

Montesano Update

April 2017

by Mayor Vini Samuel | vsamuel@montesano.us | 249-3021

Ballfields: partnerships start at home

As many of you know, the city and the school district — with a lot of help from friends at the Grays Harbor Public Utility District—worked together to help bring Vessey Field up to a playing standards.

New nets were installed and new poles placed. We put in new fencing, cement sidewalks and did a general clean up.



The City Public Works crew worked through the worst weather January through March, with relentless rain, hail and freezing cold, to get Vessey ready for the baseball season. You will also notice a smaller fenced field that has been created in order to allow an alternate play field.. Vessey has needed this work for years.

It only happened this year because people worked together: the school board, the city, the PUD—everyone came together.

As part of our emphasis on ball fields, we've been forming partnerships with all of the major groups who use city parks.

This started with the high school and the Vessey baseball fields. Now the Montesano Girls



Softball Association has also signed a user agreement. This allows a fee for the usage and allows a seasonal use of the fields for each group. Crait is traditionally used for rec girls softball and the Association has worked hard to maintain it. They put in \$20,000 towards the fencing and field work this past year. Then they presented a check for \$1500 for the city to continue its work on Crait.

That same spirit of cooperation worked to get the new soccer fields out on Beacon, which wouldn't have happened without donations and the tireless work of the Montesano Youth Soccer Association. And, if you've driven by Simpson on Third Street, you've seen people using the new basketball hoops which wouldn't have happened without the city partnering with volunteers and donations.

Why is this important? Montesano residents of all ages want access to our ballfields but this needs to be balanced with the rec. volunteer efforts which keep the ballfields in shape. So I want to thank everyone who has partnered up with the city to get things done.



Fixing the roads on East Pioneer

I am pleased to report that with Council of Government Board approval, the East Pioneer project will receive an additional \$193,526 in federal and state funding.

This will enable us to reduce the amount of funding from the city's General Fund, REET Fund and the Stormwater Fund—and that means giving the city's bottom line some breathing room, which is good news for taxpayers.

The new money adds to the funding already approved by the Council of Governments and will allow the city to rebuild Pioneer from the stoplight to the Fire Station, all with little funding from city coffers. We are all grateful this opportunity has presented itself and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to help make this happen. Citizens and businesses consistently mention repairing roads/sidewalks as a priority, so we're working hard to fix these problems.

Monte Trails Appreciation Day

Bring gloves and your favorite brushing/pruning tools for a morning of comradery for our annual volunteer work day to help spruce up the trails for another season of outdoor enjoyment.

When: Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Meet at Lake Sylvia beach parking area.

Sponsored by the City of Montesano, Washington State Parks, and FOSLS. For more information contact City Forester Loren Hiner at lhiner@montesano.us or 360-581-1193.

Please welcome two great new hires!

The public works crew has been down one member since last March. Re-hiring was held off in 2016 in order help stabilize our budget. Our finances are now on track and the position was filled by hiring the very well-qualified Cody Martin—please welcome him!



Another new face is Police Officer Brandon Kallgren, sworn in by Chief Vance at the April meeting of the city council with his wife having the honor of pinning his badge. We are fortunate to have a great police force.



Saturday Morning Markets

It's almost time to sign up for Saturday Morning Markets in Montesano.

The dates this year are from July 8th through August 26th , 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you would like to be a vendor, there's a one-time fee of \$25 for the summer or a one-day fee of \$5. Outside spots only, so provide your own pop-up tent if you have one. First come, first-serve for spots. Setup runs from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., with take-down at 1 p.m. For more details, contact the Monte Chamber or email angiebrown4@comcastnet.

Honoring our vets

VFW will be holding a ceremony on May 31 at 11 a.m. in Fleet Park to install and to honor two of our own fallen Vietnam veterans, Johnny Chambers and David Harner.

Montesano Community Education

At the end of an era of community ed., Co-President Dick Stone, Treasurer Donnie Rostedt, and Secretary

Val Jester pass the last of the money, some \$200, to the Montesano Community Center,



represented by Laurie Andrews and President Virginia Nelson.

The Community Center is offering some classes besides serving as a special venue for other happenings as well as lunch five days a week.

Photo by Helen Hepp.

New council member

Please join us at the May 9th Council Meeting for interviews of all the applicants for the open spot on our City Council.



Front page header photo by Tom Frederiksen. Newsletter design courtesy of Silver Tongue. Please send news tips and photos to vsamuel@montesano.us

