

Veneta Community Pool 2019 Report

Use of the Veneta Community Pool during the 2019 summer season was up 24 percent from the previous year, with a 40 percent increase in entries by those living outside of City limits and a 22 percent increase in private swim instruction. The number of group swim lesson participants grew by more than 100 students, with the most significant growth

at the beginner and advanced swim levels. Special events organized by the City, including the Summer Solstice Party, Night Waves Teen Party, and Family Fun Night attracted nearly 400 patrons.

Pool Manager Stacy Cornelius attributes many of these increases to the addition of the Multi-Use Kiddie Pool, a 45 x 27-foot sloping pool featuring zero-entry for

infants and toddlers.

"We saw many new faces this summer, from the local community as well as the Eugene area, coming out to see the new pool addition," said Cornelius. Many bought the family swim season passes so they could use the Kiddie Pool with their younger children during the noon hour, recreation swims, and family swims all summer long.

"The addition of the Multi-Use Kiddie Pool allowed us to add new programming, specifically for families with young children, play groups, and daycares," she continued. "With the new schedule, we were also able to open the entire main pool for noon lap swimmers and water fitness participants. In the past, we've had to split the pool between those patrons

(See "Pool Report" on page 2)

MacKenzie and McGinnis Join City Staff

The City of Veneta is pleased to welcome Evan MacKenzie and Laura McGinnis to its staff. These highly qualified team members will ensure continuity of the City's key priorities of economic and community development.

Community Development Director MacKenzie was most recently Planning Director for the City of Phoenix, Oregon. He has more

than 15 years of experience as a Planner for other small Oregon cities as well, including Baker City, Pendleton, and Ontario.

"Evan brings a deep understanding of Oregon land use laws and broad community development skills," said City Administrator Ric Ingham. "As an active floodplain manager, he also has a high level of connection with state agencies, which can be

very beneficial for Veneta."

The Community Development Department encompasses the City's planning, building, and code enforcement functions and works to improve the City's livability. As Director, MacKenzie will oversee long-range planning projects, including transportation, parks, and other specific master plans.

"Evan has a great staff in Code Enforcement Officer

Teresa Warrick and Planner Lisa Garbett, who will ensure continuity through this transition," Ingham added.

MacKenzie holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University and a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Oregon. He is also a certified Floodplain Manager and completed the Initiative for Bicycle and Pedestrian

(See "City Staff" on page 2)

Backyard Burning Rules

The end of the 2019 fire season means backyard burning is now allowed. Before burning, residents must obtain a free burn permit, which may be downloaded at www.lanefire.org or obtained from a lockbox at Lane Fire Authority (LFA), 88050 Territorial Highway in Veneta. This permit must be kept on the premises at all times. Each day before burning, residents must call the Outdoor Burning Advisory Line at 541-726-3976. Lane Regional Air Protection Authority (LRAPA) determines wheth-

er burning is allowed each day based on air quality, weather, and other conditions. Last year, LRAPA banned the practice of using burn barrels. Burning leaves and tree needles, is never allowed within Veneta City limits.



Remember, smoke from a neighboring yard can create a health concern for those who may have respiratory issues. Being a good neighbor starts with following the regulations.

For those who violate backyard burning regulations, an ordinance co-

(See "Backyard Burning" page 2)

CIVIC CALENDAR November 2019

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

3	Daylight Saving Time - Fall Back 	
5	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
6	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
11	Veterans' Day - City Hall closed 	
11	City Council Meeting - Urban Renewal Agency meeting - immediately following	Cancelled
19	City Council Special Meeting	6:30 p.m.
21	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
25	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
28	City Hall closed in Observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday 	Closed
29		Closed

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and students participating in private swim lessons. The new schedule allows us to better serve both groups.”

Built in 2010, the Veneta

Community Pool operates June through August, providing swim lessons for ages 6 months and up, private swim lessons, swim team, and

special events, as well as lap swim, fitness classes, open swim, family swim times, and private rentals.

The 2019 Pool Season

Report is also available on the City of Veneta website at www.venetaoregon.gov under What's New.

City Staff

Innovation training at Portland State University.

Laura McGinnis will be the City's 13th RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environments) AmeriCorps Participant in the past 15 years. The RARE program allows highly qualified students to work in rural communities at just a quarter of the cost of a regular full-time employee.

“The City has been real-

ly fortunate to participate in the University of Oregon's RARE program, which sends us an enthusiastic and bright-eyed team member to spearhead economic development initiatives,” explained Ingham. These participants are also able to tap into UO programs and resources as well. “Our previous RARE participant, Corum Ketchum, connected us with the UO Landscape

Architect program, which provided the preliminary designs for the Veneta Downtown Pop-up Retail District at no cost.”

McGinnis will advance the City's economic development goals by supporting local startups and entrepreneurs through the Veneta-Works program as well as updating the City's Five-Year Strategic Plan. She will also begin the process of recruit-

ing a brewery or fermentation business to locate in Veneta's Downtown District.

McGinnis holds a Master of Public Administration and a Graduate Certificate of Nonprofit Management from UO as well as a B.S. in Business Administration and Marketing from the University of Delaware. She has worked in public relations/public affairs and media for more than 15 years.

Backyard Burning

adopted by LFA and passed by the Veneta City Council in 2018 gives Veneta Deputies and LFA enforcement authority. Illegally burning large trash piles, for instance, could result in a Class D violation with a \$115 fine. A more egregious violation

could be referred to LRAPA, and the penalties could potentially be much greater. If a resident believes a neighbor is violating burn rules, they can call the Lane County Sheriff's office non-emergency line at 541-682-4141 or LFA at 541-935-

2226 and they will respond.

“People are anxious to burn backyard debris piles and can get complacent with fire safety,” explained ODF Fire Protection Chief Ron Graham. “We are grateful for the help of every Oregonian working together to prevent

wildfires year round.”

Wildfire safety tips are available on ODF's Fire Prevention webpage at www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/pages/FirePrevention.aspx.

Be Ready for Winter Weather

It may already be a distant memory, but last winter brought the snowiest February days in more than 100 years. What was forecast as a minor weather event turned into several days of snowfall, with 20 inches piling up at the Eugene Airport and knocking out power to tens of thousands in Lane County. Some residents were without power for five days.

Though events of that magnitude are rare, Oregonians rarely survive a winter unscathed by the effects of inclement weather. So, with winter fast approaching, the City of Veneta urges the community to be prepared for whatever conditions might come.

Though local government always plays a role in responding to emergencies, it's unrealistic to expect that public agencies can meet all needs without help from all community members. So it's important that people within the community take steps to protect themselves, their families, and their neighbors in an emergency. In fact, Oregon Emergency Management now recommends that all residents be ready to sustain themselves for as long as two weeks with no outside assistance.

“Residents should pre-

pare well in advance for events like last winter's snowstorm or other natural or human-caused emergencies,” said Veneta's Management Analyst Jenna Boyd. “Have enough food and water on hand to get



you through at least a couple of days. Make sure you have enough fuel for generators and have alternate heating, cooking, and light sources readily available.”

Build an emergency preparedness kit and reduce hazards in and around your home. Take the time to inspect your house, insulate

water lines, drain water from outdoor hoses, and inspect trees on and around your property now. Hazard trees should be removed. Even with healthy trees, hanging limbs, or “widow makers,” can pose a danger and should be addressed. Check with the City before removing any trees, but in the case of hazard trees, permits can be issued almost immediately.

For additional preparedness resources, including a shopping list to build an emergency kit, a family communication plan, and information on emergency alerts, visit the City's Public Safety webpage: <https://www.venetaoregon.gov/publicsafety>