

# City News

The Newsletter of the  
City of Veneta

88184 8th Street  
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Veneta, OR 97487  
(541) 935-2191  
[www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov)

## Transportation Utility Fee - Moving forward

On April 11, the Veneta City Council considered a proposed ordinance to establish a Transportation Utility Fee (TUF). The utility fee has been under consideration for nearly one year, with a proposal introduced last summer, and an open house held to discuss the issue in October 2015. After being temporarily tabled the Council has resumed action to enact a funding mechanism for ongoing street maintenance.

"The TUF is essentially a utility fee that helps pay for street maintenance, repairs, and the ongoing pavement preservation project," explained City Development Director Kay Bork. "It will be used strictly to maintain existing roads." More than 30 Oregon cities already use a similar fee structure for a

variety of street projects.

At the April reading of the ordinance, the Council agreed on a flat rate of \$3 for residential accounts and \$6 for commercial entities. That rate will increase at a rate of 2 percent per year for 5 years, reaching \$3.25 and \$6.49 respectively by year 2021.

If adopted at the May 9 Council meeting, the TUF will be effective July 1, 2016. Utility account holders will see the increase as a separate item on their August 2016 bills.

Residents have an opportunity to comment on the proposed fee at the May 9 City Council meeting or during any Public Comment period at a regular City Council meeting.

## City Wide Clean Up May 7th

On Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 8am-4pm, the City of Veneta will partner with Sanipac to provide free disposal of common debris and yard waste items at 5<sup>th</sup> and Bolton Hill.

Sanipac and City staff will be on hand to accept yard debris, tree limbs, weeds, grass clippings, wood, metal, appliances, recyclables, and more. Residents may also bring as many as four tires, which must be dismantled from their rims, as well as personal documents for shredding. A St. Vincent DePaul trailer will also be on hand for donations of gently used household items. Hazardous materials and household trash will not be accepted.

"This is a great opportunity for residents to clean up their yards and neighborhood," said Public Works Director Kyle Schauer.

This event is open to City of Veneta residents only. For questions or more information please contact Kyle Schauer at 541-935-2191 or visit the City website at [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov)

### CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - MAY 2016

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

3	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
4	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
7	City Wide Clean Up - Bolton Hill Road Facility 	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
8	Happy Mother's Day 	
9	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency meeting immediately following	6:30 p.m.
11	Veneta Economic Development Committee Meeting - City Hall	2:00 p.m.
19	City of Veneta Budget Committee Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee Meeting immediately following	5:30 p.m.
19	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
23	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
26	City of Veneta Budget Committee Meeting - City Hall (if needed)	6:30 p.m.
28	Meet Sgt. Halvorson (Lane County Sheriff's Office contract Sergeant for the City of Veneta) - Fern Ridge Library	1:00 p.m.
30	Memorial Day - City Hall Closed 	Closed

Calendar updates will be posted on the City's website at [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://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

## ***“Yurtel” to Open, City to Adopt Transient Room Tax***

Veneta will soon have its first lodging establishment, a very unique Bed & Breakfast style “Yurtel” comprising of three units. “The land use application has been approved and construction is underway,” said Community Development Director Kay Bork. “The Yurtel will be located on Territorial Hwy. near East Bolton, and could open as early as July.”

The City is drafting the ordinance necessary to begin collecting a Transient Room Tax. This common tax is generally charged on all overnight stays and can include hotels, motels, campgrounds, RV parks, B&B’s, and short-term rentals. In the case of Veneta, the City has never had a motel or B&B before, so the authority to collect such a tax has never been established.

The tax dollars collected under the authority of a City’s transient room tax ordinance vary, with rates ranging from 4 to 4.5 percent in Lane County. “The state regulates what the money can be used for, but a certain percentage must go toward tourism and visitor programs,” Bork explained. “Right now, we

receive rural tourism marketing money from Lane County as a share of countywide transient room taxes. We’ve used that money to help offset costs of various community events and to promote the City of Veneta.”

Eugene currently administers the tax collection for Lane County and other small cities, such as Florence and Cottage Grove. Whether that will be the case for Veneta has yet to be determined, but is being considered.

With Bork guiding the new tax through the development process, the City Attorney is drafting an ordinance following what Bork calls “pretty standard language that follows Oregon Administrative Rules.” After it is drafted, the new tax, will go before the City Council in May for approval.

“Once we determine how much revenue this tax generates, the City Council in conjunction with the City’s Economic Development Committee may consider how the revenue is administered and allocated,” Bork concluded.

