

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library

Thanksgiving Day, as defined in Webster's Dictionary, is "a national holiday celebrated as a day of feasting and giving thanks for divine favors or goodness..." Place mats made by youngsters at a recent after school program at the library, listed dogs, family, and turkey, as things for which to be thankful. As we prepare to feast, let's not forget to give thanks for the many things we often take for granted. "Pollyanna" may have had the right idea, that of always finding something for which to be grateful. When she had to wear clothes from the missionary barrel, she was glad they weren't boys' clothes. When she was given a very small, bare bedroom, she was grateful for the window with its view, and on and on went the things that she recognized as blessings and by so doing, brought happiness into the lives of everyone that she met. While most of us don't go around voicing our gratefulness daily, Thanksgiving Day brings the perfect opportunity to look around and really appreciate what we do have.

One of the recent things for which we can give thanks at the library is the generous donation of plants by Lorna Poetter of Farm Woman's Nursery. Lorna's donation of spiraea and forsythia have been planted along the Maple Street side of the library and will be gorgeous when the yellow and pink flowering bushes are in bloom. The two ornamental plum trees in memory of Mercedes Proehl have also been planted in this area. In appreciation of Lorna's donation, two books have been added to the library's collection. The *Encyclopedia of Flowers* provides information on choosing plants to best suit any landscaping area. It also includes information on flowering time, light conditions, cultivation and maintenance for gardening flowers, shrubs, and trees. Beautiful colored illustrations accompany each listed plant. The other book is *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul*. This contains a collection of entertaining, inspirational short stories about the rich rewards that gardening brings to life and a wonderful selection of comic illustrations.

A person to whom we can be grateful is Luanne Kreuzer, the owner of the St. Helens Book Shop. She has donated numerous and varied books to the library and will be ordering a list of about 20 books that will be on display in the library in early December. Through her generosity, these books may be purchased as gifts for the library at a 20-percent discount from the regular price. Anyone wishing to give to the library in this manner is invited to look at this varied collection of items and to make a choice reflecting something he/she would like to see in the library. A

book plate will be placed in each of these books indicating the donor.

A giant thanks is given to the members of the Friends of the Library. This group has had one successful fund raising event (the book sale and raffle during Jamboree) and will soon be participating in another. They will be wrapping books for Christmas shoppers at Barnes and Noble on November 25, and on December 15. Any donations that shoppers make for this service will be used on some library project/projects. They have already purchased a family pass to the Children's Museum that may be checked out by library patrons.

Perhaps publicly thanking these individuals and their efforts on behalf of the library will give you the incentive to look around and give thanks.

On to the feasting! Usually the turkey is the only one who cannot give thanks for Thanksgiving. For a different perspective on this, we have a wonderful book for children entitled *'Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving*. On a field trip to a turkey farm where children meet Farmer Mac Nuggett and his eight tiny turkeys, they spy an ax and realize what is going to happen to the turkeys. But, the turkeys are smuggled onto the bus and to the children's homes where...

*The very next evening,  
Eight families were blessed  
With eight fluffy  
Thanksgiving turkeys  
As guests.  
They feasted on veggies  
With jelly and toast,  
And everyone was thankful  
(The turkeys were most!)  
So each one gave thanks  
For love and for living,  
And they all had a wonderful  
Happy Thanksgiving.*

Since the library materials are always of most importance, we do have a video of *Pollyanna* as well as a nice selection of new books which include *Christmas in My Heart* by Joe Wheeler, *Total Recall* by Sara Paretsky, *The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen, *War in a Time of Peace* by David Halberstam, *The Mitford Snowmen* by Jan Karon, *The Christmas Quilt* by Thomas J. Davis, and *The Thanksgiving Day Murder* by Lee Harris.

**Vernonia Library** 701 Weed Avenue  
**Hours:** Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Tues., Thur. 2 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Preschool Story Time, Mondays, 10:30 a.m.  
**Phone:** (503) 429-1818

## Federal funds secure county 9-1-1 improvements

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Though the need was obvious, finding the money to meet that need has been a different matter. Voters in the St. Helens/Scappoose areas, where there have been few communications problems, outnumbered Nehalem Valley/Clatskanie area ballots to defeat a bond issue that would have supported the

microwave system. Voters later supported some upgrades for the system.

