

# FEMA work will continue for at least two more years, Council told

Jim Tierney, from Community Action Team, gave a Powerpoint presentation on flood relief efforts at the December 6 Vernonia City Council meeting. Tierney told the council that, so far, "of the 840 homes wrecked in the county," 13 of 35-40 homes have been elevated, 24 of 40-50 homes have been acquired for demolition. FEMA Region 10 will use Vernonia as a national recovery model, and has provided \$17 million for recovery efforts. That number is expected to reach \$32 million by the end of efforts. Tierney reported that after the 1996 flood, the Northwest received \$50 million for recovery, \$14 million of that was for Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties, so Vernonia homeowners saw only \$200,000 in help. Tierney concluded saying, "Work will continue for at least two more years." Interim City Administrator Bill

Haack presented council with a Col-Pac Continuation Contract for his services from January 1 through June 30, 2011. The proposed amendment includes reimbursing Col-Pac up to \$43,312.00. Councilor Cindy Ball moved to adopt the contract, but the motion died for lack of a second. Prior to the motion, Councilor Kevin Hudson said he wanted to see the written contract amendment before approval. Council will review the amendment at the next meeting. Mayor-elect Joesette Mitchell told council that it appears the budget starting July 1, 2011, will support a 19-hour-per-week administrator. The Airport Committee requested approval to use \$1,000 from their budget for gravel on Airport Way, and asked that the Parks Committee match that amount. Mitchell told council she wasn't seeing \$1,000 in the Airport budget available for this

use. Catherine Helmer, speaking for the Parks Committee, reported that Parks doesn't have \$1,000 to donate and has no information on whether the money spent would offer any real fix to the road. Hudson suggested that the Airport Committee or Public Works needs to come up with a plan for the road. Council finally approved using up to \$1,000 of Airport Committee funds if that amount can be found in the budget, to be used on the portion of the road the city owns. Haack asked council to direct Public Works, the City Engineer and City Staff to determine the correct form to use to get funds for three rate studies (water, sewer and system development charges). The cost should be around \$30-\$40 thousand, he said, and Community Development Block Grant funds may be available for this project. Council gave

the go-ahead to start working towards the rate studies. Haack told council that money has been released to the Weller family in settlement for damages connected with a sewer backup at their residence, and that the contractor who did the original pipe work has fixed the problem. Haack reported that Public Works Supervisor Jeff Burch found a pipe that has been leaking thousands of gallons of water since November. The leak is in the woods near Mellinger Road and a contractor has been hired to "open it up" so Public Works can wet-patch the leak. George Tice, from the Public Works Committee and Budget Ad Hoc Committee, reported that the \$12.00 fee on the sewer bill will sunset in February or March 2011. This fee is paying for a \$500,000 planning loan for waste-water treatment up-

grades. Tice went on to say, "But, we still owe \$4.4 million, on a 20-year loan, for work already done," and reported that the Public Works Committee is suggesting continuation of the \$12.00 fee to pay for that loan, as the loan repayments need to start at about the same time the old loan sunsets. Tice told council that this was for information only and that no action was requested at this meeting. Council will get more information closer to February. In other business, council:

- Approved appointing Susan Wagner, and re-appointing Nancy Dailey to the Planning Commission.
- Three agenda items, Quiet Title Action for a strip of property near the new school, Short Term Lease with St. Mary's for emergency use of the church, and a discussion on Vernonia Municipal Airport Easement

**See Council on page 20**

## 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., Library
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
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Kiwanis Club	2nd & 4th Wednesday	6:30 p.m., New Hong Kong
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., New Hong Kong
Municipal Airport Committee	1t Wednesday	6:30 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	3rd Thursday	6:30 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