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Tell Us About Your Favorite Places, Events

Send in photos describing your Monterey.

Define YOUR Monterey. What makes Monterey the unique, vibrant community you and your family enjoy?

From the coast to the mountains, from the parks to downtown and Cannery Row, we have access to a wide range of activities, resources and programs. Be it the arts; recreation classes or sport programs; cultural and educational events; historic tours and lectures; or even

Monterey Bay or a neighborhood play area, there are many opportunities for enjoyment and enrichment.

Tell us about what you appreciate most. Even during these challenging economic times, there are many ongoing programs and activities to choose from that make our community a great place to live, work and visit.

Let us know about your favorite community places – be it a community center, the Monterey Public Library, Coastal Recreation Trail, the harbor/ marina, a neighborhood park or business district. Where do you go in your community for fun, to find answers, to learn a new skill?

Describe what makes your neighborhood special, the characteristics and environs that led you to call it home.

Tell us about the community services that enrich your home or work life and why they are important to you and your family – be it volunteer opportunities, the Neighborhood Improvement Program, online request portal, City TV, exercise programs or afterschool activities.

What's YOUR Monterey? Mail/email brief descriptions along with photos of the people, places and events in your City that define YOUR community.

Photos should include descriptions, names, ages, place/area. Write name, address and phone number on the back of all photos and every attempt will be made to return them. Submit your entry to: What's YOUR Monterey? via email webmaster@ci.monterey.ca.us or mail to City of Monterey, City Hall, Monterey, CA 93940.

Submissions will be featured in future issues of City Focus, on the Web, City TV and in City ads.



So-Called 'Flushable' Items Cause Sewer Clogs, Spills

Don't put "flushable" products down the toilet – they get caught in our sewer system and lead to backups.

Over the past year, the number of sewer spills caused by objects getting stuck in the sewer line has increased. Some of the main culprits are so-called "flushable" or "disposable" rags and paper towels that get caught on roots and cause blockages.

Our system was NOT designed to carry these items. Help care for your community, throw flushable products in the trashcan.

Background

The terms "flushable" and "dispersible" are not the same. Flushable means that the product goes down the toilet and doesn't clog on its way. Dispersible denotes that the product dissolves

into

a cloud of fibers so it becomes part of the water flow. Toilet paper is the only dispersible product on the market. Manufacturers of “flushable” cloths and scrubbers claim that products are flushable and somewhat dispersible, which means their products don’t fall apart immediately on contact with water. They count on the product not clogging a drain or system until it finally falls apart before reaching the treatment plant. But so far, no company has found a way to have a fabric hold up to water long enough to do its job and then disperse completely.

The other factor in “flushability” is the texture of the pipes that the product flows through. Iron pipes are often sandpaper-like on the inside because of the rough and often jagged texture that develops as iron rusts. Longer fiber cloths often catch on rough surfaces and cause clogs. The bottom line? There are no truly flushable washcloths. The ones on the market claim flushability because of their size. As far as we know, there are no “flushable” alternatives.

Keep it clean

Sewer clogs and overflows are health and environmental hazards. Spills can run into creeks and Monterey Bay.

If you have a backed-up sewer line on your property, call a plumber immediately. If you notice a spill in the street or near a creek bed, call 911.

For more info, check with Public Works at 646.3920 or send an email to jgonzale@ci.monterey.ca.us.

Help Balance the Budget, Tell Us Where to Cut Back

We need your input.

Be part of the process as we prepare for the upcoming budget year 2005-06. The City is facing a structural budget imbalance for next fiscal year, largely due to State take-aways and rising costs in retirement and health benefits. This is on top of the \$5 million we’ve already cut back during the last few years.

Your suggestions are vital to establishing the City’s financial plan and shaping your community’s future.

This spring we are weighing all factors to determine appropriate income and expense levels to come up with a balanced plan that meets overall community needs. Help your City identify services and programs to be reduced or eliminated and focus on the most important activities.

How can you participate?

