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Lighthouse Traffic Changes Get High Marks

Changes on Lighthouse Avenue designed to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow are working, according to the results of the City's most recent survey. Left-hand turns were prohibited off Lighthouse last spring, and in October, we asked you to rate your experiences on this major thoroughfare.

A majority of raters said that both traffic congestion and flow have improved during commutes, weekdays and weekends. However, access to businesses and residential neighborhoods is more difficult as a result, raters indicated.

Traffic was just one of the three topics included in the community survey, which is distributed each fall in the City Focus. Respondents also had the opportunity to provide feedback on Web site content (www.monterey.org) and stormwater management practices.

Regarding the Web site, nearly 90% of raters have access to the Internet, a big increase from the number recorded in our 1999 survey. More than half said they would pay for services online. Looking at stormwater issues, raters said they know how to dispose of yard/landscaping waste, household hazardous waste and kitchen grease. However, only one in five respondents said they know who to call if someone is breaking storm drain laws. (Read page 6 to find out who to call.)

Thank you for sending your feedback. We use this material to develop community outreach programs, modify Web content and rate satisfaction with City programs and services.

For complete survey results, visit www.monterey.org/survey



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ABOUT THE BUDGET...

Financial Outlook Uncertain, Reduction Plan Working

Through careful planning these past two years, the City has worked to fill an estimated \$5.1-million budget gap predicted for the coming fiscal year. We established a Budget Reduction Plan and got ready early to prepare our staff and community and to minimize potential layoffs. We reduced staffing and services and have taken \$1.5 million from "economic uncertainty" reserves to ease the transition to our new service levels.

And with the help of our community and employees, the plan has worked so far. However, the City's economic situation is still uncertain, and we continue to face unexpected challenges.

This year, the City lost more than \$500,000 in Vehicle License Fee revenue through State actions. And a \$185,000-a-year fire services contract in Del Rey Oaks was canceled.

Also, predicted income from hotel and sales taxes is lower than expected.

In February, the City Council amended our Budget Reduction Plan postponing decisions on potential layoffs of full-time and regular part-time staff for six months until December 2004.

Unfortunately, some seasonal and part-time temporary positions are still scheduled to be eliminated at the end of June.

Key local revenues also could be greatly affected when the State and County balance their own budgets. As you can see, our financial situation is anything but clear, and we invite you to learn more about the process online at www.monterey.org. Send comments and suggestions about possible ways to reduce expenses anytime.

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Make Your Opinions Clear

Be part of the budget process and help us prepare for the upcoming year 2004-05. Your suggestions are vital to establishing the City's financial plan and even more important as we face difficult decisions during uncertain economic times.

This spring we are again weighing all factors to determine income and expense levels, so we can come up with a balanced plan that meets overall community needs.

We need your input to set budget priorities that focus on the most important programs and services and eliminate/reduce those activities and projects that we can do without.

How can you participate?

- 1) Attend the public meetings and/or hearings during the budget development process, see budget meeting calendar below.
- 2) Call 646.3799, fax 646.3793 or email (suggest@ci.monterey.ca.us) your suggestions/ideas.
- 3) Stay tuned to local media for opportunities to participate in meetings and work sessions for fiscal year 2004-05.

For more details, call 646.3940 or visit the City's Web site at www.monterey.org/budget.

Budget News to remember:

June 1, 4 p.m., City Council Reviews

NIP, CIP Projects, Council Chamber

June 1, 4 p.m., City Council Budget

Study Session, Council Chamber

July 6, 7 p.m., City Council Public

Hearing, Council Chamber

Dates are subject to change. Check our [Web site](#) for current meeting dates and times or call 646.3935.

Archer Park to Close, Other Centers Reduce Hours

This summer we will reduce our traditional recreation service levels as we strive to have our organization run more efficiently and cost effectively. But, never fear. A wide array of top-quality programs and activities will continue to be available for all age groups.

After 28 years, Archer Park Center on Archer Street in New Monterey will close

its doors as a community center on June 30.

We currently operate five community centers, three of which are located in New Monterey.

Archer Park, which opened as Monterey Community Center in 1976 and was renamed in 1989, is the smaller of two general service centers in the neighborhood. Its counterpart, Hilltop Park Center on Jessie Street, will stay open. Many programs currently held at Archer Park Center, including the afterschool program, will



be shifted to Hilltop; while others may find a home at the Scholze Park Center on Lighthouse and Dickman Avenues.

Plans now call for renting out Archer Park Center for parties and meetings, and we continue to explore other ways to use the building.

ALSO AS OF JULY 1:

All four remaining centers will close on Saturdays, and there will be additional adjustments to recreation programs/activities citywide. Stay tuned to the Activities Guide to keep up with scheduling.

