



CITY FOCUS online



CITY FINDS BUDGET SOLUTION

Despite budget cuts, the City of Monterey still provides a broad array of services and programs to its citizens. Public safety remains a top priority with firefighters ready to respond, and police patrols on City streets and in the neighborhoods. The Library is open seven days a week to meet increased demand. The Sports Center still delivers a diversity of programs to people of all ages and abilities. Youth programs and senior adult services are readily available.

Changes will be seen in the maintenance of parks and greenbelts. Streets will likely deteriorate further because the City doesn't have all of the money needed to refurbish its transportation infrastructure.

The Monterey City Council adopted a balanced budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, after months of public meetings and discussions. The City's \$96 million budget contains a \$58 million General Fund operating budget.

The City closed a \$7.4 million gap between revenues and expenditures caused by declines in hotel and sales tax revenue. It cut \$5.8 million in programs and services; obtained more than \$1 million in employee salary concessions; and used \$800,000 that would have been put into the Economic Uncertainty Reserve.

The Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) did its share by funding \$2 million in city projects deemed public safety, public health or essential maintenance. The NIP also set aside \$400,000 that the Council used to restore programs in the Library and the Recreation Department for one year.

The 2009-2010 budget contains many one-time solutions, such as NIP funding and employee concessions, that are not sustainable over the long-term. Next task: a structurally balanced budget for the future. For more information, go to monterey.org/budget or watch City Focus on Channel 25.

[CITY FOCUS on TV](#)

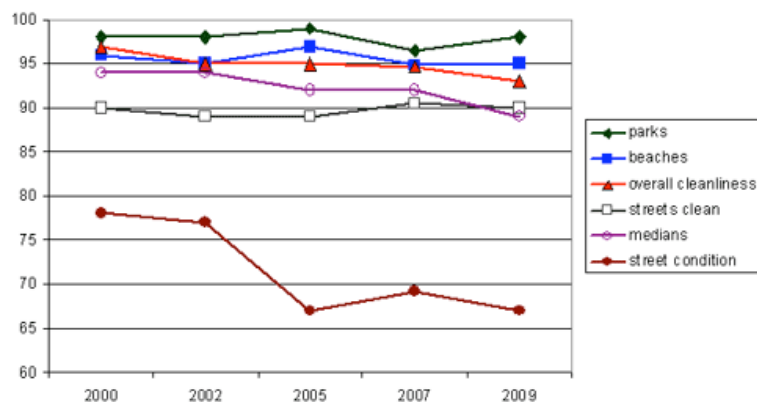
Monterey Now

News and Information

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

By Communications Office Volunteer Grace Marvin

The 2009 Community Survey shows trends and changes in the community's feedback since the year 2000 and tracks results of this year's survey. More than 500 citizens responded to the survey, which rates satisfaction in the areas of City appearance, City government, neighborhood and business districts, community services and safety. The majority of residents give the City high marks, with many of the areas being surveyed receiving "excellent" ratings from the public.



The overall top-rated services for 2009 were fire services 100% favorable, cleanliness of parks 98% and cleanliness of beaches 95% favorable. Harbor/marina, preservation of historic resources, library services, garbage and recycling services, police and safety in one's own neighborhood all were rated "excellent" in 2009 as well.

Protecting the Bay from pollutants, CITY FOCUS newsletter, City-sponsored services for seniors, adults, and children, and

preservation of parks and open spaces also received continuous "excellent" ratings throughout the decade.

There were only two areas of significant declines in ratings this decade. Street conditions in one's neighborhood fell from 81% favorable in 2000 to 71% favorable in 2009 and availability of bike paths fell from a high 84% favorable in 2005 to 76 % favorable in 2009. Improvement in ratings over the past ten years showed in the City listening to its citizens and police patrols in neighborhoods, which went up from 73% favorable in 2005 to 81% favorable in 2009.

Overall, the 2009 Community survey revealed that throughout the decade, community feedback has been, for the most part, positive, appreciative, and supportive. The complete 2009 Community Survey is available online at monterey.org/survey

Fire Merger Benefits Monterey and Pacific Grove

By Fire Admin Analyst Gundy Rettke

On Dec. 16, 2008, the Monterey and Pacific Grove Fire Departments were consolidated into a single department in a landmark agreement that was reached after nearly four years of discussion and detailed planning between the two agencies. The agreement resulted in the transfer of employment of the former Pacific Grove employees to the City of Monterey, and the Pacific Grove fire station remains staffed as one of four stations serving both communities.



From an operational perspective, this agreement has been working as anticipated and has been very successful in realizing enhanced performance parameters, such as cost efficiencies, additional depth of resources and personnel, opportunity to standardize operations and equipment, and enhanced career development and promotional opportunities. The addition of the Pacific Grove station brings the number of staffed companies from four to five, which significantly increases the response capability for both Monterey and Pacific Grove.

