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Diversity a Source of Community Strength

Take a close look at Monterey. There is more here than first meets the eye ...

Yes, we are a world-class visitor destination, and the visitor industry does fuel much of the local economy.

At the same time, our area has emerged as a prominent center for research and higher education activity, and our institutions of study in language, international business and environmental sciences are among the finest in the world. In fact, Monterey is widely accepted as the Language Capital of the World.

The people that make up our community are as diverse as our economy.

If you look closely at our citizens, you will find people from all walks of life, a broad range of incomes and a rich mix of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. We have a number of distinctive residential and commercial neighborhoods, each with its own special flavor.

All in all, Monterey truly reflects the enormous demographic changes taking place in our State and Nation. Most of the time our diversity serves as a source of strength and is a major contributor to the success that Monterey enjoys.

At times, however, our diversity can cause tension and friction and can even lead to acts of violence.

As we work on a variety of issues dealing with safety, our schools, our economy and the future form of our City, it is important to remember to take pride in our community's diversity, and use it as a source of strength to help resolve community issues and concerns.

There is no question this will help keep Monterey the truly great place that it is.

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And the Survey Says ...

Results from the Community Survey distributed in the City's last Annual Report are in. More than 600 responses were collected! Thank you for taking the time to let us know what you think. The survey asked questions about the following five areas: 1) City Tree program; 2) Parks and Recreation; 3) Public, Education and Government Access TV; 4) Taxi service; and 5) City Web site.

Here's what we learned ...

- **About Trees:** We often receive questions about the maintenance and removal of trees on both public and private property. Of those who have asked the City for help, more than 80% rated the response they received as "average" or better. More than 80% indicated that the City did an "average" or better job in maintaining trees on City property in the downtown area as well as in the neighborhoods.
- **About Parks and Recreation:** More than 70% of respondents frequently use local beaches, the Coastal Trail and local parks. When asked what improvements community

members want to see at these sites, 35% said “none” while 24% requested more tables, 17% more barbecue equipment and 16% more play equipment.

In regard to the need for additional programming for various age groups, the top three groups listed were teens, elementary school children and seniors, respectively.

- **About Public, Education and Government (PEG) Access TV:** Respondents said they want to watch the following types of programming on local cable: programs about community events (73%), Monterey organizations (38%) and Monterey government (36%).

Many of the respondents said they or an organization they belong to or know of were interested in learning how to make programs for broadcast on a PEG TV channel.

- **About Taxi Service (not including Airport pick-up):** More than 50% of respondents rated “arrived on time” and “courteous driver” as “above average” or “excellent.” Eighty-two percent rated the “cleanliness” of local taxis as “average” or better.
- **About the Web:** More than 70% of respondents have access to the Internet and of those more than 25% have visited the City’s Web site (<http://www.monterey.org/>).

When visiting the site, respondents are looking for special event updates, City news and information on public meetings. The department pages visited most often include Monterey Public Library, Recreation and Community Services, City Parks and Volunteer Opportunities.

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Much-Needed Childcare Center to Open this Summer

The Monterey Center for Children and Families is scheduled to open this July bringing childcare space for 144 children – from infants to preschoolers.

Realizing a community dream and City priority, the Center is located at 1608 Pvt. Bolio Road in the former Child Development Center on the Presidio of Monterey.

“A dire need is being filled in the community,” says Mez Benton, coordinator of Peninsula Partners for Childcare, a group that helped spearhead this cooperative effort.

“The need for childcare is universal because women are going to work – for a variety of reasons – and people have a very hard time finding childcare.”

The newly renovated Center is a reality thanks to dedication and a collaborative effort by Peninsula Partners – made up of community members and organizations, the U.S. Army and the City. Forty slots have been earmarked for military families and a percentage will be reserved for low-income families. Funding sources to assist the needs of low-income families are being pursued.

To register or for more info call Center Director Nancy O’Neal at 642.9265.

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Public Open Space Expands

Now, more than ever, it’s your Window on the Bay.

Here’s what is happening along Del Monte Avenue.

- The popular Monterey Bay Park/ Window-on-the-Bay project just got much bigger and better.

This spring the City successfully completed negotiations for the purchase of the privately-owned, 7.5-acre “Catellus properties” adjacent to both sides of Municipal Wharf II, on the west end of Window on the Bay.

These properties, site of the former Sante Fe and later Southern Pacific Railroad depots, will be a valuable addition to this public project. The parcels more than triple the size of open space available for Window on the Bay. A lengthy planning process will determine how best to use the property to meet community needs for recreation opportunities and public access. Keep an eye out for the public meeting schedule so that you can give your input to the City on what you’d like to see happen there!

