committee. Kroll will fill an out-of-town member seat on the committee.

Council Approves Parks Request for Pet Waste Station Purchase – Council approved a recommendation from the Parks Committee for the purchase of three additional pet waste stations to be placed in Anderson Park, at the Holce Skate Park, and Spencer Park. The hope is to encourage the public to practice responsible pet management.

Council Hears Request to Move Business Location – Council heard a request from Geoff Gruender, owner of Fishhawk eCyclery, to relocate his mobile electric bicycle rental business next year from Vernonia Lake to the Banks-Vernonia trailhead parking lot

at the corner of Maple Street and Adams Avenue; Fishhawk eCyclery opened late this summer and will close for the winter in October. Gruender thanked the City and Council for their welcoming and accommodating attitude toward his new business and provided the Council with a detailed report on why he would like to move locations, including close proximity to both Anderson Park and downtown, better visibility for his business, day use fees at the Lake, and confusing Google mapping and trail signage. Council gave consensus for the move and will revisit the request next spring when Gruender renews his lease with the City.

Council Terminates Lease for Greenman Field Grandstands – Nicole Larke, representing the Intercultural Society of Vernonia, requested the termination of their lease for the renovation and management of the Greenman Field Grandstands. Larke said funds that were donated for renovations are being held and could be used for a future project at the site. Council voted to approve the lease termination by a vote 3-1, with Councilor J.R. Allen voting against it.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council the playground structure at Nehalem River Park and Campground has been completed. She reminded the Council that the park will close for the winter season, starting December 1 through March 31.

Mitchell told the Council Library Director Shannon Romtvedt is resigning her position, effective at the end of November. Mitchell said the position has been posted and closed September 30. Mitchell and the Council thanked Romtvedt for her years of service to the Vernonia community.

Mitchell told the Council two juveniles who were charged with vandalizing Spencer Park have completed their community service and the case has been closed.

Mitchell told the Council U.S. Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici will visit Vernonia on October 12 to tour the downtown murals and other downtown improvements paid for with Travel Oregon grant funding.

Mitchell told the Council the City is working on a draft of an ordinance to protect the Hiroshima Peace Tree in Ora Bolmeier Park.

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.

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, October 17, 2022
Monday, November 7, 2022

www.vernonia-or.gov

City Closures are scheduled for:

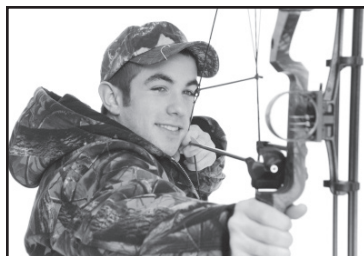
Friday, November 11, 2022
Veterans Day

Dates and times subject to change

The Vernonia Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday, January - October
October 8 & 22

It is scheduled to be open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday in November & December
**November 5 & 19
December 3 & 17**

Dates are subject to change



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