



2017 budget: How can we make progress?

The new city budget isn't really about numbers. It's about building a stronger city to serve citizens for generations.

I am proud of the work Chief Financial Officer Doug Streeter and the rest of the city directors have done to craft a proposed budget.

It is relentlessly focused on building financial stability and protecting the character of Montesano.

In 2016, we wanted to move the city forward, and did so with hard-earned accomplishments:

- 320 acres of new forest land to secure a steady general fund income in the future
- Free public Wi-Fi downtown
- Beacon Park soccer park is under construction (thanks to a partnership between the city and the Montesano Youth Soccer Club) and development of the Quinn Basketball Court (donated funds and labor)
- Working on long term economic plans for Montesano, including assisting the Monte Chamber with Saturday Morning Market, Fish & Brew Fest and Catch Montesano Salmon Derby

- Securing funds for East Pioneer Avenue street project
- An aggressive abatement schedule to clean up derelict properties
- 75th Anniversary of Tree Farming celebration and summer hikes with the forester

The proposed 2017 budget addresses the No. 1 concern expressed by citizens—streets and sidewalks—with funding for a mini excavator, crack sealing, hot patch machine, return of the unfilled position vacancy in Public Works and funding for the materials needed for repairs.

We will maintain the amazing City staff that we have in Fire, Police, Public Works and the Clerks. And we will increase the ending general fund balance towards a financially stable and reasonable level.

What's next? By the end of October, the proposed budget should be released and posted on the City website. There will be two public hearings on the budget, which must be passed before the end of 2016.

Please take a look and give us your comments!



First Fish & Brew Fest a great success!

If you didn't get a chance to stop by, here's a first-hand report: there was great live music, tasty local beer and wine and a full house, with organizers selling out of tickets and brewers running out of beer.

This was the first year for it, but you wouldn't know it. Fire Chief Corey Rux, the Volunteer Firefighters and others teamed up with the Chamber of Commerce to run a smooth event.

Stone Soup organized the variety of live music in Whitney's Chevrolet Annex, right next to Fleet Park where there was more food and games.

We're working hard to form partnerships for more events like this, so if you have an idea, please get in touch.

RV park

The city council is looking to change the city code to allow an extended stay RV park. The discussion is around how long will RVs be allowed to stay in current and future parks. Current law allows for 30 days in a year; our only one is at Monte Square.

What is your opinion? Should we change the law, and if so, where in Montesano would you want this new type of park to develop?

Come to the city council meetings if you want to be heard—or email your comments if you can't make it. The agenda is posted on the city website.

Run Montesano

If you want to stay in shape despite all the candy, turkey and ham, there are three fun runs open to all.

- **Zombie Fun Run**—2 mile-ish fun run hosted by the Bulldogs U16 Fastpitch/Zombie team! Do you have what it takes to survive a Zombie Apocalypse? Meet at Fleet park at 4 p.m. on Oct. 29.
- The annual **Turkey Trot 5k** happens at 9 a.m. on Nov. 24. For details, contact Monte Fitness Center at 249-0073.
- Coming in December: the **Jingle Bell Jog**.

Montesano locals honored

At the annual awards dinner in Ocean Shores, Greater Grays Harbor Inc. gave our own Paul Willis the 2016 John Loyle Spirit of Community Award, while Kellie and Corey Daniels were awarded Small Business of the Year for D4 Sports.



Three entrepreneurs from the Monte area also won awards from Washington Coast Works for sustainable and innovative new business ideas: Jeff Meeks (far right, with his wife) for his new green boat kit building business on Pioneer, local farmer Evan Mulvaney (middle) for sustainable pastured pork and the \$10,000 grand-prize winner, Jessica Ellis (far left, with her husband) for a solar-powered dog boarding business.

Fire Department open house

Please join the Montesano Fire Department on **Wednesday, Nov. 2 at the Fire Station, 310 E Pioneer Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m.** with tours, hot dogs, soda, fire safety tips and live interactive demonstrations.

Don't forget your pet tag

Reminding everyone who owns a pet to make sure they re-new their license for the new year! This helps the city (and your pet) find you when they are lost.



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