## ***Utility Billing Policies and Procedures Update***

The City has drafted proposed changes to utility billing policies and procedures. According to Finance Director Shauna Hartz, those proposals will now go before the City Council for adoption. “The changes are designed to streamline the utility billing process, clarify the policies for utility customers, and make the most effective use of staff time,” said Hartz. If adopted, several new ordinances will go into effect on July 1.

As proposed, the water/sewer bills will continue to be mailed to customers on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, but due dates will be extended from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, giving customers five additional days to pay their bills.

Late notices, which are currently not mailed until the following month, would be sent out just two days after the bill is due. “If payment has not been received by the 15<sup>th</sup>, late notices, will be sent on or around the 17<sup>th</sup>, Hartz explained. The City will no longer place door hangers on the residences of utility customers who have not paid their bills. If the amount due has not been paid by the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month, service will be shut off on the next business day.

“The City will initially make phone calls to remind customers, but this practice will be phased out over a period of a few months,” said Hartz. If service is shut off for non-payment, the customer must pay their bill in its entirety before service can be restored. “In the past, the City would enter into a pay-

ment agreement” Hartz continued. “This arrangement is being eliminated. Fortunately, this only affects a handful of customers, and for those who struggle to pay their bill, programs are available to help.”

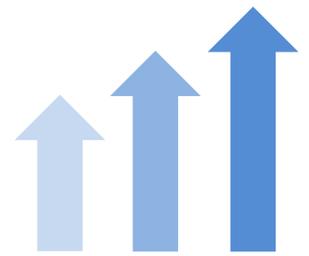
The City requires a hard-copy application to initiate water and sewer services. But it will now require the owners of rental properties to execute a supplemental agreement clarifying expectations for payment of water and sewer bills as well. “Currently, if a tenant moves out of a rental, the City can turn the meter off until a new tenant requests service. But if the meter remains active, the property owner is responsible for the charges incurred.” Hartz said property owners can avoid these charges if they suspend service, but it is their responsibility to notify the City if they elect to do so. As it now stands, the City will accept suspension orders by phone. If the new ordinances are adopted, “any suspension of service will need to be done in writing to avoid conflict about service dates and billing.”

The City will now take steps to enact them through legal ordinances. That process requires that the ordinances be read publicly, by title only (unless requested otherwise) at two City Council meetings and approved by a vote of the council.

The first of these two readings will take place on May 9th. The proposed ordinance will be read and voted on again at a June meeting before it can be adopted and enacted.

# Veneta Economic Development

## NEWS



An Occasional Publication of the Veneta Economic Development Committee

April 2016

### Message from the Chair

For the past four months, the Economic Development Committee (EDC) has been working with City staff and staff from the Rural Development Initiatives (RDI) to develop Veneta Business Connect, a pilot program to test efforts to understand how to support local businesses as they try to succeed and, potentially, grow.

The Committee met with staff to help both formulate a survey to use in outreach to the business community, and in developing a list of business, present, past, and future, to be surveyed for the program. Several members of the Committee also participated in open houses where local businesses and community residents met to discuss the parameters for the program.

**Those efforts are now beginning to bear fruit.** Recently RDI staff held training sessions for a number of community members, including some members of the EDC, to prepare them to visit the identified businesses and complete the survey. Those visits, scheduled to be completed by late April, will involve about 25 businesses, about two-thirds in the City and one-third outside.

RDI will then take the individual surveys and consolidate them into a report which will be provided to the City and the EDC. RDI has assured the businesses that no information identifying individual business confidential information will be released. The report will be available to the City and the EDC, which will use it to help design strategies for the Committee to pursue in providing support to local businesses. The report will also be available to the public.

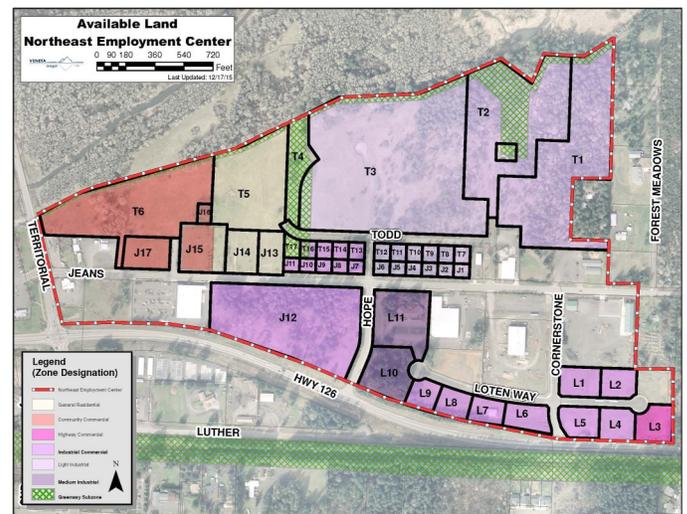
- Len Goodwin

### Inventory of Available Land on City Website

City of Veneta staff has completed an inventory of available land in the Northeast Employment Center, including light industrial, medium industrial, and industrial-commercial zoned land. The Northeast Employment Center is predominantly greenfield lots that are ready to be developed with street infrastructure, utilities, and fiber internet in place or ready to be installed.

