



Town Hall Happenings

April 2010

The **MyMontverde.com** website has been updated. In an effort to go green, the Town's meetings and agendas will be posted at www.mymontverde.com; however, a copy will still be posted on the bulletin boards. To access them online, click on *Minutes and Agendas* to see what will be covered in upcoming sessions.



If you have not done so already, become a fan of the Town's Facebook page. This will keep you up to date on the news and events around town.

COP (Citizen On Patrol) program Several candidates made it through the background phase of the COP program. They will have a training class in April. Soon after the training we hope you will be seeing the COP car on the streets of Montverde and in your neighborhood.

If you have any questions about the program please call Jim Ley 904-312-0025 or if you would like an application to be a Citizen on Patrol, please come on into Town Hall.

Library Events All ages are welcome at the weekly Storytime and crafts event held every Monday at 11 am in the Helen Lehman Memorial Library.

HELP GET THIS MESSAGE OUT! House and Senate Committees are discussing the elimination of state aid to public libraries. We are asking you to contact your legislators, the legislative leaders, and the Governor to ask them to continue to fund our public libraries in next year's budget.

Elimination or reduction of state aid to public libraries will force the closings of library branches around the state and have a particularly devastating impact on rural counties.

You may contact the Helen Lehmann Library at (407) 469-3838 for the names and contact information of your state representatives.

Montverde Fire Department History For the past 75 years, we have had approximately 20 Fire Chiefs. These men were dedicated and passionate about serving the community with no expectation for anything in return. Most of the time they had little to no budget, they lacked the proper equipment, yet each and every one of them served the Town with honor and pride. These men also recruited volunteers to serve alongside them for nothing but the knowledge that they were protecting and helping their neighbors. From the first days of this Department in 1934, they served with honor, even when they had to use a chopped off Cadillac and used fire hoses to fight fires. Since those days, we have come a long way. Today, we have a fully equipped Fire Department, ready to serve 24/7.

During the 75th Anniversary, Mayor Bennett honored the past Fire Chiefs who still live in Montverde and the current Chief:

Jose Gonzales, who most of us affectionately call Speedy, moved to Montverde in 1969. He served in the military in the Air force Heavy Weapon division at McCoy. During his time as Chief from 1978 to 1980 the worst fire was at the Riffle house. While the firefight might not have been so bad, the shed behind the house was filled with firearms and bullets. When it started to burn the guns and bullets started to explode. Needless to say, the firefighters could not get close enough to fight the fire. However, they did manage to save the house.



Frank Rogers served from 1988 to 1989. He grew up in Winter Garden. After serving in the Vietnam War, he moved to Montverde, and served as a volunteer for the MFD and as acting Mayor. In the late 80's, he served as a councilman along with acting as Mayor. He recalls one story as a rookie where they were putting a fire out on a mobile home which soaked all the fireman. What they didn't realize was the fireman were fighting the fire from both sides of the trailer and ended up soaking each other but they got the fire out. His proudest moments were when he received a 25-year Fire Service Award and when he encouraged the Council to not dismantling the Fire Department.



David Harden has the longest tenure with the Fire Department. David joined in 1952 after returning from Korea and served our Fire Department for forty two years, finally stepping down in 1994. Not to be considered "retired", David volunteered to fill in the latest gap prior to Chief Sette's acceptance. He stepped up to the plate to serve as acting Fire chief for over 2 months until someone was selected. We thank you for your undying dedication to this town.

Glen Brecheen moved to Montverde in 1979. Originally from Tallahassee, Glen moved to Orlando at the age of 12 because of his father's work. He attended Bishop Moore, but was expelled because he would not cut his hair. He ended up graduating from Edgewater H.S. He moved to Montverde after marrying his wife who was living here at the time. He served on Town Council in the late 80's. During this time the Mayor wanted to close our fire department and have the County service the Town.

Glenn decided to serve as a volunteer to keep the department together. The citizens of the town voted overwhelmingly to maintain our own fire department. After only 3 years of volunteer service he was encouraged to be Chief, and served from 1992 to 2002. During his tenure he had fire assessments approved and the current fire station was built. For nearly 8 years, no fires had taken place, so not wanting to jinx his luck, he did not take a vacation. Then in the following year, three buildings burned down, one of which was the

Academy's Headmaster's Kasey Kesselring's home.

Roger Bunnell, with over 30 years of experience, served under County Fire Chief Gary Kaiser which at that time was Chief of Seminole County. Roger retired from Seminole and moved to Montverde over 10 years ago. Roger served as our Fire Chief from 2002 to 2004. One of his biggest accomplishments was to procure a grant to purchase engine 85 that stands here today in service.

Our current **Fire Chief, Mr. Steven Sette**, who was born in Connecticut, graduated fire training in 1982 and has been a firefighter for the last 28 years. He served as a volunteer in Vero Beach. He worked from 1987-1992 in Orange County and then moved to Georgia where he volunteered for Jonesboro, Ga and Clayton County. He served on staff in Oseola County and the city of Minneola.

In 2006, Steven became the Fire Chief of Montverde, and we have been extremely fortunate. Steven has turned our department into the professional team that it is today.

