

# City News

February 2024

## Hazardous Vegetation

Have you noticed that Fire Season seems to start earlier and earlier each year?

The City of Veneta is looking at new rules regarding high grass and weeds that can lead to an increase in fire danger. Currently, high grass and weeds season begins in June. The new rules would require weeds and tall grass over 10 inches to be mowed down for fire safety between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the City Council will hold a public meeting on amendments to Veneta Municipal Code, Section

8.05.060, Noxious and Hazardous Vegetation, in order to determine if mowing should happen one month earlier.

The proposed amendments also include adding invasive weeds to the list of noxious vegetation, as well as adding a requirement for a 30-foot fire buffer around large parcels greater than 1 acre in size.

If you would like more information on these new rules or would like to participate in the public hearing process, you can find more information on the City website at: [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov)



## Rate Increase Reminder

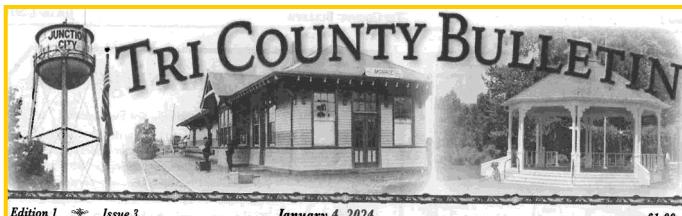
The new water and sewer rates went into effect on January 1, 2024. The residential Water Base rate increased 3% changing the rate from \$17.82 to \$18.46. The residential Sewer Base rate increased 2% changing the rate from \$64.93 to \$66.23.

All utility rates are listed on the City of Veneta website at [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov) - go to "Departments" then "Utility Billing" to review City utility rates at any time. If you have any questions regarding your bill please contact City Hall at 541-935-2191.

## There is a New Local Newspaper in Town!



The editor of the Tri-County Bulletin based out of Junction City, Flo Brewer, stopped by City Hall to drop off papers and let us know that they'll be available for the City to publish legal notices. Looks like they'll be available for purchase at Dari Mart and by subscription. You can contact them via email at: [tricobulletin@myyahoo.com](mailto:tricobulletin@myyahoo.com)



## CIVIC CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2024



All meetings held at City of Veneta, 88184 8th St, unless otherwise noted

6	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
7	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
12	City Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
14	Economic Development Meeting	2:00 p.m.
15	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
19	Presidents' Day	 Closed
23	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
26	City Council Work Session	5:30 p.m.
26	Business Assistance Committee	9:00 a.m.

# CITY OF VENETA SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR SALE

**SW Corner of 7th Street and Hunter Avenue, Veneta OR 97487**  
**Bid Submittal Deadline: 5:00pm February 23, 2024**



Map and Tax Lot:

17-06-36-42-05000

Zoning District:

General Residential (GR)

Size:

0.20 Acres (8,712 square feet)

Utilities:

Public Water, Sewer and Storm Drainage Available

Floodplain/Wetlands/Greenway:

None

Permitted uses in the GR zone can be found at Table 4.2 of the [Veneta Land Development Ordinance](#).  
For questions, contact City of Veneta Planning at (541) 935-2191

**How to submit a bid:** email the Surplus Bid Form which can be found on the front page of the City website at [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov) or you can scan the QR to the right, to be directed to the form.

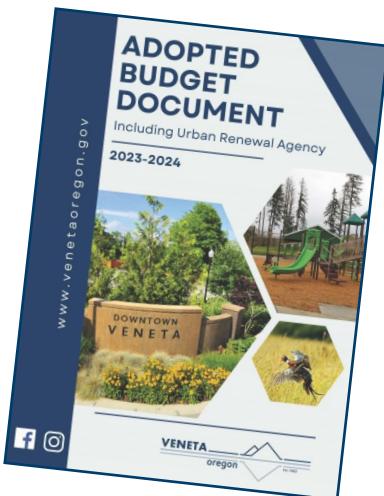
Bid form must be submitted via email to [cityofveneta@ci.veneta.or.us](mailto:cityofveneta@ci.veneta.or.us) OR you may also drop the bid form off in a sealed envelope at 88184 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Veneta, by 5:00pm, February 23, 2024.



