

City News

January 2026

Bright Lights, Big Smiles to End the Year!

Veneta's annual Tree Lighting on Thursday, December 4th at Veneta Elementary was a festive gathering that attracted over 500 spectators. The community celebrated the season with music, holiday spirit, and hot chocolate! Unfortunately, Fern Ridge Kiwanis ran out of cocoa, but everyone still enjoyed the 25-foot Christmas tree and a visit from Santa.

This year's 22nd Annual Light Parade

kicked off with your Veneta City Council leading the way. On December 11th, Mayor McCoy, Council President Coy, and Councilors Wright, Benson, and Voltz joined more than 54 other floats in what has become the town's favorite event. The parade route was packed with families and kids enjoying a fun-filled night of lights.

Light Parade award winners:

(See "Bright Lights" page 3)

Welcome New Park Board Members

The City of Veneta has appointed Betsy Ingram as the newest member of the Park Board. Ingram relocated to Veneta after a long career in education, serving as a teacher, university supervisor, and program leader with a focus on special education and literacy. She brings decades of experience working with youth, families, and community organizations, and has held leadership roles in schools and professional associations.



Mayor's Corner

What a fantastic and festive start to December!

Veneta kicked off the holiday season in the best way possible with an unforgettable

Tree Lighting celebration. We had record attendance and an amazing community turnout—so much so that our friends at the Fern Ridge Kiwanis ran out of hot cocoa! The night was filled with smiles, laughter, and plenty of holiday cheer, making it a truly special evening for all.

The Light Parade was just as incredible. Council President Pat Coy, Councilors Wright, Benson, Voltz, and I had so much fun leading the parade. With more than 54 entries and thousands of residents lining the route, it was heartwarming to see children, teens, and adults all sharing in the joy of the season.

A big thank you to the Veneta–Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, City of Veneta, Veneta Elementary, and all the volunteers and sponsors whose dedication made these celebrations pos-

Ingram is an active pickleball player and cyclist, so you're likely to see her on the court or riding past. She has a strong personal interest in outdoor spaces, recreation, and fostering healthy, connected communities. The City of Veneta appreciates her willingness to contribute her time and expertise to the Park Board.



(See "Park Board" on page 3)

CIVIC CALENDAR JANUARY 2026

All meetings held at City of Veneta
88184 8th St, unless otherwise noted

1	<i>Happy New Year!</i>	Closed
6	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
7	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
12	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
15	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
19	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	Closed
21	Economic Development Committee	3:30 p.m.
26	City Council Work Session	6:30 p.m.

(See "Mayor's Corner" page 3)

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- Congratulations to City Recorder Jen Mirable for completing her year-long journey to qualify for the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation! To earn the CMC designation, a municipal clerk must attend a week-long education program and online trainings. The CMC designation also requires two years of experience in a municipality. Jen started her journey last October so she'll receive her certificate on her eligibility date next October 31st. Way to go, Jen!
- Management Analyst Jacob Thode, Community Development Director Kevin Urban, and Public Works Director Kyle Schauer all attended a 2-day Incident Command training in Eugene that focused on managing complex and large-scale incidents. This was the ICS-400 training that builds upon the foundational knowledge of ICS 100, 200, and 300 certificate trainings. Last month they took the 3-day ICS-300 training in Eugene. Taking valuable time to get trained on how to function effectively in a catastrophic emergency is investing in Veneta's ability to serve our residents when, not if, the Cascadia earthquake happens. With these trainings, the City will be ready to help our residents be safe as they navigate the aftermath of a major disaster.
- We have a new City Management and Communications Intern! Welcome Marlon Harris to Team Veneta! He's a UO senior majoring in Planning, Public Policy & Management, with a minor in Environmental Studies. Marlon was a member of the UO student team that this past Spring designed and delivered a survey about development ideas for the City's downtown block. Interesting fact about Marlon: He's also a woodworking studio technician at UO!
- The Population Research Center at Portland State University published the State's official 2025 preliminary population estimates. Veneta's estimate is 5,300. The information was based on Veneta's July 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2025 completed homes/certificate of occupancy. We expect that next year's numbers will be much higher because of the housing developments on Jeans Road and E. Hunter Road.



- High Fives to Office Support Specialist III Teresa Warrick and Administration Supervisor Ann Haxby for automating the City's annual Business License Registration process! Previously a paper letter was generated and mailed and we collected payments without connecting the payment back to the bill. Now there will be better records for the amount we are expecting to receive, we can follow up with those that forget to pay, and the payments received through cash receipting will be tied to an account in Business License module. We will be able to use this for other "registration/permit" billings related to administration like alcohol permits. Sounds like a good time-saving change!

