

# Matai's Wish is Vernonian's brainchild

MATAI'S WISH has been created to fill the need for long-term, in-home fostering of pets whose owners must seek care for their animals due to medical problems, military deployment, natural disasters, or other long disruptions to their lives. It is the foundation for a network of care seekers and caregivers that will allow them to connect with one another and reach an agreement regarding financial responsibilities so that no animal family member must be kenneled indefinitely – or be given up to a shelter to be rehomed.

Carol Davis, Vernonia, founder of MATAI'S WISH, took the name from Matai, a young chocolate lab, who was dropped off at Rock Creek Kennel by an enlisted man bound for Iraq who had no other place to leave his beloved dog. Unfortunately, it was not a long-term boarding kennel; the bills mounted into the thousands of dollars, and the owner dropped

contact, leaving Matai without a home. He became listless and developed medical problems finally requiring surgery. He came through the surgery just fine, but nothing seemed to bring him back to health until the kennel manager took him home. That was what he needed — a home of his own! The owner was supposed to return in July 2008 but hasn't been heard from. If he doesn't, Matai has found a new forever home.

Davis sees the problem as one of personal resources — both financial and human. Elderly people with a small income must make choices between their own medical care or boarding the pets who are often their only companions as they age. Davis has heard many similar problems — a family emergency, medical problems, floods, and animals that must be nurtured without the human resources to do so. With local foster care, a lot of heartache can be avoided.

"There are so many unwanted pets in shelters, that when people want to keep their pets, we need to do everything we can to help them," Davis said.

Davis began building this network in January 2009. The goals are: connect people with those who can help, set up a mutually satisfactory financial agreement regarding food and medical responsibilities, and determine how best to care for the pet to meet everyone's needs.

A website currently under construction, Mataiswish.org, will help by having downloadable forms for both foster care seekers and givers, as well as a way for both sides to make contact. Further efforts will be made to publicize this resource so it is available to those without internet access.

For more information, contact Carol Davis by email: mataiswish@gmail.com or call 503-367-2378.

## Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Well, all the yack, yack about "Going Green".

I don't know much

about all of the ins and outs of it but...in my dishpan I do have an opinion. I've now used several different brands of a million different types and scents. At present I'm using Palmolive Pure & Clear. (Not that that matters to you dishwasher folks.) Spring Fresh Scent. Blah, blah, blah – my findings – uses more to maintain suds and the water feels strange. Have you ever stopped washing a dish to feel the water? It seems to me to take a little longer to make sure all of the grease residue is washed off before you rinse (you don't

have the feel or sight of it floating in the water). Which to me is good.

We have sunshine and Dan-D-Lions. Forget my plan of sprucing up my yard – I'm just going to chop down the weeds. The tree roots are changing the contour of the ground for some reason.

There's been a lot going on in town lately but I've missed it all due to old age, time of evening, weather, and I might miss Bones and Jeopardy.

Questions I've been asked of late. How's the new Senior Center coming? When are you moving out of the Park? Why do you have to have an opinion on everything?

Answer to #1 – Why ask me. I'm not an officer at the Senior Center anymore.

#2 – I didn't know anything was changing in that area. I've received no news of it.

#3 – Even the least of us has a right to try and find the lighter side of any and everything.

## 20 Years Ago This Month

The May 25, 1989, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on page 18:

The Vernonia City Council heard complaints this month about the \$500 fee for a permit to place a manufactured home in the city. Various speakers said the fee was too high, and Judy Bates, a member of the city planning commission committee that studied the problem, said that wasn't the planning commission's intention.

Bates' concern was that a \$500 fee, plus water and sewer hookup fees, would increase the permit costs too high for people of moderate income.

Councilor Scott Sword said that the fee process for a standard "stick home" would total about \$1000, and that the council felt halving the cost was adequate. The council agreed

to look again at the rate structure.

Mandatory garbage collection service is under council consideration as a way to eliminate trash dumping and the accumulation of garbage.

Bob Prohaska, who has the city's garbage collection franchise, said he favors such an ordinance, but would want to have a monthly service for senior citizens who generate very little garbage.

The council will hold a workshop on the subject.

The city decided to apply for a \$500,000 grant from HUD to go along with a hoped for \$1.2 million grant from the EPA for repairs to its sewer collection system.

Even with all available assistance, costs will likely exceed \$20 per household.

## Applications due July 17 for CCCC grants

The Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC) requests grant applications for projects that address the priorities identified in the Columbia County Cultural Plan.

Grant awards will range from \$200 to \$1,500; the amount of Columbia County's 2009-10 allocation from the Oregon Cultural Trust (OCT) will be determined in early July. Applicants must provide matching resources (in-kind or cash) and must be either 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations or working with one. The Columbia County Cultural Plan and grant applications are available from the Columbia County website, [www.co.columbia.or.us](http://www.co.columbia.or.us); click the Links tab to reach the CCCC link. Applications must be postmarked by July 17, 2009, for projects that will be completed between September 2009 and August 2010.

The CCCC has awarded a total of \$30,100 in grants to Columbia County cultural organizations, since 2005, with funds allocated by the OCT. Established in 2001, the OCT is a public/private partnership that makes annual grants to county and tribal planning groups for cultural activities. The OCT Website, [www.culturaltrust.org](http://www.culturaltrust.org),

contains information about its programs and the matching gift tax credit that is available to donors.

The CCCC and its Grants Committee are volunteers from Clatskanie, Rainier, Scappoose, St. Helens and Vernonia, whose mission is to encourage projects and activities in the arts, local heritage and the humanities. Priorities in the Cultural Plan are protecting existing cultural assets, helping people experience a variety of cultural venues, and increasing access to and participation in cultural events.

For additional information

regarding the plan or the grant process, call Janet Wright at 503-397-1035, or email: [janet.wright@co.columbia.or.us](mailto:janet.wright@co.columbia.or.us).

## Intel helps out Vernonia Cares

Vernonia Cares Food Bank was the recipient of a \$600 donation thanks to the Intel Involved Matching Grant Program. It is a result of Intel employees and retirees who volunteer in their community and is a matching funds program. The check was a result of 60 hours of volunteer time.

Happy  
Mother's Day  
May 10



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