

# City News

January 2021

## December Events to Remember

When it came time to celebrate our most cherished traditions, even a pandemic couldn't dampen our spirits. With grit and determination, the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, City of Veneta, Lane County Sheriff's Office

and a handful of community groups pulled together to organize and host a series of holiday events in a COVID-19 safe environment. We enjoyed a "drive-through Winter Wonderland" and "Tour of Lights," event as the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Veneta-Fern Ridge Light

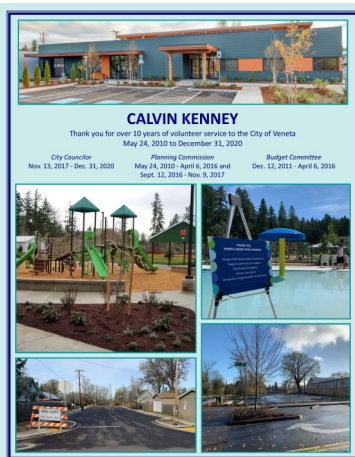
Parade became "Lights on Broadway," just for the year. That event alone drew more than 1,200 carloads of visitors to downtown.

"It was an amazing turnout that far exceeded our expectations," said the Chamber of Com-

merce's Gina Haley-Morrell. "It did my heart good to see smiling families singing Christmas carols and children wishing their neighbors a Merry Christmas."

Judges selected the Sears Family Float for

(See "Events" on page 2)



## Best Wishes Councilor Kenney

The City of Veneta bids farewell to City Councilor Calvin Kenney, and thanks him for more than 10 years of service to the City. Mr. Kenney served two terms on the City Planning Commission and the Budget Committee from 2011 through 2017, advancing such projects as the Ap-

plegate Landing III, the Backyard Chicken Ordinance, and the growth of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries.

On Nov. 13, 2017, he was sworn in to fill a partial-term City Council seat that opened when Thomas G. Laing stepped down. At that time, Kenney also resigned his po-

sition on the City's Planning Commission and his seat on the Budget Committee. With his term as Councilor expiring on Dec. 31, 2020, Kenney declined to run for re-election.

A nine-year resident of Veneta, Kenney's priorities for the City were

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## Rate Increase

Beginning January 1, the City of Veneta will implement increases in both water and sewer rates. Such increases are necessary to meet the debt service obligations incurred to build the pipeline to carry water from EWEB's infrastructure in Eugene to Veneta, keep pace with the costs of maintaining and repairing the water system and accumulate sufficient amounts to fund needed system expansion.

These incremental increases for water are likely to continue through 2022. "The City is ahead of schedule in paying off the pipeline bond," ex-

plained Finance and Administrative Services Director Caitlin Hippler. "In 2022, a consultant will once again evaluate the water rates and assess the financial needs for the City to both maintain the current water system and support future growth."

The base residential bill for combined water/wastewater will increase \$4.22 from \$72.34 per month to \$76.56, with commercial users rising \$4.62 from \$88.55 to \$93.17. All changes will be reflected on the January 2021 bill. Water base rates for residential, commercial, and bulk water

(See "Rate" on page 2)

## CIVIC CALENDAR JANUARY 2021

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

1	New Year's Day	Closed
5	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
6	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
11	City Council Meeting, followed by Urban Renewal Agency Meeting	6:30 p.m.
13	Economic Development Committee Meeting - Virtual	2:00 p.m.
18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Closed
21	Municipal Court	By Appointment Only
25	City Council Meeting, State of the City Address by Mayor Keith Weiss	6:30 p.m.

## State of the City Address - January 25, 2021

Mayor Keith Weiss will be delivering his State of the City Address during the January 25 Council Meeting held at 6:30 p.m. at Veneta City Hall

### Events

First Place, with KOCF Radio and The Berner Express tied for second, with the Berner Express also taking the People's Choice Awards.

After touring the floats, visitors drove through the Winter Wonderland in the Veneta Elementary School parking lot to see Santa and the Holiday Tree and make donations to the SANTA Project and Kiwanis Holiday Food Drive.

"It was a smashing

success," said Lane Fire Authority's Tressa Miller. "I'm so glad we were able to do something for our community, which clearly needed it in 2020!"

For the Veneta-Fern Ridge Tour of Lights, the community "went nuts," decorating their homes and businesses for the season and having a friendly competition. First Place in the Residence category went to "Christmas Corner on Placid", with "Griswold

Family Christmas" on Perkins taking Honorary Mention, and the BSA Troop/Den on 2nd & Broadway taking Best in Business.

"We had great participation in this new event and look forward to next year's Tour of Lights and all the creativity that it brings," said Haley-Morell.

The organizers and the City wish to thank you all for supporting each other and our shared traditions and wish you a Happy New Year!



### Kenney

long-term economic development, workforce expansion, implementing high-density housing, and securing sustainable public safety funding. He also advocated for Hwy. 126

safety improvements on behalf of his fellow citizens.

"Calvin has been an important contributor to the Veneta City Council during his tenure," said

fellow Councilor Pat Coy. "He brought passion as well as a wealth of background in civic affairs to the Council and will be missed on the Council."

Maureen Wright was

recently elected to fill Kenney's seat. She will be sworn in to begin a four year term at the Jan. 11, 2021 City Council meeting.

### Rates

users will increase by 2 percent and sewer rates will increase by 7 percent. By implementing these increases during the winter, the City aims

to offset the typical summer spike in utility bills caused by increased water use, making the fee increase easier for users to absorb.

### Potential Phone Interruptions on January 15

The City is switching to a new phone system, and the phones could be down intermittently during the day. If you need assistance you can send an email to [cityofveneta@ci.veneta.or.us](mailto:cityofveneta@ci.veneta.or.us)