PUBLIC WORKS

- A Tip of the Hat to the City's Public Works Team for the success of the City's leaf pick-up program. We received an appreciative email from a resident on Oak Island Drive who had cleaned out a storm ditch on their property, bagged up the leaf debris for pick-up, and the Public works Team came by and picked up the bags for disposal. Just another example of a government being of the people, for the people, and by the people.
- The wind storms in early December had the City's wastewater treatment plant running its generator 24/7 for over two days. We were burning through a lot of diesel, but Lane Electric crews made it out to Veneta to restore power to Sertic Road houses and they also got the Treatment Plant's power restored. Lane Electric General Manager Scott Coe stopped by City Hall to pay a visit let us know that they were on site in town.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- High Five to Associate Planner Daniel Findlay for continuing the City's winning ways as a Tree City! He gathered the data and submitted the City's application that was officially approved by the Arbor Day Foundation.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- High Five to Management Analyst Jacob Thode for winning a \$40,000 Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development Technical Assistance grant award to assist with the City's Economic Opportunity Analysis update!

Bright Lights cont...

- **First Place:** David Sears & Santa
- **Second Place:** West Valley Dance Studio
- **Third Place:** Lane Electric
- **Judges' Choice:** Orchid Health
- **Honorable Mention:** Oregon Trail District Scouts

A big **THANK YOU** to the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce for producing another world-class small-town event!



Park Board cont...

In addition, student members Kendal Moellar and Aubree Rodgers will continue to serve for another year. Their ongoing participation pro-

vides valuable perspective as the Park Board plans for the future of Veneta's parks and recreation programs.

On Saturday, December 13th, **Mid Lane Cares' Sharing Among Neighbors Toy Appeal (S.A.N.T.A.) Project** provided 400 children in the area with new books, toys, and other gifts. All of S.A.N.T.A.'s amazing volunteers and elves eagerly waited at the Veneta Elementary gym to give gifts to families from both the Fern Ridge and Crow-Applegate-Lorane school districts.



Volunteer for the City of Veneta!

The City of Veneta is seeking applicants for one Budget Committee vacancy. Apply by January 31, 2026 using the Boards and Committees application. Applications are available on the City website at www.venetaoregon.gov or by contacting City Hall to request an emailed copy.



Water & Sewer Rate Adjustments Begin January 1, 2026

City Council approved a **3% water rate adjustment** and **2% sewer rate adjustment**, effective January 1, 2026. These adjustments help support essential services and upcoming infrastructure projects.

Learn more at www.venetaoregon.gov or call 541-935-2191

New Monthly Code Enforcement Report

Starting this month, we're introducing a new feature in our newsletter: the **Code Enforcement Report**. This chart will provide a clear, transparent look at how code enforcement issues are being addressed in our community.

Each month, these numbers are shared with the City Council, and now we're making them a regular feature in our newsletter. The chart will include key metrics such as:

- **Type of violation reported**
- **Type of notice sent**
- **Number of each type of violation**

Our goal is to keep residents informed and maintain accountability in how we handle code enforcement. By sharing this data, we hope to strengthen trust and encourage community involvement in maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

Look for more code enforcement articles in the coming months, including Understanding Code Enforcement and the Life Cycle of a Complaint. To report a code violation fill out our complaint form on the City of Veneta website at www.venetaoregon.gov

Code Enforcement Report - November 2025

Notice Type/Violation	High Grass	Animal Control	Nuisances	Vehicles	Parking
Courtesy Notice	2	5	0	4	4
Voluntary Compliance					2
Enforcement Notice					1
Final Enforcement Notice					0
Citation Issued					1
Closed Cases					2

Public Safety Report - November 2025

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	19	30	29	3	10	12
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	15	25	23	2	1	5
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	36	87	58	0	0	1
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	10	32	17	1	2	2
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	15	15	20	4	1	3
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	2	3	7	2	3	4
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	22	3	10	0	25	5
Traffic Stops	27	17	22	0	0	0
Total	146	212	186	12	42	32



US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Fern Ridge Public Meetings



Free & open to the public



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is gathering public input on the development of a Master Plan for Fern Ridge Lake. The Master Plan will guide the future management of the area's natural and man-made resources. We want your feedback on topics like recreation, fish and wildlife, vegetation, historical/cultural resources, and wetlands. At this meeting, we'll present the process to update the 1988 Master Plan, answer your questions, and ask for your input to help shape the new plan.

