The place to find summer fun in Veneta

Wondering what activities to plan for the kids this summer? The City has got you covered. Take a look in the Summer 2012 City of Veneta Recreation Guide. “It’s a one-stop location for finding all your summer activities,” says Community Services Director Brian Issa. “The guide will be out the week of June 4th.”

Hard copies of the guide will be available at City Hall, the Fern Ridge Library and at the Veneta Community Pool, as well as at the checkout counter at Ray’s Food Place. Residents can also download a copy of the guide from the City’s website: http://www.ci.veneta.or.us

As always, the guide is the place to go for information about the Veneta Community Pool. In addition to a complete schedule of pool hours, activities and fees, the recreation guide describes the various levels of swim lessons available to the City’s youth.

The guide also contains information about several day camps, the Fern Ridge Library District’s summer activities, and the Imagination Zone’s summer 2012 program for grades K-8. It contains a schedule for Food for Lane County’s Summer Food Program – which provides a free lunch for children 2 to 18 years old at Veneta City Park. The guide is also the place to go for information about this year’s Culture Jam, a summer camp organized by the Oregon Country Fair.

Whatever your children’s ages and interests, this summer promises a host of interesting activities in Veneta and around the Fern Ridge area. To get plugged in to all the excitement, get hold of a copy of the summer recreation guide and head out for fun.

City of Veneta maintains public safety coverage

Ongoing Lane County budget issues will not affect public safety in the City of Veneta.

Next month, the City is slated to renew its annual contract with the Lane County Sheriff’s Department. Under the contract, the sheriff’s department provides police services to the City. The new contract will cost approximately $754,132 — a 5 percent rise from last year according to City Administrator Ric Ingham.

“Our contract will stay the same as it has for the last few years,” said Ingham, adding that the contract is less expensive for Veneta than paying for an independent police department.

The new contract includes four full time deputies to police the City. To support their work, the contracts pays for a supervisor’s time, and records and dispatching support staff.

In May, the county budget committee voted to shuffle funds in order to soften the blow of the budgetary ax on the Lane County Sheriff’s Department, which will lose approximately $11 million from the corrections budgets and police services budgets.

Early projections had targeted $14 million in cuts.

The department will lay off 20 deputies if the County Commissioners adopt the plan. The county jail will also lose 96 beds as a result of the cuts.

“None of that has anything to do with the continuity of the law enforcement contract in the City of Veneta,” says LCSO Sergeant Doug Osborne, who supervises the Veneta contract. “The City of Veneta will continue to enjoy near full time law enforcement protection based on the current contract, which should be renewed July 1st.”

8th Street closed to truck through traffic

In April, the City Council passed a resolution designating 8th Street from Bolton Hill Road to Hwy. 126 as a No Through Trucks zone.

Oregon Administrative Rules grant the City authority to restrict truck traffic to protect roadways from being unduly damaged and allow the City to impose civil penalties for code violations.

Signs reflecting the change will go up this month and sheriff’s deputies will start ticketing violators. Trucks delivering to addresses in the area will not be affected.

“We are trying to stop unnecessary wear due to heavy trucks,” said Public Works Superintendent Kyle Schauer. “Trucks are using 8th Street as a shortcut between Bolton Hill and 126 instead of taking Bolton Hill Road to Territorial to Hwy. 126.”

While Bolton Hill Road and Territorial Highway are designed for heavy traffic, 8th Street is not.

The City plans to resurface 8th Street this summer. A future long term street rebuilding project will involve storm drainage and sewer work.
Are you planning a garage sale? Know the rules.

It's that time of year again... Time to do some spring cleaning and have a garage sale! Please be advised that the City of Veneta has policies and guidelines regarding garage sales within City limits.

Per chapter 5.15 of the Veneta Municipal Code: “Garage sale” shall mean general sales open to the public which are conducted from or on residential premises within a residential district for the purpose of disposing of personal property, commonly known as garage sale, but also known as moving, lawn, attic, porch, backyard, and patio.

Just a few rules to remember when planning your garage sale this summer:

1. You can only hold a garage sale for a maximum of three consecutive days.
2. You can only operate a garage sale during daylight hours.
3. You can only participate in four garage sales in any one calendar year.
4. You may place up to two signs elsewhere with permission from the property owners upon whose property such signs are placed. This includes stapling signs to power poles.
5. Signs cannot be placed in any public right-of-way. This includes stapling signs to City traffic sign posts or trees.
6. No sign or other form of advertising shall be exhibited for more than two days before the sale.
7. All signs must be removed within 24 hours of the end of the sale.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter can, upon conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of a violation and be fined an amount not to exceed $500.00.

Following your sale, do not place or leave free items curbside for the taking. Many of these items end up left on the sidewalk, in the streets and at the City parks. For further information, please call the City of Veneta Code Enforcement at (541) 935-2191.

City encourages compliance with high grass ordinance

Spring brings a long, bountiful growing season to the Willamette Valley. While the climate is great for backyard gardeners and family BBQ’s, it also means homeowners and tenants must stay ahead of quickly growing grass, weeds and noxious vegetation. Cutting your grass also serves to reduce shelter for rodents and pollen dust problems that collect in overgrown areas.

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 their property or the right-of-way of a public thoroughfare abutting the property.

The code defines noxious vegetation as weeds and grass more than 10 inches high, poison oak, and 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.

Persons failing to abate a nuisance may also be subject to citation and fines through Veneta Municipal Court. Each day's violation constitutes a separate offense.

"So let's use the nice weather to our benefit and keep our lawns mowed," says Veneta City Recorder Chris Workman. "If you notice that your neighbor's yard needs help, why not offer to mow. They may be elderly or have special needs. In addition to doing a good turn, you'll also keep weeds from spreading onto your lawn."

Due to a higher than usual number of unoccupied homes in the area, the City wants to inform residents that there is a complaint process in place to deal with neglected yards. Whether a neighboring property is vacant or inhabited, the process of filing a complaint if a neighbor’s grass is too high or is full of noxious weeds is the same.

Code compliant forms are available at City Hall and can be downloaded from the City's website at: www.ci.veneta.or.us/pdf/forms/CodeComplaint2008.pdf

After completing the form, residents can return it to City Hall or mail it in. A code enforcement officer will contact the homeowner or tenant and work with them to resolve the complaint.

The code enforcement officer will follow up with the bank or financial institution in charge of a vacant property or foreclosed home in order to make arrangements for the problem to be solved.

If the City is unable to resolve the complaint with the owner after providing due notice of the complaint, the code enforcement officer can hire a landscaping company to address the complaint and then bill the landowner and/or place a lien against the property.

"People shouldn't get frustrated if a foreclosed property needs yard maintenance to conform with the code," says Workman. "They need to inform the City so code officers can begin the formal process."