

Thoughts about Community Center provided at machine gun pace



Jamboree committee chairperson Gwen Milligan, center right, leads discussion flanked by fellow officers, treasurer Sue Cavinee, secretary Deborah Colby (next to Milligan) and vice-chairperson Robb Wilson.

Gwen Milligan likes the big picture. She is the kind of person who subscribes to the ancient Proverb, "Where there is no vision, the people per-

ish." Since moving to Vernonia, she has diligently and quickly become involved in her new community.

At present she is the dy-

namic leader of a revitalized Jamboree Committee with active members numbering fifty or more people from a broad spectrum of the community,

promising the biggest and best Jamboree in many years.

Her interests go beyond the Friendship Jamboree, though, for the vision embraces another element of Vernonia's renaissance. She sees the importance of the need for a community center. Again, Milligan thinks BIG. But she is also a realist. The big picture, she believes, is the vision that can be achieved over time, with a comprehensive plan, as the community grows and its needs develop.

Milligan doesn't wear any kind of speedometer, but her thought processes move faster than she can articulate and she talks a mile a minute. In the space of about five minutes she expanded the vision to proportions that include:

1. A place for children of all ages to be safe.
2. Organization with activities geared to all ages.
3. A meeting place for all local organizations to plan and conduct their activities.
4. Outdoor and indoor

recreational activities.

5. Family programs using volunteers.

6. Eventually, it should have a swimming pool, when the Rock Creek pool becomes obsolete.

7. There should be a stage for community theater.

8. Accommodations for receptions, family reunions, dances for teens, square dancing, line dancing etc.

9. Also down the road, she believes we could have outdoor facilities for horseshoes, tennis, badminton and volleyball.

Yes, Milligan sees the big picture, but she also puts her effort where her mouth is and invites the community to join in Vernonia's renaissance—through Vernonia Pride, Jamboree, Community Center, the Banks-Vernonia Linear park, The Recreational Council, Lions Club, Izaak Walton League, Boy & Girl Scouts, 4-H, Youth Summer Baseball, Vernonia Fire Dept., EMT's and wherever your efforts are, or can, contribute to the vision without which the people and the community perish.

The Community Center Project Board of Directors have set a community meeting to discuss plans. The meeting will be Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m. in the Vernonia High School Gymnasium.

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