

City News

September 2023

Bolton Hill Sports Complex - Open House

The City invites you to join us for a glimpse at the future of the Bolton Hill Sports Complex on Wednesday, September 13th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. An open house will take place at the Territorial Sports Program concession area located on Bolton Hill Road in Veneta.

The purpose of the open house is to inform and energize the community about the next phase of planning for the Bolton Hill Sports Complex. City Administrator Matt Michel explained how this project has been a decade in the making.



"Our goal is to make this property useful and design a nice facility for youth and adult leagues," he said.

TSP leadership met with City Council at their Monday, August 28th work session to review an update to the 2011 Master Plan and brainstorm ways to fund the operations and maintenance of the ten-acre Bolton Hill Sports Complex.

Administrator Michel explained that although the Master Plan was completed in 2011,

(See "Open House" on page 3)

2nd Annual Veneta Celebration Run

This year marks the 2nd annual Veneta Celebration Run happening on Sunday, September 24th at 9:00 a.m.

The first year, 85 participants showed up, despite the wet weather. The Run Committee chair person Craig Soderberg explained that the rain was likely because the event took place in May. Hopefully this year participants will experience better weather.



"September is one of the best weather months for Oregon which is why we chose this month for the 2nd annual Veneta Celebration Run," said Soderberg.

The 5K and 10K course starts and ends at Bolton Hill ball field. Along the course, participants will pass by several city parks. Folks should arrive at 8:30 a.m. to check-in for the 9:00 a.m. run. Soderberg said running, walking, and a combination of the two is welcomed.

"Last year we had just as many walkers as runners."

(See "Celebration Run" on page 3)

Welcome Jacob Thode

Jacob Thode is the City's new Management Analyst. Thode originally hails from Vale, Oregon, a small town of 1,800 people. He graduated from the University of Oregon in June 2023 with a master's degree in public administration. He attended the University of Oregon for his undergraduate studies, which he completed in June 2017.

After achieving his bachelor's degree, Thode traveled to Bokod, Benguet, a rural part of the Philippines and joined the Peace Corp. He served as a lecturer, teacher, and community developer.

"I have a passion for bringing people together. Rural development is something that has been on my mind ever since I was a kid. It's something that I have a passion and care for," said Thode.

"I came back here because Oregon is my home. It's where my community is, my family, my friends. It's where I've been able to develop and grow. I want to give back to the community that gave me so much," Thode explained.

He is interested in public service and city management, which is why the position stood out to him.

(See "Jacob" on page 3)

CIVIC CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2023		
All meetings held at City of Veneta, 88184 8th St, unless otherwise noted		
1	Veneta Community Pool Closed for the Season	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
4	Labor Day - City Hall Closed 	Closed
6	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
11	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
12	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
13	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
	Bolton Hill Sports Complex Open House - Bolton Hill Sports Complex 	5:00 p.m.
21	Municipal Court - Cancelled	Cancelled
24	Veneta Celebration Run - Bolton Hill Sports Complex 	9:00 a.m.
25	City Council Work Session Cancelled	Cancelled
29	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- The City is excited about the Oregon Department of Transportation pursuing funding for the first phase of the OR126 Widening project! The first phase is the stretch of OR 126 between the Huston Road intersection and Lakeside Drive. This would construct two intersections, widen the road between them and extend a protected bikepath to Lakeside Drive. Additionally, the City of Veneta will be one of five local presenters to the Oregon Transportation Commission at their September meeting in Eugene. The presentations will address the transportation successes and challenges Lane County communities have experienced. Certainly, the OR 126 Expansion project is both a success and a challenge!
- The City's Facebook page has a short video highlighting actions taken at the August 14th City Council meeting. You can also download it on our agenda page by clicking the little TV icon. It's a big file so it will take some time to download. This is part of the City's Communications Team efforts to adapt to what citizens tell us in surveys about how the City can best communicate with them. The videos will highlight actions taken at the Council's 2nd Monday business meetings, and invite people to learn more at the City's website.

