Fern Park gets a larger play structure

Veneta kids have a better place to play, thanks in part to out-of-area volunteers. Last month, Fern Park, located on 8th St. south of Parkside Dr., got a new play structure complete with three slides and other fun features.

A group of City workers, Park Board members and community volunteers installed the new equipment May 20 and 21 with help from the Maintenance and Construction Section (MACS) of the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association (ORPA). MACS volunteers came from as far away as Tualatin and Bainbridge Island, Washington for the event. “They volunteered to do the installation for us, which saved us a lot of money,” said Veneta Community Services Director Brian Issa, adding that the City saved over $10,000 on the new play structure thanks to the ORPA’s help.

Fern Park reopened to the public over the Memorial Day weekend. On Saturday, June 18 the City will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at the park. “The mayor will say a few words, and kids can come and play on the new structure,” said Issa.

Park Board kicks off summer with teen fun

The Veneta Park Board is excited to present Teen Nite: Summer Kick-Off 2011! The event will take place on Saturday, June 18, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Bolton Hill Sports Complex (TSP Fields).

The Park Board’s aim is to use local parks as venues for community involvement and entertainment, and in this case, showcase local youth talent. Area teens on a mobile stage with a sound system will play a variety of family appropriate music for entertainment. For admission, we request participants bring a can of food to donate to the Love Project food bank.

If you have questions or concerns, call Park Board member Dennis Paronto at 541-515-1446. We encourage your feedback and hope you will join us to kick-off your summer!

City pool opening set for third week of June

The unusually wet spring weather is giving way to sunny skies at last. As the temperature rises, Veneta’s families can look forward to the best part of summer, the Veneta Community Pool.

This year, the pool will open Friday, June 17 at noon. Community Services Director Brian Issa says the pool’s operating schedule will be similar to last year’s. Popular aerobics classes will take place twice daily.

The pool’s schedule, fees and other information will be available June 6 in the City recreation guide and online at http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/pool.cfm

Time to mow those lawns, Veneta

Spring brings a long, bountiful growing season to the Willamette Valley. While the climate is great for backyard gardeners, it also means homeowners and tenants must stay ahead of quickly growing grass and landscape plants.

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.

Generally, the code defines noxious vegetation as weeds and 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.