

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City News

Transportation Utility Fee (TUF) to Pay for Street Projects

With the proposed Fern Ridge Community Policing District (FRCPD) failing to advance to the May ballot, the Veneta City Council is now moving forward with a previously proposed Transportation Utility Fee (TUF). The Veneta City Council had considered the TUF concept last fall while seeking a fair and equitable method to fund needed work on the local street network.

“The TUF is essentially a utility fee that helps pay for street projects,” explained Community Development Director Kay Bork. “More than 30 cities in Oregon are already using a similar fee for a variety of street projects—like pavement preservation, sidewalks, new construction, and bike and pedestrian projects.” Veneta would use it to help offset some of the costs associated with its 3.2 million six-year Pavement Preservation Project (PPP) now taking place (see Veneta City Newsletter Aug. 2015)

The Council had concluded that the TUF was the most equitable funding option and was considering it last fall. But when the FRCPD was proposed,

the TUF idea was tabled. Had the policing district been placed on the ballot and passed, the City would have realized savings between its current law enforcement contract and the lower cost of the district. Some of those savings would have been redirected to the street fund in lieu of the TUF. Because that did not occur, the City revisited the TUF discussion at the March 28 City Council meeting.

An ordinance necessary to implement the TUF has been drafted and, if adopted, the TUF will likely take effect July 1, 2016. Residents will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed fee at the April 11th and May 9th City Council meetings or during any Public Comment period at a regular City Council meeting.

“Utility account holders will see a change on their bill late this summer, with TUF likely to be \$3 to \$4 per household for residential accounts, \$6 to \$7 for commercial accounts, and reflected as a separate item on their monthly bill,” said Bork.

Changes Coming to Utility Bills

City residents will soon see changes to their utility bills, affecting due dates, grace periods, shutoff notices for late bills, and more. “The changes will improve the efficiency and consistency of the system overall,” explained City Finance Director Shauna Hartz.

Customers will be given more time between the receipt of their bill and its due date, but there will be less time between the due date and the issuance of a late notice, she said. The City may also discontinue the practice of hanging a service shut-off notice on a resident’s front door. “These notices cost all ratepayers, as City staff must generate and then deliver them. So we’ll develop a more efficient way to issue these notices.”

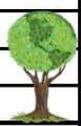
In addition, utility bills will soon include a new Transportation Utility Fee, or TUF (see related article)

Details about these changes are now being codified as the City simultaneously updates its sewer and

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CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - APRIL 2016

Veneta City Hall - 88184 8th Street, Veneta, Oregon

5	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
6	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
11	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency meeting immediately following	6:30 p.m.
13	Veneta Economic Development Committee Meeting - City Hall	2:00 p.m.
15	Earth Day Celebration - Veneta Elementary, 88131 Territorial Rd.	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
21	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
25	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
29	National Arbor Day 	
30	Meet Sgt. Halvorson (Lane County Sheriff's Office contract Sergeant for the City of Veneta) - Fern Ridge Library	1:00 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 Public Library, Fern Ridge School District 28J, and Lane Fire Authority

Prescription Drug Take-Back Event

On Saturday, April 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Veneta will participate in the 11th Annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. During the event, Lane County Sheriff's Office representatives will accept unwanted, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs. This initiative aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Prescription drug disposal is a vital public safety and public health issue. Many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that many abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused

medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards. And prescription drugs that are flushed can remain in the local water supply and impact humans as well as fish and wildlife. Cleaning out your medicine cabinet can help make your community safe from these hazards.

"There's no reason to hesitate about bringing in prescription drugs, even if they aren't your own," said LCSO Sgt. Billy C. Halvorson. "Many people bring leftover medications from family members, and we truly appreciate it."

In one four-year period of Take-Back events nationwide, nearly 2.5 tons of drugs were collected. Here in Veneta, the last event in 2014 took more than 300 pounds of drugs out of circulation. As was the case in 2014 this year's event will take place at the local Bi-Mart on Jeans Rd. For more information contact City Hall 541-935-2191.

Celebrating Earth Day and Distinguished Service Awards

Each spring, Veneta celebrates our world and those who make it better, with an Earth Day observation and a Distinguished Service Awards (DSA) ceremony.

On April 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Veneta Elementary School (VES) will host the annual Earth Day Celebration, which will feature more than 20 booths, including the ever-popular Zany Zoo animals. Activities will also be sponsored by EPUD, Lane Electric, University of Oregon, the Army Corp of Engineers, the City of Veneta Park Board, local artists, and much more.

"Participants will not only learn about the natural world, but will also have the opportunity to create works of art and musical instruments from recycled items, to plant seeds, to learn about local geology, and more," said VES Principal Olivia Johnson. "Activities are designed to engage people in hands-on learning."

The Celebration is open to the community and is made possible by hard work of the VES staff, the Park Board, private companies, and volunteers. "It is a great example of what can be achieved when we all work together," Johnson said.

Then, on Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m., the Kiwanis Club of Fern Ridge and the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce will host the 50th Annual DSAs, during which recipients are honored based on nominations from their fellow community members.

"Last year, we recognized 30 volunteers, employees, and students, in addition to the annual Woman, Man, and Business of the year and Lifetime Achievement award winners," said DSA Chair Jason Alansky of Banner Bank. Last year's recipients ranged from the director of an elder care facility, to a teacher, to a feral cat trapper.

Attendance is free and all are welcome. Nominations of individuals or organizations who go out of their way to serve their community will be accepted until April 8th. Forms are available at Banner Bank or the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, both in the West Lane Shopping Center or nominations that include your name, the name of the nominee, and a brief description of why the candidate deserves to be honored, can be emailed to JAlansky@bannerbank.com.

This year's awards ceremony will be held at Crow Applegate Elementary School.

Changes Coming to Utility Bills Cont....

storm water ordinances. Once this work is final, the City will share information about the changes on its website as well as in this newsletter. Both the ordinances and new billing policies will take effect this summer.

Veneta City Wide Clean-Up



Saturday May 7th, 2016

8 am to 4 pm * 5th St & Bolton Hill

This City Wide Clean-Up is **FREE OF CHARGE** and limited to residents within the City of Veneta. Take this time to clean up your home, yard, neighborhood and City streets



FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE ITEMS THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED:

- Yard debris
 - Limbs
 - Weeds
 - Grass clippings
- Wood
- Metal
- Appliances
- Recyclables
- Tires (limit 4 per household; tires must be off rims)
- Personal documents for shredding
- St. Vincent DePaul trailer for donations of gently used household items

Hazardous materials and household trash will not be accepted.

For more information, please contact Kyle Schauer at City Hall, 541-935-2191 or visit www.venetaoregon.gov



Got **Drugs?**

Turn in your unused or expired
medication for safe disposal
Saturday, April 30th,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Visit www.dea.gov
or call 800-882-9539
for a collection
site near you

unused

Rx

Collection Site for Veneta
Bi-Mart - 25126 Jeans Rd
April 30, 2016
10:00am-2:00pm