

City News

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

88184 Eighth Street
PO Box 458
Veneta, OR 97487
(541) 935-2191

<http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/>

Time for Veneta's annual Easter Egg Hunt

Spring is here and the Park Board is gearing up for one of the biggest youth events of the year. The annual Veneta Easter Egg Hunt takes place this year on Saturday, April 7 at Veneta Elementary School. School age children from one to 12 years old are welcome.

"We are excited to be back at Veneta Elementary School, because it opened up such a great venue for the event," says City Administrator Ric Ingham. "We want to thank our partners, the Fern Ridge School District in particular."

The first Veneta Easter

Egg Hunt took place March 29, 1986, making this year's event the 26th annual hunt. The Easter Egg Hunt relocated to Veneta Elementary in 2010.

This year's event is sponsored by the City of Veneta with the Fern Ridge Kiwanis Club. Lane County Fire District No. 1, Fern Ridge Community Library, N4RG, Boy Scout Troop 54 and Elmira Key Club are providing volunteers. Donations came from many businesses including Ray's and Bi-Mart.

Volunteers are invited to an egg stuffing party on Saturday, March 31 at 10 a.m. at the Community

Center. Saturday's event at Veneta Elementary starts with story time at 10:15 a.m. The egg hunt starts at 11 a.m.

There will be art activities, prizes and a special appearance by the Easter Bunny. Be sure to bring a basket for your eggs.

Ingham encourages parents to arrive at least 15 minutes early, because parking will be tight and organizers want children lined up and ready for the hunt to begin promptly at 11 a.m. For more information please contact City Hall at 541-935-2191 or visit the City's website at www.ci.veneta.or.us

Park Board vacancies

The Park Board is seeking to fill 2 vacancies on its board, one resident vacancy (position 6) and one non-resident vacancy (position 7). The Park Board, which meets the first Wednesday of each month, is instrumental in implementing the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

City Administrator Ric Ingham says that Park Board volunteers impact Veneta through their involvement in annual events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Veneta Light Parade, Christmas Tree Lighting and the Earth/Arbor Day celebration.

Last year, Park Board volunteers played a major role in improvements to Fern Park. This year, the 50th Anniversary Committee had requested the Park Board to organize a scavenger hunt that will show off parks throughout the city.

The vacancies are both four year terms expiring on March 31, 2016. Applications are available at the Veneta Administrative Center, 88184 Eighth Street, Veneta or on the City's website at: <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/documents/CommissionCommitteeApplication.pdf>

City picks architect for Fern Ridge Service Center

On March 12, the City Council approved the selection of an architectural firm to complete the final design of the Fern Ridge Service Center (FRSC). Scott/Edwards Architecture of Portland, which created the preliminary designs for the long-planned senior center, submitted the winning proposal.

According to Associate City Planner Kay Bork, Scott/Edwards won the bid thanks to a combination of experience with the preliminary design and the Fern Ridge community, its extensive portfolio of similar senior centers and its familiarity with the federal

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

"Their references were outstanding," says Bork, adding that agency representatives in St. Helens and Coos Bay, among others, could not praise the firm highly enough. "There are a lot of extra requirements when you are using federal money, and they are familiar with that process."

Scott/Edwards has designed over two dozen multi-use community service and senior centers throughout the Willamette Valley. Sid Scott will be the facility's principal architect.

The City plans to hold a community meeting on April 25 in order for the architect and members of the Fern Ridge Service Center Steering Committee to share the concept and near final design with local residents. The time of the meeting is to be determined.

The City estimates that Scott/Edwards will finalize the designs in mid May and complete the construction documents in mid to late July. If all goes according to plan, workers will break ground on the West Broadway Avenue site in September, with construction ending in June 2013.

Commission to update key Veneta planning documents

In order to satisfy state planning requirements, the City of Veneta is revising key planning documents to account for updated population projections and utility master plans.

