

# City of Monmouth

## City Manager's Report

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

*November 13, 2013*

### **Shopping in Monmouth**

Many people determine whether a downtown is "good" or not based on the mix of businesses and services that are available. A few years ago the Monmouth downtown was viewed by many as nice, but lacking in retail and restaurants. The other knock was there wasn't much open after 5:00 p.m. That has substantially changed. A narrower benchmark that can be used to assess the quality of your downtown is whether you can buy clothing or find some place to buy a gift. Monmouth fares very well in this area. Gift items and clothing are available at Cornerstone Books, the find, Petals and Vines, Boomerang Fashions, Monmouth Hardware, Amanda's Closet and Belle Adora. Bumping out just beyond the downtown core are Downtown Trends and This and That By Us. And the above is a limited view of "gifts". You can also find bike supplies, hardware, auto parts, hair care products and other great items in our downtown. Note to men - think very carefully before giving your significant other wiper blades as a gift. With the state of our downtown, you can come down to have a bagel and grab a coffee, hit multiple shops and then choose between a number of great restaurants for lunch or dinner. That is the hallmark of a great downtown.

### **New Employee and a Promotion**

Within the last month, we welcomed one new employee and promoted another. Carrie Kasperick is our new Youth Services Librarian. She comes to us from Erie, Colorado, where she had the same position. Carrie holds a Master of Science in Library Science, a Secondary Education Licensure in English and a Bachelor of Arts

degree in English Literature. She also has experience as a teacher, writer and a marketing assistant.

Ben Simpson started with the City as the Police Department's Community Service Officer. He also served for a short period in the part-time PD records position. Ben was hired on October 14, 2013 to fill a vacant police officer position. He started the Police Academy on that same date and is scheduled to graduate in February, 2014. Ben is a local resident who has taken criminal justice classes, volunteered at the Dallas Police Dept. and served as a Cadet for the Independence Police Dept. Both Ben and his wife's fathers are police professionals.

### **Police Station Manager Hired**

The Police Station project took another step forward with the hiring of a Construction Manager. The construction manager will be responsible for working with Chief Tallan to guide the project to fruition. Hill International was the firm selected. They were chosen from a very competitive list of firms that submitted proposals. The two staff assigned to our project have a combined 55 years in construction experience. We were looking for someone that had specific experience with Police buildings - and we got it. Hill International has extensive experience in this area. They most recently worked on police and court buildings for the Cities of Woodburn, Lebanon, Oregon City and Independence.

## **Marr Brothers Land Use Action**

The City recently finished a very extensive comprehensive plan map amendment process that would allow the Marr Bros. barkdust operation to expand onto property just north of the existing facility. Final action on this application will be taken by Polk County (zoning) as the property is outside Monmouth City limits. The application process was very intense, with strong and heartfelt opinions voiced on both sides of the issue. Throughout the process, staff offered professional advice, the applicant and citizens made reasoned comments and the Council processed all of this information while abiding by very technical land use laws and procedures. While not everyone could be happy with the result, participants were respectful and handled themselves well during the process.

## **WOU Parade and Tree Lighting**

This year's WOU Holiday Tree Lighting will be Friday, December 6. The parade, lighting and other fun activities are a highlight of the season. WOU students have stepped up their game the last few years and are creating some excellent floats. Businesses and local community groups are very welcome in the parade. If you participate in this parade, you might want to consider also being in the Independence Parade of Lights, which is the next night.

## **E-Citation Program**

Unlike the common image of many that governments never change, the City of Monmouth is in constant motion, tackling new issues, changing procedures and practices and adopting new technology. A recent example of adopting a new technology to operate more efficiently is the Police Department moving to E-citations. No more completing citations with pen and paper! Officers now enter a driver's license number into the computer in the patrol car and all of the fields on the electronic citation are auto-populated. Officers only have to select the violation information and the rest is done automatically, including assigning a court date and even adding the officer's digital signature.

Small printers have been mounted in each patrol vehicle that produces a copy of the citation (that looks similar to a grocery store receipt), which is then issued to the violator. All this new technology was made possible by a \$50,200 grant we received from the Oregon Department of Transportation. Monmouth, Independence, and the Polk County Sheriff's Office are all using this new technology. In addition to saving time in the field, valuable time savings will also be gained in our records and court system. Due to the E-Cite system automatically uploading all citations into the MPD Records Management System, (and soon to the Municipal and Circuit Court systems), repetitive entry of citations will be eliminated. This should prove to be a much more efficient and accurate system that will free up time for both law enforcement and the courts.

## **City Buildings For Sale or Use**

The City's Recreation Building on Broad St. (former Indoor Park and CYS Office) is for sale. Also, we are taking proposals for temporary use of the Old Fire Station (152 Warren St.). Information on both of these properties is currently on our web site.

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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