

Veneta Selects Matthew Michel as City Administrator

Following a robust nationwide search coordinated by Lane Council of Governments, Veneta Mayor Keith Weiss and the City Council have selected Matthew Michel as the new Veneta City Administrator. Michel will replace Ric Ingham, who formally announced his retirement in October 2019. Ingham will step down in January after nearly 16 years of service.

The search yielded a robust pool of 17 candidates and, on Nov. 19, three separate panels consisting of elected officials, City staff, and community stakeholders interviewed three finalists. Though the panelists agreed that all were very well qualified, they unanimously ranked Michel as their first choice. The City announced its decision at the Dec. 9 City Council meeting, and

Michel will come onboard Jan. 13.

An attorney currently residing in Eugene, Michel has more than 10 years experience as a utility manager, most recently for Lane Electric Cooperative. Matt worked as General Manager for Canby Utility, worked for a law firm which served several small cities and was a legislative aide in the Ohio House. He holds a Master

of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, a Bachelor degree in Economics, and a Law degree from Lewis and Clark.

While at Lane Electric, Michel collaborated with the City on the Middle-Mile Fiber Optics Project. In 2018/19, he served on the Veneta Economic Development Committee.

“Veneta really under-
(See “City Administrator” on page 2)

Water and Wastewater Rate Increases

Beginning January 1, the City of Veneta will implement increases in both water and wastewater rates. The base residential bill for combined water/wastewater and related costs will increase from \$73.86 per month to \$77.88 with commercial base charges rising from \$97.70 to \$102.19. All

changes will be reflected on the February 1 bills.

Water base rates for residential, commercial, and bulk water users will increase by 2 percent. This will be the sixth small rate increase in water rates since 2013. According to the City, such increases are necessary to meet the debt service obli-

gations incurred to build the pipeline to carry water from EWEB’s infrastructure in Eugene to Veneta, keep pace with the costs of maintaining and repairing the water system and accumulate sufficient amounts to fund needed system expansion. These incremental increases for water are likely to continue

through 2022.

Wastewater rates will increase by 7 percent, with base rates for residential connections rising by \$3.64 per month to \$55.61 per dwelling unit and commercial accounts increasing \$3.72 per month to \$56.93.

In 2013, the City up-
(See “Rate Increases” on page 2)

Holiday Cleanup with Sanipac

Sanipac is ready to help with your holiday cleanup, offering tree disposal services, and guidelines for wrapping paper and other holiday packaging waste.

“Non-foil wrapping paper and flattened cardboard can be placed in the comingle recycle bin,” explained Sanipac Sustainability Coordinator PJ Silva. “Ribbons and bows and items that include glitter and glue must go into the regular green trash cart. Styrofoam and packaging plastics should also be

placed in the trash cart. The only plastic items that can go in the comingle recycle bin are milk jugs and drinking bottles.”

Sanipac offers multiple options for natural tree disposal. On Jan. 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., anyone may drop off a Christmas tree at the Sanipac offices at 1650 Glenwood Blvd, Eugene, for a \$5 charge. Veneta Sanipac customers can schedule a curbside tree pickup for Jan. 14 by calling 541-736-3600. Trees must be at the curb by

(See “Sanipac” on page 2)

CIVIC CALENDAR

January 2020

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

1	New Year's Day		Closed
1	Park Board Meeting - Rescheduled to Jan 8		Cancelled
7	Planning Commission Meeting		Cancelled
8	Park Board Meeting		4:30 p.m.
13	City Council Meeting - Urban Renewal Agency meeting - immediately following		6:30 p.m.
16	Municipal Court		8:30 a.m.
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day		Closed
22	Economic Development Committee Meeting		3:00 p.m.
27	City Council Meeting - State of the City Address from Mayor Keith Weiss		6:30 p.m.

State of the City Address - January 27, 2020

Mayor Keith Weiss will be delivering his State of the City Address during the January 27 council meeting.

