

# City News

The Newsletter of the  
City of Veneta

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

## Study shows cats kill 2.4 billion birds

Local residents are rightly proud of the Fern Ridge area's national reputation as a bird watching hot spot. But our avian friends face an unexpectedly dangerous adversary.

According to a recent report from the Smithsonian Institute, domestic and feral cats kill about 2.4 billion birds in the US each year. Luckily, Veneta's birds and bird lovers have allies as well.

Greenhill Humane Society, thanks to a grant from PetSmart Charities, administers a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program to reduce Lane County's estimated population of 15 to 20 thousand feral cats. TNR is a method of humanely trapping feral cats, sterilizing them, and returning them to where they

were trapped.

"A feral cat is simply a wild cat," says Animal Control Officer Justin Powell. "They affect the bird population and can be a nuisance. The City thinks the TNR program is the best way to deal with the feral cat problem." Kittens are not born feral. If rescued properly, they can be fostered and adopted.

Residents who see a feral cat on their property, including litters of kittens, should call Greenhill at 541-689-1503 to schedule a trapping or get foster care information, residents may be placed on a waiting list for several weeks, but use of a trap may be provided free of charge a few days before the appointment. Residents interested in fostering kittens until

they are old enough to be adopted can also register with Greenhill.

In addition to lowering the existing feral cat population, the best way to help reduce unwanted cats in our community is to spay and neuter your own pet. Many litters of feral kittens come from non-spayed or neutered domestic cats that owners have abandoned or allowed to roam.

The City of Veneta offers qualified low-income applicants a \$30.00 voucher to help with the cost of spay or neuter surgery for their cat or dog. Applications are available at City Hall or you can print an online application (PDF) and submit it with proof of income. For more information, visit: <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/animal.cfm>

## Veneta budget committee meetings scheduled

The City of Veneta, like most local governments in Oregon, must prepare and adopt an annual budget by June 30 of each year according to ORS 294.316, the Local Budget Law. The law has two major objectives: 1) to establish standard budgetary procedures and 2) to provide for citizen exposure to and involvement in the process.

The budget officer, with lots of input and assistance from department managers, prepares a proposed budget. Then, the budget

committee composed of the governing body members, the City Council in Veneta's case, and an equal number of citizens review the proposed budget at one or more meetings.

Veneta's budget committee meeting dates for preparation of the fiscal year 2013-14 budget are May 2, 2013 and May 16, 2013. The proposed budget document will be available at the City's Administrative Center and online at:

[www.ci.veneta.or.us](http://www.ci.veneta.or.us) by April 29, 2013.

Once the budget committee approves the budget, the City Council conducts a public hearing on the budget. This gives the citizens an 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.

## Easter Egg Hunt

The Veneta Park Board is gearing up for the 27th annual Veneta Easter Egg Hunt, which takes place on Saturday, March 30 at Veneta Elementary School. The hunts will be for children from 1 to 12 years old.

The event at Veneta Elementary starts with story time at 10:15 a.m. The egg hunts start 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.

Public Works Director Kyle Schauer encourages parents to arrive at least 15 minutes early. Parking will be tight and children should be lined up for the hunt to begin promptly at 11 a.m.

"Every year people show up late and kids miss their hunt," says Schauer. "We don't want that to happen."

Volunteers are invited to the egg stuffing party on Saturday, March 23 at 10 a.m. at the Community Center.

For more information please contact City Hall at 541-935-2191 or online at: [www.ci.veneta.or.us](http://www.ci.veneta.or.us)