

# City News

May 2024

## Your Chance to Lead: Election Packets Available May 31<sup>st</sup>!

The City has three positions open for the November 5, 2024 General Election. The position of Mayor, and two Councilor at-large positions. All three positions serve on the City Council and are elected by an at-large majority vote and serve a four (4) year term beginning in January 2025.

The Council is the governing body for the City and reviews the City's business during bi-weekly public meetings. The Council works with and is supported by City staff. All elected positions within the City of Veneta are held on a volunteer basis.



There are a few qualifications candidates must meet in order to run for Veneta City Council. Stop by City Hall to request a Candidate Packet and to learn about the requirements, process, and deadlines. Candidate packets are available Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The first day a nominating petition or declaration for candidacy can be filed is June 5<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jennifer Mirabile, City Recorder and Elections Official, at 541-935-2191 or [jmirabile@ci.veneta.or.us](mailto:jmirabile@ci.veneta.or.us) with your questions.

## Egg Hunt Recap

Veneta's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt was a huge hit with kids of all ages! There were a record-breaking 880 Easter Bunny fans in attendance, 330 of which were kids 10 years old and under.

Over 30 World-Class Small-Town volunteers made it happen in so many unique and special ways. Park Board Member Bob Reeves arranged to have the best bubble machine ever launching thousands of bubbles into the air to welcome ea-

ger egg hunters! The Fern Ridge Library hosted a storytelling hour before the Great Easter Egg Hunt. The Kiwanis Club served up smiles, donuts, hot cocoa, coffee, and free toothbrushes donated by Veneta Family Dental! Veneta City Councilor Maureen Wright served as Momma Bunny making sure that every child found an egg and a smile. The local BSA Troop 50 showed up early to help the Easter Bunny roll out 5,000 can-

(See "Egg Hunt" on page 3)

## Pool Opening June 15<sup>th</sup>



Get ready to dive into summer fun! The Veneta Community Pool will make a splash on June 15<sup>th</sup> as it opens for the season.

The Summer Recreation Guide will be hitting the shelves on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Plan your summer adventures with exciting activities for everyone.

Updates will be posted on our website, [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov). From swim lessons to poolside lounging and our three signature events, we've got your summer covered.

We know you are excited for this upcoming year, but please keep in mind that if you leave a message it may not be returned for a few weeks. Messages can be left at 541-935-4390.

Stay tuned, stay refreshed, and get ready to make a splash this summer in Veneta!



## CIVIC CALENDAR

### May 2024

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

1	Veneta Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
7	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
8	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
12	Happy Mother's Day	
13	Veneta City Council Meeting Urban Renewal Agency Meeting	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
16	Veneta Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
23	Budget Committee Meeting	5:00 p.m.
27	Veneta City Council Meeting	Cancelled
27	MEMORIAL DAY City Hall Closed	Closed
30	Budget Committee Meeting	5:00 p.m.
31	Business Assistance Committee	9:00 a.m.

# Department Updates

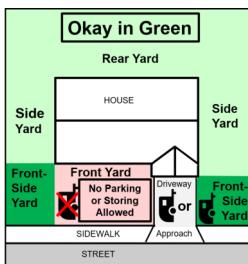
## ADMINISTRATION

- The Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> evening City Hall Open House hosted by City staff and elected officials had good attendance and several good conversations with residents. Based on community survey feedback suggesting ways for residents to learn about City goings-on, we invited residents to come visit their hometown city government and learn more about the complex life of a city. Those who attended got to learn about land use matters, economic development initiatives, planned construction projects, get utility billing questions answered, and chat with our local Sgt. Ware from the Lane County Sheriff's Office.



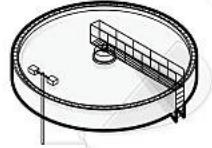
## PUBLIC SAFETY

- We've created a webpage for reference materials on the City Council's policy discussion about front yard area parking and storage. You can find it on the City's website at [venetaoregon.gov](http://venetaoregon.gov) under the Departments, then Code Compliance. There you'll see on your left menu "Parking and Storing of Vehicles". The first reading of a proposed ordinance clarifying what's allowed to be parked and stored in a residential front yard area will occur at the May 13<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting that starts at 6:30 PM.
- On Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> the City will be helping F.R.A.U.G. (pronounced "frog", Fern Ridge Advocates for the Unhoused Group), to clear out some abandoned camps along the southside of the railroad tracks east of 5<sup>th</sup> Street. As the City continues to prepare the nearby area for a new off-leash dog park, staff discovered abandoned material and debris. The FRAUG connects with local unhoused individuals to get them basic needs and will help let anyone who has left material in the area that it will be removed if it's left behind. You're welcome to join FRAUG in caring for our community. The clean-up will start at 9 AM at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and W. Broadway.



## PUBLIC WORKS

- The City met with its consultants on the wastewater treatment plant expansion project to review current capacities and trends for future capacity needs on a 20+ year time horizon. Our public works team has a good working knowledge of the plant and will share suggestions with the consultants based on that operational expertise. The next step will be to set a meeting with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to hopefully get some clear guidance on what they'll expect of the City for its next 5-year treated water discharge permit.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The City is pursuing an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grant for the off-leash dog park. The maximum grant amount is \$100,000, which roughly matches the cost for the flatwork of the site – paving and paths. ADA-accessible sidewalks are an important part of this project. We gathered letters of support for the accessibility grant application from the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, the Fern Ridge Kiwanis Club, Mid Lane Cares, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and even the Coos Bay Rail Line who owns the property! It's been "Ruff!" fetching those letters!