City Administrator

stands the value of teamwork and partnerships," said Michel. "I love the small-town feel and progressive attitude that encourages strong community ties and cutting-edge economic development. I'm excited to join a team that works hard and has fun serving the City of

Veneta."

Under the direction of the City Council, the City Administrator serves as the City's Chief Executive Officer, helping elected officials including the Mayor and Council to develop and carry out policies established by City ordinance and resolution.

He or she also manages the City's professional full-time staff of 16.

"[Mr. Michel] projects a positive image of confidence and eagerness to quickly adapt and learn the duties of our City Administrator," added Mayor Keith Weiss. "We expect a smooth transition."

Married for 23 years, Michel and his wife have two children and love to play sand volleyball and board games as well as read, watch college sports, and spend time with others on community projects.

Rate Increases

dated its Wastewater Master Plan to evaluate and develop a sewer system that meets current needs and future growth. In 2017, the City Council

contracted a third-party financial consultant to conduct a comprehensive Wastewater System Development Fee and Sewer Rate Analysis. The study

recommended the City implement a 7 percent increase each year from July 2018 through fiscal year 2024-25. By implementing the increase during the

winter, the City aims to offset the typical summer spike in utility bills caused by increased water use, making the fee increase easier for users to absorb.

Sanipac

7:00 a.m. Drivers will not pick up trees that are left on porches or in carports. The fee for this service is \$15 per tree.

Customers may also choose to cut a natural tree into pieces that will fit into the yard debris cart with the lid closed for no

additional charge. All ornaments, tinsel, and other decorations must be removed first.

Flocked trees are not recyclable. They may be cut up to fit into the trash cart with the lid closed at no additional charge. Artificial trees must be

dropped off at a Lane County Transfer Station, such as the one on Bolton Hill Road or in Glenwood. Or, in either of these cases, customers may call Sanipac for a special bulk item pickup.

The tree disposal fees help fund "Sanipac Christ-

mas Promise: Bike Build." As part of this nine-year tradition, Sanipac matches employee donations to purchase more than 100 bikes each year, which are assembled and donated to benefit low-income families.

City Seeks Input on School Resource Officer Proposal

The City of Veneta is exploring a proposal to partner with the Fern Ridge School District in the hiring of a School Resource Officer (SRO) but is first soliciting public input. This sworn law enforcement officer would be responsible for safety and crime prevention at all schools in the district.

FRSD would receive partial funding for the SRO for the 2020-21 school year through the Student Success Act.

The Veneta City Council feels that an SRO could have a positive impact on students and the greater community; however, Councilors would like to determine whether resi-

dents wish them to pursue the proposal. How, or whether, the City's portion of the expense would be funded depends on community support.

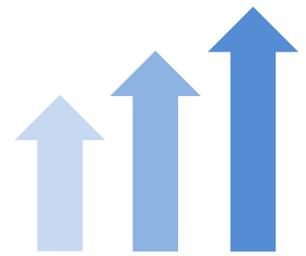
To comment, submit a written statement to Jenna Boyd at the City of Veneta PO Box 458, Veneta OR 97487 or by email at jboyd@ci.veneta.or.us; or

hand-deliver to City Hall at 88184 8th St. All comments must be submitted no later than Tuesday, Jan. 7 to be included in the City Council staff report. Or to make a public comment, attend the Jan. 13 Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Legislative Town Hall at Veneta City Hall - January 8, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.

With Senator Floyd Prozanski & Representative Paul Holvey

Veneta Economic Development NEWS



A Publication of the Veneta Economic Development Committee

January 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR *Coming Together in 2020*

Veneta is a wonderful place to call home, especially during the holidays. Our community really comes together, beginning with the Fern Ridge Holiday Bazaar through the Holiday Light Parade and into the New Year. As we enter 2020, I would like to share how our strength in coming together has helped develop our local economy.