- 1) Attend the public meetings and/or hearings during the budget process, see budget meeting calendar below.
- 2) Call 646.3799, fax 646.3793 or email suggest@ci.monterey.ca.us your ideas.
- 3) Stay tuned to local media for opportunities to participate in meetings and work sessions for fiscal year 2005-06.

For more details, call the City’s Finance Department at 646.3940 or visit us online at www.monterey.org/budget.

Budget News to note:

- **June 21**, 4 p.m., City Council reviews operating, NIP and CIP projects (Council Chamber)
- **July 5**, 7 p.m., City Council Public Hearing on operating and capital budgets (Council Chamber)

Dates are subject to change. Check our Web site for current meeting dates and times or call 646.3935.

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Graffiti Costs Not Pretty Picture

Webster defines graffiti as “unauthorized writing or drawing on a public surface.” This definition, however, does not encompass the rude drawings, crude words, damage to private and/or public property or communication that incites illegal activity. It also does not address how graffiti affects our neighborhoods.

Graffiti costs community

In 2004, the City alone paid nearly \$15,000 to remove graffiti from public property. These dollars do not include what private property owners had to spend to get their properties cleaned.

Changes to graffiti cleanup regulations in the works

This year, we plan to establish guidelines via a City ordinance for the timely removal of graffiti. Community input is vital to developing an effective and efficient process, and we will be collecting your suggestions and comments throughout the process. As always, keep your eyes open and report graffiti to the City at www.monterey.org or call 646.3920.



FOR SENIORS

Activities Keep you Young

Take a fabulous trip. Learn to tap dance. You are never too old to tackle a new adventure or hone your skills at the Scholze Park Center.

The Senior Center offers all types of classes, including dance, ceramics, sculpture, exercise, needlework and computers.

“Dancing keeps you young,” says tapper Aletha Worrell, 96, a member of the Senior Center “Tap Bananas” who have

been performing locally for more than 15 years.

[The Senior Center](#) also offers a nutritious lunch four days per week. Or for the adventurous adults and seniors, Golden 55 Travelers presents treks from the farmlands of the Salinas Valley to the wilds of Africa.

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

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In the News

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ON THE POLICE FRONT

Meet K-9 Alex... Now on the Police Beat

There's a new rookie in town – K-9 Alex.

Look for him out on patrol.

Alex and his handler Officer Dan Smetak, who has been with the Police Department since 2002, are now working in the community after attending a rigorous 4-week training course last December.

A major portion of the K-9 team's duties are crime prevention and education. They also respond to serious crime calls, building searches and suspect apprehensions.

K-9 Alex takes over for Canto who recently retired. During the last six years, highly trained police dogs have been part of the police team, working alongside officers on the beat. The community played an integral role in securing funding to bring the first K-9s to Monterey and has continued to support the program.

To make arrangements for K-9 demonstrations or public safety education sessions, call the Public Education Officer at 646.3819 or visit www.monterey.org/mpd.



PD Attracts Group of New Officers

An unprecedented number of new officers were hired on the same day by the Police Department earlier this year.

Before hitting the streets, the seven new hires, who came from as far away as Texas, are attending the six-month Alameda Sheriff's Office Academy and participating in an extensive law enforcement training program to develop the necessary policing skills. Upon their return to Monterey, they begin a four-month intensive Field Training Program (internal team training with a seasoned officer) before taking on solo patrol.

Visit the Police Department's Web site at www.monterey.org/mpd to learn more about your public safety team.



BODY & MIND

Obesity Not Good Economics

Raise your hand if you need to lose a few pounds. You are not alone. Some 190 million Americans are considered overweight or obese. That's 60% of the entire population. To make matters worse, our children are not better off. Recent estimates indicate that more than half of our children are now obese.

The term overweight or obese is determined by an assessment known as a body mass index (BMI). To estimate BMI using pounds and inches, use your weight, divided by your height squared, then multiplied by 703. Thus, a 164-pound person who is 5'8" has a BMI of 25, which is considered overweight; while a six-foot, 225-pound person has a BMI of 30 and is considered obese.

