



CITY FOCUS online



CITY BUDGET REALITIES

The City of Monterey is preparing for leaner times ahead because the national recession is reducing City revenues. Hotel and sales tax revenues are lower than projected for the first quarter of the fiscal year (July-Oct), with little indication of improvement on the horizon.

The City now faces a \$1.6 million deficit in the current fiscal year (through June 2009), and projects a \$2.9 million gap in the next fiscal year (July 2009 - June 2010). Those numbers are subject to change, depending on what happens with the economy.

"What keeps me up at night is what I don't know," said City Manager Fred Meurer. "Even the country's economists can't see a clear road ahead. But I would rather err on the side of caution than be unprepared."

Faced with economic uncertainty, the City is taking a very conservative approach to its finances. To stay in the black this fiscal year and prepare to close a projected gap next year, the City plans to leave job vacancies unfilled unless absolutely necessary, examine existing construction and maintenance projects and classify them as either "essential" or "non-essential" for potential freezes later, and cut expenditures. "A dollar spent today on a non-essential expense is a dollar we can't spend tomorrow or next year to maintain an essential service," said Meurer in a message to City staff.

Budgeting for next year will include several scenarios for possible service level reductions, to give the City flexibility in responding to changing economic conditions. City Executives already have agreed to postpone a 3% cost-of-living increase scheduled for July 2009. Employee labor organizations will be asked to consider strategies to meet the economic challenges. The City's goal is to avoid layoffs but if that is not possible, to minimize potential layoffs. And new revenue sources from win-win service partnership opportunities, such as the Monterey-Pacific Grove Fire service contract, are being explored.

The City Council approved the steps outlined above at its Dec. 2nd meeting. The Council endorsed the recommendations proposed by City Manager Meurer, and followed a 1st Quarter Financial Review by Finance Director Don Rhoads.

To keep the community informed about the budget realities facing the City, the City Manager and Finance Director will be meeting with Boards and Commissions, Neighborhood Associations, Business Associations and the community. The latest information about the City's financial health is available on the City's Web site at monterey.org/budget/budgetnews.html and on The Monterey Channel on cable TV25.

[Watch the Dec 2 Council Meeting](#)

[1st Quarter Financial Review Staff Report](#)

[City Manager's Budget Memo to Executive Management](#)

Focus Features



**Monterey -
Pacific
Grove**

**Fire
Service
Integration**



Integration of the Pacific Grove Fire Department into the City of Monterey Fire Department will provide a new revenue stream for the City in the years ahead. Under a contract for services, approved by the Monterey and Pacific Grove City Councils, PG will pay Monterey to provide fire and emergency services for

Pacific Grove.

The integration will enable both cities to deliver fire and related emergency services more effectively and economically into the future as a single organization rather than two separate departments. The contract maintains existing services in Pacific Grove, and adds enhanced operational flexibility, depth of resources, and administrative support for both cities.

The combined department will staff five (5) apparatus daily at four (4) stations, including the existing Pacific Grove station, and will also offer specialized services such as marine fire and rescue, urban search and rescue, and hazardous material response. Pacific Grove firefighters will become Monterey employees as of Dec. 16 when the integration of services officially takes effect. PG Fire Chief Andrew Miller will be Assistant Chief in Monterey. A total of 67 employees will operate under a single unified command and administrative organizational structure based in Monterey. [Video: On the Road with Monterey Fire Department](#)

Your Police Dept. - Ready to Respond to Any Challenge

By Chief of Police Tim Shelby



Fortunately, we live and work in a very safe community where violent crimes are quite uncommon. Unfortunately, no city is completely immune to the impacts of violent crime in our society.

In September of this year, our Department's capacity and expertise were put to the test when we responded to a reported robbery/kidnapping on North Fremont. Within a few hours of the reported crime, our investigations team determined that it did not occur as reported and had actually been staged to cover up a homicide, and that the alleged "victim" was actually responsible for murdering his girlfriend in Marina and disposing of her body in our City.

Though the murder was determined to have occurred in Marina's jurisdiction, due to the circumstances of the case, our Department continued to act as the lead agency on the investigation. Through excellent teamwork and collaborative investigative efforts we were able to identify, locate and arrest an accomplice in the case. Continuous, almost around the clock efforts ultimately led to the development of a strong case against the primary suspect, who is now on the run from police. This case was very complex, with a number of twists and turns, which challenged but did not deter our team.