Last year, Veneta adopted a new urban renewal area to drive business development to the downtown area while freeing up land for housing. Thirty entrepreneurs joined the VenetaWorks program to help their businesses thrive. The first Downtown Veneta Retail Popup District brought excitement and energy to our downtown during the summer. And the City continues its effort to bring more broadband options to Veneta, a step that will help businesses innovate right here.

Kicking off economic development in 2020, we will seek bids for a craft brewery, cidery or brewpub to set up shop downtown. Grocery Outlet and others will continue to develop land. And on January 14th, the City and Oregon RAIN will host the “2020 VenetaWorks Celebration,” a free event at the Fern Ridge Services Center that will highlight our local entrepreneurs. See the ad for RSVP information. We hope to see you there to celebrate!

— Herb Vloedman

FINDING YOUR TEAM WITH VENETAWORKS

Back in 2015, Annie Molnar, founder of Bella’s LuvBar Butter, took a soap-making class and was instantly hooked. A year later, she began selling at local markets and festivals, but there was something missing.

“I found that I needed some direction and assistance in areas not within my skill set,” Annie

said. That is when she sought out assistance from VenetaWorks.

By attending workshops, pub talks, and mentor meetings, Annie found the tools and resources she had been missing as an entrepreneur. She then took the step to test her business in a stand-alone store as one of the inaugural vendors at Downtown Veneta’s Popup Retail District this past summer.

Since the close of the summer popup district, her business has grown, yet Annie is still a VenetaWorks regular. What keeps her coming back? “The easy answer is continuing education and growth. But what I have found is a support group of core individuals that share common goals and challenges... I consider this core group ‘my team.’”



Annie Molnar of Bella’s LuvBar Butter was an inaugural vendor in Veneta’s Popup Retail District in 2019.

Our Purpose and Mission

The purpose of Veneta’s 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.

CRAFT BREWERS, VENETA WANTS YOU!

The City is investing in making the downtown a vibrant destination for travelers and residents – a place to have fun with friends and family.

As part of that investment, on January 15th, the City will begin accepting proposals from makers of craft beer, liquor, cider, wine, and other fermented beverages to set



The beer garden at Downtown Veneta's Popup Retail District 2019

up shop downtown. There is a generous package of incentives to help get started.

Well-qualified entrepreneurs and established business owners are invited to submit a letter of interest by Feb. 15th to Jenna Boyd, Management Analyst, (jboyd@ci.veneta.or.us).

PUBLIC EVENTS & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

1/14: "2020 VenetaWorks Celebration", 6 p.m., Free
Fern Ridge Service Center (25035 W. Broadway)

Please RSVP by Jan. 10th by visiting
<https://tinyurl.com/2020VenetaWorks>

1/21: "Accessing Capital as a Start-up" Pub Talk, 6 p.m.
Broadway Grill (24992 W. Broadway)

Gain insights from Banner Bank & Community LendingWorks to help your business grow!

1/22: EDC Regular Monthly Meeting*, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Veneta City Administrative Center (88184 8th St.)

** Meetings are typically on the 2nd Wednesday.*

1/28: Monthly Mentor Meet-up, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Robbie's Windowbox Caffè (88267 Territorial HWY)
Business mentorship, development and networking

2/4: Food and Farm Workshop, 6p.m. – 8 p.m.

Fern Ridge Service Center (25035 W. Broadway)

Learn about the Farmer Direct Producer Exemption.



2020 VenetaWorks Celebration

Growing a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem

January 14, 2020 | 6:00 p.m.
Fern Ridge Service Center
(25035 W Broadway Ave, Veneta)

In its first year of programming, 30 entrepreneurs took advantage of VenetaWorks services to help launch their businesses.

Meet them, taste their food and drink - even get samples of their products - all free at the 2020 VenetaWorks Celebration!

Join us as we grow a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in Veneta!

RSVP by Jan. 10th

<https://tinyurl.com/2020VenetaWorks>

Sponsored by



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Beginning Jan. 13, 2020