

Between the Bookends

By Charlene Bechen
Banks Library Volunteer

Repairs to the driveway in front of the Banks Library have been completed and striping of the parking lot will soon be underway. The new book drop is finally in place. We are very grateful to Sheldon Manufacturing of Cornelius, who donated the box. It is located at the northeast corner of the library, between the front entrance and the north parking lot. Vehicles entering the driveway from Market Street can access the box from their driver's side. Thanks to all our patrons for your patience during our renovation.

Ed Ohlmann has resigned as Banks Library Commissioner after many years in that position. Everyone associated with the library is deeply indebted to Ed for all the time and energy he has contributed to the community. His guidance was instrumental in obtaining the funding required to build the new library. Pam Hocking has been appointed as the new Library Commissioner. We welcome Pam, as well as two new library commission members, Laurie Schlegel and Ken Rayburn.

October 11 is the next Recycle Saturday at the SWATCO service yard on Sellers Road, just off the Sunset Highway. Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This fundraising activity is sponsored by the Friends of the Banks Library, and is staffed entirely by volunteers. If you

could help out once a month, or even once a year, please call Donna at 324-3404.

The library's community room may be rented by non-profit groups for a minimal fee. It can accommodate up to 100 people, and is equipped with a coffee bar. Call the library for more information regarding prices, conditions and available times.

The library has received a generous gift of a special edition hardcover set of Louis L'Amour novels from the collection belonging to Ralph Gerking. Mr. Gerking was a Banks High School graduate in the class of 1952.

The next Friends of the Banks Library meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 1, in the library. The agenda will focus primarily on fund raising for the coming year. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Friends can obtain an application form at the circulation desk. The Friends sponsor the annual Wool Day, quilt raffle projects, plant and book sales, special community interest programs, summer programs for children and the Saturday Recycling. Their activities are essential to the viability of our library.

Banks Library 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.;
Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Phone:**
(503) 324-1382

City Scene

By Julius Dalzell, Councilor
Vernonia City Council

From Planning to Action - Time For Implementation in Vernonia

On several occasions over the past 18 months, reference has been made in articles and in this column to an ongoing visioning /planning activity in Vernonia. Initiated by City government, the purpose of the effort was to develop a vision of what, collectively, we would like Vernonia to become, and then to determine how to achieve that vision through action.

Grant funding permitted the City to retain Rural Development Initiatives, Inc. (RDI) a quasi-public strategic planning firm, for assistance. Approximately 60 members of the City community were, in some manner, engaged in the process. While this number represents a small percentage of our 2,000-plus population base, it should be sufficient to provide for an adequate statistical representation. Additionally, considerable effort was made to ensure broad representation from the many segments of the community's structure.

Over the winter and spring period, monthly work sessions were held for the purpose of carrying out the work activity, which included identifying key development areas, forming study teams and establishing an action agenda. The four areas of attention identified were business development, work force, infrastructure and livability. Utilizing these four areas, a community assessment was facilitated. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were evaluated, followed by the staged development of a plan in terms of goals, strategies and, more specifically, actions and tasks to be undertaken.

If detail is your interest, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of the report:

VERNONIA, OREGON

From Vision to Action

A Strategic Plan for Economic Development

Copies were distributed to those who participated and who, most probably, would be more than willing to make a copy available. Ask around!

Now for the real questions: What was achieved through this effort? What is to follow? The result of the visioning component tended to delineate the ideal Vernonia of the future. "A better community with much improved streets and an attractive downtown, no crime, educational, economic and social opportunity abound, recreational enhancements...all achieved while livability is not only protected, but nurtured and improved upon."

Frequently, participants cited examples and contrasts to illustrate what we don't want to hap-

pen or become. Defining livability is difficult. Livability is a complexity of both tangibles and intangibles encompassing our values, engaging our senses and often challenging beliefs and perceptions. Most people struggled with the implicit (and not so implicit) contradictions. How are we to pay for better streets, an improved downtown, etc., without both incurring greater debt and fostering growth. Are not growth and retention of livability incompatible? In this regard, we heard frequent reference to "what is occurring in the Valley" and the fact that is exactly what we want to avoid.

