

The Newsletter of the  
City of Veneta

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<http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/>

# City News

## Veneta awarded grant for senior center

The City of Veneta was recently awarded a \$1.5 million federally-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to construct the Fern Ridge Service Center (FRSC).

With the CDBG award, in addition to awards from The Ford Family Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, and many other private donors and local fundraising, the Fern Ridge Service Center Partners are ready to begin the next stage of development for the area's new senior center and food pantry.

The City currently owns the property where the partners will build the Fern Ridge Service Center. In

January 2011 the City completed various public infrastructure improvements adjacent to the new Service Center as part of the downtown redevelopment project.

The Veneta Urban Renewal Agency funded a majority of the public improvements adjacent to the proposed center. The plans include the construction of a 7,200 square foot building which will house the Senior Meals, Meals on Wheels, Senior Connections programs and the Love Project food pantry.

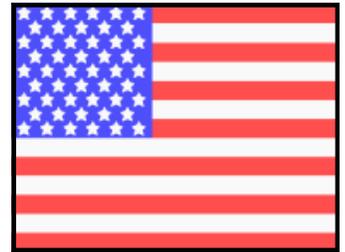
The City hopes that the new Service Center will serve as a catalyst project for the revitalization of W.

Broadway Ave. into a mixed-use commercial district. Constructing the new FRSC will more than triple the current space being utilized by the Fern Ridge Service Center Partners at the Garcia Center.

The one-story building will incorporate sustainable design features such as natural daylight, natural ventilation, energy efficient lighting, low flow plumbing fixtures, non-toxic and renewable materials and on-site storm water treatment.

For more information, please contact City Administrator Ric Ingham at the City of Veneta by phone at 541-935-2191 or by email: [ringham@ci.veneta.or.us](mailto:ringham@ci.veneta.or.us)

## Remembering 9/11



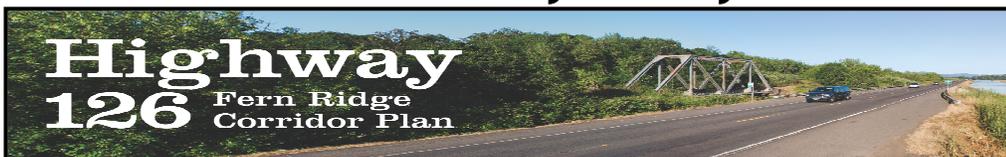
The U.S. Senate has unanimously passed a resolution (S. Res. 237) calling on all Americans to participate in a Moment of Remembrance at 10 a.m. on September 11, 2011.

For one minute, first responders, houses of worship, towns, and others throughout the country will sound sirens and bells in a signal to each of us to STOP AND REMEMBER the 10th anniversary of the tragedies of September 11, 2001.

The City of Veneta is participating in this event and invites the Fern Ridge community to join in a moment of solemn remembrance of the lives lost and the heroic sacrifices made around the country a decade ago.

On September 11, 2011, please join The City of Veneta in committing to STOP AND REMEMBER.

## ODOT invites community to Hwy. 126 forum



Save the Date! Fern Ridge area residents mark your calendars for October 6, between 6 and 8 p.m. at Elmira High School.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) invites you to participate in an open house forum for developing the Highway 126: Fern Ridge Corridor

Plan.

The plan will evaluate and identify improvements to the safety and function of Highway 126 between the cities of Veneta and Eugene.

At the meeting, ODOT representatives will share what they have learned so far and the project team

needs your help to get all the options on the table. Refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to [info@highway126.com](mailto:info@highway126.com) or 541-345-5091. For a full project description, visit: [http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION2/OR126W\\_Overview.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION2/OR126W_Overview.shtml)

Turn to page 2 to learn all about traffic safety tips for the back to school season, courtesy of the Lane County Sheriff's Department.

# Kids Are Back To School! Please Be Aware of School Zones

By Sergeant Doug Osborne,  
Lane County Sheriff's Office, Veneta Contract

With the start of the school year, Veneta's youth will once again be taking the bus to school and frequenting school zones. Motorists should remember important traffic laws to ensure children's safety. Basic rules to follow are listed below.

Vehicles must stop when the school bus's external red warning lights are flashing and the stop signal arms are extended. Vehicles may not pass until the flashing red lights and signals are turned off.

