

City News

October 2022

Bolton Hill Sports Complex Planning Begins

Excitement is building as the focus turns once again to improve the Bolton Hill Sports Complex. As the project progresses, community members are encouraged to get involved by providing guidance that will support the planning process.

In early August, a meeting was held between Territorial Sports Program board members and other local public agencies. The next step in the evolution of the sports complex is creating a draft design to share with the community. Once the draft design is vetted and reviewed, a public open house will be hosted.

There will be an opportunity to share thoughts on sports programming, and to provide comments on the sports complex draft design. Community Development Director Lisa Garbett said to expect another update, and a big community outreach effort, in late fall.

A critical design consideration is being able to pay for the maintenance and operation of what does get built. Balancing the community's wants with the community's ability to collectively pay for the new facility will be a tough, but prudent challenge. The new

(See "Bolton Hill" on page 2)

Take the New and Improved Business Survey

With your suggestions, the City can better support local business and commerce. That is why we are asking for your input about how to best serve Veneta's business community. A Business Retention and Expansion Survey is conducted every three to five years. It is designed to collect responses that will inform and guide the Economic Development Plan—which ties directly into the City budget.

This year, the survey is intended to reach not only current local business owners, but potential local business owners as well. The last survey of its kind was completed in 2018, but Management Analyst Cole Haselip explained that the most recent survey is new and improved.

"This five-question survey will be a much easier way to provide public input," said Haselip of the survey, which is currently available online and in print.

He said that one focus of the new 2022 Business Retention and Expansion Survey is to make it more broadly available than previous surveys. The goal is to reach potential business owners and home business owners, as well as storefront business owners, and solicit their valuable feedback.

You can learn more about the Business Retention and Expansion Survey by visiting the City website or by filling out the survey that has been provided as an attachment to this newsletter.

Upcoming Elections

The deadline has now passed for residents to apply for a seat on the Veneta City Council. There are three candidates running on the upcoming ballot to fill two vacant positions. Those candidates are: Alexa Benson, Robbie McCoy, and Jaclynn Moore.

City council members volunteer their time and are responsible for passing laws, creating policies, and guiding budget decisions. They serve a 4-year term, and the position typically requires about ten hours per month. Councilors attend a variety of regular meetings including, but not limited to, the City Council meeting.

The City would like to remind residents that if they plan to vote, they will want to make sure that their voter registration is current. Register to vote with Lane County elections at <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/registration.aspx?lang=en>

For more information on the upcoming election and the candidates visit www.venetaoregon.gov/citycouncil/page/2022-election-city-councilors-0.

CIVIC CALENDAR October 2022		
All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted		
4	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
5	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
10	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
12	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
20	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
24	City Council Work Session	5:00 p.m.
28	Business Assistance Committee	2:30 p.m.
31	Happy Halloween	

Leaf Pick-up

Leaf Pick-up begins October 4th and continues through January 26

As time permits our Public Works crew will pick up the bagged leaves left at curbside. If you would like more information regarding the leaf pick-up program, please visit the City website at <https://www.venetaoregon.gov/publicworks/page/leaf-pick>

Bolton Hill

Bolton Hill Spots Complex will need to cost-effectively serve both young and old with equipment and features. That is both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is making trade-offs of what to build with how much it will cost to maintain and operate. The opportunity is that we may find partners and

volunteers who can help make operating the Sports Complex a dream come true! There will be lots of opportunity for you to share your thoughts and your analysis of the costs and benefits of park features in the coming months, so stay alert and stay tuned to this newsletter and the City's website.

Tradition Continues at Zumwalt Campground

Zumwalt Campground has had a long history of serving as one of, if not the largest, campgrounds hosting people from all over the world during the annual Oregon Country Fair. Thirty years ago, a partnership between the City of Veneta, Lane County Parks and Oregon Country Fair was initiated to discourage illegal camping during the popular event. Zumwalt Campground, located along the western edge of the Fern Ridge Reservoir, emerged as a possible solution and has been operated by the City of Veneta ever since.

This year, after a two-year pandemic-related hiatus, Public Works Director Kyle Schauer said that co-ordinators and volunteers had to "pull it together from scratch" but they eventually succeeded, despite having 25% less volunteers than in previous years. Schauer explained that if the Oregon Country Fair doesn't happen, as it didn't in 2020 and 2021, then neither does camping at Zumwalt Campground.

Happy to be back at it, in early July 2022 the campground hosted 1,430 people. Campers paid \$65.00 per person for three nights and four days of camping, plus a shuttle to and from the Country Fair

grounds. Campers can usually find a tent site suitable for their needs, whether they want to be on the "quieter" or more "lively" side of the campground. Kids under ten camp for free. Limited RV sites are available at an additional cost. Amenities include, but are not limited to, live entertainment, food vendors, a fire pit, drinking water, garbage disposal, and outdoor recreation.

Up to \$40,000 is generated annually and though a portion of those funds go back to Lane County Parks to cover handling fees, Schauer said that a "fair chunk of change" goes to the city to support parks and recreation, public safety, and the discretionary fund.

