

Vernonia City News...

At the November 21, 2022 City Council Meeting:

Council Approves City Hall Closure – At the request of City Administrator Josette Mitchell, Council voted 5-0 to close City Hall on December 27 through December 30. City Hall will close on December 23 at 12 noon and will be closed through the New Year Holiday, reopening on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. The Police Department and Public Works staff will still be on duty, while other staff will use vacation days or will not be paid.

Vernonia Lake Leak – Councilor Dale Webb made the rest of the Council aware he has identified a leak in the berm on the backside of Vernonia Lake. He said it will take some exploration to identify exactly what is causing the problem, and then will need emergency excavation and repair work before spring.

Grandstand Demolition – Mayor Rick Hobart asked Council to work with staff to move forward with demolition of the Greenman Field Grandstands. City Administrator Josette Mitchell said staff is already working to relocate the electrical hookup. Mitchell

said the City would then seek a bid for demolition or explore the possibility of having the fire department do a practice burn.

Council Approves VERJ Gazebo Clean-up – Based on a recommendation from the Parks Committee, Council voted 5-0 to approve a request from the Vernonia Equality and Racial Justice (VERJ) group to adopt, clean, and care for the gazebo at Hawkins Park.

Council Approves Memorial Bench at Vernonia Lake – Based on a recommendation from the Parks Committee, Council voted 5-0 to approve a request by Kathleen Gwin for the placement of a cast iron memorial bench at Vernonia Lake in honor of Parker and Gwin family pioneers who were early settlers of the Vernonia region.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told Council the CDBG-COVID-CARES ACT funding of \$125,000 the City had requested for the Vernonia Cares Food Pantry to purchase shelf stable food and new replacement equipment has been awarded.

Mitchell told the Board she and Sergeant Shawn Carnahan would be attending

Citizens of the Month

(L-R) Councilor Dale Webb nominated members of the Vernonia P.E.O. for their work picking up trash around the community. Webb thanked Tobie Finzel, Mary Tolonen, Eydie Lohse, Darlene McLeod, Myrihna Kibben, and (not pictured) Coni Hodgson for their community spirit and volunteerism.

the Columbia County Board of Commissioners to request the City be released from their contract with the Columbia County Sheriffs Department to provide law enforcement coverage in the City. Mitchell said officer Dave Brown will be returning to duty shortly and interviews are being held to hire one additional officer, which would bring the number of active officers in the depart-

ment to four. Mitchell told the Council the sidewalk ramp installation at Umatilla Avenue has failed the inspection by ODOT for the third time because they did not meet the grading requirement; Mitchell said the contractor will be required to make the repair.

What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

Hello! My name is Dancia Greenfield. I have lived in Vernonia for about three years. You may have seen me at R&S Market! I am married to my wonderful husband Josh and have a seven month old son Anson. I have three dogs that I consider my children as well! I am originally from Montana and lived in the Glacier Park area where I was a 4th grade teacher for five years.

My hobbies/interests include: reading, quilting, playing D&D and video games, Diamond Dots, walking with family, spending time with family and friends, and baking. I am looking forward to being the Library Assistant because I am excited about the opportunity to join the team and look forward to using my skills and experience to contribute to the success of the Library. I also would love to create storytimes for kids. I look forward to seeing you all!

Ongoing Programs
We would love to hear from you! We have added a suggestion/comment box at the check out counter. We appreciate your patience as we make a transition with new staff at the Library. At this time, we offer preschool storytime but other Library sponsored activities are on pause until we are fully staffed. If you are interested in volunteering for a program or have an idea, please contact Brandi Fennell at the Library, fennell@vernonia-or.gov or 503-429-1818.

Preschool Storytime
Fridays, 10:30-11:15 am
Stories, movement activities, and crafts. Themes change every week. Designed for children up through age 6.

Writers' Group
3rd Thursday of the month,
December 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.

Closures:
We will be closing Mondays through December and will be open regular hours and days starting back in January 2023.
Saturday, December 24 for the Christmas Holiday
Saturday, December 31 for the New Year's Holiday

Meetings:
Library Board: Will resume in January 2023
Friends of the Library: Will resume in January 2023

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

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

The Vernonia Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday in November & December
December 3 & 17

The Vernonia Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday,
January - October
January 14 & 28

Dates are subject to change

Vernonia's Voice is published on the 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Look for our next issue on December 15.

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, December 5, 2022
Monday, December 19, 2022
www.vernonia-or.gov

City Closures are scheduled for:
Noon, Friday, December 23, 2022 through Monday, January 2, 2023
Christmas and New Year's Holidays

Dates and times 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

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 Police Blotter November 15-28, 2022

Reports Taken/Arrests
• November 15, 2022 Report of Felony Warrant Arrest near Jefferson Avenue
• November 19, 2022 Report of Burglary II and Criminal Trespass II near Bridge Street
• November 19, 2022 Report of Misdemeanor Warrant Arrest near 1st Avenue

Citations/Other
• November 26, 2022 Citation issued for Violation of Posted Speed near Rose Avenue
• November 26, 2022 Citation issued for Driving Without a License, Driving Uninsured, and Illegal Display near Missouri Avenue

Vernonia Police Department had 101 calls for service from 11/01/2022 to 11/28/2022.