In addition, several special programs will not be held next year, including the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, La Posada in December and the school holiday programs, which provide activities for children during school breaks.

Paid staff will no longer supervise Dennis the Menace Park on weekends or during the summer. In an effort to further reduce staffing costs, the Parks and Recreation Commission will only meet once each month on the third Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

For more info on the changes in Recreation and Community Services, call 646.3866 (russo@ci.monterey.ca.us) or visit our Web site at www.monterey.org for program details.

Join A Board, Commission -

Board Directs Library Mission

The progressive, dynamic Monterey Public Library, which serves some 950 community members each day, has a dedicated group of people committed to its success: the Library Board of Trustees.

"Monterey is a unique city with a strong historic influence, healthy and responsive infrastructure and a diverse population of intellectually curious adults, seniors and children," says Board Chair Mary Castagna. "They demand and deserve the best library we can provide."

The past year has been a challenge for the Board as the Library grappled with ways to cope with a smaller budget and fewer staff. Difficult decisions were made including cut-backs in Library hours as well as popular services. Drawing on funds from the Library Trust, the Board approved spending through the current fiscal year to sustain cultural programs for adults and the children's summer reading program and to establish a Library store and acquire additional best selling titles.

The Board of Trustees is a five member administrative board, appointed by the City Council. Established by the City Charter in 1911, the Library Board has responsibility for hiring the Library Director, establishing Library policy and recommending the Library's budget to the City. The Board meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 5 p.m., in the Library Community Room. For more info on the Board or agendas and minutes, visit www.monterey.org/boards or call Interim Library Director Kim Bui-Burton at 646.3477 (buiburto@ci.monterey.ca.us).

Analysis of Scaled-Down Public Service Center Ready for Review

Background

During the past couple of years, we have evaluated plans to build a one-stop Public Service Center to consolidate related City services. Many of our offices are located in small, dilapidated bungalows and are scattered around Monterey. An upgraded Civic Center would improve customer service levels.

In summer 2002, a conceptual design for a two-story building proposed for the corner of Madison and Van Buren streets was approved. Additional community input and changes in the economy led us to re-evaluate the solutions to our office space needs.

Last fall, the City Council approved a modified, scaled-down design (see picture) for the proposed Public Service Center, to address issues raised by the community and to reduce costs.



The City Council reviewed five different revised plans and chose to reduce the original building size by 25%. The new project proposes two separate structures,

totaling 32,300 square feet above ground. An additional 8,800-square-foot basement would be

built under the building adjacent to Madison Street.

A covered walkway would connect the two buildings on the first floor and an uncovered walkway would be open on the second level. This modified design reduces the size of the overall structure, retains additional Cypress trees, allows for more parking and lowers the cost of the project by 20%.

A report on how the modified project will affect the surrounding neighborhood has been developed. Copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will soon be available at the Plans & Public Works Dept. for review.

Call 646.3885 for info or stop by the office at City Hall in the lower level of Colton Hall.

In the meantime, plans to address the temporary space needs for the Fire Department's administration as well as Police investigations have moved ahead. We are about to purchase two modular buildings to be set up behind Fire Station No. 1, just off Madison Street. A temporary parking lot will be constructed on Van Buren Street.

For background info on the project, visit the City's Web site at

www.monterey.org/civiccenter/summary.html

Work with Kids, Have Fun this Summer

If you like interacting with children and working outdoors, then we have the perfect job for you.

Work with kids, earn money, learn new skills, be outdoors and have some fun this summer.

Teens 16 and older are encouraged to apply.

We need people who are creative, organized, responsible, energetic, talented and flexible. If you have these qualities and are willing to learn, then take the time to apply. All part-time positions involve working with various age groups. Jobs available include recreation playground leaders, swim instructors, lifeguards, day camp counselors and resident camp counselors and support staff.

Application deadline for summer jobs is Fri., April 2, by 5 p.m. Applications are available at the Recreation and Community Services Office, 546 Dutra Street. For more info on part-time jobs and summer employment, call 646.3866 (vierra@ci.monterey.ca.us).

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In the News

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ON TRAFFIC, CONSTRUCTION... Traffic Flow, Safety Improvement Project Tackled Simultaneously

Construction...construction...it's everywhere. Since last summer, we have managed some 30 infrastructure improvement projects ranging from \$5,000 to \$1 million that have, unfortunately, disrupted traffic routes citywide.

Many of these upgrades were being worked on within the same time

period because fall is our "construction time," just after our busy summer season, before the rains come. Also, some projects were funded with grants that dictated project timing.

Thank you again for your patience and cooperation as our roadways and drivers were challenged by these facelifts and safety upgrades.



