

City News

May 2025

Keep Grass and Weeds Under Control

It is unlikely that we can prevent wildfires from occurring. The goal is to improve a home's chance of surviving a wildfire with little to no damage. That means residents must stay ahead of fast-growing grass, weeds and noxious vegetation. Tall grass and weeds, once warmer weather gets here, can become a fire hazard and it also provides shelter for unwanted rodents and collection of dust pollen.

This time of the year the City of Veneta Mu-

nicipal Code, Chapter 8.05, Section 8.05.060 (3) requires that between May 1 and September 30, no owner or person in charge of property shall allow noxious vegetation to be on the property or in the right-of-way of a public thoroughfare abutting the property all the way up to the street.

Noxious vegetation includes weeds and grass more than 10 inches high, poison oak,

(See "Grass & Weeds" on page 3)

Dog Waste and Waterways

Did you know that dog poop left behind on public or private property is a leading source of pollutants in urban streams and waterways?

Pet waste can include major pollutants like nitrogen, pathogens, and even parasites, and can cause weed and algae blooms and significant health risks. When someone leaves pet waste on the ground, stormwater runoff picks it up and deposits it into nearby streams, lakes, and rivers.



In Veneta, all stormwater drains move water northeast until it reaches Fern Ridge Reservoir, which residents use to swim, kayak, paddleboard, or otherwise enjoy themselves. So please, the next time you take your dog out, plan ahead and bring a bag or use one of the City's pet waste stations that are available at all City parks. Always remember to scoop that poop! The health and safety of your waterways depends on it.

Dog Park to Open May 10th!

The long-awaited Bark & Whistle dog park is set to open on **Saturday, May 10th at 10:00 a.m.** To celebrate this grand opening, there will be a doggie parade and ribbon-cutting hosted by the Veneta Park Board to open the park to the public.

People who wish to participate in the parade should come to the west end of the park (near 4th Street) on Brooker Avenue prior to the 10:00 a.m. parade start time. The parade will proceed through the west entrance gates to promenade along the sidewalks in the park. We'll pass by the Small Dog fenced area where our smaller furry friends can enjoy their new space, while the larger dogs are unleashed to frolic and play!

And yes, we'll have a Doggie Costume Contest! Judges will be on the main concrete area with a view of all parade participants as they pass by. Hope to see your canine there!



CIVIC CALENDAR		
MAY 2025		
All meetings held at City of Veneta, 88184 8th St, unless otherwise noted		
3	City-wide Cleanup	8:00 a.m.
6	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
7	Park Board	4:30 p.m.
10	Bark & Whistle Dog Park Opening	10:00 a.m.
11	Mother's Day	
12	City Council Meeting followed by Urban Renewal Agency Meeting	6:30 p.m.
15	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
19	Economic Development Committee	3:30 p.m.
26	City Council Meeting	
	Memorial Day	Closed
29	Budget Committee Meeting	5:00 p.m.
30	Business Assistance Committee	9:00 a.m.

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- Congratulations to Management Analyst Jacob Thode and Administration Supervisor Ann Haxby who are the winners of the 2025 Distinguished City Service Award for successfully producing another award-winning budget document. Together, Ann and Jacob were instrumental in creating the City's 254-page annual budget in six short weeks at the end of the year, in addition to their regular responsibilities at the City of Veneta. Their collaborative efforts led to the City winning another recognition award for the 12th year in a row from the Government Finance Officers' Association! Jacob updated numbers and performance statistics across all of the City's many activities, summarizing how the City's \$19 million-dollar budget works to support the community. He developed helpful charts and tables, as well as finding interesting trends to share with Veneta residents. Ann took the elements that Jacob produced and fit them seamlessly together in a cohesive budget document. She composed the document, including establishing hyperlinks in the Table of Contents to the various document sections to make it easier to navigate. In fact, that user-friendly feature received special recognition by the award reviewers! Thank you, Jacob and Ann, for your professionalism and commitment to transparent government. Their exceptional service to the Veneta community is building a legacy of good government at the City of Veneta.
- Park Board volunteer Tory Macklin is the City's Distinguished Volunteer Service Award winner for his help with the Bolton Hill Sports Complex project. Tory has been instrumental in coordinating with Territorial Sports Program on the design and use of the fields. He researched various field configurations with the goal of maximizing field use for all ages. He is also a member of the Veneta Parks Board and contributes his time to volunteering at several Park Board events, including welcoming Easter Egg Hunt guests while getting a count of participants, and staffing the Park Board table at the Harvest Festival. Tory's generous gift of time and energy to the community is his investment in the future of Veneta's parks.



