

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City News

Local Election Decides Major Issues

Last month's elections decided important issues and representation for the City of Veneta. Sandra Larson will remain Veneta's Mayor and Tom Laing retains his seat on the City Council. As of press time, though, Lane County had not yet certified the election results, leaving the position held by interim City Councilor Laura Ruff uncertain.

Several important local ballot measures were decided as well.

Voters approved the City of Veneta's

tax on recreational marijuana (ballot measure 20-246), by a margin of 64 to 36 percent. "The city felt the marijuana retail tax was fairly non-controversial and that it would pass," said City Administrator Ric Ingham. The tax revenue, which could range from \$8,000 to \$20,000, will be split evenly between the law enforcement fund and the parks and recreation fund. Lane County's marijuana tax (ballot measure 20-261) passed as well, but it is important to

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Neighborhood Watch Groups Grow

The Fern Ridge Area/Veneta Neighborhood Watch Program has been growing steadily since the program began three years ago. Its goal is to encourage cooperation between the community and the City's law enforcement officials to help fight and prevent crime. Group members can volunteer as much or as little time as they can afford, but the emphasis is on getting to know your neighbor and knowing what's going on in your neighborhood. And there are many ways to get involved. "The organization is looking for new members and watch captains who may want to start up their own group, or join existing groups," said Veneta City Administrator Ric Ingham.

Fern Ridge Neighborhood Watch Groups (FRNW) are now well established in various neighborhoods both in and around

Veneta. The Hunter Heights Group off Hunter Rd. and Pine St. comprises 14 members. A group of 16 neighbors participate in the Perkins Country Estates Watch Group. Shalimar Country Estate Mobile Park has 16 member homes. The Fern View Neighborhood Watch Group off Hunter Rd. is 14 members strong, and Fern Meadows comprises 10. The Bushy Tail Lane Group off of Elmaker Rd. includes four residents who live outside of Veneta.

Currently, the eight-member Patrol Group (a vehicle-based watch group) drives Veneta and surrounding roads and reports suspicious activities to the local law enforcement. Any FRNW participant can apply to participate in the Patrol Group.

Volunteers are currently discussing the

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Light Parade Ready to Roll!

It's almost time for one of the area's most heartwarming holiday events, as the 13th Annual Fern Ridge Light Parade draws near. On Dec. 8 at 7:00 p.m., dozens of sparkling floats will make their way through town in this treasured community tradition.

Any group, club, organization, or family is encouraged to "put lights on something and join us!" In fact, the more lights, the merrier!

Floats with larger numbers of participants will load at Veneta Elementary School at 6:00 p.m. and stage at Jack Kelley Drive by 6:15 p.m. The parade will roll over the 8th St. Bridge, make its way along W. Broadway, along Territorial, and end at the railroad tracks. A route map can be found by visiting our website

www.venetaoregon.gov and clicking the What's New link.

All entries must submit a registration form. Those submitted by December 6 will pay a \$10 entry fee; after Dec. 6, the fee is \$20. Please contact Veneta- Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce at 541 935-8443 or staff@fernridgechamber.com.

CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2016

Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 8th Street, Veneta, Oregon

| | | | |
|----|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | Tree Lighting - Veneta Elementary - 88131 Territorial Rd. |  | 6:00 p.m. |
| 6 | Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall | | 6:30 p.m. |
| 7 | Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall | | 4:30 p.m. |
| 8 | Light Parade (See reverse for parade route) |  | 7:00 p.m. |
| 12 | Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following City Council Meeting |  | 6:30 p.m. |
| 14 | Veneta Economic Development Committee Meeting - City Hall | | 2:00 p.m. |
| 15 | Municipal Court - City Hall |  | 8:30 a.m. |
| 26 | City Hall closed in Observance of Christmas Holiday | | Closed |
| 26 | Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall | | Cancelled |

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 School District 28J, Fern Ridge Public Library, and Lane Fire Authority

Local Election Decides Major Issues Continued...

note that they “will not result in double taxation within Veneta city limits,” said Mayor Larson

The measure to merge Lane County Fire District 1 with Lane Rural Fire/Rescue (measures 20-267 and 20-268) passed with 85 percent of the vote. According to Fire Chief Terry Ney, the merger will result in cost savings from increased efficiency. Savings will be used to hire one additional paramedic and, for the first time, staff an ambulance at the Veneta Station. For some residents, it will reduce

the cost of homeowners insurance as well.

For the first time in more than a decade, a Fern Ridge Library Levy was rejected (64 to 35 percent). The library had been asking for an increase from .25 per thousand of assessed value to .50 cents. Without the levy, library representatives say they will have to cut back to three days per week, reduce programs and services, and buy just 36 new books and two new media titles per month.

Neighborhood Watch Groups Grow Continued...

formation of new groups for Applegate Landing, Strawberry Lane, Trinity Terrace, and Lindsay Lane. Residents in those areas are highly encouraged to participate.

