

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/>

# City News

## What triggers code enforcement action

Code Enforcement addresses a wide range of property issues that affect the environment, health, safety, quality and livability of life for Veneta citizens. Because of the City's budget limits and small staff, municipal code enforcement is driven on a complaint basis, unless an extreme hazard exists.

Any resident within the City's limits can file a complaint in regards to a code violation. A City of Veneta Complaint Form can be found at City Hall or the City's website at <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/enforcement.cfm>

"We don't have people driving around town looking for nuisance violations," says Community Development Director Kay Bork. "We just don't have the

staff available."

Once a complaint form is received, it is the City's policy to investigate any complaint and attempt to resolve any determined code violations. In such circumstances, the most serious violations will be addressed before less serious violations, regardless of the order in which the complaints are received. However, complaints alleging both priority and non-priority violations may be processed together to maximize efficiency.

The City's goal is voluntary code compliance before pursuing further action against property owners who are not in compliance with City codes.

The City Council has established the following complaint priorities: viola-

tions that present an imminent threat to public health and safety or to the environment; violations affecting storm drainage and wet-lands; Building Code violations; Building, Planning, Engineering and Environmental Health permit violations; and Land Use and Zoning violations. The City's most common code violations are dealing with fences, derelict/inoperable vehicles, open storage, high grass and vegetation, junk, trash and debris, sign placement, illegal parking and RV storage.

When code revisions are under consideration, the City Council encourages City staff to use judgment in code enforcement. Currently, backyard chickens

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## Spring Events

Spring is here, bringing with it two of Veneta's most popular Park Board-sponsored events: Earth Day and the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Veneta's annual Earth Day Celebration takes place on Friday, April 11 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. The City of Veneta Park Board and Veneta Elementary School co-sponsor the event, which will take place at the school.

The celebration includes opportunities for fun and education targeting students in grades K-3, as well as their younger siblings, who are also welcome to attend. The Cascades Raptor Center will hold an in-class event for 4th and 5th graders.

Events include seed planting with the Veneta Garden Club, a visit from Zany Zoo Pets, a pine cone bird feeder giveaway, a visit from Smokey Bear and much more.

The 28th annual Veneta Easter Egg Hunt takes place April 19 between 10:15 a.m. and 12 p.m. at Veneta Elementary School. Last year, more than 400 children participated in the ever-popular hunt, so the City recommends families come early in order to be ready when the event starts.

CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - APRIL 2014		
Veneta City Hall - 88184 Eighth Street, Veneta Oregon		
1	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.
2	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
11	Earth Day Celebration at Veneta Elementary, 88131 Territorial Rd.	12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
14	Veneta City Council Work Session - City Hall	6:00 p.m.
14	Veneta City Council Meeting Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - immediately following	7:00 p.m.
16	Veneta Historical Committee Meeting - City Hall	1:30 p.m.
17	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
19	Easter Egg Hunt - Veneta Elementary, 88131 Territorial Rd.	10:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
25	National Arbor Day	
28	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.

## ***Get ready early for this year's Veneta Spring Clean-up***

It's nearing time for that annual rite of the season, spring cleaning! This year, there may be a bit of extra work to be done outdoors after a series of late winter storms wracked Veneta, doing a fair amount of damage to trees and landscaping.

The City of Veneta, in partnership with Sanipac, will provide free disposal of common yard waste items next month. The once-a-year cleanup takes place Saturday, May 3 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 5th Street and Bolton Hill Road, where Sanipac trucks will be on hand to cart away appropriate waste brought by citizens that reside inside Veneta city limits..

"This is a great time to clean out the stuff you have a hard time getting rid of," says Public Works Director Kyle Schauer, adding that the City hopes residents will take advantage of the opportunity to trim broken branches and shrubs damaged by the storms and pile debris together

ahead of the cleanup, to be ready to take advantage of the once-a-year opportunity.

The cleanup, City officials say, presents an opportunity to beautify Veneta's neighborhoods while helping residents get rid of hard to dispose items. Only Veneta residents are eligible to bring their yard debris, tree limbs, weeds, grass clippings, wood, metal and recyclables to be disposed of.

Residents can also bring up to four automobile tires dismantled from rims. Hazardous materials and household trash will not be accepted.

The City holds the popular yearly cleanup in order to help residents dispose of items that might otherwise clutter yards around town.

For more information, call 541-935-2191 or visit the City website at: [www.ci.veneta.or.us](http://www.ci.veneta.or.us)

## ***Council votes down temporary marijuana dispensary ban***

HB 3460, signed by Gov. John Kitzhaber on August 13, 2013, directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish rules for medical marijuana dispensaries. The law went into effect on March 3, 2014.

The law limits dispensaries to property zoned for commercial, industrial, mixed use or agriculture uses only, and bans them within 1,000 feet of a school or within 1,000 feet of each other. Local governments can enact further zoning restrictions

According to the OHA, a "medical marijuana dispensary is a facility, registered by the OHA, which is allowed to receive marijuana or immature marijuana plants and transfer that marijuana to a patient or a patient's caregiver if the patient or caregiver has an Oregon Medical Marijuana Program card." Only those with a medical card from a physician will be allowed to purchase marijuana products from a dispensary.

In March responding to concerns about the new law, the legislature passed SB 1531, which allows cities and counties to ban medical marijuana dispensaries until May 1, 2015. Local governments must decide by May 1 of this

year whether to enact such bans.

If they don't ban them, municipalities can still set policies for when and where dispensaries can be open and other similar regulations.

The Veneta City Council first took up the issue of medical marijuana dispensaries during a March 10 work session, requesting the City Attorney draw up a temporary moratorium, as allowed by state law. After a lengthy discussion and debate during the March 24 council meeting, the Council voted against enacting the ban.

The Council has scheduled a work session ahead of its April 14 meeting to discuss potential additional regulation of dispensaries.

"No one on the council was interested in any action to prevent dispensaries," says Mayor Sandra Larson, adding that the recently passed state regulations are more stringent for dispensaries than for other businesses. "We can still pass any sort of regulation that is legal to pass."

City officials will begin work immediately to draft regulations relating to marijuana dispensaries to address potential City Council concerns.

## ***Enforcement: any Veneta resident can file a complaint***

are allowed on one acre residential lots in Veneta. The City Council is considering amendments to the Veneta Land Development Ordinance to allow backyard chickens on smaller residential lots in the City.

Violations on property where chickens are permitted will be enforced. However, the City will delay issuing citations for residents who have chickens on smaller lots until after Council has made a decision on the backyard chicken code amendments.

Roosters are not permitted on any property within the City, and officials will enforce the restriction. In addition,

the City will continue to investigate all backyard chicken complaints to determine if there is an imminent threat to public health and safety or the environment, or building code violations and address these issues accordingly. If code amendments are adopted, all residents will need to comply with the backyard chicken ordinance.

For additional information on code enforcement action, contact the City of Veneta at (541) 935-2191 or go to the city's website at [www.ci.veneta.or.us](http://www.ci.veneta.or.us)