

Message from the Mayor

By Mayor Marc A. Snyder

As you read through this edition of the Manitou Springs quarterly newsletter, you will notice that many new and exciting activities are in the works. Publicly-funded projects, such as the water and sewer line upgrades and the cross-connection with Colorado Springs water system, are proceeding at a rapid pace. While we are disappointed that we won't be able to complete the Downtown Revitalization Project this year, the city is working hard to ensure that the funding is in place to finish this project in 2011. Citizen- and city employee-initiated programs, such as the recently completed energy audit and the citywide trash and recycling effort, show great potential in helping us to attain and even exceed our 2010 carbon reduction goals and in creating a more sustainable Manitou Springs for future generations.

The first quarter of 2010 is proving to be an extremely busy one for the City Council. Already we have sworn in a new mayor and three new council-members. The city has been receiving applications to fill one at-large vacancy and we hope to fill this seat at our Feb. 2 meeting. We are in the process of hiring a city clerk and code enforcement officer. On Jan. 26, the City Council will hold work-sessions on two Very difficult topics - medical marijuana dispensaries and panhandling -that could have tremendous impacts on our community.

In February, the City Council will revisit the thorny issue of city sponsorship of special events and how to waive the associated fees in a fair and equitable manner. Also in February, the City Council will decide whether to ask voters, per our City Charter, for permission to obtain additional federal stimulus funds through low and no interest loans in order to upgrade even more of our city infrastructure. March will mark the beginning of our sustainable funding effort as the city seeks to identify and develop new and diverse sources of revenue. Also in March, the City Council will receive a final report from our economic entities on how best to consolidate their efforts in order to create the most effective and efficient organization possible.

Finally, on a personal note, it has been a whirlwind couple of weeks since I was sworn in as mayor on Jan. 5. Already, I have learned a few things. We are very fortunate indeed to have such hardworking and caring employees in the City of Manitou Springs. We are blessed to have so many dedicated and creative residents who are continually looking for ways to improve the quality of life in our community. We have intelligent, diverse and committed members on our City Council and it is my great honor to humbly lead them. I would like to hear from as many citizens as possible. Please call me at 685-2555 to make an appointment or just stop by the Mayor's office on Tuesday mornings or Thursday afternoons. Thank you.

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