

CITY FOCUS

City Balances Budget

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Recycling this Summer</i>	2-3
<i>Summer Fire Safety</i>	3
<i>Library Strategic Plan</i>	3
<i>MPD Turns 100</i>	4
<i>Traffic Plan Update</i>	4
<i>Exercise Pain Away</i>	5
<i>New City Website</i>	6



POINTS OF INTEREST

- **The Monterey City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month**
- **The Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.**

The Monterey City Council has adopted a balanced budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

The \$57 million General Fund budget closes a \$5 million gap between expenses and revenues with a combination of employee concessions, new revenues, and reductions in staffing and services.

The 2011-2012 budget incorporated public input from a “priority-based budgeting process” begun last fall. Sixteen public meetings were held to gather citizen input on spending and help re-set or validate spending priorities.

More than 1100 people participated in the process and completed an exercise in which they allocated a total

of \$500 to the programs and services they felt were most important for the City to provide.

Results showed that the citizen’s top priorities and City-set priorities were the same across 75% of programs. The results helped inform decisions about service reductions as the budget took shape in the spring.

With a \$5 million gap to close, the City pursued a plan to seek employee concessions, eliminate or reduce some services and positions, and increase revenues.

City employees contributed \$1.2 million in concessions, agreeing to re-open existing contracts and contribute 3-4% more to their retirement, thereby reducing the City’s share of retirement costs.

Because all six of the City’s employee labor organizations agreed to concessions, the number of positions slated for elimination or reduction decreased from 40 to 22 by the time the budget was adopted by Council in June. Savings from positions that will be eliminated or reduced over the next few months totaled \$3.1 million.

“Every position saved from elimination helps the City maintain the service levels our residents have come to expect,” said City Manager Fred Meurer. “Even so, the City has not lost anywhere near as many positions as we are losing this year.”

Additional revenues of \$700,000 closed the remainder of the gap. You can view the proposed budget [here](#).

SEWER RATES UNDER REVIEW

The City of Monterey has hosted three public workshops on proposed sanitary sewer rate restructuring and increases in the last few months.

Studies conducted by the Engineering staff have found that many sewer mains, manholes and pump stations are in need of replacement and repair. The estimate for performing these needed repairs

is \$16.8 million.

Another component of the City’s sewer rate analysis addresses ongoing capital costs to maintain the sewer system in the future. Current rates are not sufficient to address these needs.

The City Council has set a public hearing on August 2, 2011 to consider restructuring and increasing sewer rates in order to pay for necessary

improvements. The purpose of this public meeting will be to discuss the proposed rate structure, the need for capital improvements, and to answer questions.

The City of Monterey invites all city residents, business owners, and property owners to attend and participate.

For more information, visit the [Sewer Rate webpage](#).



KEEPING THE BAY BEAUTIFUL

What makes Monterey such a desirable place to live? Most likely, the magnificent environment that surrounds us is high on your list of reasons. And the ocean is certainly the most significant aspect of the environment.

The Monterey Bay has been supporting people for millennia and it has been the source of inspiration and beauty for just as long. So why would trash be going into it?

There are many ways to help prevent trash from going into the Monterey Bay. Every time you see a piece of

litter, pick it up (if it's safe) and place it where it belongs, in the trash.

Or if you want to join in the annual Beach Cleanup event organized by Save Our Shores, one will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2011. The event will be launched from the Monterey State Beach which is located south of the Best Western Monterey Beach Hotel located at the intersection of Sand Dune Drive and Highway 218. For more information, you can look up the [event](#) online.

Trash comes from two

main sources. The first is careless or deliberate littering. We can all try to educate people and make it socially unacceptable to deliberately litter. If you're transporting lightweight materials or trash in an open vehicle, be sure to cover the load so that it doesn't blow out.

The second source is the overloading of trash containers. It is against City Code section 14-2(a) to have the lids of trash containers propped open by any means let alone excessive trash.

If you see such things, please call us at 646-3921.

PESTICIDES & YOUR GARDEN

The Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) has taken a proactive stand that maintenance gardeners be qualified to spray pesticides.

A licensed gardener knows how to use pesticides safely. Improper use can contribute to environmental and water pollution.

