

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City News

City Council reevaluates backyard chickens

To allow chickens or not to allow chickens, that is the question for Veneta's City Council. The Council is re-investigating the pros and cons of allowing backyard chickens in the City's residential neighborhoods.

Three years ago, the Council discussed backyard chickens and directed City staff to address the issue during its next major municipal code revision. Because the City has not undertaken a major code overhaul since that time, and some residents have shown recent interest in the topic, the Council has decided to revisit the issue.

Those in favor of keeping backyard chickens cite educational opportunities for children, the ability to harvest extremely fresh, healthy eggs and benefits to backyard gardening as key reasons to allow them.

But some people worry how chickens kept on smaller city lots would affect neighboring properties – potentially through increased noise and smells and by chickens getting loose. Ultimately, the City Council must determine what lot size is appropriate to have enough space for chickens and how far away their pens should be sighted from neighboring residences.

Both proponents of residential chickens and those with concerns about revising the City's Land Development Ordinance to allow them on lots of 6,000 square feet or smaller had a chance to address the issue at a joint meeting of the City Council and the Veneta Planning Commission on February 24.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hear-

ing on the issue Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Citizens will have a chance to present oral testimony at the hearing. Written comments turned in by February 28 will be included in the public record.

After the public hearing, the Planning Commission could make a recommendation to the City Council on whether or not to revise the current code. The Council will make a final decision, based on that recommendation.

Article 4 of Land Development Ordinance 493 only allows non-commercial livestock in areas of Veneta zoned as Rural Residential or on one acre lots in areas zoned as Single Family or General Residential. Lot size restrictions determine what kind of animals may be raised on a property.

Time for DSA nominations

It's almost time for the 48th Annual Distinguished Service Awards (DSA). The event honors Fern Ridge residents, volunteers and businesses for making a positive impact on the Fern Ridge community.

The awards ceremony will be held Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m. at Deep Woods Events on Territorial Highway in Elmira. Siuslaw Bank Manager Jason Alansky chairs this year's event on behalf of the Kiwanis Club.

"I think that it's important that we support the DSA because we really have a lot of people in the community who go above and beyond every day," says Alansky, "and this is a great time and place to say thank you."

Nominations for the awards are due Monday, March 17 and can be picked up and dropped off at the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce office or at the Siuslaw Bank branch on Territorial Road. Alansky encourages local service groups to nominate members who have made a significant impact on the community.

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CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - MARCH 2014

Veneta City Hall - 88184 Eighth Street, Veneta Oregon

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| 5 | Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall | 4:30 p.m. |
| 9 | Daylight Saving Time Begins - Spring Forward | |
| 10 | Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following City Council Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 11 | Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall | 7:00 p.m. |
| 17 | St. Patrick's Day | |
| 19 | Veneta Historical Committee Meeting - City Hall | 1:30 p.m. |
| 20 | Municipal Court - City Hall | 8:30 a.m. |
| 24 | Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall | 7:00 p.m. |

Community pool employment benefits local students

Though winter is far from over, it's time to start thinking ahead to summer, especially for those who want to be lifeguards at the community pool this summer.

Lifeguard applications, which are available on the City's website or at City Hall, must be turned into City Hall by March 21 at 5 p.m.

Most Veneta lifeguards return year after year. Because of this, new positions this year are limited and may be filled quickly. Returning lifeguards may submit a letter of interest in lieu of an application, but it also must be received by March 21.

"The Veneta Community Pool offers young people an opportunity to work in and serve our community," says Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. "For many of our seasonal workers, it is their first time out in the workforce and gives them an opportunity to experience firsthand the responsibilities and expectations that go with having a job and actually being paid for their labor. We provide training, supervision and set expectations that will hopefully lay the foundation for their entire work lives."

All of Veneta's lifeguards are certified through the Red Cross, with training provided by the YMCA. The City pays for that training, spending \$175 per individual, on the condition that lifeguards continue with the City for the entire season. This year's classes start April 1 for those not yet

certified.

The lifeguard certification is good for two years, while lifeguards are re-certified for CPR every year during an annual in-service training before the pool opens. CPR and emergency service plan training and additional in-service training goes on throughout the summer.

Lifeguards who want to step up and become swim instructors go through additional certification training administered by Red Cross instructors.

"Having an opportunity to work close to home, where they can walk or bike to work is a tremendous bonus for the younger workforce," says Schauer, adding that, because of their certification, Veneta's lifeguards often get jobs at other pools after working for the City.

In addition to the Pool Manager, Stacy Cornelius, the City of Veneta hires about 22 area youth and young adults as pool aids, lifeguards and swim instructors according to Human Resources Administrator Chris Workman. Most are high school students. The minimum age for lifeguards and swim instructors is 16, though younger students can be swim aids.

Pool event planning for the summer is already underway. The Summer Solstice pool party takes place the third Friday of the month, June 21 and a Family Carnival Night is tentatively planned for early August.

Veneta Park Board needs board members and volunteers

If you have always wanted to volunteer in the community, now is your chance. Veneta's Park Board volunteers and board members are some of the City's biggest behind-the-scenes heroes.

Right now, the City needs new people for both types of volunteer work.

Park Board volunteers plan and carry out some of the City's best events each spring: Earth Day and the Veneta Easter Egg Hunt. The City's 8th annual Earth Day event takes place on April 11 and the 28th annual Easter Egg Hunt happens April 19.

"Spring time is a very busy time for Veneta's Park Board and partners," says City Administrator, Ric Ingham. "Both events are a great opportunity for residents to volunteer and find out firsthand the positive impact both events are having on youth in the community".

Those interested in volunteering can learn more by visiting the City's website at <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/> or by calling 541-935-2191. The annual pre-hunt Easter egg stuffing event is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. April 12 at the Veneta Community Center.

The Veneta Park Board is seeking to fill three resident positions and one non-resident position. Three of these positions are four-year terms expiring March 31, 2018 and the fourth is the remainder of a vacated resident position which expires March 31, 2017.

The terms of two current board members, Cathleen Coulson-Keegan and Craig Soderberg, end on March 31, 2014. It is likely that both will re-apply to serve new terms.

The mayor and City Council appoint between 5 and 9 volunteers to the board for four-year terms. The terms are staggered in order to achieve continuity on the board.

The board meets the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall and is instrumental in implementing the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Board sub-committees meet throughout the month.

Application are available at City Hall or on the City's website at <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/documents/CommissionCommitteeApplication.pdf>. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2014.

DSA: A night to honor those who go above and beyond

Anyone can nominate a candidate for the DSA's main awards: Volunteers of the Year, Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Business of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award.

At the event, Local businesses and volunteer groups will also honor employees and members who have gone above and beyond expectations in their service to the community.