Okay, so we need to lose weight. What does weight have to do with economics?

From 1987 to 2001, medical bills for obese people constituted 27% of the growth in overall health care spending, according to Emory University researchers cited in the Washington Post.

Treating obese people is 37% more expensive than medical care for normal-weight people. That amounts to an estimated \$93 billion a year for treating obesity-related illnesses.

Research shows that obesity can be linked to the double-digit rise in health insurance premiums; the 48 million Americans now without health insurance; and the haggling over how to best solve the health insurance woes of our country.

As a country, we need to lose weight to improve the bottom line.

If you are ready to get started, the Monterey Sports Center (www.monterey.org/sportscenter) **focuses on using exercise to reduce weight** and encourages you to choose fun activities that keep you excited while burning calories. The Sports Center advocates 20 minutes or more of cardiovascular exercise daily and strength training two to three times per week. Along with a moderate nutritious diet and smaller portion size, the weight lost on this tried and true regime generally stays off.

Consider hiring a personal trainer if it is your first time to the gym or if you've been away for a while. Knowing what to do and getting some help as you start can do wonders for your weight-loss goals.

For more info, call the Sports Center at 646.3700.

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Breakwater Launch ramp Gets Facelift, Coast Guard Pier Re-opens

The much-anticipated expansion and remodel of the Breakwater launching area alleviates acute congestion, allows for additional vessel staging and is wheelchair accessible. The improved facility, anticipated for some 10 years, features expanded vessel staging docks and a wheelchair-accessible gangway leading to a large, stable platform.

The Breakwater Launch Ramp upgrades were funded through grants from the California Dept. of Boating and Waterways, the Coastal Conservancy and the City's Marina Fund.

At the same time, the U.S. Coast Guard pier is again open to the public from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Coast Guard installed a new fencing system and made safety improvements to the pier allowing public access to the breakwater while maintaining security in the area. The pier is subject to unannounced closures due to operations or rescue missions.

Access is granted at the discretion of the Coast Guard Station Monterey.



Changes to Note at City Attorney, Code Enforcement Offices

The City Attorney's Office and Code Enforcement Division are here to serve you: new faces, updated roles and all.

- Former Assistant City Attorney Deborah Mall was named interim city attorney by the City Council, after City Attorney Bill Conners retired in December after 25 years of service.

Mall has been assistant city attorney since 1999 and looks forward to her interim role as the primary legal advisor for the Council and City staff. As a result of the adjustments, there are now fewer staff to respond to community questions and concerns. The process for hiring a City Attorney is moving forward.

- Code Enforcement Officer Al Fasulo joined the City last summer and continues to use education and communication to achieve City Code compliance.

Please note that Fasulo works on a part-time schedule, however, he is committed to responding to and resolving code enforcement issues as quickly and efficiently as possible.

We appreciate your understanding. To learn more about residential City Codes and how you can keep your City safe and beautiful, review the Citizen's Guide to Residential Ordinances inserted in this issue of City Focus.

Contact info:

City Attorney's Office 646.3915

Code Enforcement Officer 646.3750

www.monterey.org/cityattorney

TRASH TALK

Reduce Your Annual Trash Output

It's tax season, time to review your revenue and expense stream. It's also a good time to think about how much trash you generated last year and how you might do it differently this year.

The good news: City residents have diverted 62% of their waste from landfills since 1990.

The bad news: as a community we are generating more trash. Even though we are enthusiastic recyclers, we are also enormous waste producers.

Reducing trash output is key. Let's review some techniques; incorporate all or try just a few. It only takes 21 days to adopt a new habit, so make it a good one.

