



WEEKLY DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

JULY 17, 2015

ADMINISTRATION / UTILITY BILLING

- As of July 17, 2015 the outstanding balances on active accounts are as follows:
 - 90 days \$250.80
 - 60 days \$250.80
 - 30 days \$2,227.98
- Late fees will be applied and shut off notices will go out July 17, 2015. Shut offs will be on July 27, 2015
- Utilities clerk added 3 new water/sewer accounts to our billing system
- 1 Mechanical permit was issued this week. 3 Electrical Permits 1 for a new home and 2 reconnects
- Business License updates and mailing license

POLICE DEPARTMENT - VPD

- **July 01, 2015 - July 15, 2015:** The total number of Calls for Service and Officer initiated activity was "190".
- **Police Officer Opening:** The Vernonia Police Department administered the Police Officer Standards Test of several applicants on July 16, 2015. Several applicants have been invited back for interviews, which will occur on July 22nd.

FINANCE

- No report this week.

PUBLIC WORKS.

- Public Works continued patching streets this week. Staff will continue again next week trying to at least get the worst of the potholes.
- The Water Plant was dumped and cleaned this week. This preventative maintenance job is done every 2-3 months. It takes a full day and 2-3 staff to complete.
- Staff replaced 2 faulty water meters this week and installed another new water service on Knickerson Ridge Subdivision.

- Traffic paint was picked up in preparation for crosswalk painting scheduled to begin next week.
- Staff are monitoring Rock Cr. water levels on a daily basis. It is still flowing 15cfs. 1st level of water curtailment starts at 14cfs.

LIBRARY

- Welcome to the newest Vernonia Library staff member: Brandi Fennell! Brandi's first day at the library is Monday, July 20. Brandi lives in Vernonia, is a member of the Library Board and Secretary of the Freewheelers. She currently works as an Instructional Aide for the Vernonia School District, and has a background teaching preschool. Brandi has four children and a 1 month old grandchild.
- 99 kids are signed up for Summer Reading. Weekly prize winners so far (drawings every Thursday): Samuel Stern, Sky Williams, Kylie Hinkley, Eloise Pedersen, Riplee Skillin, Luke Boziel, Oren Louchart, and Alex Reece.
- Kids (and adults) have been busy with crafts this week. 20 kids came to Story and Craft Time on Tuesday, July 14 and 8 teens and adults worked hard Thursday, July 16 to hand stitch and make pillows. Thank you to volunteers: Rachel Langmaid, Kathy Larsen, and Kate Speckman.

PARKS

We had a couple of busy weeks in parks!

- Trees were trimmed at Spencer Park near the entrance to Greenman Field. We also did more clean up around the play structure where we removed dirt and debris surrounding the structure and utilized the box scraper to level out the bark chipped area.
- Staff trimmed the trees at Anderson Park which included the main drive and a couple of the RV spots where coaches and larger campers were having trouble navigating and could possibly be damaged. Anderson Park also had a couple of 50amp breaker switches replaced, as they no longer worked. Also patched some holes in the asphalt there. Trees and brush were also cut back on the trail off of California Avenue along with the trail from the Vernonia Lake to Anderson Park.
- The trees surrounding Vernonia's Lake were trimmed this week, several fishing spots that were previously unreachable were opened up on the backside of the lake. The box scraper was used to level out the area around the lake hosts area. The holes that were left after removing the rocks that protected the pay station then filled in with gravel were dug back out and filled with cold patch.
- The large rhododendron bush at Spencer Park was cut down to ground level and the backhoe was used to dig out the large roots and level out the area. Also, another row of the broken glass blocks was removed at the basketball court structure at Spencer Park.
- Parks staff assisted a "month to month" camper at Anderson Park in moving his trailer and stand alone wooden staircase to the newly designated spot determined to be for month to month campers.
- The side mounted brush hog was installed on the new tractor and will be extremely helpful in cutting back areas that the weedeater has trouble with, like blackberry bushes.
- Regular park maintenance, mowing and weedeating is ongoing.

CITY RECORDER / ADMINISTRATION

- At the July 6th City Council meeting City Council discussed proposed changes to Title 3- Public Protection ordinance regarding chickens, and livestock. Many citizens attended to share their perspectives. City Council has scheduled a Work Session for September 14th at 6:30pm at City Hall to determine what amendments will be made to the ordinance.
- The City Council heard a presentation from Ashley Baggett, Columbia County Tobacco Prevention regarding the Council intent to make Vernonia Parks Tobacco Free. A committee made up of Councilor Tierney, Mrs. Baggett, and Brittanie Roberts from the City Parks Committee will work to draft an ordinance to be presented to Council at the August 3rd City Council meeting.
- At the July 8th, Special City Council meeting the Council interviewed the lone City Councilor Applicant Bruce McNair. City Council unanimously approved his reappointment to the City Council. Councilor McNair will be sworn in at the August 3rd, City Council meeting.
- The City Council meeting for July 20th, 2015 has been cancelled, due to lack of quorum of the Council members.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- City Administrator and Assistant to the City Administrator met with Garrett Phillips and Ryan Crater (Planners-CREST) to define the terms for a temporary (1 year) Planning Services Contract, as directed by City Council. Current and immediate land use actions that need to be discharged were presented to the Planners for review. An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) has been drafted and it is ready for signatures.
- City Administrator met with Richard Kearns and Virginia Williams (ODOT Permit Specialist) to discuss ongoing issues and potential improvements along Hwy 47 (ODOT has jurisdiction over the State hwy.). This was also in response to a letter sent to ODOT, officially requesting the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Hwy 47 and Cougar Street.
Among other issues discussed were: the request for a pedestrian /lighted crossing at Hwy. 47 (Rose Ave.) and Cougar Street; an issue of access management for a potentially hazardous situation at the Wilcox & Flegel” gas station at the corner with Maple Street (perceived truck ramp for a right turn on Hwy. 47, North direction); potential improvements to the E. Bridge Street and Mist Drive intersection (Police Department had raised awareness about the dangerous intersection and the history of accidents).
- City Administrator and Assistant to the City Administrator met with Justin Parker (Oregon State Park Ranger) to discuss concerns and projected improvements along the Banks-Vernonia Trail. A stakeholder meeting will take place on Monday, July 27th at 10:00 am at Scout Cabin.