

City News

April 2022



Celebrating 60 Years!

It's the City of Veneta's 60th Anniversary this month!
Read on and join us as we reminisce and appreciate our small town community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

As Veneta's grown over the past 10 years, the City's been focused on being a responsible partner to the community in building for our future. These efforts included increasing Veneta's access to high-quality water, improving public safety, and connecting citizens to their City government through enhanced communication.

The year 2013 marked the completion of the water pipeline project, a partnership with EWEB to supplement the City's water wells. The City completed the project at a lower than expected cost, with this quote from the November 2013 City News: "The project's timing has been fortuitous, coming at a time when construction materials are well priced and contractors were eager to bid competitively for municipal construction contracts." The City also updated its local water delivery systems, opening the Cornerstone Drive bulk water station in 2014 and rehabilitating the water reservoir on E. Broadway in 2015.

Over the past 10 years, public safety continued to be an important focus for the community. The Fern Ridge Neighborhood Watch began in earnest in 2014,

expanding to six neighborhood groups and nine patrol volunteers by 2016. Neighborhood Watch now has 17 neighborhood groups in Veneta and the surrounding area working to keep each other safe. Of course, the City plays a lead role in public safety through the City's contract with the Lane County Sheriff's Office for four deputy positions and a sergeant. In 2015, the City increased the sergeant's time from a 1/3rd position to a 1/2 position to provide enhanced supervision and patrol coverage. Most recently, Veneta prioritized funding these important public safety positions by adopting a monthly public safety fee. Veneta's celebration of community and public safety with the 2021 National Night Out event even won the City an award!

The City of Veneta also worked to modernize its communications and meet citizens where they are. The City's official website, www.venetaoregon.gov, launched in 2015 with a Facebook page quickly following in 2016. With these new tools, the City adopted its first Communications Plan in 2017 (updated in 2021) and made a commitment to communicate in a positive and transparent manner.

PARKS AND RECREATION

One of the visionary decisions from the past 10 years was improvements to City Park that began in 2018. The improvements made were many and included a grant-funded Veterans' Memorial, a fitness zone, and a new path completed in 2021 that connected City Park to E. Hunter Road.

Veneta began the process of updating its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan in 2019 and adopted it a year later as the community's collective statement on what the future of Veneta's parks should be.

Of course, any conversation about Veneta parks over the past 10 years would not be complete without

mentioning the addition of the Kiddie Pool to the Veneta Community Pool. The Kiddie Pool Committee formed in 2016 and got off to a strong start, winning a grant from the Oregon State Board of Parks and

Recreation in that same year! The pool officially opened on June 15, 2019 as a result of the community's generosity. The Veneta Community Pool saw a 24% increase in usage for that summer! While the Pool hasn't had much of an opportunity to shine in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, pool staff are excited to offer a summer of fun in 2022!



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

One of the City's proudest accomplishments over the last decade was the 2013 opening of the Fern Ridge Service Center, which is operated by Mid Lane Cares and houses the Love Project food pantry, among other community service programs. The Service Center provides programming for our senior neighbors, meals to those who need assistance, and serves as a bright welcome to Veneta's Downtown District.

The Multi-Use Path project to connect Veneta and Elmira with a safe bike and pedestrian path began in 2014, after the City won a grant for the design of the project. By 2016, with the help of local elected state officials, the project won Oregon Department of



Transportation funding for the environmental analysis to make the project ready to build.

Over the last decade Veneta's city councilors and mayors have been committed to ensuring that the City is a place where businesses can thrive. The City adopted two five-year economic development plans over the last decade, with the mayor-appointed Economic Development Committee providing guidance since 2015. Since then, the City launched Veneta-Works in 2018, and several redevelopment grants in order to

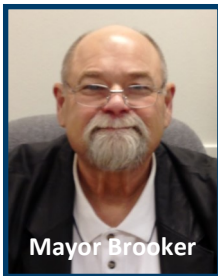
grow Veneta businesses. The City continues to work on economic development and is excited about what the coming 10 years hold!

