Welcome to the premiere issue of Monterey Focus, the City's new online newsletter. Monterey Focus is an e-newsletter that complements the City's printed newsletter, City Focus. Monterey Focus is published only on monterey.org in the months between City Focus issues. This allows the City to communicate more frequently and in a more timely manner with residents, businesses and visitors.

If you would like Monterey Focus delivered by email, you can subscribe to it. Or, if you prefer, you can access Monterey Focus on the Web monterey.org/focus. We hope you enjoy this first edition! Let us know what you think about the City's new e-newsletter.

New Police Chief Sworn-In
Monterey Police veteran Tim Shelby was sworn-in as Chief of the Monterey Police Department during a ceremony at the Maritime Museum on July 9. Shelby, a Deputy Chief since 1998, is the first Monterey Police Officer to come up through the ranks and be named Chief in several decades.

Chief Shelby is a 28-year veteran of the Monterey Police Department with more than 10 years experience in police management and administration. He joined the Monterey Police Department as a Patrol Officer in 1979. Learn more about Chief Shelby and the Monterey Police Department.

Fire Consolidation Study Issued
A feasibility study on consolidation of the Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel fire departments found that the three cities could provide more cost effective fire services by merging operations. The study found that the cities would save $1.3 million by sharing a Fire Chief, Command Staff and administrative support. Each city would retain its current fire stations and firefighting staff.

A joint meeting of the Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel City Councils and Fire Chiefs reviewed the fire consolidation feasibility study at a special meeting on June 18, 2007. Staffs from the three cities will continue to work with key stakeholders to evaluate the report findings and develop recommendations for future consideration by the respective councils. Fire Consolidation Feasibility Study - Final Report | View Video of Meeting

City Council Sets Vision & Priorities
The City Council established its vision for the future of Monterey during a series of meetings from March through June 2007. The vision shaped the Council's newly adopted strategic initiatives. Those strategic initiatives are the Council's short- and long-term priorities. Council Vision.

Council Adopts Budget for 2007-2008
The Monterey City Council adopted a $94.8 million operating budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year during its mid-June meeting. The budget balances pay raises for police, fire and some city staff with increased funding for infrastructure improvements. For an in-depth look at the budget, check monterey.org/budget in late July.

Affordable Condos for Sale
Condominiums with affordable price tags are available for purchase by anyone who lives or works in Monterey. The condos are located in recently renovated conversion projects at 116 Mar Vista, 1330 Skyline Drive, 300 Glenwood Circle, 820 Casanova Avenue and 585 Laine Street. View Video on Affordable Condos.
More than 1 million new cases of non-melanoma skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States every year. Most of these cases are related to over-exposure to the sun.

Melanoma, considered the most serious type of skin cancer, accounted for more than 62,000 cases of skin cancer in 2006 and most of the over 10,000 deaths due to skin cancer each year, according to information from the American Cancer Society.

Fortunately, *early detection and treatment for skin cancer is highly successful.* Understanding what to look for is important to determining the need to seek further treatment and diagnosis. When looking at moles, brown spots and growths, *these are the signs that can signal skin cancer:*

1) **Asymmetry:** If you draw a line through a mole, the two halves don’t match.
2) **Border:** The borders of an early melanoma tend to be uneven. The edges may be scalloped or notched.
3) **Color:** Having a variety of colors is another warning sign. A number of different shades of brown, tan or black could appear. A melanoma may also become red, blue or some other color.
4) **Diameter:** Melanomas are usually larger in diameter than the size of the eraser on your pencil (1/4 inch or 6 mm), but they may sometimes be smaller when first detected.
5) **Evolving:** Any change in size, shape, color, elevation or other trait, or any new symptom such as bleeding, itching or crusting points to danger.

In addition to the risk of cancer, sun exposure causes signs of premature aging, including wrinkling, sagging, brown spots and discoloration.

*Dermatologists recommend that all outdoor enthusiasts use a lotion that is SPF 30 or higher.* Parents should ensure that the children and infants are protected with a high SPF lotion appropriate for children. Some experts recommend no less than two coats of sunscreen before heading outdoors. Kids who are reluctant to using sunscreen may be okay with trying a spray-on sunscreen.

Look for lotions with Helioplex which protects against both UVA and UVB rays and sunscreens with avobenzone and oxybenzone. Another recommended product are lotions containing Mexoryl SX which is an FDA-approved organic filter designed to protect against short UVA rays with high photostability, meaning it lasts longer.

