

Welcome to. . .



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Officers for the 2003 Friendship Jamboree Committee:
 President Randy Parrow
 Vice-President Glen Purves
 Secretary-Treasurer Katie Postler

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The Best Little Town in America

Vernonia has some remarkable assets. It is a small town in a rural area that includes abundant wildlife, an ever-fascinating salmon run, clean air and trees. Yet its proximity to downtown Portland (only 40 miles), Hillsboro and high-tech industries allows many residents to live in two worlds. Others here retain their ties with the timber industry, but a brief look at the photos in the ads of local logging contractors illustrates another blend of high-tech and rural living. Taken all together, the blend of down home living with easy access to technology and metropolitan amenities, makes Vernonia a great place to live.

The 2003 Vernonia Friendship Jamboree has emphasized some of the community's best non-geographical features: Friendship, sharing and caring.

It is no accident that the parade grand marshal is a motorcycle club, because that club's contributions to needy people in this community have been remarkable, as explained on page four.

It is no accident that the citizen of the year is a person who is directly involved in helping others, and who works hand-in-hand with the motorcycle club to help alleviate hunger.

To further emphasize the community's commitment to helping those in need, several Jamboree events ask for donations to Vernonia Cares in lieu of admission or registration fees.

The photo above was taken last year at the first "Dare to Care" Fun Run and the runners' registration fees went to Vernonia Cares. The run has been added to Jamboree this year, but the money still helps feed people who have been caught in the economic equivalent of the Great Dismal Swamp.

Another new Jamboree event, the Harley-Davidson Rally, also asks for donations to Vernonia Cares. The annual synchronized swim performance at Cedar Ridge does the same. And the Jamboree committee, itself, after many months of volunteer labor, puts the money earned right back into other organizations that help provide community services.

Helping those in need is the most direct way to express caring, but other examples abound in Vernonia: The people who pick up trash as they go about their business; those who plant and take care of flowers on public property, or sweep someone else's sidewalk; the volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians who are, literally, lifesavers, and others too numerous to mention.

Yes, we appreciate the beauty of our surroundings and we revel in the opportunity to be out in nature simply by stepping outside our doors. But our greatest asset is our people. They are the reason we are the Greatest Little Town in America.