The compiled information includes zoning, acreage, prices, ownership, and more, with individual fliers describing the lots. The private property lots range from .2 to 20 acres with prices currently ranging from \$1.50 to \$3.50 per square foot.

Map, inventory, and lot fliers available at [www.venetaoregon.gov/ed](http://www.venetaoregon.gov/ed) by clicking on Available Land in the Northeast Employment Center on the left hand side.



Map of the Northeast Employment Center by zoning.

### Urban Renewal Agency Adopts Downtown Incentives

The Veneta Urban Renewal Agency adopted a set of grant programs known as the Redevelopment Tool Kit on April 11, 2016. The grant programs come in all shapes and sizes aimed at supporting economic development and beautification in Veneta's downtown area. The Committee participated in the review process and provided comments on the Tool Kit, which can provide small or large grant funding for new or

existing businesses for signage, façade improvements, streetscape amenities, required street improvements, environmental assessments, SDC fee reductions, and more. The City of Veneta is developing several economic incentive programs this spring including a Business Assistance Fund and guide of city-wide incentive resources.

**Go to [www.venetaoregon.gov/urbanrenewal](http://www.venetaoregon.gov/urbanrenewal) to find out more about the Redevelopment Tool Kit.**

## Business in the News

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### Broadway Grill

Veneta's newest restaurant Broadway Grill is serving up delicious breakfast, lunch, dinner, and desserts and is open seven days a week! Popular dishes include inventive charbroiled burgers and weekend steak and salmon. Daily specials and tried-and-true favorites keep customers coming back for more.



Broadway Grill is located at 24992 West Broadway at 3rd Street.

### Profiles of the Committee Members

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#### Dave D'Avanzo

Dave is the Manager of Member Services for Lane Electric Co-op and has worked for there since 2002. Dave's desire to take on new challenges is supported by his experience, leadership ability and people skills. He is excited about

the progress and potential the Economic Development Committee and its activities will bring to Veneta and the greater Fern Ridge area.



#### Ryan Frome

Ryan is a veterinarian and part owner of the Veneta Veterinary Hospital, a business that has been in our community for over 35 years. He has been a local soccer coach, scout leader, classroom volunteer, and advocate for

supporting local businesses. He wants the voices of citizens and business owners to be heard while we all work to make the Veneta area thrive.

### Events and Dates to Remember

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**Committee Meetings –  
Open to the Public**

**Second Wednesday of every  
month 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

Veneta City Administrative Center  
88184 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Veneta

**Fern Ridge Chamber of  
Commerce Luncheon –  
no membership  
necessary  
Veneta Business  
Connect**

**Second Wednesday of every  
quarter, June 8<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m.**

Our Daily Bread Parsonage Room  
88170 Territorial Highway, Veneta

**Project Conclusion Celebration:**  
Look out for a date at the end of  
June!

### Committee Mission

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*The purpose of the Veneta Economic Development  
Committee is to support existing businesses and attract new  
businesses. The mission is to pursue the economic interest of  
Veneta by constructing and implementing policy  
development and programs.*

### Veneta Economic Development Committee Members

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Len Goodwin, Chair

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Herb Vloedman, Vice-Chair

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### Staff

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# VOTE to HELP OUR COMMUNITY!



Our community could get \$40,000 from EPUD to put solar panels on the Fern Ridge Service Center.

## We need YOU to VOTE!!!

If you are an EPUD customer and belong to their \*GREEN program, please vote for us!

Go to [www.EPUD.org](http://www.EPUD.org) starting MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

This will make a HUGE DIFFERENCE in the utility bills for the Service Center, which houses the Love Project food pantry, Senior Meals on Wheels, Café 60, & Senior Connections.

\*If you are not a part of the GREEN program, you'll need to sign up before you can vote.  
Contact EPUD for more information at (541) 746-1583 or visit [www.epud.org](http://www.epud.org).  
Full proposal available for viewing.

For questions about the Fern Ridge Service Center, contact Deanna or Pat at (541) 935-4555.