- Another parcel is being added to Monterey Bay Park – 851 Del Monte, site of Vapor Sudden Service Cleaners.
This long-standing (since 1926), locally owned and operated family business worked closely with the City to relocate out of the Window-on-the-Bay project area.
The business has been approved by the City for relocation to 1193 10th Street, Monterey.

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History Stewards Work Together to Bring Past to Life Historic structures, resources and landmarks are scattered throughout our City. How do they relate to each other? How do the stories interconnect and make up the Monterey we know today? Three organizations – the City, Monterey State Historic Park and Monterey History and Art Association – all work to answer these questions using our own resources. However, plans are underway to identify ways we can all work more closely together and present Monterey's history as one seamless account. The group's goals include

1. Improving how the public experiences Monterey's history;
2. Improving the preservation of historical resources in the City;
3. Encouraging both residents and visitors to enjoy learning about this City's history.

"The aim of this collaboration is to increase effectiveness, spend less money and expand the number of residents and visitors who understand and appreciate Monterey's role in history – What a great idea!" says long-time Monterey resident and community leader Kip Hudson, who is serving as facilitator on the project.

A federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services is supporting the efforts. Staff from each organization recently visited Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina to learn how these cities handle cooperative campaigns among various agencies, and how they manage tourism in order to balance community quality of life issues and visitor needs.

For more info, call our Cultural Arts/Historical Facilities Division at 646-3991 (pike@ci.monterey.ca.us).

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Monterey Peninsula Hotel Proposed for Cannery Row

A new hotel may soon make a long-time Cannery Row eyesore a thing of the past. Revised plans propose to bring a high-quality hotel to the construction site located on both sides of Cannery Row between Prescott Street and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Hotel, retail and parking uses were previously approved for this site, but construction was delayed for years due to financing issues.

The submitted Monterey Peninsula Hotel design proposes to reduce the number of sleeping rooms and restaurant seating while increasing meeting room and retail space.

In addition, the developer proposes to provide additional public access including

- 1) a public access way with visual access to the Bay and historic Ed Ricketts' Lab;
- 2) a redesigned plaza on the Bayside to include the area in front of Bubba Gumps; and
- 3) making available to the public a currently fenced-off section of McAbee Beach adjacent to the Spindrift Inn.

Completing the buildout on this site and ensuring that it meets land-use guidelines and community needs is a City priority. As a result, future property tax revenues will likely be deferred for a limited period to help ensure that financing issues do not stop this project once again, and that this substantial new revenue source becomes a reality. All of the deferred revenues will be paid back to the City.

The revised design has been reviewed by various City commissions, which made recommendations to the Planning Commission. As part of the process, the Planning Commission makes a recommendation to the City Council, which will make final decisions regarding the project.

As of City Focus deadline, we anticipate the City Council will consider the project in June.

For more info, call the City's Planning Division at 646-3885 or email fell@ci.monterey.ca.us

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Resources for Local Businesses Abound

Public, private programs meet community needs Monterey business owners have a number of resources available to them at City Hall and in the business community.

- The City has established a partnership with businesses and property owners to revitalize the Downtown and Lighthouse Avenue commercial areas.
A similar effort has been initiated in the North Fremont area.
- Business Area Plans have been established for several commercial districts. In each plan, business owners define area goals and outline policies and programs for achieving those goals. Plans have been approved and implemented for Downtown, Lighthouse Avenue, Cannery Row, East Del Monte Avenue and Fisherman's Wharf. A Business Area Plan is currently being prepared for the North Fremont business area.
- Tools including Business Improvement Districts (BID) and Maintenance Districts, which

property owners fund to improve their business areas, are established as a result of Area Plans. A BID has been established for Lighthouse Avenue and a Maintenance District exists on Alvarado Street.

- Facade improvement grants, available through the City, enable business owners to spruce up the exterior appearance of their building. This can range from a new paint job to a face lift of the entire facade. This fiscal year, some \$42,000 was budgeted for individual businesses to improve their buildings.
- The business community also provides resources to business owners. The Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce along with the individual business associations of Monterey assist individual owners with specific needs.

For more info, call the City's Planning Division at 646-3885 or email fell@ci.monterey.ca.us

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Innovative Pump Helps Keep Bay Clean

New technology is aiding the City in our efforts to minimize pollution in the Bay.

