

# Council appoints Cindy Ball to vacancy, identifies City priorities

Prior to the start of the July 21 Vernonia City Council meeting, the council held interviews with the five applicants for the open council position created when Shirlee Daughtry resigned. The five applicants were Mike Seager, Karen Wall, Andy Nebergall, Cindy Ball, and Kevin Hudson. After interviewing each and deliberating amongst themselves, the council unanimously voted for Cindy Ball. As Councilor Brett Costley put it, Ball "has experience and can hit the ground running." Ball previously served as a councilor and was mayor when citizen complaints resulted in a mediated town hall meeting, after ongoing issues with then Chief of Police Cahill were not resolved by council action. Cahill eventually quit to train police officers in Afghanistan and Ball finished her term, but did not seek re-election.

Discussion, started on July

21, regarding cracks in the walls at City Hall was completed at the August 4 meeting, after an engineer was brought in to assess the building. The structural engineer's report indicated that the cracks are cosmetic in nature and probably a result of the building continuing to settle, and that no action is required at this time.

Interim City Administrator Jim Johnson told council that Dick Kline's last day has come and gone and that City Planner Aldie Howard resigned effective July 18. Howard's resignation letter said, "It is with a sigh of relief and a moment of regret that I herewith tender my resignation from the position of Planning Director for the City of Vernonia, Oregon, effective immediately. What a great trip it has been for me...little rough in spots but overall an experience that I will cherish forever. Good Luck in the future."

Gene Winningham told council that he would like to see golf cart use be permitted as they are cheaper to use, and encouraged council to see if legislation can be changed to allow their use prior to the police department "getting strongly into enforcement."

At the July 21 meeting, council completed questionnaires, provided by Johnson, on city priorities. At the August 4 meeting Johnson and council discussed the resulting priorities list. The items listed as the highest priority included financial forecasting of General Fund resources, work on natural water storage basin (to reduce water flow in winter and increase in summer), updating the Wastewater Facilities Plan then on to the design phase, sludge removal from the wastewater lagoons, participating with Oregon Solutions on school siting, and finding funding to replace the

fourth police officer position in the budget, and finding grants or other funding for police equipment, etc.

Council approved awarding a contract to S-2 Contractors for street repairs on portions of Weed Ave., Maple St., Adams Ave., State Ave., Heather Lane, part of the intersection of Mist Dr. and Birch St., and Washington Ave. Repair costs of \$132,810.50 will be paid by FEMA and a special public works grant from the State of Oregon.

In other business, council:

- agreed to solicit applications for a community member to serve on the Unmet Needs Committee.

- agreed to extend the deadline for relocating D.A.D.'s Recycling from July 31 to August 31 while the DeWebers work on other siting options. Council asked the DeWebers to keep them updated on their

progress.

- heard Garrett Abney's (Gadget's Gadgets) opinion that a heat pump should be installed to replace City Hall's broken air conditioner unit.

- saw schematic drawings of the plan for this year's work on the Bicycle Skills Park. Council approved spending \$931 of grant funds on this work.

The next council meeting will be August 18, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

## Town Hall meeting on hazard mitigation

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and subjects of these meetings will be available at City Hall, Columbia County Flood Relief Center (The Vernonia Community Learning Center), as well as on their websites, www.vernonia-or.gov and www.vernonia-flood.com, approximately one week before each meeting.

# Community Calendar

### VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Monday	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street
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., 410 North Street
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	6:00 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.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 505 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211

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.