

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City News

Commissioners Decide not to Place Policing District on May Ballot

Convinced by public comment last month that the Fern Ridge Community Policing District could not pass in the current climate, the Lane County Commissioners declined to advance it to the May 17 ballot.

"It is unfortunate that so many rural residents saw the district as an attempt by Veneta to tax them for our police protection," stated Veneta Mayor Sandra Larson. "Veneta residents would have paid the same tax as rural residents. But if testimony at the hearing was actually representative of rural residents, I believe the commissioners made a reasonable choice."

West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich pointed out that the already inadequate sheriff's patrol in rural Lane County would almost certainly get worse, given the County's \$6 million shortfall. This is unlikely to affect Veneta's LCSO contract, beyond the fact that there will be

even fewer deputies in the county available to provide backup to Veneta's deputies.

"I still believe the concept of a special law enforcement district for the greater Fern Ridge area would benefit all residents, and I assume that the City will continue to work with the proponents and Lane County to craft a proposal that would pass muster with the voters," Larson continued.

Meanwhile, the City will request cost estimates from LCSO to continue its contract as is for the coming year. "Hopefully we won't see any large increases," said City Administrator Ric Ingham. As law enforcement costs continue to rise, the City will need to look for long-term solutions. "We had hoped the policing district would give us some reprieve. But in the next two to three years, we'll need to make some tough budget choices," he concluded.

30th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is among the community's most beloved traditions. In previous years, as many as 400 children and their families have turned out to celebrate this fun holiday event. This year, the Park Board, along with the Kiwanis of Fern Ridge, has a full schedule of activities for kids of all ages, with some surprises in store as well.

The free event kicks off behind Veneta Elementary School (VES) on March 26 at 10:15 a.m. when a bagpiper will lead youngsters into the gym for story time with Sharon from the Fern Ridge Library. "When we hear the fire truck siren, the bagpiper will lead the kids out to celebrate the Easter Bunny's arrival," explained Park Board Member Cathy Coulson-Kegan. Veneta Mayor Sandra Larson, will kick off each age group's hunt. "Grandma Bunny" and her "Bunny Helpers" will guide younger children to ensure that everyone finds an egg and there are "no tears."

This year's eggs are biodegradable plant-based eggs made in America by a womens'

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CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - MARCH 2016

Veneta City Hall - 88184 8th Street, Veneta Oregon

1	Veneta Planning Commission - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
2	Veneta Park Board - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
9	Veneta Economic Development Committee Meeting - City Hall	2:00 p.m.
13	Daylight Savings Time Begins - Spring Forward	
14	Veneta City Council Work Session - No regular Council meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Work Session - No regular Urban Renewal Agency meeting - Immediately following	6:30 p.m.
17	St. Patrick's Day	
17	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
26	Meet Sgt. Doyle (Lane County Sheriff's Office contract Sergeant for the City of Veneta) - Fern Ridge Library	1:00 p.m.
26	Easter Egg Hunt - Veneta Elementary, 88131 Territorial Rd.	Story time - 10:15 a.m. Hunt 11:00 to 12:00 p.m.
28	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	6:30 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

Kiddie Pool Committee - Addition to Community Pool

Since it was built in 2009, the Veneta Community Pool has been a source of pride and the site of many fun hours of wholesome, healthy recreation for Fern Ridge area families. It has also achieved one of its primary goals of teaching water safety through its swim lesson program and has launched Veneta's first competitive swim team. But one goal has yet to be met: the construction of a kiddie pool to serve the needs of toddlers and their parents. But a recently formed "Kiddie Pool Committee" aims to address that issue.

"A kiddie pool was included in the original design," explained Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. "But we didn't have the funding to build the whole project at the time. "Still, the City had the contractor install the infrastructure—conduits and piping—called for in the design, and then covered the area with deck to save money on a future build. "Most of the underground features necessary to operate the kiddie pool are already in place," said Schauer.