Following is a list of some of the major projects:

Completed projects:

- Presidio Curve Coastal Trail widening along Lighthouse Avenue
- Pearl Street improvements
- Jefferson and Lottie streets
- storm drain upgrades
- Fremont Street right-turn lane
- Del Monte Grove traffic calming
- 8th and 10th streets upgrades
- Fremont, Munras and Calle Principal pavement reconstruction
- Lake El Estero edge repair
- Dunecrest retaining wall
- Del Monte Avenue walkway

Projects under construction:

- Del Monte Avenue reconstruction – delayed due to an unexpected problem with the newly paved street. Revised completion date March 2004.
- Lighthouse Avenue improvements – revised completion date due to material and weather delays. Revised completion date March 2004.
- North Fremont storm drain upgrades – revised completion date due to utilities conflicts and weather delay. Revised completion date March 2004.
- Monterey Bay Waterfront Park, Window on the Bay upgrades (Phase V) – completion date scheduled for spring 2004.
- Colton Middle School ballfield (Phase I) – completion date scheduled for spring 2004.

Upcoming projects:

- Landfill Launch Ramp modifications
- Lower Presidio Historic Park trail and bridge
- Dennis the Menace Park upgrades
- Kennel upgrades at maintenance yard

- Highway 68/Ragsdale Drive improvements

For more details regarding these projects, see the articles at right. Dates are subject to change, check out www.monterey.org/construction or call the Construction Management Office at 646.3997 for more info.

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New, Improved Del Monte Opens

Drive with ease on the east end of Del Monte Avenue and enjoy the new roadway and safety improvements that are just being completed.

We'd like to thank our residents, visitors and especially area merchants for your patience and cooperation during the re-construction of the street from Sloat to Palo Verde avenues.

In October, the City's contractor began work on more than \$1 million in operational and safety improvements for this major artery. A mix of local, state and federal tax dollars funded the project.

A problem with the new pavement on the south lanes delayed construction in December; however investigations into the issue and testing of the road material pinpointed the problem. All four lanes were expected to open in March. Lighting and other amenity improvements are still underway.

Impacts of Holman Highway/Hwy 68 Widening Project Being Evaluated

Preliminary plans to widen Holman Highway/ Hwy 68 from two to four lanes west of Highway 1 to just past the entrance to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) are still under evaluation. The City continues to analyze traffic data and environmental impacts in order to seek out community partners and potential grant opportunities for funding the project.

An environmental report should be out for review this fall.

The proposed project would help relieve existing and future traffic congestion; improve safety and flow; facilitate emergency vehicle access to the hospital; and reduce traffic through residential neighborhoods.

It would also improve access to Pebble Beach, CHOMP and a convalescent home.

As part of this project, we have analyzed the amount of traffic going through the Skyline Forest and Monterey Vista neighborhoods. The study data can be found at

www.monterey.org/publicworks/holman_hwy/index.html

For more info, call the City Traffic Engineer at 646.3740.

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ABOUT YOUTH...

Services Geared for Teens

Drop-in counseling services, ping-pong tournaments and concerts are all part of the programs and activities available for young people at the City.

Staff has been working in concert with students and school faculty as well as with service agencies to develop safe and engaging activities.

Some programs and activities include:

Colton Middle School **dances** draw some 200 students each time. **Fifth Quarter** events for Monterey High School students offer food and dancing to some 200 teens after Friday night football games.

Bingville Battle of the Bands brings musical groups from throughout California to perform live and compete for cash prizes. The next Battle is set for May 28.

The Battle of the Bands Showdown, featuring the winners of all previous events dueling for the top spot, is scheduled for July 30 at the Monterey Youth Center!

Drop-in services are provided for teens in need and homeless youth at the Youth Center, through a partnership with Community Human Services. Young people have access to refreshments, counseling, restrooms, recreation amenities, information and referrals.

For more info, call 646.3996 or send an email calzada@ci.monterey.ca.us.

Teens Create Fun Place for Peers to Hang Out

Say hi to Helen Cosentino and Jessica Velasquez.

In the past year, these teen volunteers have helped produce several events for other teens at “Bingville” in the Monterey Youth Center. From a movie night and ping-pong and pool tournaments to the most popular ongoing Bingville Battle of the Bands (when teens come together for a large dose of live music), these teens make it work.

Best friends Helen and Jessica, working closely with the City’s Youth Task Force and Youth Center staff, are committed to creating fun and exciting programs/events for local teens.

Helen says, “Our small group has grown together to accomplish a lot.

“Every second I volunteer is to help teens have something to do here in Monterey.”

Jessica is also happy with the efforts, “The Monterey Youth Center has finally come alive, and the adults we work with are open to our ideas to keep the teens coming.”

And the fun doesn’t end there. Helen, Jessica and City staff continue to work on special events just for teens, and we could use more support and input.

Call and let us know that you want to be involved; see contact info in article below.

