

# Library district, nuisance notices occupy city council

The Vernonia City Council and a nearly full house of interested citizens heard a presentation July 18 by Ruth Metz, of Ruth Metz Associates, on a feasibility study regarding a two county library district.

Metz explained that, of the 88,000 people in Clatsop and Columbia Counties, 31,000 (almost 35 percent) are not served by a library. The study started with a focus group looking at three ideas: a two-county district, two one-county districts, or multiple districts, with the recommendation to study the feasibility of a two-county system.

At this time, the results of the feasibility study are being presented to city officials throughout the two counties to get a feel for the interest in the idea. Councilors and the public voiced concerns ranging from loss of local control, loss of local private collections, loss of general fund tax dollars if a dis-

trict is set up, concerns over the makeup of the board of such a district, the cost to property owners, and whether Vernonia dollars would end up elsewhere in a community that has not supported a library as has been done here.

Metz indicated she has heard many of these same concerns from other communities. She may recommend a poll of citizens next to find out in more detail what communities feel about the idea. At this point, no decisions have been made and about half the communities have heard the presentation.

Bill James, president of the Vernonia Senior Center, asked for a three-month update of the Senior Center project. City Administrator Robyn Bassett said the city has stated its intent to purchase land on Rose Avenue for the Senior Center and has met with the state regarding the first phase of documentation for Community Development Block

Grand (CDBG) funding.

Resident Steve Weller voiced concerns over the City's handling of nuisance vegetation notifications, saying he had received a letter about "an awfully picky issue compared to other places I've seen. A phone call would have been better." Bassett said that city staff could not call everyone, due to the number of properties needing to be addressed. Additionally, the vegetation growth was greater this year than normal so problems had to be addressed before fire season really got going. She also explained that, according to city ordinance, it is the responsibility of adjacent property owners to keep the right-of-way clear.

Council set a Public Hearing on OA Hill Pedestrian Improvements for August 1 at 7:00 p.m., and approved an application from Steve and Lorna Pletter to live in a travel trailer for six months while their new

house is being built.

Bassett received council approval to contract with Jordan Schrader PC, Attorneys at Law, for the city's legal needs. The city will opt to pay the hourly rate of \$175, instead of using a retainer fee of \$2,700 per month. Bassett told the council that there are sufficient funds allocated in the city budget for the legal services anticipated. Jordan Schrader has municipal experience and currently works with the Cities of Forest Grove and Scappoose.

Bassett also reported that she had attended a transportation meeting on the impact of Stub Stewart State Park on the City of Vernonia. She was told that Phase I of the park will add an additional 1,600 cars per day by 2007 and 2,200 additional vehicles per day by 2010. The city will be involved in a feasibility study to look at needed road improvements resulting from the park.

# Public Hearing set to present bicycle, pedestrian project on East Bridge St.

Pedestrian and bicycle improvements on the north and south sides of East Bridge Street will be presented at a Public Hearing before the Vernonia City Council on August 1. The 7:00 p.m. hearing will be in the Council Chamber Room in city hall.

The agenda will include a discussion of both the construction and design of the project, from Texas Avenue to Riverside Drive. Public comments and written testimony are welcomed.



Funding for the improvements is from a grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

## Community Calendar

JULY 2005							AUGUST 2005							SEPTEMBER 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31										
31																				

### VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	627 Adams Avenue
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6033
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-8133
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 503-429-4074
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Venturing Crew 201	1st & 3rd Thursdays	5:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	6:30 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Grange	4th Saturday	10:30 a.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride	3rd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	3rd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

### MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

### BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Schlegel Hall
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Women's Aglow	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library

### COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.