

# 50 Years in VENETA

**Although Veneta was incorporated in 1962, people have been living in this community for 100 years, so the timeline begins when the community of Veneta was initiated.**

**1912**  
• Settled by Edmund E. Hunter. Town was named after his 5 year old daughter, Veneta by Hunter's partner Rev. Charles Dunham.  
• Railroad to the

coast, built by Southern Pacific, reaches Veneta  
**1913**  
• First marriage in Veneta (Ceila Hunter to Alvin Walrod on November 5)

**1914**  
• Post office established at Veneta - Ross H. Elliott was first postmaster.  
**1916**  
• Railroad line to Coos Bay completed

• Baptist church built at McCutcheon and 2nd St.  
**1917**  
• First sawmill (Frank Roberts Mill) built at west end of Broadway,

between 6th & 7th  
**1920**  
• Frank Roberts Sawmill sold to Lewis & Peters.  
**1920**  
• First school in Veneta at Jess Carron house

on Dunham near Fourth. Used for five years.  
**1924-25**  
• During boom years of timber industry, sign erected at railroad crossing and Territorial

Road - "City with a Million Dollar Payroll"  
**1925**  
• Veneta's first school building - two-room school at same location as present Veneta

Elementary School.  
**1926**  
• Veneta voting precinct established.  
**1927**  
• Electrification comes to Veneta

**1930**  
• Western Lane Fire Protection Association formed; Veneta chosen for headquarters.  
**1930s**  
• Community Hall built by

volunteer labor, at southeast corner of Hunter and Territorial.  
**1936**  
• Johnson Mill built by Ralph Johnson at Broadway & 8th St.

**1938**  
• Veneta Elementary School built at present location  
**1939**  
• Construction of Fern Ridge Dam and

reservoir begins  
**1941**  
• Fern Ridge Dam dedicated  
**1948**  
• Community building built as a war memorial. Located on Territorial, next

to Veneta Elementary School and was later used as a gym for the school.  
**1950**  
• Ve-Elti Theater built where Route F met

Territorial  
**1955**  
• First annual beef pit barbecue sponsored by St. Catherine of Siena Church

**1957**  
• Route F (Rt. 126) completed from Eugene to Florence  
**Late 1950s**  
• Veneta Improvement Association purchases what

is now City Park on Broadway and starts to build pool.  
**1961**  
• West Lane News starts publication  
• A & W drive-in restaurant

built on Route F (now Rt. 126), next to Fern Ridge Skating Rink, which was formerly the Fern Ridge Dance Hall

**1962** Voters approve measure to incorporate as a city. Veneta population 1125. Voters chose to incorporate to allow the formation of public utility districts to construct safe water and wastewater treatment facilities. City incorporated April 8, 1962. Ralph Johnson elected mayor.

**1964** Elmira High School built on present site. Junior high school opens in old high school building (present site of Fern Ridge Middle School).

**1966** Veneta population 1200. City purchases a grader, its first piece of equipment. Harriet Elliott Memorial Public Library opens in former music room of Veneta Elementary School (Precursor to Fern Ridge Library).

**1967** Construction starts on city hall/fire station at 5th & McCutcheon (joint project with Veneta fire district). City opens bids for construction of municipal water system.

**1968** City forms Planning Commission. City hires first part-time policeman.

**1969** \$79,400 bond passed to improve recreational facilities. First 20-year master plan adopted for future development of City of Veneta.

**1970** Veneta population 1377. Oregon Country Fair held at site on Long Tom River near Veneta. 1970s - Mid-Lane Community Partnerships begins.

**1971** Veneta population 1490. Veneta signs contract with Lane County Sheriff's office for law enforcement services. (prior to this, Veneta had a part-time patrolman.) Harold's Market expands doubling floor space.

