

City News

November 2021

Public Safety Fee

After several months of exploring options and seeking public input, on September 13, 2021 the Veneta City Council unanimously adopted a Public Safety Fee for Veneta. Residents will begin to see the \$4.00 monthly fee on their City utility bills in February 2022 for services rendered in January. To learn more about the fee, please read on!

The City of Veneta uses property tax revenue to fund the services that keep the City going, particularly the public safety services that protect our

community members' life and property. However, your city property taxes also pay for parks, city administration, community planning, and some construction debt. Public safety services receive the lion's share of property taxes—generally fluctuating between 52% and 59% over the last ten years. As public safety services command more property tax revenue, other city services receive less property tax support.

(See "Public Safety Fee" on page 2)

Winter Weather Prep

As leaves drift from their branches and rain storms keep us bundled up inside, residents of Veneta are being given constant reminders that Winter is just around the corner. With the Winter weather comes increased demand on the City's resources and heavier workload for Veneta Public Works. Clogged storm drains, delayed snow plows, and impassable walkways are all avoidable with just a little help from Veneta residents. The City asks that residents keep their ditches clear, rake their leaves away from streets/sidewalks and storm drains, and keep items like

basketball hoops, recreational vehicles, and other common obstacles out of the right-of-way (such as streets, sidewalks, and alleyways).

The City is not leaving residents unassisted with these tasks. Veneta Public Works will be picking up bagged leaves from curbsides every Tuesday and Thursday through the last Thursday in January, as time permits. Bags must contain leaves only and be tied shut. With these steps taken, the City can dedicate resources to more proactive responses to winter weather.

Thanksgiving Feast Drive-thru

Wednesday November 24th

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

25035 W Broadway

(parking lot behind Fern Ridge Service Center)

Kiwanis Club of Fern Ridge will be offering its annual Kiwanis Thanksgiving Feast as a Drive-thru for the 2nd year due to COVID 19. We welcome all as we honor our elderly and needy.

There is no charge.

We encourage you to let our family serve yours!



CIVIC CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2021

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

2	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
3	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
7	Daylight Saving Time 	Fall Back
8	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
10	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
11	Veterans' Day 	Closed
18	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
25	Thanksgiving Day 	Closed
26	Thanksgiving Holiday	Closed

Public Safety Fee

(Continued from page 1)

Additionally, property taxes alone haven't been enough to pay for public safety services over the last eleven years. In 2009, the City started directing all of its internet franchise fee revenues into the police services budget, as well as using money from the Law Enforcement Fund's Ending Fund Balance—the emergency reserve. This has kept reserves below the City's reserves policy.

Over the subsequent two years the City di-

rected both state and local marijuana sales tax revenue streams to the public safety services budget. Meanwhile, internet franchise fee revenues dropped by half. The City's public safety services funding strategy was not sustainable in the face of diminishing fee revenue and the consistent use of emergency reserves. The Public Safety Fee will provide stable and sustainable funding for public safety services like law enforcement and code enforcement.

Code Amendment - Cottage Housing & Short Term Rentals

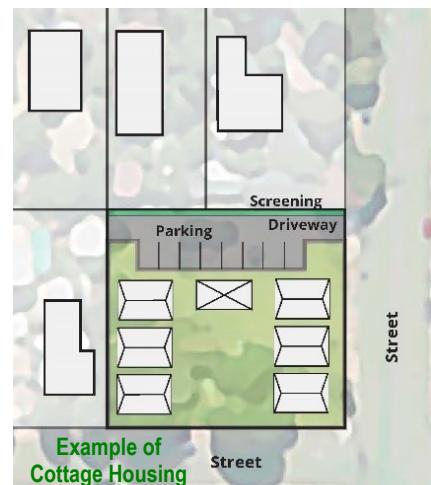
At the October 11, 2021, City Council meeting, the Veneta City Council directed staff to begin drafting amendments to the Veneta Land Development Code in order to address short-term rentals and cottage housing development.

Short-term rentals famously operate under companies like AirBnB and VRBO, allowing private homeowners to temporarily lease space in their home. Staff were directed by the Council to update the Code to allow these rentals without requiring a costly Conditional Use Permit, which is the current process for approval. This change will allow approval of short-term rentals to happen faster and at a lower cost to operators.

Cottage housing development has seen recent growth in popularity as a potential solution to the "Missing Middle" housing problem, wherein the only housing options available in an area like

Veneta are low-cost apartments or single-family homes. Cottage housing bridges the financial, size and maintenance gaps between these two options. Staff were directed by Council to create allowances and guidelines for this type of development to happen in Veneta.

The Veneta Planning Commission will be discussing these updates at their November 2, 2021, meeting.



Backyard Burning

The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency and Lane Fire Authority opened backyard burning season on October 1 and local residents are ready to start clearing their yards. However, burners must follow the LFA's basic guidelines to mitigate the health and safety concerns that come with burning. Prior to their burn, residents must have a burn regulations sheet on-premises at all times (available for free at lanefire.org or outside one of their stations in a flyer box) and must call the Outdoor Burning Advisory Line every day they plan on burning before the burn. That phone number is 541-726-3976 and press 5 for the Lane Fire Authority's area. Some burns may be

postponed depending on the air quality of the day.

City residents must also follow the Veneta Municipal Code and LRAPA guidelines in regards to what they burn. The Code prevents burning grass clippings, leaves, or large trash piles. LRAPA does not allow the use of burn barrels. Residents are advised to use their yard waste bins, compost, and take to the dump materials they are not allowed to burn.

