The Amgen Tour of California will return to the City of Monterey for the first time in eight years. “America’s Greatest Race” will gather the world’s best bicycle racers for an eight day stage race, travelling over 700 miles. The Stage 4 start will begin on Alvarado Street on the morning of May 14th. “Residents, visitors and cycling enthusiasts will be able to see the cycling teams up close as they prepare for the start, and can enjoy the festivities of the starting ceremonies downtown,” said Mayor Chuck Della Sala.

“Amgen on Alvarado is an opportunity for people to watch a world-class event and enjoy the restaurants and shops in the heart of our City,” said Old Monterey Business Association Executive Director Rick Johnson.

Race festivities begin at 10 a.m. Meet the professionals, including Olympic medalists, Tour de France contenders and world champions, and enjoy entertainment and vendors. Ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m.

The route will travel two miles through Monterey, so there are several great viewing areas. The race caravan will start on Alvarado Street, turn right on Franklin Street, then left at Camino El Estero and onto Del Monte Avenue. The race will follow Del Monte until entering Highway 1 South on the Hannon Avenue onramp. Cyclists will travel 100 scenic miles to Cambria.

Spectator parking is available at the downtown East and West garages on Tyler Street, as well as the Waterfront lot on Del Monte Avenue. Give yourself plenty of time to park. It is recommended to arrive before festivities begin to avoid traffic delays. Be advised that the route and adjacent streets are subject to closures and no-parking limits.

Join us on May 14th in downtown Monterey!

Stage presented by Visit California

monterey.org/atocstage4
A new era will soon begin for the City’s aging Conference Center. Monterey hotel owners overwhelmingly approved a plan to tax themselves to pay for the renovation of the Monterey Conference Center. 90.8% of the votes cast by hotel, motel and inn owners were in favor of financing the renovation through a Conference Center Facility District (CCFD). The CCFD would levy tiered tax rates on hotel and motel properties based on the type of hotel property, with adjacent hotels at 4.15%, full-service hotels at 1.6% and limited service hotels at 0.8%.

Since that time it has helped generate significant Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), and helped improve downtown and citywide business during slow visitation months. Over the decades, residents have enjoyed the benefits of a strong TOT, through city-funded library, recreation, parks, the Sports Center and other services. The TOT has also directly funded millions of dollars of neighborhood and citywide improvements through the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP).

“This is a decisive moment for the future of Monterey,” said Mayor Chuck Della Sala. “The results of this election have secured the funding necessary to finance a project that will enhance the revitalization of our downtown and ensure that the citizens of Monterey continue to realize the benefits of a strong and vibrant hospitality industry.”

Based on a 2011 study by LMN Architects, an architectural firm with international experience in conference center renovations, the Council-approved renovation and improvement project will cost approximately $32.3 million.

There has not been a construction start date determined at this time. The consultant selection process is under way, and the project management and the architectural design firms will be selected by summer 2014. We have made it clear that the first priority will be to determine the construction schedule. Stay tuned for more updates.
In assessing the feasibility of a possible revenue ballot measure in November 2014, the City contracted with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz and Associates (FM3), a leading firm in the state, for scientific public opinion research. FM3 conducted telephone surveys of likely voters from March 19 to 26, 2014.

Among the key specific findings of the survey were the following:

- Local voters see a number of compelling rationales for supporting such a measure, particularly the argument that infrastructure repairs will only get more expensive if put off.

Because the feasibility assessment was favorable, the next step is to develop and implement a community outreach and public education program on the fiscal challenges the City has faced in the past; their causes; how the City has responded to these challenges; the fiscal difficulties ahead and options for meeting them, including the possible role of a revenue ballot measure. This next phase will also include creating a temporary fiscal advisory committee.

The role of this group, consisting of 20 to 35 leaders from all walks of community life – business, environment, neighborhoods, social services, cultural services – is to advise the City on the outreach program; assist in arranging community group meetings and most importantly; ask tough questions about the City’s finances, including where City resources come from; how they are used; fiscal challenges that the City has faced in the past; what the City has done in responding to them; whether it is using “best practices” in managing its financial affairs; challenges facing the City in the future and options for addressing them. The committee’s work would be completed upon its review of the City’s fiscal situation and presentation of findings to the Council regarding a possible revenue ballot measure.