Communications between emergency responders (law enforcement, fire and medical) is also a problem, with agencies unable to talk directly to each other because they use different UHF/VHF frequencies.

The proposed changes, esti-

mated at \$1.8 million, will include a multi-channel VHF system on a microwave "backbone," plus equipment for emergency response agencies that will allow interagency communications. The district has, little by little, saved \$400,000 that will be used in addition to the \$1.4 million grant approved by Congress.

## Letters to the Editor

### Public servants earn community's thanks

To the Editor:

Since the unthinkable disasters of September 11, police and firefighters of New York and across the nation have received well-deserved praise for their valor and willingness to sacrifice their lives to save others. It is also about time that we recognize our own.

Our crew of unpaid volunteer firefighters is on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, ready to risk their personal safety to protect our lives and property. They and the EMT's respond at a moments notice, interrupting their personal lives to effectively safeguard our community. Every call can be life threatening.

Our police department provides that "thin blue line" that guarantees our freedom from criminal activities. Every time they go on duty, they risk their lives doing what is often a thankless job that very few others would be willing to do. Have we forgotten that we lost one police officer, shot and killed while making a routine traffic stop?

May I also take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to a host of others?

First: To the city administrative staff: Mike, Kathy, Janelle, Cindy and Julie. They keep the City running smoothly and are always efficient, friendly and cooperative. Together, they have made Vernonia the most progressive city in Columbia County and brought it prepared for the 21st century.

Second: To Robyn and the public works crew. Always willing to give freely of their own time and talents to make Vernonia a place to be proud of while furnishing all of the essential city services. There is no crew better than these dedicated public servants.

Third: To the City Council, Planning Commission, dozens of committee members and literally hundreds of volunteers, all unpaid, except for the knowledge that they are making a valuable contribution through their service.

Fourth: To Nancy and the library staff, providing a public service that is way beyond that of a city of comparable size. Visit the library and be amazed.

The next time you meet a public servant, how about adding your "thank you" in ap-

preciation of his/her contribution toward making Vernonia the place where you want to live?

Art Parrow  
Vernonia

### Vernonia's help will feed needy families

To the Editor:

Thank you, Vernonians, for helping make this year's Fall Canned Food Drive a success. Special thanks to Susie Armstrong, who organized and ran this year's drive. Through everyone's efforts, the Food Bank received 2,610 pounds of food. I wish to especially thank the door-to-door volunteers: Cub Scout Pack 201; Boy Scout Pack 201; Vernonia Community Church; Vernonia Christian Academy; Shannen, Jessica and Heidi Coleman; Mary Daniels; Lee's U-Catch crew; Lorina Rich; JoAnn Beamish; Jan Tschiggfrie; Candy & Kristin Olsen; Judy Gwin; Deanna Brown and the Tae-Kwon-Do class. Helpers at Cares who helped sort and stow away all this food were: Debby VanZant; Margaret Berndt; Olean Wagner; Ron & Nic Welch; Angie Taylor and kids; Michele and Levi Taylor; Debbie Huntington and kids; Linda Garrymore and Candy and Nick Olsen. Thank you all so much. Thanks, too, to Gale Gardner, who repaired the canvas banner. I hope I haven't left anyone out and, if I have, please know I appreciate you, too.

Your generosity and hard work will certainly help to feed the hungry around Vernonia this fall. During the month of October, Cares received monetary donations in the amount of \$1,469.09, too. We gratefully accept donations of food or money at all times through the year to help meet the needs of the hungry. We have seen many new clients just in these past few months, often due to decreased employment. If you would care to contribute, we are a non-profit organization and your gift is tax-deductible.

Vernonia Cares Food Bank is your hand extended to our town. Thank you for contributing the food and funds to provide this service to our community. Truly we live in a town which proves "Vernonia Cares."

Sandy Welch, Director  
Vernonia Cares Food Bank