As California’s First City, we are true to our roots, and continue to be community leaders in many facets, including infrastructure improvements, environmental sustainability and the economy. Empowered by the guidance of our City Council, supported by a committed and dedicated staff, and motivated by a passionate and innovative citizenry, Monterey had a signature year in 2016, and 2017 is on course for the same.

**Infrastructure** - Improving our infrastructure was a big theme in 2016. We made significant strides with many key projects: Measure P is in its second year of improving streets, sidewalks and storm drains; the “What a Relief!” Sewer Rehabilitation Program, the Holman Highway 68 Roundabout Project and the $60 million Conference Center renovation are all scheduled for completion in 2017; many NIP projects like the lighted basketball court along the Recreation Trail were completed; and the CalAm Monterey Pipeline Project (a non-City project) began. These are each huge projects on their own, and collectively a great undertaking that will improve our quality of life for many generations to come. Thank you for your patience and understanding through all of this work.

**The Environment** - Monterey is diligent in striving to be a great steward of the environment. In 2016 a groundwater contamination site at 951 Del Monte Avenue was injected with a treatment reagent and natural soil microbes, and was successful in naturally beginning the process of breaking down the existing underground pollutants.

The Cities of Pacific Grove (PG) and Monterey completed an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Plan which maps out a strategy on how the cities plan to improve water quality. Based on this plan and strategies, Pacific Grove with Monterey as a project partner was awarded a $4.4 million implementation grant.

**The Economy** - Like the rest of the country we are moving through the remnants of the Great Recession. If you look back only ten years, you can see important progress. Trader Joe’s opened over ten years ago, and it’s been nearly ten years since the opening of the Intercontinental Clement on Cannery Row. Alvarado Street has seen an impressive transformation. The theme for 2017 will include more projects that will improve other business districts and neighborhoods. We continue to be successful in acquiring grants to help fund many of these projects.

We have also been a celebrated City, winning numerous national awards for our commitment to our military connection and all they bring to enrich our community and help our economy thrive.

Monterey is a full service city, and I am proud of the quality work of our dedicated staff. We are all earnest ambassadors who work hard for our neighbors, businesses, military partners and visitors. Likewise, I appreciate the passion, support and patience of our community during a year that was filled with major construction.

I encourage everyone to continue being involved in the City of Monterey in 2017. Your participation is vital to keeping our community one we can all appreciate and be proud of; and thank you for reading City Focus.

Thanks,

Mike McCarthy
Winter Storm Watch

The January storms have brought much needed rainfall, helping the Monterey Peninsula along with much of California climb out of the drought.

The City of Monterey Emergency Preparedness team thanks you for your continued diligence in preparing for winter storms. We have a couple of key web pages with information that are great resources. Find emergency preparedness information under the Residents tab of monterey.org or go directly to monterey.org/emergency. Sign up for text alerts, and read the Monterey Storm Center page that has information on what to do before, during and after a storm.

Report Issues: For power outages and downed power lines, call PG&E at (800) 743-5002. Treat lines as if they are "live" or energized. Keep yourself and others away from them.

For storm drain, tree and street-related issues: during business hours call the City of Monterey at (831) 646-3860; after hours call 646-3914.

Before and after a big wave. Photos taken only moments apart at Del Monte Beach, as record-setting waves caught a person off guard. Be cautious and never turn your back to the ocean.
New City Council begins the new year

Once again we have a Dan Albert on City Council. Son of former long time Mayor Dan Albert was sworn in at the last meeting in December 2016, along with Mayor Clyde Roberson and Councilmember Alan Haffa. Councilmembers Albert and Haffa will serve terms of four years, and Mayor Roberson will serve another two year term. Councilmembers Barrett and Smith’s terms run through November 2018.

The City Council encourages expression of opinions by its citizens on any matter of community interest that is within the Council's scope of authority. Oral presentations during Public Hearings and the Public Comments portion of the agenda, written communications, and oral requests are all appropriate methods for expressing these views. If you wish to present a matter to the City Council, notify the City Clerk at (831) 646-3935 or by email at gawf@monterey.org.

