



# CITY BEAT

Volume IX, Issue 5

“Quality of Life is Our Commitment”

October 2004

## Special points of interest:

- From the Manager
- Boards and Task Forces
- Holiday Safety
- Leadership Class
- Pet Licensing
- Kids and Drinking

## From the Manager

Dear Citizens:

Welcome to the Fall Season. While every department of the City is very busy working to meet our motto “Quality of Life is our Commitment”, this summer has been an especially busy one for the City of Montrose Public Works Crews and we are proud of their accomplishments.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight a few of their activities. The Parks Department continues to work diligently to maintain our 23 Parks, with special projects this summer that included upgrades to Buckley Park, the construction of Triangle Park, soon to be McInnis Park, along the Northside Arterial, and the installation of a Columbarium at Cedar Cemetery. They also planted over 50 trees along North Townsend, which has been a positive addition to the area and have been very proactive in a larvicide program to fight the West Nile Virus.

The Street Department produced 15,000 tons of asphalt to overlay 9 major projects this summer, along with chip and seal projects. At the writing of this article they are still out there making improvements to our city streets.

The Water and Sewer Department looped 70 feet of water line at Cirque Way and 800 feet at East Oak Grove Road, which will increase the flow and improve the water distribution. Additionally, the crews replaced old cast iron pipe on South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, South 1<sup>st</sup> Street, South 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pythian, upgrading the size of the pipe from 4” to 8”. Along with many other projects, the crews will be installing an additional 4,000 feet from 68.00 Road to 67.20, which will increase the water distribution.

The City of Montrose had a special visitor to our area in early October. Brad Duke from Rockhampton, Australia is the City Council Deputy Chief Executive Officer. He was in Montrose visiting on a USA management exchange project sponsored by the International City Manager’s Association, of which I am a member. Brad called his study program “The Colorado Experience” and he focused his visit on industrial relations, leadership, organizational development and cul-



**John Schneider**  
City Manager

tural exchange. Brad experienced all Colorado has to offer, both professionally and personally in the short time he was here. It was a wonderful experience for myself in hosting Brad and I look forward to traveling to Australia next year as part of the exchange program.

At the writing of this article, the City Council is considering the adoption of the 2005 Budget Update document to reflect current organizational changes, local economic conditions, and to address the concerns of the citizens as expressed in the recently completed Community Survey

Thank you for your input and continued support. We look forward to 2005 and will make it a priority to keep you informed on your city government.

## Continued Leadership Training

The Colorado Municipal League (CML) recently acknowledged the completion of the second level of CML’s Municipal Elected Leadership Training Program at the CML District 10 meeting in Telluride.

Montrose City Council recipients are Mayor Bill Brougham, and Council Person, Noelle Hagan. Both are among 300 elected state-wide officials who completed the initial 30-credit certificate program, and among only 90 state-wide who successfully completed the second segment.

Ms. Hagan was appointed to the CML executive board in February, 2004 to fill a vacancy. At the 2004 CML Annual Conference, Ms. Hagan was elected by the membership to serve a two-year term on the CML Executive Board.



## CITY CONTACTS

City Hall	240-1400
Public Works	240-1480
Police Dept.	252-5200
Pavilion	249-7015
Animal Shelter	240-1487
Municipal Court	240-1428
Utility Billing	240-1466
Comm. Dev.	240-1407

## Boards and Task Forces

Have you thought about getting involved in your community's direction? We encourage citizen participation and we are always looking for dedicated and qualified persons to sit on the various boards, committees and task forces. Take time to review the current boards of the City and let us know of your interest in serving.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission makes recommendations on land issues, which are forwarded on to the City Council for action. There will be three vacancies on this Board in January 1, 2005.

### BOARD OF APPEALS

Decisions of the Building Inspector regarding building code regulations may be appealed to the Board of Appeals. This Board is an on-call Board with no regularly scheduled Meetings. There are currently two openings on the Board of Appeals.