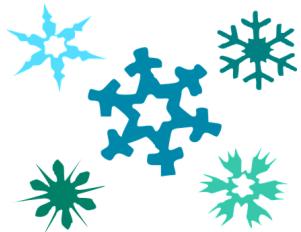
# Department Updates

## ADMINISTRATION

- There's a new version of the City's budget ready for you to peruse at your leisure! We call this version the "GFOA Budget" because the format follows the Government Finance Officers' Association's best practices for communicating budget information to residents. Go to the City's website at [venetaoregon.gov](http://venetaoregon.gov) and under "Departments" click on "Finance." Once you're at the Finance webpage scroll down to "View GFOA Budget Documents." In the GFOA Budget you'll find financial trend graphs, descriptions of city achievements, and learn more about how a city operates from a financial perspective.
- Lane County asks: "Interested in Volunteering? Parks provide numerous opportunities to get involved with trails work or invasive species management, educate youth and adults, and so much more! Friends of Zumwalt Park, in coordination with Lane County Parks, hosts regular volunteer work parties." To learn more follow them on Facebook or email [FriendsofZumwaltPark1@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofZumwaltPark1@gmail.com)



• WHEW! That January ice storm snuck up on us, but the City infrastructure came out largely unscathed. The power outages caused some havoc with our water and wastewater treatment plant computers, but Lane Electric and EPUD got us back online relatively quickly when you consider that there were people without power in Lane County for a week or more. A "Tip of the Hat" to both Public Works Superintendent Kip and Utility Worker Justin for keeping our water treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant running through the multi-day ice storm. They were up early and late taking the initiative to address issues that arose from the freezing temperatures. All in all, the City escaped significant damage. The fence at the wastewater treatment plant took a hit and the power outage at the pool damaged a sump pump. There were some clean up and repairs, in addition to lots of downed limbs moved out of the roadway. The City also helped clear the Veneta Elementary parking lot so that people still without power could go charge devices and warm up.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The Love Project food pantry at the Fern Ridge Service Center on W. Broadway won additional state grant funding for a sidewalk cover! The sidewalk covering project will help

*(See "Department Updates" on page 4)*

## Volunteer Veneta

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



[www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov)

### City of Veneta

- ◆ Park Board - 1 adult and 1 student vacancy

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

### 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

keep volunteers dry while working with food bank clients at the drive-up desk.

- The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development has closed the National Flood Insurance Program Community Assistance Visit for Veneta. They started this "Visit" a few years ago and finally gave us the thumbs up! Among the hoops we had to jump through included: Updating our floodplain regulations utilizing the Oregon Model Flood Hazard Ordinance; updating our floodplain development permit utilizing the Oregon Model Floodplain permit; providing Standard Operating Procedures for floodplain management; and providing them as-built documentation from Public Works to demonstrate development compliance with "Before Floodway" provisions in the city's floodplain code. WHEW!! At least they told us: "We appreciate the work you have put into improving the city's floodplain program."



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Two years after issuing a request for proposals to develop the City's property at 24993 W. Broadway, commonly known as "The Attic," the sale of that property is happening! The owners of the West Lane Gym will acquire The Attic property and create a community gathering and indoor/outdoor eatery featuring food truck cuisine. The City is excited to see the Downtown Veneta business district grow as a place for our community to enjoy our small town.
- The City of Veneta supports the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce with Rural Tourism and Marketing Program funds received from Lane County that must be spent on tourism-related materials and services. This supports staffing the Visitors Center at the Chamber, in addition to other economic development programming support.



### Public Safety Report - December 2023

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	36	38	37	13	13	25
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	29	22	18	7	4	4
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	68	55	71	3	0	3
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	20	17	21	3	1	1
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	20	21	16	3	2	2
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	18	5	9	5	4	6
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	5	5	9	0	0	0
Neighborhood Watch	1	0	0	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	21					
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>41</b>

# 2024

# State of the City Address

## Mayor Keith Weiss

As I prepare this talk I have with you every year, to let you know about the happenings in Veneta, and to project where we are headed as we move into 2024, I would like to quote a phrase I heard and borrowed from our City Manager Matt Michel: "THE CITY OF VENETA IS THRIVING"!

It could be me, but as I go around town, I notice more people out and about, more children laughing and, based on the attendance at the last two holiday events, more families getting out and having fun. What a great feeling! It is so good that overall, we are back to our healthy selves.

There is new construction going on in different areas of town. Growth is always good to show a city is vibrant and has much to offer to new people to our area. We continue to keep our parks clean and enjoyable, and we expect to add new parks in the coming year. A new off-leash dog park and a new 7-acre park space in the southwest area will need to be designed and improved, and I can't forget Pickleball! We plan to build four pickleball courts at Territorial Park.

We have had several events at the City Park next to the pool and it is such a good setting. It is truly a lovely place for families to spend time together and have fun.

