

# City News

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

## City Presents 2017-18 Budget

The City will be soliciting comments on the approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 Budget during an open City Council meeting on June 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Veneta City Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend and provide comments.

The upcoming year's total budget figure is \$20,025,752 compared with last year's budget total of \$20,299,254. The budget, as a whole, reflects no significant changes in the day-to-day operations or services provided. The biggest cost drivers for the coming year are street projects,

policing, construction of multi-use (kiddie) pool, and employee benefits.

The City's Pavement Preservation Plan will persist at its previous cost of approximately \$425,000. The law enforcement contract for four full-time deputies and one half time sergeant will continue, with costs nearly unchanged at \$857,767. The Kiddie Pool will incur costs of \$350,000, with grants in place to offset that amount by approximately 80 percent.

*(See "Budget" on page 2)*

## Unveiling the City Park Master Plan

The City of Veneta encourages the public to attend the June 12 City Council Work Session to learn more about the City Park Master Plan. Under development since August 2016 the Draft Plan would double the size of City Park at the end of East Broadway in phases as the City budget allows.

"The plan involves clearing trees to create open lawn for recreation, building another playground, installing more picnic tables, and

erecting a raised platform for community events and performances," said Community Development Director Kay Bork. "A pathway system of walking/bike trails will connect to Hunter."

Home to the Veneta Community Pool and the Community Center, City Park currently spans five-acres. The Plan will expand the park eastward onto adjacent City-owned property, eventually growing to as much as 10 acres.

*(See "Master Plan" on page 2)*

## Summer Fun at Veneta Community Pool!

Time to pick up your "Summer 2017 Recreation Guide," which describes opportunities for youth to participate in art camps, the Oregon Country Fair Culture Jam, the Fern Ridge Library Summer Reading Program, and activities at the Veneta Community Pool as well as free lunches for kids age 2-18 beginning June 26 at City Park on E. Broadway.

The Pool opens June 17, with lessons for all skill levels beginning June 26. Special swim times cater to families, adults, lap swimmers, the Veneta swim team, as well as water aerobics and other special Fitness Swim classes. And, of course, the pool will once again host three of its most popular community events: the annual Summer Solstice Party on June 24 from 5-7pm, the Night Waves Teen Party on July 14 from 8:30-10pm, and Family Fun Night on August 4 from 6-8pm.

For details about these activities and more, download the "Summer 2017 Recreation Guide" from [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov), or you may pick one up at City Hall at 88184 8<sup>th</sup> St. Fern Ridge Library, Ray's Food Place or the Veneta Community Pool at 25190 E. Broadway on June 17.

CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - JUNE 2017		
Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 8th Street, Veneta, Oregon		
6	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall - <b>Rescheduled</b>	June 27
7	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
12	Veneta City Council Meeting - Includes Public Hearings on the Approved Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget & Use of State Shared Revenue - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Includes Public Hearing on Approved Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget - immediately following	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.
17	Veneta Community Pool Opens - 25190 E. Broadway	Noon
18	Happy Father's Day	
24	Summer Solstice Event - Veneta Community Pool, 25190 E. Broadway	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
24	"Meet Sgt. Denham" (Lane County Sheriff's Office contract Sergeant for the City of Veneta) - Fern Ridge Library	1:00 p.m.
26	Veneta City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
27	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.

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

## **URGENT - Hwy 126 Safety! Call for funding**

Another fatal accident on Hwy 126 last month reminds citizens and leaders of the need to improve this key transportation route, which has been called one of the “deadliest” highways in the State of Oregon. An average of two fatalities or debilitating auto injuries and five incidents affecting pedestrians and bicyclists occur each year along the route.

In 2013, a plan was proposed to build a four-lane highway with a parallel multi-use path for bikes and pedestrians. And, though it has widespread public and political support, the “Highway 126: Fern Ridge Corridor Plan” does not yet have funding. Without strong and persistent citizen input on this matter right now, improvements could be more than a decade down the road.

“The Oregon State Legislature is developing a 10-year transportation package right now, and they are trying to identify which projects to fund,” said Veneta City Administrator Ric Ingham. “Unfortunately, Highway 126 is not even on the list of potential projects. We strongly encourage concerned citizens to contact their legislators to stress how important it is to include improvements to Hwy 126 on the 2017 transportation package.”