- Use cloth bags when you shop, not only for groceries but clothes too. Plastic bags are a peril to the environment and recycle centers. Store cloth bags in your vehicle and take them with you when you shop.
- Wrap gifts with a reusable towel or tablecloth.
- Donate "no longer needed" clothing or toys to a charity (for donation locations check our Web site).
- Less truly is more! Give a special long-lasting gift, rather than several smaller, disposable gifts.
- Buy a reusable Christmas tree this year. Save fossil fuels and reduce the transportation of materials.
- Have clearly marked containers at parties for recyclables. A different colored container with clear signage (RECYCLE CANS AND BOTTLES HERE) next to the trashcan diverts a lot of waste. Remember to empty it often as it fills quickly.
- Crush soda cans and recycle them wherever you go.
- Reuse plastic water bottles by using a water filtering system, and then recycle them eventually.

Remember, millions of people place 40 gallons or more of waste at the curb each week. Do your part and reduce your waste. It's a good habit to get into this year and beyond.

For more info about recycling in the City, call the City's Solid Waste Coordinator Angela Brantley at 646.5662 or send an email to brantley@ci.monterey.ca.us. Visit the Web for recycling tips at www.monterey.org/recycle.



ON THE VOLUNTEER FRONT

Dedicated Group of Volunteers Contribute Much Time, Effort

Volunteers support City services and help make them successful. On average, we welcome close to 1,000 volunteers each year who contribute some 28,000 hours of time. Some include those who participate in Dare to Care Day on April 22 each year.

We also have a core of dedicated individuals who come back week after week, year after year.

This active group includes 237 volunteers who have contributed more than 106,000 hours cumulatively over the years.

In this issue of City Focus we are acknowledging those who have donated more than 1,000 hours of service to the City.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts!

- Sidney Brooks – 1,600 hours
California History Room
- Fern Ericson – 1,000 hours
Volunteers in Parks
- Ruth Ann Flowers – 1,000 hours
Volunteers in Parks
- Connie Houston – 1,100 hours
Monterey Public Library
- Joseph Howell – 2,900 hours
Recreation & Comm. Services
- Malcom McGregor – 1,000 hours
Monterey Volunteers in Policing
- Ron Rountree – 3,300 hours
Monterey Volunteers in Policing
- Bob Schwartz – 1,200 hours
Police, Fire, Presidio Museum
- Jack Storrs – 1,500 hours
Monterey Volunteers in Policing
- William Wong – 1,006 hours
Monterey Volunteers in Policing

Some of the Available Volunteer Positions

- **CAD and digital scanning** – Work on projects with Fire and Public Works departments.
- **Library support** – Keep book shelves in order and help search for specific materials. Or assist with promotional mailings, create signs and help organize book sales and fundraising events.

- Disaster training – Be prepared, take **Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT)** training from 6 to 9 p.m. on May 4, 11 and 18.
- **Sports Coaches** – Soccer starts in July and flag football in November. Teach skills and sportsmanship.
- **Volunteer summer program** – Teens 13 to 16 gain work experience by volunteering. Application deadline is May 9. Download an application at www.monterey.org/volunteer.

For more info, call Volunteer Services at 646-3719, email sammon@ci.monterey.ca.us or visit www.monterey.org/volunteer.

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City Briefs

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Great Place to Work — Your City

Work for the City and serve your community. View job descriptions online at www.monterey.org/pers. Find details about every position, including experience and education prerequisites.



Robe Manages Cementerio El Encinal

Cementerio El Encinal, the City cemetery, welcomes 20-year Parks Division employee Robert Robe as the new cemetery coordinator. Robe replaces John Farrelly who retired in December, after 45 years of service.

Call 646.3864 or stop by anytime to discuss your present and future cemetery needs. Credit cards are now accepted. Cementerio El Encinal has offered high-quality service and maintenance since 1938.

City TV Now on Demand Via Web

Watch City TV via the Web, including previously-recorded City Council meetings, state of the City updates and interviews with staff and officials.

Our video-on-demand Web pages bring you news anytime, day or night online at

www.monterey.org/tv.

To watch, you'll need a computer with a current version of Windows Media Player.

The Web offers links to telecast archives of Council meetings, Eye on Monterey and Monterey up to date City programs and special programming including community forums. The City has collaborated with AMP to offer a growing volume of government access television productions. The time and cost to provide this service is negligible as the content for these shows is already stored digitally for cablecast on Ch. 25.

