

## *The Mayor's Corner*

June 30, 2017

### **The Gift That Keeps Giving (Don't forget to say thank-you.)**

At one time or another many of us have spoken of a gift from which we (and sometimes others) have received continuous enjoyment or benefit. Even when it looks like it has run its course; somehow it continues to bring joy. It's the gift that keeps giving.

Perhaps the longest running "gift that keeps giving" is the gift of Freedom. We have been enjoying it for 241 years. Sometimes we take it for granted; perhaps only thinking of it on Memorial Day, Election Day, Veterans Day and, of course, Independence Day. Given that we get to enjoy this gift of freedom every day; we should be thinking about it, and how lucky we are to have it, a lot more than a few times a year.

When we do think about this gift of freedom, we should also be thinking about those who have helped to ensure that we continue to enjoy it, and have prevented others from taking it away – our veterans. They have fought and died for us. They have fought and died in order to protect that gift.

When we receive a gift, we say thank-you. Please don't forget to thank those that have been part of the gift that keeps giving. When you see someone in uniform, tell them how much you appreciate their service. If you know a veteran, thank him/her, too (and listen to the stories).

We can also thank those who have died over the years by voting. By the way, don't just go into the booth and push one button. Take the time to go down the list and think about each candidate. People gave their lives. We can give more than a few seconds to show our appreciation. Frankly, I can't think of a better way to show disrespect and a lack of appreciation for those who gave their lives for us than by not voting.

I hope to see you at our Annual Fourth of July Parade. The parade begins at 11am on Main Street and finishes at Weingartner Park, where the festivities will continue (and where you'll have the opportunity to thank some of our local veterans).

One more thing: Whether you celebrate locally or elsewhere; please stay safe.

*Greg*