

# City News

The Newsletter of the  
City of Veneta

88184 Eighth Street  
PO Box 458  
Veneta, OR 97487  
(541) 935-2191

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

## Council considers water rate increase

As construction winds down on the drinking water pipeline between Veneta and Eugene, the Veneta City Council is considering the necessary utility rate adjustments to pay for it.

On March 25, consultants presented a report to the City Council analyzing capital costs and operating expenses that will increase the cost of delivering drinking water to the City. A presentation of their findings is available online at <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/>

According to the analysis, the water rate should increase by about 54 percent before the first debt service payment is made in 2014. In response, the City Council is exploring a two-stage increase, starting with a 25 percent rate hike July 1. Water rate increases will be discussed at the Council's May 13 and June 10 meetings.

A second increase,

which the Council hopes to keep between 10 to 20 percent, will follow after all pipeline related construction ends and a final rate analysis is done in the fall. The City's System Development Charge (SDC) for water will also increase.

"Unfortunately, water rate increases were inevitable with or without the pipeline, but at the City Council's direction, staff has worked to keep those increases as low as possible, reducing original rate increase projections nearly by half," says Veneta Mayor Sandra Larson.

"Proposals to come before the Council would result in an average monthly water bill increasing between \$12 and \$14, with the increase to be levied incrementally beginning July 1 of this year."

When the project is finished in September or early October, the City will

complete a final rate analysis to determine the final rate increase. Factors affecting the increase include total project capital costs, contingency funds spent, debt service rates, operational costs, wholesale water rates and other project closeout costs.

At the City Council's direction, says City Administrator Ric Ingham, the City is exploring all options to keep the final rate down, including spending \$200,000 in Urban Renewal funds on the project.

"There are a number of variables that will drive the short and long term operational costs, as well as the final project costs for the pipeline – all of which will impact utility rates," says Ingham. "We will include these factors in the final rate analysis to determine the second rate increase, which we hope will be below 20 percent."

## Water SDC hearing

Following a public hearing in June, the Veneta City Council will consider modifying the water System Development Charge (SDC) to help pay for the capital costs of the new drinking water pipeline.

SDC fees are one-time fees imposed on new and increased development to recover the cost of additional city infrastructure needed to serve that growth and are paid at the time that building permits are processed. In April, the Council accepted a report on the need to increase water SDC rates and distributed the report to those on the interested party list.

The Council will hold a public hearing on the issue at the beginning of its June 10 meeting. Citizens can testify at the hearing or submit written comments beforehand. The Council will likely adopt and enact new rates by July 1. Contact City Recorder Chris Workman at 541-935-2191 for a copy of the report, which is also available online at: <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/waterpipeline.cfm>.

May 2013		Civic Calendar	May 2013
Date	Time	Meeting/Event	
1	4:30 p.m.	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	
2	6:00 p.m.	City of Veneta Budget Committee Meeting - City Hall	
2	8:00 p.m.	Urban Renewal Budget Committee Meeting - City Hall	
4	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	City Wide Clean Up - Bolton Hill Road Facility	
7	7:00 p.m.	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	
13	7:00 p.m.	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	
13	8:30 p.m.	Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - City Hall	
16	8:30 a.m.	Municipal Court - City Hall	
16	6:00 p.m.	City of Veneta Budget Committee Meeting - City Hall	
16	8:00 p.m.	Urban Renewal Budget Committee Meeting - City Hall	
27	Cancelled	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	
27		Memorial Day - City Hall Closed	

## ***Community Pool to host all new events this summer***

Summertime is right around the corner, bringing with it a new season of fun at the Veneta Community Pool. This season, the pool is hoping to expand its range of activities to include a movie night, summer solstice pool party, summer's end carnival, water basketball, new pool classes and other great activities.

The community pool is hoping to add a series of exciting new classes and is currently looking for adult instructors qualified to teach snorkeling, scuba diving, springboard diving, water babies and other specialties.

"We have already been contracted by a springboard diving instructor, who is putting together a proposed schedule for us for an introductory diving class. We think it will be a great class for older youth and teens that have already completed swim lessons," says Pool Manager Stacy Cornelius, who is helping expand programs. "If anyone else in the community has a class they would like to instruct at the pool we're interested in hearing from them."

If you are interested in being an instructor, please contact the City. Lessons may be scheduled weekly or daily, depending on interest and instructor availability. Fees for specialty classes will be included in the recreation guide.

The pool will open on Saturday, June 15 and run through August 30. There will be four, two-week sessions of swim lessons that will run June 24-July 3, July 8-July 18, July 22-August 1 and August 5-August 15.

Swimmers who have completed a two-week session are often ready to advance to the next class level and can then register for the next session at that higher level. Classes fill up quickly, so parents are encouraged to register swimmers during the first week the pool is open; however, swimmers can register on the first day of the session if their desired class is not full.

Private lessons have become more and more popular and will continue to be offered at the pool this year. Swimmers may select a trained swim instructor and get individual attention in developing their swim technique. This is a

great option for swimmers wanting to advance more rapidly and for those that don't do as well in a group lesson setting.

Swimmers who have completed higher-level swim lessons can register to join the Veneta Community Swim Team. Swim team members get additional instruction and coaching as they continue to develop their technique, learn to use the start blocks, turn at the wall and compete in a fun and encouraging atmosphere.

Water Aerobics will again be offered at the pool this season. This low-impact class mixes aerobics, strength building and stretching with a focus on range-of-motion.

The class can be adopted to accommodate a wide range of participants from individuals with arthritis to athletes interested in cross-training. Participants can pay per class or purchase a ten-class punch pass at a discount.

To find out more, look in the Summer 2013 City of Veneta Recreation Guide, available June 3 at City Hall, the Fern Ridge Library, the Veneta Community Pool and 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>

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. Lap swim times and class hours will remain the same as they were at the end of last season. Pool fees will also remain the same, and individual and family passes will be available for purchase at the pool during the first week of the season.

The guide also contains information about several day camps, the Fern Ridge Library District's summer activities, and the Imagination Zone's summer 2013 program for grades K-8.

For more information about the recreation guide, the community pool or to inquire about teaching lessons, contact City Recorder Chris Workman at 541-935-2191.

## **City of Veneta needs your help to stop local vandalism**

The City of Veneta needs residents to help in the effort to wipe out local vandalism, both by helping to identify culprits and by cleaning up the mess. Veneta faces two types of vandalism: graffiti tagging and property destruction.

In the case of graffiti, individuals attempt to gain notoriety among their peers by scrawling their "tag" or street nickname around a given community.

"When these types of vandalism occur, especially tagging, people don't take as much pride in the community," says City Administrator Ric Ingham, adding that the City offers cleanup assistance and encourages concerned neighbors to do likewise. "To get this under control we do need people to step up and help."

This April, graffiti vandals struck the popular skatepark at the City-owned Territorial Park. In 2011, such vandalism damage to the skatepark was so great that workers

had to close the facility for several days in order to prime and paint over the graffiti and then let the new surface cure.

Officials ask citizens with any knowledge of vandalism, whether from direct knowledge of individual crimes or information overheard at school or elsewhere in the community, to call the Lane County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line at 541-682-4141.

Residents can also report vandalism of City of Veneta property to Public Works Director Kyle Schauer at 541-935-2191.

Tipsters can remain anonymous and information resulting in an arrest and conviction can lead to an award. One such tip last summer allowed sheriff's deputies to arrest four individuals suspected of spray painting graffiti in Veneta. New tips may help solve other recent vandalism crimes.