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The City Council has provided steady leadership to the City staff and its citizens over the last decade. There were joyful moments paired with feelings of



Mayor Larson



Mayor Brooker



Councilor Laing

sorrow as the City mourned the loss of Mayor Sandra Larson in 2019, and too, the passing of former Mayor Tim Brooker and Councilor Tom Laing in 2020.

Mayor Keith Weiss stepped in to finish out Mayor Larson's term in 2019 and continues to serve as Mayor today.

Veneta also has a strong volunteer network—Mid-Lane Cares, Kiwanis, the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce to name a few—that leads the community with their compassion and energy. We extend a heartfelt thank-you to these, and prior serving, community volunteers' service!

We hope you've enjoyed this brief stroll down memory lane. The City will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary in April, and in May...JOIN US FOR THE FIRST VENETA CELEBRATION RUN!



Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome to join us at the Bolton Hill Sports Complex on Saturday, May 14 at 9:00 a.m. for a 5K or 10K run/walk and a Dairy Queen Dilly Dash Kids Run! Race proceeds will go to the Veneta Park Board to direct park improvements.

Be sure to register for the Veneta Celebration Run on the Eclectic Edge website at: <http://www.eclecticedgeracing.com/veneta-celebration-run.html> or by scanning the QR code below.



Come celebrate our community together and enjoy some fresh air with friends and neighbors!



CIVIC CALENDAR APRIL 2022



All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

5	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
6	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
11	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
13	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
16	Easter Egg Hunt at Veneta Elementary School	11:00 a.m.
17	Easter Sunday	Happy Easter
21	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
22	Earth Day	EARTH DAY
29	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	10:00 a.m.

NOTICE OF STREET CLOSURE

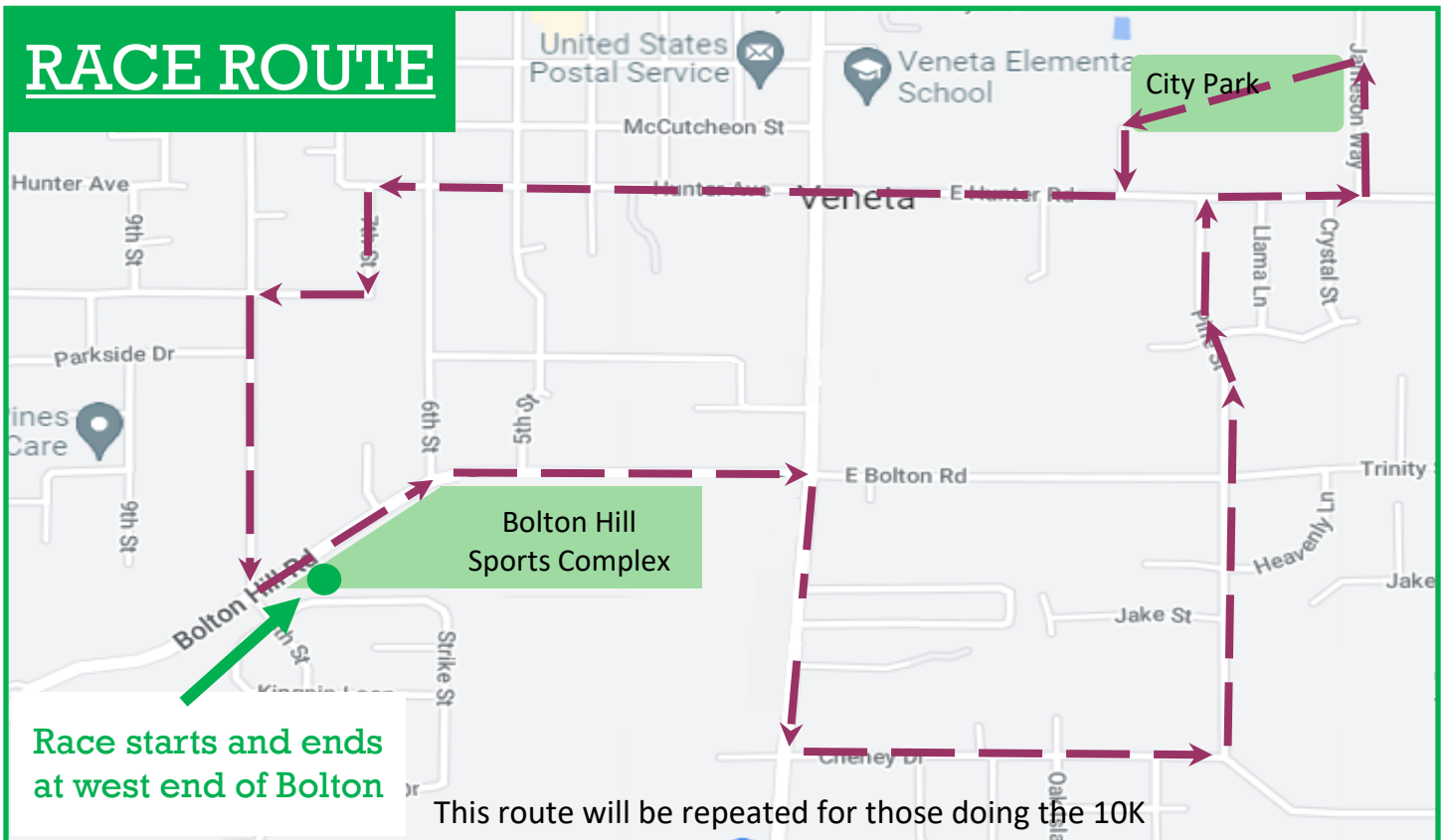
Veneta 60th Anniversary Celebration Run/Walk

