

## Community Pool to Offer Modified Operations

With approval from the Veneta City Council last month, the City of Veneta pool staff is working hard to create a safe and fun experience for residents who want to take a dip this summer.

But operating a community pool in the midst of a pandemic is a challenging task, and a visit to the Veneta Community Pool, opening in June, will certainly look and feel different.

"Last year, Oregon Health Authority guidelines kept us from opening the pool at all," said Pool Manager Stacy Cornelius. "But the City of Veneta has long prioritized water safety instruction for our

residents, so our goal is to provide swim lessons and other pool activities in a manner that meets Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requirements."

The pool's pared  
(See "Community Pool" on page 2)

## Dog Owner Responsibility

In Veneta, ordinances require residents to prevent their animals from running at large. "An animal must be in or at the premises where the keeper lawfully lives, under the keeper's control by a leash" said Code Enforcement Officer Teresa Warrick.

Veneta has also required that dogs be li-

censed since the City was established. "To obtain a license, you must show proof that your dog has been vaccinated," Warrick explained. "Licensing also helps the City return or reconnect a stray pet with its owners."

Should you come across a stray animal, "report it right away so we can get it back to its own-

er," she continued. Keeping a collar and a tag on your pet is crucial. That tag is your dog's phone call home."

If you have lost, or you find a stray, dog within City limits contact the City of Veneta. The City will take a lost and found report and check for licenses or tags to return the dog to its keepers as

quickly as possible. If the dog is at large, though, the owner may be required to pay an impound and licensing fee (if not already licensed) before the dog can be released. Under city ordinance, those fines can be as high as \$367.

## A Partnership Blooms

Veneta's Downtown Business District will be more colorful than ever this year thanks to a partnership between the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce and the City of Veneta. The Chamber is hosting 24 hanging flower baskets to adorn the light posts on W. Broadway Avenue,

and the City's Public Works Department will hang the baskets and water them all summer.

"The Chamber wanted to help beautify Veneta's downtown area to enhance the visitor experience," said Chamber Vice-President Gina Haley-Morrell. "We had 24 businesses and individuals who were willing to sponsor the flowers, but we needed help with logistics." City Administrator Matt Michel, who was part of the Chamber conversation, was immediately onboard. "So we partnered with the City and the project took root!"

(See "Blooms" on page 2)



## CIVIC CALENDAR May 2021

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

1	City Wide Clean Up 24974 Bolton Hill Road		8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
4	Planning Commission Meeting		6:30 p.m.
5	Veneta Park Board Meeting		4:30 p.m.
9	Happy Mother's Day		
10	City Council Meeting - followed by Urban Renewal Agency meeting		6:30 p.m.
20	Municipal Court - By Appointment Only		
24	City Council Work Session		5:30 p.m.
31	Memorial Day City Office Closed		Closed

## Community Pool

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down offerings will include lap swim, family swim times, water exercise programs, swim lessons, and swim team, she explained. Those on the swim deck will be required to wear masks and abide by social distancing guidelines. Unfortunately, recreational swim will be on hold for this summer, as will special events such as the Summer Solstice and Night Waves Teen Parties.

"It's impossible to enforce physical distancing with young kids in a pool, so we just can't offer recreational swim this year," said Cornelius. "As an alternative, we're designing a lottery and reservation system that will allow family groups to schedule times to swim in socially distanced 'pods,' with a cap on how many people are in the pool at any given time."

A plan to offer other programs and activities

with similar "distancing" requirements is also being drafted even as the lifeguard staff is being certified. And, of course, the City continues to monitor and abide by OHA guidelines.

"We are planning for this summer knowing that the COVID environment and state guidelines are constantly changing," said Cornelius. "We'll put a structure in place and



then be ready to adjust our operations as necessary to serve our community the best we can throughout the entire season."

## Bloom

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The blooms will add to the charm of Veneta's growing outdoor shopping venues, including Veneta's Downtown Farmers Market and The Shoppes

at Veneta Square, formerly known as the Downtown Veneta Pop-Up Retail District.

The beautification project complements urban renewal work in the down-

town area. Funded in part by Veneta's Urban Renewal Agency, the work has included bringing downtown streets to City standards, adding sidewalks and lighting, as well

as landscaping and improving parking to make the area more appealing to businesses and visitors alike.

## Shoppes at Veneta Square

The City of Veneta and Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce are excited to embark on the third season of a lively outdoor market in Veneta's Downtown Business District. With a new name but the same energetic vibe, the Downtown Veneta Pop-Up Retail District will relaunch June 5 as The Shoppes at Veneta Square. Each Saturday through September, The Shoppes will blend with the Veneta's Downtown Farmers Market to create a vibrant community "village," where visitors of all ages can safely congregate, enjoy a meal or a drink, and shop in a unique outdoor space. A VenetaWorks economic

development initiative aimed to spur entrepreneurship, The Shoppes create opportunities for vendors and visitors alike.

"The Shoppes at Veneta Square allow local entrepreneurs to operate a retail space on a trial basis and learn what might be possible if they had a permanent location," said Coordinator Heather Blake. And it's working!

"Many of the vendors from the past two seasons have now moved on and are operating retail sites in the newly opened The Emporium at Territorial

Highway and Bolton Hill Road," Blake explained. "We look forward to creating an opportunity for a new group of entrepreneurs this season."

For visitors, it's an opportunity to shop in Veneta rather than driving to Eugene, while also mingling with neighbors and supporting hometown businesses.

Situated at W. Broadway and 3<sup>rd</sup> street, The Shoppes at Veneta Square features retail spaces in small wooden structures to give a warm, small-town vibe and re-

flect the community's rural feel and timber heritage. The concept was right, but the original name was not.

"We realized that many people found the name 'Pop-Ups' confusing," explained Blake. "So we came up with a name that fits the vibe!"

Starting in June The Shoppes at Veneta Square will operate each Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Veneta's Downtown Farmers Market. And Blake urges visitors to watch for future announcements about food trucks and live music events being planned for Wednesdays as well.

*Pop-ups have a new name...*

*The Shoppes at Veneta Square*