

Council agenda includes no flood-related business

At the March 3 Vernonia City Council meeting, for the first time since December 3, 2007, the agenda was composed of non-flood related items.

Council (with Brett Costley absent) approved a Reimbursement District Agreement between the city and Karen Mask and Carol Curl to deliver city water to homes outside of Vernonia on Hwy 47 North.

Liquor license renewals were approved for Bridge Street Mini Mart, Lyon's Den, Buckhorn Restaurant & Pub, and Vernonia Sentry Market (with Councilor Randy Parrow abstaining from the vote on Sentry as an owner).

Dale Webb was appointed to the Public Works Committee by Mayor Sally Harrison. Webb had written a letter of interest asking to be appointed.

The council heard a proposal from the Parks Committee on projects that could be undertaken this spring. The Parks Com-

mittee has not voted on these recommendations, so final recommendations will come to council after committee approval.

Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce president Donna Webb had sent a letter to council asking that a portion of the business license fees collected by the city be given to the chamber for their use, as is done in some communities. Council asked for more information on the amount of money collected from business fees, and, possibly, a list of projects that the Chamber would like to undertake with the money, before a decision is made at the next council meeting.

Council gave Interim City Administrator Aldie Howard authority to spend \$1,000 to \$1,500 on a real estate appraisal of old City Hall that will be used by council to decide whether to sell the building or continue to lease it. According

to Howard, he currently has one estimate (and is seeking more) of \$6,800 for roof repairs to the building.

Harrison told council that she went to a CCIS (the city's insurance company) banquet last week and Vernonia was awarded a plaque and a check for \$2,777 for being one of about 19 cities in Oregon who have been insured with CCIS since their inception 50 years ago. She also reported that FedEx and Parr Lumber are teaming up this weekend in an effort to raise building supplies for Vernonia.

Harrison ended the meeting by saying, "We should thank all the people at Columbia County Flood Relief, working on our behalf, whenever we get a chance."

The next council meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on March 17 at City Hall.

Volunteers make a big difference

"Volunteer Columbia" is a campaign to make Columbia County the number one county in the State of Oregon for volunteering.

Volunteers do make a difference!

"Volunteer Columbia" is a collaborative effort of partners in Columbia County to establish a no-wrong-door approach to volunteering. Their website, www.volunteercolumbia.com is for partners to list volunteer opportunities and members of the community to search for ways to serve.

The volunteer center is located at 500 N. Highway 30, Suite 210 in St. Helens and is open to the public for more information about volunteering.

Columbia County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Commission on Children and Families (CCF), Department of Human Services (DHS) and United Way of Columbia County have partnered

to start this project and hope many more community partners will join the effort.

Imagine the possibilities for Columbia County if everyone volunteered just one or two hours a month. Volunteer opportunities may include; friendly visitors, mentors, transportation, school tutors...the possibilities for volunteer activities are endless. Be assured, if you have a skill to share, someone has a need for you.

The Volunteer Columbia Center is equipped with a computer and other materials to assist those interested in volunteering. Contact the center for hours of operation.

Contact the Center today to learn how you can help build a better Columbia County at Volunteer Columbia Center, 500 N Highway 30, Suite 210, St Helens, or phone 503-366-8388, or email Ken.R.Corliss@state.or.us or Gregory.R.Russo@state.or.us

Community Calendar

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays & Thursdays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 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	6:30 p.m., City Hall
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018
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 503-429-4250
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Girl Scouts, Neighborhood 4-2		For Info Call 503-819-0143
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	4:00 p.m., City Hall
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Municipal Airport Committee	4th Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Narcotics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Public Works Committee	4th Tuesday	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	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Learning Center	1st Wednesday	6:00 p.m., VLC
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
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	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Behind VHS
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	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 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 Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
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., Brown Derby
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

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.