

## **MONTESANO CONSIDERS PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

The Montesano City Council will consider an ordinance at the next council meeting at 7:30 pm, Tuesday, June 10, 2008 that restricts parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas. The ordinance also limits the amount of time recreational vehicles can be parked on a city right of way.

The council has been concerned about damage to streets caused by large vehicles in residential areas. Some residential streets are also very narrow and have inadequate base foundation rock. Commercial vehicles are considered those with more than one rear axel, either as a single unit or a combination, such as a single-axel tractor towing a trailer.

Safety is also a consideration. Large vehicles can obstruct visibility at intersections, and two can even park in a way that makes streets too narrow for safe traffic.

The ordinance does not prevent commercial vehicles from making a delivery or pickup in a residential area. A truck delivering construction materials could lawfully deliver the materials but as soon as unloaded would need to leave.

The ordinance does not prevent residents from parking commercial vehicles on private property, which is what is most common within residential areas of the city.

Recreational vehicles (trailer, motor home, 5<sup>th</sup> wheeler trailer, pickup camper and camp trailer) would be limited to 72 hours of parking on the city right of way.

Some City Council members feel that Montesano is a rural community, and restricting commercial vehicle parking is not a good thing. Montesano Mayor Ron Schillinger agreed with that policy in the past, however, he has become convinced that a close residential community like Montesano with a high quality of life is no place for commercial vehicle parking.

Public comment is encouraged in writing prior to the June 10 council meeting. The City Council has requested to hear from Montesano residents before making their decision at the June 10, 2008 meeting. A special portion of the meeting will be scheduled for public comment on this subject.