Volunteers Assist with City Projects, Activities

- **Clerical/Admin** – Interested in learning about day-to-day operations in City Hall? Lend an extra hand to busy office staff as a clerical volunteer, either on call or on a specific assignment.
- **Marine Research** – Work as a certified diver or dockside worker; volunteers are needed to help rid the harbor of Undaria, a non-native invasive plant.
- **Greeter** – Meet, greet and guide Monterey Public Library patrons to various areas and services. Volunteers also assist customers with the self check-out machine and catalog stations.
- **Museum Support** – History buffs can join our museum volunteer program and discover opportunities at the Presidio of Monterey Museum, Colton Hall Museum and other venues.
- **NERT** – Be prepared for any disaster, join the team! The next Neighborhood Emergency Response Team training starts on May 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Teens** – Applications are now available for the [summer volunteer program](#)! For teens 13-16, this is a chance to learn about the City, gain experience and prepare for a work environment.
- **Adopt a Storm Drain** – A pilot program in New Monterey encourages residents to keep area storm drains clear throughout the year. Become an environmental steward while helping to prevent clogged drains and reduce the potential for flooding. For more info, call 646.3729.

To learn more or volunteer, go online at www.monterey.org/volunteer or call the City’s Community Resources Coordinator Tish Sammon at 646.3719 (sammon@ci.monterey.ca.us).

Dare to Care Day, April 22

The challenge is on. How many caring and kind acts can take place in one day?

Community of Caring Monterey Peninsula is sponsoring Dare to Care Day on April 22 to encourage individuals to take care of their community and be counted. Whether at work, school or home, or with a group or on your own, make a difference in the lives of others and/or the

environment. The event is being held in memory of Ruth Vreeland, see article on page 12. Make your actions count. To learn more or to get activity ideas, check communityofcaringmp.org

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BODY & MIND

Let Kids Run

Kids need to run, play, swim and be active. Kids are less active now than at any time in the history of our country. More than half are overweight, and the number of obese kids has increased by 400% since 1960.

Our children are at great risk for diabetes and many other diseases that threaten to shorten their lives and make their lives considerably less productive.

The good news is, you can promote a healthy lifestyle for your child!

The American Council on Exercise (ACE) published its top 10 reasons why kids need to exercise:



- **Develop a healthy, lifetime habit** – Kids who exercise are more likely to keep exercising.
- **Maintain a healthy body** – Exercise helps children achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.
- **Maintain a strong body** – Regular physical activity helps build and maintain strong, healthy muscles, bones and joints.
- **Team sports develop other skills** – Exercise aids in the development of important interpersonal skills. This is especially true for kids who participate in team sports.
- **Feel better and sleep better** – Exercise improves the quantity and quality of sleep.
- **Perform better in school** – Exercise promotes improved school attendance and enhances academic performance.
- **Develop a strong image** – Kids who exercise have greater self-esteem and better self-images.
- **Reduce the risk of certain diseases** – Participating in regular physical activity promotes health and prevents or delays the development of many chronic diseases (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, obesity and hypertension).
- **Reduce anxiety and stress** – Children who are active report a better overall mood and fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression.
- **Improve motor skills** – Exercise helps improve motor coordination and enhances the development of various motor performance skills.

As important as it is for children to learn to read and write, it is also important for them to have time to run. The Monterey Sports Center has many opportunities for kids to exercise, including sports camps and leagues, recreational play and swimming programs. *For more info, call the Sports Center hotline at 646.3700 or visit www.monterey.org/sportscenter.*

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TRASH TALK

Find Ways to Reduce and Reuse

Reduce waste by not creating it in the first place and save valuable resources. Reusing products

and materials can reduce the massive amounts of material thrown into our landfills.

Here are some ideas:



- When they say, "Paper or plastic?" You say, "Neither, I brought my own bag!" Use cloth bags. Store them in your car so you don't forget them.
- Need more stuff, like clothes, children's toys, furniture? Instead of buying new, shop at used furniture and clothing stores. What to do with the old stuff? Have a garage sale or take them to the second hand stores such as Last Chance Mercantile in Marina. Call 384.5313 for more info.
- Remodeling? Take old cabinets or excess wood to the Last Chance Mercantile. They take material at no charge.
- Buy a product that you know will last. If something does break, find some way to repair it. An example might be a broken wheel on a suitcase, which is very similar to the wheels on a skateboard. You can take your suitcase to a local business for repair advice, save money and reduce waste by not having to buy a new case.
- Start composting. Instead of throwing food scraps away, place them in a composting bin. The rich and fertile soil produced is well worth the time and effort.

For more info or suggestions, visit the City's Web site at www.monterey.org/recycle or call the City's Solid Waste Program Manager Angela Brantley at 646.5662 (brantley@ci.monterey.ca.us).

