

City News

May 2023

Craig Soderberg Recognized as Volunteer of the Year

The 55th Annual Distinguished Service Awards took place on Thursday, April 13th at the Fern Ridge Service Center. A tradition that has continued for more than fifty years, the event plays an important role formally recognizing vital community efforts. The evening was organized by the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce and hosted by Mid Lane Cares Board President Pat Coy.

Craig Soderberg was the City of Veneta's nomination for Volunteer of the Year. Since 2006, Soderberg

has served on the Park Board. He retired last year and his involvement on the Park Board has increased. He is spearheading the effort to host a 2nd Veneta Celebration Run and provided key leadership on the Egg Hunt subcommittee. Soderberg is Chairman of the Park Board and has served on the Veneta Planning Commission since 2018.

"Craig Soderberg has done a really exceptional job of stepping up and volunteering this year. Craig

(See "Craig" on page 2)

Preparing for Opening Day at Veneta Community Pool

Outdoor swimming pools are universally celebrated in summertime, and Veneta is no exception. The community pool is an incredible asset for a town of our size and has even proven appealing to people from outside the city. Nonresidents accounted for 20% of total pool usage in 2022. The Veneta Community Pool is scheduled to open for the 2023 season on Saturday, June 17th and preparations are well underway.

2023 is expected to bring a lot of pool activity, giv-

City of Veneta



en that COVID-related concerns have eased up and reports from last year indicate a significant uptick in pool usage. Pool Manager Stacy Cornelius has been hard at work recruiting lifeguards and swim instructors for the 2023 season. It is important that swim instructors are thoroughly trained and certified so that they can support pool goers in a fun and safe environment.

Cornelius explained that recruiting staff is always a bit

(See "Pool" on page 2)

Egg-Cellent Egg Hunt

The 37th annual Easter Egg Hunt took place on Saturday, April 23rd at Veneta Elementary School. Attendees reportedly had an egg-cellent time! An estimated 275 children ages 1-10 participated in the annual event, which included an Easter egg hunt, appearances from the Easter Bunny and Carrot mascot, and Mayor Bunny (Keith Weiss) presiding. The event's success was dependent upon a number of key community members and organizations who should be recognized for their contributions!

Easter Egg Hunt sponsors included Dairy Queen, Fern Ridge Library, Broadway Grill, Fern Ridge Kiwanis, Veneta Park Board, Tracy Robinson DDS, Encounter Church, Countryside Pizza, Salon on 5th and the City of Veneta.

A generous donation from Sanipac resulted in new event signage. Veneta Elementary School Principal Lisa Leatham and Facilities Director Jeff Theissen were instrumental in the success of this community event. And the Fern Ridge Scouts,

(See "Egg Hunt" on page 2)



CIVIC CALENDAR May 2023

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

2	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
3	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
6	City-Wide Cleanup	8:00 a.m. 
8	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
10	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
14	Mother's Day	
18	City Council Joint Work Session, Fern Ridge Service Center, 25035 W Broadway	3:30 p.m.
20	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
25	Veneta Eats, Fern Ridge Service Center	6:00 p.m.
26	Business Assistance Committee	9:00 a.m.
29	Memorial Day, City Hall Closed	 CLOSED

It's Backflow Testing Time



If you have underground sprinklers, they must be tested yearly to make certain they are working properly in order to keep our drinking water safe. The 1st round of letters have been mailed and tests are due May 5th. To find out more about our backflow program or to find a list of certified backflow testers, please visit our website: <https://www.venetaoregon.gov/244/Backflow-Cross-Connection>



Craig, continued

has a wonderful positive energy, which when coupled with his keen sense of humor makes him a joy to be around. He's action-oriented and gathers people around to accomplish tasks that make Veneta the world-class small town we want it to be. Craig has always been there for Veneta and somehow he finds the time and energy to give even more. For this reason, Craig has shown himself to be a community treasure," stated City Administrator Matt Michel.

At the Distinguished Service Awards, Soderberg was presented with a rock with the word "Unless" inscribed across it. The gift was in reference to the Dr. Seuss quote in The Lorax, "Unless someone like you

cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Soderberg had this to say: "When they told me I was Volunteer of the Year, I thought it was nice. But most volunteers I know do it for the community and because of passions they have, not winning awards. It just made me appreciate this community even more."

Along with his leadership roles, Soderberg is recognized for his efforts protecting trees and advocating for the value of urban green space.



