



On Tuesday September 22 it was my profound privilege to join with some of our fellow townspeople to celebrate the enormous impact volunteers have had on Montrose. While we have several standing committees and commissions like Planning and Zoning, Park and Rec, and the Economic Development Authority, over the past year we have had specific committees focused on business recruitment and retention, our Highway 12 corridor and on community pride. All three of these committees set and exceeded their ambitious goals and should be congratulated for their diligence and success.

Through the efforts of Business Recruitment and Retention we have one new restaurant and another one pending, a cooperative venture between the school district and a private developer, and a commercial development that is expected to break ground yet this fall.

Courtesy of our Highway 12 Redevelopment Committee we now have a comprehensive, multi-generational plan for not only highway 12 but also for our downtown. This plan includes seating areas, greenery and decorative lights and signs, all of the amenities that one expects in their hometown.

There have been several events over the past year that have been driven by Community Pride, everything from Breakfast with Santa and the Christmas Light Competition last winter to the Citywide Garage Sale in the Spring to a movie in the park this Summer.

With all of this behind us, what lies before us? The Little Crow Transit Way! There is great interest at the state and national level to reintroduce commuter rail to metropolitan areas and one of the primary targets for this initiative is the very rail line that runs through our town. While many of the parameters are yet to be set, we believe Montrose would be an ideal location for a station on the Little Crow Transit Way. First, the rail bed is already approved for passenger rail with no improvements necessary. Second, we already have a siding in place that could be used for this endeavor. Third, we have buildable land in the area of the siding that could be used for this station and more buildable land on the west end of town. Finally, with less than 10 trains passing through Montrose every 24 hours we could easily handle the added rail traffic.

The benefits to Montrose would be many: we would become a commuter destination, and this would increase traffic to Montrose. This increased traffic would stimulate existing local businesses and create an attractive environment for new business. This vigorous business environment would then create local employment opportunities as well as generate tax revenue for the city, taking some of the burden off of the shoulders of our residents.

With the momentum behind the Little Crow Transit Way it is inevitable that it will come through Montrose one day soon. Our goal is to embrace this reality and petition to be a station along the route. Please show your support for this endeavor by printing out letters to our legislators (on the Home Page), signing them, and dropping them by City Hall – we'll take care of the rest. Or, if you don't have a printer simply stop by during business hours to sign copies that we have on hand. We need your support to make this vision a reality, so please spread the word. Montrose's past was built on the railway; let's now make it a part of our future.

Want to volunteer? Sign up now to be part of the Little Crow Transit Way Task Force.