



CITY BEAT NEWSLETTER Spring 2015

Public Meetings & Events

City Council meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Elks Civic Building (107 S. Cascade Ave.). Meetings are broadcast live on cable Channel 191 (Visit Montrose TV) and CityofMontrose.org/Video.

Work Sessions are held at 11 a.m. on the business day preceding the regular City Council meeting.

Planning Commission meetings are held at 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the Elks Civic Building.

For a complete listing of upcoming City events and public meetings, visit the City Calendar at CityofMontrose.org.

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Office Closures

Memorial Day - Monday, May 25
Labor Day - Monday, September 7
Columbus Day - Monday, October 12
Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 26

Please visit CityofMontrose.org/Holiday for alternate trash collection schedules for city-observed holidays.

Contact Us

Main Line.....	240-1400
Animal Shelter.....	240-1487
City Clerk's Office.....	240-1430
City Manager's Office.....	240-1420
Code Enforcement.....	240-1416
Human Resources.....	240-1415
Municipal Court.....	240-1428
Pavilion.....	249-7015
Planning Services.....	240-1407
Police Department.....	252-5200
Public Works.....	240-1480
Utility Hotline.....	240-1401
Visitor Center.....	497-8558

Download the Visit Montrose Mobile App at VisitMontrose.com/mobileapp



William E. Bell
City Manager

Message from the City Manager

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of elected officials and City staff, 2014 proved to be an outstanding year for the City of Montrose. The year began with the City acquiring

ownership of the Black Canyon Golf Course, an action that was prompted by the City's long-term involvement with the course and the need to take action to preserve a valued community asset. Since then, the course has undergone a remarkable transformation that includes a fully renovated clubhouse featuring the Brew and Bogey Club restaurant, operated by Horsefly Brewing Company, and numerous improvements in the course itself.

At the City's General Election in April, Montrose voters granted approval for two important measures that will have a positive impact on our community's future: approval of a 0.3% sales tax to fund construction of Montrose Recreation District facilities, and another to allow the City to provide telecommunications services. The latter is a key component to developing Montrose's broadband infrastructure, which the City and its partners believe is critical to the community's future.

The City worked with more than a dozen local agencies and non-profit organizations during 2014 to further our shared economic and community development interests. We are especially proud of our partnerships with Region 10 to maintain an active Small Business Resource Center and to complete a detailed analysis and implementation strategy for broadband infrastructure for our region; the Montrose Downtown Development Authority to provide financial assistance to several businesses through the Downtown Opportunity Fund, a small business revolving loan fund; Colorado Mesa University to construct their downtown Montrose campus improvements; Fast Track and Clearnetwork to install and connect high speed Internet fiber to serve several key businesses in Montrose; and Montrose County and San Juan Construction to clean up almost an entire block of blighted properties along North Cascade Avenue.

The City's internal operations have improved as well. Our primary operational

goal for 2014 was to establish a Performance Based Pay System to increase the level of accountability to Montrose taxpayers. Our employees helped to create a completely new wage and compensation system that is based on both the market value of their positions and their individual annual performance evaluations. As part of this process, every job description at the City was reviewed and updated to increase the level of awareness and expectations throughout the organization. The City had 149 full-time employees at year end, down 20.7% from a peak of 188 in 2008.

Public improvement projects were yet another highlight of 2014. The widening of Oak Grove Road east of Walgreens, a high-priority project for several years, moved ahead significantly in 2014. Right-of-way was acquired and utilities were relocated in 2014 in preparation for actual construction. Moreover, the much-anticipated Water Sports Park in Riverbottom Park will be fully completed in the next few weeks, thanks to the groundwork that was laid in 2014.

Financially, revenue forecasts show the City heading into a more favorable economic climate. Year-end totals for 2014 show increases in all tax categories except use and auto tax. Compared to 2013 year-end totals, retail sales tax revenues were up 3%, construction use tax 75.5%, hotel excise tax 4.7%, and restaurant excise tax 4.8%. These increases bode well for the City, which relies on sales tax for more than 80% of its overall General Fund revenue. Aside from the positive effects of an improving state and national economy in general, favorable changes also reflect well on the City's Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) and its work to promote Montrose as a tourism destination and retail center.

Please take a few minutes to review the contents of this newsletter highlighting just a few of the activities of your City government, its financial standing, and plans for 2015.

Building an exceptional community is a team effort, requiring the talents, participation, and cooperation of all its members. Please share any questions and/or suggestions you might have regarding City projects, policies and/or operations. My staff and I welcome your ideas for positive change. Reach me by telephone (970-240-1420) or by e-mail (wbell@ci.montrose.co.us).



