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### ***History, Arts Make Monterey***

Everywhere you look in Monterey there are remnants of other times and other lives. History is part of our daily routine: we do business and work in historic buildings and stroll along historic walkways.

Recalling and enhancing our history and preserving the past continues to be a priority for the City.

Recent and current projects focusing on the historic aspects of Monterey include development of an Historic Master Plan for the City (see Page 5), leasing and development of the Lower Presidio as an Historic Park and purchase and preservation of Doc's Lab on Cannery Row. In conjunction with the Robert Louis Stevenson Club of Monterey, plans are afoot to emphasize the historical nature of Simoneau Plaza through signage and possibly a sculpture. Also, we will begin installing new ceramic markers in City sidewalks this winter directing people along the Path of History. Information inscribed on the circular markers will be printed in six languages. As part of the Sesquicentennial commemorative activities, a copy of the State seal will be installed on the Colton Hall walkway, accompanied by a series of plaques highlighting important events in Monterey's history.

Additionally, the City is working cooperatively with various cultural and historical agencies to promote cultural arts. Monterey's General Plan frequently refers to using cultural arts to enhance citizens' lives. The plan characterizes the community image as "drawing its charm from a rich historical background ..." Because of this, strengthening the visual beauty of Monterey – through landscaping, attractive buildings and also through the installation of public art – is a long-term goal of the City. We also support cultural arts through an active grants program for local arts and cultural agencies, which received a total of \$31,000 for 20 projects this year. Through these efforts and others we work to sustain the quality of life enjoyed today.

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### ***Historic Park Provides Place to Relax, Reflect***

Leasing of Lower Presidio ensures preservation of this important site Lounge on the lawn of the Lower Presidio Historic Park and gaze out over Monterey Bay. In the quiet, imagine the sights and sounds of the past.

The murmur of unfamiliar tongues. Native Americans lived here for millennia before Franciscan friar Junipero Serra performed Mass under an oak tree on June 3, 1770. He and his military companion, Gaspar de Portola, claimed California for the king of Spain.

Hear the voices of Spanish and - later - Mexican soldiers keeping watch. In the 1790s, the Spanish built a fortress, sometimes called "El Castillo" above Serra's landing site. Built to protect against invasion by sea, it failed. Monterey fell to Argentinean privateer de Bouchard in 1818 and to American naval officers twice, first to Commander Thomas Catesby ap Jones, then to Commodore John Drake Sloat, who claimed California for the United States in 1846.

Listen to the sound of hammering and the voices of New Englanders. Soon after taking California from Mexico, American soldiers erected Fort Mervine. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Army abandoned the fortified hill.

The reverberations of battle sound again. Early in the 20th century, the U.S. Army returned to

the hill above Monterey and established a new post, the Presidio of Monterey. Home to infantry, cavalry and artillery battalions until World War II, it then became a processing center for newly inducted soldiers. After World War II, the Presidio embarked on its current mission – teaching foreign languages to members of all military branches.

Today in the park, children play while others reflect on its storied past. In 1996, the City leased the 26 acres of the Lower Presidio, which is open to the public. We plan to develop an historical park to preserve this important site and to provide a spectacular place where you can enjoy the natural beauties of the area, both past and present.

Just imagine.

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### ***Cultural Arts Programs Abound***

To help make local culture, both past and present, more accessible and visible, the City helps fund local agencies' cultural activities. Such programs are greatly enhanced because of our cultural arts grants that are awarded each year.

"From a coloring book on the historic sites of Monterey to a mural of Lake El Estero, the City has supported a myriad of Lyceum programs for over 20 years, ensuring that students have the opportunity to discover the life-enhancing joy of creative self-expression," said Forbes Keaton, executive director of the Lyceum of Monterey County.

This year is no exception. With an eye toward California's Sesquicentennial commemoration, grants were awarded to many projects contributing to our local observance of the State's 150th anniversary.

Some of the programs funded include: the first annual Monterey Cowboy Poetry Festival, focusing on the Californio vaquero; a special Sesquicentennial performance of the historical debates of the California Constitutional Convention; a traveling exhibition from the Oakland Museum entitled "Gold Fever!"; and three free concerts by the Monterey Bay Symphony. In addition to the Sesquicentennial events, grants also support ongoing musical, theatrical and educational programs.

These activities provide a glimpse into the past and the opportunity to participate in the abundance of local culture.

