

# City News

April 2025

## Spring is Soon Approaching. Please Spay and Neuter

The City of Veneta like most cities has stray and feral cats in our community. They are in our neighborhoods, behind businesses, in alleys, parks and many rural areas.

Many of the stray cats and feral offspring are from domestic cats that were abandoned or their owners failed to have them spayed or neutered, resulting in uncontrolled breeding. Since 2014 the City of Veneta has been offering no-cost spaying and neutering.



ering in an attempt to reduce the number of stray and feral cats.

Over the last decade, the City of Veneta has altered a total of 583 cats. Of the 583 cats, 325 of them were female. If we assume an average of 3-5 kittens per litter and a female cat can have up to 3 litters per year, then those 325 cats could potentially have produced between 975 and 1,625 kittens each year.

(See "Spay & Neuter" on page 3)

## Arbor Day Proclamation and Tree Planting Event

The Arbor Day Foundation is the world's largest non-profit dedicated to planting trees. While we may celebrate Arbor Day on one day, their motto is **"to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees."** They have many wonderful programs, and here in Veneta, we are proud to partner by being in their program for U.S. cities.

Membership in Tree City USA requires us to meet a few tree-related standards, like having a tree committee, a community tree ordinance, and cele-



**TREE CITY USA**  
Arbor Day Foundation

brating Arbor Day with an official proclamation. In this spirit, we require all new developments to plant a certain number of trees, and also, permits are required to take them down. Trees have many benefits in an urban environment, such as lowering temperatures, reducing energy costs by providing shade, protecting against strong winter winds, reducing air and noise pollution, and even raising property values.

To celebrate the 17<sup>th</sup> year that the

(See "Arbor Day" on page 3)

## SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 10, 2025

The City of Veneta will be hosting the 2nd Annual Open House from 6:00-7:30pm at City Hall! We look forward to seeing you. City Council and City staff will be onsite for a meet and greet and to answer your questions.

Postcards were mailed to all residents and updates will be posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages.



## CIVIC CALENDAR APRIL 2025

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.
10	City Hall Open House	6:00 p.m.
14	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
17	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
18	Business Assistance Committee	9:00 a.m.
19	Easter Egg Hunt at Veneta Elementary School	11:00 a.m.
28	City Council Work Session Meeting	4:00 p.m.

# Department Updates

## ADMINISTRATION

- Oregon's new Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act allows the State of Oregon to collect fees from plastic packaging producers to distribute to local governments to pay for enhanced plastic recycling programs. Veneta will receive roughly \$17,000 to share with our local waste-hauling franchisee, Sanipac to help pay for additional equipment and communications related to this statewide effort to reduce plastics in the waste stream.
- The City is pursuing seismic retrofit grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for City Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the Community Center by the pool. We applied in January of 2023 and we finally heard that the City was invited to provide additional information for further review. There's still hope!



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The Veneta Celebration Run Committee had its first organizing meeting. One big change was the new name: the "Veneta Park Run." The event is August 9<sup>th</sup> so start training now!



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- An undergraduate team from the University of Oregon's Planning, Public Policy and Management Program presented an analysis of a community survey and zoning requirements for development of the City's empty downtown block on West Broadway. We'll add that presentation and analysis to the City's website under "Economic Development" so you can stay informed as we study the opportunities for making Veneta's Downtown District a thriving area.
- The City is collaborating with the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce on an economic identity initiative that local businesses asked for in the most recent Business Retention and Expansion survey. The Chamber will manage the initiative to work with businesses and residents to promote shopping local by using the "Veneta: Enjoy, Explore, Engage" brand identity to foster local pride and connection.



