

# City of Monmouth

## City Manager's Report

*A Report on City of Monmouth News, Happenings, Successes and Other Items*

*December 29, 2014*

### Customer Service

Our Public Works Department received a very nice recognition recently. The crew had been doing some utility line work that required a front yard to be dug up. Some companies would "sort of" return the yard to its original condition when the project was complete. Our crew did such a meticulous job that the homeowner bought them a cake! What I am pleased to report is that this level of service and care is standard for the City of Monmouth. Our Power and Light crew operates to the same standard as Public Works. Our Police Department does not just respond to calls, but treats everyone with respect – even someone that may have committed a crime. Everyone that uses the Library knows how helpful our staff is. Our front office at City Hall provides very high quality service even though they carry a very heavy workload and conversations about utility payments and court actions can be difficult.

In the development arena, we are highly responsive to building inquiries and inspections and inspections of improvements being constructed in our streets. Where larger cities have very formal systems for scheduling meetings and inspections, we're very good at responding to last minute requests. We're also easy to access to help with building and development inquiries. Being your local provider, we treat customers like you are our neighbors – because you are. And since we're small, there's not much bureaucracy to cut through when you need something.

### Madrona Park Ready for Walking

While there will be some minor adjustments that will be made in the spring, the Madrona Park Project is essentially complete. The new restroom was installed and irrigation lines are all in place. The perimeter trail is open for business anytime.



As the arboretum trail sits in a drainage basin, this trail is useable at times, but can be a challenge when we've had some rain. This has been a great community-supported project. Our project partners were critical to this project's success. We'll look forward to getting complete use of the park in the spring. Pesky Oregon rain....

### City Leadership

It takes a lot more than just showing up to manage a City. Change is always happening. To keep up with these changes and to find new ways of doing business, Monmouth employees are involved with a variety of professional organizations and attend training sessions throughout the year. In addition, Monmouth staff serve in leadership roles on a number of regional,

State and national organizations. Public Works Director Russ Cooper serves on the Oregon Association of Water Utilities and National Rural Water Association boards. Power and Light Superintendent Chuck Thurman serves on the Boards of the Northwest Public Power Association and Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities. Police Chief Tallan serves on the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Board of Directors and on the Willamette Valley Communications 911 Advisory Board. Library Director Krist Obrist and City Recorder Phyllis Bolman both serve in their respective statewide organizations. It's great that we have high quality people that expertly manage their departments and also have time to support their professions.

### **Employee Service Awards**

Each year, the City celebrates the people that provide the service. This year, we had four Years of Service awards: Police Officer Kevin Renfro - 5 Years; Library Director Krist Obrist - 10 Years; Building Official Larry Thornton - 15 Years and Senior Center Director Sue Teal - 25 Years!

### **Police Station Progress**

The Police Station renovation project is going very well. It's an intense process and things are on schedule and within budget. Our contractors are doing great work and coordination of this complex project is on target. To date, most seismic upgrades have been completed, internal utility and electric trenching is complete, most framing has been done and work on the entrance point for suspect processing is progressing nicely.

### **Police Station Subcontractors**

An indication of the complexity of the Police Station project is the fact that we have engaged twenty-six subcontractors for various aspects of the job. Early in the process, we made it a goal to engage as many local contractors as we could. The definition of "local" has to be fairly broad since we don't really have a construction industry in Monmouth. What we did want to avoid was having a big construction company come in from out of state with out of state work crews and suppliers.

For our project, all of the subcontractors are within Oregon. Eleven of these come from the Salem and Corvallis areas. While the key project goal is getting the best product for the best price, we very much value being able to provide a boost to our local and state construction industry.

### **County Public Safety Levy Hearings**

If you've followed the issue at all, Polk County has seen some significant declines in revenue that have really hurt services. In the public safety area, the jail (which is used by all police departments in the county) relies on overtime to stay operational. There is no longer 24-hour Sheriff Patrol coverage and the District Attorney's office is very understaffed. While this may sound like a County issue, public safety is an integrated system and Monmouth is affected by the County's financial struggles. For example, while we can catch a suspect and charge them with a crime, it's up to the District Attorney to prosecute the suspect.

A levy to provide more funding for County public safety services was defeated at the polls in 2013. Polk County is considering placing another levy request on the ballot. If you would like to provide input on this topic, the County has numerous hearings scheduled. Hearing details can be found on the County's website: <http://www.co.polk.or.us/boc/public-input-sought-proposed-public-safety-operating-levy>.

If you have any questions about items in this report or anything related to the City, please call me at 503-751-0146 or e-mail me at [smcclure@ci.monmouth.or.us](mailto:smcclure@ci.monmouth.or.us).

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