

City News

March 2022

Pool Report Summary

The Veneta Community Pool is a favorite local spot to cool off in the summer, see friends, and enjoy a sunny day poolside. However, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented City staff from opening the pool in 2020. When the opportunity to open the pool for the 2021 season came up, staff and the Veneta City Council jumped at the opportunity to bring the pool back. Opening the Veneta Community Pool for the 2021 season took an amazing



staff in order to navigate the many challenges and successes sent their way.

Pool staff's main challenge was, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic and evolving protocols set to keep the public safe. Because pool usage increased by 4% over 2019, this challenge was a big one. However, staff worked through the difficulties with grace and provided excellent

(See "Pool Report" on page 2)

Adopted Code Amendments for Short Term and Cottage Housing

The City Council recently approved two separate amendments to its Land Development Ordinance. The first amendment will remove the requirement to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for short-term rentals such as AirBnB and VRBO; the second amendment will allow Cottage Housing projects, which groups smaller homes around a central courtyard.

Short-Term Rentals

Homeowners enrolling with online booking platforms have not been registering their commercial

short-term rental activity with the City, or collecting the required Transient Room Tax (TRT) like Bed & Breakfasts do. As a result, lodging accommodations in Veneta's residential areas are avoiding regulation and payment of the TRT. Not registering a short-term rental business leaves existing operators in violation of City code. The only alternative is for them to apply for a commercial Bed & Breakfast Conditional Use Permit (CUP) from the Veneta Planning Commission, or shut down. The amendment ensures that short-term rental operators are aware of land use code

(See "Housing" on page 2)

Rescue Veneta Grants Program

Do you have a business in the City of Veneta that has been negatively impacted by COVID-19? Did your business lose revenue due to COVID-19 or any related government mandates? Is your business part of an industry that had to lay-off several employees? Would a grant of up to \$2,500 help your business? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then you need to learn more about the Rescue Veneta Grants Program.

This grant program could take less than 30 minutes to apply to. All you have to do is:

- Complete the application form.
- Submit your City of Veneta Business License.
- Demonstrate how your business was negatively impacted by COVID-19.
- Tell us how you want to spend the funds you are awarded.

You can use grant funds for expenses related to payroll, rent or mortgage payments, debt payments, marketing, workforce training, hiring and loyalty bonuses, and more!

(See "Grants" on page 2)

CIVIC CALENDAR MARCH 2022 All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted		
1	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
2	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
9	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
14	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
17	Municipal Court Happy St. Patrick's Day	8:30 a.m.
25	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	10:00 a.m.
28	City Council Work Session	5:00 p.m.



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Pool Report continued

customer service during a very challenging summer.

Despite the challenges, there were many successes. The previously mentioned increase in pool usage meant that the pool recovered 1% more of its costs than it did in 2019. A partnership with the Fern Ridge School District ensured that every student from kindergarten through 12th grade got up to 10

free visits to the pool. The pool was able to host one event, and the Night Waves Teen Party in July was a hit!

The City of Veneta extends its warmest thanks to the wonderful pool staff who served the Veneta community throughout the summer and the local community for supporting the Veneta Community Pool!

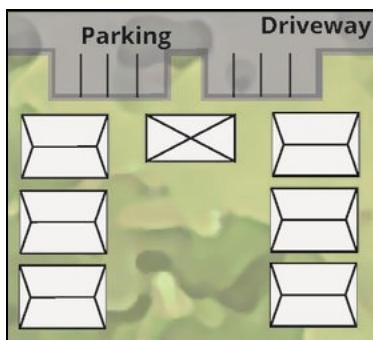
Housing continued

requirements, and require that operators pay the TRT.

Cottage Housing

Cottage Housing is a grouping of small (<1,200 sq.ft. footprint), detached or attached homes clustered around a common area and developed with a coherent site plan. Cottage housing developments were fairly common prior to World War II, but zoning regulations adopted after the War prohibited most residential development other than single-family detached homes. Cottage Housing has gained popularity in recent years as a type of infill development where a smaller and more affordable housing option is often unavailable.

The common area, smaller home footprints, and coordinated design increases land use efficiency and offers residents a quality living experience that is easier to purchase and maintain than traditional single-family detached housing on individual lots. Cottage Housing can “bridge the gap” between rental



housing and single-family detached homes. A lower cost for homeownership and the equity a homeowner accrues can allow people to buy a first home, build equity, and apply that equity towards buying their next home (typically larger and more expensive) as their income and family size grow.

Younger generations have neither the amount of “stuff” as older generations, nor the desire to acquire it. And empty-nesters, increasingly single and tired of maintaining big homes, are looking for smaller units to downsize their clutter and responsibilities as well. They no longer want large houses on big lots to store all their junk, and they also don’t want to spend their weekends maintaining them.

The new code language is intended to establish the basic parameters for Cottage Housing, without worrying about the minutia. The amendments do not mandate that Cottage Housing projects be initiated or approved.

Grants continued

Go to <https://venetaworks.org/venetas-grants> or stop by Veneta City Hall to get an information and application packet.

Contact chaselip@ci.veneta.or.us with any questions that you may have. This program is funded by \$100,000 from the \$1.2 million that the City of Veneta received from the Federal Government’s American Rescue Plan Act.

Egg Hunt 2022

Spring is on its way, and with spring comes the annual Easter Egg Hunt! The egg hunt is scheduled for April 16, at 11:00am and will be held at City Park. Fun for all ages!

Look for the Easter Egg hunt poster in next month’s newsletter.