What is it? The Oily Bilge Water Pumpout and Recycling Device installed in Monterey Harbor now keeps oily water from a boat's bilge (the boat's lowest point) from polluting the Bay.

Why is it needed? Boats can leak oil and/or fuel into their bilge that then mingle with the sea/rain water often found in the bilge. When enough fluid accumulates in the bilge, the boat's automatic bilge pump will activate, dumping it overboard. This is a major reason why small oil spills are so common in harbors and have been since engines were first installed in boats. Keeping a bilge clean is difficult and up until now, there was no place to recycle or pump out the oily water.

How does it work? The system allows boats to go to the Monterey Bay Boatworks fuel pier, where the device has been installed, and have the contents of the bilge pumped out while they get fuel. Oily fluid from the bilge is pumped out, and the oil is separated from the water. The oil goes to a recycling tank while the water is finely filtered and then pumped back into the Harbor under the conditions of a Waste Discharge Permit.

For more info, call the Harbor Office at 646-3950 (scheibla@ci.monterey.ca.us).

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City Welcomes New Fire Chief

As the new Fire Chief in Monterey, Chief Greg Glass plans to build on Monterey's already excellent reputation.

"My No. 1 goal is to make Monterey the premiere fire department in this area of the state," says Chief Glass.

"I plan to be very visible as a fire chief and active in the community."

Chief Glass comes to us from Pacific Grove and began his new position in April. Although new to Monterey, he is not a stranger to fire service or the Monterey Peninsula. Chief Glass began his fire service career in 1973 when he was hired as a firefighter at the Pacific Grove Fire Department. Chief Glass served as Fire Chief in Pacific Grove for six years.

cutline - "The Fire Department's No. 1 job is to protect the community and provide life-saving services," says Fire Chief Greg Glass.

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City of Monterey



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Summer Reading Fun Available at Library

Deep Sea Readers is the theme of the Library's Summer Reading Club now underway. Kids can join anytime!

As members of the free Summer Reading Club, children consult with their parents and set individual reading goals. The "Readers" meet for weekly programs, and librarians recommend books to read. Prizes are awarded to children for working toward and achieving their goals. Programs for this summer include music by MaryLee and Zun Zun, sea science adventures and a visit from author Joanne Ryder.

It's simple and fun and helps with school success next year.

For more info, call the Youth Services Desk at 646.3934 or visit us on the Web at www.monterey.org/library

Disposing of Large Unwanted Items

What to do with the unwanted "treasures" you've cleaned out of your home and yard? Simple! Call Monterey City Disposal and Recycling at 372.7977.

Residential customers with standard refuse and recycling service qualify for large item pick-up each billing period.

So, if you have an old couch, refrigerator, stove, water heater, large quantities of yard trimmings or other stuff from your garage or yard, call Monterey City Disposal. Pick-ups are scheduled for Thursdays.

Tip: If you are considering a construction project (such as a remodel), roll-off containers cost 50% less if you separate wood or concrete.

For more info call MDS at 372.7977 or City Recycling Coordinator Angela Brantley at 646.5662; email brantley@ci.monterey.ca.us

Getting to Cannery Row Coast Easier than Ever

How can you access the beaches and rocky shores of Cannery Row?

Now it will be easier than ever as the City puts in signs along the Row and Coastal Trail that point the way. Property owners and developers are often required by law to provide public access to the shore, and Cannery Row has a number of these access points.

Look for the new directional and coastal access signs to point you to the coast as well as to unique landmarks and resources along the Row.

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Places to Be, Things to Do for Seniors in Monterey

Today's active adult can find an array of instructional classes, special events, travel opportunities, general interest programs, clubs and fitness options at the City.

"The Senior Center is my home away from home," says Edna Judson.

"I enjoy tap dancing, line dancing, pinochle and the Golden 55 tours."

- The Scholze Park Center, located on the corner of Lighthouse and Dickman avenues is currently undergoing renovation and is scheduled to reopen in mid-June. This historic facility is the hub for a variety of dance and movement classes, arts and crafts, needlepoint and sewing, nutrition and health programs as well as one-day tours and extended travel. Lunch is served on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Several dance/performance programs are also available. Please note, the Senior Center is operating out of Hilltop Park Center, 871 Jessie Street, until renovations are complete.
- Fitness programs, including therapeutic water exercise, aquatics and lower back strengthening, are available at the Monterey Sports Center.
- Activities such as yoga, watercolor, ceramics, bridge and billiards are available at various community centers located throughout the City. The Choraleers meet at Hilltop Park Center and welcome calls from interested vocalists regarding auditions.
- Countless services are provided to Seniors through Alliance on Aging which will once again be located adjacent to the Senior Center once it reopens. The Visiting Nurse Association Adult Day Care program is open to area residents on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and is located at Hilltop Park Center.