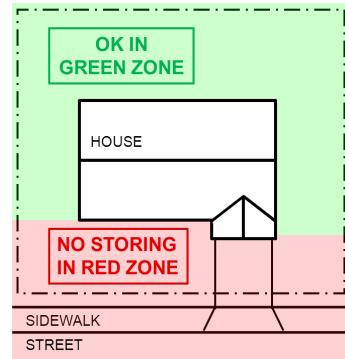
"It's a fun, family event," said Schauer, who commented that they are now seeing third generations returning to the campground and carrying on the tradition.

Mindy Sandford, Campground Coordinator would like to send a big THANK YOU to the volunteers that stepped up and helped make the 2022 Zumwalt Campground a huge success. "Without these amazing people (new and returning) we couldn't have done it."

Recreational Vehicle Parking Refresher

The City of Veneta would like to remind residents where recreational vehicles, travel trailers, and boats can be parked. The City's Land Development Ordinance 493, Article 5, Section 5.01(6) allows residents to park and store motor homes, travel trailers, fifth-wheel trailers and other recreational vehicles on private property as long as they are (1) not being used for human habitation, and (2) not being stored in the front of a resident's property. This includes driveways and side yards that are between the plane of the front door and front of house and the street (see diagram).

Parking on a city street, right-of-way or alley for the principal purpose of storing the vehicle is prohibited. Under the City's Municipal Code, Chapter 10.05.130 (3)(c). These ordinances and codes have been established to ensure public safety. When large vehicles are stored improperly they can become a hazard by blocking drivers' views and making it difficult for emergency vehicles to get down streets quickly. If you have any questions on parking ordinances, please contact the Code Enforcement Officer at 541-935-2191.



CITY OF VENETA
2022 Business Retention & Expansion Survey

PLEASE RETURN YOUR SURVEY BY FRIDAY 11/4/2022

How to return your survey: Drop off at City Hall 88184 8th St. or Mail to PO Box 458, Veneta, Oregon 97487

To fill out the survey electronically: www.venetaoregon.gov, click the survey link under "What's New"

Your voice counts. Tell the City how to support businesses.

1. Please rate the City as a place to do business (select one)



Poor



Fair



Good



Very Good



Excellent

2. How should the City of Veneta support existing businesses? (check all that apply)

- Expand the City's digital gift card program to more businesses and add a physical gift card available for purchase.
- Create more City events to attract visitors and encourage residents to spend their leisure time in Veneta.
- Develop more "Visit Veneta" signage along Highway 126.
- Attract faster and more reliable internet service providers to the area.
- Continue to provide business mentoring through Oregon RAIN.
- Work with existing businesses to help them apply to the City's Business Grants Program which offers matching grants of up to \$25,000 for business expansion projects.
- Create an emergency business grants program to support businesses in danger of closing.
- Help vacant land owners market their property to commercial developers.
- Continue to offer and market the Vibrant Veneta Grants Program to beautify the City with murals, sculptures, and other works of art.
- Market the City of Veneta as an excellent place to live, work, and play.
- Develop a City identity such as: music, food, theatre, arts, culture, sports, or other to attract people to the community.
- Market the City's Redevelopment Toolkit which offers several financial incentives to commercial developers in Veneta.
- Host a participatory budgeting event to allow businesses and community members to directly allocate City funds to economic development projects that support Veneta.
- Other (Please Describe):

3. How should the City of Veneta support emerging business & new entrepreneurs? (check all that apply)

- Continue The Shoppes at Fern Ridge program (the popups) to provide an in-person, low-cost retail marketplace for entrepreneurs to test their business
- Continue supporting ShopFernRidge.com, a low-cost virtual retail marketplace for local entrepreneurs to test their business.
- Continue to provide business mentoring through Oregon RAIN.
- Work with entrepreneurs to help them apply to the City of Veneta Business Grants Program which offers matching grants of up to \$25,000 for business expansion projects.
- Other (Please Describe):

CITY OF VENETA

2022 Business Retention & Expansion Survey

4. Are there any changes or new programs you would like to see implemented to support economic development in the City?

5. What businesses, events, or activities would make you more likely to spend your leisure time in the City of Veneta?

DEMOGRAPHICS INFORMATION

The City of Veneta would like to know a little bit about who you are. This information helps us identify the voices that we haven't heard so that we can work harder to include them in the conversation.

6. Are you a City of Veneta resident? Yes No

7. Do you own or work at a business in the City of Veneta? Owner Employed at a local business Neither

Under 18 45-54
 18-24 55-64
 25-34 65+
 35-44

8. What is your age group?

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Please provide your email address to receive VenetaWorks emails which include information on available incentive programs, business mentorship opportunities in the Veneta-Fern Ridge area, and more:



Look for Survey results in March of 2022

City of Veneta * 88184 8th St, PO Box 458, Veneta, OR 97487

541-935-2191 * www.venetaoregon.gov