

## Pickleball for the People

In 2020, the City of Veneta engaged with the community to update the twenty-year old Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Master Plan. As a result of public surveys, open houses, and public outreach at open air events, the community's voice most commonly spoke about three desirable park elements: biking/walking trails, an off-leash dog park, and pickleball/tennis courts. Since the



adoption of the new Parks Master Plan, the City has been pursuing each of these three elements. The City Council adopted the Paths & Trails Master Plan, and this summer construction will begin on an off-leash dog park at Territorial and Brooker Lane, and four pickleball courts at Territorial Park.

Focusing on the pickleball courts at Territorial

(See "Pickleball" on page 3)

## City Council Approves Matching Grant for Expansion Project

Upon thorough review and deliberation, the Business Assistance Committee presented its recommendation to the City Council on February 12<sup>th</sup> to award a \$25,000 matching grant to Hillbilly Brews for expansion of their Jeans Road and Territorial Highway location.

The City Council earmarked funds in the city budget to aid enterprises like Hillbilly Brews in expanding local operations. The process behind

the allocation of such grants is in-depth and transparent. Applications undergo rigorous scrutiny by the Mayor-appointed 5-person Business Assistance Committee. This committee diligently evaluates each application, considering factors such as the proposed expansion plans, potential impact on the local economy, and the business's track record within the community. This collabo-

(See "Matching Grant" on page 3)

## Understanding the Vital Role of Stormwater Management

Stormwater, often overlooked, plays a pivotal role in the health of our environment and communities. It encompasses the runoff from rain and snowmelt that flows across surfaces, collecting pollutants and debris along the way. Despite its seemingly mundane nature, stormwater management holds immense importance for several reasons.

First and foremost, effective stormwater management helps prevent flooding properties. When rainwater cannot infiltrate the ground due to impermeable surfaces like pavement and concrete, it accumulates rapidly, leading to flash floods that can wreak havoc on infrastructure and endanger property and lives. Proper drainage systems, including retention ponds and green infrastructure, mitigate this risk by efficiently channeling excess water away from populated areas.

Moreover, stormwater management contributes significantly to water quality preservation.

(See "Stormwater Management" on page 3)

CIVIC CALENDAR MARCH 2024		
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.
10	Daylight Savings Begins	
11	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
13	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
17	Happy St. Patrick's Day	
19	FIRST DAY OF SPRING!	
21	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
21	FRAUG Meeting	3:30 a.m.
25	City Council Work Session Council Goals FY 2024-25	5:30 p.m.
29	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
30	Easter Egg Hunt Veneta Elementary School	11:00 a.m.

## Department Updates

### ADMINISTRATION

- City Hall hosted thirteen Elmira High School Seniors for a half-day Job Shadow visit. They met Mayor Keith Weiss, Councilors Pat Coy and Alexa Benson as well as staff members. Together, the kids and City conducted a mock city council meeting. It was a fun time and a really good opportunity for local kids to experience how a city council makes decisions for the community.
- You can catch the January and February 2024 editions of the Veneta City Council Highlights video on the City's website under Agendas & Minutes when you click on the City Council arrow to open the 2024 agendas. Look for the little TV icon for those summary videos.
- Starting March 1<sup>st</sup> Sanipac curbside waste service rates will increase 4.21% for all debris container sizes and frequency of pick-up (weekly or every-other-week).
- The City is pursuing two federal FEMA grants for an architectural seismic review of the planned replacement Community Center at City Park and a City Hall expansion. In the event of a Cascadia earthquake event, the City will need operations and public spaces in the aftermath. Fingers-crossed for the grants!
- The City's auditors submitted the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) 2021-2022 audit to the Oregon Secretary of State. The City also filed the audit with the municipal bond market clearinghouse, EMMA, as part of our reporting responsibilities for the City's wastewater bond debt. We'll get to work on the fiscal year 2022-2023 audit and, at the same time, start developing the fiscal year 2024-2025 preliminary budget for the City's Budget Committee to review in May.
- If you are hearing-impaired you can use the 7-1-1 Oregon Relay service to contact City Hall to pay your city utility bill or handle any other transactions. 7-1-1 Relay is a free service that hearing-impaired people can utilize to call others.
- Check out this story about a local hero during the January ice storm: "ODOT to the Rescue: Before a large section of OR 36 and OR 126W closed during one of Lane County's



worst ice storms in years. ODOT-Veneta's Transportation Maintenance Coordinator Jake Jensen transformed a routine road safety check into a rescue mission." <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDOT/bulletins/38786c5>



### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The City plans to sell a surplus 0.20-acre residential zoned property on the SW corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Hunter Street. The City held a closed bid process throughout February with a minimum acceptable bid of \$50,000. Bids were opened on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and staff will recommend a sale to the selected bidder at the City Council's March 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
- The City has been working with the State of Oregon on a grant to build a sidewalk cover for the Fern Ridge Service Center Love Project food bank. The project has been accepted for funding so City Staff have been working on getting all the paperwork signed in the right spots!

### PUBLIC WORKS

- There's some new trees planted at City Hall! Public Works team members Mark and Mike planted three in the front and one in the back after removing two over-bushes. The new trees will have some beautiful color in fall and stay low enough to keep away from overhead power lines.



### PUBLIC SAFETY

- We said a few fond farewells to Veneta-based Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Deputy Meyers as he moves from the Veneta Contract to LCSO's ocean beach patrol. We'll still see Deputy Meyers on occasion at Veneta's National Night Out in August and December's Light Parade.
- On a related note, welcome Deputy Flanders to the Veneta community!



