

Harvest Festival 2025: A Celebration of Community and Giving

On Saturday, September 13th, the streets of downtown Veneta were filled with energy and the unmistakable spirit of community as residents and visitors gathered for the 2025 Harvest Festival. Held along West Broadway from 2nd to 5th streets, the event ran from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and was free for all to attend.

This festival serves as a fundraiser for Mid-Lane Cares, a local nonprofit dedicated to sup-

porting seniors and providing services to families in need. The day began with a warm breakfast served by American Legion Post 61, setting the tone for a full schedule of activities and entertainment.

Festival-goers explored over 80 booths featuring local artisans, vendors, and food trucks. The street was alive with color, creativity, and the enticing

(See "Harvest Festival" on page 3)



Community Survey—Results are in!

Thank you to everyone that took the time to fill out the Community Survey, your participation is key to helping the City formulate future plans.

Every two years, the City conducts a community survey to gather feedback from residents and measure how we are doing. Earlier this year, the City partnered with ETC Institute to administer the 2025 Community Survey. Residents could participate by mail or online via the City's website and social media channels.



Results show Veneta continues to be a highly valued place to live. Eighty-five percent (85%) of respondents rated the City as a good place to live, and 76% rated the overall quality of life positively. Residents also placed high value on their neighborhoods (84%) and City events, such as the Light Parade, which was the most attended event over the past year.

The survey also highlighted areas

(See "Community Survey" page 3)

Mayor's Corner



Hello Veneta neighbors. It's been a busy and exciting season in our community! A big thank you to the volunteers, sponsors, and community

members who made this year's Harvest Festival such a success. The chili cook-off and new cornhole tournament really put the "fall" in festival—and Samba Ja leading our chili judges was such a fun touch. The Kiwanis of Fern Ridge also hosted an amazing car show, bringing in nearly 150 cars! Events like these showcase the heart and spirit of Veneta.

Our pickleball courts are buzzing with new players and clinics, bringing people together in healthy and active ways.

Public safety also remains a top priority as we continue working closely with the Lane County Sheriff's Office to strengthen partnerships and keep neighborhoods safe.

(See Mayor's Corner page 3)

CIVIC CALENDAR OCTOBER 2025

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

1	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
7	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
13	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
16	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m..
20	Economic Development Committee	3:30 p.m.
24	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
25	Veneta Haunts City Park 25190 East Broadway	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
27	City Council and Planning Commission Joint Meeting	5:00 p.m.
31	HALLOWEEN	

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- Credit analysts from Standard & Poor's bond rating agency reviewed City finances and the local economy to evaluate the "AA/Stable" rating on the City's Series 2021 Full Faith and Credit Refunding Obligations for wastewater debt. Largely based on the City spending down capital reserves on parks projects, S&P downgraded the City's rating to "AA-/Stable."
- The City met with leadership from Lane Fire Authority and the Lane County Sheriff's Office to gather their input for updating the City's Emergency Operations Plan.
- The Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce's Wednesday, October 8th quarterly luncheon at Our Daily Bread will feature guest speaker Lane Fire Authority Chief Dale Borland. He'll talk about LFA's upcoming levy measure. He'll also make a presentation to the City Council the following Monday, October 13th.



PUBLIC WORKS

- We received a letter from **business oregon** asking us to verify our eligibility to receive the \$1,693,000 earmarked in House Bill 5006 for the wastewater treatment plant project wetland mitigation credits. You may recall that the Department of State Lands waived the requirement for buying more wetland mitigation credits. We'll see if the State will let us apply the \$1.693 million to the project or disqualify the City because the credits aren't needed. The City is working with its engineers to provide the State reasons to allow those earmarked funds to help pay for construction that will impact the wetlands at the site. Fingers crossed!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

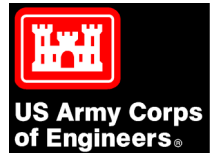
- It's official! The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) awarded the City of Veneta



\$100,000 for a new playground at the west end of the upgraded Bolton Hill Sports Complex! The playground is Phase 2 of the project that is planned for next year.

- Community Development Director Kevin Urban found a grant opportunity that could assist in the development of the area along Jack Kelley Drive. The City is currently gathering letters of support from the community. The grant has a \$500,000 maximum. The project would use planning and design to enhance wetlands, create stormwater retention, detention and mitigation within them, and plant the area properly with native species while removing anything invasive. It would also create a program in partnership with the Fern Ridge School District to teach students how to maintain wetlands and care for trees, and also help them understand how wetlands function and the vital role they play in the environment. Students would be supported for their work for a minimum of three years, with the cost of their labor covered by grant funds through the City. This commitment would ensure that local youth have meaningful opportunities to engage in environmental stewardship while contributing to the community.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is inviting the public to participate in the development of the Fern Ridge Lake Master Plan and integrated NEPA document. Fern Ridge Lake is part of the Willamette Valley Project. In October, USACE will hold three public meetings to better understand how users view the recreational, natural and cultural resources at Fern Ridge Lake. USACE is collecting feedback regarding the area's strengths and weaknesses, and the challenges and opportunities for improvement to inform the development of the master plan and resource objectives. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Elmira Elementary School.



Great Shakeout 2025

Practice an earthquake drill on October 16th at 10:16. You never know when an earthquake will hit, it is always a good idea to practice and take cover to keep you safe.



