

City News

March 2018

How Citizens Can Help Take a Bite out of Crime

The Fern Ridge area Neighborhood Watch recently announced a new Watch Group in the Apple-gate Landing neighborhood on West Perkins. Six such groups, as well as a five-member vehicle-based patrol, now provide what Sgt. Steve Sieczkowski describes as extra “eyes and ears” for law enforcement.

Veneta residents are fortunate to have a committed and well-organized group of citizen volunteers working in partnership with contract deputies and support from the City of Veneta. But even if there’s no Neighborhood Watch in your area, there are simple steps you can take to make your home less vulnerable

to property crime. Keep your home’s exterior well lit, especially around entryways. “Lights on timers inside the home can give the appearance that someone is home,” says Sgt. Carrie Carver, LCSO’s Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. If possible, get a security system. “Homes with

security systems, cameras, and a sign out front rarely get burglarized,” she explained. Always lock doors and windows on your home and vehicle. “Thieves will walk through a neighborhood trying doors,” Carver said. “Don’t let yours be the one that’s unlocked!”
(See “Bite Out of Crime” on page 2)

City Receives Budget Award, Clean Audit

For the fifth consecutive year, the City of Veneta Management Team has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). In addition, audi-

tor Glen Kearns of Accuity LLC has given the City’s financial statements a clean audit. According to Kearns, the balance sheet through year-end June 30, 2017 shows that “Veneta is in a strong financial position,” with the City’s assets to

liabilities ratio being “very good.” A “good” ratio is 3 to 1. Veneta’s is 8 to 1. The GFOA award is significant in that it reflects the commitment of the City Council, Mayor, Budget Committee, and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental

budgeting. To receive the award, the document had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the City’s budget serves as a policy document, finan-
(See “Clean Audit” on page 2)

32nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The City of Veneta Park Board will once again partner with the Kiwanis of Fern Ridge to host Veneta’s 32nd Annual Egg Hunt on March 31 at 10:00 a.m. at Veneta Elementary School. Organizers have a full schedule of activities for kids of all ages.

The free event includes story time with Caitlin from the Fern Ridge Library. Veneta Mayor Sandra Larson, will kick off each age group’s hunt. “Grandma Bunny” and her “Bunny Helpers” will ensure a “no tears” activity.

Once again, the City will use 5,000 biodegradable eggs. Some will contain special prizes, such as cookies from local restaurants and certificates for Dairy Queen Blizzards.

It is the desire that all children receive a balloon from Banner Bank, toothbrush from Dr. Tracy Robinson, books donated by the Fern Ridge Educational Foundation, and Ranger Rick magazines from the Wildlife Federation. This celebration of spring brings together approximately 600 children and family members from the Fern Ridge area including Crow, Elmira, and Noti each year.

CIVIC CALENDAR March 2018 All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted		
6	Planning Commission	6:30 p.m.
7	Park Board	4:30 p.m.
11	Daylight Savings Time Begins - Spring Forward 	
12	City Council Meeting followed by Urban Renewal Agency Meeting	6:30 p.m.
12	Coffee with Lane County’s Sgt. Sieczkowski and City of Veneta Code Enforcement/Animal Control, Teresa Warrick - Our Daily Bread Restaurant, 88170 Territorial Rd.	1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
14	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
15	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
17	St. Patrick’s Day 	
26	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
31	Easter Egg Hunt - Veneta Elementary School 88131 Territorial Rd. (See enclosed flier) 	10:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Bite Out of Crime

(Continued from page 1)

Keep foliage trimmed around windows and doors where burglars are most likely to gain access. Plant a thorny bush or shrub, such as a rose, beneath windows. Make the potential area of entry uncomfortable for thieves.

When leaving town, ask a friend or neighbor to check on your house.

“Have them move things around on the front porch and sit awhile,” Carver suggested. Also, stop your mail and newspaper delivery, but don’t put a note to your delivery person on the outside of the box. “Criminals will see that note too.”

For tips specific to your home, she suggested that residents use

LCSO’s free Home Security/Safety Evaluation. “An expert will come visit your home, making suggestions of how you can change your landscaping, improve sightlines to other homes, and improve ingress and egress for emergency personnel.” These crime prevention audits are free of charge. To schedule yours, visit

www.lanesheriff.org and select the “crime prevention” link.

To learn more about how to support, join, or form a Neighborhood Watch Group, visit www.lanesheriff.org and select the “Neighborhood Watch” link or call Sgt. Carver at 541 682-4179.

