

# City News

December 2022

## December Events

### Tree Lighting

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Lighting event will take place on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The event is held at Veneta Elementary School. Attendees can look forward to meeting Santa Claus, an appearance from Mayor Keith Weiss, choir singing by Fern Ridge School District students, hot chocolate served by the Kiwanis Club of Fern Ridge, and the lighting of a twenty-five foot noble fir Christmas tree.

### Veneta Light Parade

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Veneta Light Parade is on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The Light Parade route starts on Territorial Highway and ends on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The light parade route is longer this year—it heads one block down Hunter Street to the skate park. “The parade is spread out a little bit more so that pedestrians can have a better view,” said Robbie McCoy of the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Com-

(See “December Events” on page 2)

## Senior Meals Program Seeking Volunteers

The Senior Meals Program of Lane County is facilitated by Senior and Disability Services, a division of the Lane Council of Governments. Their mission is: “To advocate for seniors and people with disabilities and provide them quality services and information that promotes dignity, independence, and choice.”

Their programs are designed to meet the nutritional needs of adults who are sixty years or older. In our region, the programs consist of both Café 60, an in-

person dining room operated out of the Fern Ridge Service Center, and the Meals on Wheels program.

Café 60 has been in operation for more than 20 years, but the pandemic impacted the program, and they pivoted to pick-up only. Now organizers are trying to get Café 60 back the way things were pre-pandemic—not just a place to grab a hot meal, but a place to connect with other seniors face to face.

(See “Volunteers” on page 2)

## Farewell Councilor Cotter

It is with much respect and appreciation that we bid farewell to longtime councilman Thomas Cotter.

Councilor Cotter served on the City Council for twenty-four years; eleven of those years fulfilling the role of Council President.

He began his first term in 1998 and was re-elected six times, the most terms since original council members and mayors J.W. Smigley and Richard Gutman, respectively.

Councilor Cotter will be remembered for his listening skills, ability to analyze issues and find equitable solutions, knowledge of economic development, compassion for community, thoughtfulness, and a sense-of-humor.



Farewell, Councilor Cotter, and a huge THANK YOU for your long standing contribution to the City of Veneta!

CIVIC CALENDAR		
December 2022		
All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted		
1	Tree Lighting at Veneta Elementary School - 88131 Territorial Rd.	 6:00 p.m.
2	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
2	City Council Work Session	3:00 p.m.
6	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
7	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
8	Light Parade (route map attached)	 7:00 p.m.
12	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
14	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
15	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
23	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	Cancelled
26	City Hall closed in observance of Christmas Day	
1/2/2023	City Hall closed in observance of New Year's Day	

## December Events

*(Continued from page 1)*

merce. Music will be provided by KOOL 99.1 and stationed at the Broadway Grill. There are expected to be about 40 floats in the parade.

### Tour of Lights

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tour of Lights begins on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and lasts through December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Participants of the Tour of Lights need to register and decorate their house or place of business, then the citizens vote on the best décor! The winner will receive a prize. There will be one winner in each category. To register, call the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce at 541-935-8443 or visit their website at [www.venetafernridgechamber.com](http://www.venetafernridgechamber.com).

## Volunteers

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The success of Café 60 depends on a handful of volunteers. Coordinator Melisa Andrion said that they are currently in need of many more volunteers. "We are going to need a lot of help in the kitchen at Café 60," Andrion explained.

She said they are looking for about nine volunteers per day. Each shift is short—about two hours—so a volunteer may find that they have time to contribute more than once per week. But once per week, Andrion explained, is all that is required. That and a proof of vaccination status and a completed back-

ground check.

The Café 60 volunteer role entails plating and serving already prepared foods. Little technical skills are required, just a willingness to help. Meals on Wheels volunteers can expect to drive their own vehicle and be compensated for mileage. Days of operation for both programs are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer of a Senior Meals Program, contact Volunteer Coordinator Melisa Andrion at 541-682-1366 or by email at [mandrion@lcog.org](mailto:mandrion@lcog.org).



**Winter Prep Tips For Residents**

Veneta doesn't always experience snow and ice, but it's good to know what to expect and how to be prepared if we do. Public Works Director Kyle Schauer said that with winter comes lots of rain in our area. He asks that residents consider the following when preparing for the season ahead:

**Rain**

- Clean your gutters
- Check your drainages ensuring they are clean of leaves and downed debris so that water can flow away from your residence
- Branches and leaves should be cleared, they are the main culprits for blocked drainages
- Blowing/sweeping leaves onto the street is prohibited, but if you bag them up the City will retrieve them on Tuesdays and Thursdays as time allows

**Freezing Temps**

- Remove and limb hazardous trees in the fall—Call the City first as a permit may be necessary to remove a hazardous tree
- Caulk around your windows and doors as needed
- Insulate exposed exterior piping to prevent bursts
- If you suspect a water leak, call the City for assistance shutting your water off
- For power outages, call your electric company (EPUD or Lane Electric)
- Prepare an emergency kit for outages lasting several days

**Snow**

- Have a snow shovel and windshield scraper handy
- Sign up for storm alerts on your smartphone
- Watch for school closures or delays and give extra time for commuting
- Drive with caution—the City plows the streets at 3-4 inches of snow accumulation

And most importantly...enjoy the peace of mind that comes from being prepared for every type of weather!

## Annual Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber Events

### 7th ANNUAL **TREE LIGHTING**

6 PM ★ THURSDAY ★ 12/1

Santa arrives at 6PM!

Toy donations gladly accepted.

### 19th ANNUAL **LIGHT PARADE**

7 PM ★ THURS. ★ 12/8

### 3rd ANNUAL **TOUR of LIGHTS**

★ VOTE 12/16 – 12/25 ★

Get your ballot at VFR Chamber or  
[venetafernridgechamber.com](http://venetafernridgechamber.com)

#### 2022 SPONSORS



**ROGERS**  
Towing & Transport

#### 2022 PARTNERS



2022 Veneta Light

Parade Route

Highway 126

**Veneta Light Parade**  
McCutcheon Ave  
**December 8, 2022**  
Starts on Territorial Hwy  
and ends at 8th St