Harvest Festival cont...

aromas of festival fare. Adding to the excitement were vehicle displays from the Lane County Sheriff's Office and Lane Fire Authority, which drew crowds of all ages.

The Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce hosted a lively Chili Cook-off, judged by community members Matt Michel, Sgt. Parker, Jason Alansky, and Mark Lystra. 1st place was awarded to West Lane Charter! Meanwhile, the Kiwanis Club once again delivered a crowd-pleasing Kruise-In, showcasing 145 classic and custom cars.

Music filled the air during the Parade of Music by Samba Ja, whose infectious rhythms brought smiles and dancing to the sidewalks. Another highlight of the day was the Chamber's inaugural Corn Hole "Battle of the Bags" Tournament, held in the Long Tom Bar & Grill parking lot. Twelve teams competed in a double-elimination bracket, with Team "Corn Stars" —Jason Shields and

Trevor Daniels—emerging victorious. The tournament was sponsored by Long Tom Bar & Grill, Crazy Al's, and Glen & Sarah Naegeli.

The Chamber of Commerce is proud to donate 50% of the event's net proceeds to Mid-Lane Cares. This year's festival was made possible thanks to the support of several community sponsors, including the City of Veneta, Sanipac, Rogers Towing, Buck's Sanitary Service, EPUD, and Michael Beach of Red Barn Realty. Their contributions helped cover entertainment and event expenses, ensuring the festival's continued success.

The 2025 Harvest Festival was more than just a day of fun—it was a celebration of community, generosity, and the shared commitment to supporting those in need. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and contributed to making this event a memorable one.

Community Survey cont...

of improvement for the City. Residents expressed lower satisfaction with employment opportunities (11%), commercial growth planning (24%), and reliable internet service. Top priorities for the next two years include expanding business and services, improving the downtown district and traffic flow, and strengthening access to high-speed internet.

Public safety remains a key concern, with 76% of residents satisfied with safety in City

parks during the day and 63% feeling safe walking in their neighborhoods at night. Overall, 83% of residents believe Veneta is headed in the right direction, and 85% plan to remain in the community for the next five years.

The full 2025 Community Survey report, including benchmark comparisons to the 2023 survey, is available at Veneta City Hall and on the City's website: www.venetaoregon.gov under "What's New".

Mayor's Corner cont...

On the economic front, the Business Assistance and Economic Development Committees are exploring new opportunities, and we're excited to welcome Domino's Pizza, opening soon. Please give them a warm Veneta welcome!

And how about those flower baskets? With the season changing, our incredible Public Works team will be taking them down soon—thank you for keeping our city beautiful.

The Bolton Hill Sports Complex is also making great progress, and it's going to be a game-changer for families and athletes.

Looking ahead, I hope to see you at upcoming events, Council meetings, or just over a cup of coffee. Together, we're shaping Veneta's future.

Warmly, Mayor Robbie McCoy



Battle of the Bags Cornhole tournament winners: Jason Shields and Trevor Daniels



Chili Cook-Off Judges from left: Matt Michel, Mark Lystra, Jason Alansky, Sgt Parker

Ditch Maintenance Reminder

As we head into fall, the City of Veneta reminds residents to clear drainage ditches of debris and overgrowth. Keeping ditches free-flowing helps prevent flooding and damage to roads, landscaping, and homes.

Per Veneta Municipal Code 13.15.010, it's illegal to place leaves, grass clippings, or other debris in ditches or streets. These materials can block water flow and cause serious drainage issues.

Some properties may include protected wetlands, which require special care when removing vegetation. If you're unsure, contact Associate Planner Daniel Findlay at 541-935-2191 for guidance.



Leaf Pick-Up Begins

The City of Veneta's annual leaf pick-up service started October 2nd and runs through the last Thursday in January. Leaves will be collected Tuesdays and Thursdays each week.

To participate:

- Place bagged leaves only at the curb (no garbage or yard debris).
- Bags must be tied shut.
- You may also use your Sanipac Yard Debris Roll Cart, or compost leaves for garden use.

This service helps keep streets and drainage systems clear during the rainy season. Thank you for doing your part!



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 - August 2025

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	20	26	30	7	11	9
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	28	24	26	4	6	4
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	65	119	76	3	2	1
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	21	26	23	5	7	3
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	20	25	23	2	1	2
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	2	8	6	2	3	2
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	18	25	14	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	26	26	26	0	0	0
Total	200	279	224	23	30	21



US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Fern Ridge Public Meetings



**Free &
open to
the public**



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is gathering public input on the development of a Master Plan for Fern Ridge Lake. The Master Plan will guide the future management of the area's natural and man-made resources. We want your feedback on topics like recreation, fish and wildlife, vegetation, historical/cultural resources, and wetlands. At this meeting, we'll present the process to update the 1988 Master Plan, answer your questions, and ask for your input to help shape the new plan.

Virtual Meeting

Wednesday,
October 22, 2025
1 - 2:30 p.m.

Join online via the
project website:
www.nwp.usace.army.mil/MasterPlans

In-Person Eugene

Thursday,
October 23, 2025
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Willamette High School,
Lecture Hall
1801 Echo Hollow Rd,
Eugene, OR 97402

In-person Elmira

Saturday,
October 25, 2025
10 a.m. - Noon

Elmira Elementary
School
88960 Territorial Hwy,
Elmira, OR 97437

For More Information: www.nwp.usace.army.mil/MasterPlans