We are so grateful that our previous City Manager and Staff were able to see into the future and make sure, by contracting with EWEB, that we would be able to meet the city's water

needs well into the future.

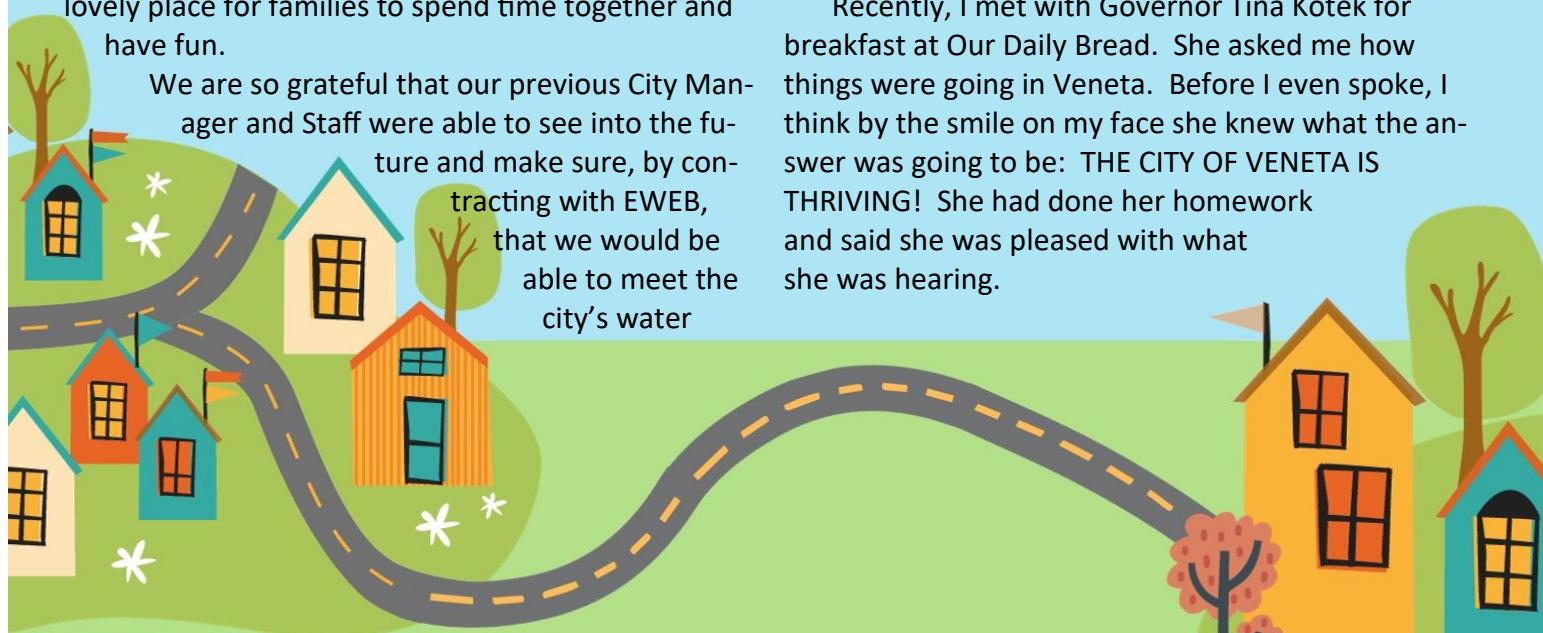
Our other city services are in good shape and functioning well. As we continue to grow, we will need to upgrade our sanitation facilities in a few years and like a Department Store layaway plan, we are putting money away month by month so when we need it, we will have it for the project.

It is a priority of the city to try to be good stewards of the money that we receive from you the taxpayer to help us operate the city. As we approach the process of developing a new budget for 2024/2025 I am so honored to report that once again the city's finances are in the black, and for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the city received the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Award.

Another thing to report is that as we were going through Covid we lost several good city staff workers for one reason or another. We struggled for a while to find the right fit, but boy did we add to an already great staff. The city has hired new staff members who are top notch professionals. It is such a good feeling to know that the work is getting done effectively and efficiently, and we don't have to worry about it.

Recently, I met with Governor Tina Kotek for breakfast at Our Daily Bread. She asked me how things were going in Veneta. Before I even spoke, I think by the smile on my face she knew what the answer was going to be: THE CITY OF VENETA IS THRIVING! She had done her homework and said she was pleased with what she was hearing.

### City on The Move



# Events

Many of you will recall how much importance I place on the happiness and well-being of our children. We have a top notch education system in our area thanks to the Fern Ridge School District.

