



Features

[Monterey Weathers 1998 Storms, Floods](#) | [New Marina Rules Working](#)
[Keep Monterey Bay Waters Clean](#) | ["Omega" Fire Sprinklers Defective](#)

Monterey Weathers 1998 Storms, Floods

Preparation and investment in street, storm drain maintenance pays off

It rained and poured and then it rained and poured some more. This winter it rained more than any other year on record, but damage in the City of Monterey was minimal compared to other years in part due to the City's advanced planning and aggressive maintenance programs. Throughout the year, City crews worked to prepare streets, drainage systems, trees and other plants to withstand stormy winter months.

That hard work paid off.

"Our aggressive efforts to repair and maintain our streets, lakes and storm drains helped us weather this winter without too much damage," Public Works Director Bill Reichmuth said.

"There was less flooding, in general, because we didn't let storm drains get clogged.

"Volunteers have also helped us be more successful. By identifying hazards, they allow City crews to concentrate on fixing immediate problems."

While street crews cleaned and inspected the 26 miles of storm drains as well as the City's manholes and catch basins, forestry crews made sure that trees didn't fall over on the first windy day.

City Forester Robert Reid said our tree preservation programs worked - fewer trees fell or became hazards this year because of the preventive work.

He also noted there were no personal injuries or significant damage to private property from trees this year, unlike years past.

During the rainstorms of 1995 more than 100 problems with trees were recorded in the City in just two days. This year for the entire month of February there were only 40 reports.

Reid says the reduction can be attributed in part to the work of City crews. Since 1995 more than 7,500 trees - 2,500 per year - have been pruned or trimmed for health and safety reasons. The City also removed dead trees as quickly as possible and worked with residents to maintain privately owned trees.

Weathering storms isn't always easy, but City programs, volunteers and planning help ensure we have the best possible methods in place to provide safety and service to the community.

[Return to top](#)

New Marina Rules Working

Renting a slip in Monterey Marina is now easier

A berth in Monterey Marina is a beautiful thing.

Once an unpopular idea, not to mention a difficult thing to acquire, berthing is now more desirable and easier for boat owners.

Thanks to improved rules defining the rights and limitations of possessing a license to park a vessel in the Marina, waiting lists have been whittled down and commercial fishermen have found increased flexibility in Marina policy.

It used to be that berths became available once or twice a year. Under the new guidelines, 16 berths have opened up in the past two years. The policy allows, under certain circumstances, berths to be transferred with the sale of a vessel.

About two years ago, the Monterey City Council wanted to reform the policies in response to

complaints about overcrowding and a burgeoning waiting list. The new rules have been a welcome change for boat owners and City officials alike.

A boat owner for many years, Don Jensen recently acquired a berth after years of waiting. He appreciates the City's efforts.

"I'm glad that what needed to be done about the waiting list finally happened," said Mr. Jensen.

"I'd like to thank the City for putting together a program that addressed the needs of everyone who has an interest in this Marina."

Boat owners were not always so pleased.

When Monterey Marina opened in 1960, it was difficult to convince boat owners to trade in their free harbor moorings for the \$25-a-month berths offered in the Marina.

Slowly, though, the convenience and safety of the Marina won hearts. By the 1970s, the waiting list had swelled to some 200 names, with future projected waits reaching 30 to 40 years.

Today boat owners happily pay the fee which averages about \$180 per month for a 30-foot berth. The changes have alleviated some of Harbormaster Steve Scheiblaue's sometimes stormy duties.

"Calling someone who's been waiting for 23 years to offer them a berth is among the most cheerful phone calls we get to make," he said.

[Return to top](#)

Keep Monterey Bay Waters Clean

What you put into a storm drain flows into Bay untreated

On sunny days, residents flock to our Bay and its beaches to enjoy our coastal waters.

Every day, people spray off sidewalks, streets or parking lots sending detergents, automotive fluids, animal waste and other products directly into the same Bay.

You may be polluting Monterey Bay without even knowing it. Chemicals, fertilizers and other materials that are poured or washed down storm drains flow to the coast and pollute our waters. Unlike the materials and products you put down your sink, washing machine or toilet bowl, storm drain pollutants are NOT cleaned by a treatment plant before going back into the environment.

Storm water and other materials in the drain flow untreated directly into Monterey Bay.

The City of Monterey works continually to keep our environment as safe and natural as possible.

Our public education programs inform people about the hazards of washing materials down storm drains and encourage residents to use recycling programs.