Throughout the investigation, our detectives and support staff performed in exemplary fashion. I want to thank and commend all of our personnel that were involved in this investigation. Their performance makes it clear that they are true professionals in every sense of the word and that we continue to perform as one of the premier police agencies in Monterey County.

Graffiti Program Nabs Suspects

By Sergeant Frank Russo

The Monterey Police Department has closed a number of graffiti cases and prosecuted several individuals. Based on information provided by alert City staff who reported graffiti, School Resource Officer Paul Oelfke identified several suspects responsible for "tags" throughout the City. As a result, "taggers" such as SX/SIXTO, KEEP, STUCK, PHANK, OATH, SECO, FAH, WANTED, REC, SMASH, and DUZE, are being held responsible for their actions. The Police Department identified suspects, linked previous cases and made arrests.



The Police Department thanks everyone in the City for caring enough to make the extra effort to report incidents. As a reminder, please report graffiti as soon as possible, but do it safely; don't approach suspects on your own. If the vandalism is "in progress," call 9-1-1. If no suspect is present, call 646-3921 (Plans & Public Works Admin.), or [complete an online service request](#). Working together we can ensure Monterey remains safe, beautiful and blight-free.



Park Your Car and Charge it Too

By Associate Planner Megan Tolbert

The City recently installed electric vehicle charging stations at the West Custom House Parking Garage in downtown Old Monterey, and behind City Hall on Pacific Street. The parking spaces are marked Electric Vehicles Only, allow four hour parking, and a free electric vehicle charge.

Electric vehicles use less fluids. Therefore, less maintenance and less leakage onto City streets that may otherwise result in storm water runoff of toxins. They also use less energy for travel, and may be "fueled" with locally produced electricity as opposed to foreign oil. Electric vehicles referred to as Zero Emissions Vehicles, are effective in the fight against climate change due to global warming.

The state rebates certain electric vehicles, and continues to review additional models to add to the list of rebated alternative fuel vehicles (AFV's). Are you in the market for an electric vehicle? For a list of AFV's that qualify for rebates from the State of California, please go to: www.energycenter.org/

For information on the electric vehicle chargers at West Custom House Garage, please visit www.evchargenews.com/

Storm Water Protections Through Fuel Program

by Associate Planner Megan Tolbert

In the spirit of Monterey's efforts to be a model city for sustainability, waste reduction staff recently launched the *Fryer to Fuel* program. Involving a combination of education, good business practices and appropriate containment, this program supports effective waste vegetable oil collection from local restaurants. The *Fryer to Fuel* program not only reduces unintended oil spillage, the efforts result in increased waste oil processed into biofuel and used in City vehicles. Restaurants are mandated to legally dispose of waste oil, but unintended spillage is simply an occupational hazard. When 200 degree oil is carried from kitchen to an outdoor container in an open bucket, then poured into another container, there are several opportunities for spillage to occur, and several opportunities for contributing to storm water pollution. Through the *Fryer to Fuel* program, restaurant staff receive training, education materials and special signage, and new large red metal bins with lockable particle screens, which are easier to pour hot oil into than previous bins. Improving restaurant staff education and waste oil containment reduces the accidental spillage that ends up in our storm drains, ocean waters, and urban streams. The Monterey *Fryer to Fuel* program is directly modeled after the Santa Cruz Fryer to Fuel program. *For more information contact Megan Tolbert at 646-8744.*



RECREATION GUIDE AVAILABLE

By Recreation Supervisor Shannon Beltran

The Recreation & Community Services Department Winter 2008/Spring 2009 Activities Guide lists all of the programs and activities available from Dec. through May. Several new programs will be offered including Cupcake Masters, Kids Kitchen Capers, Dinner With My Valentine, Animation for Teens, Stress Reduction, Boogie With Your Baby, and many more classes for the entire family.

You can pick up a copy of the Activities Guide at the Recreation & Community Services Main Office, the Monterey Sports Center, the Monterey Library and all four community centers, or view it online at monterey.org/rec/guide.html

Registration for classes and programs can be done in-person, by mail, fax or online. In order to register online, you must complete the online account application form prior to the date you intend to register.

