

City News

December 2025

LCSO Encourages Direct Crime Reporting Over Social Media

The Lane County Sheriff's Office is urging residents to prioritize direct communication with law enforcement when reporting crime or suspicious activity, rather than posting first on social media. This approach is vital to ensuring that incidents are addressed promptly and accurately, ultimately enhancing the safety and security of the entire community.

While community awareness and neighborly

vigilance are appreciated and play an important role in public safety, officials emphasize that contacting the Sheriff's Office directly ensures faster response times, more accurate information gathering, and better protection for individuals and the community as a whole. Social media, while useful for spreading awareness, cannot replace the critical role of direct communication with law enforce-

(See "Reporting Crime" page 3)

Winter Prep: Tips to Avoid Flooding and Keep Sidewalks Safe

As the winter season approaches, the City would like to remind residents to help prevent flooding. Here are some ways you can help:

Clearing public rights-of-way Public rights-of-way are routes over land that the public can use, even if it is privately owned. Piles of leaves, basketball hoops, garbage cans, illegally parked vehicles and recreational vehicles being left in the public rights-of-way sometimes result in a street sweeper, or a snowplow, being

unable to clear a street properly.

Preventing flooding by keeping drainage ditches clear requires regular maintenance. Residents are asked to regularly remove debris, vegetation, or anything else that might obstruct the flow of water. Trash, plant clippings, even organic debris left over from mowing should be removed from all channels to prevent flooding. Veneta Municipal Code 13.15.010 states that

(See "Winter Prep" on page 3)

Mayor's Corner



As we move through this busy season in Veneta, I'm grateful for all the community spirit and hard work happening across our city. I am truly thankful to serve as your Mayor.

We had a beautiful **Veterans Day Ceremony** in City Park, honoring the men and women who have served our country. Thank you to everyone who joined us, participated, and helped make the event meaningful. Our community showed tremendous respect and gratitude.

I recently attended the **Small Cities Workshop** in Coburg, where leaders from across the region shared ideas, discussed challenges, and worked together on solutions that support strong, thriving rural communities. I'm excited to bring back new insights that will benefit Veneta as we continue to grow responsibly and collaboratively.

Our annual **Holiday Bazaar** was a wonderful success once again. Events like this bring people

(See "Mayor's Corner" page 3)

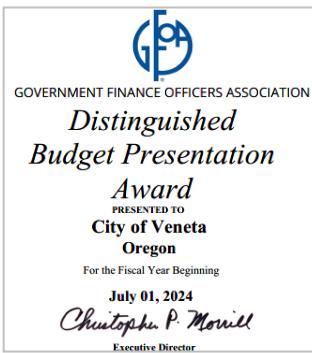
CIVIC CALENDAR DECEMBER 2025

CIVIC CALENDAR DECEMBER 2025		
All meetings held at City of Veneta 88184 8th St, unless otherwise noted		
2	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
3	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
4	Tree Lighting at Veneta Elementary School	6:00 p.m.
8	City Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
11	Light Parade (Parade map enclosed)	7:00 p.m.
17	Economic Development Committee	3:30 p.m.
18	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
19	Business Assistance Committee	9:00 a.m.
25	Christmas Day	 Closed
1/1	<i>Happy New Year</i>	
	Closed	

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

What is the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Award? Here's what the GFOA website says: "GFOA established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program (Budget Awards Program) in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. Approximately 1,800 governments, including states, cities, counties, special districts, school districts, and more have been recognized for transparency in budgeting. To earn recognition, budget documents must meet program criteria and excel as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication tool."



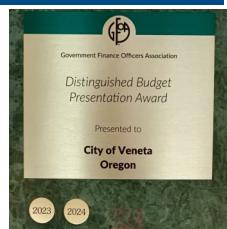
The City of Veneta received its first Government Finance Officers' Association's (GFOA's) annual Distinguished Budget Award in 2014 for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014 budget. Ever since then and going on 12 consecutive years, the City continued winning the award

symbolized on a marble plaque outside the council room with a medallion for each award year.

New this year are Sankey Diagrams that visualize the flow of revenues to expenditures, and a reorganization of Section 7's Fund Narratives from a Fund-perspective to a Department perspective. We gathered all of the City's funds and organized them by the City's three departments:

1. Administration,
2. Public Works, and
3. Community Development.

After receiving last year's award for FY 2024-2025, the City outgrew our first plaque and is motivated by the new challenge to fill the second plaque with medallions as well!