Clean Audit

(Continued from page 1)

cial plan, operations guide, and communications device. To receive the award, Budget documents must be rated “proficient” in all four categories, and the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories. The City pays a small fee to nominate its budget for consideration, but, according to

Finance Director Shauna Hartz, it is money well spent.

“The GFOA has given a lot of thought to what makes a good budget,” said Hartz. “So by adhering to their guidelines, we end up with a much better budget. We must take a holistic view of the budget. For instance, when consid-

ering a capital outlay, we have to ensure that it is aligned with our policies and plans, and also consider the long-term operations costs. And, we need to write the document so that it is easy to understand.”

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a certificate of Recognition

for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. A Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation was presented to the Management Team at the Jan. 22 City Council meeting.

Spring Brings Change to Veneta Park Board

With two positions set to expire on March 31, Mayor Sandra Larson has appointed Johl Brock and Darlene Harris to the Veneta Park Board. “Both new members have already participated in meetings and were making suggestions the first night,” said City Administrator Ric Ingham.

“I joined the Park Board in hopes of promoting community involvement in outdoor recreation by getting involved myself,” said Brock. “I want to encourage people to get out into our parks and open spaces to enjoy our

beautiful city.” Born and raised in Eugene, Brock has lived in Veneta since 2004. An electrician by trade, he enjoys photography, running, and hiking.

Harris said she volunteered for Budget Committee so that she could learn how a city runs and also have an impact on the area she now calls home. As for the Park Board, she wants to help develop parks and events to make the city proud. A retired Hospice Nurse, Harris moved to Veneta from Southern California in 2014 and has established a Reiki practice.

Two Park Board Student positions will also expire March 31. Current representatives, Elmira High School students Cindy Buchanan and Anna Marshall, are already recruiting candidates from the community to take their place.

“This transition takes place every spring,” said Ingham. “The student participants are good about recruiting their replacements.” The Mayor and City Council are very committed to getting as much youth involvement in the Park Board as possible, he added.

The Park Board, a citizen’s advisory committee to the Veneta City Council, is instrumental in implementing park-related improvements and signature community events such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Earth/Arbor Day and Tree City celebrations. The Board also serves as the Veneta Tree City USA Tree Board. The Park Board meetings are open to the public and take place the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

 City of Veneta
PARK BOARD

Veneta Economic Development

NEWS



An Occasional Publication of the Veneta Economic Development Committee

March 2018

Message from the Chair—*Spring Brings Change*

At ground level, change always seems to be slow; progress happens in geological time, until we no longer recognize what was in the past. For Veneta, economic development has seemed to move at that glacial pace. The Economic Development Committee [EDC] has been at work for three years, and still there seems so much to be done.

But that appearance of lethargy can be problematic. In this newsletter we feature another new business that has opened its doors on Territorial Highway. Construction is happening in the Northeast Employment Center. A new business facility was recently approved by the Planning Commission for more construction there. Spectrum, formerly Charter Communications, has expanded its offerings and now, at least for some residents, high speed internet is available. The City has successfully applied for grants to fund further expansion of advanced broadband and a “middle mile” project may open up Veneta for high tech development soon.

Volunteers and City staff are reaching out for the third year of the Veneta Business Connect program to ascertain what existing businesses need to thrive. A second Business Showcase is scheduled for the end of April, to expand on the great success of the effort last year. Transit service has expanded, with many more trips between Eugene and Veneta now available. The community has begun to update the Transportation System Plan, and already the efforts are focusing on not just the Veneta-Eugene corridor, but on dealing with the lack of sufficient bicycle and pedestrian facilities and the growing congestion of the Territorial and Jeans and Territorial and HWY 126 intersections.

No, we will not see a giant Intel plant employing thousands locate in Veneta this spring, but we will see the continuation of the much more satisfactory and stable trends of supporting and growing our own businesses, of creating more local jobs so fewer people will have to face the causeway twice each day. *It is Spring, not only on the calendar, but in the revival of Veneta business and industry.* Let us rejoice in it and take pride in what we have accomplished while we look forward to what we will accomplish during the rest of the year.

-Len Goodwin

Invitation to the Spring Business Showcase

The Economic Development Committee and the Veneta-Fern Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce **invite you and your business to register for the 2018 Spring Showcase.** Once again, Deep Woods Events has graciously offered to host the Showcase. The event will be held on **Saturday April 28th, 2018 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.** We anticipate over 40 business participants and 200-300 community members to attend throughout the day. Businesses are encouraged to set up the day prior. Day-of set up for business teams will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end by 12 noon. **There will be no unloading after noon the day of the event.**



Registration fees are \$25, but Chamber members will only pay \$15. Registration will remain open until filled. Payment is due to the Chamber before your registration is finalized. Each participant is required to have a table set up with decorations, materials explaining what products and/or services they offer, samples, or small items to sell. Businesses will have the opportunity to network with one another and community members. **There will be food carts, entertainment and drinks on site, including our local favorite Buzz Burger!** KOCF will be providing radio coverage, with live music throughout the event.

