

City News

July 2023

Dog Park Gets a Treat!

Public Works Director Kyle Schauer provided an update on the construction of a local dog park located on Brooker Lane in Veneta. Still in the initial planning phase, the one and a quarter acre dog park project just received a generous treat.

Schauer explained that Delta Construction helped by dumping 7,500 yards of fill dirt at the Brooker Lane site. The thousands of yards of dirt that was delivered is the byproduct of a construction project taking place behind Bi-Mart.

"It's a huge difference. In some places we used up to six or seven feet of fill to lift up some of the drainage, even out the surface, and make it a more useable site," said Schauer.

4th Annual National Night Out

This year marks the nation's 40th National Night Out and Veneta's 4th annual celebration. Veneta's National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, August 1st from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at City Park located on E. Broadway.

The family-friendly event will be attended by Lane County Sheriff's Office, Fern Ridge Neighborhood Watch, Lane Fire Authority, Oregon Department of Forestry, and more. There will be hot dogs and drinks sponsored by Sanipac and served by Veneta Alliance Church.

Preventing Illicit Discharge

Did you know that hazardous spills become illicit (illegal) discharge once they reach a stormwater sewer system? A good rule of thumb is that if it isn't stormwater, it doesn't belong in a stormwater sewer system. Today we want to talk about illicit discharge, why it's a problem, and how to prevent it.

Indirect illicit discharge is the most common type that community members can prevent. That's because indirect illicit discharge is created *outside the stormwater sewer system, and then it enters in the form of runoff or by seeping into the groundwater.* (As opposed to direct illicit discharge which happens when pollutants enter directly through a pipe or drain.)

Examples of indirect illicit runoff are sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, detergents, paint, cooking grease and oil. Illicit discharge commonly looks like leakage from garbage cans, dumpsters, and vehicles going into a stormwater drain. It can be helpful to remember what illicit discharge is to know how to discourage it from happening where you live.

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He was quick to point out that it's hard to know when the dog park will be completed and ready for use. There are multiple more steps, including getting more fill dirt, establishing grass, building a fence, installing water fountains and pathways, and providing separate spaces for large and small dogs.

"Things are moving at the pace that they can, but it's going to take a while to get there," Schauer said. "It's looking much more like a usable piece of property than it did," said Schauer.

Previously, Department of Forestry cleared out thick underbrush and blackberry bushes as part of a fire mitigation project, which he said also helped.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live and work.

"We encourage you to bring your family and meet the deputies who help keep us safe," said City Administrator Matt Michel, who explained the purpose of the annual event.

"National Night Out is all about connecting our

(See "National Night Out" on page 3)

CIVIC CALENDAR JULY 2023		
All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted		
4	Independence Day - City Hall and Pool Closed	★ ★ ★ ★
10	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
11	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
12	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
14	Night Waves Teen Party - Veneta Comm. Pool	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
20	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
21	MOVIES <small>FREE</small> IN THE PARK Movie: <i>Stand & Deliver</i> , movie starts at dusk	7:30 p.m.
24	City Council Meeting	Cancelled
28	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
	MOVIES <small>FREE</small> IN THE PARK Movie: <i>Mr. Holland's Opus</i> , movie starts at dusk	7:30 p.m.



Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- State Senator James Manning, Jr. attended the Veneta City Council meeting on June 12th and led those attending in the

Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Manning also gave a legislative update to the City Council and took questions.

- The City is assisting our friends at the **Applegate Pioneer Museum** on W. Broadway with finding a consultant to develop and implement a community engagement project. The Museum is ready to invest in their facility and they want to give the community a voice in what would meet and exceed expectations for museum guests and invite more volunteers to be a part of history.
- The City will be leasing the **St. Vincent de Paul downtown property** to give local non-profit events the flexibility to use the land through the City. The lease will run to mid-September 2024 so that the Harvest Festival and Kiwanis Kruise-in can count on using the land this year and next.
- The **Veneta Celebration Run Committee** has been busy over the last several months recruiting sponsors and planning logistics. Great things are happening! Sponsorships are up and new ideas for awards are part of the building momentum towards the Sunday, September 24th event!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- At the end of June, we wrapped-up the **City's Food Sector focus programs** funded by a \$50,000 Rural Opportunity Initiative grant from Business Oregon. Programs included a sector analysis by consultant Rural Development Initiatives (RDI), CO.STARTERS cohort trainings led by Foundry Collective, the Veneta Eats events, and entrepreneur bootcamp trainings.
- The City signed a 6-month lease agreement with **Smith Fitness Properties** for the lawn area next to the City-owned building on W. Broadway. They're busy getting utilities connected and plan to get a couple of mobile food trucks on that side yard.

