



NEWSLETTER

November 2015

ANNUAL "STATE OF THE TOWN" REPORT

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Residents:

With the start of the new fiscal year, I would like to present my annual "State of the Town" report:

Budget

For 2016, staff and I created and presented a **balanced budget** to Council, while keeping your property tax rate the same that it has been for the last seven years. I have pursued and obtained two grants that will provide recreational improvements: one will allow for a **trailway extension** along CR 455, and the other will pay for a **new boat ramp** on Lake Apopka. I hope to begin construction on these projects in 2016.

Another initiative I brought about is two **water and sewer agreements** with Oakland and Clermont. To recap, a new subdivision outside of Oakland was in need of water and sewer services. With the Town's attorney and consultant, I negotiated an agreement whereby the developer will install the infrastructure, while the Town will take possession, monitor and provide services. This initiative will result in net revenue of \$50,000 to the Town each year, while adding \$1 million of infrastructure assets on the Town's books. This new revenue stream will reduce the financial burden on the Montverde taxpayer.

Public Safety

From your phone calls, I know that many of you were concerned that the **contract with the Sheriff's Office** to have a deputy in Montverde would be terminated. I am proud to say that your Council voted 3-2 to approve the contract to keep providing this protection to residents (see November 2014 Council meeting minutes on our website). I have a great working relationship with Sheriff Gary Borders, and I am happy to say that his office has been very responsive to Montverde's needs. We have also augmented the Sheriff's coverage with FHP officers that help with traffic enforcement.

Additionally, I have worked with our Fire Chief to bring **24/7 coverage** to Montverde. Our department is a volunteer force, but we need firefighters at the station at all times for fire and medical emergencies. In the past year, we have created scheduling for our volunteers to occupy the station around the clock, and because of this, we have seen our response times decrease greatly. All of this has been done with no increased cost to the Town. I greatly appreciate our Fire department, and believe that this is one of the best departments the Town has had.

Staff

At the end of last year, we hired a new Town Clerk, Billing Clerk, and Librarian. As you know, Mary Gillis and Chris Zuccaro left full-time employment to take better job opportunities. Unfortunately, with Montverde being such a small town, opportunity for advancement is limited, so we sometimes lose employees when better opportunities come along. But our new staff has done well this year, and special recognition should be given to Librarian Kathleen Gifford: I agree with residents' sentiments that she has been a phenomenal addition and has **greatly improved the Library**.

And as always, our faithful **Public Works** department deserves recognition for all that they do. Terry Burden is my right-hand man and I'm proud of the many construction projects, renovations, water system upgrades, and grants that we have accomplished together.

Finally, I would like to thank the **Town Council**. They are a diverse group of individuals with differing passions, but each of them has a true desire to protect and enhance our Town. I am tremendously proud of the relationship I have with each of them, and am grateful that I can help bring about compromise and consensus to keep Montverde moving in a positive direction.

In closing, I encourage each of you to call or email me if there is anything you would like to discuss. As many of you can attest, I am very passionate about Montverde, and love any opportunity to get involved, dig in and solve problems, or simply chat about Montverde's history and more importantly, its future. Please call, email, or stop by anytime.

I look forward to another successful year!

-Mayor Troy Bennett

ELECTION DAY—NOVEMBER 3rd

This years election will take place on November 3, 2015. Voting will take place at First Baptist Church Montverde, Eighth Street, between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm. The following candidates will be on the ballot:

Mayor's Position - Troy Bennett and Joe Wynkoop.

Council Seats (3) - Glenn Burns, Jim Ley, Arthur Nix, Jim Pierce, and Judy Smith.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

MONTVERDE DAY MERCHANT AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 36th Montverde Day Merchant & Music Festival will take place Saturday, November 7th with extended hours. The festival will be from 8 am until 8 pm and as usual this will be a fun day for all the family with the Carnival, live music, car show and activities throughout the day.

4Rivers Smokehouse head a great line up of food and snack vendors serving delicious food throughout the day. The Town has a few remaining vendor booths so get signed up if you have not already. The cost is \$20 for vendors who have taken part in either of the last two years and \$75 for new vendors. For further information, go to www.mymontverde.com or contact Stephanie Kernan at Town Hall at (407) 469-2681. Please see the enclosed flyer for full details.

LIGHT UP MONTVERDE

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Saturday December 5th at 6.00pm in the parking lot in front of Town Hall. Special live Holiday performances will take place plus appearances from Santa Claus and Sparky the Fire Dog. Immediately following the Tree Lighting we will move to Kirk Park for our Christmas Movie along with the bonfire and free s'mores and cocoa. Just bring your lawn chair or blanket and get into the spirit of the season.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library will be represented at this year's Montverde Day on November 7th with our annual Book Sale. There will be a big selection of adult and children's book as well as DVD's. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

We will also be decorating the Library for Christmas inside and out ready for Light Up Montverde, with the Tree Lighting Ceremony and bonfire on December 6th at 6:00pm. It promises to be a colorful and enjoyable season.

The children's section has now been reorganized to make it easier to find different levels of books and the AR points. We have also been adding new books and DVD's to our collection. Stop by to see the improvements made to your Library.

The homework assistance program and 4-H club has been a big hit, so come join the fun. Time to get in the holiday spirit!

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will be on November 10, 2015 at 7pm. Key issues for discussion are:

- Proposal from GSG Group to assist the Town with its Fire Assessment Program.
- Approval of nominations to represent the Town on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee which is part of the Lake Sumter MPO.

All residents are encouraged to attend the Council meeting; public comment is permitted at the beginning of every meeting.

OTHER TOWN NEWS AND INFORMATON

- In observance of Veterans Day, Wednesday November 11, 2015 and Thanksgiving, Thursday November 26 and Friday 27, 2015 Town Hall will be closed. As always, residents can leave any correspondence in the green utility box in the Town Hall parking lot, and staff will collect it the following day.
- Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1st, which means that homes in Central Florida will only be allowed to water their lawns once a week. Odd-numbered addresses, water on Saturdays. Even-numbered addresses, water on Sundays.