

# City News

October 2024

## 2024 Veneta Election: Meet the Mayoral and Council Candidates

The 2024 General Election is Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. On the ballot are Alexa Benson and Robbie McCoy for Veneta City Mayor. Running for City Councilor positions are Anthony "Pat" Coy, David Voltz, and Maureen Wright. There are two open City Councilor seats available.

All members of the City Council, including the Mayor, volunteer their time and are responsible for passing laws, creating policies, and guiding budget decisions. They serve a 4-year term, attend City Council meetings



twice a month, and work to improve all aspects of the city. For more information on the upcoming election and the candidates see the enclosed flyer for profiles on all the candidates.

The City would like to remind residents that if they plan to vote, they will want to make sure that their voter registration is current. Register to vote with Lane County elections at <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/registration.aspx?lang=en>

Deadline to register is October 14th.



## 15th Annual Harvest Festival Draws Record Crowds

On Saturday, September 14th, downtown Veneta buzzed with activity as it hosted the 15th Annual Harvest Festival, reported to be the largest since its inception in 2009. This popular event serves as a vital fundraiser for Mid Lane Cares, which oversees essential community programs like the Love Project Food Pantry, S.A.N.T.A., and Senior Meals. The City supports Mid Lane Cares by leasing the Fern Ridge Service Center for just one dollar a year, with pro-

ceeds from the festival helping to fund operational costs and community initiatives.

This year's festival featured beloved activities from past events, including the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce Chili Cook-off, the Kiwanis Kruise-in, a variety of food trucks, live music, and a record-breaking 94 vendor booths. The festivities kicked off with a pancake breakfast at the Fern Ridge Service Center, benefiting

(See Harvest Festival on page 3)

## Honoring Our Colleague Matt Laird

On Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> the City of Veneta lost a dear colleague with the death of Community Development Director Matt Laird.

Matt was that rare person who could cheer you up or make you laugh with just his presence. He was a consummate professional in always wanting to give his best and helping others to be their best.

The City sends condolences to Matt's family for their loss and wishes for comfort in knowing that Matt's beautiful soul lives on through them. He will be sorely missed.



## CIVIC CALENDAR OCTOBER 2024

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

1	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
2	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
9	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
14	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
17	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
25	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
26	VENETA HAUNTS at City Park	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
28	City Council Meeting followed by Planning Commission Work Session	5:00 p.m.
31	HAPPY HALLOWEEN - Be safe and wear reflective clothing	

# Department Updates

## ADMINISTRATION

- For the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year, the City of Veneta received a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The GFOA judges the City's budget document on criteria that include how clearly budget priorities are stated, how well department activities are summarized, and more generally how well it easily communicates important budget information for community members. Congratulations Finance Director Tim Gaines, Management Analyst Jacob Thode, and Administration Supervisor Ann Haxby on a job well done!
- At long last the Federal Highway Administration has signed-off on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis document for the Highway 126: Veneta to Eugene project.

There is a QR code below that will take you to the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) project webpage where you can access supporting technical reports. ODOT still doesn't have dedicated funds to construct any portion of the project, but they applied for a federal grant for work on the west-end near Veneta. Fingers crossed!



## PUBLIC WORKS

- The Territorial Park pickleball courts are getting the court top coating applied as that project starts to wrap up. The City is planning to have a ribbon-cutting event at the courts in November. Follow the City's Facebook page and website to catch the details.
- The western edge of the Bark & Whistle off-leash dog park will extend an additional 30 feet west beyond what was planned to better accommodate the terrain.



Within this new area, all blackberries and other invasive vegetation were removed. The contractor will prepare the area for grading, and seed all the disturbed areas with a lawn seed mix.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Last month there was an RV abandoned in the street that the Veneta Sheriff's Deputy had towed. The bill for the tow was around \$800, not including the storage fee. There will also be a bill for the disposal of the RV. The City added funds to this year's budget in anticipation of this happening more frequently, as it has throughout Oregon.
- Last month was the annual City Lot 400 unsanctioned camp sites cleanup before the rainy season. This year we had four volunteers and a camper helping out. The volunteers are getting pretty good with getting the job done in less than two hours. It wasn't too bad this year and having a wide clear path onto Lot 400 really helped.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Travel Lane County and the FlyEug team are expanding their destination marketing presence at the Eugene Airport. The newest video content is playing on the screens in the baggage claim area with several 10-second videos that feature Lane County communities, including Veneta! Take a selfie in front of the video and send it to us to show your Veneta pride!



## PUBLIC SAFETY

- Seven local businesses spoke during the Public Comment portion of the September 9<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting to share their collective concern with property theft at construction sites and outdoor storage areas. They asked the City Council to address the issue at their October meeting. Staff followed-up on their comments by acknowledging their concern, sharing the City's efforts to find options for the City and the businesses to explore, and the City's commitment to support our local businesses.



## Harvest Festival cont...

the American Legion Post 61.

The Silver Threads quilt group raised over \$400 through a quilt giveaway, generously donating the proceeds back to Mid Lane Cares. The Kiwanis Kruise-In also saw impressive turnout, with over 120 cars, two boats, and a motorcycle participating. Funds raised during the Kruise-In will support local youth programs and the OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

In the chili cook-off, the S.A.N.T.A. Project took home first place, followed by West Lane Charter School, which

won both second place and the People's Choice award. Orchid Health secured third place, while Oregon Empire Real Estate earned accolades for best booth presentation.

