

City News

April 2024

Arbor Day Proclamation and Tree Planting

2023 marked the 15th year that the City of Veneta has been recognized as an official 'Tree City USA' city by the Arbor Day Foundation. Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation is the world's largest non-profit dedicated to planting trees.

Membership in the Tree City USA program requires cities to meet a few tree-related standards, like having a tree



TREE CITY USA[®]
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

committee and a community tree ordinance. Tree removal permits are required to remove any tree within the City, and the City requires all new developments to plant a certain number of trees. This is all done to maintain and improve the health and number of trees in the City – which provide benefits to all city residents. Trees lower the tem-

(See "Tree City" on page 3)

Public Safety Fee Increase

The Lane County Sheriff's Office annual contract for Veneta law enforcement services came in 6.3% higher than last year at \$1,079,656 (last year was \$1,015,500). That's similar to the prior year increase.

The Veneta City Council set a policy goal to cap at 50% the amount of property taxes that pay for the Sheriff's Office contract. This allows property taxes to continue flowing to parks, operations, and land use planning. In 2021, the City Council established a monthly Public Safety Fee to help pay for enforcement-related services.

Council can adjust the Public Safety Fee, with

public notice, if additional funding is needed to maintain that policy goal when the growth in property taxes doesn't cover half of the Sheriff's Office contract and code enforcement activities. The Council is currently evaluating a \$2.00 adjustment to the Public Safety Fee from \$4.00 per month to \$6.00, effective July 1st.

You may submit written comments prior to the April 8th City Council meeting by dropping off your comments at Veneta City Hall, 88184 8th St, or emailing them to City Recorder Jen Mirabile at jmirabile@ci.veneta.or.us

Noxious Vegetation Amendments

On March 11, 2024, City Council held a second reading to approve amendments to the Veneta Municipal Code, Section 8.05.060, Noxious and Hazardous Vegetation. High grass and weeds season will now begin in May instead of June, giving property owners a head start on keeping their property free of fire hazards before Fire Season begins and mowing is prohibited.

The new rules require weeds and tall grass over 10 inches to be mowed down for fire safety between May 1st and September 30th. The amendments also add invasive species to the list of noxious vegetation and add a requirement for a 30-foot firebreak around parcels greater than 1 acre in size.

For more information, contact Matt Laird at mlaird@ci.veneta.or.us or 541-935-2191 or visit the Code Compliance page on the City website at www.venetaoregon.gov

| CIVIC CALENDAR APRIL 2024 | | |
|---|--|---|
| All meetings held at City of Veneta, 88184 8th St, unless otherwise noted | | |
| 2 | Planning Commission Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 8 | City Council Meeting, Urban Renewal Agency immediately following | 6:30 p.m. |
| 10 | Economic Development Committee Meeting | 2:00 p.m. |
| 10 | Park Board Meeting | 4:30 p.m.. |
| 11 | City Hall Open House | 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. |
| 18 | Municipal Court | 8:30 a.m. |
| 22 | City Council Work Session | 5:00 p.m. |
| 22 | Earth Day - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle |  |
| 26 | Arbor Day - Tree Planting at City Hall |  |
| 26 | Business Development Committee Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

A new frontier showed up in your March newsletter. Did you notice? Some articles were written using the Artificial Intelligence (AI) program ChatGPT. We were pleasantly surprised when we experimented with it. Then we had this eerie feeling of peeking at the future of AI in the workplace! Did the 1960's The Jetsons cartoon show predict ChatGPT as well as microwave ovens?!

Mayor Keith Weiss visited Teacher Michelle Nelson's Elmira High School writing class to talk about this year's Oregon Mayors' Association "If I Were Mayor..." contest. Twenty-three students submitted short video essays on what they would do if they were mayor of Veneta. Mayor Weiss announced the top three entries at the March 25th City Council meeting. They were:

- 1st Place - Mele Turtura, 11th Grade
- 2nd Place - JT Myers, 11th Grade
- 3rd Place - Evan Booth, 11th Grade

Congratulations to all! First Place winner Mele Turtura's entry will go on to compete in the statewide competition at the annual Oregon Mayors Association summer conference in July. Good luck, Mele!

The City is always looking for more ways to communicate with you. In March we experimented with outreach through streaming services to promote the Veneta Easter Egg Hunt. The 30-second video ad started airing Sunday, March 17th and ran through March 30th – the day of the Egg Hunt. The amount of impressions we expect to get in the 97487 zip code area is 10,606. It'll be interesting to see data on how many actual views happened and evaluate how effective this communication channel is for City news.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Have you seen that Chevy Bolt EV parked at the city parking lot across from Our Daily Bread? That EV sat available for rent, but that's going to change! Forth CarShare ended operations in Veneta on March 31st. As a pilot program operated by non-profit organization Forth in partnership with Emerald People's Utility District, Forth received funding for 18 months of operations at this location, from October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024. The



charging station will remain at 88184 Territorial Hwy and be available for charging electric vehicles at a set rate.

Veneta Celebration Run online registration is now open! www.venetaoregon.gov, then click on News Flash. The cost is \$35.00 for the Saturday, August 17th run starting at 9:00 AM. If you would like to be a part of the team that makes this great event happen, the next planning meeting is April 17th at 5:00 PM at City Hall.