Fish Habitat Improvements



Black Canyon Golf Course



Niagara Community Gardens



North Selig Avenue Construction



Colorado Mesa University Expansion

2014 Highlights

Uncompahgre River Fish Habitat Improvements - Prior to the construction of the Water Sports Park, the City completed construction of compensatory aquatic habitat improvements along 1,500 linear feet of the river channel at the upstream end of Riverbottom Park. The goal of the project is to increase fish populations and provide additional fishing opportunities.

Niagara Community Gardens - City parks personnel worked with the Valley Food Partnership and volunteers to create a new community garden on Niagara Road. Residents interested in participating this year can learn more at CityofMontrose.org/gardens.

North Selig Avenue Construction - Roadway improvements on Selig Avenue between North First and North Second Streets were completed in June 2014. The project included new sidewalks and storm drains, a waterline up sizing, replacement and paving of the roadway, and streetscaping. The project was completed on schedule and approximately 20% under budget.

Colorado Mesa University Expansion - The future of higher education in Montrose is moving forward with the CMU campus expansion work that took place in 2014. The City worked with CMU to create a pedestrian plaza that features new sidewalks, landscaping, lighting, and CMU signage on the former South Cascade Avenue right of way.

All Points Transit Transfer Station - The City partnered with All Points Transit (APT) to provide office space and a transfer station area on South Second Street. In addition to street improvements completed in 2013, the project included a new bus shelter, a raised median, on-street parking, sidewalks, decorative brickwork, and pedestrian lighting. The project was funded under three different grants with contributions from the City, the Montrose Downtown Development Authority, and APT.

Montrose Tourism Program - A redesigned VisitMontrose.com website, a new Visit Montrose mobile app, and a new official visitor guide, *Visit Montrose*, were a few of the highlights of the OBT's ongoing community marketing efforts. Nearly 40,000 copies of the guide were distributed since it was released in late July.

The City's Information Services department was awarded the Governor's *Team of the Year* by the Colorado Information Management Association due, in part, to their central role in developing the innovative interactive displays at the new Downtown Visitor Center.

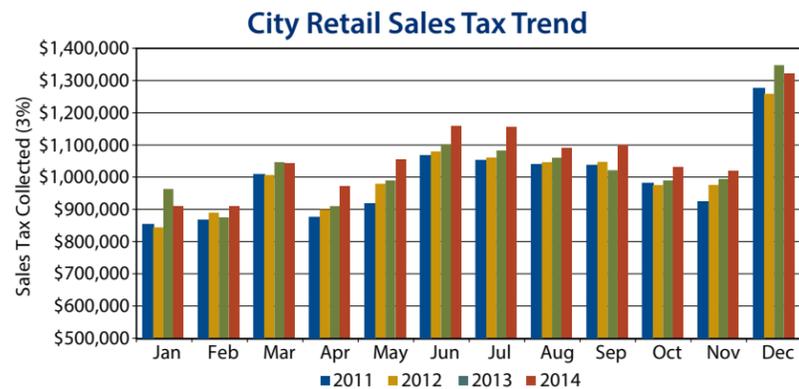
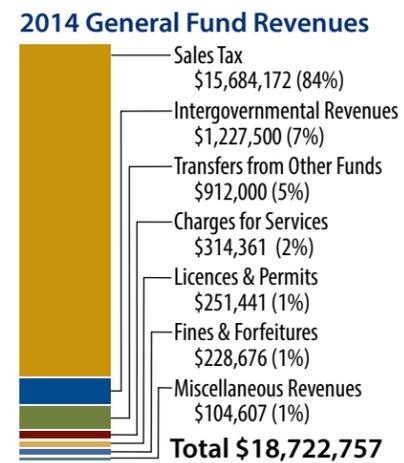
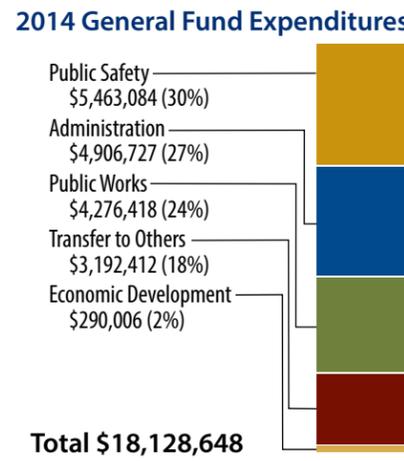
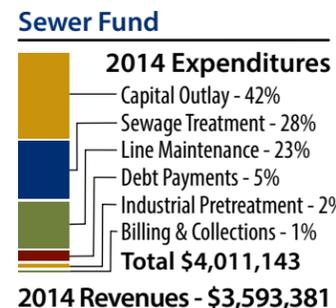
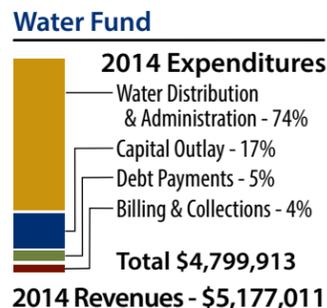
MuniRevs Online Sales Tax Collection System - The City partnered with MuniRevs, a private company based in Durango that helped the City transition to electronic filing and remittance for sales tax vendors. Although this change in systems was challenging, the new format is adding stability and timeliness to the City's revenue collection process.

