

Lane Transit District Seeks Public Input at “Listening Tour”

On Thursday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m., the City of Veneta will host an LTD “Listening Tour” at City Hall, enabling area residents to be part of the Lane Transit District “Transit Tomorrow” initiative. The initiative aims to answer two key questions: how can LTD best help people get where they want and need to go? And what shape should LTD’s services take in the future?

“The region’s transit system must reflect the priorities of the communities it serves,” said an LTD statement. “One of the biggest dilemmas in planning transit service is matching transportation priorities with limited resources. As a responsible public steward, LTD must make choices about what services to offer and balance the demands of our diverse community with the consci-

entious use of public funding.” Public input obtained through the Transit Tomorrow Listening Tour and other public outreach will help determine LTD’s priorities.

It will also help the agency decide how best to spend new funds from a mass transit payroll tax on employees, which took effect on July 1. In the past, employers have paid taxes to support Lane Transit District —

currently a 0.73 percent tax on their payroll. The new .01 percent tax on employees will increase LTD’s operating budget by about 12 percent, or \$8.2 million annually.

“We want to make sure that any changes make sense for our community,” said LTD spokeswoman Therese Lang. “So we’re asking questions to get a good idea of what the community wants.”

Summertime Safety Tips

As families step out for fun in the sun, the City of Veneta would like to offer some seasonal tips to help you and your kids have a safe summer. Recently, the City conducted a free Bike Safety Day at the Veneta Community Pool Parking lot. Lane County Sheriff “Sgt. Ski,” conducted helmet fittings and reminded kids to always wear the right size

helmet and wear it as it’s designed to be worn. Deputy Richard Smith urged youngsters to observe the rules of the road. Ride with the flow of traffic, yield when appropriate, look before turning, learn and use common hand signals, stop at all stop signs and lights, and watch for parked cars. Cycle Kerri’s Neighborhood Bikes provided quick tune-ups and re-

minded parents that it’s important for kids to ride the proper size bike.

When sitting on the seat, a rider should be able to stand with his or her feet flat on the ground. Tires should be inflated to the right pressure, which is printed on the side of the tire. Make sure brakes are working well, the bike is equipped with reflectors, and riders wear bright

colored or reflective clothing so they can be seen.

When playing around water, young children require constant, undistracted supervision, says Dr. Pilar Bradshaw of the Eugene Pediatrics Association. Avoid sunburns by using sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and reapply it at least every two hours. Keep an

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Fern Ridge Veterans Memorial

Working in partnership with the Jack Kelley VFW Post 9448, the City of Veneta has secured a grant for a Veterans’ Memorial in Veneta City Park. VFW began planning and fundraising for the project more than a year ago, and had already raised nearly \$32,000 in cash and in-kind donations of labor and materials from local contractors. To fund the balance of the \$72,000 project, the City applied for and was awarded an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Grant for Veterans and War Memorials.

“Although this is a VFW Post project, these grants require involvement of a municipality or other government body,” explained Veneta City Administrator Ric Ingham. “The City will accept the grant, receive the funds, and include an appropriation in this year’s budget.”

The Post presented the final design of the Memorial for approval at the July 23 City Council meeting. “The City and VFW had already been working together on the project plan and an area had tentatively been

(See “Veterans” page 2)

CIVIC CALENDAR

August 2018

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

1	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
3	Family Fun Night - Veneta Community Pool, 25190 E. Broadway Ave.	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
7	Planning Commission Meeting	Cancelled
8	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
13	City Council Meeting, Urban Renewal Agency meeting - immediately following	6:30 p.m.
16	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
27	City Council Meeting	Cancelled



Beginning July 1, the City implemented new utility billing software and has switched to a new online bill payment vendor. Please visit www.venetaoregon.gov and click on Pay Your Utility Bill to set up your new account.

Summertime Safety

(Continued from page 1)

eye on children at playgrounds to reduce the risk of falling from a play structure. Keep a first aid kit nearby

and make sure kids remain hydrated.

Drivers should also be aware of kids on the road, especially in those busy

areas around the Territorial Skate Park, and near Broadway where kids are walking to the pool. A few simple steps and a little extra vigi-

lance will ensure that our kids have a summer of fun!

Veterans

designated for its construction as part of the Veneta City Park Improvement Project," Ingham continued.

"Because the City received the grant and the Memorial is in a public park, the City will be responsible for its long-term maintenance, so it was important that the Council concurred on the plans."

The Memorial will be adjacent to the Veneta Community Pool at the end of E. Broadway. It will comprise three upright polished granite slabs, three granite

benches, engraved bricks, flags representing each branch of service as well as a U.S. and an MIA/POW flag and an accessible walkway.

Two slabs on either side will list all the military conflicts from World War I to the present day, explained VFW past Post Commander Kim Kaufman. Under each of those conflicts will be engraved the names of those men and women from the Fern Ridge area who were lost in those conflicts. "The Memorial gives the commu-

nity a chance to have complete closure on those they have lost, and a place to visit and contemplate, knowing that those lost lives are not forgotten," he continued.

"They are important not just to us, but to our country."

A sidewalk will lead from the parking lot to the Memorial's entry arch and another sidewalk will exit from the east side. Both these walkways will connect to an 8-foot wide concrete path that are being built as part of the Park Improvement Project.

The path will encircle a new open lawn area and pass through the Veterans Memorial.

"The City Council and staff are excited to see the project move forward and we appreciate VFW's groundwork," said Ingham. "The Memorial will be a nice signature facility in honor of veterans and their contributions in past wars and other efforts." Kaufman hopes the project will be dedicated by the end of the year.

Council Keeps Hopes Alive for Kiddie Pool

At its July 23 meeting, the Veneta City Council instructed City staff to continue efforts to fund the long-awaited Kiddie Pool at the Veneta Community Pool. The 45 by 27 foot Kiddie Pool was part of the original design when Veneta voters approved a \$1.1 million bond towards construction of the \$2.3 million dollar Community Pool in 2009. Construction was postponed because of funding shortfalls, but the contractor installed the infrastructure—conduits and piping—called for in the design, and then covered the area with deck. Consequently, most of the underground features necessary to operate the Kiddie Pool in accordance with state regulations are already

in place.

Its design includes a zero-entry for infants and toddlers as well as splash toys and umbrella showers. "These features make it more attractive to families and young kids, but also provide enough depth to start toddler and youth swim lessons," explained City Administrator Ric Ingham.

The idea to complete the pool gained momentum in 2016, when the City was awarded a \$175,000 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) grant toward what was expected to be a \$350,000 project. Construction was optimistically planned for fall 2017 and fundraising began in earnest to raise the balance. Grants from Oregon Com-

munity Foundation (\$60,000), Ford Family Foundation (\$25,000), and Autzen Foundation (\$7,500), as well as local donations totaling \$21,000, began to add up. The City allocated \$93,500 from its current fiscal year budget. Meanwhile, though, the original bids for the project had expired and the new project estimate—including permits and design work—came in at \$657,000. With encouragement from OPRD, the City applied to increase the original state grant to \$450,000, but were disappointed when that application was denied in June, leaving the project with a shortfall of \$275,000. Fortunately, the original state grant is still in place, and

other donors and grantors have agreed to allow the City to retain their funds while finding a path forward to complete the project. But the City must inform OPRD whether it will use or return the initial \$175,000 grant by October.

"The Council has instructed us to move forward and make a proposal that would use any mixture of City funds to complete this project," Ingham continued. "It's a heavy lift for us to try to find these dollars, especially in the middle of the \$750,000 City Park Improvement Project, but the community believes this is an important feature of the Community Pool."