You can help by storing your household chemicals and automotive fluids in covered areas where they will not be exposed to rain or runoff waters. Use garden pesticides and herbicides according to the instructions on the container; over-application leads to polluted runoff. Wash cars with biodegradable, phosphate-free detergent. Recycle used motor oil, excess paint, paint thinners, pesticides and fertilizers.

Locations for recycling these and other hazardous wastes can be found by calling the Monterey County Recycling Hotline at 384.5313.

[Return to top](#)

"Omega" Fire Sprinklers Defective

Help us locate the systems in use in Monterey

As many as 500 buildings throughout the City may have defective automatic fire sprinkler heads.

The City Fire Department needs your help in locating these faulty "Omega" fire sprinklers.

If you own or manage a building with an automatic fire sprinkler system, please examine the sprinkler heads. Many of the "Omega" fire sprinkler heads will not activate as designed when exposed to fire. The problem is with a defective "o-ring" within the head.

The "Omega" fire sprinkler head has three small round disks in the center of the head (see photo). It is estimated that nearly 10 million heads have been installed in systems throughout the United States. Please help us find those in our City.

If your system has "Omega" heads or you have questions, please call the Fire Department at 646.3900.

[Return to top](#)

[Features](#) | [In the News](#) | [City Briefs](#) | [History Buffs](#)
[Community Tips](#) | [Odds & Ends](#) | [City Focus Main Page](#)



Rev 09/03/09 L. Huelga <http://www.monterey.org/focus/summer98/features.html>



News

[New Emergency Center on the Way | City Volunteers Make a Difference](#)
[New City Program Targets At-Risk Youth](#)
[Additional Housing Units May be Subject to New Laws](#)

New Emergency Center on the Way

In case of emergency - the City of Monterey will soon be even better prepared.

Thanks to our Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) and residents throughout the City, a new 1300-square-foot Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is being built.

"It will make the difference between life and death," said Richard Ruccello, the NIP representative who spearheaded the project. "During an emergency the EOC manages all of the City's resources, including its volunteer base. The bottom line is, it will save lives."

The new EOC, located behind the Police Department, is the City's emergency management headquarters during disasters. Scheduled to be completed in late August, its construction is being financed through NIP.

Mike Ventimiglia, a division chief for the City's Fire Department, said the EOC is a tool that allows City leaders to make quick decisions during an emergency and ensure that information immediately gets to the right people.

With backup power and state-of-the-art technology - radios, computers and telephones - the EOC will house everything we need to communicate with crews anywhere in the City, analyze emergency situations, develop action plans and dispatch crews to areas in need.

City Volunteers Make a Difference

Thanks to the efforts of 45 volunteers, City crews were able to concentrate on clearing clogged drain inlets and preventing more flooding during the storms that came through this year.

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) members, all volunteers, alerted City crews to 16 locations in need of attention during their four-hour patrol. The volunteer assistance allowed the City to focus on fixing problems rather than identifying them.

Team members also reopened minor clogs themselves during their inspection.

The City of Monterey has many volunteer opportunities. Some of the ongoing assignments include:

- Monterey's storm-water monitoring program allows the City to focus more attention on the source of pollutants entering the storm-drain system. Staffed by volunteers, the program runs through the dry-weather season - May to November. Under the program, volunteers take samples of flows in the storm-drain system at various locations around the City. These samples are tested for various chemicals including chlorine, ammonia-nitrate, copper and detergents. The effort helps the City to concentrate on educating the public about the sources of pollution that are most prevalent in various parts of town.
- Monterey's storm-drain stenciling program needs summer volunteers to help label storm drains with the warning, "No Dumping - Flows to Bay." Many people don't realize that storm drains empty into Monterey Bay untreated. By marking the storm drains, we reduce the illegal dumping of used motor oil, yard clippings and other pollutants into the storm-drain system.

To volunteer call our Volunteer Coordinator, Susan Schiavone, at 646.3719.

[Return to top](#)

New City Program Targets At-Risk Youth

Staff counselor plans to work directly with teens to help get them back on track

Kathy Miller is committed to preventing today's young first-time offender from becoming tomorrow's hardened criminal. She doesn't want to see a youngster - who can benefit from a program that directs them away from crime or anti-social behavior - fall through the cracks of an overcrowded juvenile justice system concentrated on locking up serious offenders.

Under a new program adopted by the Monterey Police Department, Kathy, a long-time counselor, has the opportunity to steer Monterey youth back on track.

As the City department's Youth Diversion Coordinator, Miller says requiring the under-18 crowd to take responsibility for their conduct is the first step.

"The program offers us the opportunity to step in and help in ways that others cannot," Kathy said. "My goal for this program is to offer the youth a new direction, one of hope and success."