PUBLIC SAFETY

There will be an Honor Guard rifle salute on Memorial Day, May 27th at the City Park Veterans' Memorial. Local VFW, Scouts, and American Legion groups will be hosting the event with speeches and free hot dogs. As the date approaches, the City will share on its Facebook page and website the approximate time of the Honor Guard rifle salute so that those in the surrounding area will know to expect the rifle discharge noise.

For the third year in a row the City of Veneta received an award plaque for the National Night Out event held the First Tuesday in August at City Park! We added the plaque to the others hanging in the City Hall lobby. Mark your calendars now for this year's event on Tuesday, August 6th!



PUBLIC WORKS

Good news on the OR 126 Widening Project! First, the U.S. Army Corps signed-off on the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) environmental impact analysis for the project that includes the Fern Ridge Reservoir, which the Army Corps operates. That analysis evaluated nature and cultural impacts to the surrounding area from planned construction on the Veneta to Eugene project.



Second, ODOT is prioritizing the Huston Road to Lakeside Drive segment for the first phase of the larger OR 126 widening project. It's important to remember that the project is not funded to advance beyond the design phase. ODOT plans to continue pursuing federal funding for the Veneta segment of the OR 126 Widening Project.

(See "Department Updates" on page 3)

Department Updates - continued

The planned name of the City's new off-leash dog park is "The Bark and Whistle Dog Park" in honor of the International Port of Coos Bay's Coos Bay Rail Line partnership to use their land south of the railroad tracks west of Territorial Highway. The park sign will face Territorial Highway at the edge of the park.



City of Veneta Management Analyst Jacob Thode was the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce's Quarterly Luncheon Speaker in

March. He talked about what Veneta area businesses can do to combat property crime as well as the importance of partnerships with neighboring businesses. The City will continue partnering with the Chamber on future meetings to help our local businesses learn from each other and connect with the Sheriff's Office.

The City plans to acquire for development the downtown block on W. Broadway Avenue that is currently owned by St. Vincent DePaul. Guidance from the Veneta Economic Development Committee and direction from the City Council is engage in a downtown master plan visioning process for developing the property for its highest and best use. St. Vincent DePaul continues to have interest in a retail store to the Veneta area.

Tree City continued

(Continued from page 1)

perature of the surrounding area, reduce energy costs by providing shade during the summer and protection from the winds during winter, reduce air pollution, raise property values, and absorb noise from traffic.

To celebrate our urban forestry program, the

Mayor will be reading the Arbor Day proclamation and the City will be planting a new tree at City Hall on **Arbor Day, April 26th at 12:00 PM** - Hope to see you there!



YOU ARE INVITED!

VENETA 
Inc. 1962

THURSDAY
APRIL 
11th
6:00-7:30 PM

CITY HALL Open House

FOOD AND DRINKS!

MEET CITY COUNCIL AND STAFF

88184 8TH ST
VENETA, OR 97487

Sidewalk Maintenance Responsibility

Have you ever wondered who is responsible for maintaining the sidewalk and planter strip in front of your house?

Many people think it is the City, however, according to the Veneta Municipal Code, Chapter 12.15, it is actually the duty of the property owner to keep all sidewalks clean and in good repair, and free from any obstructions.



If there are leaves, tree branches, or other debris covering your sidewalk, please clean them up at your earliest convenience. Be proud of your sidewalks, street trees, and planter strips. Take care of them and enjoy them. The City and your neighbors will all thank you, plus your property will look great!

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

- ◆ 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.

Public Safety Report - February 2024

| Incident Type | Calls | | | Cases | | |
|---|------------|------------|----------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| | Calls | Prior Year | 5-Year Average | Cases | Prior Year | 5-Year Average |
| Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud) | 15 | 18 | 28.4 | 6 | 8 | 10.4 |
| Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments) | 15 | 10 | 16 | 4 | 0 | 2.8 |
| Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact) | 93 | 86 | 62.4 | 5 | 1 | 1.4 |
| Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons) | 15 | 14 | 16.4 | 3 | 2 | 2.4 |
| Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard) | 33 | 22 | 24.2 | 4 | 4 | 2.8 |
| Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord) | 1 | 5 | 5.2 | 1 | 5 | 3.4 |
| Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process) | 11 | 12 | 8.6 | 11 | 0 | 2.2 |
| Neighborhood Watch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Traffic Stops | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 223 | 158 | 161.2 | 34 | 20 | 25.4 |

Veneta CITYWIDE CLEAN-UP

Saturday May 4, 2024

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ♦ 5th St & Bolton Hill

The City Wide Clean-Up is **FREE OF CHARGE** and limited to residents
within the City of Veneta (proof of residency required)
Take this time to clean up your home, yard, and neighborhood

**Following are some of the
items that will be accepted:**

- Yard debris, limbs, weeds and grass clippings
- Tires - **MUST** be off rims (limit 4)
- Personal documents for shredding
- Wood
- Metal
- Appliances
- Recyclables

These items will **NOT** be accepted:
Hazardous materials, propane tanks,
household trash and household items.

For questions on specific items contact the
City of Veneta 541-935-2191