### PAVILION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Pavilion Advisory Committee is to provide a communication link between the Montrose Community and the City Council on matters pertaining to the operation of the Pavilion. There will be three vacancies on the Committee in January 2005.

### SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Senior Center Advisory Committee is to air the concerns of the seniors and to make suggestions or recommendations that will improve the senior facility. There is a subcommittee of the Senior Advisory Committee concerning the expansion of the Pavilion. No current openings.

### PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of this Board is to advise and make recommendations to the City Council and/or other applicable boards on both future and immediate park related projects, land acquisitions, modification to recreation facilities, park and trail development and redevelopment, open space projects, capital funding issues and/or other applicable issues. There is currently one vacancy on this Board.

### RECYCLE TASK FORCE

The Recycle Task Force was appointed by City Council in August 1998. Their mission is to educate and encourage recycling in the Montrose community. There is currently one vacancy on this Task Force.

### MONTROSE IMPROVEMENT TEAM (MIT)

#### SIX-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the Capital Improvement Program is to plan, compile, prioritize and finance capital improvements that are responsive to the needs and demands of the public and City government, and supportive of the long and short-range goals of the City of Montrose and Council's Strategic Plan. Vacancies will be filled beginning in the Winter of 2005.

If you are interested in serving on one of these boards please contact the City Clerk's office at 240-1435 to have an application mailed to you or visit the City's website at [www.cityofmontrose.org](http://www.cityofmontrose.org).

## Holiday Safety

As we enter the holiday season, there are several things we should be doing to keep the holidays a pleasant, safe and enjoyable experience. This is a prime time for thieves, burglars and other criminals to ply their trades and there are some simple things you can do to discourage them from victimizing you or your family.

When shopping, you should park and lock your car in a well-lighted open area. Remove any items from inside the car that would tempt someone to break into your car and steal it. Items such as cellular telephones, Christmas pre-compact discs and audio tapes should be locked in the trunk. If your vehicle does not have a trunk, then these items should be concealed under the seats or covered so that they are not visible from the outside.



It is particularly important this time of year to safeguard your purse. Although they are not particularly fashionable, I would recommend that you use a fanny pack rather than a purse while shopping. Purses sitting in shopping baskets or dangling from the arm of a person carrying several packages are easy targets. If you use a credit card for your purchases, keep your receipts secure. If the receipt uses a carbon, make sure it is destroyed. Often investigations of credit card scams reveal that the criminal found the credit card number in the trash or in a parking lot. If you do not wish to save the receipt please destroy it by tearing it up or burning it in the fireplace. If you are shopping in several stores you may want to consider returning to your car with some of your purchases rather than trying to carry a large number of packages from store to store.

If you are leaving your home for an extended period of time (two or more days), cancel your newspaper and mail or have someone pick it up for you. Ask a neighbor to watch your property. If it snows, ask them to shovel your drive and walks or at least drive their car in and out of your driveway a couple of times so that it appears your home is occupied. Leave some of your inside lights on a timer as that also gives the appearance of occupancy. Make sure all windows and doors are locked including the garage door. If you are driving to another city for the holidays, keep an eye on the weather. Sometimes leaving a day earlier or later can make a big difference in driving conditions encountered on the highways.

This time of year, telephone scams traditionally increase. Criminals take advantage of the holiday spirit of giving and the number of telephone solicitations increase. Many of these are legitimate but some are not. If you have a concern about a particular solicitation you have received, please do not hesitate to contact your local law enforcement agency. The Montrose County Triad will publicize current suspicious solicitor schemes in the newspapers which may also keep you from falling prey to these scams.



Finally, the holidays are a time for parties and celebrations. If the celebration includes alcohol consumption, please have a designated driver. This time of year, in Colorado, driving can be a challenge for even the best of drivers with the snow and ice that occurs. Please don't take a chance by drinking alcohol and driving.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

Gary Mecham, Police Chief

## Leadership Class

**Are you committed to the community at large, do you want to know and learn more about the community?**

We are pleased to announce the 9th Annual Uncompahgre Valley Leadership Program (UVLP). This innovative program fosters leadership skills, prepares participants for a more active and informed involvement in community affairs, and establishes a network of present and potential leaders. Through participation, past attendees, which have reached an impressive 146 members, have developed strong contacts in business, industry, government, media and human services. This is a public/private sector partnership between the City of Montrose, DMEA, Montrose Chamber of Commerce, Montrose Bank and The Montrose Daily Press.

