

City News

September 2025

2025 National Night Out - Lane Fire Authority Crowned Champions!

On the first Tuesday of August did you come out to meet your local Lane County Sheriff's Office deputies and Lane Fire Authority firefighters at Veneta's 4th National Night Out? What great fun for the roughly 350 kids and adults who did!

This year's National Night Out was a major success, but we can't say it didn't have its controversies. In the first-ever Battle of the First Responders Challenge, Lane Fire Authority came out on top over Lane County Sheriff's Of-

fice, winning both the Tug-of-War and Bucket Brigade contest. Some eyebrows were raised as LFA conscripted the largest people in the crowd to help them win the Tug-of-War. And then at the Bucket Brigade challenge, LFA skipped the line to fill their buckets before the LCSO deputies, who tried some of their own trickery to no avail. LCSO Sergeant Colt Parker humbly accepted the loss and congratulated

(See "NNO 2025" on page 3)

Bolton Hill Sports Complex Funding and Construction

The City is upgrading the Bolton Hill Sports Complex starting this summer! For decades the home of organized youth softball, baseball, and soccer leagues operated by Territorial Sports Program (TSP), the fields are finally getting the upgrade they need to provide a playing and gathering experience worthy of a world class small town like Veneta. How did we get to this point and, just as importantly, how is the project being paid for? Let's step to the pitcher's mound and pitch each question in turn.

First pitch: Why upgrade the sports fields? Since the early 2000s community input on successive Parks Master plans consistently asked the City to upgrade the fields in an organized, efficient, and attractive manner. This included field resurfacing, improved parking, and added park amenities. The City completed the first Bolton Hill Sports Complex Master Plan in 2011 with a concept design and estimated cost of \$2.2 million. Ten years later, the City updated the concept de-

(See "Sports Complex" page 3)

Mayor's Corner



I recently attended the Mayor's Conference in Baker City, Oregon. It was a great opportunity to learn and connect with other city leaders across the state. Sharing ideas and experiences helps strengthen all of our communities.

Here in Veneta, our National Night Out was a big success! Families filled the park to enjoy games, K9 demonstrations, and some friendly competitions among our first responders. It was wonderful to see the community come together.

A special congratulations to our City Administrator Matt, who placed first in his division of the Veneta's Park Run, and to his daughter Mia, who also came in first in hers!

Next up is one of Veneta's

(See Mayor's Corner page 3)



CIVIC CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2025

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

1	HAPPY LABOR DAY	Closed
2	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
3	Park Board Work Session - Park Board Meeting - immediately following at 4:30	3:30 p.m.
8	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
13	 25035 W. Broadway, Territorial to 5th St.	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
15	Economic Development Committee Meeting	3:30 p.m.
18	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
22	City Council Work Session	4:00 p.m.
26	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- We've got the final fiscal year 2023-2024 audit in hand. The auditor will present their work to the City Council at the September 8th regular session meeting. High Fives to our contract accountant Cindy Hanks, Administration Supervisor Ann Haxby, and City Recorder Jen Mirabile for pulling together to keep the auditors well fed with information that they needed to get the job done.
- The City is partnering with Lane County Emergency Management to update the City's Emergency Operation Plan. We did the last one in 2016 funded by a joint-grant to the City and Lane Fire Authority. This time, the City partnered with Lane County to win a grant. The County will first meet with City management, and then meet with Lane Fire Authority and the Sheriff's Office to discuss incident response, resource limitations, and information sharing between the agencies for each hazard that may impact the city.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers is laying the groundwork to host public scoping meetings for the Fern Ridge Master Plan revision. Look for news in the City newsletter and on the City's Facebook page about an upcoming October public meeting in the Veneta area, as well as one virtual meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Construction on the Bolton Hill Sports Complex upgrade has begun! You can monitor progress on the City's website at the Public Works Department page: <https://www.venetaoregon.gov/382/Bolton-Hill-Updates>. (scan the QR code to the right to visit the page) This Phase 1 work over the next several months will improve the ballfields including drainage and artificial turf on two of the four infields.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- To reclaim wetlands from excessive use by unsanctioned camping, the City removed ex-

