

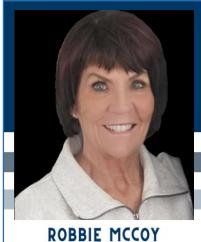
City News

December 2024

Introducing Mayor and City Council Members

On Tuesday, November 5th, the electors of the City of Veneta voted Robbie McCoy as their next Mayor.

Robbie has served on the Veneta City Council since 2017 and as Council President since 2022. Her earliest work with the City was as a Budget Committee member starting in 2009 and she has continued to serve on this Committee since then. Robbie has lived in Veneta since 1958



ROBBIE MCCOY

and is the owner of Robbie's Window Box Café, which has been in business for 24 years. She currently serves as the Treasurer of the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce and is on the board for Lane Council of Governments and West Lane Charter School. Robbie is passionate about living in Veneta and

is honored to serve as its Mayor for the next four years.

(See "Council" on page 3)

Sgt. Parker Explains Why Reporting Crime Directly Makes a Difference

I want to take a moment to thank all of you for the support, trust, and cooperation you consistently show our team at the Lane County Sheriff's Office. Your commitment to the safety of Veneta plays a vital role in our ability to protect and serve. We know that in today's digital age, sharing information on social media is second nature. However, when it comes to reporting crime, theft, or any other police matters, there's something important I'd like to address: the need to contact law enforcement directly *before* posting on social media.



When you witness suspicious activity, or if you're a victim of a crime, your first instinct might be to alert your neighbors by posting online. While it's great that we're looking out for each other, it's essential that your *first call* goes to us at the Lane County Sheriff's Office. Here's why that direct report matters so much:

Immediate Action

When you report directly to us, we can assess the situation in real-time, sending deputies or resources as needed. A post online, while in-

(See "Crime" on page 3)

Upcoming Holiday Events

December 5 - 6:00 p.m.
 **Tree Lighting**, Veneta Elementary School, 88131 Territorial

December 12 - 7:00 p.m.
Veneta-Fern Ridge Light Parade
See insert for Light Parade Map 

December 14 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 **S.A.N.T.A. Toy Giveaway**, Veneta Elementary School, 88131 Territorial

December 21 - 9:00 a.m.
Kiwanis Holiday Food Basket Giveaway
at LDS Church, 88068 Huston Rd 

CIVIC CALENDAR DECEMBER 2024

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

3	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
4	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
5	Tree Lighting at Veneta Elementary School	6:00 p.m.
	City Council - Executive Session	6:00 p.m.
9	City Council Meeting - State of the City Address, Farewell to Mayor Weiss	6:30 p.m.
11	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
12	Light Parade	7:00 p.m.
19	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
25	Christmas Day	 Closed
27	Business Assistance Committee	 9:00 a.m.
Jan 1	New Year's Day	 Closed

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- Did you know that Veneta receives about half of its drinking water from Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)? It's true! That vital connection ensures that Veneta has a reliable water supply for decades to come. Recently, EWEB let us know that we can expect a 7.6% increase for the City's wholesale water. That increase tracks closely with the EWEB customer rate changes. Only a part of that increase will show up on your city water bill because it's shared with all water customers, residential, commercial, and bulk water sales.



PUBLIC WORKS

- The Public Works Team worked on a sample survey of water line connections to identify any lead water line connections as required by federal law. Veneta is a relatively young city so we don't have many legacy lead pipe connections to begin with. We timely submitted our survey to the state, but then the state sent out a last-minute requirement for how to communicate the results of the survey. We checked with Oregon Health Authority about the details and then worked to promptly meet the requirement.



Ribbon Cutting for Pickleball Courts

On November 18th, the City hosted a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Pickleball Courts. Despite the rain and chilly weather, approximately 25 community members attended to mark the occasion.

Mayor-elect and longtime pickleball advocate Robbie McCoy gave an inspiring opening speech, highlighting the significance of these courts for Veneta. Mayor Weiss then cut the ribbon, officially inviting everyone to "play ball!" Visit the City's Facebook and/or Instagram page to see some highlights from the inaugural pickleball games on the brand new courts!

As part of the celebration, the City held a raffle with two prizes: a beginner's pickleball set and a gift basket of pickled goods generously donated by Kurzhall Family Kickin' Pickles. Congratulations to our raffle winners, Tressa Miller and Marie Yost!

Thank you to everyone who attended our opening ceremony! We're excited about this new

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Did you receive a post-card announcing the January 2025 opening of G Street Integrated Health?



It had a picture of the old Nova Health building next to Veneta Yurtel. Listed services included: Family Medicine, Mental Health Counseling, Care Management, Addiction Medicine, and on-site lab and X-ray. Hours listed were 9-5 Monday – Thursday and the website is gstih.org Very exciting!

PUBLIC SAFETY

- A new Neighborhood Watch group has started up in the Madrone Ridge neighborhood. Since 2014, the City of Veneta has been supporting the formation of Neighborhood Watch groups throughout the community. Currently, about 20 local Watch groups are active in their neighborhoods, in addition to a patrol group who observe and report. If you're interested in learning more you can find them on Facebook at Fern Ridge Neighborhood Watch or email at frnw.community@yahoo.com.



addition to Territorial Park, and look forward to seeing you out on the courts.

Stay tuned, Veneta's Park Board is planning a spring Pickleball tournament.



Council cont...

Two Councilors were re-elected this year to serve another four years on City Council.



PAT COY

Anthony "Pat" Coy was re-elected and serves as the Liaison to Mid Lane Cares, Kiwanis of Fern Ridge, and is the Secretary of the Fern Ridge Advocates for the Unhoused Group (FRAUG). Pat's background includes a business career managing grocery stores in California and Oregon and as an Associate Pastor at Olivet Baptist Church. Pat is a servant leader in all that he

does for the City and is proud to serve as a member of City Council.