Never pass on the right side of the bus, where children enter or exit. This is illegal and can have tragic results. Violation of these laws can result in a citation and fine. School bus drivers can report passing vehicles to local police authorities.

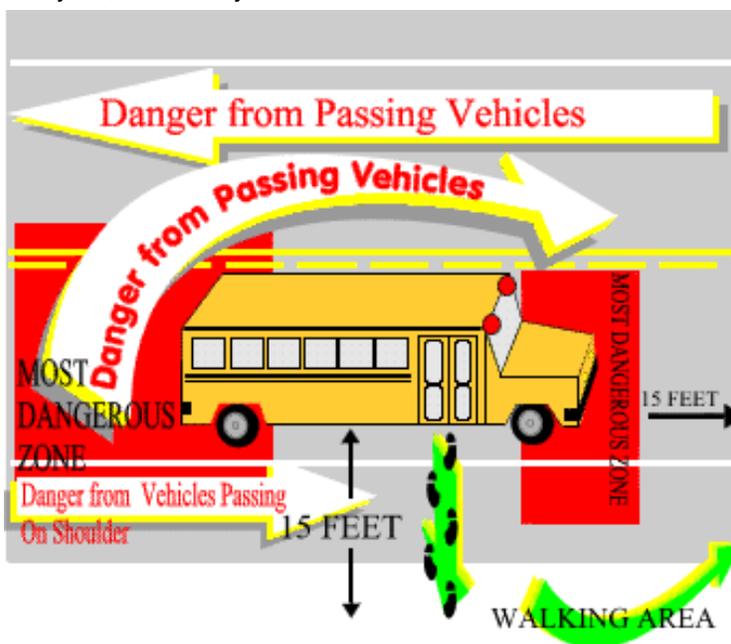
School zones are clearly marked with 20 mph signs and flashing lights. School zone speed is strictly enforced.

We are also asking parents to remind their children to be careful when boarding or leaving the bus. Road safety tips children should know include:

When getting on the bus, stay away from the danger zone and wait for the driver's signal. Board the bus one at

a time.

When getting off the bus, look before stepping off the bus to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder (side of the road). Move away from the bus.



Before crossing the street, take five "giant steps" out from the front of the bus, or until the driver's face can be seen.

Wait for the driver to signal that it's safe to cross. Look left-right-left when coming to the edge of the bus to make sure traffic is stopped. Keep watching traffic when crossing. Road safety tips parents themselves should do include the following: Supervise children to make sure they get to the bus stop on time, wait far away from the road and avoid rough play. Teach your child to ask the driver for help if she

drops something near the bus. If a child bends down to pick up something, the driver cannot see her and the child may be hit by the bus.

Have your child use a backpack or book bag to keep loose items together. Make sure clothing and backpacks have no loose drawstrings or long straps that could get caught in the handrail or bus door.

Finally, always encourage safe school bus loading and unloading.

## The City of Veneta says goodbye to two members of the planning team

This fall, some changes will take place at Veneta's city hall, as two valuable employees leave the City's staff.

Zac Moody started as an Assistant Planner with the City of Veneta in January 2008. He gained promotion to Associate City Planner within a year, according to Community Services Director Brian Issa, who said Moody brought valuable urban renewal experience to the City which he gained from sitting on an urban renewal board elsewhere. He became something of an urban renewal specialist at a time when the City was heavily engaged in revitalizing its downtown core.

Issa said Moody was instrumental to Veneta's long effort to secure a federal grant to build the planned Fern Ridge Service Center.

"He spent a lot of time writing that grant," said Issa.

Moody also became the go-to person for City issues involving real estate and county records.

"He wanted to go back to Medford because he and his wife have family there," said Issa, "and they were com-

muting back and forth on the weekends."

The end of summer also sees the end of RARE intern Kyle Roberts' work with the City of Veneta. Roberts started in October 2009.

RARE, as the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments program is known, is a state-wide internship program. Interns assist communities and agencies with sustainable natural resource use planning and development.

Roberts helped develop the City's water conservation plan, worked on day-to-day planning activities and updated Veneta's well-head protection plan. He also took on a lot of the responsibility for planning two of Veneta's signature public events, the annual Park Board Earth Day celebration and the much-loved Easter Egg Hunt.

"He's been great to work with. He's a nice guy with a great attitude" said Issa. "He was willing to take on whatever we threw at him."

Roberts is headed home to prepare for a Peace Corp. mission to Albania.