

City News

September 2024

National Night Out Recap

Veneta's Annual National Night Out took place at City Park on Tuesday, August 6th. We saw a great turnout from our community and local organizations!

This year's highlights included a Deputy Donut Eating contest won by Veneta's new Sergeant, Colt Parker, along with a Deputy Dunk Tank, potato sack race, egg toss, a K-9 demonstration and a friendly corn-hole competition between Lane County Sheriff's Office and Lane Fire Authority. The Sheriff's Office remains undefeated!

Lane Fire Authority brought a new inflatable slide, which kids enjoyed after cooling down under

the water mister. Smokey Bear made an appearance, stopping by with his friends from Oregon Department of Forestry to raise awareness about fire prevention

"There was a lot of fun and engaging activities for kids and families to participate in this year," said Jacob Thode, Management Analyst for the City of Veneta. "National Night Out is a night for our community to connect with our First Responders, who can often be overlooked for important work they do within our community. This night gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation, strengthen relationships, and en-

(See "National Night Out" on page 3)

Back to School: Essential Driver Safety Tips for the New School Year

As the school year kicks off, drivers face the added challenge of navigating through increased pedestrian activity and school traffic. Whether you're a parent dropping off children, a teacher commuting to work, or a resident living near a school, it's crucial to be vigilant and adhere to safety guidelines to ensure a smooth and secure start to the academic year. Here are some key driver safety tips to keep in mind:

Leaf Pick Up Begins October 1st

The City of Veneta leaf pick up program will begin on October 1st and end on January 30th

- Leaf picked up is on Tuesday and Thursday of each week as time permits.
- Bags are to contain leaves only and must be tied shut and left on the curb.
- Leaves can also be placed in yard debris roll carts provided by Sanipac. Use them for mulch and/or compost.
 - Depositing leaves or other debris in a drainage way or street is a violation of Veneta Municipal Code Chapter 13.15.010.

If you have questions or would like leaves for compost, please contact City Hall at 541-935-2191.



CIVIC CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2024

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



2	Labor Day - City Hall Closed	LABOR DAY	Closed
3	Planning Commission Meeting		6:30 p.m.
4	Park Board Meeting		4:30 p.m.
9	City Council Meeting		6:30 p.m.
11	Economic Development Committee Meeting		2:00 p.m.
14	Harvest Festival	A graphic of several autumn leaves in shades of green, yellow, orange, and red.	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
19	Municipal Court		8:30 a.m.
23	City Council Work Session		5:00 p.m.
27	Business Assistance Committee Meeting		9:00 a.m.

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- How can you trust that your city is being a good steward of your property tax and utility service dollars? One important way is knowing that every year the city hires an independent municipal auditor to review the books, sample how large purchases were made to see if the city used a competitive process, and report their findings to the Veneta City Council. Last month the City's auditor reported clean audits for both the City and the Veneta Urban Renewal Agency, and congratulated the City on being up to date with its audits.
- U.S. EPA's Community Change Grants Program awarded Lane County and United Way of Lane County \$19,555,386 for six renovation projects across the county, including Veneta! The projects will invest in six facilities to create a network of "Community Resilience Hubs" to support residents during emergencies, such as wildfires and heat waves. They also will build the capacity of local organizations providing resilience services; train medical and non-medical volunteers to help in emergencies; and equip the Hubs with adequate supplies. Veneta's Hub will be the Fern Ridge Service Center on W. Broadway. The project will also assess the feasibility of installing solar and energy storage at the Hubs.
- The Fern Ridge Advocates for the Unhoused (F.R.A.U.G.) picked Thursday, Sept. 5th at 9 AM at Veneta City Hall on 8th Street for their annual volunteer Lot 400 clean-up. Lot 400 is a city-owned lot at the southwest corner of 8th Street and Highway 126 where local unhoused individuals camp. We invite community volunteers to come help keep the property manageable while the City works to make it accessible for a more sanitary and safe area.
- The League of Oregon Cities is the lobbying organization for Oregon's 200+ cities. Every year prior to the state legislative season the League surveys its member cities to learn what are the top five priorities for the legislature to address. The Veneta City