DPR Chief Deputy Direc-

tor Chris Reardon says, "The requirement for a license to apply pesticides is often a surprise to both the gardener and the homeowner."

DPR has 1,012 maintenance gardeners registered to apply pesticides. To see if your gardener is licensed, go to www.cdpr.ca.gov.

The City of Monterey fol-

lows a strict integrated pest management program that limits the use of pesticides in City parks and open spaces.

Please contact the Parks Division at 646-3860 for current pesticide usage in City parks.

For more information about City parks, [visit us](#) on the City's website.

SUMMER RECYCLING

Summer is a great time to entertain families and friends! The very last thing you prepare for is recycling the waste generated at your event.

Here are a few entertainment tips that might help you have a waste-free event (or close to it):

Be sure to have clearly marked containers for waste and recycling. Partially cover the recycling con-

tainer by placing a cardboard sign on the top that reads, "Bottles & Cans Only."

Use Clear Plastic Bags: If you want to buy two types of bags get black for trash and clear for recyclables. If you want to buy only one type of bag, buy clear bags. If guests see that the recyclables are in the clear bag, they will be sure to place their can or bottle in it.

Use Reusable Plates & Cutlery:

Waste generation drops to practically nothing if you have reusable material.

Attach a Marker to the Cooler:

When all of your guests are drinking the same type of water, soda or beer, they lose track of their drink. As a result, many drinks are left abandoned with their liquid still in them. Ask guests to mark their

THE LIBRARY WANTS YOUR INPUT!

The Library is currently developing a community-based strategic plan that will guide decision making for the next few years.

The Library Board, staff members and volunteers hope to learn what issues are most important to residents, Library customers, businesses, students, families and others and then determine how the library can best deploy resources to meet those needs and interests.

Over the next two months,

a Community Engagement Committee will be holding interviews, listening sessions, and forums at venues across the City to encourage the largest and widest range of voices and viewpoints.

There will also be opportunities for community members to provide feedback online and through social networking.

Hearing from you – whether you use the library or not – will help us better understand our community's

concerns, needs and dreams, and, plan for the Library's future so that we may learn how to continue making your community library adapt and respond appropriately in this time of rapid technological and social change.

For more information about the Library's Strategic Planning Process, contact Community Services and Library Director, Kim Bui-Burton at 646-5601 or buiburto@ci.monterey.ca.us.

SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

Barbecue Safety - Each year, people are injured needlessly lighting barbecue grills. The correct way to light a propane barbecue is to open the lid and strike a match or barbecue lighter before turning on the gas. Once you have finished barbecuing, turn off the propane cylinder valve and then the barbecue burners.

Water Safety - Always supervise children near water at

all times, and make sure that children learn to swim. Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal floatation device (PFD) when boating, jet-skiing, tubing or water-skiing. Air-filled swimming aids, like water wings or inner-tubes, are not substitutes for approved PFDs.

Camping Safety - Always use a flame retardant tent and set up camp far away from the campfire. Only use flash-

lights or battery-powered lanterns inside the tent or any other closed space, not liquid-filled heaters or lanterns. When building a campfire, make sure you are in an approved location. Always put out a campfire when going to sleep or leaving the campsite. To extinguish the fire, cover with dirt or pour water over it.

Find out more at monterey.org/fire

SUMMER RECYCLING (CONTINUED)

container so that they can track their drink. If you have someone handing beverages out, ask them to mark the containers first.

At the Beach: The most commonly found item on the beach and in the water is bottle tops. Again, mark the bottles and remind guests to attach the tops to the containers so that all of it can be recycled.

The second most commonly found item on the beach and in the water are plastic bags and filmy plastic that used to be around food or toys. Filmy plastic easily takes flight in the wind. Secure this material.

Instead of using plastic for your food, use reusable containers and clearly mark the contents for quick usage. And don't even consider

using Styrofoam cups and plates at the beach. If you can use reusable containers, please make that choice. If not, stick with paper.

Finally, never use Styrofoam coolers. They truly are menace because the lids fly off and the body breaks down quickly.

For more information, visit us on the City's website at montereyrecycles.org

Tips for keeping your summer safe and keeping the bay, beaches and parks clean

TRAFFIC AND PARKING CHARETTE



Creation of a citywide, multi-modal transportation and parking plan took a huge leap forward during a three-day “charrette,” or public workshop, at the Monterey Conference Center on June 28 – 30.