For more info, call 646.3878 or visit www.monterey.org/rec

At the Library ...

The Monterey Public Library plays an important and active role in the cultural life of the community with a rich and varied schedule of events.

- **For adults:** the popular "Stories for Adults" and "Acoustic Music Concerts" series (including Singer Songwriter Alisa Fineman, pictured, on June 26); the Literary Circle book discussion group, lectures, workshops and poetry readings. Funded by the Library Trust, most of these programs are free to Library cardholders.
- **For youth:** educational and fun literature-based programs including storytelling, puppet shows, concerts and visits by authors. Activities are held both in the Library and at Bookmobile stops.

For more info about cultural events at the Library call 646.3949; email mccombs@ci.monterey.ca.us or visit www.monterey.org/library

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Abandoned Vehicles in the City

In an effort to keep Monterey beautiful, the City continues to keep abandoned/stored vehicles off our streets.

A vehicle cannot be parked and left standing on any street or alley for more than 72 consecutive hours. Vehicles found in violation will be marked for towing under City Code section 20-72.

Abandoned vehicles left on City streets are an eyesore, and studies show that neighborhoods that appear neglected are more likely to experience criminal activity. Abandoned vehicles are one of the first signs of a neglected neighborhood.

If you will be gone for an extended time, remember to either park your vehicle on your property or have someone periodically drive it. To report an abandoned vehicle, call our tipline at 646.3973. Please be prepared to give a description of the vehicle (including license plate number), its location and the duration it has been parked.

Learn the Ins and Outs of Your Police Department

What is policing in Monterey all about?

Come find out at our Citizens' Police Academy. Learn "up close and personal" how your police department operates.

The 12-week course is designed to educate and build communication with the citizens we serve. Topics include narcotics and vice investigations, firearms training, arrest procedures, the judicial system and defense tactics. Through this free course, participants can earn 2 units of college credit through Monterey Peninsula College.

The next Academy begins August 30 and is held on Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. For info on eligibility requirements or to request an application, please contact Officer Michael Sargent at 646.3819 or sargent@ci.monterey.ca.us

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Citizens' Academy Alum Offer Support for Police

Educating the public about safety and local police services are goals of many graduates of our Citizens' Police Academy.

During the Academy, community members learn about police procedures and establish direct lines of communication with officers and other professionals in the City's Police Department (see story bottom right).

As an outgrowth of the Academy, the Monterey Police Citizens' Academy Alumni Association (MPCAAA) was formed in 1997.

"We wanted to work on safety programs that would benefit children and people community wide," says Colleen Sullivan, MPCAAA president. "We wanted to make a positive impact." Since the nonprofit's inception, members have adopted two main objectives: to support the Police Department's Canine Unit and the Halloween "Glow in the Dark" Necklace Program. Through fundraising efforts and promoting safety education at local events, the group has had success.

MPCAAA has raised more than \$13,000, plus an additional \$2,000 in pro-bono services, to bring Canto (pictured), a trained police dog, to the City. Through the sale of Canine Share Certificates (\$5 per share), MPCAAA continues to raise funds to provide training equipment for the entire Canine Unit, including a recent purchase of a bite suit, and educational materials. Canto and partner Officer Mickey Roobash along with Charp and partner Officer Terry DeSalvo make up the City's Canine Unit.

Alumni have also raised more than \$4,000 for the necklace safety program.

Neighborhood and business associations, hotels, independent small business owners and many individuals have contributed to the association's fundraising.

For more info on the Monterey Police Citizens' Academy Alumni Association call 649.0141.

cutline - The K-9 teams have performed more than 25 demonstrations and have been involved in more than 20 arrests.

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Odds n Ends

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Electric Bikes

City staff rode electric bicycles during a pilot program sponsored by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG).

The City will be evaluating ways to make bikes available on a permanent basis.

For more info about electric bikes call 646.3920.

Arts and Culture - Art at the Monterey Conference Center

Visit the changing art gallery at the Monterey Conference Center. Get to know local artists and discover more about Monterey's heritage.

Since its opening in 1977, the Conference Center has displayed an array of permanent and rotating exhibits. From paintings and tapestries to photos and sculptures, it has become a popular venue for local artists to show their work.

