

# City of Monmouth

## City Manager's Report

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

*March 14, 2013*

### **Why a New Police Station?**

I'm guessing you've heard about the Police Station Bond measure that will be placed on the May 21, 2013 ballot. Much of the information that has previously been discussed has focused on the strong logic of the proposed move to the former Boise/Forest Capital building. We have focused on showing how the building would work so well as a police station, presenting financial information (a tax impact of about \$2.58 a month for an average Monmouth home) and discussing why our proposed move makes so much sense.

What we may have neglected a bit is discussing why a properly constructed and operated Police Station matters? It matters because this is about Public Safety. The Police Department is the work unit that protects us from the bad things that can happen (even in Monmouth). They are here to provide order, help people in need, to catch the bad guys and let the bad guys know this isn't a good place for them to do business. I sometimes hear that nothing happens in Monmouth, so why do we need this size of Police Department or a better building? Well, "nothing" last year included 10,231 incidents, 943 arrests and 1434 traffic citations issues. The fact is we have a very active, professional dedicated police force that should have all the tools they need to protect us. This includes proper training, equipment, vehicles and a building actually designed to be a Police Station. Public safety is important. We have an opportunity this May to make sure that the people providing this service have all the tools they need.

### **Billy and the Rockets**

Free is a very good price. So how does a free concert sound? The Monmouth Arts and Culture Commission is proud to announce that Billy and the Rockets will be coming to Monmouth for a free show on Thursday, April 4 at the Monmouth Senior Center. Billy and the Rockets is a 50's do wop rockabilly outfit that will have you tapping your toes. Dance space will be available for those that just can't stay seated.

### **New (Now Old) Main St. Park Fountain**

The City's contractor mobilized for the Main Street Park Fountain last weekend. Its first task was a difficult one - to pick up and move the current fountain so it could be preserved. While it was a challenge, we were successful and the fountain (bowl, pedestal and two steps) is now safely living down at the Public Works shop. At one point in the process the tracks on the crane were partially off the ground due to leveraging caused by the weight of the fountain. Keep an eye on this project. Progress will be quick as we are targeting a June 1 completion date for the new fountain and splash play area. After careful review, we hope to bring the now old fountain back to Main Street Park.

### **Community Awards**

The Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce does an excellent job each year hosting the annual Community Awards Banquet. Amongst the winners this year, Monmouth was well-represented. Awards were given to: Non-Profit of the Year: The Ron Wilson Center; New

Business of the Year: Yeasty Beasty; Small Business of the Year: Sing Fay; Large Business of the Year: MINET; Distinguished Service: Mayor John Oberst; and First Citizen: Nancy Lodge. Congratulations to all the winners.

### **Council Goal-Setting**

The City Council recently held their annual goal-setting session. An overall theme of the session was that the Council is very happy with all the progress we are seeing, how the Council works as a team and how the Council works with staff. Without clear goals, the resources to complete the goals and teamwork at multiple levels, it is very hard to accomplish anything. We are very blessed at this time in Monmouth history that we have all the tools necessary (financial, people and attitude) from the City Council down to line staff to continue our great progress. Being in this business for 23 years, I've seen many towns that just can't get any traction because they lack some or all of the above elements. This is a nice place to be.

### **New Police Employee**

The Monmouth Police Department has welcomed Dustin Conly as our newest employee. He was hired as a full-time Monmouth Officer on Feb. 1, 2013 and is currently attending the Basic Police Academy at DPSST. Dustin grew up in Salem and graduated from Sprague High School in 2003. Following service in the United States Marine Corp and working as a truck driver, Dustin decided to pursue his desire of becoming a police officer. In 2012 he earned an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. And also became a Monmouth Reserve Police Officer.

### **Police Awards**

Each year, the Police Department holds an awards function where successes are celebrated and certain people are recognized for accomplishments in the prior year. The function is also a rare opportunity for the team that provides services 24/7 and their families to come together in one place at the same time. This year's awards went to: Officer Mark Robertson as Officer of the Year; Officer Justin Reynolds earned

the Survival Skills Award; and Dustin Conly was awarded the Reserve Officer of the Year Award. Based on the performance of the department and the high ratings that it received in the recent opinion survey, Chief Tallan presented the entire staff with a Chief's Award for their ongoing dedication and commitment to serve the citizens of Monmouth.

### **Oregon Library Passport**

The Monmouth Library is participating in a unique new statewide program called the Oregon Library Passport. Through the program, a holder of a library card in one jurisdiction could use a different library if it were participating in the passport program. For example, someone with a Corvallis library card would be able to use our library. Or, a Monmouth card holder could use a library at a vacation destination in Oregon if the city's library where they were staying was a participant. Don't think that libraries are static places. They are very adaptable and always looking for new ways to better serve the public.

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).

**Scott McClure**  
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