

Veneta's Heart for Serving Others Grows

Advocates for those in need are seeing a lot of momentum in Veneta. The changes are thanks to nonprofits and volunteers that make up the former Veneta Homeless Advocacy Board (VHAB), now known as the Fern Ridge Advocates for the Unhoused Group (FRAUG).

City Administrator Matt Michel points to FRAUG's meeting with the Veneta City Council on Monday, May 8th as a demonstration of the collaborative efforts underway. First is the capacity building of existing programs, such as the Transitional Housing Program for women and women with children, operated by Fern Ridge Community Services. Secondly are brand-

new programs, such as a shower program and laundry services for those without housing.

The changes are due to increased collaboration between advocacy groups, Mid Lane Cares, and the City. Also as a response to new state regulations pertaining to how cities accommodate their unhoused population. The combined effort is expected to have a lasting positive impact on the local unhoused community.

"There is a lot of good momentum from the compassionate players that we have in our small town. Our general goal is to be thoughtful while working

(See "FRAUG" on page 2)

Veneta's Downtown Farmers' Market Enters 16th Season

The Farmers' Market is once again bringing farmers together to offer their harvests of vegetables, fruit, berries, eggs, and more. It's a tradition that has continued for 16 years!

Although the market has changed location through the years, the leadership, volunteers, growers, and popularity of the event have remained relatively unchanged. Market Manager April Hartley explained how this year looks different, mainly due to their location change.

Last season, the market was held in the large

grassy lot adjacent to the Fern Ridge Service Center. This season, the market is located at the Fern Ridge Shopping Center, visible from Territorial Highway.

"The owners of the land we utilized last year had plans to move forward and build so we needed to relocate. We are pretty happy at our new location, it's a good spot, great parking, lots of exposure, easy to find. There's a good chance we'll be here for a while," said Hartley.

The 2023 market season kicked off on Saturday,

(See "Farmers' Market" on page 2)

City Welcomes New Associate Planner

Daniel Findlay, a recent graduate of Arizona State University, joined City staff as our new Associate Planner. Welcome, Daniel!

Daniel studied Urban Planning and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) at ASU. He interned with the City of Tempe before being promoted to a part-time Planning Technician. Today, Daniel is excited to bring his knowledge and experience to the City of Veneta.

"My [graduation] ceremony was two weeks ago, so very recently. I love what I've seen so far, Veneta is a lovely little town. Tempe had a much larger planning department. Most of what I did was review and develop applications, such as use permits. I get to wear more hats here which is one of the reasons why I took this position," Daniel explained.

Daniel's new role includes being the face of the City's Planning Department. He will answer questions about land use codes and zoning. "Anyone

(See "New Planner" on page 2)

CIVIC CALENDAR June 2023

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

6	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
7	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
12	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
14	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
15	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
17	Community Pool Opening 	12:00 p.m.
18	Father's Day 	
19	Juneteenth - City Hall closed	CLOSED
26	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
30	Business Assistance Committee	9:00 a.m.

2022 Consumer Confidence Report Now Available

Visit www.venetaoregon.gov to view the report online. Call 541-935-2191 to request a paper copy of the Consumer Confidence Report mailed to you.

FRAUG, continued

directly with our unhoused population,” said Michel.

Local services for people in need have traditionally included the Love Project Food Pantry, free clothing ministries, the warming center, and Sunday community dinner. Now the services are expanding to include a year-round shower program and a drop-off laundry service for the unhoused. The shower program is federally funded, but will rely on local volunteers to operate at Mid Lane Cares on Broadway.

Additionally, Lane County rural outreach workers visit the local unhoused population on a weekly basis.

They check in to see if individuals are ready to transition to more stable housing or accept other local support services that may be needed.

“Lane County is making a good effort to be a partner for our unhoused population in Veneta. They have become more engaged—letting people know that they’re seen and the services that are available,” Michel explained.

For more information on services, or to volunteer, contact Mid Lane Cares at 541-935-4555 or visit www.midlanecares.com

Farmers’ Market, continued

May 5th. The new site can host up to 30 vendors, but they usually have anywhere from 17 to 25 on a typical Saturday. The vendors are growers, food producers, artisans, and nonprofits. Growers include, but are not limited to, Elbow Tree Farm, Sunwave Farm, Friends and Family Farm, Oak and Meadows Farm, and Dogwood Farm.

“There is excitement around the fact that the growing season is kicking in a lot sooner this year.

Last year, it wasn’t until late June that the veggies started kicking in. This year, in late May, we are already seeing a lot more variety and volume,” Hartley said.

Veneta’s Downtown Farmers’ Market happens every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Fern Ridge Shopping Center. The season lasts May through October. For more information, please visit www.venetadowntownfarmersmarket.com.

New Planner, continued

curious about what they can do with their land or property, Daniel will be their first point of contact. His position helps us make sure we are available to our community.” explained City Administrator Matt Michel.

Reviewing incoming development plans and making recommendations, working directly with the Planning Commission, interacting with the public, envisioning long range planning

goals...an Associate Planner handles basically every aspect of land use.

“It’s a broad position and that’s what I was looking for.

“Going into school I knew I wanted to work in the public sector, serving a community and its needs, rather than working in the private sector.”

I imagine I will get to know the Planning Commission pretty well, which was not the case in Tempe. Not necessarily a bad thing, but I am looking forward to working with staff more closely here,” said Daniel.

Annual City Wide Clean-up a Success

Sponsored by Sanipac and the City of Veneta, the annual City Wide Clean-up was held on Saturday, May 6th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. located at 5th Street and Bolton Hill Road. Residents were encouraged to clean up their properties by dropping off their amassed debris. 11.31 tons, or 22,620 lbs., of disposable items were collected during the one-day event.

“We received several very positive comments from residents during the event. This was an opportunity to get rid of yard debris, old wood, metal, appliances, and even tires off the rim. We do not accept household garbage, hazardous materials, or contractor wastes,” explained Public Works Director Kyle Schauer.

The crew collected 60 yards of green waste, 60 yards of wood, 3.9 tons, or 7,800 lbs. of metal, 0.75 tons, or 1,500 lbs. of recycling, 85 tires, 6 refrigerators, 4 freezers, 3 air conditioners, and 8 large rollaway carts of documents to shred.

Schauer said the City Wide Clean-up has been happening since at least the mid-nineties, and he’s been around for most of them. This is what he had to say about how this year differed from previous events: “There were not any severe storms this winter, so we did not get the amount of yard debris that we normally do. Overall, I would say that participation is a little down over the past few years.”

Summer Solstice



Join us at Veneta Community Pool!

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Normal Swim Rates Apply
(passes/punch cards not valid for this event)

There will be music, fun & games.
Food will be available for purchase.
Bring the whole family!



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

Night Waves



Pool Party

Friday, July 14, 2023
7:30pm - 9:00pm

Ages 13 - 17 only
\$4.00 Entry
(passes/punch cards
not valid for this event)



Music 🌞 **Dancing**

Prizes 🌞 **Water Contests**

Guest DJ
Barry MacGuire



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