

# June 2018 Haight Mail

Hello everyone, hope you survived the rain. I personally enjoyed it, my lawn looks better than it has a number of years in spite of a pump running 14 hours a day to try to keep it green.

The new fire station is showing good progress. I still believe they intend to have an open house during the month of June. It's a pretty impressive building. You should take them up on their invite and go take a look. They are proud of their building, and I think justifiably so.

City clean up went well. I think we pulled some of that old stuff out of the garage and bushes and send it to where it needs to be. The recycling company that hauled away the metal and electronics were fairly happy with the amount of metal regenerated. At least it paid them for their mileage and their labor. The problem was they were only able to spend a couple of hours there, and so a lot of the metal had to go into the dumpsters. Next year we are going to tweak it a little bit to where we will have people pile the metal in a selected spot, and after it's all been collected the E cyclers can come and pick it up after cleanup day is concluded. I hope to be able to do it again next year. Matt has picked up all of the branches generated that were piled in the city rights-of-way. I think that part went fairly well. I met some great people and had some fun conversations while helping to unload. Special thanks to Tim Hale and Lynn Taylor for coming down and helping to unload. And for Tim using his Backhoe for some of the heavy stuff.

Well, it's less than a month until the 4th of July. Preparations have been ongoing for about 3 or 4 months now. The fireworks contract has been signed, the booth Rentals are ongoing. As always, we are looking for volunteers. An hour here and an hour there will make a big difference. If you are willing to be involved, the city website has a volunteer button. You can volunteer for different activities like the Easter egg hunt, Christmas tree lighting, or of course, the 4th of July. That is our big event. NOTE: Food booths must have their Health Department permits scheduled by June 17<sup>th</sup> or you won't be able to get one.

The car show will be a little bit bigger this year. We are going to see how it fits into the allotted space, and if it gets too big we will have to go to plan "B". I have no idea what plan "B" is at this time. But there is always a plan "B."

A couple items of Interest. We are always chronically short of parking. The City looks like a parking lot on the 4<sup>th</sup>. If your kids (Or you) want to make a little bit of money, and you are willing, and you have a pasture or field that you are willing to let people park on, I would encourage you to allow people to park on your property. Of course, you can charge them what you think the market will bear. We tried this at the eclipse, and it worked okay. But we had a very tiny crowd compared to the 4th of July crowd. By Mayoral decree, we (The City) are not going to bother you about licenses. I consider it a community service on your part. However, Common Sense would certainly be needed to make the operation to run smoothly. And liability insurance might be something for you to think about. And No, you can't rent out the barrow pit as that is already Public domain.

Another thing, and you can share this, is that we don't won't allow RV parking on Main Street that day. A couple of lawn chairs as fine, but some areas of Main Street are starting to look like a refugee encampment. And a 40-foot RV takes up a lot of sitting room and blocks 40 feet of visibility. Tell them to go find some kid's pasture to park it in.

Last year was a Beta test for the newly purchased city property. It went well on the whole, but somethings will need tweaking. For the latest details, look at the City website. We will try to keep it as updated as we can. There will be maps of where the Comfort stations are, bathrooms are, dumpsters are, food booths, Etc. We will also publish the parade route so that everyone will know which way to turn their head when it is time to watch the parade.

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Peripheral to the 4th of July is the RV dump station. I have had some irritable people call me about the dump station not being open for Memorial Day. That's kind of out of our control right now. For that to work we need to tweak our ordinances a little bit. We would need to have Community Support in order to do that. It's all about the numbers of citizens, Pro or Con, when it comes to changing an ordinance. I will keep you informed of any City hearings to that effect. If it's going to be set up, it will be neat, clean, and easy to use and be kept nice. Any other method is merely asking for trouble.

Last month we made some changes to the wording of the dog ordinance. The new plan is that rather than issuing an annual license for dog, we will issue one license that is good for the lifetime of the dog. The projected price will be \$40, which will include issuing a license, and also chipping the dog. We will buy a chip reader so that we can identify the dog if it gets lost. \$40 is a good price for a chipped dog. Buy a chip, get a license for free. If your dog is already chipped and you have documentation to that effect, there will be a discount. That is the upside. The downside is that because if your loose dog becomes a nuisance, the first infraction penalty is \$100. That's if the dog doesn't have a license. The second infraction is \$300, and the third infraction is \$1,000. That makes a \$40 chipping and license look fairly reasonable in comparison. Half the phone calls I get our complaints about loose dogs. Or lost dogs. Be responsible pet owners and make your dog identifiable if it gets lost. The Menan Facebook page seems to be full of lost dogs looking for their owners. We have reduced the price of compliance by a very large amount. The penalty phase was already in our ordinances but we weren't doing a very good job of enforcing it. Menan has a leash law. In order to get on top of the dog problem, both the inducement and the penalty will apply.

One last thing about dogs. We intend to put up "Doggy Relief Stations" along the walking path. There will be both a bag dispenser and a garbage can fixture placed in a number of places along the walking path. If your dog generates it, you should pick it up. If you have ever mowed through dog waste, you know what I am talking about.

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Information

The latest information will be on the **Menan Website**. Parade route, Booth cost, Schedules, location of Baby changing areas, location of City services, etc. etc. etc. will all be mapped on the City website. There will be some paper copies posted out there, but very few. If you have questions, **LOOK AT THE CITY WEBSITE**. We will keep it as up to date as possible. There is also a group Email that we use to keep people informed of last minute events and changes. If you want quick updates, **SIGN UP** for it. Send a quick note to [menan@ida.net](mailto:menan@ida.net) and ask to be put on the list.