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### ***Something for Everyone***

Air hockey, bridge, pizza parties, tap dancing – you name it, our Community Centers have it. Educational, exciting and just plain fun activities await those who visit our Community Centers. Home to a wide variety of recreation and leisure opportunities, programs are available for all generations.

The City's five Centers now offer four preschool and three afterschool playground programs, serving more than 200 families daily.

"The teachers are kind, generous and caring," said Dan Kirby whose child attends preschool at Hilltop Park. "The education is unsurpassable."

Students such as Emily Brown, 10, enjoy the activities planned by afterschool staff. "I like playing outside with my friends. The leaders are really nice; sometimes they even let us choose what we want to do."

The Centers also offer holiday programs for elementary students during school breaks by providing supervised activities.

Most Centers also have an area exclusively for teens where they can hang out and have fun playing pool, Ping-Pong, air hockey and/or video games. In addition, the Hilltop Park Center Teen Room will soon have three state-of-the-art computers. Instructional programs tailored to teens are also available, e.g. the Monterey Youth Center hosts "5th Quarter," an activity that follows Monterey High School Saturday home football games.

Additionally, the Scholze Park Center offers activities for adults and seniors. Along with exercise, dance and arts and crafts classes, the Senior Center organizes trips through the "Golden 55" travel program; and also offers a nutrition program.

For information about specific classes and events, please see Page 6 and the current issue of

the Recreation and Community Services Department Activities Guide or call 646-3866. Guides are published three times a year (summer, fall and winter/spring). They are distributed in the Monterey County Herald and are also available at our Centers. Or pick one up at the Recreation and Community Services Department main office, 546 Dutra Street or the Monterey Public Library.

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### ***Call or visit a Center today***

Monterey Youth Ctr, 777 Pearl St.	• 646.3873
Monterey Senior Ctr, 280 Dickman Ave.	• 646.3878
Archer Park Ctr, 542 Archer St.	• 646.3870
Hilltop Park Ctr, 871 Jessie St.	• 646.3975
Casanova Oak Knoll Park Ctr, 735 Ramona Ave.	• 646.5665

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### ***Walk Around Town, Discover the Art of Monterey***

Outstanding art is in our own back yard. Pick up a Monterey "Art Walk" brochure and discover the wide variety of public art that exists within the City. Paintings, sculptures, photographs, stained glass, murals and fiber arts (e.g., weaved cotton, linen or even silk designs) are all part of this artistic program.

Last year the City commissioned a brochure to highlight the public art that exists in our City. The self-guided tour takes you through gardens, courtyards and parks; around historic sites and into public buildings and hidden spaces. All venues are open to the public free of charge at various times.

The brochure and accompanying map are available at Colton Hall Museum, the City Clerk's Office, the Monterey Museum of Art, Monterey Historic Park, the Monterey Public Library and the Monterey Visitors Center.

You will find art where you least expect it. For more information call 646.5640.

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## ***In the News***

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### ***Internet Access Comes to Library***

Surf the Net – free! Internet service is now available at the Monterey Public Library. The Library developed Web pages with useful links to sites that can be accessed from five workstations in the Library. You can also visit these helpful pages from your home, school or office by visiting the Library's Web page at [www.monterey.org/library](http://www.monterey.org/library)

Kids can have fun too – the Kids' Pages are linked to carefully selected sites that are appropriate for the whole family.

Internet access at the Library is not filtered or monitored. Children have access to all materials in the Library, including the Internet. As a concerned parent, you are encouraged to use the Internet with your children and discuss the rules your family must follow when using this service. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about Internet services at the Library, please contact Library Director Paula Simpson at 646.5601 or by e-mail:

[simpson@ci.monterey.ca.us](mailto:simpson@ci.monterey.ca.us)

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### ***Kids Learn About Bicycle Safety***

Have fun and learn more about bike safety at a MPD Bicycle Rodeo.

Designed for school-age kids who want to have a great time while learning about operating their bike, the Monterey Police Department's Bicycle Rodeo Program is now underway.

Last year, MPD held bicycle rodeos at Bayview, Foothill, La Mesa and Monte Vista schools.

This school year we plan to have six rodeos. Thomas O. Larkin and Del Monte schools are now on the schedule as well.

A typical rodeo consists of a safety inspection, a presentation by MPD Bicycle Officers and a written and skills test. Free gifts are given away and there are prizes for top finishers in each age category. Parents and children alike can also have bicycles registered as part of the Monterey Police Bicycle Registration Program.

