

City News

JANUARY 2018

State of the City Address - January 22, 2018

Mayor Sandra H. Larson will be delivering her State of the City Address during the January 22 Council Meeting held at 6:30 p.m. at Veneta City Hall.

City Redesigns Newsletter

Welcome to the redesigned City of Veneta Newsletter! Producing a monthly newsletter is part of the City's communication plan and meets the City Council goal of keeping residents informed of services, issues, tips, and events affecting the

community. The Newsletter includes information submitted by City management, elected officials and, occasionally, personnel from the Lane County Sheriff's Office. "Our redesign aims to present information in a more accessible and engaging manner," added the

City's Communication Coordinator Ann Frydendall. "Readers will notice the newsletter design and the Civic Calendar are more crisp and clear. The design also allows more room to provide additional information and graphics." "Disseminating infor-

mation in a way that is readable, appropriate, and relevant to residents and potential residents is a high priority for City staff," explained City Administrator Ric Ingham. The redesign is part of an effort to continually improve how the City achieves that goal.

Public Comments Encouraged at Transportation Open House

The City of Veneta wants to hear from residents as the City continues to craft the Transportation System Plan (TSP) that will guide the expansion and operation of Veneta's network of roads, bike paths, transit, sidewalks, crosswalks, sign-

age, and more for the next 20 years. "We've been gathering input from the public through an interactive online map, and now we're ready to have a public discussion about the priorities for our transportation network," explained

Community Development Director Kay Bork. That discussion will take place at an Open House on Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Veneta City Hall. At the event, the City will provide an overview of the project, review the goals and

policies that its Citizen Advisory Committee has been crafting, and share information about the current transportation network. The City will also describe the expected impacts of employment and population growth
(See "Open House" on page 2)

City Councilor Calvin Kenney

The City of Veneta welcomes newly appointed City Councilor Calvin Kenney, who will fill a partial-term City Council seat that opened when Thomas G. Laing stepped down. Kenney was sworn in on Nov. 13 and his term will last through Dec. 31, 2020.



ning Commission and on the Budget Committee which has prepared him well for his role as City Councilor. Kenney's stated priorities for the City are long-term economic development, workforce expansion, implementing high-density housing,

A nine-year resident of Veneta, Kenney is the University of Oregon Football Operations Facility Manager. Kenney previously served on the City's Plan-

and securing sustainable public safety funding. He will also advocate for Hwy. 126 safety improvements as he represents his fellow citizens.

CIVIC CALENDAR January 2018		
All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted		
1	New Year's Day	Closed
2	Planning Commission Rescheduled	Jan. 9
3	Park Board Meeting	4:30 pm
8	City Council Meeting followed by Urban Renewal Agency Meeting	6:30 p.m.
9	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
10	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Closed
15	Coffee with Sgt. Sieczkowski & Mayor Larson at Robbie's Window Box Café 88267 Territorial Rd Fern Ridge Shopping Center	12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
18	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
22	City Council Meeting - State of the City Address from Mayor Sandra H. Larson	6:30 p.m.

City Deploys Mobile Radar Signs

The City of Veneta recently purchased a mobile speed sign that provides instant feedback to drivers, giving them an opportunity to adjust their speed accordingly. “Most people don’t intentionally speed,” explained Lane County Sheriff’s Office Sgt. Steve Sieczkowski. “Often if they are made aware that they have exceeded the speed limit, they’ll slow down.”

Data collected by the roadside units could also help the City to identify areas where additional traffic controls might be appropriate and potentially help local law enforcement determine where and when increased

patrols would be appropriate, said City Administrator Ric Ingham.

In December, the first such sign was placed on 8th street just north of Veneta City Hall. “We plan on rotating the sign around to as many as 10 locations,” explained Ingham. “We know we have some problematic areas, such as Perkins, Hunter, and 8th Street.”

The City had considered investing in such signs for some time. When the Lane County Safe Roads Initiative made a large purchase of radar systems, the City was able to piggyback on that order to make them affordable.

The sign has multiple rechargeable battery packs with a seven to 10 day lifespan. It also features a web-based program that collects data, which can be sent to the cloud or downloaded to a smartphone or tablet. The program allows users to generate as many as 15 reports, including number of vehicles, number exceeding posted speed limits, and traffic volume during specific hours.

Such data can reveal areas with a propensity for speeding and help the City evaluate

where “calming” efforts are needed to naturally slow traffic. This could include tools that road engineers use to influence driving habits, such as striping that gives the appearance of a road becoming narrower or adding additional signage.



Water Rate Increase

Effective January 1, Veneta residents will see a 2 percent increase in water rates, which will be reflected in the February bills. This will be the fourth small rate increase since 2013 and they are likely to continue through 2021. The rate increase is necessary to meet the debt service obligations incurred to build the pipeline to carry water from EWEB’s infra-

structure in Eugene to Veneta.

The pipeline project was chosen after the City had extensively investigated other options. “Because of state environmental regulations, the City could not drill within 1 mile of Fern Ridge Reservoir, where we were most likely to locate sources that would augment existing supplies” said City Finance Di-

rector Shauna Hartz. “And several wells that were drilled outside that zone yielded poor quality water or low volume.”

Determined to be the most cost-effective solution for Veneta’s long-term water supply needs, that project cost \$10 million.

The fee increase will also enable the City to keep pace with the costs of

providing water services, fund maintenance and repairs as needed, and contribute to upcoming system expansion projects.

The water consumption rate for tier one will increase from \$3.44 to \$3.50, tier 2 will increase from \$4.09 to \$4.18 and tier 3 from \$4.91 to \$5.01 per 1,000 gallons.

Open House

(Continued from page 1)
on the infrastructure.

“We will share forecasts of how much traffic volume we can expect on certain streets in the future,” said Bork. “We’ll discuss how intersections will be impacted by growth and use diagrams and maps to help the public visualize what our growth will look like.”

Already, the City has been working to prioritize

improvements. “We know, for instance, that we need to upgrade roads like Hunter and Perkins,” Bork continued. “But we want residents to tell us what kind of improvements they want.” This could include sidewalks, bike lanes, turn lanes, and more.

Other goals include improving accessibility and safety for bikes and pedestrians, particularly when crossing Hwy.126 and the railroad

tracks. The City is also open to the idea of off-street shared bike and pedestrian paths.

“We have many proposed solutions,” stated Bork, “but we want feedback from the public and are open to alternative suggestions.”

This will be the first of two open houses on this important topic. The second will be held in the spring, when residents will have an

opportunity to revisit the alternatives.

“By coming to these meetings, you can have a real impact on the future of transportation in Veneta,” Bork concluded. City Hall is located at 88184 8th St., you can contact Community Development Director Kay Bork at 541-935-2191 or email kbork@ci.veneta.or.us