

The Newsletter of the  
City of Veneta

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# City News

## City councilor appointed as Mayor Pro Tem

Because of a serious shoulder injury, Veneta Mayor Sharon Hobart resigned earlier this summer. On July 23 the Veneta City Council chose Council President Sandra Larson to step in as Mayor Pro Tem for the duration of Hobart's term, which ends this December.

"Given the number and magnitude of city projects currently underway," Hobart wrote in her letter of resignation, "it is critical that the City be represented by an active and involved mayor."

"Sandra has been really active in the community since the Larson family moved here," says City

Administrator Ric Ingham. "She's got a really good grasp of what's going on in the community; we're pretty pleased to have her."

Larson says she plans on running for a full term as mayor in the upcoming election. Hobart, she adds, was the first Veneta resident to sign her petition. "I have had a lot of support from the community and I'm really gratified by that," says Larson.

"We are blessed to have her in this community," Hobart says, adding that as a city councilor Larson gained an involved knowledge of City projects and showed dedication to as-

sisting city staff.

First elected as a city councilor in 2008, Hobart became the City's mayor in January 2009.

"We were saddened that she had to step down before her term was finished, she was a fantastic mayor," Ingham said of Hobart, "continuing a Veneta tradition of mayors dedicated to serving the community."

"Sharon's shoes are much smaller than mine, but in Veneta they are some pretty big shoes to fill," says Larson, "I look forward to the challenge, and it will be a challenge because Veneta has a lot of projects coming up."

## Yearly ditch maintenance

City officials want to remind residents that late summer is a great time to clean up drainage ditches in preparation for another rain-soaked winter.

According to Veneta's Municipal Code, residents must keep drainage ditches and waterways on their land free of any flow-blocking debris or plant growth. Maintenance should ensure that water flows through ditches, so residents should never plug ditches and drainages or allow brush to inhibit flows.

"The flow (of water) should not be impeded in any way," says Public Works Superintendent Kyle Schauer, adding that it is common for uninformed city residents to put leaves or grass clippings in the low spots of drainage ditches. When drainage ditches get blocked it causes them to overflow, leading to flooding and major damage to roads, landscaping and nearby houses.

Residents should be aware that some properties contain protected wetlands. Special care should be taken when removing vegetation. If you have any questions about the wetlands you can call Associate Planner Kay Bork for more information at 541-935-2191.

## City Farmers' Market finishing successful season

Veneta's Downtown Farmers' Market is coming to a close on September 28 after another successful season.

Held on Fridays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the intersection of Territorial Highway and Luther Lane, the Market hosts between 15 and 20 vendors on average and features a mix of fresh produce from local farms and artisanal crafts.

Launched in 2007, the Farmers' Market is a project of the City of Veneta designed to increase community support for local farms.

The City hopes the Farmers' Market will assist

community members to decrease their environmental impact, increase their consumption of local food, create relationships with local farmers and increase local knowledge on the benefits of buying local products.

Marie Pickett of Saturn Consulting, who organizes the Market, says that this year's market season has been a successful one.

"We have increased participation by local farmers and new types of vendors and therefore have been able to increase the variety of products we offer to the community," says Pickett, adding that new vendors

include local small farms, a kettle corn vendor, local artisans and woodworkers selling their handicrafts. "We've also had a regular meat vendor and a grain vendor."

Some market vendors will participate in the Veneta Harvest Festival, to be held September 29, with proceeds to benefit Fern Ridge Service Center's maintenance fund.

Pickett says the Market is delighted to support the festival and new Service Center, and will use the opportunity to educate people about the Farmer's Market and local agriculture.