

# City of Monmouth

## City Manager's Report

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

*July 17, 2013*

### **Downtown Keeps Getting Better**

For those of you that frequent our fine Downtown, I'm sure you appreciate how everything looks after we completed the asphalt portion of the streetscape project. For those of you that haven't seen our streetscape work, I challenge you to come Downtown. Our Downtown is looking as good as it has in years and is filled with a great mix of businesses. Most recently, the Petals and Vines and Main Street Pub businesses got new exterior paint jobs, Veal Bikes Plus opened and alley work is nearing completion behind these businesses. Additional parking spaces have been added adjacent to Main Street Park and the Main Street Park fountain is almost ready for installation.

*Little known fact: It is easier to scoop horse manure off of a freshly paved street.*

### **4<sup>th</sup> of July**

We just had another great 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. I'd like to take this time to recognize all the people that make Monmouth/Independence one of the best places to be on this national holiday. First is the Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club, which puts on the parade. Second, very active committees plan the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities in the parks, which are backed by a host of volunteers. Third, our police officers do an excellent job with the parade and patrol functions during our events. Thanks to all of the above. We'd be a quiet place on the 4<sup>th</sup> without your efforts.

### **Main Street Park Amphitheater**

The City is currently taking input on designs for an amphitheater at Main Street Park. We need your input. This will be another major improvement to our downtown. Plans can be reviewed at the Music in the Park series and we are in the process of setting up an online survey. Once we've gathered public input, the Council will make the final design decision and then we'll map out plans for fundraising.

### **2013-14 City Budget**

The City recently approved the official budget for 2013-14. The budget is essentially a status quo budget that maintains all City services while maintaining our excellent financial condition. The City works very hard to spend your money wisely. This year's budget reflects this core philosophy. Some highlights from this year's budget include budgeting for the new Police Station, allocating \$100,000 to assist with fundraising for the Senior Center expansion, a 3% electric rate decrease and budgeting for the Madrona Park improvements. Keeping services at a high level and still being able to complete projects that make Monmouth an even better community is a good place to be.

### **Big Plans for Madrona Park**

Madrona Park is one of the largest City parks. However, it is only partially developed. We decided to change that. Previously, we created a master plan for the parcel. Now, thanks to the efforts of our Community Development Department, we have acquired grants that will allow us to fully develop the park. Construction

is scheduled for next summer. When completed, the park will feature perimeter and interior walking trails, an arboretum and native plant garden, irrigated recreation fields, a restroom, and new playground equipment. The total project cost is \$623,000, with around two-thirds of the project covered by grants.



### Police Station Next Steps

I thank the community again for your solid support of the Police Station bond measure. The new station will be a game changer for the Police Department and will become a long-term point of pride for Monmouth. Before we get to the grand opening, we have many significant steps to take. Our first task is to acquire financing on the bond market. We are actively working this task as we speak. The Council has authorized us to accept funds and we are now searching for a firm that will help us acquire funds at the best rate. Once this is complete, we will hire an architectural/engineering firm to prepare construction documents. Then we will accept proposals for the actual construction/renovation of the old Forest Capital building. We anticipate that we will start construction in the spring of 2014, with move in before the end of the year. We will be very diligent at every stage of the process to ensure that we use taxpayer money wisely and get the best project possible.

### New Police Employee

The Monmouth Police Department has a new Code Enforcement Officer. Ben Simpson started with the City last month and has hit the ground

running. It's always good to have someone on board when the grass is growing!

### New Library Director

Krist Obrist, formerly known as our Children's Librarian, was recently promoted to the position of Library Director. She was selected from an excellent pool of candidates. Krist has over twenty years of experience in libraries and nine with the City of Monmouth. An interesting aspect of the recruitment was the number of out of state applicants that we had for the position. I look at this as a positive statement about Monmouth and our library.

### PEP Talks

The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring an exciting new business education series that would be beneficial to our small businesses or someone thinking about starting a business. The Promote Enterprising Performance series uses professional trainers to cover topics such as Website and Social Media best practices, Marketing and Sales, Boosting Food Sales, and Business Branding. More information on the series can be found at [www.micc-or.org](http://www.micc-or.org).

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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