Community Project Keeps Garbage, Debris Out of Monterey Bay

Pollutants were controlled and bacteria spread thwarted this past fall as storm drains in New Monterey were cleaned before the first rain of the season.

Thanks to some dedicated City volunteers participating in America Recycles Day, more than 160 storm drains were cleaned of debris such as cigarette butts, drinking containers, pine needles, paper and trash.

The New Monterey Neighborhood Assoc., Monterey City Disposal Service (MDS) and local businesses joined the City in supporting the community clean-up project. MDS supplied recycling containers, the neighborhood association coordinated marketing, local businesses assisted with lunch and prizes and volunteers braved the rain. Organizations that provided a group of volunteers qualified for a stipend through MDS.

More than 200 gallons of pine needles and four garbage bags of trash were cleared from the storm drains, keeping them from flowing into Monterey Bay.

If you have an idea for a project, call the City's Solid Waste Program Manager Angela Brantley at 646.5662 or send an email to brantley@ci.monterey.ca.us.

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City Council Meetings:

LIVE first and third

Tues., 4 and 7 p.m.

Re-cablecast

Tues./Thurs., 4 and 7 p.m.

Sat. 10 a.m.; Sun. 2 p.m.

**cable
Ch. 25**

Monterey up to date – Daily 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon/Wed at 10:30 p.m.

Eye on Monterey – Daily 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon/Wed at 10 p.m.

CITY TV

**Monterey County District Perspectives
with Supervisor Dave Potter**
Mon/Wed/Fri 10:30 a.m.

Monterey County programming:
cable Ch. 28

For more info, visit www.monterey.org/tv

*Missed the LIVE City Council meeting on cable Ch. 25?
Catch rebroadcasts on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 and 7 p.m. between meetings. Or check
out a VHS tape copy from the Monterey Public Library.*

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[North Fremont Business District Works to Improve Area](#) | [Parking Ticket Pay Online](#)
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FOCUS ON TREES

Trimming Guidelines Protect Trees

View trimming guidelines provide tree owners with proper pruning techniques. The guidelines listed below are in accordance with professional tree care standards published by the International Society of Arboriculture.

- **Trees cannot be topped** or excessively trimmed to create or maintain a view. Excessive trimming is the removal of more than 33% of the live crown of a tree within one year. Removing more than 33% can lead to the decline or death of the tree.
- **Trees should be trimmed during the cooler**, shorter days from November to the end of February. Trees pruned during the late fall and winter are less likely to be attacked by disease and destructive insects.
- **Any trimming should be done by a Certified Arborist or state licensed tree care contractor** in conjunction with approved tree pruning guidelines.

For a set of these guidelines and other tree care info, call the City's Parks Division at 646.3860 (reid@ci.monterey.ca.us).

Birds Be Gone

Pigeons can be the bane of roof tops and ledges. The roof of our very own Monterey Youth Center became the preferred resting place, it seemed, for half of the pigeons in Monterey. The result? The Youth Center roof was literally covered with droppings, which turned it white and created a stench that could be unbearable.

Thanks to an innovative solution, this problem has been solved. A motion sensitive water sprinkler was mounted on the roof to safely discourage birds from resting on the roof. Essentially, when a bird lands within the range of the sensor, the sprinkler sprays water and the bird takes flight.

Today when you drive by the Youth Center, the roof remains bird free and clean!

Teamwork Results in Well-Maintained Wharf, Saves Money

City crews from the Harbor and Fire Department teamed up recently to repair a broken piling on Municipal Wharf II. Properly maintained support pilings ensure that the wharf is stable and that boats can dock safely. In the past, the City has hired outside contractors to drive pilings at significant expense.

However, this type of cooperative effort, which took less than two hours, will save the City money and keep the wharf in tip-top shape.

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North Fremont Business District Works to Improve Area

In order to create a cleaner, safer and more attractive commercial area, business owners and residents in North Fremont have worked with the City to establish a Business Improvement District (BID).

The City recently approved the North Fremont Street BID and its mission “to ensure an attractive destination for local residents, businesses and visitors alike thereby generating sustainable revenues.”

The City slated \$10,500 to cover BID operations and administration costs for this fiscal year. To support the district’s programs and activities, property owners will pay a fee to the BID based on the cost of their business license.

A Business Improvement District is set up to fund activities and projects aimed to improve a specific commercial area over the long term; this includes physical upgrades and the overall promotion of businesses. Every business within the district is assessed an annual fee.

A business association, the North Fremont Business District of Monterey, was formed in February to manage the North Fremont Street BID.

The goals of the business association include 1) creating a *cleaner, safer and more attractive business district*; 2) ensuring a *stable and predictable resource base* to fund supplemental programs and services; 3) helping to *maintain and increase property values and improve sales* and occupancy rates, thereby increasing the community’s overall tax base; and 4) developing a stable environment and distinct district identity.