The City's budgeting financial policies contained in Resolution No.1441 include the following goal for the GFOA award: "In the City's effort to strive for excellence, the City of Veneta will make every effort to obtain the Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)."

Last year, only 58 of the hundreds of Oregon public agencies including cities, counties, and special districts received the award.

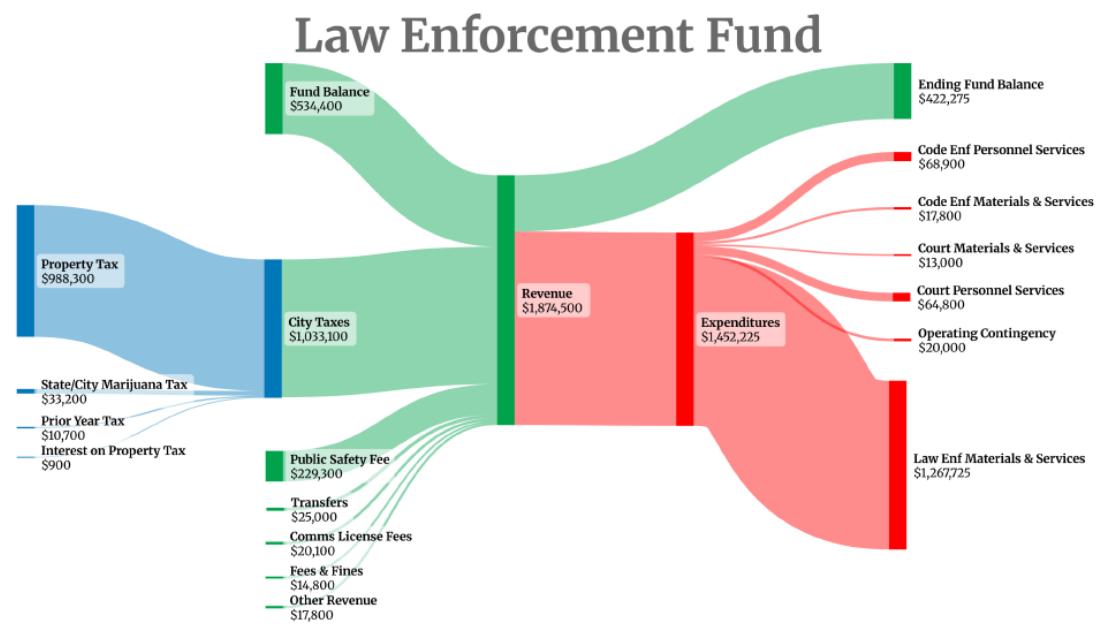
This year the Budget Team consisting of Management Analyst Jacob Thode, Administration Supervisor Ann Haxby, City Accountant Jordan Myers, and City Administrator Matt Michel compiled and updated the City's GFOA budget framework.

CITY OF VENETA ADOPTED BUDGET DOCUMENT

Including Veneta Urban Renewal Agency
2025-2026



We hope this simplified perspective helps Veneta's residents better understand the city budget by putting it in terms of something you would be familiar with—a city department—as opposed to the budget concept of a city "fund."



Mayor's Corner cont...

ple into Veneta, support our local artisans and small businesses, and highlight the heart of our community. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped welcome visitors to our city.

We're gearing up for two of Veneta's most cherished traditions—the **Tree Lighting Ceremony** and the **Light Parade**. These events bring joy to families across Fern Ridge, and preparations are in full swing. I'm grateful to all the volunteers, businesses, and organizations working behind the scenes to make these celebrations special.

As we move into the holiday season, I'm feeling especially thankful for the opportunity to help our community—neighbors supporting neighbors,

volunteers stepping up, and local groups making a difference every day.

Our **S.A.N.T.A. Project** is coming up on December 13th. This is one of the most heartwarming events of the year, helping families in need make the holidays brighter.

On December 20th, **Kiwanis Club of Fern Ridge** will be giving out food boxes to local families. If you know someone who could use support, please help spread the word.

Thank you, Veneta, for your continued support and involvement. Our community shines brightest when we come together. I'm honored and thankful for the opportunity to serve you. Warm holiday wishes, Mayor Robbie McCoy

Winter Prep cont...

depositing leaves or other debris in drainage ways is a violation of the code.

Keep sidewalks clear for pedestrians. The handicapped, elderly, children, people with strollers, and dog walkers are endangered when they can't walk on the sidewalk and are forced to detour into the street, particularly when leaves,

ice, and snow may be present. Please keep sidewalks clear to ensure the safety of all citizens.