MAUREEN WRIGHT

Maureen Wright was also re-elected and has served on City Council since January 2021. As a Councilor Maureen served as the Liaison to Veneta's Economic Development and Business Assistance Committees. Maureen is a Chocolatier and Small Business Owner, keeps very busy with her school-aged children and is excited to serve on City Council for another four years.

Crime cont...

formative, doesn't give us the information we need quickly enough to act effectively. In emergencies, every second counts, and your quick call can make a world of difference.

Accurate and Detailed Reporting

When you reach out to us, we're able to ask the specific questions needed to fully understand the incident. This allows us to gather valuable information, such as suspect descriptions, vehicle details, and exact locations, that can be lost or overlooked in social media posts.

Preventing the Spread of Misinformation

Social media is a powerful tool, but sometimes, details get mixed up or misinterpreted as stories get shared. By reporting directly to our office, we ensure that accurate, verified information is recorded, helping us respond in the most effective way without the risk of spreading confusion.

Building a Case with Proper Documentation

If a crime has occurred, having an official report means we can start investigating immediately and building a case with the appropriate documentation. This makes it far easier for us to track trends, catch repeat offenders, and ultimately keep our community safer.

Privacy and Safety

Reporting sensitive information on social media can put you and your family at risk if it falls into the wrong hands. By contacting our office directly, you're assured confidentiality and avoid drawing unnecessary attention to yourself or your property.

How to Report

To report a crime, theft, or any suspicious activity, call our non-emergency line at 541-682-4141, or dial 911 if it's an emergency. Remember: if it's happening now, call us now. Our team is here to respond, assist, and ensure that your information reaches the right people at the right time.

In closing, I want to emphasize how grateful we are for your vigilance. By reaching out directly to law enforcement, you play a key role in keeping Veneta safe. Together, we can ensure that every call counts and that our community remains a safe and welcoming place for all.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. Stay safe.

Sergeant Parker, LCSO, Veneta

Volunteers Needed

The Love Project and Mid Lane Cares have several opportunities for volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Deanna at the Fern Ridge Service Center 541-935-4555.

Fern Ridge Community Services provides free dinners every Sunday and needs 10 volunteers each Sunday to



cook, serve, and clean up. Their long-term volunteers are burning out, and they may have to reduce their services.

You can sign up at: <https://www.fernridgecommunityservices.com/> click on the volunteer box under "Community Dinners".

Keep Right-of-Ways Clear for Safety and Maintenance

As winter approaches, the City reminds residents to keep public right-of-ways clear. According to Veneta Municipal Code Chapter 12 Section 12.15.010(3), public right-of-ways include streets, roads, highways, bridges, alleys, sidewalks, trails, paths, public easements, and other public areas, including subsurface and air space above them.

The City aims to ensure pedestrian safety and maintain streets and drainage systems. Piles of leaves, basketball hoops, garbage cans, illegally parked vehicles, and recreational vehicles left in the public right-of-way often prevent the street sweeper from effectively cleaning streets.

The City has observed an increase in illegal parking in neighborhoods. Many residents park on sidewalks, up on curbs, or in the wrong direction. Sidewalks are for pedestrians, including those with strollers, children, the elderly, and the handicapped. Blocking sidewalks forces pedestrians into the street, creating dangerous situations.

Per Veneta Municipal Code Chapter 10 Sec-

tion 10.05.120(1), vehicles must be parked parallel to the curb, facing the correct direction, with wheels within 12 inches of the curb unless angled parking is indicated. Parking on any part of a sidewalk or allowing a vehicle to overhang the sidewalk violates the code. Vehicle storage is also prohibited. A vehicle is considered "stored" if it remains in the same position for over 30 days. Moving the vehicle within the same block does not reset this timeline. Recreational vehicles, utility trailers, and boats may only be parked on city streets for up to 48 hours.

The City is proactively addressing violations of these regulations. Vehicle owners may face fines ranging from \$50 to \$250. Abandoned vehicles may be tagged, towed, and impounded at the owner's expense. These rules are in place to ensure public safety.

For questions about parking ordinances or to report a violation, contact Code Enforcement at 541-935-2191.



Rate Adjustment Reminder:

Beginning with your January 2025 Utility billing you will see an increase of 2% on your water base and water use and a 3% on your sewer base fees.



Public Safety Report - October 2024

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	40	52	41	18	19	16
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	28	30	24	4	6	4
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	102	65	65	1	0	1
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	17	22	20	0	4	2
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	7	14	16	0	2	2
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	3	4	6	3	3	4
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	15	15	9	0	0	0
Neighborhood Watch	1	0	0	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	13	0	0	0	0	0
Total	226	202	181	26	34	29

Annual Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber Events

TREE LIGHTING

6 PM ★ THURSDAY ★ 12/5

Santa arrives at 6:15 PM! ★ Toy donations gladly accepted.

21st ANNUAL LIGHT PARADE

7 PM ★ THURSDAY ★ 12/12

See Santa Claus in the parade!

2024 SPONSORS



2024 PARTNERS



Barry McGuire (DJ)



2024 Veneta Light

Parade Route

Float Check-In

Parade Starts

8th Street

Parade Ends

City Hall

三

Railroad Tracks

Broadway Ave

卷之三

Christy's Garden

674

31

Dunham Rd 7t

h St

Veneta Light Parade

McCutcheon Ave

McCutcheon

December 12, 2024

Starts on Territorial Hwy
and ends at 8th St