cessive trash, debris, and waste from its property at the southwest corner of 8th Street and OR 126. A work crew from the Lane County Sheriff's Office assisted with the removal, while City staff guided the work. The City's goal was to hit the "reset button" for the wetlands area and stay attentive to preventing debris from accumulating there again. Going forward, Veneta's LCSO deputies and City Code Enforcement will regularly check the area and address any nuisance issues like trash, fires, and any kinds of structures. If an identified issue isn't timely addressed, then the responsible person(s) can be trespass from the property, if necessary. At the August 11th City Council meeting, staff presented a 6-page memo that outlined how staff balanced the City's obligations to preserve and protect wetlands and the City's obligations to enforce nuisance codes as it affects unsanctioned campers at the property, including a clear process of communication and consistent actions to respect individual rights and City obligations.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- A long-standing Economic Development Committee broadband project is gaining momentum! The Middle-Mile Fiber Project was identified about a decade ago to give the City its own dark fiber connected to the Willamette Valley fiber backbone. The idea was to enable the City to encourage internet service providers (ISPs) to competitively serve Veneta businesses and residents. When the project started, the City had two incumbent ISPs, Spectrum and CenturyLink. Fast forward to today, both DFN and Hunter are actively deploying fiber in the City, and Ziply is seeking a franchise to serve the City as well. While the City may not need to encourage more ISPs, the City can offer its Middle-Mile pathway as a redundant loop to improve an ISP's reliability for Veneta customers. The City recently made headway in identifying how to get the fiber from Eugene to Veneta. Next steps will include an agreement for operating the infrastructure, engineering the plans, and getting pole attachment sign-off from Lane Electric.



NNO 2025 cont...

LFA for being the “Most Covert Cheaters” this year!

Like the Challenge shenanigans that took place, the rest of the event was a HIT! Popular attractions this year were the Sheriff’s Mounted Posse and Dunk Tank, the Deputy Donut-Eating Contest, Lane Fire’s bouncy houses, live music provided by Dakota Johnson, along with shaved ice, hot dogs, drinks and prizes for everyone that participated! And a huge shout out to the winners of this year’s Pie-Eating Contest, who went above and beyond to devour a chocolate cream pie. The photos speak for themselves! And kudos to new City Accountant Jordan Myers for volun-

teering to be the chew toy for the LCSO K9 unit demonstration! Meanwhile, everyone enjoyed free hotdogs and drinks courtesy of Sanipac in partnership with Coca-Cola and grilled up by Ignite Veneta Alliance church and managed by the Fern Ridge Kiwanis.

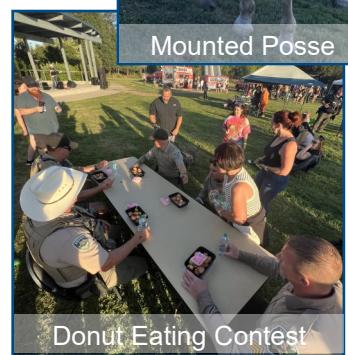
What a great small town community event! Thank you to everyone who helped make this year’s event so successful! We hope to improve on our success and see you again for National Night Out in 2026!



Pie Eating Contest



Sgt Parker for the dive and the win!



Mounted Posse

Donut Eating Contest

Sports Complex cont...

signs in collaboration with TSP. The new cost estimate was a little over \$8 million, and community feedback for completing the upgrade remained strong. That’s why the City is upgrading the sports fields. The community has been asking for over 15 years to upgrade the facility.

Second pitch: How is the project being paid for? Existing property taxes accumulated for more than ten years from all the local tax agencies including the City, Fern Ridge School District, Lane Fire Authority, Fern Ridge Library, Lane County, and others. Each agency has been contributing a portion of their property tax revenue towards projects that invest in the Veneta community. How they contribute is through

what’s called “tax increment financing” that directs a portion of tax revenues to the Veneta Urban Renewal Agency to build projects. The Agency is paying for the bulk of the project, while the City is pursuing grant funds to help offset some expenses. For example, the City applied for a \$100,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the Phase 2 playground at the west-end of the Sports Complex!

