

City News

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta
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<http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/>

Taking emergency preparedness seriously

Heavy rains and below average temperatures hit the Willamette Valley in the middle of November, signaling the onset of the winter storm season. Severe rainstorms can often block roads and cut off power and other vital public services for a short time while larger natural disasters like floods, fires and earthquakes can cause the same dangers for even longer.

The City of Veneta is creating a comprehensive disaster plan to address these types of emergencies in cooperation with Lane County Fire Authority and other local, state and federal agencies. The City will offer a final plan in early 2015 for the City Council's approval and then conduct exercises with county public safety officials to familiarize staff with the plan and ensure efficient implementation and interagency cooperation.

At the same time, the City recommends that each resident or household be prepared to cope with short-term power outages and similar public service losses,

and for longer duration emergencies.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides a 72-hour emergency kit checklist online at: <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

"It is important to inform City residents how to be better prepared for emergencies," says City Administrator Ric Ingham. "Everyone should have a disaster kit in order to be prepared with supplies such as canned food, bottled water, flashlights and sleeping bags."

A comprehensive guide to citizen disaster preparedness can be found at: <http://www.ready.gov/are-you-ready-guide>

While short-term emergency situations are more common, Ingham says, residents should also be aware that geologists say the Pacific Northwest Coast is overdue for an earthquake of magnitude 9.0 on the Richter scale. A study by Oregon State University researchers

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Keep streets and sidewalks clear

As winter approaches, leaves pile in the streets, blocking street drainage. The City street sweeper is often unable to clean a street properly due to basketball hoops, garbage cans, illegally parked vehicles and recreational vehicles being left or parked in the public right-of-ways.

Basketball hoops are often left on city sidewalks and in the streets of many neighborhoods creating hazards for pedestrians, blocking parking spaces and making it difficult for street sweepers.

"The elderly, handi-capped, children, people with strollers and dog walkers are especially endangered when they can't walk on the sidewalk and must detour into the street," says Community Development Director Kay Bork.

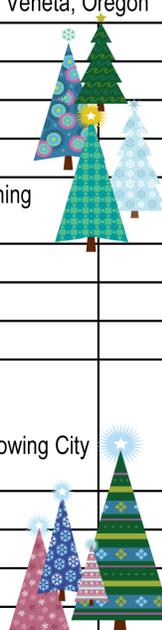
Please move basketball hoops and any other impediments onto your property when not in use.

The City's intent is to ensure pedestrian safety and to maintain its streets and drainage systems. Please contact the Code Enforcement Officer with questions on any City ordinances at (541) 935-2191.

CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2014

Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 Eighth Street, Veneta, Oregon

2	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	Cancelled
3	Veneta Historical Committee Meeting - City Hall	2:00 p.m.
3	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
4	Tree Lighting - West Lane Shopping Center Fountain	6:30 p.m.
8	Joint Meeting of the Veneta City Council and Veneta Planning Commission - City Hall	5:30 p.m.
8	Veneta City Council Meeting with Lane County - City Hall	7:30 p.m.
9	Communication Subcommittee Meeting - City Hall	3:30 p.m.
11	Light Parade (See reverse for parade route)	7:00 p.m.
15	Veneta City Council Work Session - City Hall	5:30 p.m.
	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.
	Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following City Council Meeting	
18	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
22	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	Cancelled
25	City Hall closed in Observance of Christmas Day	Closed
26	City Hall closed for Christmas Holiday	Closed



City encourages residents to form Neighborhood Watch

For the last several years, the Veneta City Council has made community policing a high priority. City staff is developing a Community Policing Strategic Plan as a tool to understand all aspects of community policing better and to establish specific goals and objectives for Veneta.

As part of its community policing strategy, the City is working with the Lane County Sheriff's Department to establish Neighborhood Watch groups throughout Veneta.

Neighborhood Watch groups are an important part of community policing both because they create beneficial relationships between the department and citizens and because they help deter petty crimes – such as vandalism, minor thefts and car break-ins.

"I think it's always a good thing to have people involved in their own community, so they become more invested in it," says Sgt. Billy Halvorson, who oversees Veneta's service contract with the Sheriff's Department. "Community involvement is always important because it's more eyes to help us deal with issues in the community, and it makes it easier for us to detect and find problems."

"Neighborhood Watch is a program that can be designed to fit each individual neighborhood's needs," according to the Sheriff's Department. "Involved neighbors report suspicious activities to the Lane County Sheriff's Office; members watch out for their neighbors either through observing from their homes or through patrols,"

choosing a level of involvement with which they feel most comfortable.

The program does not condone vigilant action and never requires residents to take personal risks.

