The City of Mt. Angel Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 1 *Written by the City of Mt. Angel for Mt. Angel residents* *January 2012*

State of the City Report by Mayor Rick Schiedler

As Mayor of Mt. Angel, I want to take the opportunity to recognize the New Year as we move out of 2011 and into 2012. This past year was a year of accomplishments and tragedies, and reflecting upon the events will help us learn and grow as we move forward into 2012.

The year started off with a tragedy in our downtown, a fire that people narrowly escaped and that destroyed businesses. The Mt. Angel Fire Department acted with courage and skill to prevent further spread. Through tragedy hope prevails, and I have taken the opportunity to welcome Cindy Unger and her new business, St. Nicholas Bakery to our downtown. From what I hear people have definitely supported her and especially love her fresh Ancient Grain bread and scones every morning. When my wife Cindy and I visited her bakery we tried some of her treats and we really enjoyed them. There has been a real need for this type of business in our town since the coffee shop in the same location closed after the fire. We are also excited to see other new businesses come to town such as On-Target, a company that assembles electrostatic spray machines for orchards and vineyards. On-Target brings 4 new jobs to Mt. Angel. We also have another bakery, Leona's Café and Bakery, opening soon on S. Main Street. I know that Twyla Blatchford will do well with her bakery because I know first-hand that she is an excellent cook and especially makes great cheesecakes.

In the spring and summer, our City had some criminal activity that we haven't seen in our town in years. In June, a Salem resident was speeding through town and when our police officers attempted to stop the vehicle the suspect rammed one of our police cars and engaged in a high speed chase through town. The chase ended up on foot and the suspect turned and aggressively charged our officer, which is when the officer shot the suspect. A thorough investigation was conducted by a county-wide investigation team and a Marion County Grand Jury found that our officer used appropriate force. The suspect was arrested for Attempting to Elude, DUII, Reckless Driving, Recklessly Endangering Another Person and Felon in Possession of a Restricted Weapon. In July, one of our Mt. Angel families tragically experienced a horrific incident when a homicide occurred on N. Spruce Street in July. These events rocked our town and were hopefully isolated incidents that are not a pattern we will see in the future.

The economy is something that has to be discussed as we say goodbye to 2011 and move into the next year. Mt. Angel has had a history as a city of planning well financially and making sound fiscal decisions oriented towards our future. Our budgets have been very lean, and in the last year the City Council has focused our limited funds on important community issues such as improving our sidewalks, paving streets and keeping our city parks green and well maintained.

Mt. Angel Mayor Rick Schiedler's State of the City Report

Like most cities, we have tightened our belts, been smart about the way we provide our services and have in turn been able to continue to maintain our service levels for parks, streets, sidewalks and police. We know the value of city services and hope to maintain them for our community. We are thinking smarter about the way we budget and are goal oriented in our financial decisions. We wanted to increase transparency and communication and we have improved our city newsletter and have funded improvements to our website.
We improved 1365 lineal feet of sidewalks and 2430 lineal feet of roadways in 2011. We're adding irrigation systems to several of our parks and will be purchasing park benches so people can enjoy our parks even more. We also managed to start a sewer lateral repair assistance program for property owners who need to repair their connections to our main lines.

Oktoberfest 2011 was a great festival with fabulous weather and a large crowd. The Community Foundation and Oktoberfest unveiled their new building and it is a great asset for our town. The City allowed our newest park, the Saalfeld Family Park, to be used as part of the festival and we received positive feedback about our park and the way it was incorporated into the festival. The City and the Oktoberfest Board have entered into a new working relationship through an agreement for services and cost recovery. The City Council and Oktoberfest Board will have their first joint meeting on February 13th to discuss common goals and ways to improve the festival and our City and we look forward to continuing the partnership. It will be open to the public and anyone can attend.

One of the greatest things I get to see working so closely with our community is the number of volunteers and amount of work that goes on in town for the service of others. Every year Oktoberfest has been staffed and made possible through thousands of hours of volunteer help.

The City, through another donation from Pepsi Northwest Beverages, has seen volunteers come into Fisher Park and transform the park through financial support as well as employees from the local Pepsi plant doing work on the park. Each time you or your family go to one of our parks, remember to think about Al Fiedler and the Pepsi employees who have worked for two years now to improve our community.
In closing, I would like to mention that as I am writing this it has been exactly one year ago that my daughter Jessica and I went with a large group on a mission trip to Africa. That trip to Tanzania made both of us realize how lucky we are to live in the United States.
If you have any questions feel free to contact me by e-mail at rschiedler@ci.mt-angel.or.us or call me at 503-845-6003.

Rick Schiedler

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