City Administrator Matt Michel remarked, "The Harvest Festival brings people out to enjoy and spend time with each other. It's something to look forward to every year." The Veneta Park Board also participated, hosting a free tree raffle for six ornamental trees, continuing their partnership with the City for a second year in promoting environmental awareness.



## Mayor Proclaims October 2024 Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Mayor proclaimed October 2024 National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence affects not only the person being abused, but also children, neighbors, friends, family, coworkers, faith communities and others. The proclamation urges residents to work toward eradicating domestic violence, improving victim safety, and holding perpetrators of domestic abuse and violence accountable.



Hope and Safety Alliance continues to provide safety, hope and healing to domestic violence survivors of all genders through advocacy and support and focuses on educational prevention. They have served the people of Lane County for more than 45 years.

To learn more about how you can help victims or if you are feeling unsafe call 541-485-6513 or visit <https://www.hopesafetyalliance.org/>

# LEAF PICK-UP STARTED TUESDAY OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

**3 Easy Steps...**

- 1) Place DRY leaves into garbage or leaf bag
- 2) Tie the bag shut
- 3) Place on the curb for pick-up

Leaves are picked up Tuesday's and Thursday's as time permits.

If you have any questions about our leaf pick-up program, please contact City Hall at 541-935-2191

**VENETA** Oregon Inc. 1962

## DITCH MAINTENANCE

"The flow of water should not be impeded in any way," says Public Works Director Kyle Schauer. When drainage ditches get blocked it causes them to overflow, leading to flooding and major damage to roads, landscaping and nearby houses. Depositing leaves or other debris in a drainage way or street is a violation of Veneta Municipal Code Chapter 13.15.010.

Residents should be aware that some properties contain protected wetlands. Special care should be taken when removing vegetation.

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# 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".



## Veneta Haunts Needs Volunteers Join them for a Spooktacular Day!



Get ready to embrace the Halloween spirit! Veneta Haunts is looking for volunteers to help make their upcoming event a haunting success.

### What they Need:

- ❖ **Set-Up and Break-Down Crew:** Transform the venue into a Halloween wonderland and help restore it afterward.
- ❖ **Haunted House Characters:** Bring spooky characters to life and thrill to guests!
- ❖ **Family Crafts Assistants:** Guide families in fun and spooky craft activities.

❖ **Photo Booth Helpers:**  
Assist with the photo booth to capture everyone's Halloween spirit.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact us Alexa at [venetahaunts@gmail.com](mailto:venetahaunts@gmail.com). She also has a Facebook page - Veneta Haunts for more details and updates. Your support will help create a memorable day filled with fun and spookiness!



## Public Safety Report - August 2024

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	26	31	31	11	11	11
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	24	23	26	3	6	5
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	119	88	80	1	2	3
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	26	20	28	17	7	4
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	25	17	28	2	1	3
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	8	13	7	4	3	4
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	25	11	12	0	0	0
Neighborhood Watch	0	1	0	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	26	12	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>

# MEET YOUR 2024 CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

## MAYOR CANDIDATES — VOTE FOR 1 —



**ALEXA BENSON**

- Serving on Veneta City Council (2 yrs.), County Transportation Committee, Park Board, Committee Addressing Homelessness
- Focused on quality of life, community building, compassionate code enforcement, public safety, downtown development
- Produced Veneta Haunts, Veneta Fourths and Movies at the Park
- Worked as RN/Nurse Practitioner/Emergency Medicine
- Earned PhD-Nursing and Bachelor of Music



**ROBBIE MCCOY**

- Dedicated community leader, business owner (24 yrs.)
- Veneta City Councilor (7 yrs.)
- Veneta City Council President (2 yrs.)
- Ensuring everyone is heard and focused on public safety, transparency, sustainable growth, economic development
- Serving the community for 20 yrs. as a member of the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber, City Budget Committee (Chair), WL Charter School Board, Lane Council of Governments



Council  
Candidates  
on other side

# CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

— VOTE FOR 2 —



## ANTHONY "PAT" COY

- Serving on the Veneta City Council (5 yrs.), Kiwanis Board of Directors (29 yrs.), Love Project Food Pantry (15 yrs.), Mid Lane Cares (8 yrs.),
- Residing in Veneta with his family for almost 31 years
- Co-chair of Kiwanis Kruise-In
- Retired Manager of Ray's Food Place and Retired Associate Pastor of Olivet Baptist



## DAVID VOLTZ

- Served on the FRSD budget committee for 3 years
- Veneta Planning Commission for 2 years
- Resident of Veneta for over 5 years.
- Background in construction, business ownership, and parenting has strengthened my teamwork and problem-solving skills.
- Aiming to leverage these abilities, to enhance our community and prepare it for the future.



## MAUREEN WRIGHT

- Serving on Veneta City Council (4 yrs.), Economic Development Committee and Business Assistance Committee
- Residing in Veneta for 15 years with my amazing family
- Business owner of TEMPER&MO Candy Co
- Avid fan of all the outdoor activities Fern Ridge offers and lucky to raise my family and live in our beautiful community

Mayoral Candidates on other side

City of Veneta Elections 2024

# Veneta Haunts

Haunted House  
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Monster Mash Disco  
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Food  
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Blood Bank Wine Bar  
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Costume Contests  
children, adults & pets

October 26th  
3pm - 7-ish pm

Face Painting

Nightmare Before Christmas  
Photo Op

Goodie Bags (First 100)

Fortune Teller

Free Games & Crafts

Scavenger Hunt

Local Craft Vendors

Veneta City Park  
25192 E Broadway

This is a FREE event  
Sponsored by Veneta Park Board