126



PUBLIC WORKS

- The Public Works Team responded to several leaks this month, including a big one on Jeans Road serving Hillbilly Brews. As with most things underground, the lines weren't where you'd expect them to be, but that's what keeps it interesting, right? Later in the month, Public Works team members Justin, Steve, and Michael were called out in the evening for a water main break affecting about 50 customers on Hunter Road near Territorial. The Team got to use the City's new vacuum excavator, which, thankfully,



has lights for night work. They got it taken care of speedily and in the end, our heroes got the job done, again.

- Did you know that every year the City contracts for the pumping of about 330,000 gallons of liquid biosolids out of the Wastewater Treatment Plant lagoons? That liquid is applied over 100+ acres of City-owned land west of Territorial Highway for natural decomposition into the soil.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The City continues working with Lane County on the Elmira-Veneta Multi-Use Path. While the County searches for project funding, we'll start the process for the City donating the right-of-way for the path. It'll be a 50-foot donation from the two lots that the City owns on the west side of Territorial Highway north of the shopping center. The value of the donated land will count towards the City's obligation to contribute 10.62% of State funding for the project.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The City submitted a final report for the \$50,000 Business Oregon Rural Opportunities Investment grant we used over the last two years to enhance the local food entrepreneur sector. Over 30 entrepreneurs participated in the programs that were offered. The grant paid for: 10-weeks of collaborative learning; four Veneta Eats showcases for local food entrepreneurs, multi-week virtual Bootcamps on Google Business, Holiday Market Vending, and Startup; and the City did concept design for the Community Center as a space for a potential commercial kitchen.
- Lane County's new Community & Economic Development Manager Jude Anderson will be the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce's featured guest speaker at their quarterly luncheon on September 14th at the Fern Ridge Service Center.



Volunteer Veneta

Current volunteer opportunities for the City of Veneta and local non-profit organizations.



The City currently has several vacancies. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees, you can contact the City of Veneta at 541-935-2191 or visit our website at www.venetaoregon.gov

City of Veneta

- ◆ Budget Committee - 2 vacancies
- ◆ Economic Development - 1 vacancy
- ◆ Park Board - there are 2 adult vacancies and 2 student vacancies

Mid Lane Cares

There are vacancies for their new shower and laundry program. You can volunteer as little as once a week or once a month. Contact Deanna at 541-935-4555 to find out more.

Senior Meals - We Need Your Help!

Senior & Disability Services relies on dedicated volunteers throughout Lane County to help deliver meals to seniors. You can volunteer as little as two (2) hours per week. YOU can make a DIFFERENCE in your community! For more information, contact a Senior and Disability Services **Volunteer Coordinator** at **541-682-1366**

Open House continued

(Continued from page 1)

funding didn't come through until 2019, when the Urban Renewal Agency expanded its boundary to include the Bolton Hill Sports Complex. A revised Master Plan builds upon what was already there. Now, it's finally time to think about implementation and funding the operations and maintenance costs. Michel said the City can shoulder the cost of building the facility, but not of operating and maintaining it.

"The City is ready to build, but it wouldn't be

prudent to build without having a plan to fund the operation of it first. That's really the pivot point," he said.

The public is encouraged to bring your questions and curiosity to the open house. A concept plan, including the current design for the sports complex, will be unveiled.

"We want to put it on people's radar and cultivate enthusiasm for the future of the Bolton Hill Sports Complex," said Michel.

Celebration Run continued

(Continued from page 1)

hers. We had a lot of people walking as families. The more people participating, the more fun it will be for everybody. We encourage everyone to come out and join in," Soderberg said.

Everyone who enters will receive a goodie bag and some running "bling." The event is open to all ages. Dairy Queen sponsors a kids Dilly Dash, and all Dash participants receive a coupon for a Dilly Bar.

The event costs \$35 for those who pre-register, and \$40 for those who register at the race. All proceeds support local parks. For more information, contact City Hall at 541-935-2191.

SIGN-UP TODAY
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ECLECTICEDGERACING.COM



Jacob continued

(Continued from page 1)

"As a Management Analyst, you can have your hand in a lot of pots," he said.

Thode will be working closely with the Fern Ridge Advocates for the Unhoused Group (FRAUG), the

Economic Development Committee, and the Business Assistance Committee. His focus will be on economic development, community engagement, emergency management, and grant writing.