This recommendation reflects the City Council’s longstanding commitment to civic engagement and improving fiscal transparency. It also reflects adopted "value drivers" of meeting the City’s infrastructure requirements and quality of life goal of ensuring that Monterey remains a safe and welcoming place to live, work and visit. Watch and listen for much more in the months ahead.
Sidewalk seating will be expanding on Alvarado Street as a result of the adoption of the Downtown Specific Plan in November 2013.

Café Trieste started a trend when they constructed an outdoor seating area adjacent to their business. The City recently received applications and approved six additional outdoor seating areas on Alvarado Street based on the success of the Café Trieste pilot project.

The new Alvarado Street Brewery and Grill is slated to open in May/June 2013 and will have outdoor seating in front of the restored historic building at 426 Alvarado. Look for great brews and a fun experience at the upcoming venue!

MYO Yogurt is also planning to construct outdoor seating in the near future and will add a great opportunity to enjoy your yogurt in an expanded, comfortable setting.

Other outdoor seating areas will be constructed as part of larger construction projects. The property owners at 301-375 Alvarado will install outdoor seating next to Cibos and Monterey Crepe Company as part of a major building renovation that will convert the upstairs floors to residences. The City also approved outdoor seating at 459 Alvarado that currently sits vacant. The Planning Commission approved a new building for this site in March 2013 and the ultimate project plans include two great outdoor seating venues.

North Fremont revitalization is on its way! After four years in the making and dozens of public meetings, the City Council approved the North Fremont Specific Plan. The plan represents the future vision of the commercial corridor as a vital mixed use neighborhood that provides places to live, work, shop, and socialize. The streetscape component of the plan calls for wider sidewalks, landscaping, street pavement design treatments, and safety features to improve bicycle and pedestrian access.
City Council awarded a Contract for Professional Services to Siemens Industries Inc. on January 7th. For the next two months, Siemens staff will be reviewing City buildings’ electricity and water consumption for an Investment Grade Audit (IGA). The purpose of the IGA is to identify opportunities to lower utility costs, provide energy and water security, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The projects would be self-financed through savings and would require little to no additional capital from the city. Projects that are under consideration include lighting upgrades, smart irrigation, HVAC upgrades, a cogeneration plant at the Sports Center, and several solar panel installations that would offset over 50% of the city’s energy needs.

City Water Conservation Efforts
By Media Assistant Eric Palmer

With an historic drought in California, the City of Monterey, businesses and local water agencies are doing all they can to save water and promote conservation.

Several City parks act as demonstration gardens for water-wise landscaping. Any new landscaping requires drip irrigation. The Parks Division has already replaced over 90% of our overhead watered landscapes with drip irrigation. This type of watering method reduces runoff and evaporation. Water efficient sprinklers have been installed in most of the turf areas as well.

Speaking of turf, have you seen the new infield at Sollecito Ballpark? Thanks to community donors and the Neighborhood Improvement Program, the infield has been replaced with artificial turf. Synthetic turf is a great alternative to water hungry lawns.

You will also notice mainly native and drought tolerant plants in our parks. Native vegetation has evolved with local climates and soil types. Once they are established, they require minimal irrigation beyond normal rainfall and they help restore local ecology and habitat.

Businesses save water in several ways. Water is available only by request in local restaurants. All visitor-serving facilities must install ultra-low flush toilets, showers and faucets, and promote conservation in kitchens, restrooms and dining areas.

California American Water and Monterey Peninsula Water Management District offer free water saving devices for your home. Visit montereywaterinfo.com for more information.

City Energy & Water Audit
By Energy Intern Michael Morgan

Monterey City Hall gardens bloom with native plants, like the California Poppy. Natives require low maintenance and water needs and support local ecology!
This spring State Park Lifeguards will be working closer with the fire department to provide water rescue services. Over the last 20 years the Harbormasters Office has managed a seasonal lifeguard program via a contract with the California State Parks to provide water safety efforts on Del Monte Beach. This was initiated after a series of drownings in the mid 1990’s. Recently, Harbormaster Steve Scheiblauer asked Fire Chief Gaudenz Panholzer if he would be interested in taking over managing the lifeguard contract, since the lifeguards often respond with fire personnel to the same emergency.