Need to dispose of leaves? The City's annual leaf pick-up program started October 2nd and will continue through the end of January. Sanipac also offers yard debris roll carts for disposing of leaves, branches and other yard debris.

Reporting Crime cont...

ment professionals.

The Case for Calling First

Timely Response: Direct reports allow deputies to assess and respond to incidents in real time. Social media posts, though well-intentioned, do not provide the immediacy needed for effective action. Quick and direct communication enables law enforcement to deploy resources efficiently and potentially prevent further harm or escalation.

Detailed Information: Law enforcement can collect critical details—such as suspect descriptions, vehicle information, and exact locations—that are often missing or unclear in online posts. This detailed information is essential for accurate investigations and timely interventions.

Information Accuracy: Social media can unintentionally spread misinformation as posts are shared and interpreted. Direct reporting ensures that facts are verified and used appropriately, reducing the risk of confusion and false alarms within the community.

Case Building: Official reports help law enforcement document incidents, track patterns, and build cases that lead to arrests and prosecutions. These reports form the foundation for effective law enforcement and judicial processes.

Privacy Protection: Posting sensitive information online can expose individuals to risk. Reporting directly to authorities maintains confidentiality and safeguards personal safety, ensuring that sensitive details are handled with discretion.

Community Collaboration: Direct communication fosters a stronger partnership between residents and law enforcement. It encourages trust, cooperation, and a shared commitment to maintaining a safe environment for everyone.

How to Report

Residents should use the non-emergency line at **541-682-4141** for routine matters/non-emergent crime reporting and dial **911** in emergencies. Prompt reporting ensures that law enforcement can respond effectively and keep the community safe. Additionally, residents are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible when reporting, including descriptions of individuals, locations, times, and any other relevant information.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office continues to rely on the cooperation of Veneta residents to maintain public safety. Direct communication remains the most effective way to ensure swift action and accurate documentation, ultimately benefiting the entire community.



Water & Sewer Rate Adjustments Begin January 1, 2026

City Council approved a **3% water rate adjustment** and **2% sewer rate adjustment**, effective January 1, 2026. These small adjustments help support essential services and upcoming infrastructure projects.

Learn more at www.venetaoregon.gov or call 541-935-2191

Pre-Approved Accessory Dwelling Unit Design

The City of Veneta is now offering residents the opportunity to use pre-approved plans for an accessory dwelling unit (ADU). An ADU is a secondary living space that has its own kitchen, bathroom, and sleeping area. 'Pre-approved' means that the ADU has been reviewed for compliance with the building code, letting homeowners skip the building design process. The next step in the process is the site design, which involves planning where the ADU will be located on the property, how it will be served by utilities, and other items specific to each property. While this does save one the trouble of finding an ADU design, there are still many other costs involved, including the cost of constructing the ADU itself.

The pre-approved ADU design was developed by the City of Eugene and shared with Veneta at no cost. The plans offer a choice between a shed roof and a gabled roof. To learn more about the design and how to use it, visit www.venetaoregon.gov/Planning and click the 'Pre-Approved Accessory Dwelling Unit Plans' page. If you have any questions, please reach out to Daniel Findlay, Associate Planner, at 541-935-2191 or dfindlay@venetaoregon.gov.



Volunteer for the City of Veneta!

There are currently two openings on two key committees. This is a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference in your community!

- **Planning Commission** – 1 position, Applications due **December 30 at 5:00 PM**
- **Budget Committee** – 1 position, Applications due **January 15 at 5:00 PM**

To Apply: visit www.venetaoregon.gov click on Government, then City Council, Boards & Committees. Information about the committees can be found there along with the application to apply. Call Jen with any questions you may have at 541-935-2191

Public Safety Report - October 2025

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	12	40	37	6	18	14
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	21	28	26	1	4	4
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	51	102	62	0	1	1
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	11	17	18	1	0	2
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	17	7	16	3	0	2
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	1	3	4	1	3	2
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	24	15	13	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	33	13	23	3	0	0
Total	170	225	199	15	26	25

Annual Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber Holiday Events

TREE LIGHTING

6 PM ★ THURSDAY ★ 12/4

★ Santa arrives at 6:15 PM!
★ Food and toy donations gladly accepted.

Veneta Elementary School 88131 Territorial Hwy

22nd ANNUAL LIGHT PARADE

PARADE
MAP ON
BACK

7 PM ★ THURSDAY ★ 12/11
See Santa Claus in the parade!

2025 SPONSORS



ROGERS
Towing & Transport



2025 PARTNERS



Barry McGuire (DJ)