Successful Bicycle Rodeos were held this fall but more are planned at Bayview, Larkin and Monte Vista schools this spring. For more information, call Officer Michael Sargent at 646.3808.

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### ***Volunteering: It Just Feels Good***

Background: When faced with a disability retirement, Mr. Howell began a career as a volunteer doing what he loves best - coordinating games of strategy.

An avid bridge player, he won first place in two tournaments this fall.

On volunteering: Mr. Howell has been a City volunteer for nine years.

Last year, he gave 617 volunteer hours to our community. He got his start assisting with the bridge classes at the Senior Center and then expanded to the Casanova Oak Knoll and Hilltop centers, adding billiards instruction to his teaching assignments. He is now interested in sharing his expertise in bridge and billiards with local teens. He currently helps young people with

homework and school projects on his own time.

Why volunteer? Mr. Howell says he enjoys helping other people: "It makes me feel better." And he advises, "It can be challenging and fun."

Read about volunteer opportunities on the insert in this issue of City Focus, or call 646.3719 for more information.

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### ***"Smart Parking" Comes to Monterey***

Parking is more convenient than ever in the City thanks to our new electronic parking meters. Capable of using "smart parking cards" as well as coins, these new meters – powered by lithium batteries – are highly accurate and require less maintenance than the old ones.

The "smart cards," which resemble phone cards, are encoded with a computer chip that allows you to purchase a pre-determined amount of parking – in \$25, \$50 and \$100 increments – for use at the new meters.

The card can be reused until all of the credit is gone. They are nonrefundable and if you lose them it is the same as losing cash. Please note that electronic meters in the areas of Cannery Row and Wave Street do not currently accept the cards.

Smart cards can be purchased at the Parking Division Office at 310 Tyler Street, the Monterey Harbor Office and the Monterey Sports Center. There is a \$1 processing charge per card. For more information on smart cards and other parking related issues, please call our Parking Division at 646.3953.

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### ***Mural Project Teaches Teens About History, Art***

Jessica Williford worked as a muralist in the City and got paid to do what she enjoys most – being creative.

A Monterey resident, Jessica joined seven other Monterey County teens to create a mural on the outside wall of Fire Station No. 1, which faces Madison Street. The mural depicts life in Monterey under Mexican rule and shows El Cuartel, the former military barracks and government headquarters.

"It has helped me use artistic abilities as a form of occupation and share it as a group effort," said Jessica, who is attending Monterey Peninsula College.

"I enjoyed learning new techniques."

Ninety-two youths worked in 12 different cities this past summer on the "One Voice" Mural Project sponsored by the Monterey County Youth Program.

The project's goal was to enhance awareness of local cultural identities for County youths and their communities.

After two months and 320 hours of work, Robert Caruthers said he had discovered more about his community.

"I learned a lot about history," said Robert, who is in the 10th grade at Monterey High.

Each of the murals was customized to the area and had to be painted on a public building.

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## ***City Briefs***

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### ***Sesqui ... what?***

Ses-kwi-sen-ten-ee-ul. That's right. If you haven't said it out loud once or twice already, you better start practicing.

California's Sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversaries of the discovery of gold, the gold rush and Statehood, is already well underway, and it's here in Monterey.

Our region played an integral role in the transition of California from a territory to the Union's 31st state when in 1849 Monterey was selected as the site of the Constitutional Convention.

Monterey had been the capital of both Spanish and Mexican California and it seemed appropriate to hold the convention in the recently completed Colton Hall.

Delegates met here and debated voting rights, the number of district representatives and State border issues.

On October 13, 1849, they signed the State Constitution written in both Spanish and English. Our community's Sesquicentennial commemoration will focus on the Constitutional Convention as well as the 150th anniversary of the Monterey Public Library, California's first.

The majority of activities will be held between June and November. From tall ships visiting the harbor to a community parade; from historical re-enactments of the Convention to the Library's lectures and festivities, many activities are in store.

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### ***Angel Collection to Grow***

Brand-new "Monterey Angels" will soon hover around our community.

Once again, the City has asked Erica Barton Hub, our "Angel" artist, to come up with unique additions to our wonderful angel collection that is traditionally displayed during the holiday season.

Ms. Hub has agreed to create ten new angels to add to the City's collection. A selection of the original angels will retire to indoor display areas to protect them from further deterioration while keeping them available for public viewing.