“It made sense for us to work more closely together with lifeguards not only when responding to calls, but in daily operations to better understand the role they play in preventing water rescues and educating the public about ocean safety,” said Panholzer, “By coordinating with the lifeguards we can find ways to improve Monterey’s marine safety program.”

Beginning this month, state lifeguards will be visiting local schools and stepping up patrols during spring break in a specific effort to reduce ocean drownings. Spring can be the most hazardous time of year to enter the ocean. “Large winter surf has carved out large channels of sand under the surface of the water often creating rip currents, which can pull unsuspecting swimmers out into deeper water beyond their swimming ability,” said State Lifeguard Kevin Brady.

“Take 10 to 15 minutes to assess ocean conditions before entering the water,” said Brady, “and if in doubt, don’t go out. Check with a lifeguard first.” He added wetsuits and fins are equally important when swimming in cold water with strong currents. The State Parks Junior Lifeguard Program is also a great way for children to build a solid foundation of ocean safety knowledge. Sign ups begin April 1st at montereyjuniorlifeguard.com

Green Building Goes California

As of January 1, 2014 the City adopted the 2013 California Green Building Standards Code also known as CalGreen. The requirements under this code can be found on the California Building Standards Commission website at www.bsc.ca.gov
Fireboat Gets Needed TLC  
By Firefighter John Alexiou

Monterey’s fireboat is about to get a major overhaul after nearly ten years of service on the bay. The 36-foot Metalcraft Marine Fireboat will be taken out of service for approximately six weeks to have restoration work completed and new motors installed. The work, which will be completed in Sausalito and Santa Cruz, will allow the boat to continue to provide marine safety services and emergency response to Monterey and its neighbors for years to come.

“The Monterey County Office of Emergency Services was instrumental in securing local, state and federal grant money to assist the city with the re-power,” said Fire Captain Barry Perkins, who has been the catalyst for the fireboat program since the boat was purchased in 2005 with prior grant funds and contributions.

Monterey’s boat is piloted by fire personnel available 24 hours a day and has responded to over 200 coastal emergencies and calls for service within the last nine years, according to records. Many of these responses include people in the water who need assistance such as divers, surfers and kayakers. Other calls may be for vessels sinking, broken down, or on fire. The boat usually responds to calls within the first six miles of ocean waters west of Monterey, however it has provided emergency assistance to Capitola, Moss Landing, and the City of Carmel when requested.

“It’s a large area of coastline for any one agency to cover,” said John Alexiou, Fireboat Program Manager, speaking about the City of Monterey’s local waters, which include contract fire services for Sand City, Pacific Grove and Carmel.

“That’s why we work in strong partnership with our allied agencies that are in the water rescue business, such as the U.S. Coast Guard, California State Park Lifeguards, Monterey Harbor personnel, and CAL Fire.”

During a coastal emergency, the public often sees fire and police vehicles on the waterfront, but it’s often a combined effort with less visible boats, rescue watercraft, and lifeguards in the water that help contribute to a rescue.

Check out the photo gallery of Monterey Fire Department apparatus monterey.org/fire
What are your kids and grandchildren doing to be more active this summer?

According to First Lady Michelle Obama, “Let’s Move! is a comprehensive initiative launched by the First Lady, dedicated to solving the problem of obesity within a generation, so that children born today will grow up healthier and able to pursue their dreams.”

The Presidential Initiative calls on community leaders to promote physical fitness by increasing safe routes for kids to walk and ride to school and investment in parks, playgrounds and recreation centers to make sports and fitness programs fun and affordable.

At the Monterey Sports Center, we’re doing our part by providing a comprehensive offering of programs, summer camps and fun activities to be sure your kids have a great summer and enjoy being active and fit.

Some of the fun activities your kids and grandchildren can do at the Sports Center this summer include Swim Lessons, Recreational Swim, Tot Time, Float Night, Sports Camp Plus & Sports Camp Plus with Swim Lessons, Cheerleading Camp, Teen Work Experience Sports Camp, Cheerleading Camp and aquatics, Youth Fitness Orientations and Personal Training programs, Jujitsu-karate & Self-defense, open gym activities including basketball, volleyball, badminton and ping pong, and Youth Fitness Memberships offered month-to-month or for three-, six-, and 12-months.