The class has limited space and the applicant should have a sincere concern about the future of our community and a personal commitment to help shape that future. The application process should demonstrate commitment through past, present and future community activities, as well as a willingness to commit the time and energy to complete the program. The UVLP committee will seek to identify those who are most likely to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of our area. Our goal is towards diversity to accomplish a representation from a variety of occupational, ethnic, cultural backgrounds, geographic area, and community interest.

**When are the Sessions:** Class sessions dates for 2005 are: January 7, January 19, February 9, February 23, March 16-18 (Denver), April 13, April 27, May 11.

**What is the Cost:** \$300.00 tuition. UVLP is funded by contributions from the business community and by a \$300.00 tuition for each participant. Tuition covers all meals and expenses for all local sessions and lodging for the two day State Legislative trip to Denver. The individual, employer, or a sponsoring organization may pay tuition. Partial financial aid may be available to persons not otherwise able to provide the tuition.

**Application Process:** Participants for each years' class will be selected from those who have submitted their completed application forms. Applications deadline is **November 30, 2004**. Applications are available at City Hall, Olathe Town Hall and Montrose Chamber of Commerce. For more information: City Hall at 240-1432 or Montrose Chamber of Commerce 249-5000.

“Because the quality of a community depends on the capability of its leaders”

## Pet Licensing

The Animal Control Division of the City of Montrose has been working diligently with the staff and City Council over the past several months to establish a Pet Licensing Program for the City of Montrose.

This new law, which will become effective in January 2005, creates a system for:

- °Licensing of dogs
- °Ensures that dogs have been vaccinated for rabies
- °Encourages citizens to have their dogs spayed or neutered.

The license fee is only \$5.00 a year for spayed and neutered dogs or \$15.00 for unspayed/unneutered dogs. The City wants to make the application process as simple as possible for pet owners and will be offering many venues for getting your animal licensed starting December 1, 2004.

Visit the City's Web Site: Pet owners may visit the City's Website at [www.cityofmontrose.org](http://www.cityofmontrose.org). Just copy and complete the application, include the appropriate fee and a current copy of the proof of rabies vaccine from a licensed Veterinarian and either mail to the City of Montrose at P. O. Box 790, Montrose, Colorado 81402 or drop the application and proof of rabies vaccine at the Montrose Police Department or the Montrose Animal Shelter. Pet tags will be mailed to you or given to you at the Police Department or Animal Shelter.



Visit the Montrose Police Department: Pet owners may visit the Montrose Police Department at 434 South 1<sup>st</sup> Street, during the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday to pick up an application and get your pet licensed while you wait. Remember the fee and a copy of the proof of rabies vaccine from a licensed Veterinarian.

Visit the Montrose Animal Shelter: Pet owners can visit the Animal Shelter at 3383 North Townsend during the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday to pick up an application and get your pet licensed while you wait. Once again, remember the fee and a copy of the proof of rabies vaccine from a licensed Veterinarian. If you are licensing your pet at the Animal Shelter, we will have a special feature to pet owners. You may bring your pet along and we will take a photograph to have on file, which will be a very helpful tool for recovering lost and stolen pets or pets that have pulled their collar off.

Can't get to the Police Department or Animal Shelter during the week, the City will be hosting a pet licensing clinic in December at Centennial Plaza (the date to be announced). At this clinic you will be able to get your pet vaccinated, licensed and picture taken all in one step. Watch for the announcement of the Clinic.