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The City will be working with Independence, Oregon-based consultant Altar Media on an Economic Identity development and marketing project. Altar Media's team is planning to do a site visit in early May to familiarize themselves with Veneta, and meet with city staff and community leaders to understand what fuels the local economic engine. This work will continue throughout Summer with a planned marketing launch in early Fall.
- As of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the owners of West Lane Gym are the proud new owners of former City property one block east commonly known as "The Attic". The sale included an Veneta Urban Renewal Agency economic incentive of up to \$250,000 in reimbursable matching grant funds to encourage re-development within two years of purchase.





## ATTENTION RESIDENTS:

A permit has been issued for a ceremonial discharge of firearms on May 27th from 11:15am –11:30am at City Park on Broadway. There will be a Lane County Sheriff's Office deputy present during the discharge of firearms.

## Egg Hunt continued

(Continued from page 1)

dy-filled eggs across the Veneta Elementary grassy field. And most importantly, Lane Fire Authority delivered the Easter Bunny and Mayor

Bunny to the event in style aboard a fire engine!



## Blocking Fire Hydrants Prohibited

A fire hydrant is an active fire protection measure, and a connection point by which firefighters can tap into a water supply. There's a good reason you shouldn't park in front of a fire hydrant. Though the chances may be slim, there may come a time when your car is the one preventing firefighters from doing their jobs. Firefighters faced with a dangerous blaze have no time to shift inconveniently parked vehicles, pick door locks, or thread hoses over, under or around your vehicle.



Firefighters looking to connect a hose will take the most direct route between the fire and the hydrant.

Under ORS 811.550(16), places where stopping, standing and parking are prohibited, drivers must park a minimum of 10 feet from a fire hydrant. This rule applies whether you are in your vehicle or away from it. So the next time you are parking on a City street, please take the time to verify that you will not be blocking a fire hydrant.

## Public Works Week: May 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>

As Public Works Week approaches from May 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, it's time to celebrate the tireless efforts of our public works team. Day in and day out, rain or shine, they work diligently to maintain our community's infrastructure, ensuring our roads are safe and our water is clean. From fixing potholes to managing waste disposal, and keeping our pool up and running, their dedication keeps our city running smoothly.

Let's take a moment to appreciate their hard work and dedication to

enhancing our quality of life. Whether it's through a simple thank you, a social media shout out, let's show our gratitude for their unwavering commitment.



In honoring our public works team, we not only recognize their efforts but also inspire future generations to consider careers in public service. Let's make this Public Works Week a memorable one by celebrating the unsung heroes who keep our communities thriving.

## Mayor Voted Man of the Year at 2024 Distinguished Service Awards

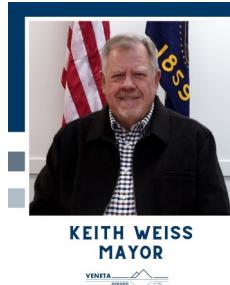
Mayor Keith Weiss received the Man of the Year Award at the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Distinguished Service Awards (DSAs) event held at the Fern Ridge Service Center on the night of April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Distinguished Service Awards are co-hosted by the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce and the Fern Ridge Kiwanis Club to highlight the volunteers, high school students, and community members who make our community a little brighter.

Also, at the event the City of Veneta awarded Planning Commission Chairman Len Goodwin the City's Volunteer

of the Year award. Len has served nearly 25 years on both the Planning Commission and the Veneta Economic Development Committee, and always with a smile and insight.

Mid Lane Cares Board President and Veneta City Councilor Pat Coy served as emcee, and Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce Treasurer and City Council President Robbie McCoy managed the event. You can't attend the DSA event and NOT come away feeling that Veneta is a special place in this world thanks to the people being honored.



KEITH WEISS  
MAYOR  
VENETA  
OREGON

## Veneta Downtown Farmers Market Opens May 4<sup>th</sup>

The Market is located at the corner of Territorial & Luther Lane.  
Every Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 2:00pm!



**Produce 4 Kids (P4K)** - children 12 & under receive a \$5.00 token each market day to purchase produce or a food producing plant. The P4K is supported in part by the City of Veneta and the Upper Willamette Soil and Conservation District.

**Oregon Trail Card (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)** The market accepts this along with Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB). Oregon Trail Card recipients can run their card for an amount they choose VDFM will match that amount up to \$20 each market day. The DUFB program is supported by State of Oregon grants.

More information is available at: [venetadowntownfarmersmarket.com](http://venetadowntownfarmersmarket.com)

## Volunteer Veneta

Current volunteer opportunities for the City of Veneta and local non-profit organizations.



The City currently has one vacancy. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees, you can contact the City of Veneta by calling 541-935-2191 or visiting our website at [www.venetaoregon.gov](http://www.venetaoregon.gov)

### City of Veneta

- ◆ Park Board - 1 student vacancy

### Senior Meals - Help Deliver Meals!

Senior & Disability Services relies on dedicated volunteers to help deliver meals to seniors. You can volunteer as little as two (2) hours per week. For more information, contact a **Volunteer Coordinator** at **541-682-1366**.

### Mid Lane Cares

There are vacancies for their new shower and laundry program. You can volunteer as little as once a week or once a month. Contact DeAnna at 541-935-4555 to find out more.

## Public Safety Report - March 2024

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, Fraud)	15	18	28.4	6	8	10.4
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassments)	15	10	16	4	0	2.8
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact)	93	86	62.4	5	1	1.4
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks/OD, Missing Persons)	15	14	16.4	3	2	2.4
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking, Traffic Hazard)	33	22	24.2	4	4	2.8
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	1	5	5.2	1	5	3.4
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	11	12	8.6	11	0	2.2
Neighborhood Watch	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	40	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>161.2</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25.4</b>