The Alvarado Gallery's rotating art program, on the second floor, has featured hundreds of local artists and special exhibits.

The Gallery

- 1) provides a forum where community members can celebrate their artistic and cultural heritage; and
- 2) informs and educates visitors about the quality and diversity of the arts and culture in the Monterey area.

Every year artists can submit artwork for inclusion in the Gallery. Work is reviewed and selected based on the program guidelines. For more info about exhibitions in the Gallery, call Susan Klusmire at 646.3858 or email klusmire@ci.monterey.ca.us

The Monterey Conference Center and the Alvarado Gallery are open to the public Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

cutline - Zanny & Zen, by Michele Alacantara is currently on exhibit.

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Posting Signs, Legal or Not?

"Garage Sale this Saturday" – "House for Sale by Owner" – "Elect Joe Brown for Dogcatcher." We see these signs every day, posted on telephone poles, erected in front yards and placed in various public places. But are these signs legal?

The City's sign ordinance prohibits posting signs on any tree, shrub or utility pole located on public property or placing signs so that they encroach upon a public street or sidewalk.

Unlike other signs, political signs are allowed on most public lands, unless they create a dangerous condition (such as signs placed in the roadway median) or interfere with upkeep of the property. A new City ordinance also prohibits political signs around the City Hall complex and grounds and Colton Hall.

For more info, call our Community Development Department at 646.3885 or stop by the office at Colton Hall, corner of Pacific and Madison streets.

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Safety Tips

Neighborhoods Train for Emergencies

New Volunteer Trainees Needed!

Learn what to do during a disaster. Discover how you can react, assist your neighbors and survive in your own “backyard” should an emergency arise.

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) members are trained by the City to work together as a team in the most critical hours after a major disaster.

NERT training provides you and your neighbors with hands-on training in first aid and disaster preparedness. Neighborhoods with NERT members are equipped with emergency resources and instructed how to survive for up to 72 hours without outside aid.

The next NERT training classes will be held on Aug. 5 and 12 (Saturdays). Call 646-3416 to sign up or for more info call Division Chief Stewart Roth at 646-3909; email roth@ci.monterey.ca.us

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Volunteer Opportunities ...

Stars, Stripes & Fireworks – Help with the parade, work as a Beach Monitor or help with Harbor clean-up on July 4. Don't forget the beach clean-up with lunch provided on July 5.

Volunteer Guides for Presidio Museum – Become a certified Presidio Guide for the new museum opening early next year. The training course will cover local history as well as history of the U.S. Army and the Presidio of Monterey.

Homework Pals – Training begins in early August. Work individually with students K-5th grade on homework assignments during an afterschool program.

Data Entry, Office Help – Use your time and talent to help with clerical work in City offices.

For more info on these or other volunteer opportunities call 646-3719 or email

<http://sammon@ci.monterey.ca.us/>

On the Police Beat

Vacant House Checks

Are you going on a trip and/or going to be away from your home for an extended period? Tell the Monterey Police Department and let us provide vacant residence checks.

Why fill out a Vacant Residence Report?

- 1) Officers patrolling your neighborhood can more effectively safeguard your home and property.
- 2) Monterey's Volunteers in Policing Senior Patrol will periodically drop by your residence to make security checks.
- 3) You can provide emergency contact information, making it easier for us to find you if an

emergency situation occurs at your residence.

To make a Vacant Residence Report, call 646-3830. For more info on the program call Officer Mike Sargent at 646-3819 or email sargent@ci.monterey.ca.us

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Help Keep Streets Clean

You can make the City's street-sweeping program a success by remembering to move your vehicle(s) on the scheduled day.

Please do not park any vehicle on either side of the street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. in commercial areas or between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. in residential areas on the scheduled sweeping days for your street.

Please note: sweeping can't be performed on rainy days and your street will not be swept until the next scheduled day.

Check the street-sweeping schedule on our Web site at www.monterey.org/publicworks

For more info, call the City's Maintenance Division at 646-3927, Mon. - Fri. from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fireworks Illegal in City

Fireworks are spectacular but dangerous. Out of concern for public safety, the City prohibits the sale/purchase, possession or discharge of all fireworks anywhere in the City.

Individuals who violate this ordinance will have their fireworks confiscated and will be subject to citation.

You can still enjoy fireworks on the Fourth of July by joining us for our annual radio-synchronized display, launched in the Bay just off of Wharf II. The festivities get underway at 9:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4.

Please help make this a safe and fun Fourth of July for the entire community.

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