

Phase II of City Park Improvements to Begin

The City of Veneta will soon break ground on Phase Two of the City Park Master Plan, which has been under development since August 2016. The completion of Phase One last summer reinvigorated the space with updated play structures, as well as walking paths, lighting, lawns, benches, and more.

Building on those improvements, Phase Two includes a small covered

stage area, extension of the concrete walking path, installation of adult fitness equipment, path lighting, a pedestrian connection to Ruby Jean Lane, as well as irrigation and landscaping. The project also includes an extension of the pool deck to the north with a built-in shade structure.

"Additionally a walkway to the east will connect to Jameson Way and will open a pedestrian

connection from East Hunter Road near Crystal Street to the park, pool, and the back of Veneta Elementary," explained Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. "We also plan to build a pad with all utilities to accommodate a prefabricated restroom that we are hoping to fund through a grant next year."

Phase Two of the project will cost approximately \$590,000, is paid

for with existing Park and Urban Renewal funds, and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2020.

City Park currently spans five acres. When complete, the three-phase Master Plan will expand the park eastward onto adjacent City-owned property, eventually growing it to as much as 10 acres.

Thomas Laing 1948-2020

In Memory of former City Councilor Thomas Laing

The City of Veneta gratefully remembers City Councilor Tom Laing, who passed away May 4 at the age of 72. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, Laing led a life of service. Though he was still a Scottish citizen, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp in 1966 before graduating from high school. He served a 13-month tour and engaged in 19 combat missions in Vietnam.

Laing served four

years on the Veneta City Council, where he was liaison to the Mid Lane Cares Committee, advocated for public safety and disaster preparedness, and worked on urban renewal. In 2014 he received the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce "Man of the Year" Distinguished Service Award for community service.

Passionate about veterans causes, Laing helped grow the Jack Kelley VFW Post from a handful of members to nearly 170. As Oregon's

VFW State Commander, he worked with legislative affairs in Washington, DC to secure veterans rights. He was honored by the National VFW Commander to participate in a 2010 ceremony to reinter at

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the remains of Vietnam-era casualties.

Laing is survived by his wife, Lolly, five children, 13 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.



CIVIC CALENDAR - JUNE 2020

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

2	Planning Commission Meeting	Cancelled
3	Park Board Meeting	Cancelled
8	City Council Meeting - Includes Public Hearings on use of state shared revenue and the Approved Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget. Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following - Includes Public Hearing on the Approved Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget.	6:30 p.m.
10	Economic Development Comm. Meeting	2:00 p.m.
18	Municipal Court	Postponed
21	Happy Father's Day	
22	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.

Candidates Encouraged to File for Local Elections

With terms expiring on December 31, 2020, City of Veneta residents will elect a Mayor and two City Councilors during the General Election on November 3, 2020. Both the Mayoral and City Council positions are four-year voluntary terms and begin in January 2021.

Prospective candidates can obtain a candi-

date packet to run for these nonpartisan positions by contacting Darci Henneman, City Recorder/Election Official at 541-935-2191. The packet contains required forms and instructions for filing for candidacy, including a candidate signature sheet.

In the City of Veneta, instead of paying a filing

fee, each candidate must collect 20 valid signatures in order to be placed on the ballot. The City Election Official, will review all signature sheets before submitting them to the Lane County Election Official for signature verification. After verification, candidates' names can then be placed on the General Election ballot.

Candidate packets can be picked up beginning June 3, and those interested in running for office are encouraged to schedule a time with Darci to pick up a packet after that date. To meet the August 25 filing deadline, forms must be submitted to Darci no later than August 14 at 3:30 p.m.

Help Keep Veneta Running Smooth

The City of Veneta Public Works crew works hard to maintain the City's water and sewer systems, operate the Veneta Community Pool, maintain City parks, provide animal control, and generally keep your City running smoothly. Residents can help by controlling vegetation and keeping ditches clear on their own properties.

Controlling vegetation growth is not just about making yards look pretty, it's also about safety. Overgrown vegetation could become tinder for a blaze, provide shelter for rodents, collect pollen dust, and generally become a nuisance. It can obstruct views for drivers

on City streets and block access to sidewalks used by us all.

According to the City of Veneta's Municipal Code (8.05.060), property owners or managers are required to prevent noxious weeds or vegetation from growing out of control on their property and from encroaching on the right-of-way of a public thoroughfare abutting the property. The code defines noxious vegetation as weeds and grass more than 10 inches high, poison oak, poison ivy, and blackberry bushes growing into a public thoroughfare or across property lines. It also includes vegetation that presents a health, fire, or traffic

hazard.

Property owners or residents must mow grass and trim or cut down shrubs, bushes, weeds, or other vegetation as often as necessary to prevent it from becoming unsightly or creating a hazard, or, in the case of noxious weeds, going to seed. Failing to do so could result in a citation and possible fines through Veneta Municipal Court.

Residents must also 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 take care not to plug ditches and

drainages or allow brush to inhibit water flow.

"The flow of water should not be impeded in any way," said Public Works Director Kyle Schauer, adding that it is common for city residents who are unaware of this need, to fill in low spots or ditches with leaves or grass clippings. Depositing leaves for other debris in a drainage way or street is a violation of Veneta Municipal Code Chapter 13.15.010.

For additional information, please contact Kyle Schauer or Teresa Warrick at the City of Veneta 541-935-2191.

2019 Consumer Confidence Report Now Available

Please visit our website at www.venetaoregon.gov under "What's New" If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, please call City Hall at 541-935-2191

Pool Updates Will Be Posted on the City Website and Facebook Pages

At this time the City has not made a decision as to whether the pool will be opening this year. You can follow updates that will be posted on our website www.venetaoregon.gov under "What's New" and the City Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cityofveneta>