Veneta fights recent wave of vandalism

By Ephraim Payne

Local officials and law enforcement officers need citizen help to end a rash of graffiti and property destruction in Veneta.

Recent vandalism has included spray paint tagging on city property, commercial buildings and private homes, as well as the theft and destruction of landscaping. These destructive acts end up costing city utility rate payers and tax payers considerably, according to City of Veneta Administrator Ric Ingham.

The Lane County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO) has catalogued various incidents of graffiti vandalism over the past several months, many of which may be the work of a single individual or group.

“They have damaged property all over town,” said the LCSO’s Sgt. Doug Osborne. “Suspects will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law and expected to pay restitution for the full cost of the damage done.”

In addition to the graffiti problem, malicious vandals have stolen and destroyed plants and trees newly planted for the West Broadway Redevelopment project and other projects around town.

Officials ask citizens with any knowledge of vandalism to call the LCSO’s non-emergency line at 541-682-4141 or Public Works Superintendent Kyle Schauer at 541-935-2191.

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

Spring brings cat breeding explosion

Warming weather sends female cats into heat, presenting a problem for cities like Veneta where stray and feral cat populations are on the rise.

Often the spring is called kitten season. But cats breed throughout three seasons – beginning in spring, peaking in late spring or early summer and ending in the fall. A non-spayed female cat can give birth multiple times during the year.

Many litters of feral kittens come from non-spayed or neutered domestic cats that owners have abandoned or simply allow to roam. Some people assume their animals will survive when they move away and leave pets behind, adding to the uncontrolled breeding population. Uncontrolled breeding increased the number of cats throughout the city and rural areas.

The City does not currently have sufficient funding to control feral cats. The best way to help reduce unwanted cats in our community is to spay and neuter your own pet. The City’s website lists agencies that offer low cost spay/neuter programs at: www.ci.veneta.or.us. Under City Services, click on animal control.