

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City News

Neighborhood Watch at Harvest Festival

The Sixth Annual Veneta Harvest Festival gets better every year and each year has something new to offer.

This year, for instance, Neighborhood Watch Groups are teaming up with the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) to host a public-safety education booth. Visitors can learn about personal and property safety, meet McGruff the Crime Dog, pick up a free fingerprinting kit, chat with the Lane County Sheriff's Marine Patrol about boating and water safety, talk with a LCSO home security auditor about how to make their home more burglar resistant, and learn about the great work being done in various neighborhoods by Neighborhood Watch Groups.

Veneta's Neighborhood Watch Program has been growing steadily. Its goal is to encourage cooperation between the community and the police to help fight and prevent crime. Group members can volunteer as much or as little time as they can afford, but according to LCSO Sgt. Billy Halvorson, "the emphasis is on getting to know your neighbor and knowing what's going on in your neighborhood." At the booth, visitors can learn how to get in-

involved. "The organization is looking for new members and watch captains who may want to start up their own group," said Veneta City Administrator Ric Ingham.

The Veneta Harvest Festival takes place on Saturday, September 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2nd and Broadway. The gathering focuses on friendship, fun, and hometown community spirit and includes live music from three bands; farm, food, and artisan booths; a chili cook-off; and a kid zone with a fire truck, mini golf, cotton candy, shaved ice, and more. The morning kicks off with a pancake breakfast at the Fern Ridge Service Center (FRSC) from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. All funds raised from vendor fees and the breakfast benefit Mid Lane Cares with proceeds designated to the FRSC.

If you miss this community gathering, you can learn more about Neighborhood Watch by visiting the City of Veneta Webpage at www.VenetaOregon.gov, contacting the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541 682-4179 (press 3), or attending one of Sgt. Halvorson's monthly meetings at the Fern Ridge Community Library.

Traci Haley Joins City Staff

The City of Veneta welcomes Traci Haley as its new Office Support Specialist. Haley will primarily serve at the reception desk, but will also "serve as an assistant to anyone in the office who needs help with clerical tasks," said City Finance Director Shauna Hartz. "This will enable other staff members to concentrate more on tasks specific to their jobs."

A four-person committee selected Haley because of her broad set of professional skills and because of her good sense of humor. "She has extensive experience in the private sector, as well as working for the State of Oregon, in a variety of office-related clerical tasks," Hartz explained. "We felt her personality would be a nice fit for the 'professional-and-relaxed' culture of the office." And since no two days are ever the same in that position, Hartz explained, Haley's sense of humor should help her take things in stride.

Haley lives in Veneta and joined City staff on August 5.

CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2015		
Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 8th Street, Veneta, Oregon		
1	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	Cancelled
2	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
7	Labor Day - City Hall Closed	
14	Veneta City Council Work Session - City Hall	5:30 p.m.
	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
	Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following City Council Meeting	
17	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
28	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
	Calendar updates will be posted on the City's website at www.venetaoregon.gov	
	This Civic Calendar was sent to: Fern Ridge Review, Fern Ridge School District 28J, Fern Ridge Public Library, and Lane Fire Authority	

City Studies Transportation Utility Fee

The City of Veneta is currently seeking a fair and equitable method to fund work on the local transportation network. Already, the City has studied a variety of methods to obtain the needed revenue and, on July 22, presented the broad concept of a Transportation Utility Fee (TUF) to a working group of the Veneta City Council. The Council felt the idea was the most promising option and asked the staff to conduct more in-depth research and report back this fall.

“The TUF is essentially a utility fee that pays for street projects,” explained City Development Director Kay Bork. “More than 30 cities in Oregon are already using this fee for a variety of street projects—like sidewalks, new construction, and bike and pedestrian projects.” Veneta would use it to help offset some of the costs of the six-year Pavement Preservation Project (PPP) now taking place (see Veneta City Newsletter, Aug. 2015)

If implemented, the new fee could be added to residents’ utility bills (sewer and water) and generate approximately \$80,000 per year. The Council is committed to pavement preservation and has agreed to allocate about \$425,000 per year for those projects, or \$3.46 million over six-years.

