

Holidays in Veneta: Small Town, Big Heart

Whether you need a little help or want to share your blessings, this town makes it possible during the holiday season. In doing so, Veneta shows that it is a small town with a great big heart.

From making merry at the Tree Lighting and Light Parade, to sharing our bounty through the Kiwanis Holiday Food Drive/ Distribution and S.A.N.T.A. Project, we come together each year to make the sea-

son bright. And it's easy to be part of the magic. Volunteers may give whatever they can, and the payback is beyond measure.

"These events bring together hundreds of volunteers from motorcycle clubs, local schools and churches, first responders, the Post Office, Scout groups, Kiwanis and other organizations, the City of Veneta staff, and anyone else who wants to help their neighbor," said

Pat Coy, Pastor, Kiwanis member and Veneta City Councilor. "These traditions give us the satisfaction of knowing we made a difference in someone's life, and that makes a brighter Christmas season for us all." And many hands make light work.

"It's a pretty unique situation in which organizations, individuals, and the



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Meet Your Local Deputies

For the past 10 years, the City of Veneta has contracted with the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) for four full-time Veneta deputies. "We have a great crew," said Sgt. Steve Sieczkowski, who has overseen that contract for the past two years.

Deputy Michael Hudson joined LCSO in 2003, serving as a Field Training Officer and Defensive Tactics Instructor in Corrections before moving to Transport. He joined the Veneta contract in 2017. He recently completed National School Shield Training with hopes to use the experience to work on local school security. He has earned a Valorous Service Award and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce Officers of the Year for 2018.

Deputy Darreyl Davis served in the U.S. Marine Corps. After being honorably discharged, he worked at the Oregon State Penitentiary before joining

LCSO in 1998 and ultimately becoming a patrol officer. Davis is a member of LCSO's Tactical Response Team and Search and Rescue.

Deputy Codey Crawford began volunteering for various local fire departments at 16 and then served four years in the USMC. He later became a reserve Police Officer for the City of Oakridge and then an LCSO Deputy, joining the Veneta team in July 2019. Last summer, a water rescue earned him the LCSO's Distinguished Service Award and Oregon Peace Officers Association Medal of Valor.

Deputy Richard Smith joined LCSO in 2014 and has focused on drug and weapons violations and traffic safety. In Veneta, he expanded his focus to property crimes and partners with the Fern Ridge Neighborhood Watch. He is also a Field Training Officer, Special Response Team member, and Advi-

sor for the Reserve Deputy program.

Supervisor Sgt. Sieczkowski served in the US Coast Guard, deploying on U.S. Navy vessels for drug interdiction. After his enlistment, he became an LCSO Deputy, earning his Ser-

geant's stripes in 2010. In addition to the Veneta contract, he conducts Marine Patrol, is a Team Leader for the Crisis Negotiation Team, and is the Sheriff's Office Liaison/Coordinator for the Crisis Intervention Team.

CIVIC CALENDAR December 2019

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

| | | |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| 3 | Planning Commission Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 4 | Park Board Meeting | Cancelled |
| 5 | Tree Lighting - Veneta Elementary - 88131 Territorial Rd. Events begin at 6:00 pm, Tree Lighting at 6:30 pm | 6:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. |
| 9 | City Council Meeting - Urban Renewal Agency meeting - immediately following | 6:30 p.m. |
| 11 | Economic Development Committee | 2:00 p.m. |
| 12 | Light Parade - See map for route | 7:00 p.m. |
| 19 | Municipal Court | 8:30 a.m. |
| 23 | City Council Meeting | Cancelled |
| 25 | City Hall closed Christmas Day | Closed |



Holidays in Veneta

City pull together because these things are important," added City Administrator Ric Ingham. "It's also easier to get involved when you know there are good partners that share the load to make good things

happen." And it works. Each year, hundreds draw close to usher in the season at the Tree Lighting. Thousands bask in the warm glow of the Light Parade. Last year, the S.A.N.T.A. Project provided

gifts for 279 families and 479 kids, and more than 250 families received holiday food boxes from the Kiwanis Food Drive.

