

City News

November 2025

City Council Approves Water & Sewer Rate Adjustments

At last month's City Council meeting, the Council voted to increase water rates by 3% and sewer rates by 2%, effective January 1, 2026. These adjustments follow the City's 2022 rate study, which recommended annual increases through 2028 to ensure sustainable funding for essential services.

Water and sewer rates are based on the actual and projected costs of providing reliable service, including materials, staffing, and infra-

structure. With more than 5,000 residents and continued growth, Veneta is preparing for two major projects: a new water reservoir on Bolton Hill, estimated at \$2–\$3 million, and a sewer plant expansion projected at \$35–\$38 million.

The City aims to keep rates affordable while funding these improvements at a sustainable pace. Water rates remain low and competitive amongst nearby communities, though sewer

(See "Rate Adjustment" on page 3)

Backyard Burn Season is Here

Backyard burn season generally starts in mid-October and ends in early June, and dates can vary depending on weather conditions. Each day during the burn season, LRAPA (Lane Regional Air Protection Agency) makes the determination if it is a suitable day for burning or not. Individuals looking to burn may either call LRAPA at 541-726-2976 or check the LRAPA website to ensure that the day's con-



ditions are favorable for backyard burning. A burn permit must be on the premises while burning backyard vegetation. You can find a printable permit at Lane Fire Authority's website at www.lanefire.org.

Here are a few other safety requirements to keep in mind:

- Burn piles must be no larger than 3 cubic

(See "Backyard Burning" page 3)

Mayor's Corner



October has been a busy and inspiring month in Veneta! Councilors Voltz, Wright, Bensen, and I attended the League of Oregon Cities Conference in

Portland, where we connected with community leaders from across the state. It's always valuable to share ideas and bring home new ways to strengthen and grow our city.

Council President Coy and I also joined the CASA Luncheon, hearing powerful stories about the advocates who give a voice to children in need. It was a meaningful reminder of how compassion and community service make a lasting impact.

One of my favorite highlights was visiting Veneta Elementary's first graders as they learned about community jobs. Their excitement and questions about what a mayor does were truly heartwarming.

(See Mayor's Corner page 3)

CIVIC CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2025



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



4	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
5	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
10	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
11	Veteran's Day Observed	Closed
19	Economic Development Committee Meeting	3:30 p.m.
20	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
21	Business Assistance Committee	9:00 a.m.
24	City Council Work Session	4:00 p.m.
27	Thanksgiving Day Observed	Closed
28	Thanksgiving Observed	Closed



Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- The City has been working with state Senator James Manning to reintroduce a bill this November to make it easier and less expensive for small cities like Veneta to apply for state grants. House Bill 3654 would lower the required amount of money that smaller Oregon cities must match for a state grant from 40% to 7% or 9%. While the bill ultimately failed in the Senate this summer, it passed the House with broad bipartisan support. The upcoming short session in 2026 will present another opportunity to continue the discussion about how it greatly benefits small cities.
- City staff attended a National Incident Management System Incident Command Systems (ICS) training in Eugene. The ICS-300 class trains individuals who take on supervisory roles in a multi-jurisdictional emergency. When the Cascadia earthquake picks up “Normal” and smashes it on the ground, City staff will be prepared to help the Veneta community recover.
- You may recall that our auditor asked the City to obtain a GASB 75 Actuarial Valuation Report. Well, now we have one!! It's good for the next two years, 2025 and 2026. A large actuarial company, Milliman, prepares these reports for Oregon cities in partnership with our insurer, CIS Trust. The report estimates the present value of “Other Postemployment Benefits” sponsored by Veneta for those employees who retire before they reach age 65 and qualify for Medicaid. The City's total liability is \$53,984. This is an estimated amount that the City will pay over time, and as such isn't an additional amount the city must set aside.
- On a related note, we're closing in on finishing the working papers for the auditors to review for the upcoming audit of the City's 2024-2025 fiscal year. The auditors will come to City Hall for three days in the first week of November to gather information and then deliver their findings to the City Council in December.



date - Housing Focus from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)! As part of the grant, DLCD will match the City with a consultant team to develop a detailed work program and budget. This will help the community explore how to enhance W. Broadway as a downtown destination with housing options.

- On a related note, the City didn't win an ODOT Transportation Growth Management grant that we had applied for in tandem with the DLCD grant we did win. However, City staff are talking with ODOT about how ODOT can support the City's work on improving Veneta's downtown.
- The City recently applied for another grant. This grant would help plan for wetland management and development in the Jack Kelley Drive area. It's a Technical Assistance Grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to support planning and design for the work. The Oregon Department of Transportation is a potential partner for drainage coordination and design input to ensure the work complements Highway 126 and reduces downstream stormwater impacts. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Fern Ridge School District could be partners in making this project deliver several opportunities for sustainable development and wetlands education.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The City's local-business-support contractor RAIN is teaming up with Veneta's Key Bank branch to host quarterly Business After Hours events for local business managers and owners. The first event happened in October.
- The City submitted another Department of Land Conservation and Development application for a 2025–2027 Technical Assistance Grant. The application asks for \$60,000 to help update key economic development plans, focusing on updating the 2015 Economic Opportunity Analysis and supporting plans including the 2014 Residential Buildable Lands Analysis, and a Retail Market Analysis to reflect current local economic conditions and guide future growth.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The City won a Housing Planning Assistance grant to fund a Downtown Master Plan Up-

Rate Adjustment cont...

costs are higher in comparison. Veneta continues to balance cost with service, affordability, and reliability.