Keep Drainage Ways Clear

It's always good to be prepared! Late summer is the ideal time to start thinking about the proper maintenance of your drainage ditches. The rain can sometimes reveal unexpected clogs and blockages that prohibit drainage, resulting in flooding and damage to roads and landscaping.

The Public Works Department encourages residents to follow Veneta's Municipal Code, which states that residents must ensure their drainages and ditches are clear and not impeded by leaves or other debris. Depositing leaves or other debris in a drainage

way or street is a violation of that code.

Beginning the first Tuesday in October, the Public Works Department will start picking up bagged leaves that are left curbside. Leaves will be collected weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Alternatively, leaves may be placed in the curbside yard debris bin provided by Sanipac. Leaves can also be used for mulch in gardens and flower beds. Residents are encouraged to manage debris responsibly by avoiding raking leaves into the street, gutters, or storm drains.

Enter Raffle to Win a Tree

The Park Board wants to inspire people to plant, care for, and enjoy the many benefits of trees. Did you know that Veneta has an official designation as a Tree City? We are one of 3,400 other Tree Cities in the United States. On behalf of the Park Board, you are encouraged to enter a raffle to win a tree at the Harvest Festival happening on September 9th!

In addition to engaging with the community by sharing information about the importance of trees, the Park Board will be conducting their raffle for seven ornamental trees. Community Development Director Matt Laird explained that the trees were chosen specifically for small

urban yards like those commonly seen in Veneta.

Laird described most of the trees in the raffle as maples. He said they are native, locally grown, and do well in this climate zone. Two of the trees were purchased, and five of the trees were generously donated by a local nursery.

When entering the raffle, the public is encouraged to seek information about all things relating to Veneta's parks. Park Board Chair Craig Soderberg and other members of the Park Board will be present at the Harvest Festival to answer your questions and share their knowledge about local parks and greenspace.



National Night Out: Recap

Veneta's annual National Night Out happened on Tuesday, August 1st at City Park. The pie eating contest, won by a student at Elmira High School, was especially memorable. The winner received a certificate for a pie from The Frost Queen! City Management Intern Suzannah Burke said there were prizes for all the events, thanks to generous sponsors and donors, including Ray's Food Place, The Frost Queen, VFW, Rogers Towing, and Kiwanis.

Live music was provided by Mixed Reviews. Hot dogs and chips were donated by Sanipac and served by Ignite Veneta Alliance Church. Treats from Kona Ice were available for purchase.

There was an egg toss, a sack race, a pie eating contest, a K9 demonstration, and a self-defense demonstration by students from Duer's ATA Martial Arts. An estimated 300 people attended the 2023 National Night Out event.

"The overall turnout was great. It was fun to see the community get out of the house and spend an evening together. It was especially great watching kids and local law enforcement interact in such a positive environment," said Burke.

She disclosed that they are already talking about plans to improve next year's event—which may or may not include adding a bounce house.



Sergeant Ski Retires



Mayor Weiss, Council President McCoy, and City Administrator Michel attended the retirement ceremony for former Lane County Sheriff's Department Veneta Contract Sergeant Steve Sieczkowski—also known as Sgt. Ski.

Mayor Weiss spoke on behalf of Veneta to express appreciation and admiration of Sgt. Ski in how he took care of the Veneta community from 2017 to 2021.

True to his selfless nature, at his own retirement celebration Sgt. Ski presented an appreciation plaque to Sheriff Cliff Harrold for his mentorship and friendship. All in all, a special occasion. In retirement, Ski and his wife plan to explore America and places beyond!

Public Safety Report - July 2023

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Same Month/ Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Same Month/ Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, UUV, UEMV, Fraud)	33	42	37	13	10	16
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassment, Viol. Restraining Order)	34	33	36	6	6	1
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact, Suspicious activity)	65	60	68	1	3	5
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks, Missing Persons, Overdose)	22	34	26	4	2	5
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking/Vehicles, Traffic Hazard)	17	24	37	3	6	6
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	6	2	10	2	4	7
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	11	10	13	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	102				1	
Total	102	188	205	227	30	40