“We are exploring how the fee would be implemented and structured, who would pay it, and how much they would be charged,” Bork explained. It could be a flat fee in which every household pays the same amount, or rates could differ between commercial and residential.

Extensive research on the concept has been done by the League of Oregon Cities, which published a survey on transportation funding. “They looked at gas taxes, TUFs, and other options, and we believe the TUF seems like our best option,” said Bork. “We don’t have a lot of funding options, or revenue sources available to maintain our streets.” According to the League research, about 30 Oregon cities are using such a fee, with costs to households between \$3 and \$5 per month.

Once the analysis is complete, City Staff will report its findings to the Council and hold a Town Hall Meeting to obtain public feedback. The fee could be implemented by January 1, 2016.

Bork encouraged citizens to watch for announcements about Town Hall Meetings so they can have their voices heard and learn more about the need for such funding.

Back to School Tips and Crosswalk Laws

As students prepare to head back to class, now is a good time for motorists to brush up on school driving safety. That means slowing down in school zones and keeping an eye out for children alongside the roads. And, according to Lane County Sheriff’s Office Sgt. Billy Halvorson, drivers should also be familiar with crosswalk laws.

The Oregon State Legislature has revised these laws over the past six years and Halvorson is concerned that many drivers are unclear on the rules. “Whether marked or unmarked, every intersection is a crosswalk,” he said. “Even if there’s no paint, drivers must follow crosswalk rules.” Those rules state that if a pedestrian is at a crosswalk and they make a forward gesture toward the street — whether by extending a foot, a hand, a cane, or a stroller wheel, for instance — motorists must come to a complete stop, and remain stopped until that pedestrian fully

clears pedestrian “buffer zones.” This means the pedestrian not only crosses the lane in which the motorist is waiting, but is also beyond the center turn lane, bike lane, or similar road feature. “If the driver starts moving before the pedestrian is clear, it’s a Class B violation with a base fine of \$260,” Halvorson explained.