Are we attempting to "have our cake and eat it too?" The participants concluded, albeit conditionally, that we can move Vernonia forward and yet not damage or lose what we have today in small community character, values, and lifestyle. Is that realistic?

The answer is to be found in the degree of changes to be attempted, over what time period, and the nature of our goals. What can be visualized is a program of reasonable initiatives, closely aligned to community values and carried out in increments. At each step we will evaluate the impact of what was just concluded and carefully select the next steps, equally cautious of projected consequence.

We need better streets, gr nted. It would be great if more family wage jobs were available in the community so our kids, if they so desire, can remain in the community. A more attractive downtown and more shops, yes, that would be great! With improved incomes, we can expect greater investment from the private sector. However, to achieve more revenue, more buyers are needed. If it's not us, it's shoppers from out of town. We can attract shoppers, but few of us would desire downtown gridlock. More parking, better traffic flow are probable answers. We can accomplish improvements, however at some point, negative effects can begin to outweigh positive benefits. At risk would be that elusive livability. Vigilance will be all-important.

Ideally, we need to target those changes and improvements that will serve us best. We shouldn't be deterred from moving forward but let's do so smartly, and with due diligence. Most importantly, we need to retain control at all times.

So, what's next? It's implementation time! A Community Development Corporation (CDC) is in the formation stage including a board of directors, by-laws, and a set of objectives. To follow, will be specific activities facilitated by committees to be responsible for each of the four key development areas. In ensuing columns, we will further explore the wheres, the hows, and what can be expected.

Obedience, discipline are not the same

To the Editor:

My latest sculpture is finally in a somewhat presentable state, maybe some of you have noticed it already, a three panel trellis-like affair on the lake side of the house. I'm a little disappointed it's not as large or dramatic as the "Historic Vernonia" sign but, if the honeysuckle does well, it will hopefully be much more an affirmation of the diverse life in this bountiful region and not just the human exploitation. It's not without some irony though, I've been trying to incorporate recycled and especially "secondary" forest products into this art, and the grates are cedar limbs from a local logging operation - which is still a precious treasure ripped from nature for solely human purpose - even if it was selectively cut on one of our most consciously managed private stands. I'm still looking for a medium-weight rusted-out chain about eight feet, to hang from the hook; a potted annual vine is to be trained to it to emphasize the passing seasons; I think our local bindweed/morning glory would be perfect but Judy will doubtless find a more exotic and less voracious species.



Bringing a sculpture project to fruition is usually a pretty lengthy and frustrating process. It demands discipline. Discipline is an important virtue outside art, both personally and civically. I've had some disagreements with modern educational authorities and I'm thinking one way to boil it down to essentials is over this idea of discipline. When you turn discipline into obedience, its value is ultimately destroyed, maybe not so much in the narrow, shortsighted, immediate circumstance; certainly you could get a quiet classroom or a win-

ning team by preaching discipline while really demanding only obedience to a paramilitary authority but, with discipline you might rarely produce an artist, or an independent newspaper publisher or a creative small stand owner.

Thank You,
Wayne Acton
Vernonia

Scout Cabin project for Vernonia's youth

To the Editor:

The Friends of the Scout Cabin will soon be starting renovation of the old cabin. We have gotten a good response from the community with pledges of money and volunteer labor. We are very appreciative of the support.

So the community will understand just what we are trying to achieve, here is the organization's Mission Statement

"Our purpose in renovating and maintaining the old scout cabin building in the tradition set in place when the structure was built for the Campfire Girls in 1928 is to:

A. Provide our youth, now and in the future, with a quality facility for activities;

B. Make the building available to the public when it is not being used by the youth."

This statement shows that this is a project that cares about the youth of our town. A project the whole community should support. We have worked together before as a community, we can do it again. The finished project is something we can truly be proud of. Everyone can help even if it's making sandwiches for the volunteer labor.

Young people need to get involved, we will find projects that they will be able to do. This may be a big job, but we can do it.

Look for a window display downtown showing the floor plan and drawing of the finished cabin.

For more information call Elroy Miner at 429-5221, Debbie or Norm Brown at 429-9401, or Shirlee Daughtry at 429-9002.

Get involved, it's a worthwhile project.

Shirlee Daughtry
Vernonia Pride

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