AMP (www.ampmedia.org) is a local nonprofit media production and distribution organization contracted by the City to manage our government and public access cable channels.

General Plan Garners Approval

The City's updated General Plan, which guides the shape and feel of our community, was approved by the City Council early this year.

This document provides direction on where new development should be built, addresses future transportation/circulation issues and shapes affordable housing opportunities.

A committee, composed of community members, drafted the sustainable plan that successfully made it through rigorous reviews. One unique element of the plan encourages mixed-use development (residential units above commercial businesses) in mixed-use neighborhoods to help meet affordable housing goals and promote economic growth, e.g. Osio Plaza on Alvarado Street includes a theater, retail and apartments.

To review the General Plan, visit the Planning Division or www.monterey.org/generalplan.

Crews Weather Storm Challenges Well

City crews were busy day and night this winter clearing fallen trees and branches from roads within the Skyline Forest and Veterans Memorial Park areas.

Heavy winds and rain brought nearly 10 inches of rain to the Peninsula between Christmas and New Year's Day alone. Even with minor flooding and several felled trees, fortunately, there were no injuries or significant property damage.

Our Urban Forestry team works throughout the year to keep our many trees and greenbelt area healthy, safe and beautiful.

For tree tips and other info, visit www.monterey.org/publicworks/trees

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Arts & Culture

For History Buffs Only...

Community Receives National Recognition for Our Historic Preservation Efforts

Monterey has earned the distinction as a Preserve America community, one of only three cities in California thus far.

First Lady Laura Bush bestowed the honor saying, "I commend you for your commitment to preserving an important part of our Nation's historic past for visitors, neighbors and, most importantly, for children."

Preserve America communities demonstrate that they are dedicated to protecting America's heritage while ensuring that there are plenty of opportunities, for generations to come, for learning and enjoyment.

Monterey is now eligible to apply for federal grant funding specifically earmarked for Preserve America communities.

The program looks to foster a greater shared knowledge of the Nation's past; stronger regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of our communities, according to White House news releases.

Monterey has demonstrated a commitment to supporting our heritage, and the Preserve America designation recognizes that many groups here are working together to sustain the community's unique characteristics.

The combined efforts of Historic Monterey, including California State Parks, Monterey History and Art Association, the City of Monterey and our many partners, helped make this designation possible.



For more info on Historic Monterey and planned activities and programs, visit the City's Web site at www.monterey.org/historicmonterey.

Much Ado About Museums, Preservation

Discover first-hand the people, stories and structures that have contributed to our community. Celebrate National Museum Month and National Historic Preservation Month in May. Get out and take a look around your neighborhood to see what's here for you.

- **Colton Hall** – Built to serve as a public school and town meeting site, Colton Hall is now a public museum. California's first constitution was drafted in this historic site in October 1849 (re-enactment pictured).
Open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Presidio of Monterey Museum** – Learn about the stages of our military development, from the indigenous period, through the Spanish and Mexican eras, up to present day. Open Monday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.
- **Historic Walking Tour** – Take the self-guided tours through downtown or along the waterfront. While downtown, see the Cooper-Molera Adobe, San Carlos Cathedral and California History Room. Along the waterfront, view one of the oldest government

buildings in the state, the Custom House built in 1827. Find out why Monterey Bay played such a big role in our history.

To download your guide or for museum locations and ongoing activities, call 646.5648 or visit www.monterey.org/museum.

ARTS & CULTURE

Community Support Sustains Library Resources

Faced with budget cutbacks slated to affect programs, books and other materials, the Monterey Public Library asked the community for support and was rewarded with an outpouring of generosity.

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Library and many private donations, the Library has been able to sustain programs such as Born to Read, cultural programs for adults and the California History Room.

More than \$25,000 has been received to purchase additional books, DVDs, magazines and other much-needed materials.

"We feel fortunate," says Library Director Kim Bui-Burton, "for the tremendous support our Library receives from the City and the community. This has allowed us to maintain the best and most diverse library service on the Peninsula, even during these difficult economic times, and we are deeply and sincerely appreciative to everyone who has helped the Library."