For more info call the Plans & Public Works Dept. at 646.3885 or email bennett@ci.monterey.ca.us.

Parking Ticket? Pay Online

Parking tickets can be paid via the Internet with a credit card (Visa or MasterCard).

Visit www.monterey.org/parking and make sure you have your citation or license plate number at hand.

Click the link on the home page and follow the instructions. *A fee of \$3.95 is added per online transaction.*

Payments are also accepted via mail at the Parking Enforcement Center, City of Monterey, P.O. Box 5010, San Ramon, CA 94583-0810.

For more details, visit the Web or call the Parking Division at 646.3953 (schumach@ci.monterey.ca.us).

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No Flush Urinals Conserve Resources

To save gallons of water and reduce maintenance costs, we are installing waterless urinals in select City restrooms.

Here’s how they work:

No-Flush™ urinals resemble conventional urinals. They hook up to the regular waste lines but don’t use the water supply lines, saving 1.5 to 3 gallons per use. Flush valves are no longer needed (see picture); there are no handles, sensors or moving parts!

The bowl surfaces are urine repellent. And cleaning is just the same.

The no-flush urinal has a disposable EcoTrap® instead of a drain. This device holds a layer of immiscible BlueSeal® liquid that cannot be mixed or blended. This liquid floats on top of the urine, sealing in the urine and gases and keeping odors from going back into the room.

A 3-oz. dose of BlueSeal® lasts for more than 1500 uses, replacing the need for some 1500 to 4500 gallons of potable water. BlueSeal® is biodegradable and the EcoTrap® is recyclable.

For more info, call the Public Works Dept. at 646.3920 (uslar@ci.monterey.ca.us).

LEGAL BEAGLE

Repair your Defective Sidewalk

Keep your sidewalks safe and slip free by taking care of needed repairs quickly.

Many of the sidewalks in the City are located on private property, and property owners are responsible for maintaining and repairing them as needed. Both the California Health and Safety

Code and Monterey City Code require property owners to maintain their own sidewalks.

That means that private property owners are also accountable if someone slips/trips and falls on the sidewalk because the area was not maintained properly.

The City cannot be held responsible if a community member gets hurt on a sidewalk hazard on private property. So, remember to fix your sidewalk now, keep it clean and in good order and avoid problems later.



New Smoking Law on Books

No smoking near government buildings, it's the law.

As of January 1, smoking is not allowed within 20 feet of the main entrances, exits or operable windows of any building owned, leased or occupied by state or local governments.

For more info on laws that govern your community, call the City Attorney's Office at 646.3915.

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For History Buffs Only...

Discover the Underwood-Brown Adobe

Built in 1843, the building located on the corner of Pacific and Madison streets and known as the Underwood-Brown Adobe, was constructed on part of the original land grant from the Mexican government to the Pueblo of Monterey. Santiago Stokes, a then-prominent Monterey citizen, constructed the older portion of the present building. Later that same year, the house was sold to José María Sánchez and was used by the wealthy ranchero when he was in Monterey.



Following Sánchez' accidental death at the end of 1852, the house was purchased at auction by Monterey County Sheriff William Roach. Subsequently, the adobe became part of the folklore surrounding a notorious feud and the legend of "Sánchez Gold" worth some \$85,000, which was hidden and never recovered.

In 1854, W. S. Johnson purchased the property from Roach and owned it until 1866 when Charles Underwood acquired it.

The house was called the Underwood-Brown Adobe based on the long occupancy of the families of Charles Underwood and his daughter, Margaret Brown.

Fulfilling the wishes of Charles Underwood, who died in 1923, the home was sold to the City in 1926.

The adobe was deliberately incorporated into the City's office buildings in 1934 as part of the Few Memorial Complex. The original adobe was a small single-story rectangular structure with a low gabled, shingled roof extending horizontally to form a porch held by vertical posts.

The structure has four double sashed windows, two on either side of the central entrance, which was restored and fitted in the late 1970s with a carved door from Mexico.

Today the building is home to the City Council's Office, the City Manager's Office and executive meeting rooms.

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Arts & Culture

Classics Come to Life

Listen and watch as concerts of classic stories are performed just for you and your family!

Emmy-award-winning storyteller Jim Weiss will be here on Fri., April 30, at 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., in the Library Community Room (for families, children ages six and older).

Weiss will also present "Storytelling as an Educational Tool" at the Library's annual Homework Pals workshop (for parents and educators). The workshop is scheduled for Sat., May 1, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.



For more info about attending these events, call the Library Youth Services Desk at 646.3934 (ysdesk@ci.monterey.ca.us). Details are also available at www.monterey.org/library.

