

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

88184 8th Street
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Veneta, OR 97487
(541) 935-2191
www.venetaoregon.gov

City News

Toxic Substance Dump Cripples City Sewer

Over the past two months, toxic substances have been dumped into the City of Veneta sewer collection system on three separate occasions, compromising the City's sewage treatment plant, according to City Administrator Ric Ingham. As a result, some residents have reported an unpleasant odor, primarily in the early morning or at dusk, in the vicinity of the wastewater plant on the western edge of the City.

"The treatment facility is no longer able to complete its process of breaking down all the materials that people are flushing into the system," Ingham explained. As a result, the City must hold materials that would otherwise be treated and disposed of, in two open-air lagoons. Still, there are no public health and safety concerns, and the City is in compliance with its federally issued DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) permit.

The City is now offering a \$1,000

reward for evidence leading to the conviction of the responsible party(s), as well as conducting a public outreach to ensure that citizens are aware of the consequences of dumping substances into the system. Dumping or flushing hazardous materials into the City's sewer system is a violation of two City municipal codes, with penalties for each incident as high as \$4,000.

"The cost of getting caught is just not worth it when anyone can easily take their hazardous material to Glenwood for proper disposal," said Ingham. "And we all pay to maintain that plant. Whether it's intentional or not, whoever is causing the damage is driving up the cost to us all."

The City is asking residents to help identify those individuals responsible for the prohibited dumping. For more information or to report a lead, contact Kyle Schauer or Teresa Warrick at Veneta City Hall 541-935-2191. After hours please call 541-914-7982.

Declare Now for City Elections

On Nov. 8, City residents will elect a Mayor and two City Councilors. To meet the August 30 filing deadline, any citizen who wishes to run for one of these offices must submit preliminary forms to City Recorder/Election Official Darci Henneman no later than Aug. 19.

To qualify as a candidate, an individual must have been a Veneta resident for 12 months prior to filing their candidacy and be a registered voter. Each prospective candidate must collect 20 valid signatures. After verification, candidates' names can be placed on the General Election ballot.

All three positions are 4-year terms that begin in January 2017. City Councilors essentially serve as the legislative branch of city government as well as its policy-making body. The Council also oversees City goals, strategic planning, and major projects. The Mayor represents the community for regional planning events and committees and participates in ceremonial activities.

Candidate instructions are available on the City's website at www.venetaoregon.gov. Please contact Darci Henneman at 541-935-2191 to pick up a candidate packet.

 CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - AUGUST 2016 Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 8th Street, Veneta, Oregon		
2	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
3	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
8	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
	Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following City Council Meeting	
10	Veneta Economic Development Committee Meeting - City Hall	2:00 p.m.
18	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
22	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	Cancelled
27	Meet Sgt. Halvorson (Lane County Sheriff's Office contract Sergeant for the City of Veneta) - Fern Ridge Library	1:00 p.m.
 Calendar updates will be posted on the City's website at www.venetaoregon.gov This Civic Calendar was sent to: Fern Ridge Review, Fern Ridge School District 28J, Fern Ridge Public Library, and Lane Fire Authority		

Street Utility Fee Helps Fund Pavement Preservation

Under contract to the City of Veneta, Wildish Construction will soon begin the second year of street repair work as part of the six year Pavement Preservation Plan (PPP). The areas to be paved will be based on a Pavement Condition Survey completed in 2015. That survey assessed the condition of the City's street network and made recommendations that would ensure preservation of the street infrastructure.

Studies show that preventing existing roadways from deteriorating saves cost over the long term. Consequently, the PPP is meant to extend the life of each street's driving surface.

Last year, the project focused on pothole and crack repair as well as asphalt sealing. This year, the task will be cold plane removal and overlay projects. This involves removing a portion of the existing asphalt layer by using a milling machine to grind a taper from the curb gutter to a spot in the existing asphalt. That locks the new layer of asphalt to the gutter-line so it will not lift or separate. Potholes are typically cut out and the base replaced prior to the overlay. The result is a new wear surface on top of an existing road base, creating a "like-new" street.

"We are doing complete asphalt overlays on six street sections," said City of Veneta Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. "The work is tentatively scheduled to begin in August and is expected to take a couple of weeks to complete."

Prior to beginning its work, Wildish Construction will be responsible for notifying residents of when their specific neighborhood will be affected so they can adjust their travel plans accordingly.

The pavement work is partially funded by a Street Utility Fee that took effect on July 1, 2016.

"The Street Utility Fee is essentially a utility fee that helps pay for street maintenance, repairs, and the ongoing Pavement Preservation Plan," explained Community Development Director Kay Bork. "It will be used strictly to maintain existing roads." More than 30 Oregon cities already use a similar fee structure for a variety of street projects.