Ask your dermatologist about free cancer screenings which are being offered throughout the country this summer.

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**Trash Talk – Vacation Reminder!**

by Solid Waste Program Manager Angela Brantley

What can you do to reduce the amount of trash you generate on vacation? You might be SHOCKED at the amount of recyclables that are generated and thrown into the trash after just one day of vacation. What are the alternatives?

- **Provide a bag to collect bottles, cans, newspapers, and handouts you receive.** Crush the bottles and cans if you can to make them smaller.
- **Staying at a hotel/motel? Ask what they are doing with the recyclables.** If they do not offer recycling, give them the “I am so disappointed in you” tone of voice, and then the “It is really important to me/my family to recycle wherever we go” speech! They listen to these types of complaints and do something about it for the future. Ask where the closest location is for you to drop off your recyclables. If you can’t find a recycling drop off, if you can bring it home and place it in your recycle bin.
- **Camping?** *Clear plastic bags with RECYCLING on it next to the dark garbage bags keeps the stuff separated right from the get-go.* For instance, if you are going to Lake San Antonio they have a great recycling program there now. Again, if they do not offer recycling, complain to the management!
- **How can you create less stuff to recycle or throw away while camping?** This does take more work but it is worth it. *Give each person their own color-coded plate, cutlery and drinking cup.* Make it their responsibility to clean and maintain their stuff. Yes, even the young ones. It’s never too late or too early to teach good habits.
- **Provide clear sealable containers to preserve stuff.** I am not condoning the product, but Snapware is easy to seal and easy to look through to see see what is in the container. This type of container cuts down on coolers or refrigerators remaining open for long times or for foods to go bad (which ends up in the trash). Provide sturdy, yet easy to manipulate clips to seal chips and cookies. Clearly mark the outside of boxes telling people what is inside each box so that it isn’t a scavenger hunt when kids want goodies.

Happy vacation and remember to reduce waste before it is generated, reuse what you can and recycle the rest!

*If you have questions or comments, please contact Lesley Milton or Angela Brantley at milton@ci.monterey.ca.us or brantley@ci.monterey.ca.us or by phone at 646-5662.*

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**Volunteers Plant Pines in Veterans Park**

by Volunteer Leslie Ricketts

A volunteer group from the Leadership Monterey Peninsula Class of 2007 planted 87 native Monterey pine seedlings provided by the City’s Parks Division, in Veterans Park in February. Trained by City Arborist Steve Morton, the group is monitoring and watering the seedlings until the trees are successfully established. The project is beautifying a popular hiking and camping area of the park, and is helping to counter the loss of local pines to Pitch Canker disease.

Steve Morton also taught the Leadership Monterey Peninsula group about the City’s other activities, such as...
Vacation Safety
by Monterey Police Public Education Officer Eric Stilham

It’s that time of year again, when we load up the car and head out on vacation. Here are some tips from the Police Department to ensure your time away is safe.

- **Notify family or a trusted neighbor of the date you’re leaving**, where you’re going and when you expect to be back.
- **Have someone check your home occasionally**. Stop all your mail and newspapers and have your trusted person watch for package deliveries.
- **Consider installing a timer on lights in various rooms**. They’re cheap and simple to use.
- **Install bump-proof dead bolt locks on all doors** and positive stop locks on all windows.
- **Board your pets** and lock all pet doors.
- While you’re traveling be vigilant. Pay attention to anyone who’s paying attention to you.
- **Don’t carry too much cash**, ATM’s are everywhere. Carry only one credit card and keep positive control of your purse and wallet at all times.
- **A cell phone is a great safety device** and some pay as you go plans are available
- If you’re driving have your vehicle’s mechanical condition thoroughly checked out by someone you trust.

Plan your vacation and find out how much peace of mind can help you relax and enjoy.

Events

**Festive 4th, 2007** - for current July 4th information, go to [www.monterey.org/four](http://www.monterey.org/four)

An estimated 50,000 people attended 4th of July festivities in Monterey this year. From the parade downtown to the concert on the lawn and fireworks over Del Monte Beach, here’s just a glimpse of the fun! [View Video](http://www.monterey.org/four)

Monterey’s July 4th celebration is coordinated by the City’s Recreation & Community Services Department with help and support from Police, Fire, Parks, Harbor, Building Maintenance, Parking, Streets, Traffic and Museum staff.

Many City staff worked long hours to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

*Click on the images below to enlarge, and the Back button to return*