

City News

March 2021

Murphy's Law and Your February Utility Bill

Sometimes things go wrong at just the worst time. For example, in January water rates increased \$0.07 per gallon for Tier 1 consumption levels. Then Murphy's Law kicked in because also in January we experienced an issue with our billing software. Taken

together, these two events resulted in your January bill being under-billed, by less than a dollar in most cases. We apologize for the error. We've identified what went wrong and made changes to prevent it from happening again.

On your February bill you'll notice a Balance Forward reflecting that under-billed amount. The Balance Forward is not an error on your part and it doesn't trigger a late fee. Again, it'll probably be less than a dollar depending on how much water you used. As always, if

you have questions please call us at 541-935-2191. We take pride in doing our best for our community and when things go wrong, we take responsibility and make it right. That's what a world-class small town feels like and that's what we want to be.

City Loosens Parking Rule to Grow Downtown Veneta

Over the last 15 years Veneta created a downtown environment at W. Broadway that includes a community service center, restaurants, and open spaces for special events like the Downtown Farmers' Market, the Harvest Festival, and in recent years a Retail Pop-Up Market. The downtown district is meant to be a

community gathering center, a place where citizens share small town life and celebrate our community.

However, we haven't seen private investment in downtown retail spaces take off, yet. One potential barrier was the city's off-street parking requirement that sometimes required up to 60% of a property be devoted to

parking. That makes it difficult for a developer to invest in downtown Veneta if there's only 40% of the property that they can earn rent from.

Meanwhile, there are about 100 on-street parking spaces on W. Broadway and its cross-streets between Territorial Hwy and 5th Street. That includes the city's new 16

space public parking lot behind American Market. All this parking is within walking distance of the downtown district, and most existing buildings have their own parking.

To encourage downtown development, effective February 25th the City Council lowered this potential barrier to down-

(See "Parking" on page 2)

Entrepreneur-in-Community

Oregon RAIN has hired a new team member! Heather Blake is stepping into the role of Entrepreneur-in-Community. This new position is designed to give a more local presence in our entrepreneurial ecosystem, assist with training, gather feedback from business owners, and participate in local committees and meetings.

Blake's professional experience involves event planning with Fern Ridge Events, coordinating activities at the Elmi-

ra Grange such as the Holiday Bazaar, and working as the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center Coordinator.

The City of Veneta has worked in partnership with Oregon RAIN since 2018, and has seen the positive impact it has in building a strong foundation for entrepreneurs in the Veneta-Fern Ridge area.

The City looks forward to continuing its work with Oregon RAIN and Heather Blake.

CIVIC CALENDAR MARCH 2021

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

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| 2 | Planning Commission Meeting | Cancelled |
| 3 | Park Board Meeting | 4:30 p.m. |
| 8 | City Council Work Session City Council Meeting followed by Urban Renewal Agency | 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. |
| 14 | Daylight Savings Time |  |
| 17 | Happy St. Patrick's Day |  |
| 18 | Municipal Court | By Appointment Only |
| 20 | First Day of Spring |  |
| 22 | City Council Meeting | Cancelled |

Parking

(Continued from page 1)

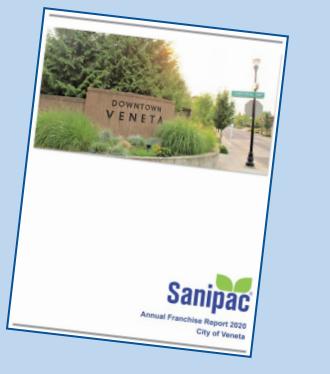
town investment by no longer requiring off-street parking for commercial properties on W. Broadway. This will give property developers a better chance at making a downtown project pencil out with more space to

rent to restaurants, shops, or offices.

The parking waiver does not remove the requirement to provide bicycle parking. Additionally, if any off-street parking is provided, ADA-compliant parking must also be provided.

2020 SANIPAC ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report is now available on the City of Veneta website at www.venetaoregon.gov. You can find it in our Key Documents directory.



Visions of Veneta

The Visions of Veneta photo contest returned this year to highlight local talent and share the beauty of this community and the surrounding area. This photography contest was open to all residents of the Fern Ridge community to participate. Photo submis-

sions were collected during the month of February, and public voting will commence in March. The next photo contest will begin in May and continue with one contest each quarter.

Voting will take place on the City of Veneta's social media platforms—

Facebook and Instagram—and we would love for you to cast your ballot! Let your opinion be heard as we gather public input and celebrate the local area.

Photos submitted during the photo contest will be showcased on the City of Veneta website, marketing, and other public

promotional material.

Thank you to all that submitted their own unique artwork for everyone to enjoy!

Voting in March can be found here: Facebook: [@cityofveneta Instagram: \[@cityofvenetaor\]\(https://www.instagram.com/@cityofveneta\)](https://www.facebook.com/@cityofveneta)



The City of Veneta is once again planning on creating an outdoor shopping market this summer off of W. Broadway in conjunction with the Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market. Last year, Veneta's Downtown Pop-Up Retail District pivoted to abide by

state and local safety guidelines while still offering a unique experience for guests.

This will be the third consecutive year of the program, and the City looks forward to a new name (Shoppes at Veneta Square), new vendors, and increased

offerings during the season.

More information about Shoppes at Veneta Square will be released during the month of March on the City's website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts.

Shoppes at Veneta Square