“One area that is underserved is the West Hunter and 8th St area,” said FRNW Coordinator Liz Killam. “We want to encourage residents to form a watch group to help oversee activities in that area.” Killam hosts meetings each month, or more frequently if necessary, to help guide meetings, provide advice, answer questions, and coordinate for the entire FRNW. Individual neighborhood groups meet as they see fit and group captain meet monthly to discuss group needs and area crime.

The City continues to offer financial support for the

groups by purchasing new street signs, patrol car decals, and starter kits.

To learn more about how to support or join a Neighborhood Watch Group, visit www.lanesheriff.org and select the “Neighborhood Watch” link; call Sgt. Carrie Carver, Lane County Sheriff’s Office, at 541 682-4179; or attend one of Sgt. Scott Denham’s’ monthly meetings at the Fern Ridge Community Library, held on the last Saturday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. To ask specific questions or join a group, email FRNW at frn-wcommunity@yahoo.com. Information is also available on the City of Veneta website www.venetaoregon.gov

Winter Disaster Tips

Everyone enjoys a beautiful snowfall, and school kids pray for snow days. But powerful windstorms, freezing rain, high water, ice, and snow can cause frozen pipes, downed trees, stalled cars, road closures, and power outages. In these conditions, residents could be without power for several days or more, and nasty roads can leave them stranded. The City of Veneta urges residents to be aware of the risks and prepared for whatever winter may bring.

Before the weather changes, inspect your house, insulate water lines, drain water from outdoor hoses, and have ice melt on hand to melt ice and snow on sidewalks. If you have hazard trees on your property, have them removed. Fir trees do not fare well in the wind.

Monitor weather reports. Adequate preparation can reduce the impact of severe weather. Have extra blankets on hand and ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves, hat, and water-resistant boots. If you rely on propane, oil, or wood heat, check your fuel

supply. Stock up on basic food items including canned/no cook food. Have a first-aid kit, prescription medicines, flashlight/camping light, extra batteries, candles and matches on hand. Winterize your car and keep a few snacks, water, and blankets in the vehicle with the gas tank full. Keep bottled water on hand so that you can stay hydrated even if pipes freeze. If power lines are down, stay away from them and notify the power company if possible. And if the wind-chill drops to a dangerous level, stay indoors.

If you must remain indoors, never use a generator, portable gas camp stove, or charcoal grill indoors. The fumes are deadly. And keep electric heat sources away from furniture and drapes. To protect our local air quality, check the Home Wood Heating Advisory at www.lrapa.org before using a wood stove.

Take the time to prepare for winter so you can enjoy its beauty without facing its fury.

City of Veneta - Utility Billing Cycle

Effective July 1, 2016 the City enacted a new utility billing process

Below is an outline of the monthly process for active accounts

| UTILITY BILLING CYCLE | CURRENT MONTHLY PRACTICE | EXAMPLE DATES |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Services Rendered | From the 1st to the last day of month | September 1 - September 30 |
| Meters Read | On or around the 25th | September 25th |
| Bills Prepared and Mailed | On or about the 1st | October 1st |
| Due Date on Bills | On the 15th each month | October 15th |
| Bills Deemed Delinquent | Bills are delinquent on the 16th | October 16th |
| Late Notice Prepared and Mailed | On or around the 16th | October 16th |
| Late Notice Due | 10 days after Late Notice mailed | October 26th |
| Service Discontinued (\$40 charge added to account) | 24 hours after Late Notice Due | October 28th |

VENETA KIDDIE POOL – COME SPLASH WITH US!

On June 29, the Oregon State Board of Parks and Recreation announced a grant in the amount of \$175,000 toward the City of Veneta's \$350,000 Kiddie Pool Project. The City will contribute toward the project, but prefers to make up the difference with additional grants and local donations, and has already employed a grant writer to seek funding from various foundations.

The Kiddie Pool Project is truly launched with this grant and the Pool Committee has been raising the other half in earnest. Local contributions are critical—both in dollars and in the expression of local support—and will help the committee succeed in its proposals to other grantors.

To date the City has received over \$12,000 in donations from individuals and businesses. Thank You!



The more donations the project receives from the community, the easier it is for the grant writer to demonstrate local commitment for the project, which influences grant decisions. The Pool Committee has been raising funds with a Buy-A-Tile initiative. This involves buying a tile made from recycled glass by Aurora Glass, a St. Vincent DePaul employment program in Eugene. These cobalt and aqua blue glass tiles will feature a message, name, or logo engraved at the request of the sponsor. Various tile sizes are available at prices ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 or more.

The tiles will be permanently hung on the walls of the pool lobby and will surround a children's art project, which is still being designed. Tiles would likely be hung during or after construction of the kiddie pool, which would begin in the fall of 2017 after the pool closes for the season. We would like to have all the tile sales complete by the end of February or March 2017 so we know funding is secured.

A tile donation form is on the back.