"It's a wonderful community that we live in," Ingham continued. "We

show that each year by coming together in a spirit of caring and compassion."

Read on to learn how to be a part of these cherished local traditions.

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

The 34th Annual Kiwanis of Fern Ridge Annual Food Drive and the 27th annual S.A.N.T.A. (Sharing Among Neighbors Toy Appeal) Project are now underway. Contributions of nonperishable food and Christmas gifts for these annual aid initiatives can be made at donation barrels placed around the Fern Ridge area.

The S.A.N.T.A. Project will distribute free toys, books, clothing, and personal items, and even wrap gifts, in the Veneta Elementary School gym on

Saturday, Dec. 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Families in need must only show proof that they and their children live in the Fern Ridge or Crow/Applegate/Lorane School District and how many kids they have.

"We still need gift wrappers on the day of the distribution, as well as coats for infants and toddlers and stocking stuffers for teenagers" explained S.A.N.T.A. President Alice Nichols. To help with this event, contact Nichols at 541-935-3282.

On Dec. 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Kiwanis of Fern Ridge Annual Food Drive will distribute free holiday food baskets at the LDS Church at 88068 Huston Rd.

To qualify, obtain an application from the Love Project or 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.

Those who wish to donate can leave nonperishable foods in the barrels placed around town as well as through the Veneta Post Office, local schools, or Lane Fire Authority. Financial contributions can be sent to Kiwanis for Fern Ridge, P.O. Box 838, Veneta, OR 97487.

For more information, contact Rosie Melton or Gerry Barrington at 541-915-5487.

City Priorities When Plowing Snow

Following plans designed to ensure continuity of critical infrastructure, the City of Veneta's six-member Public Works Crew is ready to respond to whatever winter may bring. In the event of snow, that means plowing.

The City's goal for plowing is to clear at least one lane on every street to allow first responders to get through and residents to traverse. After that, the crew works to clear the entire roadway so that traffic can safely pass. When conditions make it unsafe for the crew to plow hills or narrow roads, they must wait for conditions to improve.

The Oregon Depart-

ment of Transportation maintains Territorial Highway, while the City plows the major collectors, such as 8th Street and Bolton Hill, before focusing on secondary roads leading to Territorial, including Broadway, Dunham, Cheney, and so forth, explains Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. Finally, the crew addresses the neighborhood streets.

