

City News

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

88184 Eighth Street
PO Box 458
Veneta, OR 97487
(541) 935-2191

<http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/>

City seeks water supply alternatives

Ephraim Payne

The City of Veneta relies on groundwater wells to meet current and future municipal needs. According to the City's 2009 Master Water Plan, Veneta could face a water supply shortfall of 2.8 million gallons per day by 2030. A 2008 Lane County population study, which projects that Veneta will grow to 9,600 residents by 2030, triggered the water-plan update.

The 2009 Master Plan outlined a capital improvement plan that relied upon groundwater sources to meet the community's needs in the next ten years. However, a recent ruling by the Ore-

gon Water Resources Department restricts future well development within a one mile radius of the Fern Ridge Reservoir, the Long Tom River and other non-seasonal streams. The decision forced Veneta officials to explore other alternatives.

One of those alternatives, a ten-mile water pipeline from Eugene, gained some momentum in late 2009, when USDA Rural Development invited Veneta to apply for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. As part of that application, the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) signed an initial agreement to sell Veneta 150 million gallons per year.

While Veneta waits to

hear if it will receive a federal funding package, the City of Eugene and EWEB must determine which agency has the charter authority to approve the water supply agreement. To answer the charter question, a Lane County Circuit Court Judge must validate the legality of the agreement.

After studying any proposed federal funding package, the City will analyze how the project may affect utility bills. Once that analysis is completed, the City Council will hold public hearings to gauge support for the project.

Read an expanded version of this article at <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/default.htm>

One stop for summer fun

By Ephraim Payne

Wondering what activities to plan for the kids this summer? The City has got you covered. Just look in the Summer 2010 City of Veneta Recreation Guide.

"It's a one-stop location for finding all your summer activities," says City Administrator Ric Ingham.

The recreation guide is available on the City's website (<http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/>). Hard copies can be picked up at City Hall, the Fern Ridge Library and Ray's Food Place.

With the opening of the new Veneta Community Pool, children all over town will undoubtedly want to go for a swim. In addition to a schedule of swim lessons, lap swims and other pool activities, the recreation guide lists pool fees.

Besides the pool, the guide contains information about this year's Oregon Country Fair Culture Jam, Food for Lane County's free Summer Food Program, the Imagination Zone's summer program and a schedule of programs and events at the Fern Ridge Library.

Free Country Fair shuttle for Fern Ridge Folks

By Ephraim Payne

It's time once again for the Oregon Country Fair. For the third year in row, Fern Ridge area residents can beat traffic and save the \$7 parking fee (\$8 for those buying parking tickets at the Fair) by taking the free shuttle from downtown Veneta.

School buses used for the event, carrying up to 42 passengers, will make four round-trips July 9

and 10. Tickets are available for pick-up at Veneta City Hall between July 1 and July 9. Each person can claim up to four tickets per household. A total of 174 tickets will be printed for each day.

Because the service is restricted to local area residents, people wishing to take the shuttle must show proof of residency within the boundaries of Lane County Fire District No. 1, of the City of Ve-

netta or the Fern Ridge Library District. Picture id, utility bills or library cards can be used as identification.

Buses will depart from Veneta Elementary School on Friday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 p.m., returning at 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. These times are approximate, depending on the impact of Fair traffic.