

City News

December 2023

December Events

The month of December offers many opportunities for connection and celebration in Veneta. Whether it's bringing your family to the 20th Annual Light Parade or volunteering your time with a local nonprofit organization, you'll want to make note of these special upcoming dates.



20th Annual Light Parade, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. Map and Poster enclosed

The parade route starts on Territorial Highway and ends on 8th Street. There will be approximately 40 floats and Santa Claus is expected to make another appearance just as he did at the Annual Tree Lighting in November. To enter a float into the parade, you can contact Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce at 541-935-8443.



S.A.N.T.A (Sharing Amongst Neighbors Toy Appeal) Giveaway December 9th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Veneta Elementary School Gym

The S.A.N.T.A Project has a more than 30-year history of bringing gifts to local children using charitable toy donations. Eligible participants include any family that resides within the

Fern Ridge or Crow-Applegate-Lorane School Districts, regardless of income.

Participants are asked to bring proof of residency. Those who wish to contribute by donating to the S.A.N.T.A Project may do so by dropping off new toys at participating local businesses and organizations. To make a monetary donation or for more information call 541-285-3100.

Fern Ridge Kiwanis Holiday Food Baskets will be given away on December 16th starting at 10:00 a.m. in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints parking lot on Hunter Rd.

Home delivery of the food baskets are available for the elderly or those who are unable to drive due to a health condition. Holiday Food Baskets include mostly non-perishable, high protein food items such as canned chicken, tuna, soup, stuffing, potatoes, and bread. Eligible participants include any family that resides within the Fern Ridge or Crow-Applegate-Lorane School Districts. Applications are available at Ray's Food Place and the Fern Ridge Service Center. For more information contact the Fern Ridge Service Center 541-935-4555.

Meet The New Deputies

Two new deputies have arrived on the scene. Deputies Julio Warner and Connor Santini were warmly welcomed into the region in late summer. Since then they have been busy getting acquainted with, and making connections in, our community. Sergeant Tim Ware explained that the two deputies come with twelve years cumulative experience working main office patrol for the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

"They're both younger deputies newer in patrol and both are very active. Deputy Santini is a field training officer, so he trains other deputies. Deputy Warner is Spanish-speaking and has experience as a medic for a Swat Team," said Sgt. Ware.

Deputies Warner and Santini join Deputies Kenny Clark and Evan Meyers. The new deputies enjoy a wider range of responsibilities than they did in their previous roles, which lends to

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| CIVIC CALENDAR DECEMBER 2023 | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| All meetings held at City of Veneta, 88184 8th St, unless otherwise noted | | |
| 5 | Planning Commission Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 6 | Park Board Meeting | 4:30 p.m. |
| 7 | Light Parade (Downtown Veneta) Map enclosed | 7:00 p.m. |
| 11 | City Council Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 13 | Economic Development Committee | 2:00 p.m. |
| 21 | Municipal Court | 8:30 a.m. |
| 25 | Christmas Day | Closed |
| 29 | Business Assistance Committee | 2:00 p.m. |
| Jan 1 | New Year's Day | HAPPY NEW YEAR Closed |

Deputies continued

(Continued from page 1)

their experience as deputies.

"They are both able to do a lot more than when in main office patrol. They can handle the call from beginning to end and can see a case all the way through. They're both strong deputies, do good investigations, and reports. They're good additions out here," explained Sgt. Ware.

S.A.N.T.A. Toy Giveaway

The Annual S.A.N.T.A (Sharing Among Neighbors Toy Appeal) Giveaway is happening again this year at the Veneta Elementary School gym. President Monica Crawford says the giveaway has grown significantly in the twenty-six years that she has been involved.

"It got so popular over the years. It started with us just gathering donations of used toys and books, cleaning the item up and distributing them. Today we don't do used toys anymore. We never really know what to expect. It's a little different year to year, but we always have enough," said Crawford.