Council reviewed 24 potential issue categories and selected the following five as Veneta's top priorities for the Oregon Legislature's 2025 legislative session, in no particular order:

- Shift from a Gas Tax to a Road User Fee;
- Expand access to Behavioral Health treatment beds;
- Fund ODOT's basic operations and maintenance;
- Increase the Alcohol Tax, the first time since 1978(!); and
- Improve Community Safety and Neighborhood Livability by funding road safety projects.

At the League's annual conference, the League will announce what top priorities received the most votes from Oregon cities.

- There's been great community interest in the pickleball courts construction at Territorial Park. People have been checking out the concrete and maybe reading up on how to keep score when they get to play pickleball there! The concrete has been curing with some anticipated cracking, but there's a finishing process that will address these residual cracks. The project should be finished in October.
- Two city councilor positions and the mayor position are up for election this November. The current city council would like future city councils to be compensated for the time they spend attending and preparing for multiple meetings each month. They also hope that a monthly stipend will encourage residents to consider running for city council by accounting for the cost of a babysitter or lost hourly wages. At an August 26th Work Session, the Council reviewed other Oregon cities' policies and arrived at a consensus on considering monthly stipends of \$150.00 for the mayor, \$125.00 for the council president, and \$100.00 for the other three city councilors. The Council will consider this proposal at the September 9th and October 14th regular city council meetings and take public comments at that time. The proposed stipend would start in January 2027 after all of the current elected positions have been up for election. This avoids an actual conflict of interest for sitting elected officials.



Welcome Timothy Tibbits

The City of Veneta is excited to welcome, Timothy (Tim) Tibbits, to their Public Works Team. Tim comes to the City of Veneta with work experience from Springfield and Eugene Public Schools where he worked operating heavy equipment, managing field and park landscaping, as well as their new turf fields. Tim is a resident of Veneta and coaches baseball for the local Elmira Babe Ruth program. Please join us in welcoming Tim to the team!

National Night Out cont...

sure that our First Responders know how much they are valued and supported by those they serve".

Live music was provided by Dakota Harris. Hot dogs and chips were donated by Sanipac, drinks were provided by Coca Cola, and served by Ignite Veneta Alliance Church. Treats from Kona Ice were available for purchase.

National Night Out sponsors included, but were not limited to, Fern Ridge Kiwanis, Veterans of Foreign Wars-Fern Ridge, AAA, Fay Fay's Pet Salon, The Patio Oasis, Aquamarine Massage Therapy, St. Catherine of Siena Parish and Veneta Elementary School provided parking for the event. The City's Public Works Department handled set up and clean up.

Thanks to the generous contributions from this year's sponsors and the community, the funds raised will be directed towards enhancing security at Territorial Skate Park, including the installation of new cameras. We are grateful for the support of everyone who participated, making this year's National Night Out a resounding success. We look forward to continuing to build a safer, more connected community together.



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Vehicle Parking and Storage - What to Expect Next

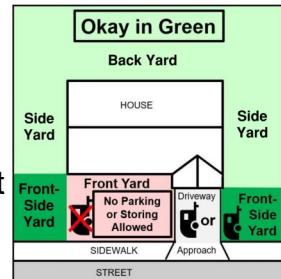
The City's new rules regarding vehicle parking and storage came into effect on August 7th. You may remember these are the rules that allow only one RV, boat, or trailer to be parked on an appropriate surface in front of a house.

Since that date, Code Enforcement staff have begun to identify properties that appear to be non-compliant and sent those residents a courtesy notice informing them of the new rules.

If you get one of these courtesy notices in the mail, please adjust the vehicles on your property in order to meet the new standards. City staff will be checking on these sites again and if they remain non-compliant then a code enforcement case will be started.

