

Council okays biking event, but keeps community garden waiting

At the April 5 meeting of the Vernonia City Council, City Administrator Bob Young was asked by council to stay on the County Economic Development Board. The board requested \$2,500 from each city as part of their participation. Young said the money would be written into the next budget.

Council considered a request from Scott Laird, speaking as a member of the Parks Committee, to approve a Short Track Mountain Bike Race on June 12 at the Skills Park area. It was pointed out that the Parks Committee had not specifically voted on this request. After discussing issues such as the need for extra restroom facilities and a business license fee, council approved the request.

Director of Public Works Bob Ruhl submitted a request for up to \$61,000 for a GIS project.

GIS is a digital mapping process that can be used for underground water/sewer lines, flood mapping, zoning and elevations studies, among other uses. The project was approved with \$24,000 from Water and Sewer Contingency funds, and the balance from Sewer System Development funds in the budget. Two bids were received and reviewed by City Recorder Joann Glass, City Staff, and HLB-OTAK, an engineering firm chosen by the city. Council approved the local survey firm, KLS Surveying Inc. for the contract to provide these services, to be completed by November 30.

A Community Garden Project was discussed. Young wanted to provide a \$350 grant to the project, and said he found an insurance company for liability insurance. The insurance issue has been a

sticky one for the participants. Council disagreed with Young's grant proposal, citing concerns for coming up with that much money considering the city's finances. The project will be discussed further at a future meeting. Jill Hult, one of the members of the project, questioned why council had not received the recommendation the Parks Committee previously approved. No clear answer was provided. After the meeting, City Councilor Brett Costley sent an email indicating he thought Young's handling of the issue was inappropriate and he would speak to Young about it. When asked for his response to Costley's comments, Young said, "No comment."

The Strategic Plan, including a new vision and mission statement, was presented by consultant Paul Koch, and approved by council.

Council approved Ordinance 831, replacing an existing ordinance and providing standards and rules for the city building code.

In other business, council:
• Approved a request from Vernonia Cares to hold the Ver-

nonia Bear Creek Run/Walk on Saturday, August 14;

• approved Resolution 410, as a housekeeping measure.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 19, starting at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall.

Spring brings outdoor pet hazards

The arrival of spring means more time outside for you and your pets. But even in your own backyard, there are some potential hazards that could get in the way of the fun. Even certain plants and flowers can be poisonous to pets.

With these tips from the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, you can keep your pets safe from outdoor hazards.

Fertilizers and Herbicides – Do not let your pets in the yard while applying chemicals. Wait until chemicals have dried and even up to four days after appli-

cation before allowing a pet into the area. Pets that lick their paws after walking on treated areas can be poisoned.

Before applying a chemical to your lawn or in your yard, consider whether natural, organic or chemical-free remedies such as those described by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality might be just as effective for your intended use.

"Be sure to read labels before application, so you can understand the potential risks and

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Community Calendar

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street
Alcoholics Anonymous	Thursdays (Big Book Study)	7:00 p.m., 410 North Street
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue
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
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	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Garden Club	2nd Tuesday	1:30 p.m., Vernonia 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	2nd 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	10:00 a.m., Senior Center
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Behind VHS
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesday	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	9:00 a.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-0869	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Friday	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesday	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	Sunday, Wednesday	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
Everybody's Hometown Band	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., BHS Music Room
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.	Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

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

Board of Commissioners	Wednesday	10:00 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Comm Mental Health	1st Tuesday	5:30 p.m., 58646 McNulty Way
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Tuesday	Times vary, 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