

# *City of Monmouth*

## *City Manager's Report*

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

*December 2, 2016*

### **Welcome New City Council**

We had a great amount of interest in our City Council positions this year. We had one candidate for Mayor and nine candidates for four Council positions. Our new Mayor will be Steve Milligan. New Councilors are Laurel Sharmer, Byron Shinkle and Thomas Steinke. Darin Silbernagel returns to the Council and will be joined by continuing Councilors Jon Carey and Royal Johnson. The new Council will hit the ground running with policy decisions and the annual budget process budget. We'll look forward to the new perspectives from our new community leaders.

### **Year of Service Awards**

A key reason why the Monmouth City organization is in such good shape and we provide excellent services is our staff. On Dec. 6 we will recognize City employees for their years of service. This year's awards are: Chuck Thurman - 5 Years; Shannon Medel - 15 Years; Kim Dorn - 20 Years; Deborah Lyons - 20 Years and Vivian Byers - 35 Years.

### **Bicycle Tourism**

While some think that a tourist is a tourist, this isn't always the case. Many tourists are interested in very specific things. Some are interested in history, some in outdoor recreation, and some in cultural events. You have to market to these specific interests if you want them to visit. One type of tourist that the Polk County Tourism Alliance is trying to attract is Bicycle Tourists. These may be people that come directly to our county to ride our awesome and diverse roads or

may be passing through on a longer route. The better we can market ourselves to these tourists, the more benefit we will receive - like stops at the bike shop, buying supplies, eating at a restaurant, etc. The alliance recently produced a very nice video that entices cyclists to visit our area. The Chamber of Commerce also developed an "outdoor adventure" guide that features cycling.

Supporting these same goals is our Monmouth Engaged Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee. The committee recently applied for a grant to install bicycle repair stations on the Highway 99 bike path and at Main Street Park. They are also looking in to setting up a bicycle campground at Gentle Woods Park.

### **Willamette Wellfield**

Monmouth currently has some excellent sources of water. However, as we grow, we'll need more. Even in our wet part of the state, acquiring water is a very difficult task. We are currently working on developing a new source of water - the Willamette Wellfield. This is a joint project with the City of Independence. The project started in 2005. Since that time, we have installed wells and other hardware, worked on water rights and did some testing. Next we will be moving to test a filtration system. If everything goes well, both communities will have a solid new source of water that we will share equally and an improved ability to move water back and forth between the cities.

## **Senior Center Open House**

The Senior Center Expansion project is nearing completion. It is going to be fun so see how the new space is used. An open house is schedule to celebrate the addition on Thursday, January 19, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## **Chamber of Commerce Director**

Jean Love, the Executive Director of the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce recently announced her resignation. The Chamber provides a wide variety of valuable services to our community, including networking, business skill training, visitor services, marketing opportunities and advocacy. The Chamber hosts the annual Community Awards banquet, the Mayors' State of the Cities address and other community events. Jean greatly elevated the value and impact of the Chamber through her skill and hard work. Thank you, Jean, for your contribution to our communities.

## **Library Programs**

Many people are familiar with the awesome children's activities at the Library. What you may not know is that the library has been focused the last couple of years on adding adult classes and programming. The Library has hosted lectures, social events and adult coloring. Check the library calendar for upcoming adult classes and programs. They're pretty fun.

## **Recycling Success**

Polk County does an excellent job with recycling, or recovering products from our waste stream. This includes household items like paper, plastics and glass and yard debris. The State sets recycling/recovery goals for wastesheds around the state. Our current goal is 35% recovery. Our recovery rate for 2015 was 47.3%. The average per capita waste disposed in Oregon during 2015 was 1,365 pounds. Polk County's per capita waste disposal was 1,087 pounds. Citizens and businesses are responsible for this success rate. The Cities and the County, working with our

waste collection providers, can offer opportunities to recycle, but it is up to you to do the actual recycling.

## **Christmas in Downtown**

The annual parade and holiday tree lighting in Friday, Dec. 2. Independence has their parade on Saturday, Dec. 3. Monmouth downtown is a magical place during the holidays. Between the decorations on streetlights, lights in trees, decorations in the park and decorated businesses, you definitely know it's the season. With such a fun and festive environment, I hope you spend some quality time in downtown shopping at our fine shops and eating at our many restaurants.

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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