Pool, continued

of a challenge, but that they actively attract candidates who "have a love for swimming, like to be in the sun, are social, active, and engaged."

Aside from rounding up enough staff to run the seasonal facility, there have been the typical maintenance preparations that come with making sure the pool equipment is in good working condition after a long winter. The pool season generally runs from opening day



through September 1st. The community pool offers lap swimming, group swimming lessons, private swimming lessons, use of the kiddie pool, and more. "We are looking forward to another successful season," said Public Works Director Kyle Schauer.

For more information please visit www.venetaoregon.gov or call 541-935-4390 during seasonal operating hours.

Egg Hunt, continued

including leader Daniel Phillips, deserve recognition. Fern Ridge Neighborhood Watch served an important role protecting the sidewalks and a number of volunteers were involved in planning and assisting in the event.

"We were lucky to hit a nice weather window that held the rain off until right after the event," said Public Works Director Kyle Schauer.



Paths and Trails Survey and Community Meeting

The City of Veneta is exploring a network of paths and trails to connect community destinations. Weigh in on the Paths and Trails Master Plan now until mid-May to share your thoughts on the future of paths and trails in Veneta.



Visit bit.ly/VenetaPathsTrailsPlan to take the project survey. Or scan the QR code to the left to go directly to the survey.

Do you use paths or trails around Veneta? Do you wish there were paths or trails that fit your needs? Then we want to hear from you! Come share your thoughts on current and future paths and trails around Veneta at our second community meeting



When: Tuesday, May 16th

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: Veneta Elementary School Library

Community Survey Results

Results from the citywide Community Survey have been reviewed and a final survey report has been completed. The survey was issued in January and collected the first week of February. 352 respondents participated in the Community Survey, which was designed to assess the overall satisfaction of Veneta residents in terms of livability, mobility, city services, and more. The City of Veneta released the Community Survey as a result of the previous Communications Survey, collected in August 2022, which indicated that residents wanted more opportunities to provide their input.

"People told us they wanted it, so we gave it to them. The City is happy to see that people took advantage of that," said Management Analyst Cole Haselip.

The survey revealed that 97% of people are satisfied with the overall quality of life in Veneta, and yet there is room for improvement in terms of things like economic development, job opportunities, and starting and running a business. Key components of the survey included transportation, parks and recreation, governance, safety, economics, and more.

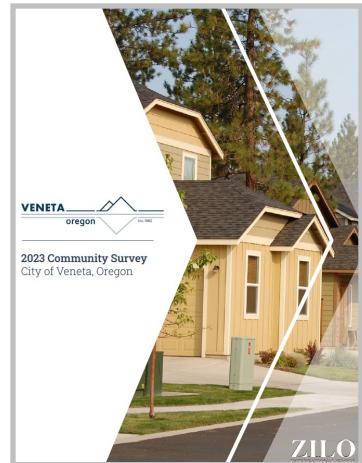
"We were happy to give people that opportunity to influence the way their community develops into the future and have an impact on the level of service we

provide here at the City. People told us overall they are satisfied, that Veneta is a good place to live, and provided their suggestions for improvements in certain areas," explained Haselip.

The Community Survey results will inform future strategic planning. This is the first year the City has conducted such a survey, and the next of its kind will come out in early 2025 and continue every two years.

In addition to the Community Survey, the City will host an upcoming Town Hall to receive even more public input on City planning and decision making. Responses will be used to guide the development of the City budget and two-year work plan. Stay tuned for more opportunities to be involved!

To view the full Community Survey report please visit www.venetaoregon.gov. The survey is viewable from the homepage.



ZILO

If I Were Mayor Contest Winners Announced

Join us in celebrating the winners of the local If I Were Mayor contest! The first place winner is Paislie Lamborn and the second place winner is Kenley Breaux; both are students at Elmira Elementary School.

If I Were Mayor is a statewide contest meant to encourage youngsters to start thinking about ways they can begin taking civic responsibility within their local communities. The contest is voluntary, meaning that it was not an assignment. Students Paislie Lamborn and Kenley Breaux turned their completed "posters" into their teachers, who then handed them over to Mayor Keith Weiss for review.

Paislie Lamborn's first place poster depicted words and drawings related to the prompt "Four Things I Would Do If I Were Mayor."

Her responses were:

1. Every time it was someone's birthday I would send them a birthday card
2. Fireworks every Fourth of July
3. A huge Easter egg hunt every Easter
4. Be kind all the time

Mayor Weiss responded that it was very thoughtful, they were good suggestions, and it is important to be kind all the time. Paislie Lamborn received a \$50 gift card to Target, a certificate for winning first place,

and will be entered into the statewide If I Were Mayor contest.