Register for Summer Fun!
By Monterey Recreation Coordinator Shannon Leon

The Summer/Fall 2014 issue of play! Monterey is available now. Open registration is available in person or online at monterey.org/rec for all of our programs including summer camps, field sports and ongoing classes and programs. Online registration requires prior activation.

You may register online for our popular, summer programs including Whispering Pines Day Camp, Camp Quien Sabe Youth Overnight Camp, Summer Playground Program, Sports Camp Plus, Cheerleading Camp, British Soccer Camp, Flag Football Camp, Basketball Camp, Summertime Fun for Tots and much more!

We also offer fun arts and crafts classes, friendly afterschool and school break programs, exercise and fitness opportunities, educational workshops and much more.
**WATER-WISE YOUR HOME**

California American Water and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District are offering free water-saving devices to Peninsula customers. Free devices include showerheads, faucet aerators, hose timers and nozzles, and more. There are also rebates available for purchasing and installing some devices.

Visit [montereywater-info.com](http://montereywater-info.com) to find a list of rebates for residential and non-residential appliances, irrigation system improvements and lawn removal. Stop by 511 Forest Lodge Rd Suite 100 in Pacific Grove or 5 Harris Court in Monterey during normal business hours.

**INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

*By Capital Projects Division*

The Capital Projects Division is excited to share with residents that many Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects are gearing up for construction in the Spring and Summer of 2014. For most projects, we have already completed surveys and technical studies, acquired environmental permits, designed improvement plans, prepared specifications, advertised for bids, and executed contracts. Now it is time for construction!

CIP projects ready for construction include:

- Re-lining the sewer force-main along Highway 68, between Highway 218 and Calvary Chapel
- Continuing construction of significant concrete sidewalk repairs in heavily traveled areas
- Installing security lighting in the Monterey Police Department’s parking lot
- Replacing corroded hangers beneath Fisherman’s Wharf I that support sewer and fire safety lines
- Installing grease pretreatment interceptors at various public facilities in Monterey and at the Presidio, to fully comply with the Fat, Oil, and Grease Ordinance
- Launching the first three phases of the $16M sewer rehabilitation program to include video inspections of blocked pipelines, spot repairs, and pipe linings, as well as upgrading all 7 sewer lift stations
- Reconstructing asphalt pavement and resurfacing several city streets

You will no doubt see City crews and City contractors working in your neighborhoods, so we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we strive to maintain safe, reliable infrastructure for our community.

Learn about the Capital Projects Division programs at [monterey.org/projects](http://monterey.org/projects)
Library Director Search
By Acting Assistant Library Director Inga Waite

Later this spring, the Monterey Public Library will welcome a new Library Director. The Library Board and City Council were able to restore this key City position to full-time using funding from a library management position left vacant after a retirement. The current Library Director, Kim Bui-Burton, will leave the Library in mid-May.

Since 2010, Kim has also held the position of Community Services Director for the city. Once she leaves the Library, Kim will continue as Community Services Director, overseeing the Conference Center, Harbor & Marina, Museums, Parking, Recreation and the Sports Center.

“It has been a tremendous honor serving as Monterey Public Library Director for the past ten years,” said Kim. “I feel as though I have come full circle, having used the Library as a child, worked my first job here shelving books as a Monterey High School student, and years later being appointed Library Director.”

During Kim’s tenure with the Library, she became the first Vietnamese-American Library Director in the country, was elected President of the California Library Association, worked with the Board, staff and Friends of the Library to eliminate the non-resident fee, expand services for children and teens, purchase a new Bookmobile and develop a Library endowment.

Monterey Public Library, California’s first public library, was founded in 1849. Used by an average of a thousand people a day, it is a popular city service. For the past six years it has been voted the “Best Library in Monterey County” by Monterey County Weekly readers.

Pet Safety
By Monterey Police Sergeant Michael Sargent

It appears the warm weather is now upon us. Time to get out and do some running around or visit some friends. Some enjoy bringing their dog with them during their travels. It is important to realize how dangerous parked vehicles can be to our pets, even on the relatively cool Monterey Peninsula.