## Pickleball continued

(Continued from page 1)

Park, the plan is to build them between the skate park and playground. This park was chosen because it offered the only site large enough for the courts while providing some distance from residences. The City is working with project designers to evaluate several noise mitigating strategies in addition to distance. For example, the elevated skate bowl will mitigate noise to the east, while the fencing surrounding the pickleball courts will be strong enough to bear sound-dampening ma-

terial where needed. No lights will be installed so play will only be allowed during daylight hours. Construction is expected to begin this summer and completed by fall.

Adding pickleball courts as a popular adult activity will bring a new mix of park users to Territorial Park. Not that adults don't use the skate bowl or the basketball courts—they do! A new park amenity like this will enhance Veneta, making it an even nicer place to enjoy with your family and friends.

## Matching Grant continued

(Continued from page 1)

rative approach ensures that the award of funds aligns with the City's overarching economic objectives while also reflecting the needs and aspirations of Veneta's diverse business community.

For Hillbilly Brews, the grant represents more than just financial assistance. With these funds, the coffee shop plans to embark on an ambitious expansion project, aimed at enhancing its offerings, improving infra-



structure, and creating additional employment opportunities. The significance of initiatives like these extends far beyond the walls of Hillbilly Brews. By investing in local businesses, the City not only stimulates economic growth but also fosters a sense of pride and resilience within the community. As Veneta continues to evolve and thrive, it's partnerships like these—between local government, businesses, and residents—that serve as the cornerstone of its prosperity.

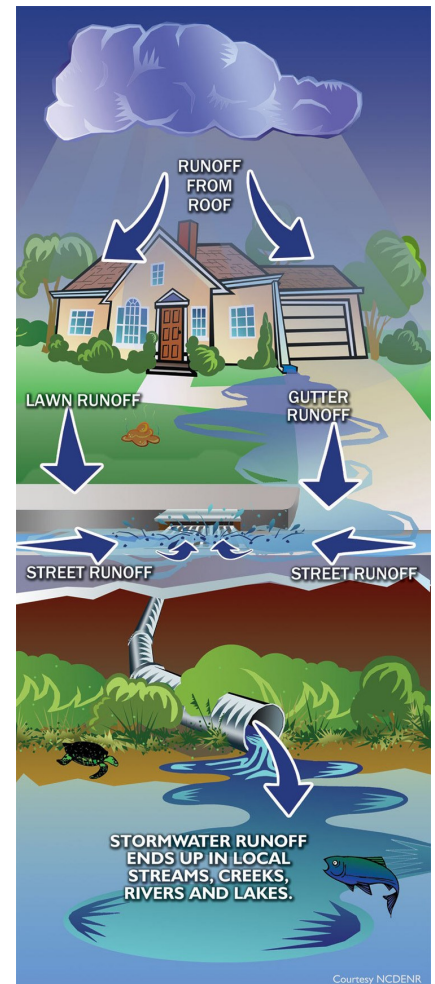
## Stormwater Management continued

(Continued from page 1)

As runoff travels over roads, lawns, and construction sites, it picks up various pollutants such as oil, sediment, and chemicals, ultimately depositing them into water bodies. These contaminants degrade aquatic habitats, harm wildlife, and compromise the safety of drinking water sources. By implementing filtration systems and erosion control measures, communities can reduce the influx of harmful substances into rivers, lakes, and oceans, safeguarding both ecosystems and public health.

Furthermore, stormwater management plays a crucial role in replenishing groundwater reserves. In natural environments, precipitation seeps into the soil, replenishing underground aquifers that serve as vital sources of drinking water. However, urbanization disrupts this process by replacing permeable landscapes with impervious surfaces, limiting the recharge of groundwater supplies. The City used permeable asphalt at the Park & Ride parking lot adjacent to the Our Daily Bread restaurant parking lot. Through sustainable practices such as rainwater harvesting and permeable pavement, cities can restore balance to the hydrological cycle, ensuring the availability of clean, freshwater resources for future generations.

In conclusion, the significance of stormwater management cannot be overstated. From flood prevention to water quality enhancement and climate resilience, its multifaceted benefits extend far beyond mere drainage. Prioritizing sustainable stormwater practices is essential to fostering healthy, resilient communities and safeguarding the integrity of our natural environment for generations to come.



## Safe Lane Coalition wants to hear from you about safe driving practices.

**SAFE LANE**  
TRANSPORTATION COALITION



- Please share with anyone interested in making our roads safer.
- The survey only takes 3-5 minutes.
- For every completed survey, \$1 will be donated to Free Bikes 4 Kidz.
- Take the survey now, by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SLDr2024> or by scanning the QR code to the right.



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

### City of Veneta

- ♦ 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.

Save the date! Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veneta Celebration Run! This is a community volunteer effort. If you would like to help make this fun event happen, the first meeting will be on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at City Hall.



## Public Safety Report - January 2024

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
<b>Property</b> (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	23	33	18	13	18	7
<b>Person</b> (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	29	15	31	7	8	10
<b>Public Order</b> (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	103	117	61	1	1	3
<b>Individual Welfare</b> (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	21	26	13	5	4	0
<b>Vehicle</b> (DUI, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	26	12	31	5	1	4
<b>Offense Against State</b> (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	5	3	3	4	8	1
<b>Civil</b> (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	15	6	11	0	0	0
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	31	21				
<b>Total</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>25</b>



HOP ON OVER FOR THE 38TH ANNUAL  
VENETA EASTER  
**EGG HUNT**

VENETA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**MARCH 30, 2024**  
**11:00 AM**

**STORYTIME**  
**10:00-11:00 AM**



**AGES 1 - 10 YEARS**

**BRING A BASKET**

**ADA ACCESSIBLE \* RAIN OR SHINE**

**2024 Sponsors of the Veneta Easter Egg Hunt**