Finally, this agreement has the potential to become the cornerstone of a regional fire protection agency by providing partners with the option to consider other governance models in the future, such as a Joint Powers Agreement or Authority, with the objective of continuing to serve the Monterey Peninsula with more enhanced and efficient fire protection services.

Storm Drain Enforcement

By City Engineer Tom Reeves

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has notified the City that it will be performing an audit of our past storm water practices. And for those of you who grew up in the 1970's, the song "No More Mister Nice Guy" by Alice Cooper comes to mind. So the time has come for the City to start being a little less gentle when it comes to dealing with violations of our Storm Water ordinance. For the last two years, we have taken an educational approach and we have rarely resorted to using fines. But the federal and state governments have made it clear that they are going to be checking up on us, and fining violators is expected in certain situations. So if you have any questions about what you are about to do, please give me a call first at 646-3448. Remember, with very few exceptions, only clean potable water and rain water can go into the storm drains.



No Salmon but Zillions of Sardines

By Harbormaster Steve Scheiblaue

The marina and waterfront have weathered the economic downturn and loss of two years of salmon fishing pretty well. Salmon fishing is usually a big deal at the harbor with lots of folks bringing in boats and staying for long weekends or even weeks, so it's usually a real economic engine. The City has lost that fishing income for the second year in a row, but we were fortunate to recover some of our losses through a federal Salmon Relief Grant, receiving about \$104,000 so far.



While there is no salmon, there are plenty of sardines. As some of you may know science has shown that the sardine collapse in the late 1940's was due primarily to a natural and fairly regular oceanographic cycle. Sardines are on a 50- to 60-year cycle of being on the West coast, including Monterey, or being in the far western Pacific. Here we are, 60 years later, and there is an enormous biomass of sardines off the coast, estimated at nearly 1 million tons. It's great to see the commercial wharf come alive with the sardine unloading, and folks catching sardines and mackerel right off the wharf. Our local sardines are known for their high fat content and size, and they are great on the bar-be-que with a little olive oil, sage, and rosemary.

Our transient berthing income also has been down a bit due to

Community Center Hours

By Recreation Supervisor
Shannon Beltran

Hours of operation at Monterey's community centers changed in August. Due to budget reductions, all four community centers saw a reduction in operating hours. The new operating hours are:

Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center

735 Ramona Avenue, (831) 646-5665
Mon - Thurs, 1 - 9 p.m.
Friday, 9 - 5 p.m.

Hilltop Park Center

871 Jessie Street, (831) 646-3975
Mon - Thurs, 1 - 9 p.m.
Friday, 9 - 5 p.m.

Scholze Park Center

280 Dickman Avenue, (831) 646-3878
Mon - Fri, 9 - 5 p.m.

Monterey Youth Center

777 Pearl Street, (831) 646-3873
Mon - Thurs, 10 - 9 p.m. Friday, 9 - 5 p.m.

Please keep these new hours in

Our transient berthing income also has been down a bit due to having fewer coastal traveling boats stopping in. However, the City Council granted our request to temporarily lower our transient rates to enable Monterey to compete more aggressively with other central coast harbors. Putting our transient berths "on-sale" for awhile has worked, with Monterey having attracted a number of boats from other harbors for long-term transient use.

Please keep these new hours in mind before calling or visiting a center. You may also call the Recreation and Community Services Department Administration Office at (831) 646-3866 if you have any questions, or go online to monterey.org/rec

Focus Features

Art, Artifacts and History

By Museum & Cultural Arts Manager Jim Conway

The Museum and Cultural Arts Division may be a small division but it is a big part of the City's persona. The Museum and Cultural Arts Division supports the City's heritage tourism as the marketing department. It also is the steward of Monterey's art, artifacts, museums, historic documents and cultural programs.



Our most prominent site is Colton Hall. This museum is staffed by two 20 hour-a-week employees who keep it open 362 days a year. We average about 1100 visitors a month from all over the world. During the school year, that number goes up due to the many schools from all over the state that visit the hall.

The Presidio of Monterey Museum located in the Lower Presidio Historic Park is open 5 days a week with the help of volunteers. Yes, the lower Presidio is open to the public.

One of our most important responsibilities is the stewardship of the collections. This is not highly visible to the public but if not performed it can become a distraction to tourism and highly detrimental to the city's collections. Once an artifact (or sculpture or building) etc. is damaged or lost, it is gone forever and will not be there, as it once was, for your children, grandchildren and future generations to enjoy; it is an important part of our responsibility to ensure long-term sustainability. Stewardship includes preserving records, and collection date as required by good museum practices. We have a specific collection policy that the Colton Hall and Cultural Arts Commission oversees on behalf of the citizens. After all it belongs to the citizens.