Both participants attended a recent City Council meeting to receive their awards and take their picture with Mayor Weiss.

Congratulations to Paislie Lamborn and Kenley Breaux for winning first and second place in the If I Were Mayor contest!



"Be kind all the time"
says First Place Winner Paislie



Congratulations Kenley!



May 25th 6:00-8:00pm Fern Ridge Service Center

**25035 W Broadway Ave,
Veneta, OR 97487**

Join us for a fun, informative, and delicious night with free food samples from:

**Brookings Food Carts
Kento's**

Live music provided by:

The Vineyard Collective

Guest speaker:

Robert Killan



**LIVE
MUSIC**

**FREE
FOOD**

Email apowell@ci.veneta.or.us with any questions





CURBSIDE COMPOSTING

NOW AVAILABLE with SANIPAC for all
Veneta Yard Debris Customers!

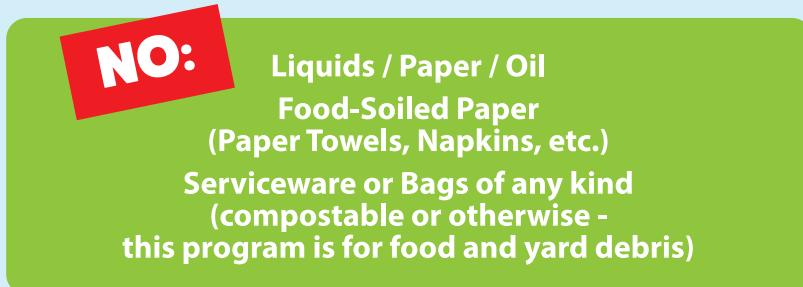
Those who have Sanipac's residential garbage service now have the option to put food waste in their yard debris bin instead of in the garbage! We toss more than 40 million pounds of food into local landfills each year and half of this waste comes from homes. Composting waste allows us to use this material for something useful while also reducing harmful greenhouse emissions.

This mixed food waste and yard debris pickup will be turned into nutrient-rich compost by local processors.

What goes in the bin?



Visit www.sanipac.com for more info or to check out our Curbside Composting Video with "Sluggo" from the Eugene Emeralds!



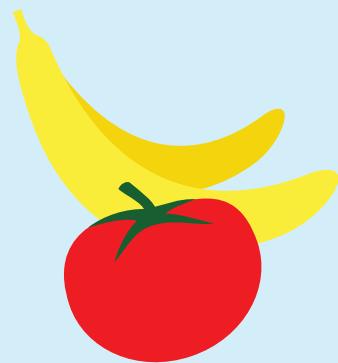


CURBSIDE COMPOSTING

**NOW AVAILABLE with SANIPAC for all
Veneta Yard Debris Customers!**

How to Start Composting Food Waste:

- Place a sealable container in a convenient location in your kitchen
- Toss in all food scraps and plate scrapings
- Empty your kitchen container into your yard debris bin, along with your yard debris in layers. There will be no changes to your pickup schedule
- Check out our Curbside Composting video with Eugene Emerald's Sluggo at our website www.sanipac.com



Kitchen Container Tips:

- Empty your container into your yard debris bin frequently.
- Drain excess liquids down the sink
- Clean your kitchen container regularly
- Shut the lid of your container and bin when not in use

Roll Cart Tips:

- Clean your yard debris bin regularly. Do this in a gravel or grassy area, not allowing run-off or debris to enter the stormwater drain at the street
- Sprinkle baking soda at the bottom of your yard debris cart to keep odors down
- Maintain a good mix of yard debris and food scraps in your bin when possible
- Store containers in a shady area
- Even if your yard debris bin isn't very full, be sure to bring it to the curb on every collection day
- Freeze or refrigerate food scraps until you dump into your yard debris bin



What goes in the bin?

YES: Yard debris, plant trimmings, floral waste, plate scrapings, meat, bones, dairy products, baked goods, fruits and vegetables.

NO: Liquids, serviceware of any kind (compost or otherwise - this program is for food and yard debris only), paper, oil, food-soiled paper (paper towels, napkins, etc.)

Sanipac
www.sanipac.com

541-736-3600

cust2013@wasteconnections.com



**DOWNLOAD
NOW!**

Our Convenient App Includes:

- Updates
- Pick-up day reminders
- What's new in Recycling