Outdoor Sitting Area to Open

Read a book outside in the sun – at the Monterey Public Library. The second-floor terrace at the Library will be outfitted with benches, new tables, umbrellas and chairs for about 30 people. A glass wall around the perimeter will provide protection from the wind.

You'll also be able to enjoy your favorite book or magazine along with a cup of joe or a cold drink. This spring, the Library looks to add a commercial concession to the terrace where coffee, tea, juice, bottled water and soft drinks will be sold.

Enhancements are being funded by the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

For more info, call Special Services Coordinator Jeanne McCombs at 646.3949 (mccombs@ci.monterey.ca.us).

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Odds and Ends

[New Councilmember Appointed](#) | [Get Registered, Vote in November](#)
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In Memory of Councilmember Vreeland

This issue of City Focus is dedicated in memory of Councilmember Ruth Vreeland, who died in a traffic accident in January.

Councilmember Vreeland, who served on the City Council for more than 20 years, supported development of a City newsletter to keep our community up to date on current programs, projects and activities. She served on the City Council when the first City Focus newsletter was published in 1986.



Now almost 20 years later, the City Focus remains one of the most effective communications tools we use for disseminating news and updates. We will miss the continuous supply of story ideas and helpful tips Councilmember Vreeland provided during the past two decades. A community tribute and march (pictured) was held in her honor in late January. We will miss her vitality, passion and community spirit.

New Councilmember Appointed

A new councilmember was appointed to the Monterey City Council by the City Council on March 2 to fill a vacant seat, which became open after the death of Councilmember Ruth Vreeland in January.

Per the City Charter, this Council seat will be subject to election during the upcoming General Election on Nov. 2, 2004, for the remaining years of its term, which ends in November 2006. For more info, visit the Web.

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Get Registered, Vote in November

Whether you're a voter or a potential candidate, make sure you are prepared for the General Election on Nov. 2, 2004.

Register to vote and have a voice in the numerous federal, state and local contests. In Monterey, voters will elect a mayor and three councilmembers this fall. So get a registration form, fill it out and send it in before the **Oct. 18 deadline**.

It's easy to register. Forms are available at the Monterey Public Library, Monterey City Clerk's Office, US Post Office, the Monterey County Elections Office and online at www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm

You must re-register whenever you move. US citizens who are at least 18 years old are eligible to vote. The nomination period for candidates is July 12 thru Aug. 6, 2004.

For more info on running for local office, call the City Clerk's Office at 646.3935.

The **2004 City Elections Guide** is available online at www.monterey.org/cityclerk

Register today. Get ready for Nov. 2!

Pay Attention to Emergency Vehicles

In an emergency, seconds count! Cooperation is the key to making sure emergency public

safety vehicles arrive to their destination quickly and safely.

Follow these simple rules to help:

When you hear or see an emergency vehicle traveling with lights or sirens, pull over as close to the right edge of the road as possible and stop. Remain stopped until all emergency vehicles have passed.

However, don't stop in an intersection. If you are in an intersection when you see an emergency vehicle, continue slowly through the intersection and then pull to the right as soon as possible and stop.

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The logo for the City of Monterey, featuring the text "City of Monterey" in a stylized font with a green and blue gradient background.

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Community Tips

[HomeShare Makes Renting Out More Economical, Practical](#) | [Safety Jobs with the City](#) | [On Trash, Pollutants](#)

Make Home Repairs Safe - Get a Permit

If you want to change your home, add or replace a water heater or a furnace... check with the City and get the right permit.

Community members need permits for the following:

- For any addition, new construction, interior or exterior changes, structural or non-structural alterations
- Window framing changes
- Re-roofs
- For all electrical work EXCEPT changing plugs or lights
- To build any of the following:
 - Storage shed larger than 120 square feet
 - Fence higher than six (6) feet
 - Retaining wall higher than three (3) feet
- Replacing or installing
 - Water heaters
 - Furnaces
 - Gas, water or waste pipes
 - Spas or hot tubs

Some permits can be issued over the counter. For more details, visit the City's Building Safety & Inspection Office at City Hall in the lower level of Colton Hall or call 646.3890. Or visit us online at www.monterey.org/buildingsafety.

Even if you don't need a building permit, check with the City's Planning Division regarding exterior changes. Call 646.3885 for details (fell@ci.monterey.ca.us).

HomeShare Makes Renting Out More Economical, Practical

Life becomes easier, brighter and maybe even more economical when you find the right roommate!

HomeShare, a housing assistance program, matches reliable tenants and roommates of all ages with seniors (55 and older) who have an extra room in their home. In exchange for providing free or reduced rent accommodations, seniors receive help around the house and support with other non-personal services.

