



NEWSLETTER

January 2015

LIGHT UP MONTVERDE A GREAT SUCCESS

Mayor

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Library
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Fire Department
Kevin Rausch, Fire Chief
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The 2014 Annual Montverde Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on December 5th. Special musical performances by Crenshaw, The Octet from Lake Mineola High School and The Woodlands Children's Choir were enjoyed by over 100 people who turned out despite the rain. Santa and Sparkie the Fire Dog made an appearance atop the Antique Fire Truck to thrill the young and not so young.

Immediately following the Tree Lighting, the movie *Polar Express* was shown at the Kirk Park Stage. Residents enjoyed roasting s'mores on the bonfire while the Montverde Volunteer Fire Department served hot dogs, chips, and hot cocoa. A special thanks go to Karin Arellano, Carolyn Ann Cole, Stephanie Kernan from Town Hall and Fire Chief, Kevin Rausch for their efforts in organizing such a great event.



A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TROY BENNETT

As this year comes to a close, I felt it would be good to reflect on the happenings in our Town. This year has been marked by change, not so much in material things but in the people that serve you, the citizens. The year started with the re-election of myself and councilmen Glen Burns and Jim Pierce. Arthur Nix was also elected to Council after being the Town's engineer for many years. The Town elected a new company to take his place and Steve Romano of CPH Engineering has done a great job with many of the projects that we have worked on.

This year has seen the passing of two longtime residents and former Mayors. Carey Harden and Tony Mancuso have both served the Town with distinction for many years and their contribution to the Town's heritage will be greatly missed.

We employed a new librarian in June. Kathleen Gifford has done a fantastic job with the support of the Lake County Library System. Carl Dodd also joined us as a part time assistant in September. Our Town Clerk for many years Mary Mason moved on to pastures new in July and was replaced by Graham Wells who had previously served on the Planning & Zoning Board. Mary remains with the Town as Finance Director on a part time basis. Also in July, Blake Summers joined our Public Works Department as assistant to our Director Terry Burden.

Chris Zuccaro who has been the Utility Billing Clerk for the past seven years also retired and we thank her for her service. She has been replaced by Stephanie Kernan. Stephanie was the former Utility Billing Manager at the City of Webster and has settled in really well. Finally we welcomed back Billy Bates who replaced Councilman Jim Peacock and re-elected Councilman Joe Wynkoop.

We have achieved many things this year and I am particularly excited at some of the projects that will come to fruition in 2015 and working with a new team. I wish to thank all those who have served during this year in support of our Town of which I am proud to be Mayor.

Thank you for all your support. I wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

TOWN HALL CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR

Town Hall will be open on New Years Eve until 12:00pm and will be closed on New Years Day and also Friday January 2, 2015. As always, residents can leave any correspondence in the green utility box in the Town Hall parking lot.

TOYS FOR TOTS

This year was an enormous success for Toys for Tots with over 100 toys being donated at Town Hall and the Montverde Library. We would like to thank all the residents who brought in Toys for their generosity.

NEWS FROM YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department led by Chief Rausch thrilled the children of Montverde as they did the traditional annual Santa run around Town handing out candy. Afterwards Santa was at the Library for the kids to have their photographs taken.



LIBRARY NEWS

I wanted to extend a heartfelt Thank You for all of the support and positive feedback given to our library in the past six months. I look forward to more positive growth and development in 2015. We have had a busy month preparing for light up Montverde and Santa's arrival on December 20th. The children were able to have their picture taken with Santa and receive a gift bag to take home. We would also like to thank everyone who helped me prepare the library for Santa and especially Denise and Lori for taking the photos and getting them to the kids. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Kathleen and Carl

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will be on January 13th at 7pm. Some of the key issues set for discussion are:

- Adoption of the Economic Prosperity Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

All residents are encouraged to attend the Council meeting; public comment is permitted at the beginning of every meeting. For further information on any of these topics, please contact Town Hall at (407) 469-2681.

OTHER TOWN & LOCAL INFORMATION

- There is a longtime Montverde resident who picks up discarded Christmas trees to create mulch. He is asking that residents please put their discarded Christmas tree by the road the night before garbage collection, and he will collect them to make mulch for the Public Works Department to use around town.
- There are opportunities to serve your Town in 2015 on various Boards and Committees. If you are interested in volunteering your time on either the Parks and Recreation Committee, Visioning Committee or the Planning & Zoning Board, then please pick up an application form from Town Hall.
- Montverde Library is looking for someone to represent the Town on the Lake County Library Advisory Board. Willing candidates should contact Kathleen Gifford, the Town Librarian for more information on (407) 469-3838.
- Florida Hospital Women's Mobile Wellness and Florida Radiology Imaging will be at First Baptist Church on Thursday January 8, 2015 from 8:00am till 4:00pm where they will be offering screening Mammograms. Please see enclosed Flyer.
- The Friends of Montverde will be having their next bingo game on January 16, 2015 at 7:00pm and their monthly meeting will take place on January 20, 2014 at 6:30pm. Both events take place at the Community Building.

Mayor Troy Bennett and Town Hall staff wish everyone a Happy New Year!