## PUBLIC WORKS

- The City's multi-million-dollar Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project is working its way through regulatory processes for Veneta's future. Recently, we've been talking with the Department of State Lands (DSL) about their determination that an 8.75 unused lagoon at the current treatment plant is a "wetland" that needs to be mitigated when the City puts the lagoon back into service. The cost of wetland mitigation credits is over \$2 million. The City purchased all available mitigation credits for \$645,000 and may need to pay the remaining amount for credits when they eventually become available. The City believes that a common sense, compromise solution is to have DSL accept the City's commitment to pay roughly \$900,000 in credits and acknowledge that the lagoon continues to be a part of the original treatment plant. We're very aware that higher project costs will put upward pressure on future City sewer rates so the City is advocating for a compromise that balances everyone's interests.
- When a big rain happens, you may notice standing water in landscaped areas near your house. Turns out that those areas are actually designed for stormwater and treatment basins. Veneta has several of these throughout the community as a low-cost, natural stormwater management strategy. We monitor them to see that they're not clogged, but otherwise they take care of business, and without batteries!



### Please join us in welcoming new councilor, David Voltz

David was sworn in at the most recent City Council meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. He was on the Planning Commission prior to this opportunity, and comes to the Council eager to apply his experience and knowledge to the position. We are excited to have him as the City of Veneta's latest council member!



## Spay & Neuter cont...

The best way to help reduce the number of unwanted cats in our community is to spay and neuter your own cats.

Stray and feral cats located within city limits, aged eight weeks or older, and weighing at least two pounds qualify for the no-cost voucher program. After the participating veterinarians per-

form the surgeries, cats receive an "ear tip" marking them as spayed or neutered before release.

If you or someone you know has a stray or feral cat or kittens and needs information on spaying or neutering, please contact Teresa Warrick at City Hall at 541-935-2191 or visit [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov).

## Arbor Day cont...

City of Veneta will be recognized as an official 'Tree City USA' by the Arbor Day Foundation, the Mayor will be reading an Arbor Day Proclamation. The tree planting event, organized by the Park Board, will honor former Community Development Director Matt Laird, who passed away

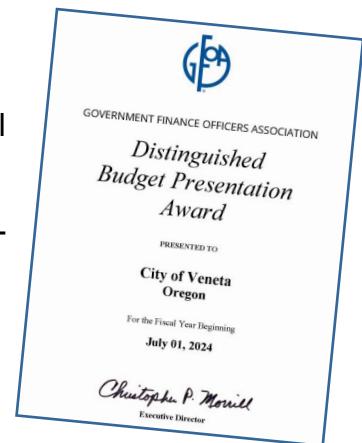
last year. The community is invited to the planting of the memorial tree on Friday, April 28th at 3:00 p.m. at the Bark & Whistle off-leash dog park, located at Territorial Road and Booker Lane in Veneta. We hope to see you there!

## Budget Award - 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row!

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) announced that the City of Veneta received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. This makes the 12th year in a row that the City's budget team has won this recognition!

The award reflects the commitment of staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a

communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. Congratulations to Management Analyst Jacob Thode and Administration Supervisor Ann Haxby on a successful collaboration with City Administrator Matt Michel for another win!



## Welcome New Community Development Director, Kevin Urban!

Kevin Urban stepped into his new role as the City's Community Development Director on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and brings extensive experience in planning, public works, and grant writing to the City of Veneta. He previously served as an engineer for the City of Albany, as well as Planning and Public Works Director for Coquille and Community Services Director for Oakridge.

Having lived in many parts of the country, including Washington State in the late 1980s, Kevin moved back to the Midwest to complete his degree. However, he always planned to return to the Pacific Northwest, which he did in 2002 when he took a job in Oakridge. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Arkansas.



Kevin first learned about Veneta through his connection to the Grateful Dead, and later became more familiar with the city while collaborating on projects in Oakridge. He admires Veneta's strong community spirit, dedicated volunteers, and thoughtful growth. Passionate about parks, he looks forward to applying his grant-writing expertise to enhance the city's parks and public spaces.

Outside of work, Kevin enjoys writing and occupies his free time rescuing mastiffs, a breed of large dogs. He's also a devoted concertgoer—so when you meet him, don't forget to ask about his most recent show!

