

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City News

Wild turkeys flock to town, damage follows

By Ephraim Payne

Ripped up flower beds, shredded lawns, decks coated in droppings, scratched paint-jobs and even damaged roofs, when large flocks of wild turkeys come looking for an easy meal, it can seem like a wrecking crew hit town.

"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."

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.

Corvallis, Dallas, Albany and Philomath have experienced so much property damage from wild turkeys that these cities have instituted anti-turkey feeding ordinances and/or measures allowing their animal control offi-

cers to shoot turkeys within city limits.

"We'd rather it not get to that 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.

For more on this issue, see the expanded version of the City News online at www.ci.veneta.or.us

An expensive, avoidable mess

By Ephraim Payne

Grease. Gloopy, sticky, nasty grease. It occupies all too much of Kyle Schauer's time and costs city residents more money than they realize.

Kitchen grease is the number one cause of drain clogs in Veneta, according to the Public Works Superintendent.

"It's a really bad idea for your plumbing to put grease down your drain, and it affects our system as well," said Schauer. "We spend thousands of dollars a year cleaning out sewer pipes and the majority of that is attributable to grease and other things that are flushed down the drain that shouldn't be. Those costs are ultimately passed on to ratepayers in the form of higher utility bills."

Other drainage blockers includes cleaning wipes, baby diapers, kitty litter and feminine hygiene products. A second list of drain no-no's includes prescription drugs and toxic products such as paints or solvents.

Because the city's waste water treatment system is based on the biological cycle, anything toxic can kill off good bacteria and effect sewage treatment.

Budget Committee has two volunteer positions

The City of Veneta is accepting applications for two Budget Committee positions for three-year terms between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2013.

After discussion with the City Council, Veneta's Mayor appoints citizens to the positions. Appointees must be qualified voters of the City of Veneta. Applications are available at

City Hall during business hours. The application deadline is February 18. For more information and online applications, visit the City Website online at www.ci.veneta.or.us

Veneta welcomes new park and ride facility

By Ephraim Payne

The City's new transit center is open for business. In the works since 2009, the transit center at the southwest corner of Territorial Hwy. and W. Broadway Ave. will allow residents to park their vehicles and take a Lane Transit District (LTD) bus to Eugene, saving time and easing congestion on Hwy. 126.

The location was cho-

sen over several proposed locations because of its proximity to the proposed Fern Ridge Service Center, adjacent HUD housing and the West Broadway Business District.

"It was centrally located," says Associate City Planner Zac Moody. "And it provided a better opportunity for pedestrian safety than other locations considered."

The transit center will

have the same function as the existing park and ride facility at the West Lane Shopping Center, but with covered pedestrian shelters, bicycle racks and 27 parking spaces.

The project, a cooperative effort between LTD, the Oregon Department of Transportation and the City of Veneta was primarily paid for by a ConnectOregon II grant, according to Moody.