

Community Holiday festivities are getting underway

Tree Lighting Friday night

Come one, come all to the annual Vernonia Christmas Tree lighting on Friday, December 8, at City Hall. The high school choir will be performing, starting at 6:45 p.m., and they are an awesome group.

The library will be open and serving refreshments from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Community Christmas Tree is located on Bridge Street between Vernonia

Realty and City Hall.

Santa Claus arrives Saturday afternoon

Santa Claus will make his annual visit to Vernonia on Saturday, December 9, at the Bridge Street Mall. Santa will arrive at 2:30 p.m. and he will be accompanied by Mrs. Claus. They will also have bags of goodies for all the kiddies under twelve.

Downtown Open House Saturday

Following Santa's visit, downtown Vernonia merchants will host their annual Open House from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. In addition to many Open House Specials, there will be refreshments at many locations.

Something Special

The long awaited Grey Dawn Gallery will open Friday

from 10 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be a very special fund raiser on Saturday for Vernonia Cares—check it out!

The annual sale of ceramics by Jeff Patterson will also be on Saturday, only at the Scout Cabin instead of downtown. This is also something very special!

See pages 12-13 for more on the Downtown Open House.

Join in the fun!

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Attn: Leslie Larson
UO Library-OMP
1299 University Of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1299

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 37
Vernonia, OR 97064

FREE

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~ "Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley" ~

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A winter visitor



This adult bald eagle has been a visitor at Vernonia Lake for a few days recently...one more satisfied tourist. Do you suppose our national symbol is hiding out here until the election is over?

Special Council meeting for Measure 7

Vernonia City Council held a special meeting December 4 to deal with the requirements of Ballot Measure, the so-called Takings Law. Measure 7 amended the Oregon Constitution to require state and local governments to compensate

landowners if action, such as zoning, by the government lowers the property's value.

The City adopted an emergency ordinance that defines and implements procedures for applications for compensation under Measure 7.

The language of Measure 7 is not well defined, making it difficult for any local government to know exactly how it applies. The League of Oregon Cities recommended quick preparations partly because of the ambiguous language.

Dedication set for linear trail extension

A ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication will be held December 14 to celebrate completion of the Banks-Vernonia State Linear Trail extension from Anderson Park to Lake Vernonia. The City of Vernonia has extended invitations to everyone involved in the project, for the 1:00 p.m. ceremony. The public is also invited. The ribbon cutting will be at the east end of the trail extension, where it meets the lake.

The City Council, at their Nov. 20 meeting, also decided to hold only one meeting in December. Instead of meeting on the fourth and the 18th, they will meet Dec. 11 at 6:30. At 7:00 p.m. they will recess the council meeting and reconvene for a Public Hearing to consider a request for annexation by developer Chris Liu.

Liu wants to annex 30-plus acres of property within the Urban Growth Boundary adjacent to Mellinger Road. The Vernonia Planning Commission has held one hearing, as has the City Council. The Dec. 11 hearing is simply an extension of the earlier hearing.

The council is seeking applications to fill a council vacancy in January, when Councilor Mario Leonetti assumes

the position of mayor. Anyone interested in serving in the volunteer position is invited to pick up an application at City Hall. The council has indicated they will follow the same procedure as with previous vacancies, and hold public interviews of all applicants. The interviews will probably be held on January 2, 2001, though that date wasn't firmly set.

The Council received a very positive audit report for the last year's operations. The independent auditor noted no instances of non-compliance, no reportable conditions and no material weaknesses. Because of its responsible fiscal management, the City qualifies as low-risk.

Oregon Department of Transportation informed the City that a project to improve Madison Avenue, between Bridge and Cougar Streets, has been approved for a \$25,000 Special Cities Allotment. The work will be done during the summer of 2001.

In order to find out how well the City is meeting the needs of its residents, The council previously approved a Citizen Survey. The survey will be mailed to all residences in the near future, possibly next week.

Vernonia Cares deadline to apply for Christmas Basket

December 14 is the cut-off date for area families to apply for a Christmas Basket from Vernonia Cares. To find out whether you qualify, call Vernonia Cares at 429-1414 on Tuesday or Thursday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Anyone who wants to nomi-

nate a family for a basket should call to find out what procedure is needed.

The reason for the early cut-off, Lisa Edgar explained, is the need to know how much must be purchased in order to make the baskets complete. Edgar is the director of Vernonia Cares.