During the charrette, City staff worked closely with consultants to develop alternative solutions to transportation and parking related issues within the Downtown, Waterfront, Lighthouse/Cannery Row, and North Fremont planning areas.

For the past year, City staff has been soliciting community input on planning issues, goals and objectives for each of these planning areas. The charrette process provided an additional opportunity for the public to participate in the development and refinement of potential solutions.

The process also brought to light the need to study the City’s transportation and parking system as a whole to ensure that projects and policies that are developed within each planning area are consistent across the City and do not negatively impact one another. The alternative solutions presented to the Planning Commission at a Special Meeting at the conclusion of the charrette were developed specifically to achieve this consistency. Presentations and a summary of the concepts supported by the Planning Commission can be reviewed on the [project web page](#).

On August 2, 2011, the same presentation on the range of alternative solutions for each issue that was provided to the Planning Commission will be repeated for

the City Council’s consideration. The City Council will then have the opportunity to receive public comment and discuss next steps.

Once staff receives direction from the City Council, City staff and the consultants will continue to develop the transportation and parking portions of the Waterfront Master Plan and the Downtown, Lighthouse/Foam, and North Fremont Specific Plans and also conduct an environmental analysis for each.

Once these planning documents and environmental analysis are in draft form, they will be available for public review and City staff will schedule adoption hearings for the Planning Commission and City Council.

POLICE DEPARTMENT TURNS 100



Early in Monterey’s history, law and order was the responsibility of the Constable and his night watchmen; there was no police department. However, that all changed on July 1, 1911 when the new City Charter was created. It was on that date that the Monterey Police Department, as we know it today, officially came into existence.

To commemorate this milestone, for the next sev-

eral months, Monterey officers and records personnel will wear a commemorative centennial badge, purchased by the employee, which replicates the badge worn in 1911. In addition, the Department plans to hold an open house later this year commemorating our centennial anniversary. With the assistance of Museum, Cultural Arts and Archives Manager Dennis Copeland, we have been gathering informa-

tion on our history, and compiling artifacts to put on display during this celebration. Also, Police Sergeant Frank Russo has been instrumental in locating historic items and preparing them for presentation.

We look forward to our next 100 years of service to this wonderful community and hope you will join us in celebrating this very important milestone. Visit us on the [web](#).

FOLLOW THE CITY ON FACEBOOK AND WATCH US ON YOUTUBE AT CITYOFMONTEREY

CHRONIC PAIN AND EXERCISE

Chronic pain affects 116 million Americans and costs the U.S. as much as \$635 billion each year, according to a new report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) which calls for changes in how chronic pain is managed.

Long-term, persistent pain, which may have been caused by an injury or a disease, can cause changes in the nervous system, which in turn cause the pain to become its own distinct chronic disease.

Exercise has proven to be extremely beneficial if you have chronic pain. Of course, exercise has numerous general health benefits including weight control, emotional well-being as well as the prevention and management of most medical conditions.

One of the important benefits of exercising is the release of endorphins and serotonin into the blood-stream. Endorphins are helpful in naturally controlling pain, while serotonin makes you feel happy and more positive about life.

Exercise inhibits the pro-

duction of prostaglandin, which is involved in the inflammation response and can make your pain worse. Exercise also helps facilitate sleep onset and helps you sleep more soundly which can help with the healing process. Still, the thought of exercise when one is feeling poorly and in pain is generally challenging as we are affected both by the pain of getting moving and the negative hormonal influences that cause us to be depressed and lethargic.

What to do? Head to the pool! Did you know the [Monterey Sports Center](#) has over 100 aerobic classes every week including several aquatic-based classes? We offer morning, afternoon and evening classes in both the therapeutic and lap swimming pools.

The therapeutic pool is a fantastic place to exercise when you are feeling pain. The warm 92-degree water feels like a Jacuzzi and plenty of equipment is available to support and to challenge as you exercise in a comfortable and supporting environment.

We even have licensed Physical Therapists on staff that can be engaged to help you learn how to exercise in the water and take control of your pain, and if you have a medical referral, your insurance will pick up the tab!