Virtual Meeting

**Wednesday,
January 21, 2026
1 – 2:30pm**

**Meeting login will be posted here:
www.nwp.usace.army.mil/MasterPlans**

In-Person Meeting Veneta

**Saturday,
January 24, 2026
9 – 11am**

**Veneta Community Center
25192 E. Broadway Ave
Veneta, OR 97487**

For More Information: www.nwp.usace.army.mil/MasterPlans

CITY OF VENETA

2026 COMMUNICATION SURVEY

The City of Veneta evaluates its communication channels every three years to ensure we remain aligned with and responsive to the communication needs of our residents. Your input is essential in helping us improve how we share information with the community.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR SURVEY BY MONDAY 2/9/2026

How to return your survey: Drop off at City Hall 88184 8th St.,
or Mail to PO Box 458, Veneta, Oregon 97487

To fill out the survey electronically: go to www.venetaoregon.gov, or scan the QR Code



COMMUNICATION CONTENT AREAS

The City of Veneta wants to know what you would like to know about the City.

1. What information would you like the City to share? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works (Sewer, Streets, Water, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings & Opportunities for Public Involvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety & Law Enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & City Pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility Billing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Laws & Regulations | |

2. What are some of the other types of information that you would like the City to share?

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

The City of Veneta wants to know which communications channels you currently use, prefer to use, and would like us to use to share City of Veneta information and news.

3. In the last 12 months, which of the following, if any, have you used to get information about the City of Veneta government? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Website | <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Facebook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Instagram |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify) _____ | |
-
-

4. How would you most like to receive information from the City of Veneta? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Website | <input type="checkbox"/> City Email Notifications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> City Text Notifications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> In-Person Events (Annual April Open House, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Instagram | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify) _____ | |
-

GRADE OUR PERFORMANCE

The City of Veneta would like to learn about your satisfaction with City communication channels and activities.

5. Grade the City of Veneta's performance on the following communication channels:

	Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
City of Veneta Facebook Page	<input type="checkbox"/>				
City of Veneta Monthly Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>				
City of Veneta Website	<input type="checkbox"/>				

6. Grade the City of Veneta's performance on the following communications content:

	Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Providing Opportunities for Public Comment	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sharing How the Public can Participate in City Decision Making	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Promoting City Participation in Community Events	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Promoting City Business Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Promoting Public Works Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Promoting Economic Development Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Promoting Current & Planned Development Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other (Please Specify): _____					

Community Engagement

The City of Veneta would like to know how to better engage the community in the City's decision-making process.

7. How informed do you feel about issues affecting the City of Veneta? (circle one)



Not at all informed on any issues.



I know a little about major issues. I don't know anything about minor issues.



I am well informed on major issues. I know a little about minor issues.



I am well informed on major issues and minor issues



I am very well informed on all City issues, major and minor.

8. How important is it for you to provide public input on City decision-making? (choose one)

- Very, I want to provide public input
- I don't need to provide public input because things are fine
- It is only important to provide public input if there is an issue being discussed that I care about
- I am too busy to provide public input
- It wouldn't make a difference if I did
- I have no interest in ever providing public input
- Other (Please Specify) _____

9. How could the City of Veneta increase public input on City decision making? (check all that apply)

(Based on the City's 2022 Communication Survey, the City implemented "Annual Town Hall" style meetings every April and Video Summaries of City Council meetings)

- Increased Advertisement of City Business Meetings
 - Virtual City Council Meetings (Ex: Zoom)
 - Use an Annual City Performance Survey to inform City planning & initiatives.
 - Create a "City Academy" Course to Educate Residents on the City of Veneta's Local Government
 - Other (Please Specify) _____
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DEMOGRAPHICS INFORMATION AND OTHER COMMENTS

The City of Veneta would like to know a little bit about who you are and give you a chance to leave any final comments on our communications.

10. Are you a City of Veneta resident? Yes No

11. Do you commute to work outside of the City of Veneta? No
 Yes, less than 10 minutes
 Yes, 10 - 20 minutes
 Yes, more than 20 minutes

12. What is your age group? Under 18 45-54
 18-24 55-64
 25-34 65+
 35-44

13. Do you have any other feedback to help improve the City of Veneta's Communications?

14. How and where would be a good way to have City staff and/or Veneta City Council available for you to answer questions you may have about living in Veneta?

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