# APPLY TODAY!



## SUMMER JOB OPENINGS AT VENETA COMMUNITY POOL



To apply for and to see a full job description, visit [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov) - or Scan the QR code below



541-935-2191

## Volunteers Needed

- 1) Planning Commission - 1 opening
- 2) Economic Development Committee - 1 opening

If you are interested in volunteering for either of these committees you can fill out an application on the City website at [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov) or contact 541-935-2191 for more information regarding the openings or to have an application emailed or mailed to you.



## Public Safety Report - February 2025

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	16	15	24	5	6	8
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	13	15	14	1	4	1
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	59	93	62	1	5	1
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	24	15	16	4	3	3
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	11	33	22	3	4	3
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	2	1	4	2	1	3
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	6	11	8	0	11	0
Neighborhood Watch	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	28	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>

# Veneta CITYWIDE CLEAN-UP

**Saturday May 3, 2025**

**8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ♦ 5<sup>th</sup> St & Bolton Hill**

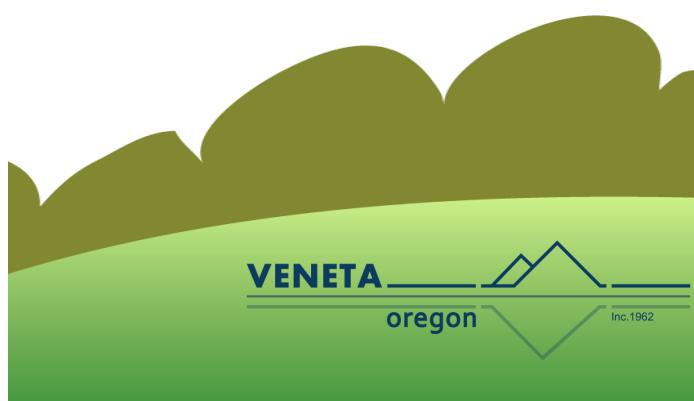
**The City Wide Clean-Up is FREE OF CHARGE and limited to residents  
within the City of Veneta (proof of residency required)  
Take this time to clean up your home, yard, and neighborhood**

**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**



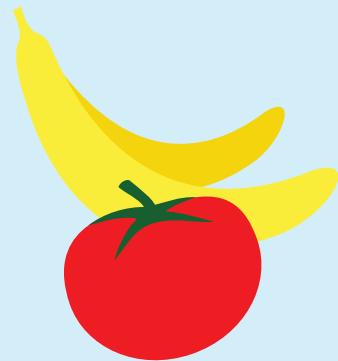


# CURBSIDE COMPOSTING

**NOW AVAILABLE with SANIPAC for all  
Veneta Yard Debris Customers!**

## **How to Start Composting Food Waste:**

- Place a sealable container in a convenient location in your kitchen
- Toss in all food scraps and plate scrapings
- Empty your kitchen container into your yard debris bin, along with your yard debris in layers. There will be no changes to your pickup schedule
- Check out our Curbside Composting video with Eugene Emerald's Sluggo at our website [www.sanipac.com](http://www.sanipac.com)



## **Kitchen Container Tips:**

- Empty your container into your yard debris bin frequently.
- Drain excess liquids down the sink
- Clean your kitchen container regularly
- Shut the lid of your container and bin when not in use

## **Roll Cart Tips:**

- Clean your yard debris bin regularly. Do this in a gravel or grassy area, not allowing run-off or debris to enter the stormwater drain at the street
- Sprinkle baking soda at the bottom of your yard debris cart to keep odors down
- Maintain a good mix of yard debris and food scraps in your bin when possible
- Store containers in a shady area
- Even if your yard debris bin isn't very full, be sure to bring it to the curb on every collection day
- Freeze or refrigerate food scraps until you dump into your yard debris bin



## **What goes in the bin?**

**YES:** Yard debris, plant trimmings, floral waste, plate scrapings, meat, bones, dairy products, baked goods, fruits and vegetables.

**NO:** Liquids, serviceware of any kind (compost or otherwise - this program is for food and yard debris only), paper, oil, food-soiled paper (paper towels, napkins, etc.)

**Sanipac**

[www.sanipac.com](http://www.sanipac.com)

**541-736-3600**

[cust2013@wasteconnections.com](mailto:cust2013@wasteconnections.com)



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