Finance - Budget Approved

The 2023-2024 fiscal year budget was adopted at the Monday, June 26th meeting of Veneta's City Council. A public hearing was held on June 16th to encourage public input in the budget process.

Finance Director Tim Gaines reported that there were no major changes in the City's activities from fiscal year 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 other than receiving the American Rescue Plan Act Grant.

Veneta will receive an estimated \$587,500 in state shared revenues. A budget report prepared by Gaines shows the different revenue types (taxes from liquor, cigarettes, marijuana, and highway gasoline) and where those funds are being allocated (street repairs, parks and recreation, etc.).

The fiscal year budget can be viewed online at www.venetaoregon.gov

PUBLIC WORKS

- The **Bolton Hill Sports Complex** project team will start a public outreach campaign to share the concept design and generally let the community know what the plan is and what the costs are. We aren't looking to add to the concept, so if we hear ideas for a tennis or sand volleyball court, etc., there are future parks for those facilities. Early direction from City Council was that we don't want to build something we can't reliably afford to maintain. The consultants will develop estimates and that will have a significant role in whether the City starts building sooner or later.
- **Pool Manager Stacy Cornelius** does a wonderful job helping area youth become lifeguards and senior lifeguards. Without our talented staff at the pool, it would be impossible to open. Thank you!
- The City received a nice "Thank You" card from our neighbors at Oregon Department of Forestry, Western Lane District for getting them weekend access to bulk water to service firefighters working the **7K fire** in late May.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Fern Ridge Service Center** has a new exterior cover, more commercial refrigerators, and more storage racks for the Love Project food bank. This was funded by an almost \$80,000 federal Community Development Block Grant that the City received in partnership with Mid Lane Cares. The grant also paid to convert an existing utility wash basin into a shower for local unhoused people to use.
- The State of Oregon's Community Paths grant program recently posted their recommendations for 2023 grant awards. The \$5.2 million **Elmira-Veneta Multi-Use Path**, Phase 1 project was ranked on the list fairly high—it tied with other funded projects—but unfortunately, it was just past the funding cutoff and therefore looks unlikely to be awarded. Lane County plans to re-submit for an OCP grant in the next cycle (every 2 years).

Welcome New City Management Intern Suzannah Burke

The City welcomes Suzannah Burke as our new City Management Intern. She just finished her first year of two at the University of Oregon's Master of Public Administration program. Burke began her one-year internship with the City in early June. She will assist with communications, event coordination, and community engagement. In her role, Burke will work both behind the scenes and with the public.

"I really want to be out connecting with people. That's why I like local government," said Burke. "There's a more human element to working in a small town that I like," "I wanted to go into local government, specifically in a small town. I like Veneta. I got really lucky."

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City Management Intern

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Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Burke graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts before teaching art in New Orleans for three years. Burke says it's her "soft skills" and nontraditional background that she hopes will give her an edge in her field in the future.

"I want to bridge my creative background in a professional atmosphere, using my people skills and general passion for serving others," Burke explained.

The self-described extrovert said she expects the

City internship will help her gain skills to build on to eventually help her land a management position of some type—perhaps as a city manager or nonprofit executive. Burke doesn't expect that to happen right away, maybe in ten years, she said.

In the meantime, Burke is excited about the professional development opportunities that the internship will open up for her. One of the perks is the opportunity to direct a special project of her own. It's too early to share the details, but her goal is to "leave an impression and make a positive change."

Feelin' Hot, Hot, Hot!

Warmer, drier summers throughout our region have resulted in an increased demand for cooling centers—places where people from all walks of life can enjoy cooling off. Studies have shown that spending just a few hours in a cool environment, one with a working air conditioner, reduces vulnerable populations' risk of heat related illnesses and deaths up to 66%.

In Veneta, there are two cooling centers: Mid Lane Cares (Fern Ridge Service Center) and Fern Ridge Public Library.

"We operate as a cooling center is predicted to hit triple digits. It is open to anyone that needs to cool off. Water is also provided," said Mid



on days it could do that again, but it's always a possibility," said Fern Ridge Public Library Director Colin Rea.

Lane Cares Director Deanna Townsend.

Fern Ridge Public Library is open to the public six days per week. They open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. except on Saturday and Monday when they close at 5:00 p.m.

"We are always available as a safe place with climate control, including as a cooling center during the summer. In the past we opened on a Sunday because we had available staff and the temperature that day was forecast to be near 117 degrees.

