

The Newsletter of the  
City of Veneta

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

# City News

## Veneta Ramps up Economic Development

On Sept. 30, the City of Veneta's Economic Development Committee convened its first meeting and began to delineate its priorities to implement the Veneta Economic Development Strategy: Five Year Action Plan 2015-2019. That Plan articulates the City's role in economic development and outlines the resources it can commit to attract new businesses and support the needs of local businesses for the mutual benefit of the entire community. "The committee members will aim to get a better understanding of the needs and concerns of local businesses," explained City Administrator Ric Ingham. "If there are actions the City and

greater business community can take to secure their long-term business viability and, more importantly to see if there are opportunities for them to grow and expand, the committee will explore them."

The Committee will meet monthly and includes nine representatives of the local business community. It also has the benefit of the City's RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environments) Intern, Claudia Denton, who will help implement Committee plans.

Meanwhile, the Ford Family Foundation, in partnership with the Rural Development Initiative (RDI), announced that it has selected Ve-

neta as one of two communities that will be a pilot project for a Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program. "It's great news to be selected, and we are very excited to work with RDI," said Ingham. "The Economic Development Committee will provide Veneta's leadership for that program as we move forward." This new program should provide further tools to enable business development and will be rolled out to the community in early 2016.

RDI has also launched a WealthWorks Northwest initiative, and the City will host a series of webinars on exploring and building value

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## Council Suspends TUF Process

On Oct. 26, the Veneta City Council agreed to temporarily postpone deliberation about a prospective Transportation Utility Fee (TUF), as City staff and Council reallocate time and resources to the proposed Fern Ridge Community Policing District (FRCPD). Proponents aim to establish a Special District and place the concept on the May 2016 ballot. The proposal has significant community interest, and initial support from the City, Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich, and public safety organizations.

The Council was briefed about FRCPD which would provide 24-hour deputy coverage for Veneta and the broader Fern Ridge area, at its Oct. 12 work session, and agreed to direct staff and legal counsel to evaluate the tax implications and structure of the Special District. Meanwhile, the Council believes that citizens would be best served if it prioritizes this public safety program and revisits the TUF proposal at a later date.

CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2015		
Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 8th Street, Veneta, Oregon		
1	Daylight Saving Day - Fall Back	
3	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	Cancelled
4	Veneta Economic Development Committee Meeting - City Hall	2:00 p.m.
4	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:30 p.m.
9	Veneta City Council Work Session	5:30 p.m.
	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
	Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting immediately following City Council Meeting	
11	Veterans Day - City Hall Closed	Closed
18	Veneta Economic Development Committee Meeting - City Hall	2:00 p.m.
19	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
23	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
26 & 27	City Hall closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Holiday	Closed

Calendar updates will be posted on the City's website at [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov). This Civic Calendar was sent to: Fern Ridge Review, Fern Ridge School District 28J, Fern Ridge Public Library, and Lane Fire Authority

## ***City of Veneta and its Partners Plan Holiday Festivities***

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, the City of Veneta, along with its business partners and volunteers, are busy planning a series of festive events for the coming holidays.

On November 20 and 21, the town will be abuzz with shoppers during the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Country Holiday Bazaar, which features food and crafts by local artisans at dozens of locations around town. Limited spaces may still be available. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at (541) 935-8443 for more information.

Then, on Dec. 3, the community will kick off the season with its traditional Tree Lighting Ceremony. Held at the West Lane Shopping Center fountain (in front of Ixtapa and the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce) the event will include performances by local school choirs and a visit from Santa.

And the streets of Veneta will sparkle on Dec. 10, as brightly lit parade floats make their way through town during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Fern Ridge Light Parade. "Our first year, the parade was small with only a handful of floats. As more service groups and churches got involved, we watched it grow to nearly 40 floats," said Ric Ingham, Veneta City Administrator. "The parade is a wonderful way for families and the community to celebrate the holiday season." Those interested in being part of the parade still have plenty of time to design and decorate a float for this brilliant holiday tradition. Registration forms are available from the City of Veneta or the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce office, as well as the Chamber's website. So mark your calendar for a very merry season!

## ***Preparing for Winter***

### Leaf Pickup on Tuesday and Thursday

The City of Veneta began picking up bagged leaves left at curbside in October and will continue each Tuesday and Thursday until the end of January 2016. Bags are to contain leaves only, no garbage or other yard debris, and must be tied shut. As an alternative, residents may place leaves in the yard debris container provided by Sanipac or use them for mulch or compost for gardens or flowerbeds. Residents should be aware that some properties contain protected wetlands and take special care when removing vegetation. Questions about wetlands can be directed to Associate Planner Lisa Garbett at (541) 935-2191

### Keeping Streets and Sidewalks Clear

As winter approaches, leaves can pile in the streets, blocking street drainage. The City street sweeper is often unable to clean a street properly when basketball hoops, garbage cans, illegally

parked vehicles and recreational vehicles are being left or parked in the public right-of-ways. Under the Veneta Municipal Code Chapter 12.15.010, "Public rights-of-way" include, but are not limited to, streets, roads, highways, bridges, alleys, sidewalks, trails, paths, public easements and all other public ways or areas, including subsurface and air space over these areas.

"The elderly, handicapped, children, people with strollers and dog walkers are especially endangered when they can't walk on the sidewalk and must detour into the street," says Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. "Please move basketball hoops and any other impediments onto your property when not in use."

The City's intent is to ensure pedestrian safety and to maintain its streets and drainage systems. Contact the Code Enforcement Officer Teresa Warwick with questions about City ordinances at (541) 935-2191.

## ***Veneta Ramps up Economic Development***

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chains in the community. A free introductory webinar is now available on RDI's website: [http://rdiinc.org/wealthworks\\_northwest\\_webinars](http://rdiinc.org/wealthworks_northwest_webinars)

"By participating and showing a strong interest in these various programs, we hope to reinforce the message that Veneta supports business," said

Ingham. "We want to encourage and help businesses to establish and grow."

Denton agrees. "Veneta has spent a lot of time and effort to get the City moving in the right direction" she said. "Everything the City has done in the past 5 to 10 years has prepared us for the future. Now we just need to keep moving in the right direction."