The City first commissioned our "Angel" artist more than 40 years ago to create decorations for public display. The result was 88 beautiful angels. The designs for the angels were inspired by early California mission paintings.

In 1970 as the angels began to lose their glow, a volunteer committee, "Friends of the Angels," was organized to revitalize these delightful artifacts. Many of the original angels were sold at auction to help fund the restoration project.

Though we have made many efforts to maintain these artifacts, the years and elements have taken their toll on the original angels.

The new additions will ensure that this wonderful holiday tradition continues.

Look for the new "Angels" during the 1999 holiday season.

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### ***Plan Looks to Ensure Historic Story is Told***

History is a record, a story, of past events. While the past may be gone, through historic preservation we can relate our shared heritage to present and future generations. The City's Historic Master Plan looks toward Monterey's 250th anniversary in the year 2020. It outlines a program for saving historic resources and will be a blueprint for coordinating schedules and activities in public historic buildings allowing citizens, visitors and students to experience and understand the history of Monterey. The City saves buildings that show how our town looked in a past era; objects and artifacts from those eras; and photographs, written records and tape recordings of people who made our history. The Master Plan will help us coordinate these efforts more efficiently. The draft Plan will soon be ready for community review. The Historic Preservation Commission will be the lead commission during the process, which may include a history town hall meeting in early 1999. For more information, call the Plans & Public Works Department at 646.3885.

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### ***What's Up for Volunteers***

This is your City and you can make a difference in the community. Become a City volunteer today. Below is a list of open assignments:

- Homework Pals - help young children with school work; 2 hours per week. ext orientation Saturday, January 9
- California History Room - help maintain and show local history collection at the Library
- Code Enforcement - find zoning violations and make reports; some data entry
- Recycling Team Members - help at special events to promote recycling
- Bookstack Volunteers - help keep stacks neat in the Library
- Fire Dept. Data Entry - enter testing results into data base; 20 hours
- Recreation Center Receptionists - answer phones, greet customers; 4-12 hours per week for 6 months
- Volleyball Court Maintenance - rake and smooth the sand; 1 day per week
- Sesquicentennial Volunteers Promotion - help  
Staff a booth at The Old Monterey Market Place on Tuesdays  
Gift Shop Monitor - visit sites and maintain supply of gift items  
Other - Many more assignments are expected to come online.

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### ***Wanted: Neighborhood Improvement Ideas***

Maybe your neighborhood needs sidewalks, curbs and gutters; or maybe a new traffic signal or the redesign of a problem intersection.

Now is the time to submit your ideas for improvements to your neighborhood.

We are in the process of collecting ideas for the Neighborhood Improvement Program, and you are encouraged to send in your submission today. Just fill out the attached card and drop it in the mail. Your nomination will be considered by the Neighborhood Improvement Committee as it prepares its recommendations to send to the City Council early next year.

Established in 1985, the Neighborhood Improvement Program directs tourist-generated dollars directly back into the City's residential neighborhoods. Under a Charter Amendment, at least 16 percent of the money collected through hotel taxes (Transient Occupancy Tax) must be spent on neighborhood and community improvements. Each fiscal year, a committee consisting of residents considers all submitted projects and recommends which projects should be funded.

NIP Committee meetings are open to the public.

The deadline to enter submissions for this coming year is Friday, February 12. For more information, call the Construction Management Division at 646.3997.

Send in your suggestion today.

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## ***History Buffs***

### ***Monterey Home to California's First Public Library***

California's first public library was established in Monterey in 1849.

It was a subscription library housed in El Cuartel, a former barracks for Mexican officers located on Munras Avenue near present-day Simoneau Plaza.

The Monterey Public Library Association's founders' mission was "to afford amusement, entertainment, and profit to a large class who, without its aid, would waste their time in the frivolities and questionable pastimes so prevalent in our State."

Nowadays, the mission statement alone affords amusement and entertainment, but clearly the founders knew that libraries have the potential for helping people to develop ideas, learn and improve their lives.

The Library's early years were marked by the same upheaval and change experienced by all of Monterey in the wake of the Gold Rush.

The Library languished for a period under lock and key in Colton Hall; was later housed in a schoolhouse, which burned down in 1893; and was reorganized at the turn-of-the-century by a Ladies' Literary Society, which operated a reading room and book-lending service in a series of storefronts on lower Alvarado Street.

