

City News

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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New members for Veneta's City Council

The 2012 Veneta election results are official. Two new council members will start four year terms after being sworn in at the first City Council meeting of the year, scheduled for 7 p.m. on January 14, 2013.

New Council Member Thomas G. Laing, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, is well known for his work with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Cur-

rently serving as the VFW District Commander for Lane County, Laing has been a VFW Post Commander and State Commander and has served the organization nationally.

Victoria Hedenstrom, a substitute teacher and registered music teacher, will also be serving on the Council for the first time. She got her start in politics as a member of the stu-

dent senate while studying at Southern Oregon State University.

Voters also elected current Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Larson, who ran unchallenged, to serve a full term as the city's mayor. Larson, a retired teacher and current freelance reporter for the Fern Ridge Review, has been on the Veneta City Council since 2008.

Fern Ridge Service Center Update

After years of planning and fundraising by the Fern Ridge volunteer community and the City of Veneta, contractors will break ground this month on the Fern Ridge Service Center, a centerpiece of Veneta's urban renewal efforts.

On November 5, 2012, the City of Veneta awarded a \$1,476,764 construction contract to Essex General Construction of Eugene to build the facility.

Construction is scheduled to begin the first week in December 2012 and is expected to be complete by September 2013.

Currently, Essex has a construction trailer on site and is lining up subcontractors for the project, says Community Development Director Kay Bork.

The City is identifying priorities for kitchen and dining room equipment before seeking grants and donations to purchase it.

The new Fern Ridge Service Center will house the LOVE Project (Food Bank), Mid Lane Community Partnership's Rural Medical Outreach offices and senior programs: Senior Meals, Senior Meals on Wheels, and Senior Connections.

Veneta welcomes new associate planner

The City is pleased to introduce Lisa Garbett, the new Associate Planner, who started work in October. Garbett fills the position most recently held by Kay Bork, who became Veneta's Community Development Director after the departure of long-time City employee Brian Issa.

As Associate Planner, Garbett is responsible for reviewing land use applications, assisting the public with zoning questions, GIS mapping and helping update the City's Comprehensive Plan. She has also taken on special projects such as grant writing for furnishings and fixtures for the Fern Ridge Service Center.

"Lisa is a wonderful addi-

tion to the team with her positive and cooperative attitude, and professionalism," says Bork.



Associate Planner Lisa Garbett

Garbett, who holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Oregon (UO), has worked as a planner for four years in Vancouver, Washington for MacKay and Sposito, Inc. Prior to that, she gained several

years worth of experience as a project associate working on parks and recreation plans for MIG, Inc.

As a planner, Garbett has represented private clients as well as serving as the contract planner for the City of Ridgefield, a small town just north of Vancouver. Her experience with rural planning started with an internship with Lane County Public Works Parks Department while she attended the University of Oregon.

"I appreciate all of the urban renewal opportunities coming to the city," says Garbett, "Being part of a small community is great." When not at work, Garbett likes to go hiking with her family.

Pipeline construction public information contacts

Work on Veneta's new water pipeline is projected to run through the fall of 2013. For project information,

please contact Public Works Director Kyle Schauer at 541-935-2191. For information regarding property ac-

cess issues or traffic delays call Pacific Excavation, Inc. Site Manager Dave Olson at 541-729-9529



Light Parade Begins at 7:00 p.m

Tree Lighting Events:

- 8:00 p.m. - Santa arrives
- 8:05 p.m. - Welcome & Happy Holidays from Mayor Sandra Larson
- 8:15 p.m. - Tree lighting
- 8:20 p.m. - Veneta Elementary School Choir
- 8:30 p.m. - Elmira High School Choir
- 8:40 p.m. - Float Awards

Fern Ridge holiday events calendar

9th Annual Fern Ridge Light Parade and City of Veneta Holiday Tree Lighting

Parade Schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. - Registration begins
- 6:40 p.m. - Driver orientation walk through
- 7:00 p.m. - Parade begins
- 8:00 p.m. - Parade ends and finishes on Jack Kelley Drive, Santa arrives for Holiday Tree lighting.

When: Thursday, Dec. 6, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: See map above

The SANTA Project

What: Opportunity for local parents in need to pick up free gifts for their children, then have them wrapped by volunteers. For more information about donating for this year's event or for 2013, please contact Lydia Schauer at 541-935-1995.

When: Saturday, Dec. 15, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Veneta Elementary Gym.

The Kiwanis Holiday Food Drive

What: Holiday food baskets for local low income families. Applications available at Siuslaw Bank, Rays Video Dept., Veneta and Elmira Elementary and the Tony Garcia Service Center and must be received by Dec. 14. Applications can be returned to Rays and the Garcia Center.

When: Saturday Dec.15, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Distribution of the food baskets will take place behind the West Lane Shopping Center.