

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City News

Veneta fights recent wave of vandalism

By Ephraim Payne

Local officials and law enforcement officers need citizen help to end a rash of graffiti and property destruction in Veneta.

Recent vandalism has included spray paint tagging on city property, commercial buildings and private homes, as well as the theft and destruction of landscaping. These destructive acts end up costing city utility rate payers and tax payers considerably, according to City of Veneta Adminis-

trator Ric Ingham.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) has catalogued various incidents of graffiti vandalism over the past several months, many of which may be the work of a single individual or group.

"They have damaged property all over town," said the LCSO's Sgt. Doug Osborne. "Suspects will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law and expected to pay restitution for the full cost of the damage done."

In addition to the graffiti

problem, malicious vandals have stolen and destroyed plants and trees newly planted for the West Broadway Redevelopment project and other projects around town.

Officials ask citizens with any knowledge of vandalism to call the LCSO's non-emergency line at 541-682-4141 or Public Works Superintendent Kyle Schauer at 541-935-2191.

For more on this issue, see the expanded version of the City News online at www.ci.veneta.or.us

Spring brings cat breeding explosion

Warming weather sends female cats into heat, presenting a problem for cities like Veneta where stray and feral cat populations are on the rise.

Often the spring is called kitten season. But cats breed throughout three seasons – beginning in spring, peaking in late spring or early summer and ending in the fall. A non-spayed female cat can give birth multiple times during the year.

Many litters of feral kittens come from non-spayed or neutered domestic cats that owners have abandoned or simply allow to roam. Some people assume their animals will survive when they move away and leave pets behind, adding to the uncontrolled breeding population. Uncontrolled breeding increased the number of cats throughout the city and rural areas.

The City does not currently have sufficient funding to control feral cats. The best way to help reduce unwanted cats in our community is to spay and neuter your own pet. The City's website lists agencies that offer low cost spay/neuter programs at: www.ci.veneta.or.us. Under City Services, click on animal control.

Budget process requires public participation

The City of Veneta, like most local governments in Oregon, must prepare and adopt an annual budget according to ORS 294.316, the Local Budget Law.

The law has two major objectives: to establish standard budgetary procedures and to provide for citizen exposure to

and involvement in the process. The annual budget must be adopted by June 30 of each fiscal year.

A budget officer selected by the City Council prepares a budget proposal. To encourage public participation, the Council appoints a committee comprised of the govern-

ing body members and an equal number of citizens to review and revise the budget.

Then, the City publishes meeting notices and conducts public hearings prior to final adoption of the budget. All meetings and hearings related to the budget are open to the public.

City encourages photographers to branch out

The City continues its search for photos of the Fern Ridge Area.

"We've received some great shots, and we'd like to see more local photographers participate," says Community Services Director Brian Issa.

Local residents are encouraged to send photos

that they feel capture the essence of Veneta and the surrounding area.

"Most of the shots we've received are of landscapes," says Issa. "I'd like to see folks branch out a bit to capture local landmarks, whether they be structures, historic features, or

people."

Each month a featured photo will be selected for the City's homepage and the photographer will receive a day pass to the Veneta Community Pool. Past photo submissions can be viewed at the City's website: <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/>