We can't make any promises that we

National Night Out

(Continued from page 1)

citizens to our first responders so that they aren't strangers or labels, but people. Establishing that initial familiarity and contact is the whole mission of the evening," he said.

Event goers can expect to enjoy complimentary hot dogs and beverages, live music, demonstrations, and lots of activities for youth and the young at heart. Throughout the years the event has gained in popularity. Last year there were an estimated 300 attendees at Veneta's National Night Out.

"We have had great success in the years we have



put this on. The participants look forward to engaging with our Veneta community. We want to encourage folks to not only bring their families but bring their neighbors to talk about neighborhood safety," said Michel.

National Night Out is brought to you by the City of Veneta in conjunction with the Lane County Sheriff's Office. In addition to the activities already mentioned, there is sure to be another refreshing surprise or two in store. Join us for an evening of fun, connection, and safety education!

Veneta/Oregon Country Fair Shuttle Stop for Veneta Residents

is moving to the CARSON CARD LOCK (25095 Jeans Road)

Shuttle will run Friday July 7th & Saturday July 8th, There is no bus service on Sunday

From Carson's Card Lock to Fair:
10:30am; 11:30am; 12:30pm; 1:30pm
Departure times are approximate



From Fair to Carson's Card Lock:
4:40pm; 5:30pm; 6:30pm; 7:30pm
Departure times are approximate

Please park in the Northwest Corner of the lot by the tan buildings. Please do not impede the use of the Card Lock.
THANK YOU TO THE CARSON COMPANY FOR THE USE OF THEIR LOT FOR OUR SHUTTLE SERVICE

Preventing Illicit Discharge

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Illicit discharge is harmful because it lowers the water quality, negatively impacts fish habitat and, if there is large debris or sediment in the discharge, it can even cause flooding. Another way to think of it is stormwater pollution. Every little bit of illicit runoff adds up to big problems for a stormwater sewer system.

There are certain things we can do as individuals and business owners to help keep our stormwater sewer systems clean. Some ideas are to never dump anything down a stormwater drain, properly dispose

of paint and other household chemicals, wash vehicles on grass instead of in the driveway, keep debris, litter, grass and clippings away from street gutters and storm drains, and prevent vehicle leaks or sop them up with absorbent kitty litter. A little prevention can go a long way when it comes to illicit discharge. Let's all work together to keep our local waterways healthy and clean.



What goes in here...

Comes out here...

Fire Safety Tips for Summer

With the 4th of July right around the corner, it's a good time to reflect on ways to stay safe while celebrating. Whether it's fireworks, watersports, or extreme heat, there are plenty of risks that come with the holiday



Fireworks Safety Tips:

1. Read and follow the instructions on the back of the packaging
2. Never give fireworks to small children and always have an adult present
3. Keep water close by and never light fireworks near tall or dry grass
4. Wear proper eye protection (safety goggles or safety glasses are recommended)



Water Safety Tips:

1. If there isn't a lifeguard onsite, designate a few rotating adults as "water watchers"
2. Know the risks whether you are visiting a river, beach, lake, or stream
3. Children should always wear properly fitted life jackets
4. Protect your neck and don't dive headfirst

and summer, it's always best to be prepared. Consider these tips from American Red Cross or visit their website at www.redcross.org



Heat Safety Tips:

1. Drink LOTS of water
2. Make a plan to stay cool during heat advisories (visit a pool, library, or other air-conditioned space)
3. Understand that there is greater risk of heat related illnesses for babies, children, elderly, and those who work outdoors
4. Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and seek medical help right away if you experience any symptoms



Barbeque Safety Tips:

1. Never leave a grill or fire pit unattended
2. Check gas grill for leaks before use
3. Do not allow children/pets to play near grill or fire pit
4. Keep grill cords away from water

Public Safety Report - May 2023

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Same Month/ Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Same Month/ Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, UUV, UEMV, Fraud)	44	45	37	14	14	8
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassment, Viol. Restraining Order)	22	31	41	9	2	7
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact, Suspicious activity)	95	35	68	0	0	3
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks, Missing Persons, Overdose)	18	15	25	3	3	5
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking/Vehicles, Traffic Hazard)	19	30	28	2	4	3
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	4	4	9	3	4	5
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	18	10	5	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	34					
Total	34	220	170	213	31	31



Family Fun Night

POOL Party

Veneta Community Pool

August 4, 2023

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

**Bring your whole family and Join us
for games and plenty of fun!**

Normal family swim rates apply

(Passes/punch cards not valid for this event)

Kiwanis will be onsite with food to purchase



**Veneta Community Pool • 25190 E. Broadway St.
Veneta, OR 97487 • 541-935-4390**