Learn more about these upcoming rate adjustments and how Veneta compares to our neighboring communities by reading staff's recommen-

dations that were provided at the Veneta City Council's October meeting. Visit the City website at www.venetaoregon.gov/gendacenter and subscribe to receive meeting notices.

For questions regarding the rates, call City Hall at 541-935-2191.

Mayor Corner cont...

To finish the month, Councilors Wright, Voltz, and I braved the rain and wind to judge Halloween costumes at Veneta Haunts. Councilor Benson was instrumental in helping the Park Board put on the event. The creativity and spirit of our residents shone through the storm!

I'm continually grateful for our hardworking councilors who dedicate their time and energy to serving Veneta with heart and commitment.

Robbie McCoy, Mayor of Veneta



Backyard Burning cont...

yards (one cubic yard is equivalent to a box measuring 3 feet wide by 3 feet long by 3 feet deep for a total of 27 cubic feet)

- Burn piles should be constantly tended by a responsible adult
- Have water and tools (fire extinguisher, shovel, etc.) for controlling or extinguishing the fire
- Burn barrels are prohibited.

Do not burn: leaves, grass clippings, garbage, plastic, wire insulation, automotive parts, asphalt, petroleum by-products, petroleum treated products, tires, cardboard, clothing, demolition waste,

animal remains or waste, construction waste, animal or vegetable matter, or other materials that may emit dense smoke, noxious odors or hazmat air contaminants.

Residents in violation of any of these regulations are subject to fines. For more information, or to determine if it is a burn day, call 541-726-2976 or visit www.lrapa.org/air-quality-protection/burningoverview/outdoor-burning/.

To report a concern, call the LRAPA complaint line at 541-726-1930. In the event of an immediate threat, such as a fire spreading, call 911.

Stormwater Runoff & Impervious Surfaces

As Veneta grows, nature is replaced by impervious surfaces like roofs, roads, and parking lots. When this happens, stormwater is prevented from soaking into the ground like it did before. If not properly managed, this can lead to flooding as more rain flows over these impervious surfaces. As it flows, it also picks up pollutants like motor oil, pet waste, fertilizers, and pesticides and washes them directly into local waterways like the Long Tom River and Fern Ridge Reservoir. Stormwater facilities such as rain gardens, swales, basins, or ponds can capture runoff from impervious surfaces, slowing down the runoff and filtering out pollutants. The end result is fewer floods, cleaner groundwater, and cleaner surface water.

The City requires stormwater facilities for projects that create more than 1,000 square feet of new impervious surfaces. If you have a project in mind that would meet this standard, contact City staff before you begin so we can help you get the approvals you need.





ATTENTION RESIDENTS:

A permit has been issued for a ceremonial discharge of firearms on November 8th from 11:30am – 12:00pm at City Park on E. Broadway. There will be a Lane County Sheriff's Office deputy present during the discharge of firearms.

Volunteers Needed

Join City of Veneta Park Board!

The Park Board has one opening to serve on this citizen advisory committee that helps plan community events, guide park development and serves as the Tree City USA Tree Board.

Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday each month at 4:30 PM at Veneta City Hall.

If you're passionate about parks, trees, and community involvement, apply today! Questions? Call City Hall 541-935-2191 or visit www.venetaoregon.gov for more information and an application.



Volunteer with Senior & Disability Services!

Here are some current opportunities:

- Volunteer Drivers needed in Veneta for Rural Medical Escort Rides Program(mileage reimbursement, use personal vehicle). Drivers provide medical transport to neighbors in rural communities.
- Urgent need for Café 60 Kitchen Helpers, Frozen Meal Assistant, and backup up Meals

on Wheels delivery drivers at Veneta Senior Meals Program site (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) located at Fern Ridge Service Center at 25035 W. Broadway Ave. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Melisa Andrion at 541-682-1366, email mandrion@lcog-or.gov or fill out our interest form at www.lcog-or.gov/sdslane/page/how-can-i-help



Public Safety Report - September 2025

<u>Incident Type</u>	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	13	32	89	4	12	43
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	23	29	32	16	4	1
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	65	97	53	1	2	0
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	18	17	29	3	2	2
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	16	21	22	5	2	0
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	2	4	8	2	1	4
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	27	13	6	1	0	0
Traffic Stops	42	26	34	1	0	.5
Total	206	239	273	33	23	50.5

UPCOMING

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Thanksgiving Feast

11/26 - 12:00PM - 1:00PM

Mid Lane Cares, 25035 W Broadway

Tree Lighting

12/4 - 4:00PM - 6:00PM

Veneta Elementary School

Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber Light Parade

12/11 - 7:00PM

Same route as last year, map provided in next month's newsletter

S.A.N.T.A. Toy Giveaway

12/13 - 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Veneta Elementary School

Kiwanis Holiday Food Box Giveaway

12/20 - 10:00AM - 1:00PM

LDS Church, 88068 Huston Rd

Veterans Day Ceremony

Saturday

Veneta City Park

November 8th, 11:00am

