

Montesano Update

September 2017

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Progress takes partnerships

We see the fruits of teamwork every week as our kids compete on the field. Making our city a better place to live and work also takes partnerships with community leaders, businesses, city staff, non-profits and local elected officials.

Fleet Park, finally—I want to give a big thanks to County Commissioners Randy Ross and Vickie Raines for appreciating the city's vision and listening to small businesses using Fleet Park for the Saturday market.

Ross and Raines voted to use some of the county's .09 funds—meant for economically distressed rural counties—for a permanent bathroom at Fleet Park. Combined with a generous donation from the Kelsey Foundation and match from our Chamber, that bathroom should be built in April or May of 2018.

It took a lot of work and a lot of support to make this happen and it is important for this community to understand that this continues our efforts—city, county and state wide—to create jobs on the Harbor.

A big thank you to Ocean Shores Mayor Crystal Dingler, business owner Ann Galland and others who advocated for Montesano. Our city will never become an industrial town, so we rely on cottage businesses, like the vendors coming to the summer markets, who turn into storefronts to keep growing our downtown.

That's why we teamed up with Enterprise for Equity to help develop small businesses. Encouraging entrepreneurs is important. So is tapping into our state's growing \$20.7 billion tourism industry.

Partnering with our local lawmakers—I had the opportunity to represent the City of Montesano at the first stop of a Rural Development Tour.

Our local lawmakers hosted the first event at Aberdeen's Rotary Log Pavilion. It was great to get mayors, state and county officials, business leaders, the president of Grays Harbor College, officials from the Port and others, together with more than a dozen members of the House of Representatives.

Partnership is the right word. You'd be surprised how many things vital to the city actually depend on a mix of local, state and federal funding and laws.

So I want to give a public thanks to our local House members who helped organize and host this event. Rep. Mike Chapman and Rep. Steve Tharinger of the 24th District and Rep. Brian Blake of the 19th District managed to bring more than a dozen House members from around the state to the Harbor, including the Speaker of the House.

During that event, I was happy to hear Aberdeen Mayor Erik Larson and others talk about infrastructure and ideas to improve all of the cities and communities on the Harbor.

It's important to build on this meeting and continue a conversation about new innovations and trends such as cross-laminated timber and outdoor tourism. It's only by working together that we can protect and strengthen Montesano's economy and keep it a special place to live, work and raise a family.





Work on Spruce Street has begun!

Status on Streets—After a hot summer, my hope was for an October swathed in sun to allow an extension of the construction season. But the first rains have hit, and if they continue, we are not tearing up East Pioneer for the winter.

We will resume construction and paving when the weather turns better. That’s the best outcome for local businesses and for our residents.

Brief days of good weather will allow us to finish the 50-foot Spruce Street demonstration project, which should be complete by the time you read this. Check it out and let us know what you think!

October 31—Downtown Trick and Treat from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Come enjoy a safe fun trick or treat activity! Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

New Hire —Chad Prince, has moved the short distance from the Grays Harbor County Public Works Department to our city's Public Works crew.



We have been understaffed since March 2016 so it’s great to have a full crew taking care of the city.

Montesano Trail Plan—Over the summer, under the direction of our Forester, two of our college interns, Chad Horky and Jake Jaraczkeski created as their Capstone project a comprehensive Trail Management Plan for the City.



It is the first one that anyone can remember being done. This is a labor of love and we are grateful for all their hard work.

The draft the City Forestry committee is working through will be on our website as of October 1st. Please contact Chair Ian Cope with questions or input.

Traffic Revision Public Meeting on October 30—Turn lanes, compact roundabout, traffic light or something else? Come talk with us on Oct. 30 at 7 pm as we start discussing traffic improvement at the main off-ramp into downtown at the intersection of Highways 12 and 107. We will meet at 7 p.m. upstairs in City Hall.

Master Gardener Class— Enrollment starting. Ten classes starting January 27th (normally every other Saturday).



Contact Master Gardeners at 2018mgtrainees@gmail.com. The cost is \$175/person (\$100to WSU/ \$75 MG). Scholarships are available.



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