

# City News

The Newsletter of the  
City of Veneta

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

## 2013 Water Quality Report Now Available

The Water Quality Report for 2013 was mailed June 26, 2014. Unfortunately, there was an error at the printer and the pages are out of sequence. The information in the report is complete. If you would like a corrected copy they are available at City Hall; we apologize for any inconvenience.

## City budget reflects completion of projects

Overall the City of Veneta fiscal year 2014-15 budget reflects little change in day-to-day operations and services from the past several years. The total budget amount is \$21,766,827 compared to last year's budget total of \$31,308,588. The reduction is primarily attributable to the completion of two major capital projects during the current fiscal year. Typically, the City's total budget is \$15-\$18 million.

The \$3-\$6 million difference in the 2014-15 budget is being created by a rather large internal transfer needed to split the Capital Construction-Enterprise Fund into two separate funds and by relatively large maintenance projects planned for the Water and Sewer Systems.

### Revenue

The majority of the City's revenue comes from Property Taxes, Franchise Fees, Intergovernmental Revenue, and User Fees.

The City of Veneta's permanent property tax rate is \$5.6364/\$1,000. The calculations for fiscal year 2014-15 assumes that the assessed value will not increase significantly from last year's value of \$225,295,138. Allowing for compression loss and uncollectible taxes, the City is conservatively expecting to receive \$1,292,819, compared to \$1,245,381 expected in the current fiscal year.

User fees include building and electrical permit fees, land use permits, pool fees, storm-water (drainage) surcharge, and water and sewer base and use fees.

See Budget, page 3

## New Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market day and time

Each summer for nearly a decade, the Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market (VDFM) has provided local consumers with access to extremely fresh local produce and a weekly opportunity for socialization and entertainment. This year, the eighth season of the Market, will feature all of that and more – on a new day of the week.

This summer, the VDFM takes place on Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. instead of on Fridays between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Just like last year, the Market is located on the grassy lawn area in front of the Fern Ridge Shopping Center, at Territorial Hwy. and Luther Lane, a pleasant and accessible location with room for growth.

"There is always a place to park and never a line," says Market Manager Marie Pickett, adding that the Market will have six cornerstone, family owned and operated farms – Beezup Farm, Gloria Loves Gardening, Kurzhall Family Kickin' Pickles,

See MARKET, page 2

CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - JULY 2014		
Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 Eighth Street, Veneta Oregon		
1	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.
2	Veneta Historical Committee Meeting - City Hall	2:00 p.m.
2	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	Cancelled
4	City Hall closed in Observance of Independence Day	Closed
10	Zumwalt Campground Opens	2:00 p.m.
13	Zumwalt Campground Closes	11:00 p.m.
14	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
17	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
28	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.

## ***Veneta's "Please Don't Litter" campaign going strong***

In January of this year, the City of Veneta and Veneta Friends of Ferals launched a free spay/neuter program for feral and stray cats in the 97487 zip code. The City was awarded a grant from PetSmart Charities® to help combat the growing number of feral and stray cats in the Fern Ridge area.

The "Please Don't Litter" 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.

The City's goal for the first year of the two year program is to spay or neuter 175 cats and a total of 300 overall by the end of 2015. The City has partnered with Willamette Animal Guild (WAG) and Veneta Veterinary Hospital to perform the surgeries for the City's program.

"As of the first of June, 2014, ninety five (95) feral and stray cats have been spayed or neutered," says Teresa Warrick, Veneta's code enforcement officer.

If you are or someone you know has feral or stray cats that need to be spayed or neutered, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Warrick at Veneta City Hall, 88184 8th Street, call 541-935-2191 or visit the City's website at: <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/animal.cfm>

## ***City sponsors free Oregon Country Fair shuttle service***

Once again, the City of Veneta is partnering with the Oregon Country Fair (OCF) to sponsor a free shuttle service between Veneta Elementary School and the Fair site Friday, July 11 and Saturday, July 12. There will be no bus service on Sunday, July 13.

The City sponsors the shuttle service in conjunction with its operation of Zumwalt Campground. This year, participants do not need a ticket from the City to ride the bus, but must have an OCF ticket when boarding. Drivers will not be checking City residency and the service is first-come, first serve.

Departure times, listed below, are approximate, and Veneta officials want to remind residents that some trips go directly to the Fair while others are part of a loop that includes Zumwalt Campground and may take 20 to 25 minutes longer to reach the Fair. Please plan your trip accordingly. The shuttles depart from Veneta Elementary at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Return trips leave the OCF for Veneta at 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. All shuttle times are approximate. For more information, please contact the City of Veneta at 541-935-2191.