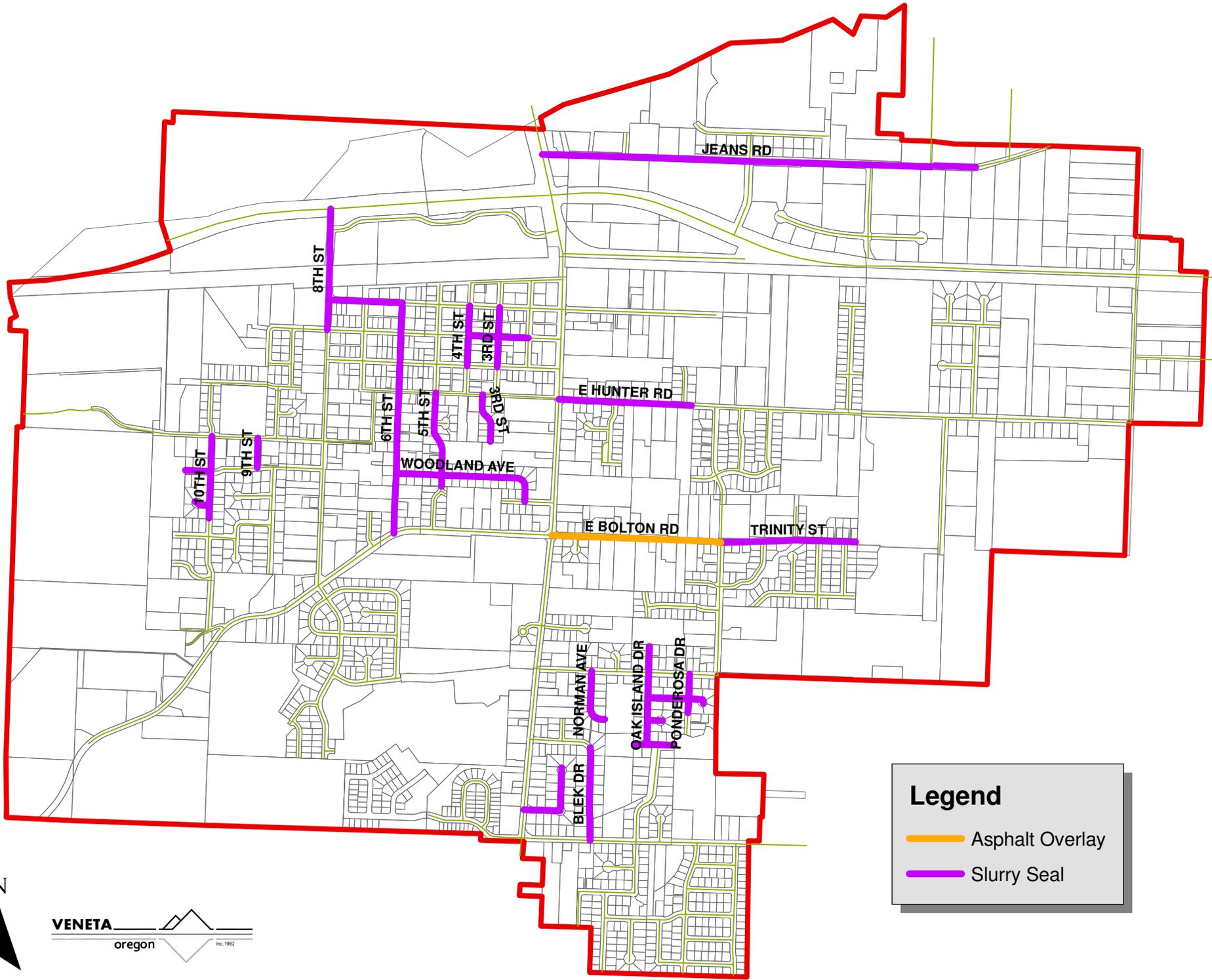
He also reminded drivers to slow down in school zones. “When those lights are flashing, drivers must slow to 20 mph,” said Halvorson. Fines for speeding in a school zone increase incrementally with each 10 mph over the limit. And any violation in a school zone automatically doubles. So violating the crosswalk rule in a school zone, for instance, could yield a citation of more than \$520. But most important, of course, following these rules helps keep our children safe.

VENETA SLURRY SEAL & PAVEMENT REPAIR SCHEDULE - SUMMER 2015

Description	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	8/23/2015	8/24/2015	8/25/2015	8/26/2015	8/27/2015	8/28/2015	8/29/2015
5th Street (closed/patching)							
	8/30/2015	8/31/2015	9/1/2015	9/2/2015	9/3/2015	9/4/2015	9/5/2015
All Project Roads (crack sealing)							
No Work	9/6/2015	9/7/2015	9/8/2015	9/9/2015	9/10/2015	9/11/2015	9/12/2015
	9/13/2015	9/14/2015	9/15/2015	9/16/2015	9/17/2015	9/18/2015	9/19/2015
All Project Roads (slurry seal)							
E Bolton Rd (closed/base prep)							
8th Street (closed/patching)							
	9/20/2015	9/21/2015	9/22/2015	9/23/2015	9/24/2015	9/25/2015	9/26/2015
E Bolton & 8th Streets (patching /overlay)							
All Project Roads (Striping)							
Project Roads: Sections of 3rd, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, E Bolton, Blek, E Hunter, Forest, Norman, Oak Island, Ponderosa, Territorial Court, Trinity, Woodland.							

[Map of Project](#)

Neighbors will be notified at least 24 hours in advance of project



Legend

- Asphalt Overlay
- Slurry Seal