

City News

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City council retreat establishes new goals

With the completion of several multi-year projects the Veneta City Council has developed new citywide goals. These six broad goals, incorporated into an annual work plan, will help the Council prioritize municipal activities for the year.

These goals include: (1) completing the sewer system build out; (2) improving City streets through preservation and modernization; (3) improving community policing, youth relations and code enforcement efforts; (4) continuing to urbanize city streets to improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity within the city; (5) continuing to develop multi-use paths for the betterment of the community; (5) providing development activities for businesses and industry to create jobs; and (6) improving community awareness of City issues

and public engagement opportunities.

"I think you can look back and see that the City is in a different position than it was in 2005, our population and economy have changed," says City Recorder Chris Workman. "The City Council established new goals based on the pressing issues the City faces today in order to carry Veneta forward for the next few years."

Before the meeting, some council members consulted with constituents on opinions, while others consulted with neighbors, friends and family about the community's needs.

Veneta's 2014 work plan outlines the steps the City will take to develop Veneta's infrastructure capacity, improve community health and safety, encourage business development

and enhance communication and civic engagement. While in the past, City work plans have been based on the fiscal year and corresponding budget, the current plan focuses on action to be completed through December 31, 2014.

The new plan departs from past plans, which focused on completing large capital projects, by focusing on reports and studies that will outline the future design, engineering, cost estimation and budgeting for on-the-ground work to be performed in 2015 and beyond.

The agenda packet for the January 13, 2014 City Council meeting includes a report on the goal setting sessions and the new work plan and can be found online at: <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/meetings.cfm>.

New homebuilding continues

Despite continued economic sluggishness, Veneta is growing. Last year, the City had the most new home construction per capita in Lane County, based on U.S. Department of Housing building permit data.

"It's important that we continue to issue single family building permits even when the economy is slow," says Community Development Director Kay Bork, explaining that the City grew as fast or faster than the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan area and other small cities in Lane County, "most likely because we have available land that's been planned for subdivisions and we have a large developer who has continued to build."

Bork says that requests to the City's planning department for land use information have picked up. "We expect that to continue; we're going to see a continued increase in activity in the City planning and development department," she says.

The City is talking with developers interested in constructing new phases of Applegate Landing and breaking ground on a new development in the same area. Construction could be underway this summer.



CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2014

Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 Eighth Street, Veneta Oregon

4	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.
5	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
6	Veneta Friends of Feral Volunteer Training - City Hall	6:00 p.m.
10	Veneta City Council Work Session - City Hall Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency - Immediately following	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
14	Happy Valentine's Day	
17	President's Day -- City Hall Closed	Closed
20	Municipal Court -- City Hall	8:30 a.m.
24	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	Cancelled

Veneta to develop comprehensive emergency plans

During its annual goal setting process for 2014, the Veneta City Council signaled that the time is right to read-dress the City's disaster preparedness. Following the events of September 11, 2001, the City created plans to address the need to protect water supplies and other municipal infrastructure in the unlikely event of terrorism or sabotage against the region.

But the City does not yet have a disaster plan outlining how to coordinate with Lane County Fire Authority and county, state and federal relief agencies. According to City Administrator Ric Ingham, Veneta needs to create a plan focusing on interagency coordination and integration of the resources that would be deployed. The City will draft its plan in conjunction with Lane County Fire Authority and Lane County Emergency Management.

The process started in January of this year, when the City staff met with officials from Lane County Fire Authority and will continue throughout 2014, with the council targeting the adoption of a completed plan by December. The Council may hold public hearings while drafting the plan.

Ingham says City staff needs to study how to respond to different types of emergencies, to deploy City resources most effectively and how to request help from outside agencies when appropriate. The planning process will identify the most probable disaster events Veneta should prepare for and ensure that the City will have adequate re-

sources to protect personal life and property values.

"We can't control emergencies," says Ingham. "The long term goal is to be able to minimize the impacts of those types of disasters on residents."

Veneta will not have to start its disaster preparedness with a blank slate. Lane County has an existing hazard analysis study and a hazard mitigation plan focused on 12 potential natural, technological and human created emergencies, such as landslides, floods, windstorms and hazardous material spills.

In addition to ensuring that Veneta creates all of the components of an emergency operations plan, Ingham says, "it is important to inform City residents how to be better prepared for emergencies. Everyone should have a disaster kit in order to be prepared for power outages and other potential flood consequences with supplies such as canned food, bottled water, flashlights and sleeping bags."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides a 72-hour emergency kit checklist online at: <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

A comprehensive guide to citizen disaster preparedness can be found at: <http://www.ready.gov/are-you-ready-guide>

Lane County's emergency management information is online at: <http://www.lanecounty.org/departments/sheriff/office/emergmt/Pages/default.aspx>

Veneta's "Please Don't Litter" campaign takes off

Twenty five Fern Ridge residents attended January's volunteer orientation session on Veneta's new effort to combat the growing feral cat population.

Next, the City will host a volunteer training session on February 6. Everyone interested in helping feral and stray cats or volunteering for the program can come to the training, including those who did not attend the initial meeting. The training will focus on trapping cats for spay and neuter operations, fostering cats for later adoption and public outreach.

PetSmart Charities® awarded Veneta an \$18,000 grant on November 15, 2013, which will be used to combat the feral and stray cat population growth. City officials have prepared a two-year plan to spay/neuter 300 feral or stray cats and return them to their current habitat. The City has partnered with Willamette Animal Guild (WAG) and Veneta Veterinary Hospital to perform the surgeries for the City's program.

"Already we've accounted for 40 feral cats and strays that have been spayed or neutered or are scheduled to be," says City Recorder Chris Workman. "And we're only a few weeks into it."

The campaign supports Veneta's current method of managing the feral cat population, called Trap-Neuter-

Return (TNR). Under the program, feral and stray cats are trapped, spayed or neutered, ear-tipped to mark them as altered, and then returned to their original territory, provided the cats do not face imminent risks. Whenever possible, tame adults and kittens that can be readily socialized are offered for adoption.

For more information about Veneta Friends of Ferals and the TNR program, or to fill out a volunteer application, visit the City's website at:

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

"If you want to show your support, you can go to the website and print out your own 'Please Don't Litter' poster in several sizes and post in your window or at your business," says Workman, "It is equally important for residents to spay or neuter their own pets." If you are a business owner or resident and have feral cats you don't want to deal with, the City has willing volunteers to get them and take care of them. If you discover a new litter of kittens, volunteers are waiting to care for them until they can be spayed/neutered and adopted. If residents or business owners want to get involved, the City has

traps to loan out and both clinics can do same-day spay/neuter appointments.