- We had a good audience with familiar and new faces at the 2nd annual City Hall Open House on April 10th. In addition to providing residents an opportunity to learn about their city, the event generated interest in serving on the Economic Development Committee, too.
- The City submitted its last annual report to the U.S. Treasury Department as required of all recipients of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program. The City received a total of \$1,123,013.06 three years ago and here's how those funds were used:
 1. Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion (Facilities Plan & Wetland Mitigation): \$1,033,277.06
 2. Rescue Veneta Business Grant Program: \$23,750.00
 3. Broadband Build-out Analysis: \$35,986.00
 4. Veneta Economic Identity Study: \$30,000.00
- The Park Board hosted an Arbor Day Event honoring former Community Development Director Matt Laird. A beautiful Sequoia tree was planted in his memory at the Bark & Whistle Dog Park on Friday, April 25th. The park will open to the public on Saturday, May 10th.



PUBLIC WORKS

- Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services Division was onsite last month for their annual waster system inspection. This is an on-site review of the water source(s), facilities, equipment, operation, maintenance and monitoring compliance of a public water system to evaluate the adequacy of the water system, its sources and operations in the distribution of safe drinking water. The City passed inspection with flying colors!
- Oregon's Department of State Lands staff explored options within the existing rules and law to reduce costs for wetlands mitigation with the City's wastewater treatment plant exemption project. Unfortunately, they couldn't come up with any options, without changing their prior determinations, to the City paying



(See "Department Updates" on page 3)



ATTENTION RESIDENTS:

A permit has been issued for a ceremonial discharge of firearms on May 24th from 11:15am – 11:30am at City Park on Broadway. There will be a Lane County Sheriff's Office deputy present during the discharge of firearms.

Grass and Weeds cont...

poison ivy, blackberry bushes, and any vegetation that presents a health, fire or traffic hazard. Property owners or residents must mow grass and trim or cut down shrubs, bushes, weeds or other noxious vegetation as often as necessary to prevent such vegetation from becoming unsightly or a fire hazard or, in the case of noxious weeds, from going to seed.

Persons failing to abate a nuisance may be subject to citation and fines through Veneta Mu-

nicipal Court. Each day's violation constitutes a separate offense. The City reserves the right to issue citations in addition to, or in lieu of, abatement. Charges for such abatement can become a lien against your property. For more information, contact the City of Veneta Code Enforcement at (541) 935-2191, www.venetaoregon.gov.



Department Updates cont...

over \$2 million for wetland mitigation credits before even starting to work on the wastewater treatment plant expansion. The City won't get a final permit until mitigation requirements are complete. On a related matter, the City received good news from the US Army Corps. They finalized their determination that they will not require a federal permit related to the project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The City is pursuing a county permit for putting fiber in Lane County's right of way on KR Nielsen Road for the Middle Mile Project. We'll need to work with a contract biologist to document any state-protected Bradshaw's lomatium in the work zone as part of the permit requirements. That plant has a short blooming season that's happening right now, so it's good that the contractor we plan to use is available to conduct the study sooner than later.
- The Economic Development Committee (EDC), an advisory body to the city council, will be changing their meeting date from 2nd Wednesdays to 3rd Mondays. The EDC will meet at 3:30 PM at City Hall on 8th Street. All EDC meetings are open to the public.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Elmira-Veneta Multi-Use Path Update: The Oregon Department of State Lands completed their review of the project's wetland delineation report and they agree with the report's conclusions for purposes of the state Removal-Fill Law only. Lane County, the lead agency on the project, will need to attach a copy of their letter to any subsequent Federal or state permit application. One step closer!
- The City will be building the planned Bark & Whistle dog park gazebo to allow that cost to be included as a match for our Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grant. The Grant-to-Match ratio for this project is 12.5% Grant to 87.5% Match. So, the State can reimburse the City 12.5 cents for every eligible dollar spent on the project.
- St. Vincent de Paul donated 20 boxes of books for Veneta's Easter Egg Hunt on April 19th. That amounted to about 360 books that kids were able to explore and find the book that looked interesting to them. Thank you, St. Vinnies!
- Additionally, thank you to Fern Ridge Library for reading books to kids in the hour leading up to the Easter Egg Hunt. Kids gathered around in the Veneta Elementary gym to listen to stories while the Easter Bunny made its way to them.



