

# City News

August 2024

## City of Veneta Recreation Projects

The City of Veneta has taken a significant step towards enhancing its recreational facilities with two major projects currently underway: The construction of new pickleball courts, and the development of an off-leash dog park. Both projects were bid together, attracting six bids, with Durbin Excavating emerging as the lowest bidder and subsequently being awarded the contract. Here's an overview of these developments:

## Key Downtown Block Purchased

In July, the Veneta Urban Renewal Agency purchased from the St. Vincent de Paul Society the Downtown Veneta block between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Street along W. Broadway. The block is the last piece of St. Vincent Society's original four block land purchase from the Guilford Family Trust back in 2008. The St. Vincent Society didn't plan on developing the block in the near term and offered to sell the block to the City, with a commitment to return to Veneta in the future to establish a retail store.

## City Council Candidacy Deadline

Serving as a City Councilor is a great way to give back to your community and help shape its goals. It's hard work, educational, rewarding, and fun.

The City has three openings: One Mayor and two Councilor-at-large positions. The deadline to declare candidacy and submit 20 verified nominating signatures is Tuesday, August 20th. Verified candidates will be added to the November 5th General Election ballot.

These volunteer positions serve a four-year term starting in January 2025 and involve bi-weekly public meetings.

For more information and to pick up a Candidate Packet, please contact Jen Mirabile, City Recorder and Elections Official, by email at [jmirabile@ci.veneta.or.us](mailto:jmirabile@ci.veneta.or.us) or by calling 541-935-2191.



### Pickleball Courts

The pickleball court project aims to enrich Territorial Park by adding four state-of-the-art pickleball courts. These courts will be strategically situated between the existing basketball courts and the play structure, ensuring they are easily accessible for all park visitors. Specialized sub-contractors



(See "Recreation Projects" on page 3)

Commercial development is the goal for the acre-plus property, just as it has been for the entire Downtown District. Prior economic development plans led to the downtown lamplights, wide sidewalks, and undergrounded utilities we enjoy today. Those plans also led to the Fern Ridge Service Center being built, the new downtown parking lot behind American Market, and the recent sale next door to the parking lot of the Attic property to the Smith Family for continued development.

(See "Downtown Blocks" on page 4)

## CIVIC CALENDAR August 2024

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

6	National Night Out! City Park 25190 E. Broadway	 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
7	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
10	Family Fun Night at Veneta Community Pool	 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
12	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
13	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
14	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
15	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
17	Veneta Celebration Run 25192 E Broadway	 9:00 a.m.
26	City Council Work Session	5:00 p.m.
30	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
30	Last Day of the 2024 Pool	 7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.

## Department Updates

### ADMINISTRATION

- The City received a second green marble plaque for its Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award pins! Those plaques are proudly displayed in the City Hall lobby. Look for them the next time you stop by. Want to see what an award-winning budget looks like? Visit [venetaoregon.gov](http://venetaoregon.gov) and look at the Finance webpage for the GFOA Budget links.
- In July the City welcomed two new faces to City Hall.
  - ⇒ Lane County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Colt Parker is the new sergeant for the Veneta contract. Sgt. Parker lives in the area and has a keen interest in continuing the Veneta tradition of getting to know residents.
  - ⇒ Bree Baumgartner is the new City Management Intern who will assist with economic development and communications. Bree is a graduate student at the University of Oregon's Planning, Public Policy and Management Program.
- Mayor Keith Weiss had a busy couple of weeks in July representing the Lane Area Committee on Transportation in Salem and at a local meeting with the Joint Oregon Legislative Committee on Transportation. ODOT is hurting for basic maintenance and operations funding, so a hard look at the structure of road funds is needed. At meetings on the topic, Mayor Weiss emphasized spreading the word about ODOT's predicament so that Oregonians could be well informed when they start to hear about funding options to keep roads in shape. He also emphasized Veneta's need for the Highway 126 expansion project.



- Veneta will be a part of an upcoming League of Oregon Cities' Strategic Planning Cohort opportunity. We'll have sessions facilitated by a consulting firm with 20 years of experience in strategic planning and organizational development, including economic and workforce development, and urban planning. There's no cost for this effort so it's exciting that Veneta was picked to participate.
- There was a heat wave out there in July! In preparation we reached out to the Fern Ridge Service Center and Fern Ridge Library to confirm their plans to be a cooling/respite center. Thanks to their volunteers, they were able to provide some comfort during those hot days.



### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Assistant Planner Daniel Findlay earned praise from the statewide organizations Fair Housing Council of Oregon and Housing Land Advocates. In their comments on the record for staff's proposed changes to Veneta's zoning code they had this to say: "Planning staff responded to our initial concerns with thorough Goal 10 findings which compellingly argued that the amendments are both appropriate and will not impact the City's residential capacity. This will be used as a good example for other jurisdictions." They also copied the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development on the letter. Veneta's setting a high standard for other Oregon cities. Way to go, Daniel!
- Here's some news from the "Time Capsule File." In July the City released a municipal lien on a property that had a high grass code violation in the last century (1999)! Imagine how high that grass would have been now, 25 years later, if the City hadn't paid to abate it?



## Volunteers Needed for Sunday Community Dinners



We are a non-profit, community-based, volunteer-facilitated emergency shelter and meals program.

We provide free dinners every Sunday from 4:30 to 6 PM, serving over 100 meals weekly. We need 10 volunteers each Sunday to cook, serve, and clean up. For over 15 years, we haven't missed a

single Sunday, but finding new volunteers has become difficult. Our long-term volunteers are burning out, and we may have to reduce our services.

Please help us continue by becoming a volunteer! You can sign up on our website: <https://www.fernridgecommunityservices.com/> click on the volunteer box under "Community Dinners".

## Recreation Projects cont...

were hired to handle the intricate task of pouring 185 yards of concrete and applying the finish coatings once the concrete has cured.

To address potential noise concerns, the courts will be fenced with sound-dampening material on the north side. The project, expected to be completed by Fall 2024, is partly funded by a \$75,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, reflecting the community's commitment to enhancing recreational opportunities.

### Bark and Whistle Off-Leash Dog Park

The City of Veneta is creating the Bark and Whistle Off-Leash Dog Park. Located between Brooker Lane and the Port of Coos Bay Railroad Tracks, the park is being developed on land generously leased at no cost by the International Port of Coos Bay's Rail Line. This dog park will feature two separate fenced areas to accommodate both small and large



dogs, ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for all.

The park will be accessible to everyone, thanks to ADA-compliant pathways. It will also feature benches, dog waste pick-up stations, and a water fountain for both humans and dogs, making it a comfortable and convenient space for dog owners.

The Bark and Whistle Off-Leash Dog Park is expected to be ready for use in Spring 2025. The City has applied for a \$100,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to help fund the construction. The outcome of this grant application will be known in the Fall.

These two projects underscore Veneta's dedication to providing high-quality recreational facilities for its residents. The successful completion of these projects will mark a significant milestone in Veneta's ongoing efforts to promote active, healthy lifestyles and foster community engagement.

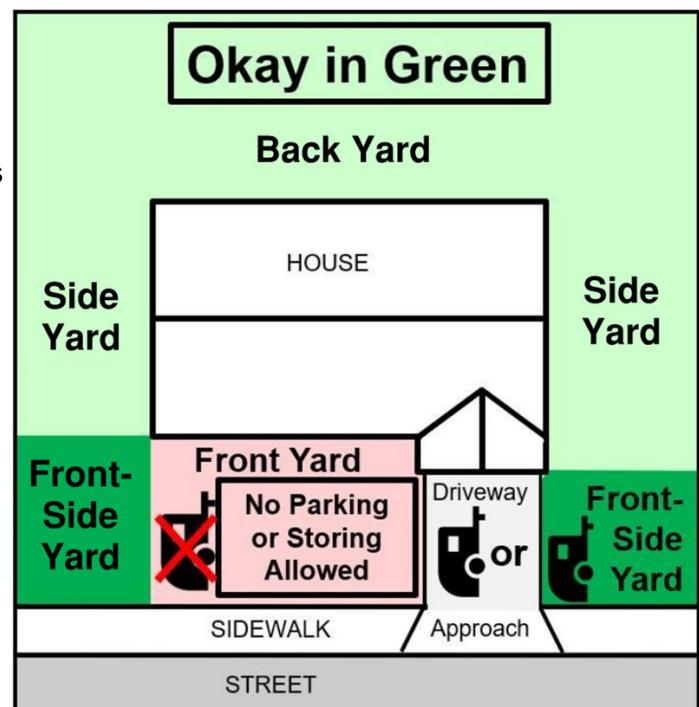
## Vehicle Parking and Storage

Do you have trailers, boats, or inoperable vehicles in front of your house? If so, then you will want to know about the City's new ordinance regulating vehicle parking and storage that goes into effect this August. These changes allow only one vehicle (trailer, boat, RV, etc.) to be stored in the driveway or front-side yard of a property at a time. If you are part of a home owners association, make sure you check the rules because they may have standards that are more strict.