When: Saturday May 14, 2022 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Plan your Saturday morning accordingly, streets will be temporarily closed to traffic along the route

Details: The City of Veneta is turning 60! The Veneta Celebration Run is scheduled to celebrate the occasion with a 5K/10K Run/Walk beginning at Bolton Hill Sports Complex.

Access will be limited during this time to the streets listed below. The Veneta Celebration Run is scheduled to start at 9:00 AM and head east as shown on the map. We anticipate that most Run participants will have completed the course by 10:00 AM. Lane County Sheriff deputies and safety volunteers will be directing traffic along the route.



Temporarily closed streets include: (in order of race direction)

Bolton Hill Rd
Territorial Hwy
Cheney Rd
E. Bolton Rd

Pine St
E. Hunter Rd
Jameson Way
Ruby Jean Ln

E Hunter Rd
Territorial Hwy
Hunter Ave
7th St

Sertic Rd
8th St

Traffic will be temporarily stopped on side streets along the affected route, please plan your Saturday accordingly



Join us for the 36th Annual

Veneta Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16, 2022
Veneta Elementary School
11:00 a.m.

Ages 1 to 10

- Bring a Basket

- Each Egg Contains a Prize

- Golden Eggs Contain a Special Prize

- ADA Accessible Event

- Rain or Shine

**For more information
contact the City of Veneta
at 541-935-2191**



Veneta Citywide Clean-Up

Saturday May 7, 2022

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ♦ 5th St & Bolton Hill

The City Wide Clean-Up is **FREE OF CHARGE** and limited to residents within the City of Veneta (proof of residency required)

Take this time to clean up your home, yard, and neighborhood

Hazardous materials, propane tanks and household trash will *not* be accepted. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, donations of household items will *not* be accepted this year

Following are some of the items that will be accepted:

- Yard debris, limbs, weeds and grass clippings
- Tires - **MUST** be off rims (limit 4)
- Wood
- Metal
- Appliances
- Recyclables
- Personal documents for shredding

For more information contact Kyle Schauer at City of Veneta 541-935-2191 or visit www.venetaoregon.gov