Volunteers Needed



Economic Development Committee - 1 vacancy

If you are interested in volunteering for the Economic Development Committee, please fill out an application by May 7th. You can pick up an application from City Hall, 88184 8th St., or download an application from the City website at www.venetaoregon.gov. For questions about the vacancy contact City Hall at 541-935-2191.

APPLY TODAY!

SUMMER JOB OPENINGS AT VENETA COMMUNITY POOL



To apply for and to see a full job description, visit www.venetaoregon.gov - or Scan the QR code below



541-935-2191

Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market

Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market (VDFM) located at Territorial Road & Luther Lane opens May 3, 2025 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Market will be open every Saturday through October 11, 2025.

Produce 4 Kids (P4K) allows children 12 & under to receive a \$5.00 token each market day to purchase produce or a food producing plant. The P4K is supported in part by the City of Veneta, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, and the Upper Willamette Soil and Conservation District.



The Market accepts the Oregon Trail Card (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) along with Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB). Oregon Trail Card recipients can run their card for an amount they choose and VDFM will match that amount up to \$20 each market day. The DUFB program is supported by State of Oregon grants. For more information see the Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market's website, Nextdoor, Facebook, and/or Instagram pages.

Public Safety Report - March 2025

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	16	32	26	6	17	6
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	15	28	20	3	7	4
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	71	68	63	1	1	1
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	16	20	18	3	3	2
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	8	13	16	1	1	2
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	0	5	6	0	4	4
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	6	28	11	0	0	0
Neighborhood Watch	0	0	1	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	21	27	24	0	0	0
Total	153	221	185	14	33	19



If you have underground sprinklers, they must be tested yearly to make certain they are working properly and to ensure that our drinking water stays safe. The 2nd round of letters have been mailed and tests are due in May. To find out more about our backflow program or to find a list of certified backflow testers, please visit our website: <https://www.venetaoregon.gov/244/Backflow-Cross-Connection>

Pool Opening June 14th

Get ready to dive into summer fun! The Veneta Community Pool will make a splash on **June 14th** as it opens for the season.

The Summer Recreation Guide will be hitting the shelves the first week of June. Plan your summer adventures with exciting activities for everyone. Updates will be posted on our website, www.venetaoregon.gov. From swim lessons to poolside lounging and our three signature events,



we've got your summer covered.

We know you are excited for this upcoming year, but please keep in mind that no one will be staffing the pool until

June. If you call the pool and leave a message it may not be returned for several weeks. Messages can be left at 541-935-4390. Stay tuned, stay refreshed, and get ready to make a splash this summer in Veneta!

Hundreds Gather for Veneta's 39th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 19, 2025, Veneta Elementary School came alive with the sounds of laughter, excitement, and community spirit as families gathered for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Organized for children up to 10 years, the event welcomed an estimated 820 attendees, with approximately 335 enthusiastic kids participating in the egg hunt.

The morning kicked off with Storytime from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. At 11:00 a.m., the much-awaited Easter Egg Hunt began, and young participants raced across the school grounds, gathering colorful eggs hidden in the grass.

The event's success was made possible thanks to the dedication of volunteers from a vari-

ety of local organizations. Members from Kiwanis of Fern Ridge, Encounter, local Scout Troop 50, Key Club, St. Vincent de Paul, and the Fern Ridge Library Foundation all played important roles in organizing, preparing, and managing the activities. Their commitment to the community ensured a safe, welcoming, and memorable event for all families involved.

The Easter Egg Hunt has long been a treasured tradition in Veneta, and this year's strong turnout proves that community spirit remains vibrant. The Veneta Park Board extends their heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, families, and supporters who helped make the day a wonderful celebration for the young and young at heart.



BARK & WHISTLE DOG PARK



**Grand Opening and
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony**

Followed by

DOG PARADE

Saturday, May 10th at 10:00 a.m.

25031 Brooker Lane - North of Territorial Dari Mart

**VOTE FOR WHAT
AMENITIES YOU
WANT TO
FUNDRAISE FOR BY
SCANNING BELOW:**