Please register using our online survey:

<http://bit.ly/2olxWcD>

Contact Corum Ketchum (see reverse) for details or registration

Veneta Quick Facts

Population:	2000	2010	2017	Avg. Growth Rate		Veneta	Lane County
Veneta	2,762	4,565	4,795	4.3%	Median Age	34.9	39.2
Lane County	322,959	352,010	370,600	0.9%	Average Household Size	2.75	2.38
					Average Family Size	3.16	2.9
					Median Home Value	\$169,400	\$214,300
					Median Household Income	\$45,705	\$43,685

Some of our newest businesses:

**Cake and Peony, Vital Organics NW, Queen's Bounty
Welcome!**

Committee Mission

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.

Get Involved! Committee Vacancies

**Veneta
Economic
Development
Committee**



**Veneta
Business
Connect
Committee**



The EDC is seeking enthusiastic, business-minded individuals to serve on the **Economic Development Committee**. Members meet once a month with City staff on projects and proposals that grow our economy. **Business operators** in the Veneta—Fern Ridge area are invited to apply.

The **Business Connect Committee [BCC]** is also expanding. The BCC works directly with the Veneta—Fern Ridge Chamber to develop events and resources that support innovation, entrepreneurship and local businesses. The BCC meets once a month prior to the Chamber Board meeting. **All who are interested in supporting local businesses are invited to apply.**

Applications to the EDC and the BCC can be found here:
<http://www.venetaoregon.gov> OR <http://bit.ly/2EWbzEQ>

City of Veneta Business Support Updates

The City business expansion and retention program [BRE] enters its third year! **The City and EDC thank businesses** for their participation. BRE interviews help the City and its partners develop programs that help businesses with the problems they face.

City of Veneta Urban Renewal Redevelopment Toolkit

The purpose of urban renewal is to improve specific areas of a city that are poorly developed or underdeveloped. **Businesses located in Veneta's downtown urban renewal district are encouraged to take advantage of this program to improve their property.**

Veneta's urban renewal program is available for:

1. Design Assistance and Aesthetic Improvements
2. Façade Improvements
3. Signage
4. Streetscape Amenities
5. Debt Assistance Programs
6. Development Cost Assistance Programs

Contact urban renewal specialist Marina Brassfield for details:
mbrassfield@ci.veneta.or.us | 541-935-2191 ext. 312

Events, Dates & Business Development Opportunities*

**EDC Regular
Monthly Meeting**
Open to the Public

**Second Wednesday of every
month 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**
Veneta City Administrative Center
88184 8th Street,
Veneta, OR 97487

RAIN Startup Meetup*
Business Mentorship,
Development and
Networking
Open to the Public

**Fourth Tuesday of every month
4:00—7:00 p.m.**
Robbie's Windowbox Caffè
88267 Territorial HWY
Veneta, OR 97487

**Veneta By Design
Workshop**

March 17th 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
Veneta Elementary Cafeteria
88131 Territorial HWY
Veneta, OR 97487

**Spring Business
Showcase**
Open to the Public

April 28th, 2018 1:00—5:00 p.m.
Deep Woods Events
89980 Territorial HWY
Elmira, OR 97437

Veneta Economic Development Committee Members

Len Goodwin, Chair	lenelmira@gmail.com
Herb Vloedman, Vice-Chair	herb@vloedman.com
Thomas Cotter, City Council President	tcotter@ci.veneta.or.us
Jason Alansky	jalansky@bannerbank.com
Ryan Frome	ryanfrome@gmail.com
Gina Haley-Morrell	haleyscurves@gmail.com
Ron Osibov	rosibov@westlanetech.org

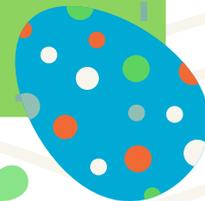
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come join us for the 32nd annual



EASTER
EGG HUNT



SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018
Veneta Elementary School
11:00 AM

Storytime begins at 10:00 am.

Ages 1 - 10



Bring a Basket

Check Eggs for Prizes!

Rain or Shine

City of Veneta
PARK BOARD



ADA Accessible Event - For more information call City Hall at 935-2191 www.venetaoregon.gov