Also remember that parking and storage must be on an improved surface and vehicles cannot be parked or stored on lawns or landscaping. Typical examples of improved surfaces are concrete, asphalt, contained gravel, or pavers. Vehicles also cannot encroach on the public right-of-way or block the sidewalk.

The City Council has directed staff to more proactively enforce vehicle and parking storage issues, which will begin once the regulations go into full effect. The standards mentioned above are not a full list of the new regulations.

For a more detailed summary, please visit the Code Compliance page of the City website at [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov).



### Reminder: Public Safety Fee Increase July 1, 2024

This is a reminder that you will see an increase to the Public Safety Fee on your July Utility Bill.

Per Resolution 1412, the monthly rate will increase from \$4.00 to \$6.00.

The increase will help fund a proactive Code Enforcement Program.

## Downtown Block cont...

opment as a food truck hub and gathering spot.

The City hasn't studied what it would like to see built on the new block site. Past guidance and action plans generally focused on preparing downtown Veneta to be attractive for private development. Following this trend, the City will re-visit market studies to identify probable commercial uses, and include community outreach to surrounding W. Broadway businesses and the community at large. The City will also look at architectural design standards for the downtown district

that all downtown businesses would adapt their buildings to with City assistance. As the Veneta Comprehensive Plan notes: "No distinct architectural style or theme exists in the downtown area." Clearly, there's some groundwork to be done before breaking ground onsite!

Meanwhile, the City's Public Works landscaping team will make the block easier to maintain, and the City will establish how the public can request to use the block for the Harvest Festival and other events.



### Public Safety Report - June 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)	44	41	31	19	13	16
<b>Person</b> (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	28	32	34	6	3	7
<b>Public Order</b> (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	81	51	54	3	1	0
<b>Individual Welfare</b> (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	32	26	18	6	3	3
<b>Vehicle</b> (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	24	27	26	2	3	0
<b>Offense Against State</b> (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	23	2	6	3	4	1
<b>Civil</b> (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	13	12	13	0	0	0
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	0	4	0	0	0	0
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	13	75	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>



Proceeds Benefit Veneta Parks

**AUGUST 17, 2024**

**9:00 AM - Run or Walk**

**City Park - 25192 E Broadway**



**Dilly Dash Kids Run Free - 8:45 AM**

**Free Health Fair**



**orchid health**  
*fern ridge clinic*

**To Register for the Race**

visit Eclectic Edge Racing website: [www.eclecticedgeracing.com](http://www.eclecticedgeracing.com)  
or scan the QR code to the right



**City of Veneta**  
**PARK BOARD**

**VENETA** \_\_\_\_\_  
oregon \_\_\_\_\_  
Inc. 1962

# Economic Identity Survey

We need your help to finalize the City of Veneta's Economic Brand Identity.  
Scan the QR code below to vote or go to: <https://s.surveyplanet.com/wufkso36>

## THE LOGO

### PRIMARY LOGO



### WORDMARK

**veneta**  
EXPLORE. ENGAGE. ENJOY.

### TAGLINES

explore veneta  
engage veneta  
enjoy veneta

### FONTS

abc      ABC  
BEEZLE      GIL SANS

## ABOUT THE LOGO

The logo provides a picture of some of Veneta's unique outdoor activities including the Fern Ridge Reservoir, opportunities for hiking/biking with beautiful mountain views, and a reminder of Veneta's history as a mill city. The starry night is a departure from a typical daytime sky or sunset often found in logos and speaks to the whimsical, quirky and one-of-a-kind events and business opportunities offered in Veneta.