We are also responsible for cultural public programs. Many of you have enjoyed the openings at the Alvarado Gallery, the winter concerts in Colton Hall, Christmas in the Adobes, the Colton Hall Birthday party and History Fest, to name a few. Come join us as we promote Monterey for the rich, cultural city it is. Learn more about the Museum & Cultural Arts at monterey.org/museum

The Secret Lives of Books

By Library Special Services Coordinator Jeanne McCombs

When you visit the Library, you can choose from 110,000 books, and every one of them had a secret life before becoming a library book. Behind the scenes, staff members select, purchase, catalog, process, and shelve every new book.

Each book is chosen for our community's needs and interests, using a Web service that puts ordering information and professional reviews in one place. Orders are submitted online, boxes are opened, invoices are checked, and funds are carefully monitored.

Each book is cataloged and labeled so you can find it. Most catalog information comes from a worldwide database of 140 million records from 71,000 libraries. A few records are created by MPL—and contributed to the database for others to use. A rainbow of labels and stickers identify shelving areas for convenient browsing.

New books are covered and reinforced so that they will survive many trips to readers' homes, and older books are mended to extend their lives. Finally, each book is shelved in the place where its first reader will find it.

Last year, 8,000 books and 1,800 other items were added to the collection. It takes a small village of Library staff members to turn an ordinary book into a library book. Visit the Library online at monterey.org/library



Urban Accords Celebration

This year marked the 2nd anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Environmental Accords and the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement by the City of Monterey. The two documents represent a formal commitment to lowering greenhouse gas emissions and promoting a sustainable environment in the City of Monterey.



The City marked the occasion by holding a celebration on the Colton Hall lawn. Mayor Chuck Della Sala reported on Monterey's progress in meeting the goals of the Accords. Achievements to date include energy efficiency and water conservation upgrades at major facilities, a citywide recycling outreach campaign, passage of a green building ordinance, electric vehicle charging stations, a polystyrene food container ban and much more.

Other city officials were also on hand to share their environmental accomplishments. Mayors from Salinas, Marina and Seaside and Councilmembers from Carmel and Pacific Grove talked about their successes in the past year. The event encourages future collaboration and cooperation between jurisdictions throughout Monterey County. To get more details on the City of Monterey's green efforts, check out montereyrecycles.org

Keeping Kids Healthy

By Monterey Sports Center Fitness Manager William F. Rothschild

Kids need to be active. The American College of Sports Medicine recommends all children spend at least an hour or more every day in fitness activities and pursuing leisure play. Far too often in our busy lives, the children end up missing out on this vital part of life. The day is spent filled with school, homework, travelling and downtime at home and the child does not get supervised activity.

As a public wellness facility, the Monterey Sports Center is essential in promoting lifelong fitness activities and a safe place for our youth to stay active year round. The options available to our youth are diverse and exciting including swimming, aerobics, weight training, sports camp, cheerleading, volleyball, martial arts, soccer and wrestling.

On average, our children spend an average of 44.5 hours every week in front of a computer, television or gaming screen. Over one-third of our children eat fast food every day. Approximately 40% of our children will be diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in their lifetime. In a 2005 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of children between the ages of 6 and 11 who are considered obese or severely overweight has increased by 300% in the past 25 years.

Given the overwhelming numbers, it becomes obvious that we need to reverse this trend by encouraging our children to participate in daily fitness activities. The Monterey Sports Center is ready to help you work with your children to encourage health and fitness and the adoption of a fit lifestyle. Learn more about the Sports Center's programs at monterey.org/sportscenter



Kids need plenty of play time and activity to grow up healthy and fit emotionally and physically.

Environmentally Friendly Food Packaging

By Solid Waste Program Manager Angela Brantley

In February 2009, Monterey City Council members voted unanimously to ban the use of polystyrene foam (commonly referred to as Styrofoam®) in prepared food applications. This ban would affect restaurants, cafeterias, delicatessens, gas stations and special street event promoters to name a few.

Whether you are a vendor at a special event or have a cafeteria at your workplace, you are required to use products that are biodegradable, compostable or recyclable. Council allowed vendors six months to use up their stock of non-biodegradable products. As of August 2009, polystyrene foam is not allowed in Monterey.

As we know, litter happens! However, unlike many other types of packaging, littered polystyrene foam remains permanently in the environment where it breaks into tiny pieces and disperses widely. Polystyrene is also highly durable and persists longer than other types of waste. It litters the ocean, parks and public places, streets and roads, waterways, storm drains and beaches. Even when polystyrene is properly disposed of in a trash can, it is lightweight and may be picked up by the wind and becomes litter.

It is important to note that the City's primary goal in implementing this ban is to reduce the amount of litter and the impact to the marine environment, a vital component of the City's economy and quality of life.