Our Therapists can help you with other ways to exercise comfortably and gain control of your pain using our extensive cardio equipment, or on our specialized equipment like the Swiss Exercise Ball or Bosu. We have strength training instruction and plenty of yoga, tai chi and pilates classes, and great instructors and trainers who can help you get started.

You don't have to live with pain. Enjoy your life more fully and experience a richer, more meaningful life simply by embracing daily exercise.

The Monterey Sports Center is truly the heart of the community in Monterey and offers all of the access, instruction and expertise to help you lead a high quality of life.

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has over 100 aerobic
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-based classes?*

RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAMS

It's time to **play! Monterey!** It's that time of year to start planning for summer and fall activities with the Monterey Recreation and Community Services Department.

We offer a variety of fun and educational programs for all ages, including gymnastics, camps, exercise, field sports,

art & crafts, dancing, dog obedience and much more!

Our Summer/Fall 2011 guide, **play! Monterey** is available online at www.monterey.org/rec or call 646-3866 for more information.

Don't forget the Monterey Recreation & Community Services Department also

offers a variety of afterschool and school holiday programs for children, including Fall & Winter Holiday programs, Sports Camp Plus and Cheerleading Camp.

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Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Employee Logon

Welcome to Monterey!

Monterey is a waterfront community on the central coast of California with a temperate climate year-round. Kayaking, scuba diving, surfing, whale watching and beach-going are just some of the activities to be enjoyed in and around Monterey. Golf, shopping, and driving the spectacular coastline to Big Sur are a few of the many land-based adventures.

Monterey is home to the world-renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium, a must-see attraction that delights and educates millions of visitors every year. Step outside the Aquarium and you're on Cannery Row, where John Steinbeck drew inspiration for his novel about life in Monterey during the heyday of the sardine canning industry. Today "the Row" is lined with hotels, shops and restaurants and features fun activities for the entire family.

From Cannery Row, you can walk or ride a rented surrey along the scenic Recreation Trail to Haferman's Wharf. About this area you'll find more details:



About the City

Find the calendar, newsroom, videos, photos, maps and contact information. Learn about Monterey in our Community Profile section and more.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

NEW CITY WEBSITE

*Chuck Della Sala, Mayor
Libby Downey, Councilmember
Jeff Haferman, Councilmember
Nancy Selfridge, Councilmember
Frank Sollecito, Councilmember
Fred Meurer, City Manager*

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CITY FOCUS is published
by the City of Monterey
Communications &
Outreach Office

The City has a new website that provides residents, businesses and visitors with access to information, photos and videos about Monterey 24/7.

More than 1.2 million pages are viewed on monterey.org by nearly 600,000 visitors to the site each year. Our website visitors come from around the world, with the majority from the U.S., Canada, U.K., Germany, Italy, France, Japan, Mexico and Brazil.

The City's website also sends the Monterey County Visitors and Convention Bureau (MCCVB) 25% of the traffic its website receives.

The most popular pages on our site are the [Home](#) page, [Visitor Info](#), [Library](#), [Sports Center](#), [Recreation](#) and the [Activities Guide](#), [Human](#)

[Resources](#), [Maps](#), and [Parking](#).

People spend the most time (over four minutes) on Visitor Info and Recreation online registration pages.

The new site offers easier and faster navigation to popular pages via icons. You can change text size with a click of the T button near the search bar. And the site scales to different devices so you can access it from your PC, IPAD or tablet, and most mobile phones.

Did you know many City procedures, applications, and forms are available online? You can also register and pay online for Recreation and Sports Center programs. You can pay parking tickets and Library fines online.

You can watch City Council and Planning Commission meetings online streamed live

or as video-on-demand on the [Monterey Channel](#) page.

Agendas, minutes and documents for all City Boards and Commissions are online through [I-SEARCH](#) Monterey.

Another new feature is the "I Want To" tab on the main navigation bar. If you're not sure where to look for something, try this tab.

The bottom section of our web pages contains navigation to Frequently Requested phone numbers, popular pages, our FaceBook pages, YouTube Channel and RSS Feeds.

If you want to find the latest news from the City, the most recent news releases are on the lower center section of the Home page, and all news releases are in the [Newsroom](#) and [News Releases](#) pages.