



Montesano City Monthly Newsletter

Our goal is to bring you important news of what has transpired last month in our council meetings, what is known to be scheduled for the City Council this month and any other subject that we believe will have interest to you. If you have questions please call and we will respond! 360-249-3021 Vol 1 Issue 3

April 2012

Council Activity March 13 The Council approved the appointment of Rick Pitts to the Parks Board. This fills out the board. We express our humble appreciation to those of you who have and are currently volunteering.

The Council was briefed on the draft proposal and timeline for construction of the new city shop. It is hoped we will go out to bid April 13th. Permits are currently being processed to begin construction. Bid acceptance or rejection will be done by City Council after bid opening in early May.

The Council heard a report by Bruce Hooper of the Chehalis Valley Historical Museum, that there had been over 600 visitors since his last report. The council authorized the transfer of \$1,500 from Tourism funds generated by the motel tax to the museum. This completed funding agreed to by the City and the Museum in 2011.

Councilor Chris Hutchings reported that the Snow Removal Policy was still a work in progress and that it would be brought to City Council in the near future.

A complaint was mailed to the Council by a citizen regarding the danger of the large Sequoia trees on the north side of Fleet Park. Forrester Loren Hiner examined the trees and expressed concern because of a dead top in one of the trees and the size of some of the limbs. Several limbs had blown down in the past windstorms. So far, the damage has been restricted to the sidewalk. Councilor Pat Herrington advised Council that these beautiful trees were a reminder of why we are called the Home of the Tree Farm and of

the city's tree removal ordinance. It was agreed to contact an arborist for a professional opinion. This will be done as soon as possible.

Bids were opened on property which had been declared surplus. There were two bids and the council retired to executive session to discuss them. On their return, a counter offer was made to the high bidder asking to "complete the permitting process within six months". The high bid was for \$23,000 made by Woods at Sylvia Creek and it included granting the city a 10 foot paved access road, public parking, access to the river and provides for shoring up the river bank to prevent erosion. On March 13th the counter offer was accepted.

March 9th

Much has been written, and rightfully so, about the shooting and stabbing of a Judge and a Grays Harbor Deputy. I take the liberty of telling it from the City Hall view: Calls came in from around the nation, New York to Los Angeles from news media and a lot of those calls wanted to know where we were located and details about our city. Many callers were referred to our very excellent web site, which was originally created and maintained by Janet Botnen, It is now in the capable hands of local resident and GH Community College student, Justin Olsen. If you have not visited our city site; www.montesano.us please do and if you have comments or suggestions about it, feel free to call City Hall 249-3021

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March 9th Continued: Mayors report to the Council on March 13th

I can not say enough about the professionalism of our Police and Fire/Medics who responded to the tragic event at the Court House. The protocol our emergency services have established with the County and the neighboring Law Enforcement Community is commendable to the highest degree. We may be a small community however the coming together of our citizens and emergency responders on that dark day, demonstrates one of the many reasons why we love Montesano!

I would like to speak of the events within City Hall. At the first notification the facility went into lockdown. Every employee showed a calmness and a willingness to assist in any way needed. From bringing small children, who were walking home from school, into the office and then calling their parents to pick them up; to the demeanor they presented on every phone call; I am very proud of their actions and conduct.

I would like to cite several city hall employees who stood out in their performance of duty on that day: Kim Lillegard and Cyndi Bies of the Police Department; Kay Gueller and Lynn Avery from Police Court; Kim Schankel, Ashlee Sund, Chelsea Hamblin from the Clerks Office and our City Administrator, Kristy Powell. To each, I offer a “**well done**” in difficult times”.

Fund Raiser: Montesano Senior Center is holding their annual fundraiser with both a silent and live auction at the Senior Center

May 19th, starting at 5 pm. They are accepting donations. Call 240-0011 for more information.

Emergency Drill: Get ready for the great **SHAKE-OUT** to be held by the states of Oregon, California and Washington. The date of this emergency earthquake drill is October 18th at 10:18 am. For more information: www.shakeout.org/washington

Last reminder: Veterans Memorial at Fleet Park. Montesano Veterans or their family member should contact the VFW, if they want to participate. Engraving is free before April 30; after that date it will cost \$50.

Blood Draw: The next Montesano Blood Drive will be May 15, 1:30 pm until 7 pm at the Montesano United Presbyterian Church.. The address is 201 E. McBryde Ave.

Council Meetings: Are held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. These are public meetings and you are encouraged to attend. At least two time periods are offered during the meeting for public comments.

Mayor's Message: I apologize for the lack of professionalism in last month's newsletter. With a short deadline to publish, many grammatical errors were overlooked. It needed proofing which it did not get and I take that responsibility. I trust this issue is better as our goal is continued improvement. I do hope it contains information from the City Hall point of view that you are not getting from other media.

Mayor Ken Estes