To read more, check out the FAQs (frequently asked questions) on our Website MontereyRecycles.org or contact Angela Brantley or Lesley Milton at brantley@ci.monterey.ca.us or milton@ci.monterey.ca.us or call 646-5662.



AUTUMN SAFETY REMINDERS!

By Monterey Fire Admin. Analyst Gundy Rettke

Smoke Detectors

Change your smoke detectors' batteries when you change your clocks! Most fatal fires occur at night. Every home needs working smoke detectors to provide an early warning.

Space Heaters

Space heaters carry a much greater risk of causing a fire than central heating. If you must use a space heater:

- The space heater selected must be tested by an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriter's Laboratories (UL).

- Keep space heaters accessible – do not store anything within three feet of the unit.

- Plug the space heater directly into an outlet; do not plug into an extension cord.

- Run the power cord so that no one steps on or trips over it.

Halloween

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Think twice before using simulated knives, guns, or swords. If such props are used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.

- When Trick-or-Treating, a parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children. Stay in a group, walk slowly, and communicate where you are going.



- After Trick-or-Treating, wait until children are home to sort and eat treats. A responsible adult should closely examine all treats. For more information, visit monterey.org/fire

Generation Rx By School Resource Officer Paul Oelfke



When you think about drug abuse, illicit drugs like marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy and methamphetamines usually come to mind. However, an alarming trend has emerged in which some kids use prescription medication to get high.

While illicit drug use by teens has declined, teen prescription drug abuse is an emerging threat. Some have dubbed this generation "Generation Rx" because of it. Prescription drug abuse is a growing problem due to the ease at which they can be obtained – most kids get them for free from family members, friends or from their home.

Virtually everyone's medicine cabinet contains prescription medication. Often, the prescription is left in the cabinet even though the ailment for which it was prescribed has long

since been resolved. The most commonly abused prescription drugs are pain killers, (OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin), depressants (Soma, Valium, Zanax), and stimulants (Adderall, Ritalin, Dexedrine).

People assume that taking a prescription drug (when not prescribed to them) is safer than taking illicit drugs. **This is a dangerous myth.** Prescription drug abuse can develop into dependency, have serious side effects (including death), and cause lasting physical and/or emotional problems.

Parents are the first line of defense against prescription drug abuse. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about the medication being prescribed and about medications you already have so you have a clear understanding as to their risks and effects. Keep prescriptions stored in a safe place, preferably in a locked cabinet or safe box, and maintain an inventory of what you have. Do not store them in the medicine cabinet because that provides access too easily. Prescriptions no longer needed should be properly discarded.

Educate your children about the dangers of prescription drugs. Here are a few topics to include in your discussion:

- Pharmaceuticals taken without a prescription or a doctor's supervision can be just as dangerous as taking illicit drugs or alcohol
- Abusing painkillers is like abusing heroin because their ingredients are similar (both are opiates)
- Prescription medications are powerful substances. When used for other than the reason it was prescribed, they become a controlled substance and the impact on the person can be deadly.
- Many pills look similar and can easily be confused with one another. Mistakenly taking or mixing the wrong pill(s) can cause different reactions in different people due to one's body chemistry.
- Mixing drugs with other substances is very dangerous. Some people have allergic reactions to different chemicals when they are mixed together.

For more information on this alarming trend and ways you can safeguard against it, please visit theantidrug.com/DRUG_INFO/PRESCRIPTION_DRUGS.ASP. If you suspect a family member or friend may be abusing prescription medication, visit adp.ca.gov (California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs) for resources available in your area. You can also contact School Resource Officer Paul Oelfke at 646-3830 or via email at oelfke@ci.monterey.ca.us

NIP Project Nominations

Every year, the City of Monterey asks residents to submit projects in their neighborhoods for consideration by the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). Eligible projects include improvements to streets, storm drains, sewers, lighting, traffic control devices, landscaping and beautification, parks, recreational facilities, and other public buildings.

This year NIP nomination cards can be filled out and submitted online. If you would like to nominate a project for the NIP for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011, [click here](#) to access the form. If you've got questions, contact City Engineer Tom Reeves at 646-3448.

CITY FOCUS on TV



Now you can watch CITY FOCUS on TV. Just tune in to cable Channel 25 on Mondays at 10 am, Wednesdays at 5 pm and Fridays at 7 pm. This TV newsmagazine contains many of the stories you'll find inside this issue of CITY FOCUS with interviews and more information. CITY FOCUS on TV will be replayed at other times of day. You can also watch CITY FOCUS on TV right from your computer as [video-on-demand](#).

Events

Oct. 8 - 11	History Fest
Nov. 14	Just Run Kids Run 3K and Run Forest Run 5K races
Nov. 15	Big Sur Half Marathon

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