She explained that it used to get very congested inside the gym during the giveaway, but

The community can get to know the new deputies at a wide range of local events. Past events the deputies have attended are the annual Harvest Festival and the Veneta Celebration Run. Both deputies plan to attend the upcoming Light Parade on December 7th. "They're both enjoying it, building camaraderie, and learning the ropes," added Sgt. Ware.

they've organized it better, and a FreeSoul volunteer is now available to assist each shopper. "That makes it flow so much better," Crawford said. She pointed out that while they formerly wrapped gifts, they eliminated that during COVID and have found that giving people their own wrapping supplies is more efficient. An estimated 70 volunteers pitch in to make the S.A.N.T.A Giveaway a success. Participants are presented with different stations, such as teenagers, preteens, sporting goods, bicycles, stuffed animals, baby/toddler, and books. Bicycles are donated by Sanipac. For more information about S.A.N.T.A. call 541-285-3100.

Dog Waste and Waterways

Stormwater can pick up pet waste that pet owners leave on the ground and deposit it directly via a storm sewer system into nearby streams, lakes and rivers. Pet waste in waterbodies can make people and animals sick, promote weed and algae growth, and damage the health of the ecosystem in and around the water.

Pet waste is a leading source of nutri-



ent and bacteria pollution in urban streams and waterways. With pet owners living in virtually all communities, pet waste management is a challenge, please pick up your pet waste and dispose of it in your trash receptacle.

Information provided by www.epa.gov for more information on pet waste you can also visit the City of Veneta website at venetaoregon.gov.

Volunteer Veneta

Current volunteer opportunities for the City of Veneta and local non-profit organizations.



The City currently has several vacancies. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees, you can contact the City of Veneta by calling 541-935-2191 or visiting our website at www.venetaoregon.gov

City of Veneta

- ◆ Budget Committee - 1 vacancy
- ◆ Economic Development - 1 vacancy
- ◆ Park Board - 1 adult and 1 student vacancy

Senior Meals - Help Deliver Meals!

Senior & Disability Services relies on dedicated volunteers to help deliver meals to seniors. You can volunteer as little as two (2) hours per week. For more information, contact a **Volunteer Coordinator** at **541-682-1366**

Mid Lane Cares

There are vacancies for their new shower and laundry program. You can volunteer as little as once a week or once a month. Contact Deanna at 541-935-4555 to find out more.

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- The City started an electronic document retention initiative to convert city public records to electronic format. Our goals for this initiative are to minimize the space needed for document storage and make city documents more available to the public through the city website. 
- The City received our cybersecurity penetration test results and we scored pretty good. There are only three areas that need attention. Nothing rose to the level of an emergency remediation, so we'll review the devices/vulnerabilities in question and get those addressed. 
- Lane County received a \$86,743 grant from the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to fund updates to EOPs (Emergency Operations Plans) for cities and fire districts throughout Lane County. Local partners include Veneta and Lane Fire Authority. We'll update Veneta's current EOP that was completed in 2016 in partnership with Lane Fire Authority. The grant runs from October 2023 to September 2025. 
- Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD) recently celebrated its 40th Anniversary. In 1982, the part of Veneta then served by Pacific Power (the other part served, then and today, by Lane Electric Co-op) was the only city out of six that voted to go with the upstart people's utility district and leave Pacific Power! The unofficial results showed that 284 Veneta residents voted to go with EPUD while 255 voted to stay with Pacific Power, a difference of 29 votes. Cheers to EPUD and the "Veneta 29"! 



On Veterans Day, the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, local Scout Troop 50, American Legion Post 61, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Jack Kelley Post 9448 hosted a memorial at City Park.

The event featured Veneta City Councilor Pat Coy giving the Invocation, Mayor Keith Weiss reading a Proclamation, former City Administrator Ric Ingham honoring WWII Wake Island combatants, Neighborhood Watch Captain and retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dave Quirk giving the keynote address, and current City Administrator Matt Michel leading those gathered in singing our National Anthem. Freedom Dogs (hot dogs) were free for everyone!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The City recently received a bill for just under \$1,200 for the asbestos testing, sanitation/fluids removal, and landfill disposal of an abandoned 1991 Skyline Weekender RV/Trailer that was tagged and towed from Jack Kelley Drive in June. The RV was registered to an Oakridge resident. We've been lucky so far in that usually an RV gets moved, but this cost is something that we'll need to budget for going forward if we see more RV/trailers coming to town. 