## ***MARKET: new board takes over the reigns***

Laughing Salad Farm, Letoile Farm and Winter Green Farm – that offer fresh fruit and produce from June 7 through September 27.

The VDFM has another big change in store for 2014, a new nonprofit board composed of local farmers and supporters of Fern Ridge's agricultural community, which will oversee its operations. This transformation to self-sufficiency is the fruit of years of hard work by the Market management and City of Veneta officials, according to Community Development Director Kay Bork.

"The City has been a partner to the Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market since its inception in 2007. It has always been a goal that the Market would become self-sustaining, so we are very happy that the farmers have formed their own board recently and have taken over that management role," says Bork. "The decision by the board to move to Saturdays is a great idea. The new day and time will hopefully fit into peoples schedules more easily. The City will continue to partner with VDFM as we can and look forward to many years of success."

The VDFM's goal, according to Pickett, remains providing local consumers fresh, seasonal food grown within a 25-mile radius of Veneta by family owned and operated farms. "That's our mission, it's always been our mission," says Pickett, "along with creating a positive local economic impact with the support of regional partners with like-minded goals for the development of our community."

Along with all that healthy produce, the Market hosts arts and crafts vendors, as well as musicians and other entertainment for the whole family. An average of 18 vendors attend each Market.

Pickett says the VDFM has already booked music for the entire season. Musicians will play each Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Performances include Market favorites Tatiemo, a harmonic trio, Americana courtesy of Moonshine Clan, solo artists Lea Jones and Jen Sennett, gospel-tinged grooves from Kathy Marshal and Franklin's Ladies Aid Society, a tribute to John Burchell.

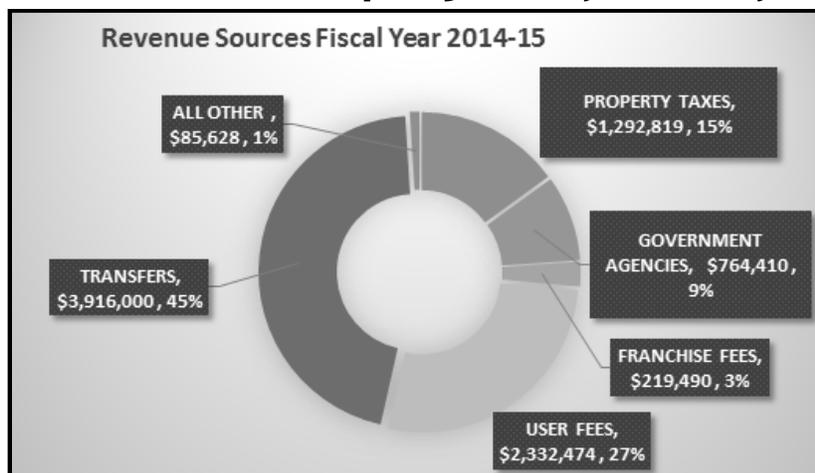
The fun is sponsored by the Oregon Country Fair, which provides support for music, weekly entertainment and children's art and education, as well as some marketing support.

Pickett encourages parents to bring their children for weekly environment education with hands on projects, including plant growth and productions projects, and Fern Ridge native bird identification and awareness.

Last month, VDFM volunteers hung Market flyers on doors throughout the City. Residents who brought the hanger to any Market in June were entered into a raffle to win a Market gift basket. The raffle drawing takes place at the first Market of this month, July 5.

Those who want more information about the VDFM can follow the Farmers' Market on Facebook and contact them at [venetadfm@gmail.com](mailto:venetadfm@gmail.com).

## Budget: Water and Sewer projects focus of 2014-2015



### Expenditures

The term "Expenditures" refers to the total amount of "money" budgeted to spend. These are often also referred to as Appropriated (authority to spend). Appropriated expenditures are further separated by the following main classifications: 1) Personal Services 2) Materials and Services 3) Capital Outlay 4) Debt Service and 5) Internal Transfers Out.

