

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City News

Wild turkey nuisance continues in Veneta

Despite requests from City officials that residents refrain from feeding turkeys, the problems created by an overabundance of these wild birds in Veneta has not abated.

"They are taking over the neighborhoods," says City of Veneta Community Services Director Brian Issa. "People need to know that they are not pond geese and they will cause an issue."

Ripped up flower beds, shredded lawns, decks coated in droppings, scratched paint on cars and even damaged roofs, when large flocks of tur-

keys come looking for an easy meal, it can seem like a wrecking crew hit town.

Over the last few years, flocks of four to five birds have ballooned to bird mobs of 30 or more that can cause significant property damage. State wildlife officials warn that the problem can get much, much worse.

Veneta has joined the ranks of local cities, including Corvallis, Dallas, Albany and Philomath, which have experienced unacceptable levels of property damage from wild turkeys. These cities have instituted anti-turkey feeding ordi-

nances and/or measures allowing their animal control officers to shoot turkeys within city limits. The City currently has a state-issued permit to cull nuisance turkeys.

"We regret that the problem has gotten to this point," said Issa.

Wild turkeys are not native to the region, having been introduced for hunting. City officials urge residents to quit feeding the turkeys and avoid placing bird feeders where turkeys can access fallen seed, adding that it is better for these birds to find food for themselves.

City leaf pick up to run through end of January

The City of Veneta has been picking up bagged leaves left at curbside since October. Leaves will be picked up on Tuesday and Thursday of each week through the end of January 2012. Bags are to contain leaves only, no

garbage or other yard debris and must be tied shut.

You may also place leaves in your Yard Debris Roll Cart provided by Sanipac or use them for mulch or compost on gardens and flowerbeds.

The City asks citizens to

help reduce flooding by not raking leaves into gutters or storm drains. Depositing leaves or other debris in a drainage way or street is a violation of Veneta Municipal Code Chapter 13.15 and may lead to flooding of your property or house.

Veneta light parade takes modified route this year

The annual Veneta light parade features a modified route ending at the intersection of Territorial and Luther Lane. The parade takes place Dec. 8 between 7 and 9 p.m.

This year's parade will not cross Highway 126 and ends at the Fern Ridge Shopping Center instead of the West Lane Shopping Center.

The Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce co-sponsors the parade with the City of Veneta, EPUD, Lane Electric Co-op, Blachly-Lane, Lane County Fire District No. 1 and the Fern Ridge School District.

The parade stages on Jack Kelly Dr. and heads west, turning south onto 8th St. and then east down West Broadway Ave.,

south at 2nd St., east on McCutcheon St. and north on Territorial Rd. The tree lighting takes place at the corner of Territorial and Luther Ln.

"That's were the tree lighting had been for a couple of decades," says City Administrator Ric Ingham.

For a map of this year's parade route, please see page 2.

Events Calendar

Community Town Hall with State Senator Floyd Prozanski and Repre- sentative Paul Holvey

What: Opportunity for Blachly, Elmira, and Veneta-area residents to talk with their legislators

When: Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.

Where: Elmira High School Cafeteria

Veneta Light Parade

When: Thursday Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.

Where: See page 2 map

The SANTA Project

What: Opportunity for local parents in need to pick up free gifts for their children, then have them wrapped by volunteers

When: Saturday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Veneta Elementary Gym.