The Veneta Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to discuss updates to the City's Public Facilities Plan (PFP) and Comprehensive Plan (CP). The Commission will hold the hearing at its first regular meeting of the month, scheduled for April 2 at 7 p.m. at the Veneta Administrative Center.

In 2009 the Population Research Center at Portland State University completed a study, "Population Forecasts for Lane County, its Cities and Unincorporated Area 2008-2035", at the request of Lane County officials. The study projects countywide population growth through 2035.

While the City of Veneta adopted the study in 2009 as its official population projection for planning purposes, the study's figures and sewer and water master plans updated the same year have yet to be incorporated in City planning documents.

"The population number is the basis for all that we do," says Veneta Community Services Director Brian Issa, adding that everything from zoning changes to the sizing of water and sewer treatment facilities depends on popu-

lation figures. "It provides the foundation for all of the other planning that we do."

After the Planning Commission holds its hearing, it will make recommendations on updating the PFP and CP to the City Council. The Council will then take up the issue and hold a subsequent public hearing in late April or May before making a decision.

This update is timely because of upcoming projects such as the pipeline to supply the City drinking water from the Eugene Water and Electric Board, which will be constructed with funds provided by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The City projects that construction on the pipeline will start later this summer.

While updating the PFP and CP are the highest priority, the City will need to update additional planning documents in the future to take the population study into account.

"Because the population numbers form the basis of all of the City's long range planning efforts, it will be necessary to update documents such as the Transportation System Plan (TSP), and Park and Recreation Master Plan in the future," according to Issa. "There are so many things tied to the population numbers that it often takes cities several years to bring everything up to date."

City secures funding to build sidewalks on Hunter Avenue

Thanks to a timely state grant, the City of Veneta is planning to install sidewalks on the south side of Hunter Avenue between 6th Street and Territorial Road. The improvements will provide pedestrians with a safer route through the busy area. According to City officials, many children walk along Hunter on their way to and from Veneta Elementary School and Territorial Park.

"Currently, if you go down Hunter, people walk in the road, and Hunter is a busy street," said Veneta Public Works Superintendent Kyle Schauer, adding that the City hopes the project will increase public safety in the area. "There is no safe walking route in the area."

The south side of Hunter is a likely place to put the sidewalks, Schauer said, because it is adjacent to Territorial Park and already has existing crosswalks. The project will affect local property owners because there are no existing

sidewalks along the route.

"The City will be contacting property owners individually to discuss the impact of the planned improvements with them," said Schauer.

The City's Public Works Department hopes to finalize the project design and get it out to bid in time for construction to start this summer.

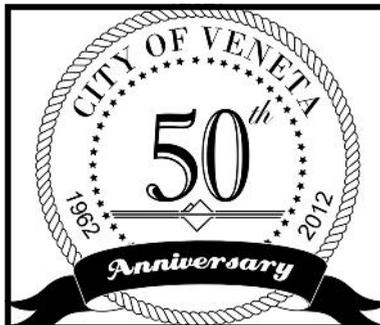
The sidewalk project is possible because of a \$50,000 Small City Allotment Grant the City received from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The City, Schauer said, seized on the opportunity presented by the ODOT grant to include sidewalks in a preexisting plan to resurface Hunter Ave. between Territorial and 6th.

Schauer says the City expects the entire project to cost about \$120,000 but will not be certain of the cost until the project goes out to bid.

Veneta finalizes details of "A Day in the Life of Veneta" photo contest

The City of Veneta's 50th Anniversary Photo Contest, titled A Day in the Life of Veneta, will run from April 11 through June 15.

The contest will feature multiple categories and age/skill levels. The contest winning photographs will be displayed at the Birthday Celebration on July 21, where the community will vote for a People's Choice award winning photo.



Photos taken after January 2012 may be submitted. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in four subject categories. First place winners will receive an artistic, commemorative ribbon created by local artist Cathy Coulson-Keegan.

More details and a model release form are available on the City website: www.ci.veneta.or.us/documents/PhotoContestRules-ModelReleaseForm.pdf