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Vibrant Veneta's 3rd mural project is complete! The panoramic mural on W. Broadway at Broadway Mini-Storage will get an anti-graffiti coating applied soon. At the suggestion of passers-by, they'll be adding solar-powered lighting for the mural.
- Our RAIN Catalyst partners have several events coming up to connect with local businesses. They're planning a Business Financial Fitness Bootcamp for entrepreneurs on December 1st with banking and bookkeeping panelists at the Fern Ridge Service Center. Additionally, there will be a Connecting Over Coffee meetup on December 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Our Daily Bread. 

PUBLIC WORKS

- The Light Parade through downtown Veneta is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7th. Plan to come out and see the floats, the fun, Veneta Mayor Keith Weiss, and Santa Claus! Helping out at the float staging area along Jack Kelley Drive is United Rentals donating two light towers and Bucks Sanitary Service donating portable restrooms for parade participants. Thank you to United Rentals and Bucks! 

Preparation Tips for Winter

Veneta doesn't always experience snow and ice, but it's good to be prepared, just in case. Residents may want to consider the following in advance of the wet and wintery season ahead.

Heavy Rain

- Clean your gutters
- Check your drainages ensuring they are clean of leaves and downed debris so that water can flow away from your residence. Branches and leaves are the main culprits for blocked drains.
- Blowing/sweeping leaves onto the street is prohibited, but if you bag them up the City will retrieve them on Tuesdays and Thursdays as time permits from October through January

Snow

- Have a snow shovel and windshield scraper handy
- Sign up for storm alerts on your smartphone
- Watch/listen for school closures or delays
- Know that the City plows the streets at 3-4 inches of snow accumulation
- Beware of black ice, especially on rural roads
- Allow extra time for commuting

Freezing Temps

- Remove and limb hazardous trees before winter (call the City first as a permit may be necessary to remove a hazardous tree)
- Caulk your windows and doors as needed
- Insulate exposed exterior piping to prevent bursts
- Allow a small amount of water to run periodically through your faucets to prevent freezing
- If you suspect a water leak, call the City for assistance shutting off your water
- For power outages, call your electric company (EPUD or Lane Electric)
- Prepare an emergency kit for outages lasting several days



And most importantly...enjoy the peace of mind that comes from being prepared for every type of weather event!

Public Safety Report - October 2023

| Incident Type | Calls | | | Cases | | |
|---|------------|------------|----------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| | Calls | Prior Year | 5-Year Average | Cases | Prior Year | 5-Year Average |
| Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud) | 52 | 49 | 52 | 19 | 12 | 22 |
| Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments) | 30 | 31 | 17 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact) | 65 | 55 | 55 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons) | 22 | 22 | 22 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard) | 14 | 32 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord) | 4 | 10 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process) | 15 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Neighborhood Watch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Traffic Stops | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 242 | 202 | 180 | 34 | 22 | 41 |

Annual Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber Events

8th ANNUAL

TREE LIGHTING

6 PM ★ THURSDAY ★ 11/30

Santa arrives at 6:15 PM!

Toy donations gladly accepted.

20th ANNUAL LIGHT PARADE

7 PM ★ THURSDAY ★ 12/7

See Santa Claus in the parade!

Find Santa Claus
at both events!

2023 SPONSORS

LANE ELECTRIC



EPUD
Emerald People's Utility District

Sanipac

105.5 BOB FM

ROGERS
Towing & Transport

Chamber Commerce
Veneta Fern Ridge

VENETA
oregon
Inc. 1962

Barry McGuire (DJ)

United Rentals



2023 PARTNERS

2023 Veneta Light Parade Route

Highway 126

Parade Starts

8th Street

Parade Ends

City

Hall

Railroad Tracks

Float Check-In

Broadway Ave

Broa

Great Wall Books

Crazy Al's Bar

5th S

Johnson Park
St

4

Salon C

100

in Ave

metaData / Care

FD

100

33

Veneta Light Parade

December 7, 2023

Starts on Territorial Hwy and ends at 8th St.