The Kiwanis Holiday Food Drive

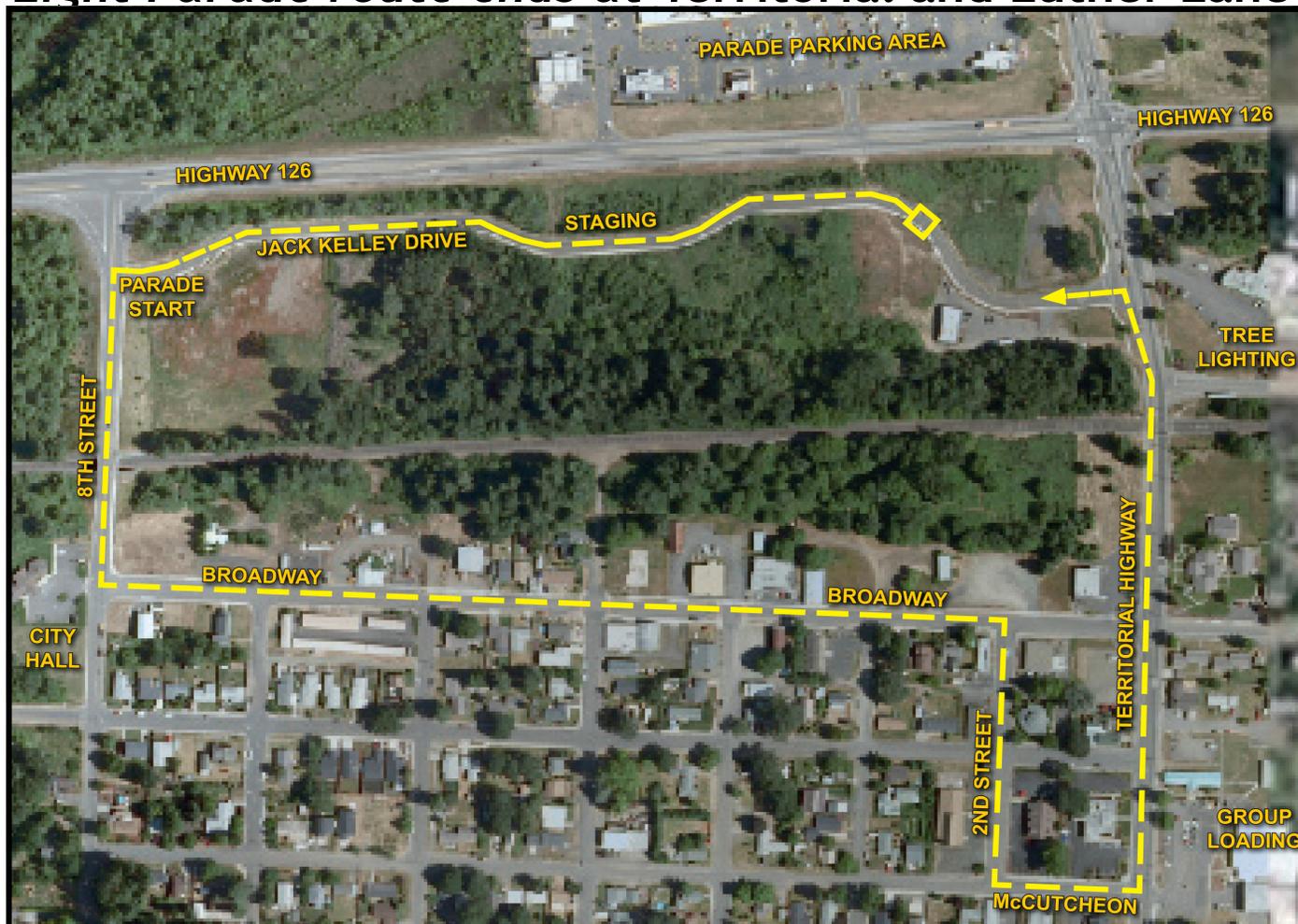
What: For local low income families. Application available at Siuslaw Bank, Ray's Video Dept., Veneta and Elmira Elementary, Senior Center and the Love Project, must be received by Dec. 12.

Applications can be returned to Rays and the Love Project.

When: Sat. Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Next to Tiffany's Pharmacy in the West Lane Shopping Center.

Light Parade route ends at Territorial and Luther Lane



Public safety tips: protect your valuables from vehicle break-ins

On a busy afternoon of holiday shopping around town, you park the car in an available, though secluded space and rush off to your destination, leaving your car's GPS unit or your new ipod laying on the dashboard.

Veneta isn't the big city, you think, and besides, you'll only be gone for five minutes. Nothing bad will happen, right?

Wrong! After a rash of vehicle break-ins in the area, the Lane County Sheriff's Office warns residents to take reasonable precautions to prevent theft.

According to a flyer prepared for the City of Veneta by Sgt. Doug Osborne of the Lane County Sheriff's Department, most auto-related thefts are crimes of opportunity. All too many drivers leave valuable items in plain sight, greatly increasing the chances of a break-in.

Both here in Veneta and across the country, thieves are targeting GPS systems, mp3 players and other valuable items left inside vehicles. The chances of a break-in go up when thieves can see an easy reward for a moments effort.

The Sheriff's Department recommends that, before reaching their destination, drivers place GPS units and other valuable items out of sight, locking them in a glove box or trunk if they must be left in the vehicle.

In addition, drivers should remove all traces that such items may be present, including wiping off the suction cup marks that secure many GPS units to the window or dashboard.

Additionally, the police recommend that motorists park in busy, well lit areas where there is a lot of activity. "Auto thieves prefer breaking into cars in isolated areas," Sgt. Osborne writes.

When leaving a vehicle, motorists should lock all doors, even if planning to return in a very short time. It only takes a few seconds for a thief to reach in and grab items left in the car. According to the police, thieves commonly walk down a row of vehicles looking for unlocked doors.

Because crooks are usually looking for easy targets, the police say, alarms and other anti-theft devices may discourage thieves. But it is important not to believe that, just because an alarm is present, thieves will not break in to a car in order to grab items left in plain site.

If your car does get broken into, the Sheriff's Department suggests you call police immediately and file a report. The report should include your license plate number, make and model of your vehicle, year and color, plus VIN number and insurance information.