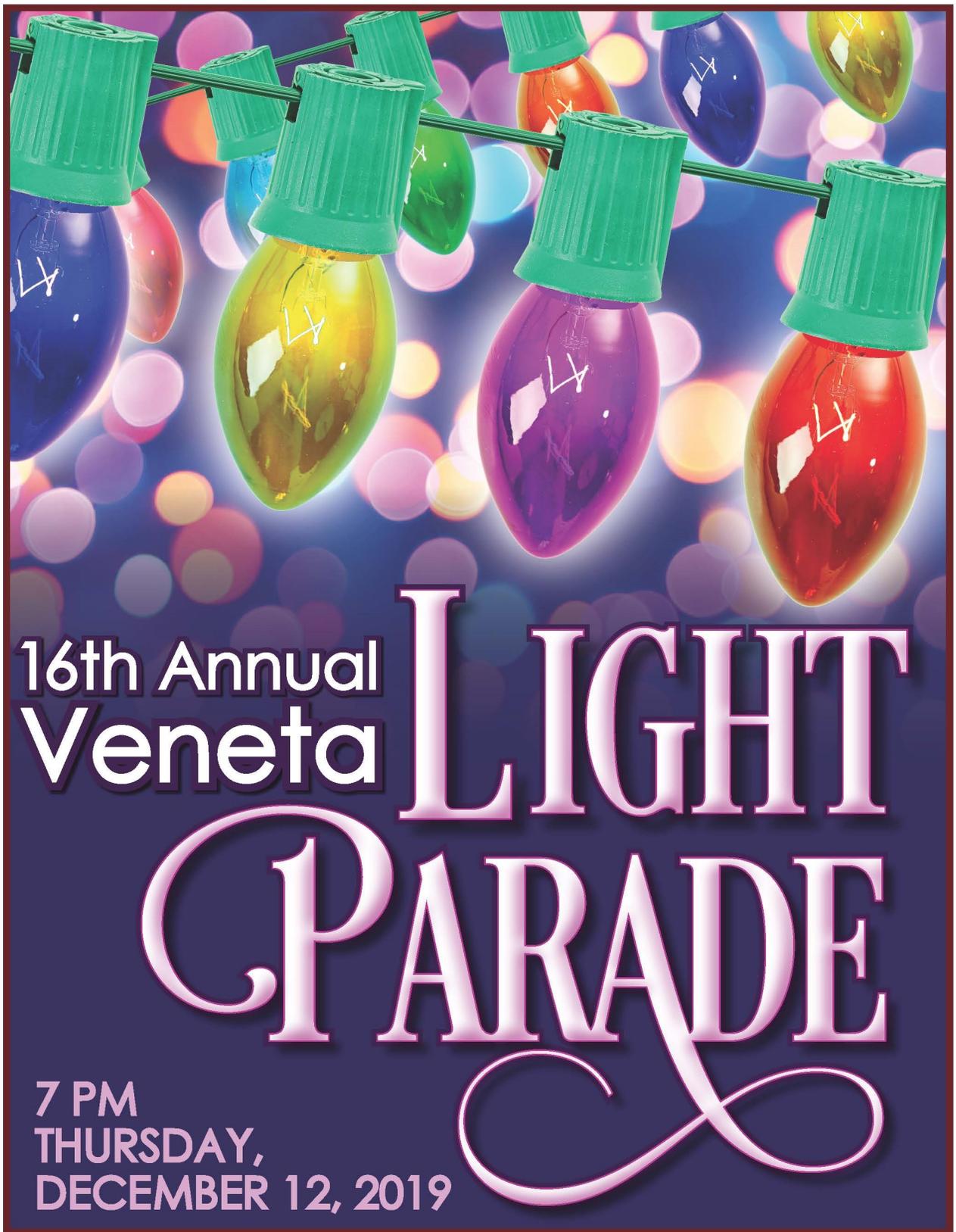
Neighborhoods are challenging, he said, because the plow operator must work in narrow streets and contend with parked cars. This limits options on where to deposit the snow. Schauer urges residents to help by keeping obstructions such as

vehicles, RVs, garbage cans and so forth out of the streets. Another challenge is pedestrians standing alongside the roadway. "The plow throws snow and it is unsafe to plow past pedestrians, so we ask that people stay completely away from the roadside when the plow is passing," he says.

Schauer asks residents to be patient as his crew

works its way through the City after a snow event. "Because the City has only had to plow the streets in three of the past 10 years, Veneta owns just one four-wheel drive vehicle and one plow attachment," he explains. "But we do the best we can with the equipment that we have and make safety our top priority."