2014 Financial Data

2013/2014 Actual Expenditures Comparison General Fund				
	2013 Actual	2014 Actual (unaudited)	% of Change	% of Total
Police and Animal Services	\$5,366,144	\$5,463,084	1.8	30.1
Public Works, Streets, Parks	\$4,355,857	\$4,276,418	-1.8	23.6
General Administration	\$4,159,934	\$4,906,727	18	27.1
Economic Development	\$258,294	\$290,006	12.3	1.6
Transfer to Capital Projects, Pavilion, Seniors, Debt Service	\$2,612,660	\$3,192,412	22.2	17.6
Total	\$16,752,889	\$18,128,648	8.2	100

Want more details about the City's 2015 Budget?
Download a copy and find other info about the City's finances at CityofMontrose.org/Finance

2014/2015 Budgeted Expenditures Comparison All Funds				
	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	% of Change	% of Total
General Fund	\$18,220,000	\$17,769,341	-2.5	43.6
Special & Capital Projects Funds	\$4,211,141	\$6,248,673	48.4	15.3
Debt Service Funds	\$386,715	\$383,590	-0.8	0.9
Enterprise Funds (Water, Sewer, Sanitation & Pavilion)	\$14,520,635	\$10,956,000	-24.5	26.9
Internal Service Funds	\$4,877,926	\$5,409,816	10.9	13.3
Permanent Funds	\$17,500	\$500	-97.1	<0.1
Total	\$42,233,917	\$40,767,920	-3.5	100



2015 Plans & Projects

East Oak Grove Road Reconstruction - Widening and repaving of the old county road portion of East Oak Grove Road between Walgreens and Bear Lake Drive will increase safety for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists and relieve traffic loads on other east-west arterials. Improvements will include through lanes in each direction, a center turn lane, bike lanes, and detached sidewalks.

Designated as one of the City's highest priority transportation projects, work got under way after a multi-year effort to design, fund, and acquire the necessary right-of way. Preliminary work to relocate utilities and irrigation systems was done in late 2014, setting the stage for the primary construction activities in 2015 at an estimated cost of \$3,000,000.

Montrose Water Sports Park - Upon completion in early 2015, the park will provide a valuable recreation asset for the community. The City's 2015 budget includes \$510,000, supplemented by funds from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the City's Conservation Trust fund, and outside agency/organization contributions. Read more about this project on page four.

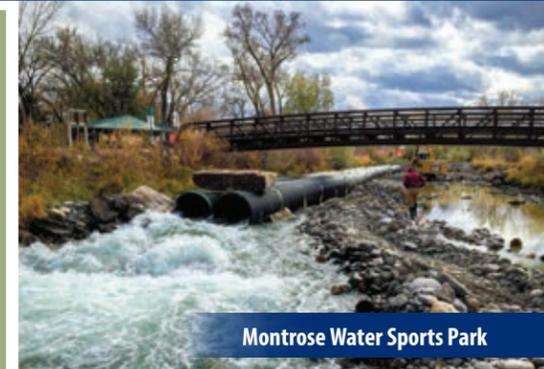
South Townsend Sidewalks - After a series of unexpected delays and impediments, construction of sidewalks along Townsend Avenue from Woodgate Road to the Oxbow Crossing shopping center is expected to occur in 2015. The project is budgeted at a total cost of \$510,000; \$406,400 from a Colorado Department of Transportation grant matched with \$101,600 from the City.

