

The Newsletter of the  
City of Veneta

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

# City News

## Budget preparation underway for 2012-13

The City of Veneta, like most local governments in Oregon, must prepare and adopt an annual budget according to the state's Local Budget Law by June 30 of each year.

The law has two major objectives: to establish standard budgetary procedures and to provide for citizen exposure to and involvement in the process.

A budget officer, with input from Department Managers, prepares a proposed budget. Then, the

budget committee composed of City Council members and an equal number of citizens reviews the proposed budget at one or more meetings.

The budget committee meeting dates are May 3, 2012 and May 17, 2012 for review of the fiscal year 2012-13 budget. The proposed budget document will be available on the City's website ([www.ci.veneta.or.us](http://www.ci.veneta.or.us)) on or around April 19, 2012.

Once the budget commit-

tee approves the budget, the City Council conducts a public hearing on the budget.

The hearings give citizens an additional opportunity to discuss budget items with the Council before the Council moves forward with adoption.

All meetings and hearings related to the budget are open to the public. Additional meeting and hearing information will be posted on the City's website.

## Pedestrian signs cause confusion on Territorial

More than a year after their installation, City residents are still getting used to a set of flashing intersection controls at Territorial Hwy. and Broadway Ave. City officials worry that failure to use the intersection controls correctly is putting some people at risk at the busy intersection.

"A lot of people are still not using the crosswalk, but are jaywalking about 30 feet on either side of the intersection," says City Community Services Director Brian Issa, adding that jaywalkers present a hazard to themselves and to unwary motorists.

The City of Veneta, with funding and support from Lane Transit District, installed the signs last year in order to make downtown more pedestrian friendly.

Traditional pedestrian crossing controls turn intersection lights red and use flashing walk signs to signal when it is safe to cross the street. The new signs,



A crossing sign on Territorial Hwy.

similar to many going up in local cities, trigger flashing yellow lights on each sign to caution motorists to look for pedestrians and slow down or stop.

The problem, according to Issa, is that the flashing

lights face north and south on Territorial, out of the view of pedestrians waiting to cross east and west, and there are no flashing walk signals. The system is designed this way so walkers will not have a false sense of security crossing an intersection that does not have a red light to completely stop traffic.

"Pedestrians always need to be on their guard when crossing Territorial," says Issa.

The correct way for a pedestrian to use the intersection controls, he says, is to push the button to signal drivers of your intention to cross Territorial, and then wait until the intersection is clear and any north or southbound vehicles have slowed or stopped to let you pass safely.

## A Day in the Life of Veneta photo contest

By Grieta King

Get out your camera! The City of Veneta's 50th year celebration photo contest begins April 11 and ends June 15 at 5:00 p.m. The photos that you enter must be taken this year, within the Fern Ridge community.

You may enter your photos in four categories. Uniquely Veneta is an open category for anything that makes Veneta unique. Subjects might include objects, events, places or activities connected to the community.

The Landscape and Nature category includes animal, plant and landscape photos. Community Life includes things happening around the area, like educating, volunteering, celebrations, community classes, school events and athletics. Photos in the Landmarks and Architecture category include city design, landmarks, building features or infrastructure.

Anyone may participate. Please check the city website for additional details for contest rules and prizes. Email all photo entries to [kbork@ci.veneta.or.us](mailto:kbork@ci.veneta.or.us).

*Is Phantom Power  
Robbing You Blind?*

# Veneta-Elmira Residents Save up to \$100 in Energy Bills! Attend Our Free Class Receive a Free Energy Saving Light!



*Snacks Provided!*

### Discover:

- Easy ways to save money on your utility bill
- The three most common myths about energy use
- Answers to your questions about saving energy

**Thursday, March 15, 6-7 PM. Veneta Community Center  
25192 East Broadway**

**Space is limited. To reserve your space and guarantee your complimentary gift  
call Jim at 541-682-3403.**

This is a free service for Veneta-Elmira residents, supported by  
Housing and Community Services Agency in cooperation with  
area utilities and NW Natural gas.



## Final Chance to Get Rid of Old Chemicals! FREE!

It has been five years since our last large-scale agricultural chemical collection event. We would like to offer Lane County farmers **one more chance** to get rid of old pesticides and other chemicals sitting in barns, sheds, or other forgotten places. We can dispose of them at **no cost or risk** to you. This service is made possible by a partnership between Lane County Waste Management, OSU Extension Service, Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), Springfield Utility Board (SUB), the Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area, & SureCrop.

This is your **final, no-cost opportunity** in the foreseeable future to safely get rid of old, unwanted pesticides while protecting water quality and protecting the health and safety of family, friends, and animals.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the appropriate person listed below to **schedule your appointment**:

- McKenzie farmers: Nancy Toth, EWEB, 541-685-7438
- Middle Fork Willamette farmers; Amy Chinitz, SUB, 541-744-3745
- SWV Groundwater Management Area: Audrey Eldridge, 541-776-6029
- Other Lane County farmers: Ross Penhalegon, OSU Extension, 541-344-1709

My appointment is on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

*Free assistance is available for packing or transporting chemicals if needed.*

### **AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL REMOVAL PROJECT 2012**

**Free Agricultural  
Chemical Collection  
Dates**

March 7 & 13, 2012

Lane County's Glenwood  
Central Receiving Station

Accepted: farm chemi-  
cals and fertilizers

Please take care to safely  
package your chemicals