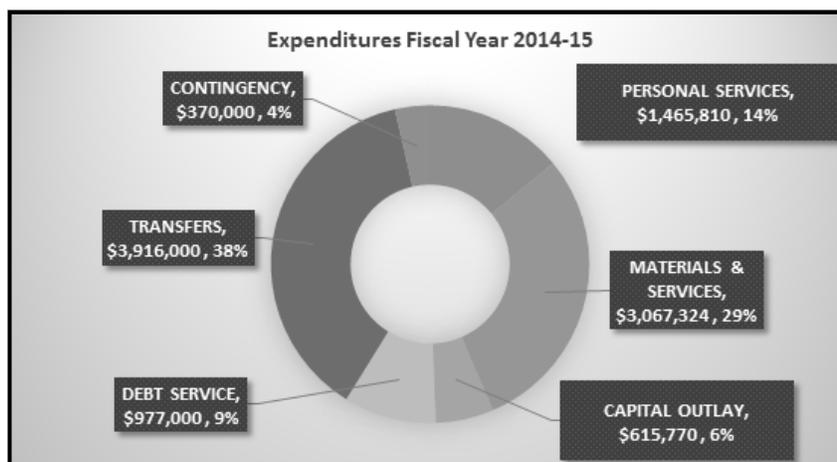
Personal services are expected to increase by \$77,000. External factors such as health insurance premiums continuing to rise and the consumer price index for 2013 surpassing the 2012 level affect this expenditure. Also affecting the amount is the tentative plan to add a .5 FTE position to our organization.

The total materials and services expenditure for fiscal year 2014-15 is also higher than the fiscal year 2013-14 amount. Plans for some extensive rehabilitation to the water tank on E. Broadway and to critical parts of the wastewater treatment plant are driving this increase of about \$500,000.

Capital outlay, on the other hand, is significantly less in fiscal year 2014-15. The decrease is attributable to completion of the Water Pipeline and Fern Ridge Service Center in the fall of 2013 and to changing the focus for the upcoming year to maintenance projects.

The amount being proposed for debt service is also significantly lower than the fiscal year 2013-14 budget. During that year the City obtained about \$9 million dollars through an interim financing agreement. In September 2013 the entire amount was paid off using bond proceeds. The City still has the debt; however, the payments will be made over a 40 year period.

As mentioned above, transfers are also increasing. \$3,300,000 of the transfer amount being budgeted is related to the splitting of one fund into two new funds.



# Reduce your Backyard Mosquito Sources

The main rule when it comes to breeding grounds for mosquitoes is that they need stagnant water in order to lay their eggs. What most people don't realize is the surprising number of areas around their own house where mosquitoes can find the stagnant water they need. The main rule: If it can hold water for more than a few days, it can breed mosquitoes.



**Fishponds:** Mosquitoes find water features to be an ideal breeding ground, especially if the pond is in a state of disuse. This can increase the local mosquito population.

**Solution:** If you have an active fishpond, make sure you remove excess vegetation, as that can provide a stable place for mosquitoes to breed.



**Swimming pools:** Most of the time, this isn't a problem when the pool is maintained. But when a pool is neglected, it becomes a large pool of stagnant water, and it becomes a large breeding ground for mosquitoes as well.

**Solution:** Maintain your pool! How can you have a pool party otherwise?



**Bird bath:** They attract birds...and mosquitoes, unfortunately. Because it's often in the sun, it's a shallow source of water, the water is warmed, it actually encourages mosquitoes to grow faster!

**Solution:** Agitate the water that's inside of the bird bath every few days.



**Containers:** If it can hold water, it can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

**Solution:** Turn containers upside down or bring them indoors.



**Street gutters:** For various reasons, the street gutters pool the water instead of draining it away, and they become the perfect neighborhood for mosquitoes.

**Solution:** The chief culprit of this problem is the overwatering of front yards. Keeping to a regular schedule of watering can do quite a bit toward solving the problem.



**Tarps:** As good as they are in protecting your belongings, there are sometimes dips in the tarps that can trap stagnant water.

**Solution:** At the very least, you can just remove the tarp, shake it off, and replace it every few days or so if you need to keep something covered year round.



**Leaky spigots:** Aside from being a waste of water, that same water can become a problem in the case of mosquitoes. It doesn't take much water to support the breeding of mosquitoes, and sometimes the leak can provide that amount of water.

**Solution:** Fix the leaky faucet. Not only will it stop the mosquito breeding problem, it'll do wonders for your water bill.



**Old tires:** If even a little water is left, that's enough for mosquitoes to breed in.

**Solution:** The best solution is to simply get rid of the tires. Take them to the dump, or pay a tire store or gas station to take and recycle them. If for some reason you feel the need to keep them, drill some holes into them so they can drain, and keep them in a place where they'll stay dry.



**Clogged rain gutter:** Rains drop leaves into your gutter, creating pools of standing water. When mosquito season comes around, they have the perfect place to breed.

**Solution:** There's only one solution, sadly. Roll up your sleeves, and clear out that rain gutter--before the weather becomes too warm. Better yet, pay either your kid or the neighbor's kid to do it for you.