HomeShare also screens potential tenants and makes introductions so that homeowners can choose the best match. The no-cost program supports homeowners who like to live independently but may need a little extra financial help. The City helps fund the *Alliance on Aging HomeShare* program to encourage affordable housing opportunities.

For more info, call Alliance on Aging at 655.1334 or go to www.monterey.org/housing.

SAFETY...**Keep Thieves Out of Your Car**

Vehicle break-ins are common in Monterey. Most cars are broken into by amateurs looking for easy pickings (who are tempted by valuables left unattended and unsecured). Help reduce crime in your community and keep your possessions safe by following some simple steps:



- Lock up when you leave your car and take the keys with you. Be sure to lock the trunk or tailgate. Lock your car even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station or mini-mall.
- Close all windows. Be sure vents or wind-wing windows are shut tight.
- When you park the car, remove cell phones, portable cassette/CD players, purses/wallets and other valuables. Lock all valuables in your trunk or take them with you. Make sure tempting items such as sunglasses and shopping bags are out of sight.
- Don't park vehicles in unattended public parking lots for long periods. At night, park in well-lighted, populated areas.

For more info, visit www.monterey.org/mpd or call the Police Department's Public Outreach Office at 646.3819.

Get Ready for the Next BIG ONE

Make sure you are prepared for the next earthquake right now. Why?

In the aftermath of a major earthquake, there's a good chance that traditional emergency service teams, police, fire and ambulance, will be too busy to take care of you and your family. To help yourself and your community, prepare your home and neighborhood in advance.

Stock up on a three-day supply of food, water, clothes, medical supplies and other necessary equipment for everyone in your family. Locate shut-off valves for water, gas and electricity, and learn how to operate them.

To get hands-on training and advice in preparing for major disasters, become a Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) member. The next training starts May 5.

For more info on free training programs as well as checklists for preparing your home for an earthquake, call your Monterey Fire Department at 646.3900 or visit www.monterey.org/fire.

Jobs with the City

Complete a Job Interest Form by phone, in person or [online](#), and we'll keep your info on file and let you know when that position is open.

To reach the City's Personnel Department call 646.3765, stop by 399 Madison Street or go online, www.monterey.org/pers.

ON TRASH, POLLUTANTS...**Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste Properly**

The Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) accepts household hazardous wastes free of charge at their collection facility off Del Monte Boulevard in Marina.

The drop-off site is open Mon. thru Sat. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Items accepted include paints, thinners, pesticides, herbicides, used motor oil, household cleaners, pool chemicals and hobby chemicals such as art supplies. Items NOT accepted as household hazardous waste include explosives, radioactive materials, infectious waste and large gas cylinders (more than 5 gallons).

All Monterey residents may bring up to 15 gallons or 125 pounds of household hazardous wastes per turn-in. Most of these items are then offered, free of charge, from the Last Chance Mercantile located in the same complex. So, if you have a small project and need just a little bit of paint, stop by and check out the supply.

For more info, call the waste management district at 384.5313 or visit them online at www.mrwmd.org

Large Heavy Trash be Gone

If you live in a single-family home, you can get rid of unwanted large items such as furniture or appliances – easily and free.

Most large items are collected at no charge, but some items (refrigerators, TVs, computers) require special handling at the landfill, and you will be charged special handling fees. Up to three large items can be picked up per appointment; and four appointments are allowed per year.

Call Monterey City Disposal Service at 372.7977 to schedule an appointment; then place your items at the curb by 8 a.m. on the assigned date. Visit www.montereydisposal.com for more details.

Blowing Yard Waste, Leaves and Dirt in Street Illegal

Blowing or sweeping leaves, yard waste or dirt into the street or storm drains is illegal.

Remember, “Only rain down the storm drain!”

Leaves and yard waste collect in our storm drain system

naturally throughout the non-rainy season. Additional leaves and yard waste (especially grass clippings) that are put into the streets and storm drains sit there for months, decomposing and creating bacteria that is swept out to the ocean each year.

This bacteria can lead to unsafe conditions at our beaches, contributing to human and animal health problems. Debris build-up in our storm drains can also cause flooding.

Do your part to keep Monterey Bay pollutant free by

cleaning up after yourself and disposing of yard waste properly in a compost system or yard waste container. And call us if you notice illegal dumping.

For more info, see the “Report Illegal Dumping” article below.

Report Illegal Dumping

Fight the battle against stormwater pollutants – sediment, pesticides, detergents, metals, oil and grease, construction waste, yard waste and trash.

Remember, “Only rain down the storm drain.”

If you see someone dumping waste into a gutter, storm drain or creek, call the Public Works Department immediately.

Call 646.3920 Mon. thru Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. During other hours, call the 24-hour emergency service at 646.3914.

For more info, visit the City’s Web site at

www.monterey.org/publicworks/http://www.monterey.org/ppwstormwater/.

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