Pomona/Columbine Safe Routes to Schools Project - This project will improve pedestrian crossings on South 12th Street and Park Avenue and construct sidewalks near Pomona Elementary. Ingress and egress points on the Columbine Middle School parking lot will be consolidated and aligned with the intersection of Park Avenue. The City will also construct bulb-outs and 10-foot-wide sidewalks at the intersection and on South 9th Street along the north edge of the Pomona School grounds. This sidewalk and pedestrian safety project is 100% grant funded with no City or school match.

Miami Road Safe Routes to Schools Project - This project will complete the previously constructed pedestrian path for school children near the area formerly known as the Mike's Market/Culinary Academy building on Miami Road.

Visit CityofMontrose.org/CityBeat to read more about these 2015 projects:

- Building improvements at public facilities
- Water and sewer infrastructure replacements and upgrades
- Park improvements
- City fleet replacements



Montrose Water Sports Park



Riverbottom Park Trails



Montrose Tourism Program



East Oak Grove Road Reconstruction



All Points Transit Transfer Station

Montrose Water Sports Park

Your invitation to play!

If you haven't been to Riverbottom Park to see the new Water Sports Park, you are probably wondering what the excitement is all about. The new facilities add a whole new dimension to a community park complex that was already great. The Park isn't just for those planning to grab a kayak and experience some waterborne excitement: it is also for those who like to play on the riverbank or watch the action while soaking up a little sun.

While many have for decades dreamed of creating a water park in Montrose, discussions began gaining momentum in 2011 during development of the Uncompahgre River Master Plan. The Plan was intended to map out a strategy for preserving, enhancing, and promoting the Uncompahgre River corridor. Three primary goals of the Plan are to expand park development and recreation trails, protect and enhance wildlife habitat, open space and greenbelts, and expand recreational opportunities. Looking back, it



out ramps. Located in close proximity to picnic areas, playgrounds, ball fields, recreation trails, disc-golf, the skate park and other attractions in the Clifford E. Baldrige Regional Park complex, the Park offers another great place to exercise, socialize, recreate, rejuvenate, relax, and reflect on the many reasons why we live in Montrose.

Aside from enhancing the quality of life for Montrose residents, the Park also promises to draw visitors to Montrose. While most water parks offer optimal conditions in spring, sustained irrigation flows on the Uncompahgre River make the Montrose Water Sports Park an enticing destination through late summer, long after other parks have lost their luster.

A large portion of project funding (\$259,384) was provided through a Great Outdoors Colorado grant that included funding for construction of 2,000 feet of concrete trail, 1,900 feet of soft-surface trail, and numerous improvements to the playgrounds and Ute/McNeil ball fields. The City of Montrose and the Montrose Recreation District partnered on the grant with financial assistance from Montrose County and support from Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Montrose Recreation Foundation, LiveWell Montrose-Olathe, Friends of the River Uncompahgre,

Welcome Home Montrose, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Montrose Community Foundation. A special thanks goes to everyone involved in making this project a success, including Haynes Excavation (in cooperation with Stonefly Earthworks) who completed the project within budget and approximately two months ahead of schedule.

Completion of the project provides good reason to celebrate the grand opening of the Water Sports Park, Saturday, May 16, and the *Mission: No Barriers* event. Be sure to mark your calendar for the 1st Annual Montrose Water Sports Park Festival August 1 and 2.

See VisitMontrose.com for event details.

Mark your calendar!
Official opening celebration
Saturday, May 16, 2015

is impressive to see how much progress has been made toward reaching those goals and implementing specific elements of the Plan—in just four years. Completion of the Water Sports Park is the latest and most noticeable achievement.

The Park has been designed with all citizens in mind – from ankle waders to expert kayakers. It includes six drop structures, terraced spectator areas, beach areas, and ADA-accessible put-in and take-



"A Better Montrose" Mobile App

A new way to connect with your City government

A Better Montrose is a mobile app for Montrose residents, businesses, and visitors to interact with their City government, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This smartphone app may be used to submit requests and make suggestions on how we can work together to make our community even better, thus the name, *A Better Montrose*.

Residents can submit a short description and a picture with their request. The app will automatically identify the issue location and route the request to the appropriate City department. The submitter will be able to track their request all the way through to its resolution—right from their phone.

Have an idea that will improve the quality of life in Montrose? This app will allow you to submit those ideas for consideration. Some ideas are easily approved and implemented, while more complex suggestions will likely involve further discussion, approval, planning, and budgeting. Either way we would love to hear your ideas and will keep you updated about the status of your suggestion.

To download the mobile app, visit CityofMontrose.org/ABetterMontrose.