

The Newsletter of the
City of Veneta

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City News

Veneta to Host Tree City Celebration

On October 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the City of Veneta will celebrate its sixth year as a Tree City USA Community by hosting a Tree City Celebration at the Veneta Community Center on East Broadway. The free event will include a guest speaker, children's activities, refreshments and a free raffle.

Sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, the Tree City USA program celebrates the importance of an urban tree canopy and encourages communities to care for the trees within their city. A healthy and sustainable urban forestry program reduces costs for stormwater management and erosion control; cuts energy consumption by up to 25 percent; and boosts property values, among other benefits.

Veneta met all four requirements to be named a Tree City USA Community: having an individual responsible for the care of all trees on city-owned property; establishing public tree care ordinances for planting, maintaining, and removing trees; funding these activities; and having an annual Arbor Day or Tree City Observance. "We have hosted Arbor Day Celebrations in the past," said Community Development Director Kay Bork. "This will

be Veneta's second Tree City Celebration."

The event will feature guest speaker Matt Horowitz, a certified arborist who lives in Veneta and frequently volunteers his services. He will speak about two very relevant issues: creating defensible space around homes by properly pruning trees and vegetation to reduce fire risk; and how homeowners can use trees in the landscape to help with energy efficiency by maximizing sun exposure in winter and shade in summer. He will also discuss which tree species are most effective to meet these goals.

"Last year, Horowitz gave a presentation on identifying and dealing with hazardous trees," said Bork. "People really loved it, so we're pleased to have him back."

Bork said the City will also raffle tree and garden-related gifts and host an Educational Tree Scavenger Hunt for all ages. Youth are highly encouraged to participate and prizes will be given. Marian Lill from Apple Springs Organic Farm will demonstrate how she presses apples into fresh cider and will offer samples. Attendees are invited to help make cider.

RARE Intern Claudia Denton Joins Staff

The City of Veneta welcomes Claudia Denton as its new RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environments) intern. For the next nine months, Claudia will be working with the Veneta Economic Development Committee, with the ultimate objective of creating jobs in the Veneta area. "Claudia will be helping us put our economic development plan into action," said City Administrator Ric Ingham. "She'll work with the committee to determine how to most effectively use her resources and time to implement the 'Veneta Economic Development Strategy: Five Year Action Plan 2015-2019.'"

Originally from Sweden, Claudia has lived, studied, and worked in the U.S. for more than 15 years. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Planning and Design and a Graduate certificate in Oregon Leadership and Sustainability. "I'm interested in public service that benefits society, so the RARE program is a good use of my time," she said. "I look forward to introducing myself and getting to know the people in this community."

CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - OCTOBER 2015 VENETA ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER - 88184 8TH STREET, VENETA, OREGON

6	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
7	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	4:00 p.m.
12	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
15	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
17	Tree City Celebration - Veneta Community Center - 25192 E. Broadway	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
22	Open House - Transportation Utility Fee - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
26	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.
31	Happy Halloween	

Calendar updates will be posted on the City's website at 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



Open House to Discuss Transportation Utility Fee

The City of Veneta will host an Open House at City Hall on Thursday, October 22 at 6:30 p.m. The City encourages residents to turn out to discuss a Transportation Utility Fee that has been proposed to pay for street maintenance and repairs within the City.

According to Community Development Director Kay Bork, a working group has been studying the proposal throughout the summer and presented its analysis to a work session of the Veneta City Council on September 28. "Now we want people to come to the meeting to learn more about the proposed fee — what types of projects it will fund, an implementation timeline, when the fees will be collected, and

how much they will be — and provide us with feedback," said Bork.

The City will propose fees of \$3 per month for residential units and \$6 per month for commercial units to generate the \$80,000 per year for road maintenance and repairs. The fee would be added to each month's utility bills.

"We want to use the open house to make sure that residents understand the street preservation program and how the fee is being calculated," Bork added. "At this point, the matter is still up for discussion. Once the fee is determined and the enacting ordinance is adopted, the fee would become effective 30 days later.

Preparing for Disaster: City Crafts Hazard Mitigation Action Plan

How would residents respond if a dam burst, a volcano erupted, or a wildfire was roaring into town? How would the City and its public safety partners coordinate their efforts to limit loss of life and property? These are just a few of the questions being considered as City Administrator Ric Ingham and Development Director Kay Bork work with a third-party emergency planning consultant to craft the first "Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for the City of Veneta."

"In the past, Veneta has been part of Lane County's Hazard Mitigation Action Plan," explained City Administrator Ric Ingham. "But as we continue to grow, we need our own plans to coordinate with our public safety partners — like the Lane County Sheriff's Office, Lane Fire Authority, and the Oregon Department of Forestry — so that we're better prepared for any kind of emergency or certain types of disasters."

To be more effective, the City has been benefiting from the work of Lane County Emergency Management. "They have received FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] funds," said Ingham. "We're piggybacking on their work and have hired the same consultant to complete our plan."

The plan must follow FEMA guidelines by including a basic community profile, a comprehensive plan, and a list of the disasters or emergencies the

City is most likely to experience. "The City of Veneta has about 10 'hazard profiles,' including winter storms, floods, wildfires, HAZMAT situations or hazardous spills, earthquakes, and more," explained Ingham. Of course, the plan encompasses the broader Fern Ridge area, as well. "It's difficult to analyze hazards that would affect Veneta without having an impact on the surrounding area. And those areas are served by Lane Fire Authority as well," he said.

The City aims to put a draft of the plan out for public review and input in November. After the plan is approved, the City can develop mitigation strategies for the hazards to which it is most vulnerable. Such work might be eligible for FEMA funds. "If we secured funds, we'd need to decide where best to invest that money," Ingham continued. "But we have to get further down the road before we decide what those mitigation priorities are."

On a related note, the City encourages citizens to participate in the Great American Shakeout 2015 on Oct. 15 at 10:15 a.m. This is an annual event scheduled across the country to practice earthquake preparedness and safety. Practice drills can be held anywhere — at work, at schools, at home — wherever you are at that moment.

Please consult the City website at www.VenetaOregon.gov for more details.