



Meet Our New City Administrator



Please join us in welcoming Lew Steinbrecher as Monmouth's new city administrator! He has spent over 40 years in local government, most recently as Moline's city administrator, a job he held for 12 years before retiring last November. Mayor Rod Davies was able to coax him out of retirement to help run Monmouth for the rest of the year.

Lew is originally from a small town in southern Michigan and has been a municipal manager for six different communities in the Midwest, including Albion, Michigan, which is very similar to Monmouth with a population of 10,000 people, a small private four-year liberal arts college, and a sizeable diverse population. He also served as the economic development director for a regional planning agency at the beginning of his 42-year career.

He has an undergraduate degree in community planning and development and a Master of Science degree in administration. Lew started working for the City of Monmouth on May 31 and is excited to work with community leaders along with Mayor Davies and the City Council members to advance the various economic

development projects already in progress, as well as several planned public infrastructure improvement projects soon to begin construction.

"I very much appreciate this opportunity to work with the people of Monmouth in the months ahead to contribute to improving the quality of life for its residents, and to position the town for residential, commercial and industrial opportunities in the future," Lew said.

ALICE Training in Our Schools

ALICE (Alert, Lock Down, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training helps citizens respond to an active killer situation. Sgt. Joe Bratcher of the Monmouth Police Department began ALICE training with local schools in 2016. The training helps empower teachers and students to make effective decisions and take action in a dangerous situation.

During the first phase of the training, school staff learns the principles of ALICE and participates in a live drill with police department employees. The next phase includes students in a live drill of an active killer scenario; the teacher makes the decision to evacuate or barricade in their classroom or other area. After the drill, the entire school evacuates to a safe zone, where they practice the procedure for reuniting students and parents. Training will be ongoing and may eventually include first aid and de-escalation training.

City Council Meetings at City Hall
Monday, June 5, at 7 p.m.
and Monday, June 19, at 7 p.m.

All Warren County schools are now ALICE-certified. Teachers at Immaculate Conception School were ALICE-trained six months ago and have been teaching their students what they learned. On May 12, Sgt. Bratcher spoke to the students in grades 4-7 for the first time. He told them that the old lockdown procedures where students would cover in their classroom are over.

That type of passive behavior isn't taught anymore. "Don't just sit there. You have to do something," Bratcher said. "Throw a book or use a fire extinguisher. You're trying to buy time for the police to get there. We need 5 to 6 minutes."

Teachers and students learn techniques that help them to fight back and disrupt the intruder's focus. "Think through the stress and fear. Focus on what you need to do. Listen to your teachers," said Bratcher.



Following his talk, police department employees participated in a live drill in the ICS hallways while students remained in their classrooms. ICS now has cameras that are linked to the police department. They are the first school in Illinois with this connection. During the drill, ICS Principal Randy Frakes could see what was happening via the cameras and reported the intruder's location over the loudspeaker.

Kenny Helms, the director of information technology for the City of Monmouth, played the role of the intruder. "Kenny's an awesome bad guy," said Bratcher.

The live drill is helpful for the police as well. It gives them more experience learning how a group may behave in this type of situation. "An event like this is organized chaos," said Bratcher. "It's important to have a plan."

Sgt. Bratcher became certified as an ALICE trainer by attending an ALICE Training Institute program held in Bloomington. He also took a 40-hour online independent study program from FEMA in 2013 about responding to rural active critical incidents. "This was one of the best courses I've ever taken," he said. "It made sense and lined up with what the Army taught us." (Bratcher has served in the Army for 20 years.)

Sgt. Bratcher doesn't expect to have a situation like this in Monmouth. "I have a better chance of winning the lottery," he said. "But that doesn't mean we shouldn't train for it. These are life-saving skills that students may use anywhere."



Clean-Up Days: June 5-9

Clean-up days are held on your regular garbage pick-up day. Whenever possible, materials should be placed in cans, bags or bundles weighing less than 50 lbs. Large items (furniture, etc.) should be placed as near to the curb as possible.

Please limit your output to a pick-up truck size amount.

Please keep in mind that the following items are prohibited:

- Yard waste
- Liquid waste (paint, transmission fluid, antifreeze, thinner, stains/varnishes, motor oil, or and free-flowing liquid)

- Hazardous waste (gasoline, chemical wastes, propane, any poison, insecticides or pesticides)
- Tires
- Batteries
- Large auto/truck parts
- Demolition debris and concrete
- Any type needle, syringe, or sharp
- Human or animal blood and blood products
- Florescent light bulbs
- Electronic waste

Millennium Waste Inc. will also not accept any item that may pose a safety/health hazard to their employees.