16th Annual
Veneta

LIGHT PARADE

7 PM
THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 12, 2019

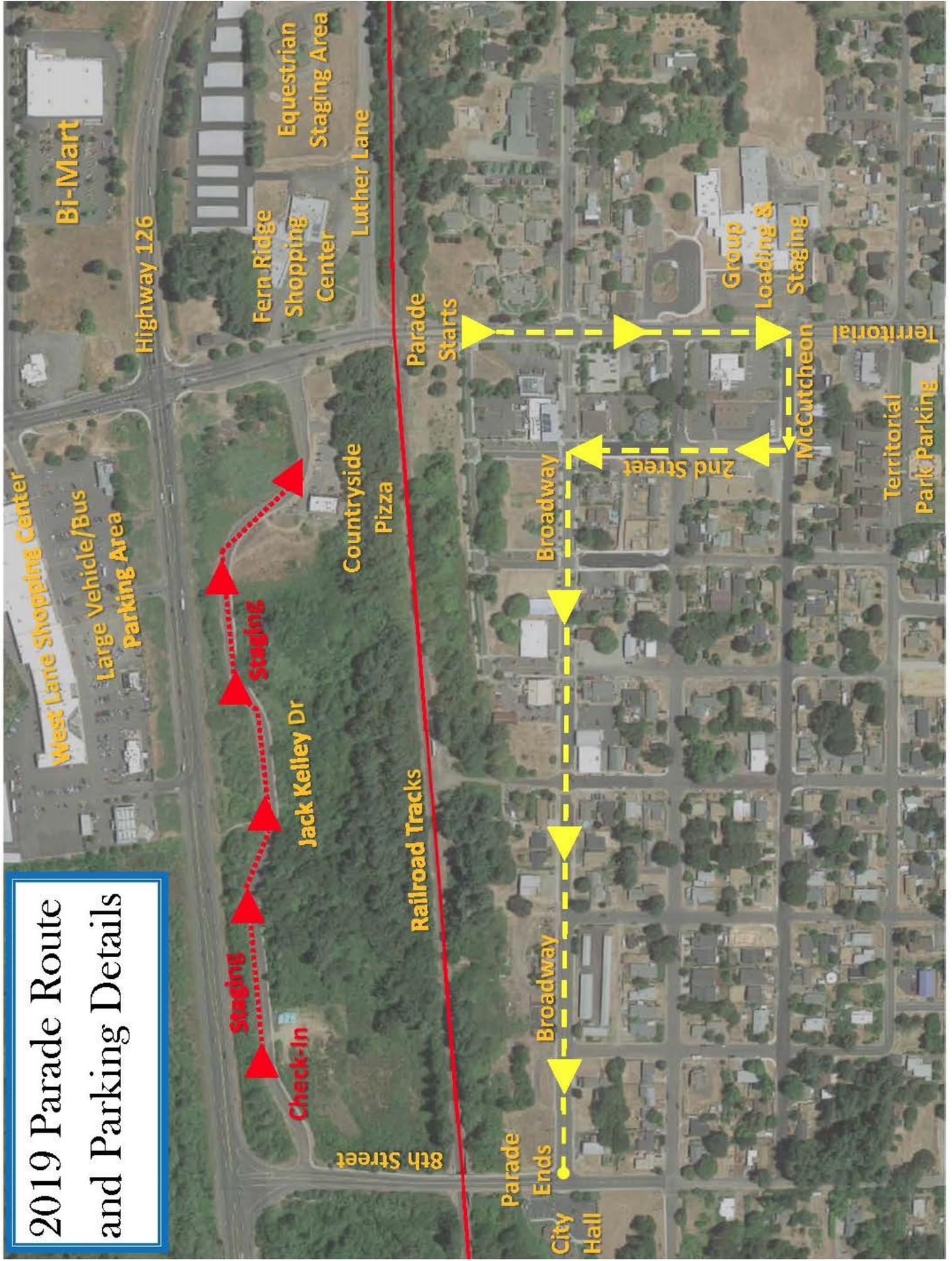
2019 SPONSORS

Parade Route

Start on Jack Kelley Drive
east bound;
North on Territorial Road;
West on McCutcheon Ave.;
North on 2nd Street;
West on W. Broadway;
End at W. Broadway and
8th Street.



2019 Parade Route and Parking Details



Annual Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber Event

TREE LIGHTING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5
VENETA ELEMENTARY
88131 TERRITORIAL HWY

Tree
Lighting
6:15 PM

Santa
Arrives
6 PM

School
Choirs to
Follow

Come See Santa! Enjoy FREE Hot Cocoa from Kiwanis!