

# Montesano Update

June 2017

by Mayor Vini Samuel | [vsamuel@montesano.us](mailto:vsamuel@montesano.us) | 249-3021

## Celebrating new beginnings

I had the honor of watching our seniors in their maroon gowns receive their diplomas. The gym was packed with proud parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends. It was inspiring to see how many college scholarships they'd earned and how much support they had. These moments matter, whether it's about our kids, our neighborhoods or our city.

It's what makes Montesano special.

So it's with great pride that we celebrate Sam Martin's 42 years of service to the people of Montesano—and welcome Mike Olden as the new Public Works and Community Development Director.

Sam Martin was in charge of the city's water system, so his work was evident every time you turned on the tap. Sam served with dedication, pride and professionalism. What he helped build will serve our people for generations.

Mike Olden grew up in Montesano and we're thrilled to welcome him back home. Mike and his wife, Kelly, are also graduates from Monte HS. He has sat on those bleachers and knows the heart of this city. He's already familiar with the city through his work on Montesano projects as a senior engineer at Gibbs and Olson. He



*At Sam Martin's retirement party: new Public Works and Community Development Director Mike Olden, Kenny Frafjord, Ryan Watkins, Sam Martin, Kevin Hagel and Cody Martin.*

has more than 28 years of experience managing projects and finding creative solutions for state, local and county governments.

Mike is a licensed professional engineer with extensive experience in civil and environmental engineering.

I couldn't be happier that he's joined the team and look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.



**What do you think?**—The Montesano Parks Board is working on a comprehensive parks plan for the city. They want and need your thoughts, comments and ideas. The citizen survey will be open from June 26 to Aug. 31. Paper copies will be available at City Hall.

You can also take the survey online at: [surveymonkey.com/r/monteparks](http://surveymonkey.com/r/monteparks)

**A Walk in Our Woods**—The city’s Forestry Department is hosting interpretive hikes and mountain bike rides on the City Forest Trails.

Meet by the swimming beach at Lake Sylvia State Park. For more information, contact City Forester Loren Hiner at 249-5424 or [lhiner@montesano.us](mailto:lhiner@montesano.us).

- Sat. July 1                   Hike                   9:30 a.m.
- Wed. July 12               Hike                   6:30 p.m.
- Wed. July 19               Hike                   9:30 a.m.
- Wed. July 26               Bike Ride           6:30 p.m.
- Sat. Aug. 5                 Hike                   9:30 a.m.
- Wed. Aug. 16              Hike                   9:30 a.m.
- Wed. Aug. 23              Hike                   6:30 p.m.
- Wed. Aug. 30              Bike Ride           6:30 p.m.



*It was a pleasure touring the city forest with our forester and council members. Photo by Councilman Dan Wood*

**Saturday Morning Markets in Montesano**—The morning markets are starting back up this month. You’ll see vendors at Fleet Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from July 8 to August 26.

If you’re interested in being a vendor, you can participate for \$5 per Saturday or \$25 for the entire summer (8 Saturdays). For more information email [angiebrown4@comcast.net](mailto:angiebrown4@comcast.net).

**15th Annual Historic Montesano Car Show**—Saturday July 15, starting at 8 a.m., more than 200 street rods, muscle cars and antiques. This event includes a swap meet, food and door prizes. For more information, call Dave Foss at 580-7941 or 249-5423.

**5th Annual Kids Summer Fest**—Saturday July 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fleet Park there’ll be obstacle courses, a fun house, face painting, fire dept. drills, and a Boy Scout monkey bridge! Contact Tim Beauchamp at 360-249-5522 or email [members@montesanochamber.org](mailto:members@montesanochamber.org).

**National Night Out**—Throw a block party! Tuesday, August 1 is an opportunity to get to know your neighbors, your police officers and firemen. Contact Cyndi at the police department, 249-1031, for more information.

**Budget status**— While exciting things are happening, the City has made numerous changes to streamline spending and be conservative in its fiscal analysis.

The Council and Mayor are working towards creating a healthy ending general fund balance. Last May, that balance dipped to \$33,488. During this stage in 2016, the city skipped the regular process to undertake an emergency rewrite of the city budget. As of the end of May 2017, the city’s general fund balance is \$408,004.41.

That remarkable financial progress is the result of a team effort. Chief Financial Officer Doug Streeter and the Mayor worked with the city council and department heads to right the ship and create a budget that’s healthy and sustainable. Everyone did their part to make this happen for our city. While this is a work in progress, this is good news for all of us!



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