"The community pool has been a huge success," added City Administrator Ric Ingham. "But we feel that families with infants and toddlers may feel a little intimidated trying to ease their kids into the pool with larger kids around."

Consequently, the kiddie pool would sit just east of the main pool and is designed specifically to create a positive early experience for young children and their parents.

"Extensive research has been done to determine what kinds of pools help young kids become comfortable with the water and be more successful when they begin

swim instruction," Ingham continued.

With that research in mind, the kiddie pool design includes a "zero-entry" ramp for infants and toddlers and reaches a depth of just 18 inches. Splash toys and umbrella showers create a fun play area. A meandering wall divides this beginner pool from a slightly deeper (30 inches) one, as well as provides seating areas for parents.

The committee is now beginning to look for funding. Community Development Director Kay Bork has already discovered that kiddie pools are eligible for an Oregon Parks and Recreation Development Grant. "Out of the total pool cost of \$350,000, we are aiming to obtain at least half the funding through that grant," Ingham said. The committee will then seek out other private foundations or programs that are willing to contribute. Finally, Ingham said, the City has some money set aside that could be directed to this project. "If we can get the City's contribution to around \$30,000, I think we can close that gap."

Once the City has at least 90 percent of the funding in place, it would put the project out to bid in spring of 2017 with the goal of construction taking place that fall.

The Kiddie Pool Committee will hold its next committee meeting on the project at 3:30 p.m. on March 1 at City Hall. "We want to encourage as much public participation and input in these meetings as possible," said Ingham. "The more community support and interest we show, the stronger our applications for funding will be." For more information about the committee's effort please contact Joan Mariner at jmariner@uoregon.edu or Kay Bork at kbork@ci.veneta.or.us.

Addressing Veneta's Wild Turkeys

Wild turkeys may add to the rural feel of Veneta, but for residents who find them roosting on their car, scratching out their landscaping and vegetable gardens, and leaving their droppings, the birds are a nuisance. Consequently the City is working to control the birds in accordance with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) rules.

"ODFW will not allow us to relocate the turkeys," explained Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. "Our only solution is to obtain ODFW permits and dispatch the birds. The dressed turkeys are delivered to the Eugene

Mission where they can be used to feed those in need."

Schauer said his department's actions are in response to citizen complaints about large flocks "residing" in Veneta

One factor keeping the birds in town is the abundance of food. City Ordinance 6.05.165- Feeding of Game Animals, prohibits the intentional feeding of turkeys. Unfortunately, the birds are attracted to bird and squirrel feeders. "If you have a lot of turkeys coming into your yard, the first thing to do is stop the food source. When the food dries up, the turkeys usually leave."

30th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Cont....

Veterans group. "They're bright and shiny just like plastic eggs, but they close better, so they don't pop open to spill the surprise inside," said Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. Some will contain special prizes, such as cookies from local restaurants and certificates for Dairy Queen Blizzards. Others will contain family passes to the Cascade Raptor Center. "We hope to have passes for other fun activities for kids as well," said Coulson-Kegan.

All children will receive balloons from Banner Bank, toothbrushes from Dr. Tracy Robinson, books donated by the Fern Ridge Educational Foundation, and *Ranger Rick*

magazines from the Wildlife Federation.

Because of recent construction at VES, the lawn where the 11-12 year olds usually hunt is unavailable. Park Board Members will be inviting that age group to help hide 5,000 eggs for the younger children and receive a chocolate bunny. Next year, the board will re-evaluate the situation, as work on the school's north-side grounds will be complete.

All children from the Fern Ridge area, Crow, Lorane, and Noti are invited to this annual celebration of spring.

It's time for the
30th Annual
City of Veneta
Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, March 26th
11:00am
Veneta Elementary



Story Time Begins at 10:15am

Ages 1-10



Brought to you by:

City of Veneta
PARK BOARD



For more information call City Hall at 935-2191 or www.venetaoregon.gov
An ADA Accessible Event