

# City News

The Newsletter of the  
City of Veneta

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## *More lessons and new lap swims at the pool*

**By Ephraim Payne**

The Veneta Community Pool will keep on keeping people cool this month, with the fourth round of public swim lessons and a slew of new lap swim sessions to meet the demand.

"It's been a really good season so far," says Pool Manager Stacy Cornelius, "Lots of people have been enjoying the pool and that's what it's all about."

The fourth and last round of swim classes starts Monday, August 8. Registration is ongoing, according to Cornelius, and the pool staff will pro-rate lessons for those wishing to register after classes begin, space permitting.

Earlier this year, Veneta's City Council directed all departments to decrease their budgets by 5 percent. Veneta's Community Services Director and the pool staff decided to trim labor costs by eliminating the 6 to 7 a.m. lap swim sessions from last year. Due to scheduling conflicts, other lap swim times were reduced as well.

In July, after input from community members who valued the lap swim sessions, the City increased the number of lap swim times in response to public need. The City staff has reintroduced the 6 to 7 a.m. lap swim session on Tuesdays and Thursdays,

in order to accommodate those who like to get in a swim before commuting to work. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, commuters can swim laps after work between 5 and 6:45 p.m.

"Hopefully, we've given folks five new opportunities before and after commute time to come in and swim," said City Administrator Ric Ingham.

In addition, some lanes will be open for lap swimming during the 7 to 9 a.m. weekday time slot shared with private swim lessons and aerobics classes. Between 12 and 1 p.m. daily lap swimmers will find lanes reserved for their use.

## *Control cat over-population*

While spring is called kitten season, cats actually breed throughout three seasons – beginning in the spring, peaking in late spring to early summer and ending in the fall. A non-spayed female cat can give birth multiple times during the year, presenting a problem for cities like Veneta where stray and feral cat populations are on the rise.

"It's still the breeding season," says the City's Code Enforcement Officer Teresa Warrick.

Many litters of feral kittens come from non-spayed or neutered domestic cats that owners abandon or simply allow to roam. Some people assume their animals will survive when they move away and leave pets behind, adding to the breeding population.

The best way to help reduce unwanted cats in our community is to spay or neuter your own pet. Veneta has vouchers for low income city residents to get pet cats or feral cats fixed. The City's website lists agencies that offer low cost spay/neuter programs at:

[www.ci.veneta.or.us](http://www.ci.veneta.or.us)  
(Departments and Services, then City Services, click on Animal Control).

## *Stop when the lights flash, watch when crossing*

**By Ephraim Payne**

The new pedestrian signs at the intersection of Territorial Road and West Broadway are there to help passing motorists be aware of pedestrians in the crosswalks. But, City officials say, both drivers and pedestrians need to understand how the crossing works.

"They're there, they're working and people should learn to use them correctly," says Veneta Public Works Superintendent Kyle Schauer.

Pedestrian-activated

LED signs flash for 32 seconds. Drivers must respect the signs and stop at either side of the intersection when the lights flash, but should not block the intersection itself. People crossing the street must remember that the signs do not control the intersection as red lights do, and some motorists may not stop.

Buttons to activate the crossing lights are built into the street light poles located on each corner of the intersection. Pedestrians should push the button to activate the warning

lights and then watch to make sure that vehicles have stopped before crossing the intersection.

The City installed the new equipment to bring attention to pedestrians in the crosswalks and to provide a safer location to cross, but both pedestrians and motorists alike should use caution at the intersection.

"Sometimes kids going to the pool do not use the signs," says Schauer. "And sometimes, cars just blow through the intersection. Proper use is the key to crosswalk safety."

# City of Veneta adds new City Recorder to the team

By Ephraim Payne

There's a new face in town and a new City employee taking over from a fixture in Veneta government.

Last month Chris Workman became Veneta's City Recorder. The former City Recorder, Sheryl Hackett, officially retired on March 31 after serving the City of Veneta for 29 years.

Hackett started as a part-time employee in 1982 and became the City's first full-time City Recorder in 1997.

"We hate to see a long time employee leave, but we're glad to see Chris join the team," said Veneta City Administrator Ric Ingham. "We think he's going to be a valuable contributor to the team."

With Hackett retiring, the City management team decided to adapt the requirements of the position, adding human resources and risk management functions that were previously handled by other staff members.

Workman started working as Veneta's City Recorder/Human Resources and Risk Management Administrator on July 5.

Workman, who grew up in Salem, Oregon, earned a degree in Business Administration from Western Oregon University before attending the Marriott School of Management at Brigham Young University and earning a Master's degree in Public Administration.

While earning his Master's, he was a Research Assistant at the Romney Institute of Public Management and completed a year-long management



Chris Workman adds new skills and unique experience to the City of Veneta's administration.

internship at Spanish Fork City.

"He seemed to be the right fit," said Ingham, adding that Workman helped Spanish Fork City on risk management and human resources priorities such as rewriting employee job descriptions, cell phone and motor vehicle policies and a city response plan to further public communications. "He

came with some pretty amazing recommendations."

For his part, Workman says he's excited about coming to Veneta, which he credits for having a wonderful small town atmosphere where people wave to each other and kids walk the streets in safety, yet is conveniently close to a metropolitan area.

"I'm excited about Veneta," he said. "I see a lot of potential growth, not just in terms of population, but potential growth in the public services the city can offer citizens."

Workman says he enjoys working in public administration because it allows him to serve the public.

"For me, it's about going home at the end of the day feeling like I helped somebody else," he said. "I enjoy piecing problems and solutions together."

When he's not finding solutions to citizens' problems, Workman devotes a lot of time to his children's sporting activities. He coaches and assistant coaches their various teams and served on the local Little League board in Albany prior to moving to Utah for his graduate studies. He says he also enjoys outdoor activities like camping in the mountains and hanging out at the beach, both of which are accessible from town.

"Fortunately," Workman says, "Veneta is ideally located where my family can spend lots of time enjoying the outdoors without having to drive too far."

## Summertime is no time for a vacation from cutting the grass

By Ephraim Payne

Wet summer weather adds to the long, bountiful growing season of the Willamette Valley. While the added moisture is great for backyard gardeners, it also means homeowners and tenants must stay ahead of quickly growing grass and landscape plants at a time when they might expect dry weather to keep plant growth at bay.

According to the City of Veneta's

Municipal Code (Ch. 8.05, Sec. 8.05.060), property owners or those in charge of a property cannot allow noxious weeds or vegetation to grow on the property or the right-of-way of a public thoroughfare abutting the property.

"Folks that fail to comply with the ordinance could face a city fine," says City of Veneta Code Enforcement Officer Teresa Warrick.

The code defines noxious vegetation as weeds or grass more than 10

inches high, poison oak, poison ivy, blackberry bushes extending into a public thoroughfare or across property lines. It also includes vegetation that presents a health, fire or traffic hazard. That means property owners or residents must mow grass and trim or cut down shrubs, bushes, weeds or other noxious vegetation as often as necessary to prevent such vegetation from becoming unsightly or a fire hazard, or, in the case of noxious weeds, from going to seed.