## ABOUT THE TAGLINE

**Explore. Engage. Enjoy.** This three-pronged tagline provides a way for the City and business community to connect with residents and visitors. Use "Explore" when you want to highlight the opportunities to shop in Veneta. Use "Engage" to encourage the community to support a local cause, business, or event. Use "Enjoy" to promote local restaurants, activities, and events.

For more info on the project visit: [www.venetaoregon.gov/366/Economic-Identity](http://www.venetaoregon.gov/366/Economic-Identity)





# Family Fun Night

## POOL Party

**Veneta Community Pool**

**Saturday, August 10, 2024**

**5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Bring your whole family and join us  
for games and plenty of fun!**

**Normal family swim rates apply**

**(Passes/punch cards not valid for this event)**

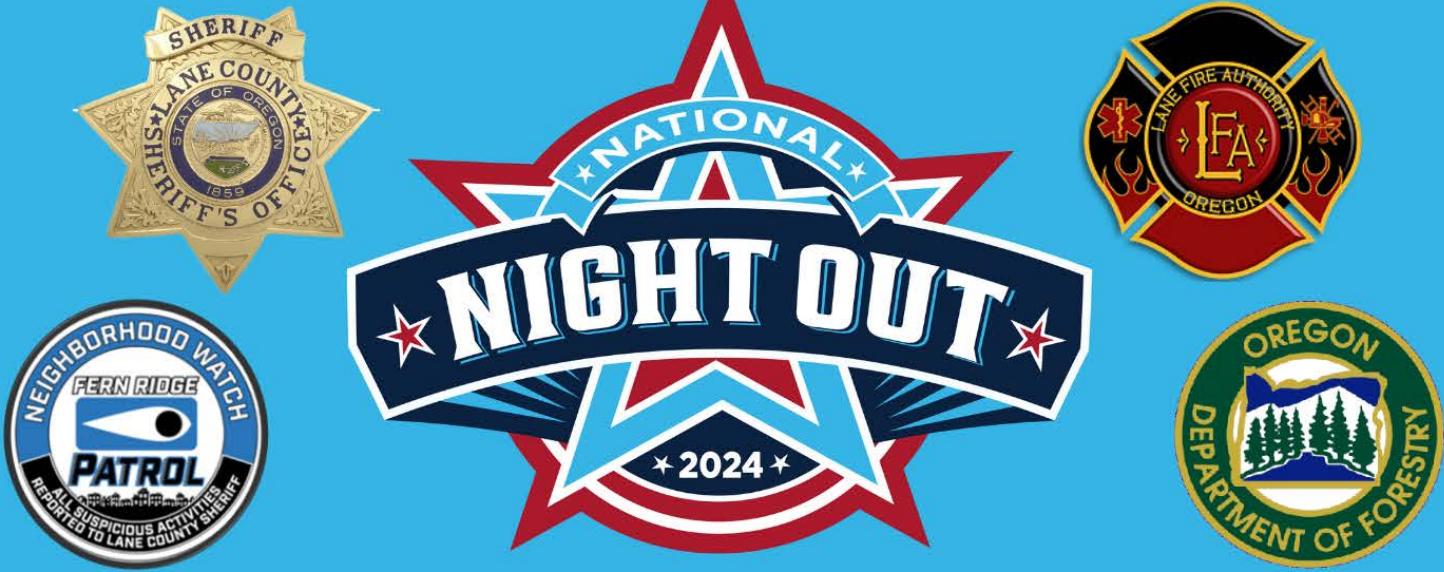
**Kiwanis will be onsite with food to purchase**



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

CITY OF VENETA

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2024



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN AS WE  
CELEBRATE THE MEN AND WOMEN THAT KEEP OUR  
COMMUNITY SAFE.

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

- Lane County Sheriff's K9 Demo
- Lane County Sheriff's Mounted Posse
- Lane Fire Authorities Water Mister and Slide
- Egg Toss Competition
- Deputy Dunk Tank and Donut Eating Contest
- Pie Eating Contest
- Potato Sack Race
- Live Music
- AND MORE!

**AUGUST 6, 2024 6-8 PM**

At City Park next to the pool  
25192 E Broadway Ave, Veneta, OR 97487

Parking at East Broadway at St. Catherine of Siena Parish  
& East Hunter at Ingite Veneta Alliance

Fay Fays



Sanipac



Sponsored By: