

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

Tree City Celebration this October

2014 marks the fifth year that the City of Veneta has been recognized by the non-profit Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community for its commitment to urban forestry. The Oregon Department of Forestry will present an award to Veneta to honor the City's Tree City USA status.

The Veneta Park Board will host a celebration and tree planting in honor of this milestone. The event will take place on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the Veneta Community Center at City Park on Broadway.

The celebration begins at 10:00 a.m., and will provide educational opportunities for Veneta residents to learn more about tree care, maintenance and the City's role in promoting a healthy urban forest. A tree planting event at Territorial Park will follow. While the event schedule has yet to be finalized, planned activities include:

- Oregon Department of Forestry will recognize Veneta for 5 years as a Tree City USA community.
- A Certified Arborist will lead a Q&A presentation on recognizing hazardous trees, tree planting and tree care.
- Fern Ridge Library will provide an activity for children and have a display of books on trees for children and adults.
- The Westside Gardeners Club will have display on backyard trees.
- Free refreshments.
- Volunteer Tree planting at Territorial Park.

Park Board members hope that this event will foster community building and provide residents with a sense of ownership and pride in our urban forest and community. The City also hopes that it will generate enthusiasm for continued volunteerism.

At the event, volunteers will have the opportunity to learn more about how they can continue to volunteer for Veneta's Park Board and other local organizations. The Veneta Park Board acts as the Tree Board and advises the City Council on tree-related issues and opportunities for urban forestry enhancement.

City sponsors drug take-back event

Once again, the City of Veneta is sponsoring a drug take-back event in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and local law enforcement. The event takes place on Saturday, September 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Area residents can bring old, out of date and unused medicines to the Bi-Mart on Jeans Road for proper disposal.

Controlled, non-controlled and over-the-counter substance will be accepted at this anonymous event. No questions will be asked and no identification is necessary for participation. For safety reasons, intravenous solutions, injectables, syringes and medical waste cannot be accepted.

Participants disposing of medications in their original containers should take all identifying information off of the packages. Liquid products such as cough syrup should remain sealed in their original containers.

Because the City's waste water treatment system is based on the biological cycle, anything toxic, including medicines can kill off good bacteria and effect sewage treatment.

CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2014		
Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 Eighth Street, Veneta Oregon		
1	Labor Day - City Hall Closed	Closed
2	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.
3	Veneta Historical Committee Meeting - City Hall	2:00 p.m.
3	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
8	Veneta City Council Work Session - City Hall Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following City Council Meeting	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
9	Communications Subcommittee Meeting - City Hall	3:30 p.m.
18	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
22	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.



Service Center needs help to win solar power grant

When architects first drew up plans for the new local senior center, they included an array of solar panels as part of the energy efficient design. But due to budget constraints, plans to help offset the building's energy costs with solar power had to be postponed.

Now, GREEN customers of Emerald People's Utility District can help the Fern Ridge Service Center get those solar panels by voting for the project on Emerald's website. The City of Veneta recently applied to the company for a \$40,000 grant for the solar panel project and has been chosen as a finalist in the Community Grant Program.

In September, Emerald customer/owners enrolled in its GREEN Program, which supports renewable energy, will be able to pick the Veneta project from the four finalist competing for grant funding.

The new service center houses Mid Lane Cares — which operates the Love Project Food Pantry and LCOG — and Senior & Disabled Services — which operate Senior Meals, Meals on Wheels, and Senior Connections.

Together, the agencies annually distribute over 220,000 pounds of food to nearly 3,000 Low Moderate Income (LMI) persons through hot meals, meal boxes and food pantry. For seniors they also coordinate medical rides, operate foot care clinics, offer prescription assistance, tax preparation, companion care and provide fuel and assistance for utility shut-off emergencies.

Reducing operational costs with the installation of the solar panels will allow each agency to direct more resources toward programs that serve low and moderate income households and seniors throughout Fern Ridge. If Veneta wins the EPUD grant, the City expects the solar panel project will be completed by January 2015.

To sign up for the GREEN program, learn more about Emerald PUD's Community Grant Program and get instructions on how to vote for the Fern Ridge Service Center solar project, go online to <http://www.epud.org/myAccount/GREENProgramRenewableEnergy/GREENGrantProgram.aspx>

Veneta opens new bulk water service station

The City of Veneta is opening a new bulk water station located on Cornerstone Drive between Highway 126 and Jeans Road this month.

Beginning September 1, bulk water will no longer be available from the Public Works Yard located on East Broadway.

"The new bulk water station located on Cornerstone Drive is in a more convenient location that will offer seven days a week, 24 hour access to our bulk water customers," says Public Works Director Kyle Schauer.

This station will work on a pre-paid basis. All bulk water customers must go to the City of Veneta Administrative Center to set up an account. Any outstanding balance must be paid on existing accounts prior to signing up for the new service.

A one-time set up fee of \$25 will be charged to set up the account and provide a bulk water card. Funds must be loaded onto the card prior to use.

Use of the prepaid funds will be charged at a flat rate of

\$11.00 per 1,000 gallons of water purchased. There is no restriction on the purchase amount; however, there will be a 2 percent surcharge based on the purchase amount, each time funds are placed or refilled on the card.

"While the new bulk water rate of \$11.00 per 1,000 gallons may seem high, it is important to note that bulk water users were previously charged a monthly base rate in addition to the rate per 1,000 gallons," says Schauer. "The new rate allows for the bulk water users to pay for their fair share of existing infrastructure and maintenance as well as pay for the City's investment to install the bulk water station."

The water station was installed to make purchasing bulk water from the City more convenient.

The station is easy to use and streamlines the accounting process. Contact Veneta City Hall with any questions regarding the bulk water station at 541-935-2191. More information about the new station is available online at <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/>

New program protects utility customers from identity theft

In order to protect City residents from hackers, early this year the City of Veneta updated the Identify Theft Protection Program it enacted in 2009. The policy complies with the federal Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACT Act) of 2003 and the Oregon Identity Theft Act.

Under the program, those signing up for new utility accounts must fill out an application and provide proof of identification to ensure that the resident is authorized to incur charges on the account.

Existing customers should also comply with the new program.

"We want to strongly encourage our existing custom-

ers to come in and fill out an application to better protect themselves and ensure that the City has the most up to date information," says Finance Director Shauna Hartz.

Accepted identification includes state issued driver's license, state issued identification card, passport from any country or any other photo-bearing government-issued document evidencing nationality or residence.

While Veneta has never been targeted by hackers, the City will continue to take a proactive approach to protecting the personal information of its residents.

The City will update the program yearly to stay a step ahead of criminals. The application is available online at <http://www.ci.veneta.or.us/>