A secured vehicle acts very much like a greenhouse. The glass concentrates the heat, while keeping out the cooling coastal breeze. It may be a comfortable 76 degrees outside in the breeze and dangerously hot inside the vehicle. Vehicles heat up quickly and just having the windows cracked will not allow enough ventilation to adequately cool the vehicle. Each year pets are lost due to being unsafely secured in vehicles.

In California, it is illegal to leave an animal, unattended in a vehicle under conditions that endanger the health and well being of the animal.

For more information on the Library’s hours, programs and services visit monterey.org/library

Stay safe and we will see you out there!
INTERPRETING COLTON HALL  
BY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LIBRARY DIRECTOR KIM BUI-BURTON

Colton Hall, in the heart of Monterey’s City Hall complex, is one of the City of Monterey’s most significant historic buildings. It was the site of California’s Constitutional Convention in 1849, where California’s constitution was debated and ratified, leading to statehood for California. It is often referred to as “the Birthplace of California,” and has been in continuous use as a public building since it has been built.

For the past two years, thanks to funding from the Community Foundation for Monterey County, Museum and City staff have been working with the Colton Hall Museum and Cultural Arts Commission to complete a Historical Survey Report and a Museum Interpretive Plan for Colton Hall. These reports provide important information about Colton Hall as a historic building, and also as an educational and inspirational resource for residents and visitors. Created after community surveys, interviews and meetings, the Interpretive Plan brings new ideas for sharing Colton Hall’s many stories, and improving access to collections and programs.

Staff and Commissioners are prioritizing recommendations such as using 21st century technology to bring 19th century concerns to life, increasing public access through off-site programs and improved access to the second floor, and developing stronger collections of Colton Hall’s years as a public school.

For the future, we anticipate enhancing the visitor experience, improving access, and continuing to tell Colton Hall’s rich and amazing story to residents and visitors for many years to come.

PROPERTY REVIEW TOOL TIPS  
BY COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT LAURIE HUELGA

The City of Monterey just made looking for property information a little easier. We’ve added a new video developed out of the Planning Office, “Get Started Tips for Property Review.” The two minute video is accompanied by tips in PDF format for a quick read. The property tool can be found on several city web pages including the main pages of Planning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Housing and Property Management.

Find it here:
Monterey.org/planning
Monterey.org/GIS
Monterey.org/housing
Neighborhood Improvements Coming!
By Capital Projects Division

Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) projects are gearing up for construction this spring and summer! The NIP directs tourist-generated dollars back into residential neighborhoods. Projects are nominated by residents like you! The Capital Projects Division is making these projects a reality this spring and summer:

– Improving emergency readiness, including base radios at Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) containers and alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) modifications
– Installing safety cross-walks and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps at Tenth Street, Aguajito and the Highway 1 off-ramp intersection
– Constructing ADA improvements in the Casanova Oak Knoll neighborhood
– Constructing traffic calming measures in 4-5 intersections in the Del Monte Grove/Laguna Grande, Casanova Oak Knoll & New Monterey neighborhoods
– Installing audio loops for hearing-impaired at the Library & Scholze Center and a new PA System in the Library
– Improving drainage facilities along Eddie Burns Lane in the Old Town neighborhood projects.

Visit monterey.org/nip to learn about the program and nominate your own.

New Appointment, Key Positions Filled
By Communications Office Staff

The Monterey City Council at their April 15 closed session named Interim City Manager Mike McCarthy as Monterey’s next permanent City Manager. The Council will vote on the contract in open session on May 6th.

In just four months as interim city manager, McCarthy worked closely with staff to eliminate a $500,000 deficit this fiscal year, and to set a course to balance a projected $1 million deficit in next year’s budget. He held two Council retreats to set City priorities. McCarthy’s key areas of focus will include renovation of the Monterey Conference Center; revitalization of the downtown and commercial districts; improvements to the City’s physical infrastructure; a potential revenue ballot measure; charting a future for the Cooper—Molera Adobe and other historic assets; public safety; hiring for key positions in the City; and homelessness.

Key positions just announced include the promotion of Interim Assistant City Manager Hans Uslar to permanent assistant city manager, as well as a new finance director, Jimmy E. Forbis, former utilities business manager for the City of Morgan Hill.

Read more about these key positions on the web at monterey.org/newsroom