

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City News

Water rate increase lower than expected

As part of its effort to upgrade the municipal water system to meet the needs of a growing population, the City of Veneta undertook a preliminary water rate analysis in 2012. The study indicated that the City would need to increase the water rates by 89.4 percent.

Because such a dramatic increase could potentially create a burden and financial hardship for some ratepayers, the City revised and adjusted some of the study's assumptions,

lowering the projected increase to 52 percent. In June 2013, City Council opted to split the increase in two and approved an initial increase water rate of 25 percent effective July 1. The Council hoped that by January 1, 2014, the second increase needed would be 20 percent or less based upon the completed final rate analysis, which would use actual figures rather than estimates.

During August and September, the City conducted

the final rate analysis using the final actual cost of the water pipeline construction project. The analysis entailed combining the final actual cost with other revenue sources, updated assumptions about Veneta's future needs and previous rate increases. It concluded that a second large rate increase could be postponed.

The analysis recommended future water rate increases of 1.93 percent, 7.26 percent and 12.60

See **WATER RATES**, page 2

Christmas tree disposal

In order to prevent littering and blockages of the stormwater drainage system, the City encourages residents to use one of the following Christmas tree disposal options.

Sanipac customers may put trees in their yard debris carts, as long as the pieces are cut up small enough to come out of the cart on their own and the lid is closed. Sanipac also offers a bulk tree pickup on January 25 for a \$10 fee. Customers must schedule and pay for the bulk pickups in advance.

Some local nonprofit groups may hold Christmas tree collection fundraisers, disposing of residents' trees for a small fee. Commuters can drop trees off at Rexius on Bailey Hill Road during normal business hours for a fee of \$4 for green trees (which will be chipped up and recycled) and \$7 for flocked trees.

"I would like to remind people to dispose of them properly, not just dump them in a ditch or storm system," says City Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. "It seems like every year we end up with storm water blockages due to discarded Christmas trees."

Volunteers needed to address feral cat population

A new community group is seeking volunteers to launch an effort to control the feral cat population in the Fern Ridge area this spring, thanks to a recently awarded \$18,000 grant from PetSmart Charities®.

The group, Veneta Friends of Ferals, plans to

launch its "Please Don't Litter" campaign in February, following a Volunteer Orientation scheduled for January 9 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Veneta City Hall.

Anyone interested in taking part in the campaign is invited to attend.

The campaign will sup-

port Veneta's current method of managing the feral cat population called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

Under the program, feral cats living in colonies are trapped, spayed or neutered, ear-tipped to mark

See **FERALS**, page 2



CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - JANUARY 2014		
Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 Eighth Street, Veneta Oregon		
1	City Hall Closed in Observance of News Year's Day	Closed
7	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.
8	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
13	Veneta Historical Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
13	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following	7:00 p.m.
16	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - City Hall Closed	Closed
27	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.

Demographic data helps Veneta form community profile

The City of Veneta is taking the first step to update its Comprehensive Plan by conducting a residential “Buildable Lands Inventory” (BLI) to quantify the amount of buildable land available within its Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The City is also reviewing demographic data to create a community profile and get a better idea of the types of housing that will most likely meet the needs of the community as it changes over the next 20 years.

If projected future population growth requires more buildable land than is available inside the UGB, the City Council can implement appropriate measures to provide for the unmet housing land needs.

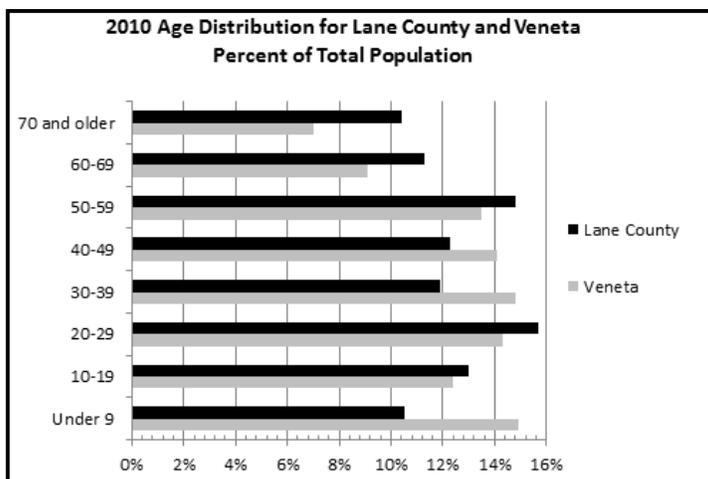
According to estimates provided by Portland State University, Veneta continues to be one of the fastest growing small cities in Lane County, with an estimated population of 4,635 residents in 2013. Veneta’s population has almost doubled since 1990, when 2,519 people called the town home.

The 2010 US Census shows Veneta’s population is

younger than both Lane County’s and the State’s. Children under 9 years old make up the largest percentage of the population at 15 percent. The figures show that Veneta is a family-friendly community, with a higher percentage of Family Households and Family Households with Children compared to countywide and statewide totals.

Population growth has fueled a construction boom. Between 1998 and 2013 Veneta approved 892 new dwelling units, most for single family homes. The number of permits issued varies from year to year but show a significant increase between 2002-2006 after the City constructed improvements to the sewer treatment facilities and lifted a building moratorium in 2000.

According to Oregon Employment Department data, Veneta’s employment sector is extremely diverse, with no one industry accounting for more than 29 percent of total jobs. Additionally, the majority of working residents commute outside the area for their job.



Veneta’s population is younger than that of Lane County as a whole.

FERALS: Volunteers needed to explain TNR program

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 removed from the colony and offered for adoption through Greenhill Humane Society.

“This grant will enable us to offer the program to everyone within the 97487 zip code,” says City of Veneta Code Enforcement Officer Teresa Warrick. “We’d like to have at

least five or six volunteers, but the more the merrier.”

Volunteers will inform homeowners and businesses about the City’s campaign, explain the TNR program and teach them how to set traps. Some may occasionally foster cats and kittens for a brief time before or after surgery.

For additional information, please contact Warrick at 541-935-2191.

WATER RATE: Increase will keep pace with inflation

percent during 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively. Based on the need to refurbish the Broadway Water Tank, the importance of keeping pace with inflation in order to minimize future “catch-up” rate increases and other staff concerns, on December 9 the Council approved a 3.5 percent water rate increase, which will go into effect in January 2014. As a result of this increase, the average household that uses 5,000 gallons of

water will pay \$1.07 more per month.

Current Water and Sewer Rates			Rates After 3.5% Increase		
Water Base		14.64	Water Base		15.15
Tier One	Up to 5,000 gal	3.19	Tier One	Up to 5,000 gal	3.30
Tier Two	5,001 to 15,000	3.79	Tier Two	5,001 to 15,000	3.93
Tier Three	Over 15,000 gal	4.56	Tier Three	Over 15,000 gal	4.72
Sewer Base		46.26	Sewer Base		46.26
Current Bill Amount			Bill Amount After 3.5% Increase		
Water Base		14.64	Water Base		15.15
Water Use	5,000 gal used	15.93	Water Use	5,000 gal used	16.49
Sewer Base		46.26	Sewer Base		46.26
	Total Bill	\$76.83		Total Bill	\$77.90

Current and new rates and billing amounts for a usage rate of 5,000 gallons.

The 3.5 percent increase is much lower than the anticipated 20 percent increase and, according to the current analysis, another increase will not be needed until January 1, 2015.

The temporary 5 percent reduction in the sewer base rate that took effect July 1,

2013 will remain in effect, saving most residents \$2.31 per month.