

Veneta Community Pool Closed Due to COVID 19 Restrictions

After thoroughly analyzing COVID-19 protocols mandated by the State of Oregon, the Veneta City Council determined that it is not feasible to open the Veneta Community Pool amidst the Coronavirus pandemic. "Public health requirements, safety concerns, fiscal concerns, and the availability of trained lifeguards led to this decision," explained Pool Manager Stacy Cornelius. "We hope patrons understand what a difficult decision this was."

Staffing requirements for the pool season seemed insurmountable, according to a study prepared by City staff. "As of late February, we had commitments from 18 previous staff members to return this summer with

plans to hire five new lifeguards as well," explained Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. But when the City recently contacted returning staff, only eight were still committed to coming back and only five could work full time. "It would have been very difficult to make any schedule work with that kind of staffing, especially given the complications resulting from COVID."

In addition, the virus had led the Red Cross to cancel all training for new lifeguards; consequently, the pool could not certify new hires. The pool would also have required additional staffing to monitor physical distancing, scheduling, and to keep up with new cleaning and contact tracing requirements.

Management determined that it would have been difficult to enforce physical distancing between swimmers as they passed in lap lanes or during group lessons. Enforcing physical distancing of young swimmers during recreation time would have been extremely challenging, so no recreational swim would have been offered.

With estimated costs of \$99,000 and anticipated revenues of about \$23,400 for the proposed nine-week season, the pool would have lost approximately \$75,700. This fact, coupled with the other challenges, led the City Council to determine that not opening for the season was the best option. Still, the Community Pool staff sought a way to offer

water safety training, as it does each summer. Without such training, youth are at higher risk of accidents on the water. "In an area surrounded by water bodies, it's important that our residents know how to swim and practice water safety," said Cornelius.

Absent swim instruction, she urges adults to visit the City of Veneta website to sign up for the Water Watch Campaign and declare their commitment to watching children in and around pools and other water bodies and responding in the case of an emergency. Adults who sign up will take a pledge to be vigilant with children around the water and receive emailed tips to participate.

Welcome Jana Weaver

After a six-month search that yielded a highly competitive field of candidates, the City of Veneta found a great fit in its new Management Analyst, Jana Weaver. Weaver hit the ground running on June 18 and will work closely with City Administrator Matt Michel on economic development, communications, emergency preparedness, and policy issues.



Weaver joins the City after seven years as Special Events and Rentals Supervisor for Willamalane Parks and Recreation District in Springfield. There, she oversaw more than 30 special events including, 5K races, concerts and movies in the park, haunted hayrides, park openings, and Willamalane's 75th Anniversary Celebration, which she considers her signature event.

With more than 6,000

(Continued on page 2)

CIVIC CALENDAR July 2020

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

1	Park Board Meeting		Cancelled
3	City Hall Closed in Observance of Independence Day		
7	Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall		Cancelled
13	City Council Meeting - Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - immediately following		6:30 p.m.
16	Municipal Court - Please call for more information - 541-935-2191		
27	City Council Meeting - Check the City website www.venetaoregon.gov for updates		TBD

Temporary Restaurant Outdoor Dining Due to COVID 19

With the Governor's order for partial reopening, citizens and restaurateurs alike are looking forward to dining out. However, most indoor dining areas don't allow restaurants to seat many people and still maintain social distancing.

The City Council has approved a temporary allowance for restaurants to expand outdoor dining areas into their off-street parking areas. This allowance is made as an option to restaurants – there is no requirement to implement outdoor dining. To establish a minimum level of safety for diners, there are a few rules:

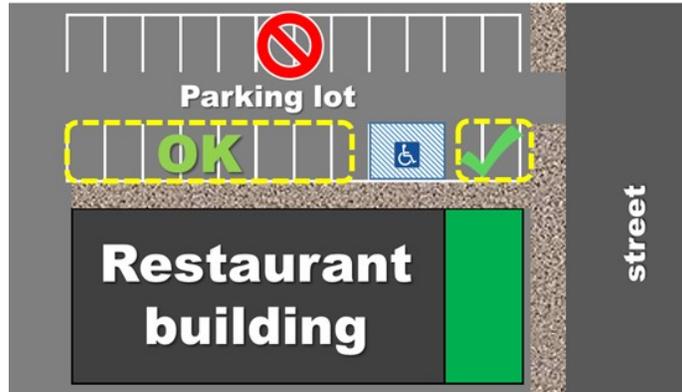
The off-street parking to be used for outdoor

dining must be on the same property as the restaurant.

No motor vehicles shall operate or park in between serving or dining

maneuvering areas and any outdoor serving/dining areas. No ADA spaces or associated maneuvering areas shall be used or displaced.

ty Development staff showing conformance with the above standards prior to commencing service. There is no fee for this review.



Restaurants in multi-tenant malls must obtain permission from the property owner or manager. Any restaurant proposing outdoor alcohol service must submit an Application for Expansion of Service Area to OLCC.

Applications are online. Restaurant operators can bring the completed form with their site plan to City Hall or email it to: emackenzie@ci.veneta.or.us or lgarbett@ci.veneta.or.us, or email with questions.

areas and the restaurant.

A six-foot minimum separation must be maintained between all motor vehicle parking and ma-

Any restaurant proposing outdoor dining in place of existing parking must submit a permit form and site plan to Communi-



Warm weather, beautiful days, and a nice walk alone or with family. A great time to share time—safely distanced—with others.

You can help create this enjoyable experience by keeping your sidewalk clear of overgrown plants, Sanipac bins, cars, and basketball hoops.

A clear sidewalk is the gift that keeps giving!



Jana Weaver

(Continued from page 1)

attendees and dozens of sponsors, vendors, organizations, and community interaction, the celebration had a lot of moving parts, Weaver explained. Still, she led the effort and brought it together in just eight months. "It was complicated but very rewarding and brought a lot to the community," she said. Though she will be available to assist in event planning for Veneta, it will not be

her primary focus. "But, I'll use many of the same skillsets to manage activities here that also have a lot of moving parts and involve many community groups."

Her first priority is VenetaWorks, Veneta's hub for entrepreneurs in the Veneta-Fern Ridge area, which includes training, mentorship, and creating market opportunities like physical retail spaces and online marketplace training. Following its success-

ful inaugural year, Weaver will be addressing the logistical challenges of hosting the Veneta Pop-up Retail District in the age of COVID-19, as well as launching a new online marketplace for local entrepreneurs.

"We'll need to plan how to safely create our Retail Pop-Up experience this year, probably with less gathering but still good opportunities for our local entrepreneurs," said Weaver. Separately, the

online marketplace will be a new avenue for VenetaWorks to support and encourage local business startups with online retail sales logistics and website management.

"We're really excited about partnering with Oregon non-profits, Oregon RAIN and Foundry Collective, to create an online marketplace that has a Fern Ridge feel to it and reminds shoppers to buy local."