To encourage safety improvements to Highway 126, contact Rep. Paul Holvey at (503) 986-1408 and Floyd Prozanski at (503) 986-1704 immediately.

The time to call, though, is right now. “These decisions will be made in the next three or four weeks and will affect funding for 10 years.”

## **Vote Now to Help the Fern Ridge Service Center!**

The Fern Ridge Service Center is desperately in need of your vote, and time is running out. With resources already stretched to fund its many services — Senior Meals on Wheels, the Love Project food pantry, Senior Connections, and more—the Center’s power bills exceeded \$5,200 in the past four months, while expected donations from Elmira’s Ultimate Falcon program plummeted. Director Pat Coy expressed grave concern about the financial stability of this nonprofit, which helps feed one in four local families.

But you can help! The Center is competing for a \$40,000 grant to install solar roof panels, which would offset the facility’s utility bills. EPUD customers who participate in the GREEN program are urged to go to [www.epud.org](http://www.epud.org) before June 12 and vote for the Fern Ridge Service Center’s grant. Only GREEN power customers can vote. If you are not a participant, sign up for that program and then cast your ballot to help the Service Center continue its critical mission.

## **Budget**

Personnel costs are expected to increase notably, driven primarily by increases in benefits, workers’ compensation insurance, and the proposed addition of a full-time temporary position.

Property taxes are expected to increase by 2-3 percent. The primary factors are the rise in assessed values and the addition of developed properties within the City in the recent years. Storm water rates are expected to grow by 2 percent in July 2017. After remaining flat in last year’s budget, water rates will rise by 2 percent in January 2018. The rate increase is necessary to meet the debt service obligations incurred to build the pipeline to carry water from EWEB’s infrastructure in Eugene to Veneta and to maintain infrastructure.

The annual budgeting process begins in November of each year, when the City solicits, selects, and appoints citizen budget committee members, and sets the date for the first Budget Com-

mittee meeting. Most of the budget preparation occurs between January and April, with review and adoption taking place in May and June.

The first Budget Committee meeting, at which the committee members provide input on the budget and the document itself, for the 2017-18 budget year was held on May 18, 2017. After Hartz presented the Budget message, which explains the proposed budget and any significant changes in the City’s financial position, the public was given a chance to comment. Finally, the committee approved the proposed budget. On June 12, the approved budget will be presented at a public hearing.

After citizen review and input by department heads, the City Council will vote on a resolution to formally adopt the budget, make appropriations, and levy or categorize taxes at their June 26 meeting.

## **Master Plan**

“The implementation plan will reveal an approximate time line, which will be dependent on the budget and broken into phases that make the most sense,” said Bork.

Using a Request for Proposal process that began last summer, the City selected Dougherty Landscape Architects (DLA) to conduct the planning and implementation.

“Working with DLA resulted in cost savings,” Bork explained. “The company is very familiar with Veneta and issues related to specific sites. It has already completed several City projects, in-

cluding a master plan for the Bolton Hill Sports Complex and the Park and Ride facility at W. Broadway and Territorial. Because of those previous projects they were able to give us a lower bid.” Preliminary estimates for the project are \$1.2 million.

The City has held three public meetings and reworked the plan based on citizen input. DLA will now present the final plan with cost estimates and a preliminary implementation schedule. “Though this is essentially the final plan, citizens are always encouraged to come and listen,” Bork concluded.



# Summer Solstice Party

Join us at the  
Veneta Community  
Pool!

Saturday, June 24, 2017  
from 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
Normal Swim Rates Apply  
(passes/punch cards not valid for this event)

Food will be available for purchase,  
there will be music, fun & games.  
Bring the whole family!



Veneta Community Pool • 25190 E. Broadway St.  
Veneta, OR 97487 • 541-935-4390

Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce  
presents



**SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER**

# *Grand Opening*

Come celebrate the longest night of the year at the  
Grand Opening of the Small Business Assistance  
Center

Ribbon cutting with Chamber President Jason  
Alansky and Mayor Sandra Larson at 5:45 p.m. with  
appetizers until 7:30 p.m.

Prior to the ribbon cutting, meet with business  
assistance partners: Community LendingWorks,  
Regional Accelerator Innovation Network(RAIN),  
Business Oregon, Lane County Community and  
Economic Development, and Lane Community College  
SBDC from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



June 21st, 2017  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
24949 Hwy 126  
Veneta, OR