

Montesano Update

August 2017

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Making connections in Monte

The other day I was having lunch with my son, when someone sat down and started talking to me. She engaged my son with questions about what he was reading and finally said to him, "You know, you belong to all of us. I consider you mine too."

The next day, I was walking near the courthouse when I saw a child learning to ride a bike in the same loop that my son did 10 years ago—up Main Street, across Broadway, down First, across Marcy and back again.

And her two parents trailed behind her—just like my husband and I did a decade ago.

So many parts of this town—whether person or place—holds a memory for us. Each is a connection which defines how you or I see this town.

Montesano is warm, welcoming, vibrant with life with people who want to bring you into the fold. That is what is amazing about it and why we live here.

We are about to embark into the school season and as it starts up, try out one of the Friday night football games if you haven't gone for a while or are new in town. Most of Montesano shows up in those stands.

Find an opportunity to re-engage or start up with a group that calls to you: Spokebusters (mountain biking), the Chamber, the Community Center, FOSLS (Lake Sylvania), Master gardeners, the schools, the churches, Kiwanis, the sports rec teams, VFW, the quilting groups...

Try out one of the activities in town. This month I met people I did not know at the National Night Out and at the Saturday Morning Market.

By the time you read this, we'll be moving on to September with the FOSLS Fall Festival at Lake Sylvania and the Chamber's Fish & Brew fest.

The end of the month will see the kick off on running events with the Lake Sylvania Fall Festival followed by Catch Montesano, the October Zombie Run, November Turkey Trot, and December Jingle Bell Jog.

Your engagement is a necessary ingredient of creating a thriving and healthy fabric for this town.

It's part of what makes Montesano special—the people here, even if they've just met you, tend to consider you part of their extended family.



No more train tracks—The train tracks (and giant pothole) at the east-bound exit to downtown are now gone. DOT removed the tracks and paved over the spot. Not only does this end an annoyance, the lack of tracks will improve safety and let motorists make a clean left or right without being distracted by the rails. A big thanks to the



Department of Transportation and local lawmakers for working together to get this done.

Demonstration street— We're embarking on finding ways to address streets that need work even when we don't have a large sum of money to make reconstruction happen.

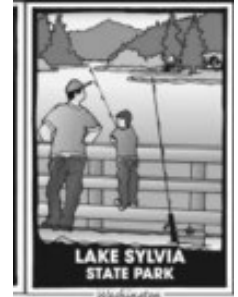
Spruce Street is narrow and riddled with cracks. Public Works/Community Development Director Mike Olden, a civil engineer, used his skills and creativity to tackle this on-going problem. Usually, a 50-foot section like this replaced with asphalt would normally cost upwards of \$75,000. Using the city Public Works crew and concrete, we will replace and widen the same section for under \$10,000.

This is an exciting effort and I applaud the creativity and hard work from Mike and the public works department who've done a great job replacing sidewalks downtown this summer. Hats off to them.

Last call on survey! The Montesano Parks Board asks that you fill out the citizen survey to determine our priorities for parks in our town. Paper copies will be available at City Hall. Labor Day is the last day (extended) to submit—You can also take the survey online at surveymonkey.com/r/monteparks

Lake Sylvia Fall Festival—Head down to the Lake on Saturday, Sept. 16 for the 8th annual Fall Festival. Events include:

- trail races
- Boy Scouts camp cooking demo & tasting
- a pancake breakfast
- live music
- an art market
- mountain bike rides led by the Spoke Busters
- kid's games
- arts and crafts booth by local Girl Scouts
- and food vendors.



This is always a great event. The money raised through vendor fees, ads and donations goes back to improving Lake Sylvia, the gemstone in the heart of our city forest. For more, go to fosls.org/fall-festival.html.

Catch Montesano Fish & Brew Fest—The second Catch Montesano is all set to start at 4 p.m. Sept. 30 at Fleet Park. According to the Chamber, there will be an expanded beer garden (also featuring wine), live music and food vendors.

The fishing derby features cash prizes. Weigh your fish at Friend's Landing and come to Fleet Park at 4 p.m. to find out about the winners.



Fish & Brew Fest

Kick off the running season with a fun run and walk at Friend's Landing (9 a.m., with registration starting at 8 a.m.). Donations from this fun run and walk will go to a new playground at Friend's Landing.



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