City Receives Free Energy Efficient Products

Thanks to the Savings Through Efficient Products (STEP) self-install program, which is available to public facilities, eight of Monmouth's City-owned buildings are becoming more energy efficient. Through STEP, we received a free facility audit and free energy efficient products to help us save energy. The products include new exit signs, faucet aerators, shower heads, LED lights, and occupancy wall switches, which turn lights on and off automatically. We also received several VendingMisers, which help refrigerated beverage vending machines use less energy.

“These new products are being installed at City Hall, the police department, the two fire stations, our water plants, the City garage and

the 1st Street Armoury. I am particularly happy to see older buildings like the Armoury become more energy efficient,” said Jan Helms, executive administrative assistant for the City of Monmouth, who applied for the STEP program.

Well, Actually ...

You have questions? We have answers! Rather than asking your Facebook friends, ask us!

Here are a couple comments and questions we've heard recently:

When will MTC Communications reach my neighborhood?

The City has seen an explosive growth in fiber optic access over the last three years. MTC Communications has been a welcome addition to our community by providing internet access via fiber optic.

Every year MTC builds in additional areas throughout our town. The downtown businesses can now access a fiber optic network that is able to provide any range of speed they require. The network has spread as they have offered service to areas of combined residential interest.

As their staged build out continues, more and more residential access to the fiber optic network is available. The economic opportunities that come with direct to home/business fiber access is not something that a lot of communities can claim. Their growth helps to drive a more competitive range of offerings among our local and national internet service providers.

Please contact MTC directly to let them know you are interested in having their services in your area. Email info@mtccomm.net, or call (309) 575-3211 and ask to have your name and address added to their list.

Depending on interest, your wish may become reality!

The City should stop the college from buying houses because they do not pay taxes.

Monmouth is fortunate to have a terrific liberal arts college right here in our community. While Monmouth College does not pay property taxes, they have a tremendous impact on the quality of life in our community.

Students and staff shop at our stores and eat at our restaurants. Employees buy homes and embrace living here. Some students make Monmouth their home after they graduate. Monmouth College is one of the largest employers in our area, and their employees pay sales tax, property tax, and state and federal taxes. (Interestingly, students who participate in the IRS program, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance [VITA], will help you file your taxes for free.)

From famous speakers to sporting events to concerts and plays, the college holds hundreds of events each year that are open to everyone—many at no cost. Students come from about 30 states and 35 countries, adding welcome diversity to our area.

Over the years, the college has been a great neighbor. They purchased a \$145,000 Freightliner water tender with pump from Alexis Fire Equipment for us in 2001, for example. Their new parking lot and water project on Boston allowed the City to “tap” into the line, which saved us money. (And, yes, the college pays for their own water use.) Beginning this year, the college will pay \$25,000 a year (inflation adjusted) towards public safety for the City. This will help cover the costs of having the Fire Department respond to emergency calls on campus.

If there is something you've wondered about that relates to living in Monmouth, let us know by emailing info@cityofmonmouth.com. We will answer some general interest questions here periodically. Be sure to look at the FAQ section of our website as well!

If you have Internet access, you can sign up to receive the digital version of this newsletter. Subscribe here: <http://www.cityofmonmouth.com/index.php/city-newsletter>

El Jarochito

El Jarochito in Monmouth serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Owner José Hernandez is a native of Mexico and has run the El Jarochito restaurant in Galesburg since 2011. The Monmouth restaurant opened in March 2017.



El Jarochito

Depending on the day, they offer favorites like camarones a la diablo (shrimp covered in spicy red sauce), carnitas, tostadas, huevos rancheros, chilaquiles, and burritos. Specials like Fajita Friday and Taco Tuesday are posted on their Facebook page. Menudo tends to sell out quickly! Kids 12 and under eat for half price (with the purchase of an adult meal) on Wednesdays. The restaurant serves an American-style breakfast but incorporates Mexican-themed foods like tortillas with it.

Catering and take-out are available.

El Jarochito is located at 227 South A Street in Monmouth, with plenty of convenient parking. Call for more information: (309) 734-0735.



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