To launch a group, Veneta residents should contact Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Sergeant Carrie Carver at 541-682-4179. More information about the program is available online at <http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/Sheriff/PoliceServices/Neighborhoodwatch/Pages/default.aspx>

"The City is excited that the Lane County Sheriff's Office has hired a coordinator to aid in the formation of Neighborhood Watches," says City Administrator Ric Ingham. "We think the formation of such groups can be a strong deterrent to low-level property crimes and for creating a network of neighbors watching out for neighbors."

The Sheriff's Department's website also features a new online data tool that allows citizens to look up data, including crime stats and crime activities taking place in any part of the county, including Veneta.

The Crime Mapping/ Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) public log data indicates the level of crime in specific neighborhoods. The Department's homepage features prominent links to the CAD log and hints on how to use it: <http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/Sheriff/Pages/default.aspx>

Emergency Preparedness: have an disaster kit ready

published by the U.S. Geological Survey indicates a 40 percent chance of a major earthquake hitting the southern Oregon coast – which could damage dams and bridges and could temporarily isolate people in remote areas, especially on the coast – in the next 50 years.

City and county officials plan for large-scale disasters

such as fires, major flooding and earthquakes; local residents should also prepare for long-term emergency situations.

Lane County's emergency management information is online at: <http://www.lanecounty.org/departments/sheriff/office/emermgmt/Pages/default.aspx>

Volunteer needed to fill vacant Park Board position

The City of Veneta is currently recruiting Veneta residents to fill a vacant volunteer position on the City's Park Board. The currently vacant term runs through March 2017, and the volunteer must be a Veneta resident.

The Board's mission includes implementing the City's 1998 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, creating recreational opportunities and promoting citizen involvement and a strong sense of community while striving to increase the social, cultural, and physical well-being of residents and visitors.

Veneta City Administrator Ric Ingham, who advises the Board, says that its members try to bring out events that enhance the livability for community youth and families as a whole.

These events include winter holiday favorites such as the Fern Ridge Light Parade and Holiday Tree Lighting as well as popular annual events like the City's Easter Egg Hunt, Earth Day, the Harvest Festival, not to mention family and teen nights at the community pool and tree planting events.

The Board of between 5 and 9 volunteers, appointed by the Mayor, conducts monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. All meetings are open to the public; Board sub-committees meet throughout the month. Like the City Council, the Board devotes the first part of each meeting to public comments. Ingham says the board, which also serves as Veneta's Tree Board, encourages community members to participate.

Current Board members include Board Chair Craig Soderberg, Vice Chair Dennis Paronto, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Carol Petty, Chelsea Coffman, Penny Lacky and student representatives Josie Hedenstrom and Elmira Louie. Veneta Mayor Sandra Larson and Council Member Brittany Boothe serve as liaisons between the Park Board and City Council.

If you are interested in serving on the Veneta Park Board, please pick up an application at City Hall or download one from the City's website at: <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/jobs.cfm>

Veneta Holiday Tree Lighting and Fern Ridge Light Parade

December may rarely be white in the southern Willamette Valley, but the holidays are always festive and full of community spirit in the City of Veneta and the Fern Ridge area.

Veneta's Holiday Tree lends a graceful glow to the magic of the season. The 2014 tree lighting ceremony will take place at the fountain location at the West Lane Shopping Center on Thursday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m.

The following Thursday, December 11, Veneta marks an eleven-year holiday tradition by hosting the annual Fern Ridge Light Parade. At 7:00 p.m. parade floats will light up the night, winding through town in a fantastic display the community is sure to enjoy.

The hometown parade started in 2003 to generate holiday excitement. Fern Ridge's local electric utilities, Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative, Emerald PUD and Lane Electric Cooperative have participated since it began. For many, it has become a family tradition these past 11 years.

"Our first year, the parade was small with just a handful of floats. As more service groups and churches got in-

involved we've seen it grow to nearly 40 floats," said Veneta City Administrator Ric Ingham. "The parade is a wonderful way for families and the community to kick off the holiday season."

The City of Veneta will clearly mark this year's parade route, which begins at 7:00 p.m. on 8th Street at Jack Kelley Drive before turning east on West Broadway. The procession then heads south on 2nd Street, and east on McCutcheon Avenue, turns north on Territorial Road and ends back on Jack Kelley Drive. As usual, floats will stage on Jack Kelley Drive before the parade.

This annual holiday event could not happen without the dedication of many volunteers. With the help of their sponsors, the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce and City of Veneta plan for several weeks to put on this holiday event. Entry forms for the parade are available at Chamber of Commerce and the City, as well as many local merchants.

For more information, contact the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce at 541-935-8443 or staff@fernridgechamber.com



**We hope
to see you
at both events!**

2014 PARADE ROUTE AND PARKING DETAILS

