

# City of Monmouth

## City Manager's Report

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

*October 19, 2016*

### **Wellness Tip**

Did you know that some health experts consider sitting to be the new smoking? Sitting, and the corresponding lack of motion, has been noted as a significant contributor to high blood pressure, diabetes and weight gain. Humans aren't designed to be idle. Idleness leads to a variety of health issues. While exercise is good, you're putting yourself in a wellness hole if you are idle for extended periods of time. The good news is that just standing up once an hour is good for you. If you have an office job, getting a cup of coffee or walking to grab something off the printer are good. Another option is standing up while on the phone or even moving to a standing desk. Idle bad. Motion good.

### **Music in the Park Recap**

We had another excellent Music in the Park season. In addition to the regular high-quality, diverse performers, the series was held in the new amphitheater! We heard nothing but rave reviews about the amphitheater. Some of our favorite comments were from out of town visitors that wished that they had something this nice in their town. An addition to this year's events was children's art activities, which were organized by Ash Creek Arts Center. With music, food and drink, arts, a fountain, a playground and grass for volleyball or other activities, Main Street Park is the place to be on Wednesday nights in the summer.

### **New Student Feed**

The Monmouth Business Association recently held the annual New Student Feed for Western

Oregon University freshmen and transfer students. At the event local businesses from Monmouth and Independence have the opportunity to tell the new students about what products and services they provide. This year, we had thirty businesses that participated. It's a great event. The students are very nice and appreciative of the free meal and business freebies. This is just one of the many ways that Western cooperates with the City and the local business community.

### **City Council Candidates**

If you wanted some choice about whom you would like on the Monmouth City Council, this is a great year. While Steve Milligan is the only candidate for Mayor, we have nine candidates for four Council seats. The Council candidates are: Stephen Deptula, Rich Graham, George Jeffery, Mark Lane, Laurel Sharmer, Byron Shinkle, Darin Silbernagel, Thomas Steinke and Steven Sundseth. Information on the candidates can be found in the Polk Itemizer- Observer newspaper. A video of a recent candidates forum can be found on the Facebook page for the Associated Students of Western Oregon University or on the WIMPEG YouTube channel.

### **Senior Center Expansion**

Construction of the Senior Center expansion is proceeding very smoothly. The project is a few days behind schedule. Very few hiccups have been encountered so far. Sheetrock work is currently being completed. Next, the crews will start work on installing cabinets and fixtures.

## Public Power Week

**MONMOUTH POWER & LIGHT**  
Dedicated to Serving our Customers Since 1941

**Celebrating Public Power**  
October 7-13, 2016

**Commercial Customers**  
Our new promotion has allowed Monmouth businesses to reduce costs with efficient LED lighting at little or no cost.

**Save Energy**

- LED bulb exchange program
- Free efficient shower heads
- See energy saving tips @ [www.ci.monmouth.or.us](http://www.ci.monmouth.or.us)
- Follow us on Twitter @MonmouthPower

**Highlights of 2016**

- Together we saved enough energy to power 42 homes!
- System upgrades in Marr Ct. and Cupid's Knoll
- Over 48 new homes powered!
- Over \$170,000 in efficiency rebates to customers
- Connected services to new WOU buildings
- Installed 12 ductless heat pumps for low income customers
- Maintained reliable electric service at a reasonable cost
- We offer 35% lower rates than PGE

Monmouth recently celebrated Public Power Week. As noted in the above graphic, there is a lot of focus on energy efficiency efforts in addition to all the work that it takes to keep the electricity flowing.

## Free Light Bulbs

Speaking of light bulbs, did you know that all Monmouth Power residential customers qualify to receive new LED light bulbs to replace incandescent bulbs. Customers are eligible to replace up to 16 bulbs per household. This program requires an exchange of one incandescent light bulb for one LED bulb. Available while supplies last. We have exchanged 936 bulbs for 69 households who have participated in the program since July 2016. Please contact Monmouth Power and Light at 503-838-3526 for details.

## Marijuana Rules

Now that marijuana is legal in Oregon, does Monmouth have land use rules in place to accommodate the production and sale of marijuana? The answer is sort of. At a simple level, we don't have rules in place because it wasn't legal. Now that it is, Monmouth has been working diligently to create appropriate rules.

On the retail side, we are essentially following the State lead and letting their rules govern our sellers (no one as yet). On the growing or

production side, we need to note where facilities are allowed and not allowed. While it can be argued that marijuana production is similar to other manufacturing/processing operations, there are some uniquenesses that we want to take into account. For instance, rules are proposed for on-site security, waste disposal and odor. To date, the Planning Commission has reviewed draft rules. After a notice to the public, the Planning Commission will hold a hearing. The City Council will likely consider this issue in a work session, followed by a public hearing and then adoption of rules. If you are interested in this topic, now's the time to become informed.

## It's Halloween Time

Sometimes you try a new community event and it just doesn't take off. One event that took hold and grew very quickly is the annual Downtown Trick or Treat event. In addition to the treats, the Library has a great slate of activities.

**MONMOUTH DOWNTOWN HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR!**  
Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>  
4:00 - 6:30 pm

Be on the lookout for Wolfe trick-or-treating downtown!

Look for this flyer at participating downtown businesses!

Brought to you by the Monmouth Business Association & the Monmouth Public Library.

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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