To find out more about how you can contribute, call Library Director Kim Bui-Burton at 646.5601 (buiburto@ci.monterey.ca.us)



AT THE LIBRARY

Award-Winning Teen Poets Share Their Works

Teen poets from throughout the county will be honored as they read their award-winning poems at the 11th Annual Monterey County-wide High School Poetry Awards ceremony. Celebrate National Poetry Month on April 30 at 2 p.m. with the Monterey Public Library.

The event is hosted by the Library in conjunction with the

Carl Cherry Center for the Arts.

For more info, visit www.monterey.org/library/teenevents.html or call 646.3949.

Library Opens at 1 p.m. on Saturdays

Your Monterey Public Library now opens at 1 p.m. on Saturdays, instead of 10 a.m., as a result of staffing and budget cutbacks. By opening later on Saturdays, the Library can shift staff from one of the Library's least used times to busy hours during the week.

Visit the Library Monday 1 to 9 p.m., Tuesday/Wednesday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday/Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

If you have any questions, call Library Director Kim Bui-Burton at 646.5601(buiburto@ci.monterey.ca.us).

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City of Monterey



Odds and Ends

Ways to Care for Your Community

Keeping Monterey Bay clean and beautiful motivates many to care for our community.

Last fall nearly 50 volunteers from around the community gathered in New Monterey to clean storm drains and stencil "DO NOT DUMP – FLOWS TO BAY" scripts above them. Volunteers also worked to recycle pine needles and other plant materials.

Some 220 storm drains were cleaned and stenciled in one day alone from Cannery Row up to the Hilltop Park Center area.

Have an idea for a project? Talk with Solid Waste Program Manager Angela Brantley at 646.5662 (brantley@ci.monterey.ca.us). [Click here](#) for volunteer contact info.



Facts

- The average mean temperature in Monterey is 56.5°.
- The City maintains 103 miles of streets.
- The City maintains 93.85 miles of sewer line.
- Monterey was incorporated on May 30, 1850.

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Community Tips

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SAFETY TIPS

Take Care of your Chimney

Failing to maintain your wood stove or fireplace properly can lead to a chimney fire. Chimney fires occur when deposits on the inner walls of the chimney ignite.

Such deposits, called "creosote," are a natural byproduct of wood burning, and a fire hazard exists if 1/4 inch (or more) of creosote coats the inner walls of the chimney.



How can you prevent chimney fires?

Chimney fires do not occur in clean, intact, properly installed chimneys. Find a professional chimney sweep to clean and inspect your appliance at least once a year.

More frequent cleanings may be required, based on the type of wood burned, the type of appliance and the frequency of use. In general, an older, uncertified wood stove, or any appliance that is used frequently, will require more than one cleaning per year.

How can you detect a chimney fire?

The first indication of a chimney fire is usually the noise – a roaring sound that grows louder as the fire's intensity increases. Clouds of black smoke and sparks will be seen pouring from the top of the chimney; in severe fires, flames can extend several feet above the chimney. When this occurs, call 911 and leave the building.

— information courtesy of the *Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Assoc.*

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New Animal Shelter Offers Safe Harbor

Lost animals now have a more comfortable sanctuary while waiting to be connected with their family, thanks to a new animal shelter constructed at our Ryan Ranch Corporation Yard. The new facility also saves the City as much as \$5,000 a year in fees we once paid to shelter animals temporarily at outside agencies.

The upgraded shelter is larger, allowing us to house animals for longer periods of time, and offers indoor space.

The old, outdated shelter was largely open to the elements and no longer met the needs of the community.

Budget challenges delayed upgrades to the shelter for the last few years. However, a creative solution brought funds together from the City's General Fund and the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) to make construction possible. Volunteers helped keep building and design costs low. Some 12 volunteers, including City staff, donated more than 600 hours to the project.

Don't Wait in Line

Get online today and catch up on City news and events. Or report problems or make service requests with a click of the button.

Visit www.monterey.org.

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