

Tree City designation has benefits

From page 7

atic management of its tree resources. Additionally, a Tree Board with a school partnership, as is envisioned in Vernonia, will be able to provide educational opportunities for people of all ages.

By becoming a Tree City, Vernonia will join other Oregon towns, from metropolitan Portland to tiny Echo, as well as our neighboring cities of Banks and Scappoose, which already have had great success in revitalizing their urban forests. Some of the many benefits of becoming a Tree City USA are:

Public Image: A community's public image is important in many ways. Being a Tree City USA helps present the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place they live or conduct business. The Tree City USA signs at community entrances tell visitors that here is a community that cares about its environment. It is also an indication to prospective businesses that the quality of life may be better here.

Citizen Pride: Gaining and

retaining Tree City USA recognition is an award to the tree workers, managers, volunteers, tree board members and others who work on behalf of better care of a community's trees

Financial Assistance: When allocations of grant money are made for trees or forestry programs, preference sometimes goes to Tree City USA communities over others because there are invariably more requests than available funds. If requests are equally worthy, grantors tend to have more confidence in communities that have demonstrated their commitment by becoming a Tree

City USA.

Publicity: Presentation of the Tree City USA award and the celebration of Arbor Day offer excellent publicity opportunities. This results not simply in satisfaction for those involved, it also provides one more way to reach large numbers of people with information about tree care. As one forester put it, "This is advertising that money can't buy—and it is free!"

For more information about the program, go to treecityusa.com. Anyone interested in being involved should contact Michael Calhoun by phone at 503-704-7837, or by email at sunny2008vhs@yahoo.com



Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Thursday, September 13, I was awakened by the sound of the honking of a rather large band of Canadian geese. The first ones of the season for me. Is this an omen for the true start of fall and the forerunner of the winter we are about to have, or just a bunch of birds out for an early morning test flight? It has been cold enough at night for me to pull up the blanket. My driver did tell me yesterday that he awoke to frost at his place Wednesday, so I guess the geese might know something we don't. They do get around a little bit more than I do.

Do you know or realize that it doesn't really take long for your brain to put something you enjoy doing in a niche in the recesses of your brain? I got an urge to dig out my drawing tablets and pencils to take with me to dialysis the other day, so I'd have another time killer to occupy the time I just sit. (I read, knit, write, do crosswords, eat lunch, and just think, but I still get tired of just sitting.) Yes, I do have my own T.V., but I do not watch day-time reruns. Anyhow – I've lost my perception angle. I can draw the wall, but can't seem to put the floor down so I can set a chair, etc. on it. Think it's funny, it's frustrating to have had it once upon a time and now I've lost my notes of Art (how to bend an arm, extend a tree branch, or turn the head of a flower). It's what makes drawing so much fun and enjoyable. To create something from within yourself that you didn't think you were capable of.

Anywhoo...I'm off to Blue Grass again Saturday night. Yipieeeee.

Talk to you all later.

24 Years Ago This Month

The September 29, 1988, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on the front page:

A request by Justice of the Peace Marilyn Van Winkle to use the Vernonia Library on the second and fourth Fridays of each month raised strong objections from the city's Library Board, at a meeting of the Vernonia City Council this month.

Van Winkle, who uses the library as a courtroom on Thursdays, said in a letter that extra time is needed for a backlog of jury trials. The Columbia County District Attorney's office, which prosecutes cases for the Justice Court, can send a deputy to Vernonia only on Fridays, she added. She estimated that the library would have to be used through the beginning of the year in order to complete the jury trials.

Speaking on behalf of the library board, Delores Webb said that Friday is the library's busiest day, and the board strongly objects to changing a schedule that works well for library users.

After discussion of alternative locations that may be useable as a courtroom, Councilmember Mario Leonetti said he would investigate and report to the council at the next meeting on October 3rd.

Resource Recovery, a Washington firm, asked the council for permission to use Vernonia Lake to test a system it has developed for recovering sunken logs. They would clean up the lake, company representatives said, in return for recoverable materials. In a special meeting on the matter, concerns were raised about damage to the clay seal on the bottom of the lake, and to the fish that have adapted to the former mill pond.

Though Resource Recovery said they would restock the lake if necessary, the council tabled the matter until they can get more information.

A request for an increase in garbage collection rates was approved for Nehalem Valley Sanitary Service, which has had no increases for several years. Bob Prohaska made the request, explaining that new

equipment is needed and his costs have increased greatly, too.

The new rates, which will become effective in November, will be \$8 a month for picking up one can weekly, and \$13 monthly for two can service. Commercial and container rates will also be adjusted.

Glen Higgins of Community Action Team informed the council that the facilities plan for a new sewer system hasn't been completed as scheduled.

That may cause problems in financing, he said, because 1988 is the last year for grants. After that, financing will come from a revolving loan fund, Higgins said, adding that he will try to get an extension for the city.

HGE, the city's consulting engineer, couldn't complete the

facilities plan because of inadequate wet weather flow measurements, Higgins said. City Director of Public Works Mike Smith, whose crew has done the flow measurements, said "we gave them everything they asked for," but will do the measurements again.

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