As a city we plan and put on several events each year to enrich the lives of our children and to give them an opportunity to get out and have fun in a family setting.

## April

In April we welcomed the return of the annual City of Veneta and Friends Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Bunny was there and hugged the kids until everyone got the perfect photo taken by their parents. There was candy and Easter Eggs for children of all ages to find. The Fern Ridge Kiwanis always show up in force to make sure our kids get free books in addition to free candy.

## August

In August we celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> annual National Night Out to honor our wonderful First Responders - Lane Fire Authority and the Lane County Sheriff's Department. It was a friendly family event giving the general public an opportunity to mingle and interact with members of those fine organizations. There were fun things for all to do, a Dunk a Deputy tank, a band, and interesting displays. There were also free hot dogs and drinks for all, sponsored by Sanipac, our trash haulers who volunteer so much to our community.



## September

On September 9<sup>th</sup> the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Harvest Festival took place downtown. We had the annual Chili Cook-off, food trucks, music, tons of vendor booths, and the Kiwanis "Kruise-in" displaying about 100 classic cars. The streets were filled with people having a good time.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> we hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Veneta Celebration Run/Walk. Many attended and participated in the 5/10K courses for running or walking. We also featured a Dilly Dash for kids sponsored by our local Dairy Queen. I enjoyed being at the finish line and seeing the big smiles on the contestants as they crossed the finish line.

## October

Alexa Benson's vision and passion brought the first ever Veneta Haunts event to City Park at Halloween time. The Parks Board helped sponsor the event that had so many kids and adults show up to have fun with crafts, music, and an amazingly spooky pop-up haunted house!

# Events

## November

On November 10<sup>th</sup> the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, the local Scout Troup #50, the American Legion Post 61, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Jack Kelley Post 9448 hosted a memorable Veterans Day ceremony at the City Park. As a proud Veteran, I was honored to be there to help with the ceremony.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, I was joined by Santa and several hundred children to ensure the beautiful City Christmas Tree was properly lit to the delight of all. Santa was so patient and listened to the Christmas gift desires of all the children there.

## December

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, an estimated crowd of 5,000 lined the streets of Veneta to watch the esteemed

Grand Marshall, me, lead a procession of over 50 floats, not to mention decorated llamas, dogs, a rainbow beetle (actually a VW bug), so many Grinches, and a Sasquatch (with thanks to the Eugene Emeralds) mixed in. I would be remiss if I didn't take time to thank our Council President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, Robbie McCoy, for, according to her, holding the rain back for both the Tree Lighting and the Light Parade. Even though it rained before and after each of the events, it was somehow dry during both. Good work Robbie!

Additionally, of course we had the pool open for the summer. We hosted several special nights including "Night Waves Teen Party" and "Family Fun Night". New this year, movies in the park and music in the park debuted as well as many other smaller events that added to the fun of our community.



# Department Updates

## Administrative

We were very disappointed to find out recently, that the grant for funding of the Huston to Lakeside Drive portion of the 126 extension project we were hoping to receive has been put off for another year. We are still in hopes of improving the Huston Road intersection.

I have been promising for some time now improved high speed internet for the whole city and it looks like this year should be the culmination of that. We have already installed it in the Fern Ridge Service Center and the Public Works yard. Look for more information on that soon.

We are continuing to improve how we communicate with our residents. We have an improved Monthly Newsletter and you can now sign up on our new website to receive email notices when a new agenda comes out or a page is updated.

## Public Works

The Public Works Department under the keen eyes of our Director, Kyle Schauer, and Superintendent, Kip Orme, keeps our city beautiful and safe on a daily basis. They do set up and tear down for most of our events and are really the face of our staff.

No matter how much work they seem to have, they always have a smile and wave for those who pass by.

## Community Development

The city continues to partner with the Corp of Engineers, Lane County and the State of Oregon to provide a new path between Elmira and Veneta to make it safer for all, including our students, to walk or bike between the towns. The city has matching funds available to add to the potential grant. In addition, we are applying for grants to rebuild our Community Center, and we are working with the Territorial Sports Board to make major improvements to the Bolton Hill Sports Complex.

## Economic Development

There are several small development projects underway in the city currently. There are more potential projects which could bring as many as 400 – 500 more homes in the next few years.

As your Mayor, I know I speak for the whole City Council when I thank you for your support for what we do here on a daily basis, to hopefully enhance the lives of each of you and your families. After all, that is truly what we are here for. So, once again, I am honored to declare, "The State of the beautiful city of Veneta is GREAT"! Respectfully,  
Mayor Keith Weiss



City of Veneta  
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