It is worth noting that the goal of Code Enforcement is always to achieve voluntary compliance whenever possible, so if you have an RV, boat or trailer it's a good idea to understand the rules about properly storing them on your property.

If you have questions regarding the new regulations, please call the City 541-935-2191 or visit the City website at: <https://www.venetaoregon.gov/356/Parking-and-Storing-of-Vehicles>



Safe Driving cont...

lights flashing, you must stop. This applies to vehicles approaching the bus from either direction on undivided roads.

3. Stay Alert for Pedestrians - Children are less predictable than adults. They might suddenly appear on the road while crossing or running to catch a bus. Always yield to pedestrians at crosswalks and remain vigilant at all times, especially near schools. Look out for crossing guards and follow their directions to ensure safe passage for students.

4. Avoid Distractions - With the hustle and bustle of school drop-offs and pick-ups, it can be tempting to multi-task—whether that's checking your phone, adjusting the radio, or engaging in conversation. Distractions can severely impact

your reaction time.

5. Plan Your Routes - Traffic congestion around schools can lead to delays. Plan your routes in advance and consider alternative paths to avoid the busiest times. Giving yourself extra time to get where you need to go can help reduce stress and minimize the urge to rush.

Remember that safe driving is a year-round commitment. Reinforce the importance of safety within your household by setting a good example. Ensure that all passengers, especially children, are wearing their seat belts properly. Communicate with your children and teach them to use crosswalks, look both ways before crossing, and make eye contact with drivers. The more informed they are, the safer they will be.

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".

Public Safety Report - July 2024

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	34	23	27	14	13	13
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	35	15	27	3	6	5
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	144	65	91	1	1	1
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	19	12	21	4	4	4
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	22	17	23	6	3	5
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	12	4	6	6	2	4
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	22	7	20	0	11	2
Neighborhood Watch	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	71	102	0	0	0	0
Total	359	245	215	34	40	34

VENETA HARVEST FESTIVAL

September 14, 2024

8:00 am - 3:00 pm -Free to attend
W. Broadway and 2nd St

FESTIVAL EVENTS

8:00 - 11:00am - Breakfast served by American Legion Post 61
(inside the Fern Ridge Service Center)

10:00 am - Vendor Booths open on Broadway

- Over 60 artisans, vendors, and food trucks !
- Kiwanis Kruise-In car and motorcycle show, come down and vote for your favorite!
- Vehicle displays from Lane County Sheriff's Office and Lane Fire Authority

11:00 am - Parade of music

11:00 am - 1:00pm - Lunch, a fundraiser benefit for Veterans
(inside the Fern Ridge Service Center)

11:15 am - Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce Chili Cook-off Judging

11:30 am - Chili will be available for purchase

3:00 pm - Harvest Festival Closes



Mid Lane Cares
Inspiring hope in our neighbors

Call 541-935-4555
for more information

This event
sponsored by:



September is National Preparedness Month

**HERE ARE SIX STEPS THAT YOU CAN TAKE
TO PREPARE AHEAD OF A NATURAL
DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**



**SIGN UP FOR
EMERGENCY ALERTS
BY SUBSCRIBING TO
LANE ALERTS OR
VISIT ORALERT.GOV**



**CREATE AN ACTION/
EMERGENCY PLAN
VISIT
READY.GOV/PLAN
TO LEARN HOW TO BUILD
YOUR OWN PLAN**



**MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE
IN CASE OF DISASTER
PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR
POWER OUTAGES AND
NATURAL DISASTERS LIKE
WIND OR ICE STORMS**



**ASSEMBLE A SUPPLY
AND EMERGENCY KIT
VISIT READY.GOV/KIT FOR
INFORMATION ON
ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO
STOCK UP ON**



**PLAN AHEAD AND GET
INVOLVED
WITH LOCAL GROUPS
LIKE
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH,
OR RED CROSS**



**KNOW YOUR
EVACUATION ROUTES
MAKE SURE BOTH YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY KNOW
ALL ESCAPE ROUTES TO
SAFETY**