

Harrington Community Forum

The Harrington Community Forum met Tuesday, Jan 8th, 2019 at the Harrington Church of the Nazarene at 7 p.m. with 14 present and most of the local organizations were represented. In addition to those who presented, present were Kris Moritz, Dave Michaelson, Meagan (Cherie MacClellan's daughter), and Michelle Quigley. Cade Clarke welcomed the group and mentioned that refreshments were provided by the ladies of the church. Pastor Cade explained that the Catholic, Nazarene and Methodist churches are working on a benevolent fund. He also mentioned the joint community church services that are held in the park in the summer and that they work toward having a united Thanksgiving service.

Anita Smith spoke about the Harrington Food Bank which is housed at the Harrington Church of the Nazarene. They have some new freezers and shelving. They serve between 12 and 50 families per week and also do home deliveries. They intend to expand and work with the school in some manner. Individuals wishing to volunteer or to donate may call Anita at 509-768-4316.

Heather Slack spoke on behalf of Harrington Public Development Authority (PDA), stating the members meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. at city hall. Their goal is to support opportunity for businesses to come to town. This past year they facilitated with the help of the Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce the new interchangeable signage on Highway 28 announcing "Cruizin' Harrington" or "Fall Festival". Other groups may purchase a sign or banners to advertise their events. The frame has eyelets on it specifically for banners to be used. Slack also discussed the need for housing in Harrington and stated that PDA is trying to reach out to the owners of vacant houses to encourage or explore the idea of making the houses available on the market.

Ron Mielke represented Lincoln County Fire District #6 stating that they provide 24 hour ambulance and fire service since 1968 to Harrington and the outlying areas. We average 30-40 fire calls per year; but this was a down year statistically for which we are thankful. He mentioned there were three new fire recruits, plus two are currently receiving EMT training which is paid for by the organization. Justin Slack recently passed his testing.

Cherie MacClellan, new president of Mid County Seniors, discussed Senior Meals. MacClellan stated that senior meals serve on average 8-14 seniors 3 days a week at the Memorial Hall. "Changes are being put into effect at Harrington Senior Meals which are challenging. She is working with the seniors and Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition to reach solutions to the current issues. Good progress is being made."

Ellen Evans, newly elected president of the Harrington Opera House Society (HOHS) stated that HOHS has met most of its original goals and has become financially stable. They want to serve the community better and see more sharing and interconnections, as the recent collaboration of HOHS with the school and Taunya Sanford. HOHS was very pleased with the tremendous turnout for three school events. She made an observation that people seem to isolate in terms of attendance per group, i.e., school events at the school don't bring out the community, church events at a particular church do not bring out the community at large. Summarizing her view; Church and school events when brought to the opera house tend to draw a wider audience. HOHS wants to see more weddings, concerts, lectures and school events. "If you know of more opportunities to bring the arts and culture to Harrington, let us know". In terms of membership, Evans stated that there are 100 or more, but probably about 12 people that attend meetings regularly. Meetings are held on the first Monday at 7 p.m. in the Art Room of the Opera House.

Billie Herron stated, "I have a dream" and then presented her ideas for Harrington to have a museum of size. She wants to sell the gas station only to a person or group who wants to put in a museum, for an at-cost fee. She stated she has turned down offers for the building to fulfill this dream. Since it is centrally located, has a large lot for display of machinery, and has a building with a newer roof and is larger than the present location of the museum in the Opera House, she is hopeful that someone will catch her dream and turn it into a museum. She commented that she and Gordon had bought nine buildings, have sold seven and have two left, including the old gas station.

Nathan Luck, Harrington Lion's Club, reported that the Lions meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Memorial Hall, except they are closed during the summer. They have about 15 active members with 30 on the roster. Membership dues are \$110 per year. A meal is provided at each meeting. The Lion's Club has their main event as the Harrington Fall Festival in September. They help families during the holidays and offer funds for eye exams to those in need. He stated that "the mud bog races will occur this year" as he is a member of the 4 X 4 club as well.

Maddie Peters spoke for the Harrington Homemakers. They have 12 to 15 members who meet in the basement of the Catholic Church. They support all of the vendor activities in town and Miss Harrington.

Tim Tipton, an active young man with many hats, spoke on behalf of his family's business, The Harrington Hideaway RV Park. He acknowledged that he is also a city council member and president of the Harrington Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber facilitates/sponsors Cruizin' Harrington, the beer garden and the vendors for both Cruizin' Harrington and Fall Festival. Additionally, we organize the community wide yard sales for Cruizin' Harrington. The Chamber also puts on the Clean Up days before these two events. Working with the students and faculty at the school to sweep sidewalks, wash windows, and pick up trash/weeds downtown and at the city park. They select a Yard of the Month from April to October, and put out a newsletter and mailer multiple times a year; the next deadline is Feb 15 for submissions. The Chamber launched a new updated Wordpress website back in March with the same web address: www.harringtonbiz.com. Chamber is currently looking for people to write blog posts for the website. We also coordinate the gift baskets for seniors during Christmas, working with the Harrington students and staff to put them together and deliver them. Everyone is always so thankful for this warm community heartfelt gesture around the holidays. Chamber has joined forces with the Huckleberry Press this year to bring forth the "Harrington Happenings" section of the paper. They are seeking individuals interested in writing and organizing content for the editor as well as pictures of current local events.