When adopted in May, 2015, the Veneta City Council agreed on a flat rate of \$3 for residential accounts and \$6 for commercial entities. That rate could increase at a rate of 2 percent per year for 5 years, reaching \$3.25 and \$6.49 respectively by year 2021.

Grant Funds Half of Kiddie Pool Project

On June 29, the Oregon State Board of Parks and Recreation announced a grant in the amount of \$175,000 toward the City of Veneta's \$350,000 Kiddie Pool Project. "We're very proud of the Kiddie Pool Committee for representing the project to the State Board," said Community Development Director Kay Bork. "This was a very competitive grant, in which we competed against at least 40 other projects."

The City will contribute toward the project, but prefers to make up the difference with additional grants and local donations, and has already employed a grant writer to seek funding from various foundations.

"The Kiddie Pool Project is truly launched with this grant," said Veneta Mayor Sandra Larson. "We have now begun to raise the other half in earnest." She said that local contributions are critical—both in dollars and in the expression of local support—and will help the committee succeed in its proposals to other grantors.

"The more donations the project receives from the community, the easier it is for the grant writer to demonstrate local commitment for the project, which influences grant decisions," explained Bork. The Pool Committee has launched two simultaneous fundraising efforts.

The Community Pool is conducting a "Buy a Duck for a Buck" campaign. For \$1, individuals will have their name written on a paper duck. The ducks will temporarily be hung around the pool lobby, much like the March of Dimes Foundation fundraisers.

A more long-term initiative involves buying a tile made from recycled glass by Aurora Tile, a St. Vincent DePaul employment program in Eugene. These cobalt and aqua blue glass tiles will feature a message, name, or logo engraved at the request of the sponsor. Various tile sizes will be available at prices ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 or more.

"The tiles will be permanently hung on the walls of the pool lobby," Bork explained. "We'd like it to surround a children's art project, which is still being designed." Tiles would likely be hung during or after construction of the kiddie pool, which would begin in the fall of 2017 after the pool closes for the season. "We would like to have all the tile sales complete by the end of this year so we know funding is secured before we proceed with final plans," she said.

Kiddie Pool Committee members will host a display and take contributions at the weekly Farmers Market as well as at the fall Harvest Festival. Those who wish to donate can also call Bork for a donation form or download one from the City's website at: <http://www.venetaoregon.gov/parksrec/page/kiddie-pool-fundraiser>

GET NOTIFIED!!



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Sign up online to receive emergency alerts on your **cellphone** that could directly impact you and your family.

It's Fast and it's Free!

- Severe Weather
 - Fire
 - Flooding
 - Crime/Imminent Danger
 - Evacuation Alert
 - Local Area Emergency
 - Missing Persons/Amber Alert
 - You choose your Alerts*



Sign up at: <http://www.venetaoregon.gov/community/page/community-emergency-notification-system>

Or, go to www.lanecounty.org >> Click on "Your Government" tab mid-page >> Emergency Preparedness >> top of page says Alert Me! Click on the "Sign up now" link.

This free service sponsored by Lane County allows emergency responders to send emergency alerts and issue safety recommendations.

It's Easy!

- This service is for your cellphone and VoIP phone. *Landline phones are already in the system.*
- Notifications are sent by your preferred contact method – phone messages, texts, and emails.
- Phone numbers are linked to your home address. You will receive notifications even if you are out of town.
- If you move, you will need to update, or easily unsubscribe.

Questions? Contact: Julie Reid – jreid@ci.veneta.or.us (541) 935-2191 ext. 316

\$1000 REWARD

URGENT MESSAGE FOR ALL CITY OF VENETA RESIDENTS

Toxic substances have been dumped into the City's sewer collection system causing serious damage to the sewer treatment plant!

Dumping of prohibited substances is a violation of the following Veneta Municipal Codes:

13.10.260: Discharge of dangerous toxic and poisonous waters and viscous substance prohibited.

8.05.130: Unenumerated Nuisances.

The penalty for each incident ranges from \$400 to \$4000 per violation.

The City needs ALL residents to assist in identifying those individuals responsible for the prohibited dumping. It is illegal to dump, flush down drains or toilet systems, any gasoline, paint thinner, or other types of industrial or toxic solvents into the City's sewer collection system through any means whether a manhole, a business location or a city residence.

**The City is offering a \$1000 reward for evidence
leading to the conviction of the responsible party(s).**

For more information or to report a lead, contact Kyle Schauer or Teresa Warrick at City Hall 541-935-2191. After hours please call 541-914-7982.



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