**1972** Veneta has 1.04 miles of paved streets; two blocks of Fifth Street paved in 1972. 2.44 miles of gravel streets in the city. County roads within the city total 4.90 miles. State highways within the city total 2.53 miles. Total street mileage is 10.91 miles within the 1314 acres of land area. First sewer system completed.

**1973** Richard Gutman begins term as mayor.

**1974** Veneta population 1885. Ordinance governing partitioning and subdividing lands in the city.

**1975** New junior high school built on same site - retained gym and several classrooms.

**1976** EPA grant for 75% of cost to construct new sewer lagoon. First water master plan adopted.

**1977-79** Ralph Johnson Park, Oak Island Park and Fern Park started and completed. First wastewater treatment plant constructed.

**1978** J.W. "Bill" Smigley begins term as mayor. Present Veneta Post Office building opens. First city administrator named - David Kinney. Veneta Park Board formed.

**1979** The city's biggest retail trade advance then far came with the opening of a 20-million shopping center on the west side of Territorial Road.

**1980** Veneta population 2449. \$1 million bond passed for water improvement project.

**1981** 5th Street Park started and completed.

**1982** Water shortage declared - water restriction goes into effect.

**1983** Old Highway 126 name changed to Luther Lane.

**1984** Veneta population 2345. West Lane Shopping Center opened (construction started 1980). Special city allotment - street improvements to Oak Island from Cherry to Perkins. Hunter Rd. from Territorial to Huston - truck traffic is restricted. Construct water, sewer & sidewalks on Jeans Rd.

**1985** Water shortage is declared - water restrictions go into effect. Water restriction lifted.

**1986** First Easter Egg Hunt held at City Park.

**1987** Street improvements to East Broadway.

**1988** Noti-Veneta Bypass opened (construction started 1986). Relocation of Cheney sanitary sewer lift station and LID.

**1989** Street improvements to East Broadway.

**1990** Water shortage is declared - water restrictions go into effect. Water restriction lifted.

**1991** Sidewalk improvements to Cheney, Parkside & Oak Island Drive.

**1992** Temporary construction moratorium (sewer hook up).

**1993** Street & sidewalk improvements on Dunham. Fern Ridge Special Library District is created. Storm drain improvements on Territorial Rd.

**1994** Construction moratorium lifted (66 new Sewer hook ups).

**1995** Relocation of Cheney sanitary sewer lift station and LID.

**1996** Present Veneta administrative center opens. Galen Carpenter starts term as mayor. Street improvements to Hunter Rd from 6th St. to 7th St.; 7th St. from Hunter to Sertic and Sertic from 7th St. to 8th St.

**1997** Tim "T.J." Brooker begins term as mayor.

**1998** Water shortage and restrictions is lifted. Bimart opens. 8th Street overpass completed. Central Elementary School closed, consolidated with Veneta Elementary School. Noti Elementary School closed, consolidated with Elmira Elementary School.

**1999** Veneta population 2935.

**2000** New wastewater treatment plant brought online and development moratorium lifted, poplar plantation established. Territorial Park acquired by city.

**2001** New play structure and improvements for Fern Park. West Broadway master plan improvements completed. 1LTD Park and Ride dedicated.

**2002** 8th Street overpass completed. City acquired Bolton Hill Sports Complex (Territorial Sports Program ball fields). Lot adjacent to Fern Park acquired, doubling size of park.

**2003** Jack Kelley Drive completed. Wastewater plant completed.

**2004** Sharon Hobart begins term as mayor.

**2005** Veneta population 3660.

**2006** New swimming pool opens.

**2007** First Earth Day held at Territorial Park. Swimming pool popped out of ground during heavy rain.

**2008** Veneta population 4640.

**2009** New swimming pool opens.

**2010** New swimming pool opens.

**2011** New play structure and improvements for Fern Park. West Broadway master plan improvements completed. 1LTD Park and Ride dedicated.

**2012-13** Construction of water pipeline to Veneta. Construction of Fern Ridge Service Center on West Broadway.

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