Through the program, the Police Department and City hope to prevent youngsters from entering the imperfect juvenile justice system and becoming lost. Youth who have committed misdemeanors or infractions or have exhibited behavior associated with criminal activity are eligible for referral to the program, where they receive counseling for up to a year.

The program emphasizes:

- restitution to victim and community
 - individual and/or family counseling
 - adherence to program rules
 - community service
 - follow-up visitations; e.g., tutoring, mentoring, job placement or simply talking through the issues. It aims to match youth with mentors and allow them to work at jobs they enjoy.
- Another goal is to introduce them to police officers in a non-threatening setting. Police Chief Gary Brown based the program on similar ones he developed in other departments. "If we get two kids to turn their lives around, it will be worth it," Chief Brown said. "I'd do it for even one!"

[Return to top](#)

Additional Housing Units May be Subject to New Laws

Separate housing structures on your property may be illegal under new City regulations. The new regulations, approved by the City Council April 7, establish criteria for undocumented or illegal housing units based on when and where they were built. They outline conditions under which extra housing units are allowed. Under these regulations, undocumented units are defined as those not recorded at the City which may be legal if they meet certain criteria. Illegal units are housing units built without the City's approval in areas zoned for single-family or multi-family (apartment) residences. Housing units created without the appropriate planning and building permits violate City zoning standards and may also pose health and safety threats to residents. In general:

- Owners of undocumented units able to clearly establish that a unit was built prior to 1964 in single-family or apartment zones could be allowed to retain a dwelling if it meets building codes as well as health and safety requirements.
- Illegal housing units built in 1964 or later in single-family zones must be removed. No variances or exceptions are allowed.

Illegal units, meeting all zoning and building requirements, existing in multi-family neighborhoods are subject to City review and approval. Units not meeting zoning and building codes require a variance, or exception to the City code.

The owner of such units must, in general:

- a. provide written documentation proving they had no knowledge upon purchase that a particular unit was built without legal permits;
- b. request a variance from the City and meet certain criteria. Variances require public

notification and a public hearing.

For answers to specific questions and for more information, please call the [Planning Department](#) at 646.3885.

[Return to top](#)

[Features](#) | [In the News](#) | [City Briefs](#) | [History Buffs](#)
[Community Tips](#) | [Odds & Ends](#) | [City Focus Main Page](#)



Rev 09/03/09 L. Huelga <http://www.monterey.org/focus/summer98/news.html>



City Briefs

[1610 AM, Your Info Station](#) | [Recycling For a Better Monterey](#)
[Community Helps Shape City Priorities](#) | [Storm Water Utility Fees Go Up](#)

1610 AM, Your Info Station

Not simply another station on your radio dial, 1610 AM is your link to conditions and traffic information during an emergency or disaster.

During this year's storms and floods, our radio station enabled us to send important information to residents as quickly as possible. Within minutes, we were able to announce up-to-date messages on road closures, flood warnings, evacuations and emergency shelter locations. Traditionally, 1610 AM is the Traveler's Information System (TIS). The station directs visitors and residents to various points of interest within the City. During peak tourist months, the station also informs visitors and residents where to park in the City.

Generally, the radio station's recorded messages can be heard within the City limits, but remember it is not a powerful station and the message may fade in certain areas.

Recycling For a Better Monterey

Recycling and waste reduction are working in Monterey.

Why? Because people like you have enthusiastically embraced our environmentally sound programs.

"Recycling has become a welcomed habit," said resident Tam Hennessy. "It has decreased the amount of waste we generate at our home by at least half."

And it's easier than ever to recycle.

Our local collector, Monterey City Disposal Service (MDS), continues to provide simple pickup methods throughout the City, encouraging residents to recycle more and more.

Many products are recyclable, including plastic, metal, aluminum and glass containers; junk mail; office paper; flattened cardboard (including cereal, shoe and laundry detergent boxes); and yard waste.

Kristine Thompson, a new resident to the area, is pleased to join our team effort.

"The Monterey Peninsula is so breathtaking and our City so clean, recycling is a small but significant way to help keep it that way."

Business owners also benefit. They receive a 50% discount on renting drop boxes when they use them to recycle clean building lumber, concrete and landscape materials.

Please do your part to help preserve our surroundings and help us reach the mandate to reduce our waste by 50% by the year 2000!

If you have questions about recycling or disposal, please call City Recycling Specialist Angela Brantley at 646.5662.

[Return to top](#)

Community Helps Shape City Priorities

Affordable childcare, a greater emphasis on the arts and increased promotion of tourism were hot topics at a community forum held earlier this year.

Residents and business owners from throughout the City attended Community Connections to hear an update on our City and to ask questions and help shape this coming year's budget priorities.

