

Whitton is Employee of the Quarter



Sue Whitton

Sue Whitton, of the Vernonia branch, is Wauna Federal Credit Union's employee of the quarter. She always provides excellent service to members and employees. Whitton, a supportive team player with an infectious positive attitude, goes the extra mile to make everyone feel welcome and important. She gives her best every day, dressing professionally, improving her industry knowledge, and staying until the job is done. Her singing and song writing skills are the icing

on the cake.

The Employee of the Quarter is recognized at an all team meeting, receives a gift basket of personal favorite goodies and chooses between an extra paid day off or \$100.

Wauna Federal Credit Union is headquartered in Clatskanie, and has branches in Astoria, Clatskanie, St Helens, Vernonia and Warrenton. Everyone in Clatsop and Columbia counties is eligible for membership. For more information, call toll free 1-800-773-3236.

Consultant serves as planner for other small cities

From page 4



Carole Connell

and land use background goes back to the 1970s.

In 1996, while working as Planning Director for the City of Sherwood, Connell decided to

form her own company.

"My primary responsibility here is to respond to people's land use issues, questions and needs. Equally important, I'll be working with the Planning Commission to help them achieve their goals," said Connell. Among those goals are a solution to downtown parking issues, reviewing the existing sign code in order to simplify it, creating a new flood plain ordinance, looking at the downtown zone for possible expansion out of flood prone areas, and updating the Comprehensive Plan.

Connell is at City Hall on the afternoons before Planning Commission meetings. When she is not working as a planner,

Council approves increased fees, utility rates

Vernonia City Council, at their October 20 meeting, unanimously approved the resolution raising city fees as follows:

1. Our-of-City Library Cards increased from \$30 to \$40 per year,
2. Water rate increased from \$28.00 to \$35.00 per month,
3. Sewer rate increased from \$37.00 to \$53.00, and
4. Park Fee, monthly fee raised from \$1 to \$2. City residents who also own a business in Vernonia can apply to opt out of one set of park fees.

The \$24.00 overall increase on utility bills will be on the November bill, as will the final \$11.50 charge for the water loan repayment fee.

Interim City Administrator Jim Johnson gave an update on the city administrator hiring process. Applicants will be interviewed by three panels: City Council, a panel of community members chosen by the council, and a panel of city employees. Four applicants will be interviewed during closed sessions with these panels sometime in November.

At the November 3 City Council meeting, council heard that a group from Columbia County Flood Relief (CCFR) and Mayor Sally Harrison went to Salem to discuss the present use of the Vernonia Community Learning Center (VCLC) for flood relief offices. A Community Development Block Grant from the Oregon Office of Economic Development, used for construction of the VCLC, limits

use of the building to community educational/cultural purposes. Changing the use apparently requires each VCLC user to complete demographic questionnaires. Instead, CCFR has given notice of intent to vacate VCLC and move their operations to FEMA trailers. Johnson will meet with the VCLC Committee this week to start planning VCLC uses and class schedules.

Johnson reported that Charlie Kaylor of The Building Department, LLC, has been reviewing the city's ordinances and has determined that they do not allow the city to gain access to "dangerous" buildings, when owners do not cooperate with the city's wish to inspect such premises. Council gave

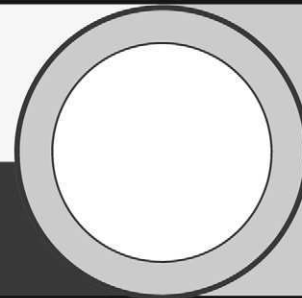
consensus for the city attorney to work on modifications that would allow such inspections.

In other business, council; • was updated by Allen Deweber on the status of D.A.D.'s Recycling move out of the floodway. Deweber is waiting for a permit from ODOT so a road can go in at the new site

• declared the police department's 2000 Ford Expedition and a number of other items surplus so they can be sold

• approved a list of items for purchase, including studded tires and ICOP camera systems for the police department, so a budget change can be prepared for a future meeting.

The next Vernonia City Council meeting will be November 17, at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

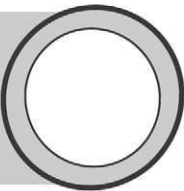


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