

Are You Ready for Winter Weather?

With winter fast approaching, the City of Veneta urges residents to be prepared for whatever conditions may come. 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 could leave residents stranded. But a few simple steps will help you be prepared to weather any storm.

Take the time to inspect your house, insulate water

lines, drain water from outdoor hoses, and have ice melt on hand to address ice and snow on sidewalks.

Inspect trees on and around your property now. Pay close attention to fir trees, which do not fare well in the wind. Hazard trees should be removed. Even in

healthy trees, hanging limbs, or “widow makers,” can pose a danger and should be addressed.

Check with the City before removing any trees. In the case of hazard trees, permits can be issued almost immediately and fees can

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Ready, Set, Play at Veneta City Park

Phase One improvements to Veneta City Park are nearly done, and the result will be a signature facility with something for everyone, according to Community Development Director Kay Bork.

New playground equipment with a “nature” theme is being installed this month. The structure is suitable for ages 5 through 12 and comprises a combination of climbing structures,

slides, ladders, and play activities. A three-bay swingset and a merry-go-round will replace equipment that was damaged or had to be removed after a 2016 windstorm. Existing equipment in the park is suited for younger children. And the City has just applied for a grant to install adult workout stations alongside the park’s new wandering pathways.

“With the existing amen-

ities, the new facilities, the pathways, and the proposed adult fitness equipment, the park will serve all ages and abilities and give people many more reasons to go out and enjoy the park!” She said that the contractor would install lighting by the end of the year and benches in the spring. Work is progressing on the Veterans Memorial project as well, and Bork said the City aims to host a

ribbon cutting next spring.

The City will begin design work on Phase II improvements in July 2019. The design will include an expansion of the park towards the east with connecting walking paths, a rain garden to treat stormwater runoff, and a covered, raised stage for performances. Construction will follow in 2019 or 2020.

Parade, Food Drive, S.A.N.T.A

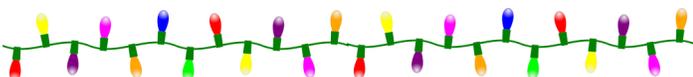
Veneta will shine once again this Christmas, with heartwarming events and community giving.

On Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m., dozens of dazzling floats will roll through town for the 15th Annual Veneta/Fern Ridge Light Parade, one of the area’s most treasured community traditions. Any group, club, organization, or family is encouraged to put lights on something that rolls and join in the fun! To register a float, contact the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce in the

West Lane Shopping Center, visit the Chamber’s website at <http://venetafernridgechamber.com>, or call 541-935-8443. Entry forms are also available at City Hall.

The giving begins on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., when the S.A.N.T.A. (Sharing Among Neighbors Toy Appeal) project will once again distribute free toys, books, clothing, and personal items, and even wrap gifts, in the Veneta

(See “Holiday Events” on page 2)



CIVIC CALENDAR December 2018

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

4	Planning Commission Meeting	Cancelled
5	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
6	Light Parade (See insert for parade route)	7:00 p.m.
10	City Council Meeting, Urban Renewal Agency meeting - immediately following	6:30 p.m.
12	Economic Development Committee	Cancelled
20	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
24	City Council Meeting	Cancelled
24	City Hall closed for Christmas Holiday	Closed
25	City Hall closed for Christmas Day	Closed



Winter Weather

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be waived.

Monitor weather reports. Adequate preparation can reduce the impact of adverse weather on you and your family. 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 sup-

ply. 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.

Take care of pets and livestock. Have enough food on hand and bring them indoors if necessary.

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 in-

side. The fumes are deadly. 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.

And, as always, be a good neighbor. Check on the elderly or others in need and lend them a hand if you can.

FEMA Approves Veneta's Hazard Mitigation Plan

Working with a variety of government partners, the City of Veneta continues to lay the groundwork for responding to emergencies and making Veneta and the broader Fern Ridge area a disaster-resilient community. Such communities are better protected from hazards and more prepared to recover quickly from an incident.

"In the past, Veneta has been part of Lane County's Hazard Mitigation Action Plan," explained City Administrator Ric Ingham. "But as we continue to grow, we needed our own plans to coordinate with our public safety partners, like Lane County Sheriff's Office, Lane Fire Authority, and the Oregon Department of For-

estry, so that we're better prepared for any kind of emergency or certain types of disasters."

In 2015, City leaders began to develop the City of Veneta's Annex to the Lane County plan. To craft the plan in a cost-effective manner, the City partnered with Lane County Emergency Management. "They had received FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] funds," said Ingham. "We piggybacked on their work and hired the same consultant to complete our plan."

The plan identified mitigation strategies for the hazards to which the area is most vulnerable. "The City of Veneta has about 10 'hazard profiles,' including

winter storms, floods, wildfires, HAZMAT situations or hazardous spills, earthquakes, floods, and more," explained Ingham. And, of course, it encompasses the broader Fern Ridge area, as well. "It's difficult to analyze hazards that would affect Veneta without having an impact on the surrounding area. And those areas are served by Lane Fire Authority as well."

On Oct. 8, the Veneta City Council adopted the City of Veneta's Annex to the Lane County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The City plan earned FEMA approval on Oct. 16.

"Having a FEMA approved plan in place makes us eligible to apply for feder-

al grants, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants, and Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants," explained Management Analyst Jenna Boyd. "One project the City is prioritizing is to acquire a means to distribute potable water around the community in the event of a disruption to our existing water system."

Meanwhile, City managers are considering other projects deemed to be good candidates for FEMA grant funding. "We haven't submitted a request yet, but will do so when we determine which project would be the most useful for the community and most likely to qualify for funding," Boyd concluded.

Holiday Events

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Elementary School gym. Adults need only show proof that they live in the Fern Ridge or Crow/Applegate/Lorane School District and how many children they have to receive two tickets per child to spend on toys. They may also get one

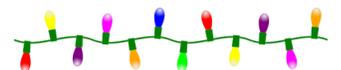
book, a stuffed animal, and a coat for each child, as well as stocking stuffers.

Meanwhile, the Kiwanis of Fern Ridge Annual Food Drive will distribute holiday food baskets on Dec. 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the LDS Church, 88068 Huston Rd. Food will be

sorted into well-balanced, family size boxes. To qualify, obtain an application from the Fern Ridge Service Center at 25035 W. Broadway, the Customer Service desk at Ray's Food Place, Banner Bank, or the Fern Ridge Review. Completed applications can be returned

to these locations or mailed to the address on the application no later than December 8.

City Hall will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 in observance of Christmas.



PARADE ROUTE AND PARKING DETAILS