The forum was held as the City began developing its new budget for 1998-99.

Community residents said the public forum was a success.

"It gave all the citizens the opportunity to comment upon programs, upon needs of the City and upon their view on the direction the City is moving," said Colleen Sullivan, board member of the Old Town Neighborhood Association. "It showed the different viewpoints that people have."

Participants said the open forum was an important place for citizens to talk with City officials and staff. They encouraged more meetings focusing on different topics.

Other priorities mentioned at the forum include: increasing citizen involvement in the budget process; creating a Police canine unit; expanding historic zoning; and establishing more programs for youth.

Most participants encouraged the City to continue to purchase land for Window on the Bay Park on the bayside of Del Monte Avenue.

Interestingly, there were no City programs or services that participants said should be discontinued.

Call the City's Suggestion Hotline at 646.3799 or e-mail us at suggest@ci.monterey.ca.us with your ideas.

Storm Water Utility Fees Go Up

City residents will see small increases in their storm water utility bill over the next five years. The fees will pay for upkeep of storm drains and storm-drain pipes. In addition, the money will be used to protect the Monterey Bay from further pollution and educate the public on how to keep pollutants out of our storm drains.

Residents recently saw an increase of 67 cents a month for single-family homes. You will see the same increase each March during the next four years. By March 1, 2002, the fee will be \$5.44 a month for single-family homes. Fees vary for commercial properties and apartments. The rate increase is necessary to implement a section of the Federal Clean Water Act that requires small cities like Monterey to pay for permits based on how much storm water we put into the Bay.

While the Federal government requires Monterey to create and operate a program to manage and evaluate storm water, we have to pay for the total cost ourselves.

[Return to top](#)

[Features](#) | [In the News](#) | [City Briefs](#) | [History Buffs](#)
[Community Tips](#) | [Odds & Ends](#) | [City Focus Main Page](#)



Rev 09/03/09 L. Huelga <http://www.monterey.org/focus/summer98/citybriefs.html>



History Buffs

The Past Comes Full Circle

History has an interesting way of repeating itself.

This year, it came in the form of a makeshift drainage ditch that cut between Del Monte Avenue and Monterey Bay, right through the former Cellular One location.

The storms and rains of 1998 brought flooding and inconvenience to many areas throughout the Peninsula, including our City.

On February 3, 1998, torrential rainfall overwhelmed Del Monte Lake. The overflowing basin began to fill Lake El Estero as well as Monterey's main thoroughfare, Del Monte Avenue.

City Public Works crews dug a 6-foot-wide, 130-foot-long trench to the Bay and successfully reduced the flooding along Del Monte Avenue.

It was not unlike the one that Walter Colton dug in 1846, some 150 years ago.

In his diary, *Three Years in California*, Mr. Colton wrote of his solution to his flood dilemma: "as its shores swelled with rain water the lake began to threaten with inundation the buildings upon its margin. With only an intervening ridge of sand between the lagoon and the bay, it occurred to me that it would be a good scheme to cut a channel between the two. The work was easily accomplished; but my channel of two feet soon widened to forty, and the whole lake came rushing down in a tremendous torrent. It swept everything before it, and carried two boats, which lay on the shore, so far out to sea they have not been seen or heard from since."

Thanks to better equipment and, perhaps, more planning, the trench we dug this year only funneled water into the sea.

[Return to top](#)

[Features](#) | [In the News](#) | [City Briefs](#) | [History Buffs](#)
[Community Tips](#) | [Odds & Ends](#) | [City Focus Main Page](#)

City of Monterey

Rev 09/03/09 L. Huelga <http://www.monterey.org/focus/summer98/historybuffs.html>



Odds n Ends

[Those Pesky Posters](#) | [What to Do With Problem Street Lights](#)

Those Pesky Posters

Posting signs or advertisements on light or utility poles is illegal in Monterey.

City Code, section 31-8(d), prohibits attaching any sign - including lost-pet notices - to trees, shrubs, utility poles and the like.

So, the next time you have a garage sale or want to promote your favorite band, please don't post your signs on public property.

Please promote a beautiful Monterey.

What to Do With Problem Street Lights

If you need to report on a "bad" street light within the City, please do the following:

Record the pole number located on the pole, e.g., 122E.

If you are unable to identify the pole number, please note the location, including the closest street address and/or cross streets.

Tell us what is wrong with the light, e.g., burned out, flickering, damaged or on all the time.

Call our Maintenance Division at 646.3927.

Depending on whether the light pole is owned by the City or Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), it may take from two days to two weeks to respond to the request. City crews generally repair City-owned lights in one to two days.