For more information, call x3866 or visit www.monterey.org/rec

City Solutions

Welcome Aboard Monterey's New Bookmobile!

By Library Special Services Jeanne McCoombs

The Monterey Public Library invites everyone to join us on Saturday, December 6, from 2 - 4 p.m. to celebrate the arrival of the new Bookmobile! The event will include tours, food, fun and prizes.

The celebration will take place in the parking lot behind the Library at 625 Pacific Street, which will be closed to automobiles. Parking will be available in the Cypress lot on Pacific Street, just south of the Library, and in the Civic Center lot behind the Police and Fire stations.



This is Monterey's third generation Bookmobile, the first introduced in 1956, and the second in 1984. The vehicle makes [regular stops](#) in outlying neighborhoods throughout Monterey. Some of the features of the new Bookmobile include a solar-powered generator for lighting and electricity and the capability to run on bio-diesel fuel. Other improvements include an extra low floor, which means no stairs to climb, and public access to the Internet.

Library e-Newsletter

The Monterey Public Library has started an online newsletter that you can subscribe to as easily as you subscribe to City Focus online. To view the Library's IDEA newsletter, [click here](#).

Library Resource

[Surviving Difficult Times](#)

What a Wonderful Resource!

by Monterey Sports Center Fitness Manager William F. Rothschild

Thirty-four percent of all adults aged 20 and over are now considered obese based on the most recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control. This is up from 15% in 1980.

This has led to an explosion in the number of individuals diagnosed with hypertension, osteoarthritis, dyslipidemia, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, gallbladder disease, sleep apnea and respiratory problems and some cancers. The estimated costs attributed to obesity have also skyrocketed, accounting for nearly 10% of total U.S. medical expenditures.

The Surgeon General has called on all communities to find solutions to the problem.

The City of Monterey's Monterey Sports Center is uniquely qualified to assist the employees and residents of the Monterey peninsula. The Monterey Sports Center has the resources and staff to help individuals establish a fit lifestyle. We offer fitness evaluations, nutritional education, exercise prescriptions, supervised training and ongoing support. Our staff includes licensed Physical Therapists, Exercise Physiologists and fitness instructors certified as Medical Exercise Specialists.

Did you know that we are preferred providers for Medicare, Tricare, Blue Shield, Community Health Plan and many other insurance carriers?



Our licensed Physical Therapists can assist you with aquatic or land exercise programs. Whether you are recovering from a back injury, joint injury or other physical condition, our expert Physical Therapists are well qualified to provide the right program for you. We accept most forms of insurance.

Our programs include 1-on-1 and group training in aquatic exercise, functional strength, aerobics, pilates, yoga, pre- and post-natal, swimming, recreational sports including basketball, volleyball, ping pong, and badminton, martial arts and supervised Physical Therapy programs including aquatic, spinal and joint stabilization, postural and ergonomic training, therapeutic exercise, balance training and fall prevention training.

What a wonderful resource the Monterey Sports Center is to the community.

Feel free to give me a call at 831-646-3492, email me at Rothschi@ci.monterey.ca.us or drop by the Monterey Sports Center at 301 East Franklin Street. I'd be happy to give you a tour and show you what makes the Monterey Sports Center such an outstanding facility. [Take a video tour of the Sports Center.](#)

Events - [view all holiday events](#)

Dec. 5	Christmas Tree Lighting at 6:15 in front of Colton Hall. Watch last year's event
Dec. 11&13	Christmas in the Adobes from 5 - 9 p.m. Twenty adobes, clustered in a five-block area, are open to visitors. This self-guided tour of Monterey's past features hosts and hostesses in period costumes, musical entertainment and refreshments.
Dec. 14	Brighten the Harbor - Monterey Yacht Club's lighted holiday boat parade
Dec. 20	Santa Arrives in Monterey with free wagon rides for the public
thru Jan 4	Monterey on Ice - ice skating rink at Custom House Plaza

City Focus online is published twice a year in July and December. It augments the City's printed newsletter, City Focus, which comes out in September and April. City Focus online saves paper and printing costs. We would like to know what you think about City Focus online. Send your comments, suggestions and story ideas to us at the link below.

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