



WEEKLY DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

APRIL 3, 2015

ADMINISTRATION / UTILITY BILLING

- As of 4/3/2015 the outstanding balances for active accounts were as follows:
90 day 167.56
60 day 792.76
30 day 2665.08

As of today, current outstanding total balance is \$ 113,116.94

- Reminder Shut off letters will be mailed and Late Fees will be applied on 4/17/2015.
- Reminder Shut offs will be on 4/27/2015
- Utilities Clerk is updating account information in Munibilling.
- Issued 3 electrical permits.
- Issued 2 building permits for 2 new homes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - VPD

- **March 11th, 2015 - March 31st, 2015** - The total number of calls for service and Officer Initiated activity was 150. Detail of the activity for March should be available in next week's update.
- **Nuisance Violations:** The Vernonia Police Department continues to work on several nuisance violations within the City. A few of the violations are taking additional time due to being unable to locate property owners.
- **Vernonia Homicide Investigation:** The Vernonia Police Department has received several questions regarding the shooting incident that occurred on Riverside Drive on March 26th, 2015. At this time, only very basic details are available for public release.

A brief synopsis of the event include:

At approximately 9:30pm, Officers from the Vernonia Police Department, Scappoose Police Department, St. Helens Police Department, Oregon State Police, Rainier Police Department, and the Columbia County Sheriff's Office responded to the 900 block of Riverside Dr. in Vernonia/Columbia County Oregon regarding a report that a man had been shot.

Upon arrival, officers encountered an adult male with life threatening injuries. The male was transported by ambulance to a Portland area hospital. When the man arrived at the hospital, he had succumbed to his injuries. The victim has been identified as Jesse E. Depue (31) of Vernonia.

Kirk T. Avila of Vernonia has been arrested in connection with this case. The Columbia County Major Crimes Team is currently investigating and further details are not available for release at this time.

These types of investigations take an extraordinary amount of time and are very tasking on Law Enforcement personnel. The Vernonia Police Department will provide updates when more information comes available. However, in order to protect the integrity of the investigation we will only release very basic details.

FINANCE

- An ad for Park Host opening at Anderson Park was posted on the City website and on two sites recommended to us by State Parks in order to find a replacement host. The current hosts have agreed to remain at the park until June. This will give the City more time to find someone to fill the spot. The posting closes on May 15th.
- Beginning April 6th, James McMahon will be stepping into a new role as Parks Superintendent. He will be in charge of overseeing all of the City's parks. He will be a great asset to the City and we would like to congratulate him on his new position.
- Finance Director is gathering the last few documents needed to meet the requirements of DEQ for interim financing for the WWTP project. The project should be out to bid very soon.
- Just a reminder that next Sunday April 12th is the Vernonia Marathon so keep an eye out for runners coming down Keasey road that morning and at the Top Hill Trail Head most of the day.

PUBLIC WORKS.

- Public Works installed 2 new water services this week. They are both located on Rose Hedge Ct. We currently have 2 more water services to install in the following week. One is located on Clatsop St. and the other is located on 5th Ave. We have not had this many new homes being built for the last couple of years.
- Staff collected routine monthly water samples and delivered to lab this week. While in town, water parts were also picked up. These parts are to replenish inventory that has been used over the last few months. Parts include water meters, misc. repair parts, and meter boxes and lids.
- Vernonia Lake developed a considerable leak early this week. Staff met with ODFW to get their opinion on the situation. We wanted to make sure they were notified as there were concerns that fish would escape. Staff installed temporary fencing to keep fish from escaping. Staff will be working the first part of next week to plug the leak. Plans are to put a mixture of bentonite clay and gravel into the hole and create a plug. Staff has to wait until water level recedes for the repair to begin. This is a real bummer as the lake pump was working better than it has for past couple of years. As soon as repair is completed staff will restart the lake pump and refill the lake to full capacity.



LIBRARY

- Circulation Statistics: 1,566 items were checked out the month of March 2015. By comparison, 1,410 items were checked out February 2015* and 2,063 items were checked out in March 2014. **Error in February 2015 statistics printed in previous weekly update*
- 7 new members joined the library in March 2015. Welcome!
- Library Director has been working with the Vernonia High School to create ongoing Community Service opportunities for students at the library.
- Library staff are implementing a new system for sorting donations and books withdrawn from the collection. The goal for the new system is to make transport and sorting more efficient for the Friends of the Library and free up library work space.
- Library Director spent time scheduling Summer Reading programs and outreach, contacting local businesses interested in sponsoring Summer Reading, and publicizing upcoming programs.

CITY RECORDER / ASSISTANT TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- Attended the IFA/OBDD roundtable meeting in Clatskanie to give input as to the City of Vernonia's priorities related to future 2016-2020 allocation of CDBG funds. Funds such as these have been used in the past by the City and are the potential funding for future Vernonia Senior Center/ Vernonia Cares Food Bank.
- Worked with Carole Connell to address potential land use applications and potential vacation applications within the City of Vernonia.
- Discussed with OPRD directions to take to succeed in finding suitable park hosts for Vernonia Parks. Worked with Finance Director to develop and post park host position.

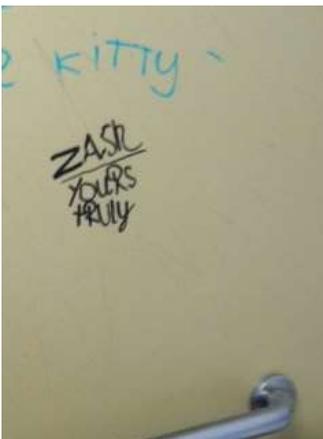
- Developed cost analysis comparison for modifying VPD surplus vehicle for staff use.
- Developed staff reports and relevant documentation for City Council meeting April 6, 2015, regarding WWTP participation of PW Committee members, City Car, and City Lunch Hour Closure.
- Prepared Planning Commission packet and minutes for meeting Thursday, April 2, 2015.
- Prepared City Council packet and minutes for meeting Monday, April 6, 2015.
- Developed Weekly Departmental Update for April 3, 2015.

PLANNING / BUILDING

- No report this week

CITY ADMINISTRATOR / ADMINISTRATION

- City Administrator and Police Chie Conner met with Columbia County Sheriff Dickerson and Under Sheriff Moyer to share information about protocols, costs, and coverage and for a comprehensive initial conversation about a potential Law Enforcement agreement between the City and Columbia County.
- City Administrator met with School Superintendent Aaron Miller to discuss a potential partnership (City School) aimed at developing recreational activities for the community, while using school facilities. Given the lack of recreational activities during the Fall and Winter times (mostly for adults who are involved in school sport activities) the conversation focused on potential recreational programs that could be of interest to a large number of citizens, and the potential availability of school facilities and grounds.
- City Administrator attended ICMA West Coast Regional conference in Portland. 150 City Administrators from Oregon, Washington and California were in attendance.
- City Administrator attended Special Council Meeting/Workshop to discuss Council Goals.
- We have recently discovered some vandalism/graffiti in the restrooms at the Vernonia Pond. The Police Department has been informed...and is investigating.



- We were informed that a hole opened at the bottom of the lake....and that water was draining out of it. Our PW crew fenced the area and contacted Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. We are talking with ODFW about a permanent solution about how to stop the water from draining...and stop the fish "migration"



- Demolition of the old Senior Center is almost completed