Mike Duncan, Animal Control Supervisor, states “The licensing of pets will be of real value in returning pets to their owners more promptly or knowing who your pet belongs to if the owner is away for an extended period of time and the pet is lost.” He further stated, “Even though the licensing is not required until January, you may go ahead and get your pet licensed starting December 1, 2004 and be ready for the new year.”



# Autumn Leaves Are Falling

# Kids and Drinking

Autumn is here, one of Colorado's most celebrated times of the year. However, those colorful leaves do fall every year and once again it's time to get the "ole" rake out. The Public Works Department encourages citizens to rake and bag the fallen leaves and place them along the curbside for the crews to pick up. Residents may visit City Hall and get one bundle of four leaf bags at no charge. Additional bundles may be purchased for



Pictured are Larry Ryser and Chuck Madison

\$1.00. Each customer may purchase up to 4 bundles. For more information you may contact Customer Service at 249-1400. Happy Raking!!!! Later this Fall, the Public Works Department will be unveiling their new piece of machinery for

helping with the falling leaves.

This "new" truck is actually a former sanitation truck that had reached its lifecycle. The City's innovative City Shop personnel took on the challenge to modify the truck to pick up leaves. Since the summer, the group has been installing a separate engine, fan and mounting a hose to enable the truck to vacuum the leaves directly into the truck and compressing them into a soft ash. What an accomplishment -- It is estimated that a like truck manufactured especially for leaf removal would run between "\$60,000.00-\$70,000.00". The project is not quite complete — but be on the look out for this new truck. The first test will be to sweep away the leaves on the grounds at Cedar Cemetery. "I am 100% sure this will work, and be a big help, especially for parks, and gutter leaf removal" states Larry Ryser, Public Works Manager.

**VISIT US AT [www.cityofmontrose.org](http://www.cityofmontrose.org). Tune into Channel 10 to see what's going on in the City of Montrose.**

"Kids Are Going to Drink and There's Nothing We Can Do About It—or Is There?"  
 The Montrose Area Underage Drinking Task Force (UDTF) was formed in January of 2003 as a response to community concern around the issue of underage drinking. The members of the task force represent diverse sectors of the community including education, law enforcement, the medical profession and students. The UDTF was funded by Persistent Drunk Driver Funds through the Colorado Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. Coordination of the task force was provided by TPPI (Teaching Prevention • Promoting Involvement), a department of Montrose Memorial Hospital.

How big a problem is underage drinking in our community? During the past few years, alcohol has been implicated in the deaths of several young people in the Montrose area. National statistics reveal that underage drinking is at an all time high. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2002 almost 25% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders reported binge drinking (consuming five or more drinks in a row) in the past month. A survey of Montrose and Olathe students conducted in 1997 found that 33% of 6-12<sup>th</sup> reported having used alcohol three or more times in the last 30 days or getting drunk one or more times in the last two weeks (Developmental Assets: A Profile of our Youth, Montrose and Olathe Schools, 1997).

Since its formation, the UDTF has met regularly to study national and local alcohol data, conduct focus groups of young people, and explore the strategies for reducing underage drinking that have been successful in other communities. The culmination of the UDTF's work is a "Report to the Community," issued in February of 2004. In it, the task force lists ten strategies that should be implemented to reduce the use of alcohol by young people in the Montrose area. Included in the strategies is the use of routine and random compliance checks of liquor stores, restaurants and bars to make certain that proper identification is required when a sale is made. A keg registration program and mandatory training for employees of alcohol outlets is also recommended. Other strategies target parents, schools and the community at large.

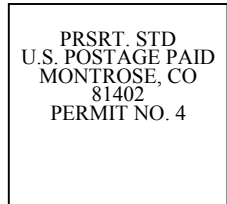
The UDTF is currently doing public presentations on its "Report to the Community." Those interested in scheduling a presentation or obtaining a copy of the report should contact TPPI at 252-2572.

The CITY BEAT is published for the citizens of Montrose. We welcome your comments. If you have questions or concerns, please call Mary Watt at 240-1432 or email at [mwatt@ci.montrose.co.us](mailto:mwatt@ci.montrose.co.us)

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