In 1906, the Library's assets were turned over to the City. Five years later, using funds from the Carnegie library building program, a new residence for the Library was established at 425 Van Buren Street.

It was moved to its present location at the corner of Pacific and Madison streets in 1952 when the Carnegie library was outgrown.

Over the years, the Monterey Public Library has perpetuated a long tradition of affording "amusement, entertainment, and profit" by providing materials and services which enrich the intellectual, recreational and cultural life of the community.

The Library's 150th anniversary will be celebrated throughout 1999 with lectures, exhibits, special events, commemorative publications and, of course, a gala party!

More information about the Library's 150th anniversary will be announced as plans develop. Stay tuned.

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## ***Community Tips***

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### ***Keeping Drainage Channels Free of Debris Prevents Flooding, Damage***

When it rains, mossy water often pours over sidewalks and down gutters. Add this to the steep hills found in many of our neighborhoods and you have dangerous sidewalk conditions – slippery when wet.

Under City Code, property owners are responsible for maintaining the area in front of their property and keeping it free of safety hazards. It's time once again to check your sidewalks and clean them if necessary.

A stiff bristle broom usually will wisk the moss and foreign materials away. If that doesn't do it, some biodegradable soap may be needed. Do not use bleach or other cleaners since runoff ends up in Monterey Bay.

For more information, call our Construction Management Division at 646.3997.

The winter storms of 1998 illustrated the importance of reporting small drainage problems before they become large ones, as well as working together as a community to perform preventive maintenance on private property.

During the heavy rains and flooding, City crews identified many clogged drainage channels – some of which caused general flooding and erosion. In past years, maintenance crews have found logs, branches, old tires, lawn chairs and even washing machines plugging our creeks and culverts.

You can help prevent flooding and winter problems by making sure all leaves and branches are disposed of properly – not in a culvert, creek or storm drain. By working together as a community we can help prevent flooding problems.

Be a good neighbor and take care of your drainage channel or creek. Remember, it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain drainage channels on private property.

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## ***Safety Tips***

### **Help Prevent Home Fires**

Most fatal fires start in the home; however, you can help protect your family and home by taking a few simple steps. Walk through your home with "fire-safe eyes" using this checklist

- In case of fire, get out and stay out! Call 911 from a neighbor's house.
- Have smoke detectors in every bedroom and in the hallway areas outside each bedroom.
- Check smoke detectors monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace smoke detector batteries if you haven't done so in the past year.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.
- Maintain a minimum 3-foot clearance around heat producing appliances or anything with a pilot light, such as water heaters and furnaces.
- Have a minimum 5-lb. dry-chemical fire extinguisher with a rating of at least 2A-40BC.
- Store flammable liquids such as gasoline, paint thinner, paints and propane tanks outside your home in a shed or detached garage. Never store flammable liquids or propane containers next to a furnace or water heater.
- Check all plugs and electrical cords to lamps, appliances and computers and make sure

they are not worn or damaged. If cords are even slightly damaged, have a qualified repairperson replace the cord or plug.

- Never run cords beneath carpets or pads.
- Carefully check electric blankets for wear and replace them every 5 years.
- Keep all cooking appliances such as stoves, ovens and microwaves free of grease accumulations.
- If you ever use your fireplace, have it professionally checked and cleaned annually.
- Keep a screen or spark-arresting device on your chimney.
- Keep your roof clear of any accumulations of leaves or pine needles. Keep a 30-foot area around your home free of dry, flammable vegetation.
- Use outdoor cooking grills with caution. Never use gasoline to start the fire and don't add charcoal lighter once the fire has started.

For information and brochures on fire safety, call your Monterey Fire Department at 646.3900.

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### ***Know What to Look for When Hiring a Contractor***

Are you considering remodeling or adding onto your home? Hiring a reputable contractor is one of the most important decisions you can make.

Here are a few tips for making sure your contractor measures up:

- Hire only licensed contractors
- Get three references and review past work done by the contractor
- Get at least three bids
- Get a written contract and don't sign anything until you completely understand all the terms of the agreement.
- Pay only 10% down or \$1,000, whichever is less
- Don't make final payment until you're satisfied with the job and the building permit has been finalized.
- Do not pay cash

For more information, call our Building Safety and Inspection Division at 646.3890 or visit the office located in Colton Hall. Call the Contractors State License Board at 1.800.321.CSLB.

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