

Montesano Update

March 2017

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Grays Harbor tourism hits record level in 2016

This week, *The South Sound Business Examiner* reported that Mike Bruner, manager of Grays Harbor Tourism, estimated the 2016 income from hotel-motel tax at a record level of more than \$1,000,000.

Bruner said, "Every \$30,000 of additional money generated through this tax represents an additional \$1 million spent on overnight stays. And that's just on accommodations."

This is great news for Grays Harbor and for Montesano, where we enjoy a lot of tourist visitors.

"The benefits of Washington's outdoor recreation industry go beyond supporting jobs to include creating a way of life," states Briceno and Schundler in *Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State*.

"It is estimated that Washingtonians, on average, spend 56 days a year recreating outdoors. According to the recreation surveys and public land records used in this study, there were a total of about 446 million participant days a year spent on outdoor recreation in Washington, resulting in \$21.6 billion dollars in annual expenditures."

This is why an outdoor tourism industry is ideal for the economy of Montesano: whatever helps outdoor recreation helps our residents. Many of those tourists come to enjoy Lake Sylvania State Park for fishing at the lake along with hiking and mountain biking through our vast city forest.

Free days at state parks

No passes are required to visit state parks on the following dates:

March 19, State Park's 104th birthday

April 15, Spring day

April 22, Earth Day

June 3, National Trails Day

June 10, National Get Outdoors Day

Aug. 25, National Park Service 101st Birthday

Sept. 30, National Public Lands Day

Nov. 11, Veterans Day

Nov. 24, Autumn day

With the coming of spring and summer, those tourists will start stopping here more often.

Here at City Hall, we're working hard to form partnerships with community groups like FOSLS (Friends of Schafer and Lake Sylvania) to make improvements at Lake Sylvania and hold events. If you know of an event, please let us know.

Trillium Trek

On April 22 at 1 p.m. FOSLS invites you to celebrate spring and the trails. Meet at the Lake Sylvania kitchen near the swim beach.

Well behaved-pets on short leash are also welcome.

For more information, call 360-249-3621 or 360-786-9953 or visit FOSLS.org.



CROSSWALKS!

Just a friendly reminder that the car is stronger than the pedestrian.

People are often walking while they use their cell phone, please pay special attention in order to keep everyone safe.

COUNCIL VACANCY

A seat is open for the City Council and we will choose a new council member soon.

Materials are due by end of April and interviews are May 9, 2017.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Good government should always be humming in the background—an engine you need but don't pay too much attention to unless you need it fixed!

Our Wastewater Treatment Plant was built by timber monies and sits just south of the freeway.

It is a \$50 million dollar structure to replace today. But around it we have rivers creeping close and our friends at the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority continue to assist this city by looking at short term emergency fixes as well as long term efforts to change the river's course.

They have asked the Legislature for a \$5 million placeholder for funding for additional sheeting to slow the river while pursuing avenues to move the water back closer to the original pathway.

We appreciate all of their efforts and our partners in the Chehalis Basin Watershed.

CHANGES TO STREETS

Through the Model Traffic Ordinance (MTO) Committee, the city is determining whether we should change the one way section of Marcy between Chehalis & Academy back to a two-way street. That strip of street now serves primarily residences.

MTO is also seeing whether 2 hour parking will be instituted on the block surrounding Gepettos on River and Marcy.

Please let Councilman Tyler Trimble know your thoughts.

STREETS UPDATE

We have been slogged in rain. As the rain continues, please think about cleaning out the drains near you as you spring clean your grounds!



TENTATIVE DATES FOR HALIBUT FISHING

This year's halibut fishing season will take place on May 4, 6, 11, 21 and 25 and on June 1 and 4.

In addition, if the halibut quota has not been exhausted on those dates, the season could be extended; if so, the additional dates would be posted on the Fish & Wildlife website at dfw.wa.gov.

SPRING CLEANING AND HOUSE NUMBERS

As you cut back shrubbery, just a friendly reminder that when the PW, Fire or Police are coming for an emergency it would save them several minutes if your address is clearly posted!



2017 WELLCITY AWARD!

The City of Montesano has met all 40 of the WellCity Award requirements established by the AWC Employee Benefit Trust. In recognition of this achievement, City of Montesano will earn a 2 percent discount on all AWC Trust medical premiums in 2018.

This is the third year that Montesano employees have accomplished this goal.

Congratulations to Clerk Kim Lillegard and Firefighter Paramedic Rick Watkinson for their continued leadership with this program.



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