Own Your Own Heron

Miniature copies of the Great Blue Heron "Taking Flight" sculpture, which now rests at Lake El Estero near the fountain, are available for sale.

Made of bronze just like the original, the 14-inch miniatures are on display in the lobby of the City Council Chamber, at the corner of Madison and Pacific streets.

Call the Colton Hall Museum at 646.5640 for more information. Each one costs \$500.

All proceeds from the sale of the miniatures will help support public art in the City of Monterey.

[Return to top](#)

[Features](#) | [In the News](#) | [City Briefs](#) | [History Buffs](#)
[Community Tips](#) | [Odds & Ends](#) | [City Focus Main Page](#)

City of Monterey

Rev 09/03/09 L. Huelga <http://www.monterey.org/focus/summer98/oddsnends.html>



Community Tips

[Safety Tips - Plan Ahead & Lifesaving Tips](#)
[City Looks to Identify, Preserve Historic Buildings](#)
[Library Works to Keep City Treasures Safe and Secure](#)

Safety Tips

Plan ahead

One one-thousand, two one-thousand, three ...

In the time it takes to read the above lines, you and your family could suffer from fire related injury.

Seconds count.

Last year alone, more than 6,000 people died in house fires in the United States. The Monterey Fire Department wants you to know it doesn't have to happen to you.

Plan in advance

- Install smoke detectors
- Design an escape plan and practice it with your family

Exit Drills In The Home or E.D.I.T.H. is something every family should practice. Develop your exit plan now so every member of your family, especially children, knows what to do in a fire. Everyone should know two ways out of each room of the house. Identify a central meeting area, such as the front driveway, where all family members should meet during an emergency. Develop your plan and PRACTICE it regularly by actually sounding the test button on your smoke detector.

Life saving tips

When the smoke detector sounds, drop to the floor and crawl to the door or window that provides you the fastest and safest route out of the building. Immediately go to the central meeting area and stay there until all family members are accounted for.

DO NOT STOP FOR ANYTHING!

Call 911 from a neighbor's house.

For houses with two or more stories, use escape ladders that hang from the window. They can be purchased at local hardware stores.

Remember: The most important thing you can do in a fire is, "Get out and stay out!" E.D.I.T.H. plans are easy to develop and can save you and your family from death or injury.

For more information call 646.3900.

[Return to top](#)

City Looks to Identify, Preserve Historic Buildings

With the preservation of Monterey's early history well in hand, the City is turning its attention to the late 1800s and early 20th century.

As historic zoning covers virtually all buildings constructed prior to 1875, the City is looking toward maintaining those of more modern times.

Working with the consulting firm Architectural Resources Group (ARG) - in conjunction with the State Park system, Monterey History and Art Association, the U.S Army and Navy and various historical organizations - a Historic Master Plan is being drawn up.

The goal is to coordinate existing preservation efforts and allow residents an opportunity to help decide which elements of this history are important to preserve.

The City and ARG are also surveying the historic significance of Cannery Row, in an attempt to identify which buildings contribute to the broad history of the area.

Already, the City has purchased, been given or leased buildings representing the full range of local history, including Doc Ricketts' Lab, the lower Presidio of Monterey, Cannery Row Worker's Shacks, the Gordon House and Aeneas Cannery Bridge.

Through these efforts, long-time residents, newer residents and visitors will be better able to appreciate the place these buildings play in local history as well as Monterey's place in the larger historical scheme of California, the United States and the world.

Library Works to Keep City Treasures Safe and Secure

The City's storied past, as well as that of the region and State, are alive and well in the Library's Local History Collection. Historic books, photographs, maps and news clippings chronicle the people and events that have shaped the present.

A unique and valuable part of the City's memory, the collection is housed in the climate-controlled California History Room. Recognizing Monterey's central role in early California history, the Collection includes materials on the State through 1850. Resources on more recent times focus on the City and the Peninsula.

The Library is responsible for protecting the Collection for future generations and making it accessible to today's Library customers. We have contracted with an archivist to improve and enhance Library stewardship of local history materials. Archival materials have been repaired and placed in secure storage containers, and Library staff and volunteers have been trained on current procedures for handling these rare and valuable materials.

Books, photographs and maps have been added to the Library's catalog or listed for easy reference. Come visit the Library today and explore a unique historical treasure.

[Return to top](#)

[Features](#) | [In the News](#) | [City Briefs](#) | [History Buffs](#)
[Community Tips](#) | [Odds & Ends](#) | [City Focus Main Page](#)

City of Monterey

Rev 09/03/09 L. Huelga <http://www.monterey.org/focus/summer98/communitytips.html>