If you have a question about the project that you’d like to pitch, let us know! Email City Administrator Matt Michel at mmichel@venetaoregon.gov and he’ll try to hit your pitch out of the park for you!

Mayor’s Corner cont...

favorite traditions—the Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 13th. This year’s festival will feature vintage cars, local vendors, the always-popular Chili Cook-Off, and a cornhole tournament. We’ll also enjoy fantastic live music from Samba Ja and Donnie Raye and the Blues Foun-

dation on 3rd Street.

I look forward to seeing everyone out celebrating what makes Veneta such a great place to live!

Enjoy the City!
Veneta Mayor Robbie McCoy

Leaf Pick-up Begins October 1st!



The City of Veneta leaf pick up program will begin on October 2nd and end on January 27th. Leaf pick 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 call City Hall at 541-935-2191.

Back to School Driving Tips

As the school year begins, the City of Veneta reminds drivers to be extra cautious. School zones become congested with buses, children biking or walking, and parents rushing to drop off kids. Slow down and stay alert—especially during morning and afternoon hours.



If You're Dropping Off

Know your school's drop-off and pick-up procedures.

General rules include:

- Avoid double parking—it blocks visibility.
- Never load/unload kids across the street.

Sharing the Road with Pedestrians

- Don't block crosswalks.
- Yield when school zone flashers blink.
- Stop for crossing guards.

- Stay alert in school zones and neighborhoods.

Sharing the Road with Buses

- Keep extra distance behind buses.
- Yellow lights mean slow down.
- Red lights and stop-arms mean stop.
- Never pass a stopped bus on undivided roads.
- Stay at least 10 feet back—this is the danger zone.

Stay alert and take extra time to get where you are going, let's keep Veneta's students safe!

Volunteers Needed



Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer in your community? Veneta Serves is a local non-profit organizing volunteers to help around our community and at community events. You can make a difference while gaining valuable experience and meeting new people. If you're interested in learning more, contact Alexa Benson at venetaserves@gmail.com

Public Safety Report - JULY 2025

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	10	34	26	4	14	11
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	21	35	24	5	3	5
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	72	144	87	2	1	2
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	17	19	19	2	4	4
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	13	22	20	4	6	4
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	3	12	5	3	6	3
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	9	71	21	0	0	2
Traffic Stops	28	71	50	0	0	0
Total	173	408	252	20	34	31

National Preparedness Month

Preparedness Starts At Home

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

VENETA

HARVEST FESTIVAL

September 13, 2025

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

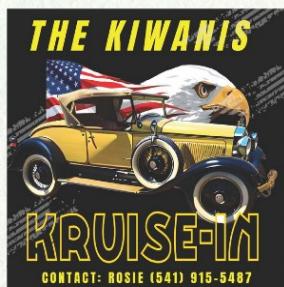
FESTIVAL EVENTS

8:00 am - 11:00 am -

Breakfast served by American Legion Post 61 (Breakfast served inside Fern Ridge Service Center)

8:00 am

- Chili cook-off starts
- Registration begins for Kiwanis Kruise-In come vote for your favorite car!



10:00 am -

Vendor Booths open on Broadway Over 70 artisans, vendors, and food trucks! Vehicle displays from Lane County Sheriff's Office and Lane Fire Authority

10:00 am - 2:00 pm -

Job & resource fair hosted by CEDO, located in the West Lane Fitness Parking Lot

11:30 am - Parade of Music by Samba Ja

11:45 am -

Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce Chili Cook-off Judging begins



12:15 pm -

Chili tastings available for purchase



1:00 pm -

Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce Corn Hole Battle of the Bags Tournament at Long Tom Bar & Grill

2:30 pm - Chili cookoff winner announced

3:00 pm - Harvest Festival Closes

Call 541-935-4555
for more information



Mid Lane Cares
Inspiring hope in our neighbors



Event Sponsored by:

