

City Focus

Winter 2015



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A Revitalized Monterey Conference Center

With key positions filled, the long-awaited design of the aging Monterey Conference Center is underway. Fully funded by Monterey's hotel and lodging facilities, the renovation will dramatically improve the City's and the County's position as a destination for meetings and conferences.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM), one of the largest and most influential architectural firms in the world, has begun design of the Center. Led by Ausonio, Inc., a Castroville-based project management firm, the renovation will give the exterior of the building a new look, and

create more flexible and usable space inside, without changing the square footage of the building. The project also will provide all new technology/ audiovisual systems, lighting and controls, state of the industry building systems improvements throughout the building, as well as LEED certification.

Feedback received from public meetings has helped the design evolve to meet customer and community needs. "We know our clients, businesses and residents have high expectations for an

upgraded facility to match our world-class destination," said Kim Bui-Burton, Community Services Director. "Our architects are listening, incorporating input and taking the time to get this right."

After a Council study session in mid-December, Planning Commission approval in late December and a late January community meeting, the Architectural Review Committee will review the project siting, form, mass and architectural style in early February.

A construction start date has not been determined at this time. Stay tuned for more updates soon.

Watch for the video version of this issue of City Focus - find it at monterey.org/cityfocus



New Mayor and Councilmembers sworn into office

A new City Council was installed at the December 2, 2014 City Council meeting. In front of a packed chambers, we said goodbye to Mayor Chuck Della Sala and Council members Frank Sollecito and Nancy Selfridge; we welcomed new (and former) Mayor Clyde Roberson, and new Councilmembers Timothy Barrett and Ed Smith.

Watch City Council Meetings
LIVE and on-demand on the
Monterey Channel:

Cable channel 25 and
monterey.org/tv



Mayor Clyde Roberson



Councilmember Ed Smith



Councilmember Timothy Barrett

Fixing Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Drains

BY COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH MANAGER ANNE MCGRATH

The City of Monterey will embark on a four-year program to fix streets, sidewalks and storm drains this spring. Funding for the much-needed infrastructure repairs comes from a one-cent per dollar increase in the sales tax, which goes into effect in April. That extra penny per dollar will generate \$32 million dollars over the next four years to be used only for street, sidewalk and storm drain repairs.

The City is hosting a series of community meetings so residents and business owners can learn more about planned street projects. We encourage you to attend any of the following meetings:

- **Monday, Feb. 9, Hilltop Park Center, 871 Jessie Street, 7-9 pm**
- **Wednesday, Feb. 11, Council Chambers, 580 Pacific Street, 7-9 pm**

► **Wednesday, Feb. 18, Casanova-Oak Knoll Park Center, 735 Ramona Street, 7-9 pm**

► **Monday, Feb. 23, Monterey Youth Center, 777 Pearl Street, noon-2 pm**

To keep you informed as construction gets underway, the City has created a web page at monterey.org/fixingstreets



Measure P was approved by 74% of voters in November, 2014. It authorized a 1% local district tax (sales and use tax) to be used "to address significant deferred maintenance by fixing streets, sidewalks, and potholes; improve related access and safety for senior citizens, disabled residents, and others; and repair its 100-year-old storm drain system to protect our beaches/Monterey Bay."



City Budget Update

BY FINANCE ANALYST RACHEL NOLIN

monterey.org/budget

The City is transitioning from a one-year (annual) budget to a two-year (biennial) budget. Advantages include favorable reviews by credit agencies, more efficient utilization of human and non-human resources used to produce the budget, a better grasp of

long-term finance planning and goals facing the City, but most importantly, a more transparent budget document focused on the resident as the reader.

As with the current annual budget, staff will adjust the budget periodically through Council action and produce

regular financial reports.

A community outreach program will enable residents to meet with Finance staff who will answer questions and receive feedback.



Meet the new fire engine

BY DIVISION CHIEF JIM BROWN

In December, a 2014 Pierce Quantum fire engine was placed into service at downtown Fire Station 1 at 600 Pacific Street. The new engine is nearly identical to the 2010 Pierce engine, which has been moved to Fire Station 3 at 401 Dela Vina.

Purchasing the new engine from the same manufacturer has many benefits for Fire Department operations and also makes the new engine easier for the City's Mechanical Division to service.

Some highlights include: Pierce Quantum cab with personnel and equipment restraints; built in roll-over protection; 500 hp Detroit Diesel engine that meets the new EPA emissions standards; a computerized multiplex electronics management system and LED lighting that provides brighter light with reduced maintenance costs.

Fire personnel are grateful to the City Council and our community for providing these important public safety tools, which will help the Fire Department successfully meet their commitment to "exceed the expectations of those we serve."

All are welcome to stop by Station 1 for a tour of our new Fire Engine #6411.

www.monterey.org/fire



"Our mission is to provide emergency medical aid, fire prevention, public education, suppression, disaster response, and related emergency services to the members and guests of our community."

The Monterey Police Department is a member of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Special Response Unit (SRU). The SRU is not only comprised of the Special Response Unit (SRU) but also the Critical Negotiation Team (CNT).

CNT team members are made up of officers from local police departments from Monterey, Carmel, Seaside, Sand City and Marina. After being selected to the team, each CNT member receives extensive training in critical incident negotiation tactics, communicating with people in high stress



situations, people suffering from mental illness, and people involved in domestic violence situations, to name a few. The team takes part in ongoing monthly training to keep their skills sharp and ready for any incident.

Using training and communication skills, the CNT Team attempts to resolve situations peacefully through verbal negotiations. The CNT negotiations team is an integral part of the entire SRU team and instrumental in gathering important information and bringing critical incidents to a peaceful end.

Monterey Peninsula Critical Negotiation Team

BY MONTEREY POLICE OFFICER PAUL OELFKE

www.montereypolice.org

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the

classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

Next CERT class starts in March

The next CERT class is scheduled! Don't miss out. Class dates: March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Please plan on attending all seven nights.

To enroll send an email to: montereycert@hotmail.com and include the following information: full name, physical and mailing address, email address most commonly used and cell and home phone numbers.

Registered students will receive an email confirmation. Those without email may leave a phone message at: (831) 646-3416.



Top fitness trends for 2015

BY MONTEREY
SPORTS CENTER
FITNESS MANAGER
BILL ROTHSCHILD



The big trend in fitness for 2015 is incorporating more body weight exercises into your fitness routine. According to the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), body weight training is the number one fitness trend for this year.

The Sports Center has you covered on this, offering several group exercise classes that incorporate body weight activities and are taught by highly experienced fitness instructors. Classes incorporating body weight training include Agility/Balance/Core, Athletic Training, Ball-last Ball, Beach Work-

out, Bone Builder, BOSU, Functional Fusion, Functional Strength, HIIT, HIIT for H2O Sports, RIPPED, Sculpt Express, Strength and Sculpt and more. Check our online

schedule for more class days and times and additional



information:

Other top trends on the survey include:

2. High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT)
3. Educated and Experienced Fitness Professionals
4. Strength Training

5. Personal Training
6. Exercise and Weight Loss
7. Yoga
8. Fitness Programs for Older Adults
9. Functional Fitness
10. Group Personal Training

monterey.org/sportscenter

Did you know the Monterey Youth Center offers a variety programs for the adults and children of our community?

Programs for children include Gymnastics, Hip Hop Dance, Irish Dance, Delightful Art, Afternoon Stories and Adventures, Piano and Guitar Instruction and much more!

Adults can explore their creativity by participating in programs such as Painting in Layers, Ballroom Dancing, Line Dancing and Joy of Singing: Vocal Lessons. Review our activities guide, **play!** **Monterey** for more activities and special events.

Stop in and see what this center has to offer for you and your family - call 646-3878 or visit us on the web at www.monterey.org/rec. The Monterey Youth Center is located at 777 Pearl Street (next to Dennis the Menace Park).

The Monterey Youth Center has lots to offer children and adults

BY RECREATION SUPERVISOR
SHANNON LEON



monterey.org/rec

459 Alvarado Street groundbreaking

BY PLANNING OFFICE STAFF



In November, 2014 the Monterey City Council, staff and community celebrated the groundbreaking of 459 Alvarado Street.

The mixed-use project consists of two buildings - one two story building (13,360 sq feet) facing Alvarado, one 3 story building (21,325 sq feet) facing Tyler. The project includes 21 apartments, three retail spaces and two restaurants. It will also have outdoor seating and a (subgrade) parking lot between the two buildings.

The site is on the property destroyed by fire in 2007. This is the first project designed in accordance with the Downtown Specific Plan.

Watch *Downtown Monterey: A New Chapter* for more information about the project and plan.

monterey.org/planning





**Project nomination
deadline:**

February 13, 2015

NOMINATION FORM
www.monterey.org/nip

**Nominate an
NIP project
today!**

Monterey has many unique features including the beautiful scenery, world-class parks and historic buildings that support the telling of Monterey's history. Another unique feature is the Neighborhood Improvement Program or NIP. Sixteen percent of the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) gets channeled into the NIP. The NIP is headed up by a team of neighborhood representatives who volunteer to serve on the NIP Committee.

These Representatives meet regularly with their neighborhood associations to gauge what matters most to their neighbors. And if those needs include a capital improvement, then the Representative can voice that to the entire Committee. Capital improvements are basically any physical



Ribbon cutting ceremony on January 23, 2015 for the new artificial turf field at Laguna Grande Park - paid for by the NIP, California American Water and Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District. The field will save 500,000 gallons of water a year.

improvement that is not readily movable. Examples would be park equipment, buildings, road improvements, drainage improvements and improvements to buildings. Capital improvements do not include items such as books, vehicles or the cost to operate a program.

If you have something you feel needs to be addressed somewhere in our City - it does not have to be in your neighborhood - please find the submittal form at monterey.org/nip.

You need not be a property owner and you don't

have to be a member of your neighborhood association in order to send in an idea. Your ideas will be routed to the appropriate Neighborhood Representative. Of course, your support and involvement in your neighborhood association helps in many ways.

"16% of TOT gets channeled into the NIP."

Doing your part to minimize urban pollutants

BY ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS MANAGER TRICIA WOTAN

The rainy season has arrived! Hurray, as California needs all the water Mother Nature can provide. With the rains it's good to think about how we're managing our home or business properties to prevent water pollution. Storm water runoff – that is the surface water flow generated during a rain storm that sheets across our properties, streets and runs down the gutters – acts as a vehicle for the pick-up and transfer of urban pollutants to our local waterways.

Urban pollutants include, but are not limited to: solid wastes (trash, recyclables, yard debris), cigarette butts, animal waste, cleaning and painting fluids, vehicular fluids, construction debris, sediment and other stockpiled materials, and the like. To prevent the movement of these pollutants from Point A (urban) to Point B (waterway), there exist many things we can easily and individually do to quickly protect local waterways and wildlife in the Monterey Bay. Since many of these items are commonly found at our homes and businesses, we recommend doing a brief 5-10 minute outside walk-about at your own home or business property today!

Below is a short list of features to look for, and manage:



- ▶ **Locate and know all roof drain outlets** and natural flow paths on the property: Inspect drains and outlets on your property for debris clogging and clear for proper flow. Doing so during dry weather can help you locate these if an issue arises during a storm.
- ▶ **Locate all materials stored outside** - Either safely move the materials indoors, place them each undercover, or securely cover them with a tarp, so no clean rainfall makes contact with the materials. Move all materials away from

natural flow paths and roof drain outlets. No material storage may occur on sidewalks or streets.

- ▶ **Inspect property for yard/landscape debris** – Ensure excess yard debris is placed in the yard waste bin for pick-up.
- ▶ **Identify all outside waste bins** – Ensure each bin has a lid, the lids are closed at all times, and educate family and/or co-workers about the importance of closing lids at all times on waste receptacles. If you're unable to close a lid, re-evaluate your property's solid waste needs by calling the waste hauler for solutions, such as adding another bin or more frequent waste pick-up. All bins must close at all times.

Store all bins undercover, where possible, except for pick-up times.

- ▶ **Inspect the driveway or parking areas** for vehicular fluids – If a leak is found,

immediately place a pan or other collection device under the leaky car to contain the fluid to ensure no further leakage. Schedule the car for immediate maintenance! To clean the driveway, utilize cat litter to soak the fluids up on the driveway, dry-sweep the litter up into a plastic bag, and dispose of properly.

- ▶ **Inspect the yard for pet waste** – Regularly pick up pet waste and dispose of properly in a covered waste bin. E. coli, a bacteria found in warm-blooded animals, is a bacteria transported in storm water that can impact local marine wildlife. When walking your pet, always carry waste bags and collect and properly dispose of later in a waste bin.

By following do a quick and easy tour at your home or business today, you can greatly help the City and regional agencies to better protect our local creeks, rivers, lakes and the Monterey Bay, and the wildlife that inhabit them – thank you!

"Managing stormwater run-off from our homes and businesses will protect local waterways and wildlife in the Monterey Bay."

www.monterey.org/stormwater

Find your way on the web

BY COMMUNICATIONS
ASSISTANT LAURIE HUELGA

The City of Monterey website at monterey.org provides a vast amount of information. Sometimes it can be hard to sift through it all to find what you are looking for.

That's why we made shortcuts to the key places people look at often. Here's a list of shortcut URLs to help navigate the site.

by Department/Division:

monterey.org/cemetery
monterey.org/finance
monterey.org/fire
monterey.org/harbor
monterey.org/hr
monterey.org/housing
monterey.org/library
monterey.org/museums
monterey.org/parking

monterey.org/parks
monterey.org/planning
monterey.org/ppw (Plans & Public Works)
monterey.org/projects (Capital Projects)
monterey.org/rec (Recreation)
montereypolice.org
montereyrecycles.org (Environmental Programs)
monterey.org/sportscenter
monterey.org/traffic

by Subject:

monterey.org/budget
monterey.org/buylocal
monterey.org/cityfocus
monterey.org/communitysurvey
monterey.org/emergency
monterey.org/gis (Mapping Tools)
monterey.org/lighthouseplan
monterey.org/july4th
monterey.org/newsroom
monterey.org/nip
monterey.org/stormwater
monterey.org/tv
monterey.org/vaf
monterey.org/waterfrontmasterplan

Having trouble finding what you need? Contact the webmaster - MontereyWebmaster@monterey.org or 242-8750.

New brochure, videos, highlight Housing Rehabilitation Programs

BY COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT LAURIE HUELGA

www.monterey.org/housing

The Housing Office has published a new brochure that explains the Housing Rehabilitation Program. This Program consists of several options of grants and loans, intended to improve the conditions of substandard owner-occupied single-family homes with special emphasis placed on the remediation of health and safety housing issues.

Learn more and check out the three video testimonials that describe some of the home repairs done for past participants in the program on the Housing Rehabilitation Program Overview page.

The Program uses federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds. To learn more about HUD please visit www.hud.gov.



Click the image to view
the brochure in PDF



Service by the numbers: Teen turn out tremendous

BY MONTEREY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
STAFF

10th annual Wine & Chocolate Benefit

BY LIBRARY SPECIAL
SERVICES
COORDINATOR
JEANNE MCCOMBS

This year, the Library continued to provide a welcoming place for you to gather, read, study, learn and grow. Bolstered by funding for Sunday hours, the Library experienced an 8% increase in the number of visitors who enjoyed a wide range of services and resources for all ages.

One noteworthy success is the 27% increase in overall program attendance, partly owing to the introduction of more lectures and technology workshops, the popularity of early literacy and reading readiness programs for small children, and continuation of the award-winning Stories for Adults series.

Teens represent the largest growth in program participation. The astounding 140% increase is due, in

Now it's easier than ever to purchase tickets for the Friends of the Monterey Public Library's 10th annual Chocolate & Wine Tasting Benefit on **Friday, February 20, 7 - 9 p.m.**

Celebrate a Decade of Delicious Decadence with wine tasting, chocolate cakes, brownies, petit fours, chocolate

fountain, cookies, and many other delights both sweet and savory.

Buy tickets at the Library Help Desk, or visit mplfriends.com and purchase tickets online. \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Must be 21-up to attend.

ANNUAL REPORT



2013 / 2014



Service by the Numbers

Teen Turn-out Tremendous

large part, to the efforts of our newly hired Teen and Reference Librarian.

- ▶ 1,453 items were borrowed
- ▶ 360,794 visits to the Library and Bookmobile
- ▶ 12,535 attended 270 cultural and informational programs
- ▶ 86,595 customer questions were answered

▶ 2,920 volunteer hours donated

From the Monterey Public Library Annual Report 2013-14. View a copy

www.monterey.org/library



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20th 7-9PM



Check out the
video for more
information

What is "Give me three"

BY ASSOCIATE CIVIL ENGINEER ANDREA RENNY

On September 16, 2014, California Vehicle Code (CVC) 21760 requiring motorists to give at least three feet of clearance when passing people riding bikes went into effect. The legislation, enacted as the "Three Feet for Safety Act," is intended to increase safety for bicyclists.

New California Vehicle Code, Section 21760, in part:

(c) A driver of a motor vehicle shall not overtake or pass a bicycle proceeding in the same direction on a highway at a distance of less than three feet between any part of the motor vehicle and any part of the bicycle or its operator. (emphasis added)

(d) If the driver of a motor vehicle is unable to comply with subdivision (c), due to traffic or roadway conditions, the driver shall slow to a speed that is reasonable and prudent, and may pass only when doing so would not endanger the safety of the operator of the bicycle, taking into

account the size and speed of the motor vehicle and bicycle, traffic conditions, weather, visibility, and surface and width of the highway.

"Give me three" Quick Facts

Watch the 30 second video:



www.monterey.org/traffic

This year marks the 30th year of City Focus. This anniversary issue brought us a new format for the City Focus newsletter. Now you can enjoy catching up on the latest City news from your mobile device.

Kind of fitting, seeing that the premiere issue was published in the summer of 1985 when Clyde Roberson was the city mayor; and this is the first issue of his newly elected third

term. Roberson served two consecutive terms as mayor from 1983-1987, as well as many years as a Councilmember from 1981-1990 and 1996-2006.

In the first issue, it states, "the goal of City Focus is to provide an enjoyable and informative newsletter to the residents and friends

of Monterey...We hope you will enjoy and become a regular reader of City Focus."

As City Focus begins its 30th year, just as the first issue intended, we hope you are a regular reader and that the information helps to connect us all as a community.

Whether you prefer

printing a PDF version, perusing from your desktop, tablet, or mobile phone, now you have a viewing choice. Whichever you choose, enjoy, and thank you for being part of City Focus.



www.monterey.org/cityfocus

Thirty years of City Focus

BY COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT LAURIE HUELGA



Mural at MacAbee Beach



City Focus Newsletter

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City Manager's Office

City Hall
580 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940

(831) 646-3760

Suggestions:
(831) 646-3793

MontereySuggest@monterey.org
www.monterey.org/cityfocus

MAYOR

Clyde Roberson

COUNCILMEMBERS

Timothy Barrett
Libby Downey
Alan Haffa
Ed Smith



City Focus is published by the City of Monterey's Communications & Outreach Office to inform citizens about the programs, services and activities of city government. City Focus is available by email subscription and is posted online in January, April, July and September.

Connect with us



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