Learn more about the City Council process and meet your Council members by going to the City Council page on the City Hall tab of monterey.org.

The Council's Mission: "The Monterey City Council will provide visionary policy and legislative leadership that assures a safe, healthy and economically vibrant community. Anda!"

The motto "Anda" means onward in Spanish and is symbolic of the spirit of the City of Monterey and expresses the hope for continued forward growth.

City graduates third class of ambassadors

Fifteen employees graduated as City of Monterey ambassadors in November 2016, the third class of graduates since 2013. Learning about Monterey helps employees provide excellent customer service to the community and is the impetus for creating this important program.

Each ambassador was nominated to be in the program by their department head or manager. "This is something I wanted to get started as soon as I became City Manager," said Mike McCarthy. "It has been even more successful than I imagined."

The Ambassador Program schedule is impressive. In this session there was a total of eight half-day sessions taking place every 3 - 4 weeks. Participants learn the history of Monterey, development of the city, and focus on the waterfront, Cannery Row and the Aquarium. Then they move onto tourism and have an opportunity to tour each auction during Car Week. Next they concentrate on resident-serving departments, including Recreation, Public Works, Police and Fire. They learn about the cemetery, the community centers and public safety. They finish with a session on "The Future of Monterey," which teaches them about the library's education programs, and current infrastructure improvements and planning projects that will benefit the community into the future.

The program also raises morale, bonds employees, and helps them learn the role of departments other than their own.
The Presidio Municipal Services Agency (PMSA), a partnership between the City of Monterey and the Presidio of Monterey, was awarded the Army Community Partnership Award from the U.S. Army. The U.S. Army launched this inaugural award program to recognize partnerships between installations and communities that provide cost efficiencies, improve community relations and mission training, and demonstrate ingenuity. More than 19 installations and neighboring communities were considered for the award.

The City of Monterey has provided base operations services for the Presidio of Monterey since 1998. The PMSA partnership has become known as “The Monterey Model” and is now being adopted by communities across the country. Services include the maintenance of streets, buildings, storm drains and parks.

This fall, the PMSA entered into a new five year agreement for the delivery of municipal services. The Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) will further streamline and reduce costs, and support a continued military presence in Monterey. The City of Monterey was also visited by Army TV, who shot a documentary about the Monterey Model.

To watch the video, and for more information about the Monterey Model, visit montereymodel.org.

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A joint Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Project ($8.9 million) developed by the cities of Pacific Grove (PG) and Monterey has been awarded a Proposition 1 Implementation Grant in the amount of $4.4 million, with Pacific Grove as the lead agency, and Monterey as a project partner.

The Project is known as the "Pacific Grove-Monterey ASBS Wet-Dry Weather Storm Water Capture and Diversion Project". Major components of the Project include Engineering Hydraulic Analyses, Design, and Construction of Storm and Sewer Capital Improvements, Water Quality Monitoring, and Public Outreach/Engagement opportunities. This grant is critical to completing final engineering designs for a portion of the capital improvements necessary to the PG storm drainage system to both reduce pollutants and better protect the Pacific Grove ASBS coastline, as well as study other ASBS opportunities to contribute to water re-use in the Monterey Bay area.

Collaboration between the two cities on ASBS environmental quality goals started back in 2006 with the first regional ASBS alternatives studies. As this Project moves forward, the cities will be developing information to be posted online, such as Project updates, documentation, and announcements about workshops.

To learn more about the Pacific Grove ASBS, visit cityofpacificgrove.org or contact Monterey Environmental Regulations at (831) 646-3895.
Much of the focus in today’s challenge with climate change is rightfully focused on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, pulling GHGs, mainly carbon, out of the atmosphere into sinks* is being seriously considered as a very powerful and critical complementary tool for minimizing GHG impacts.

One of the main sinks for carbon turns out to be one of its main generation points: soil. It has been estimated that more carbon resides in soil than in the atmosphere and all plant life combined. There are 2,500 billion tons of carbon in soil, compared with 800 billion tons in the atmosphere and 560 billion tons in plant and animal life.

The degradation of soil from unsustainable agriculture and other development has released billions of tons of carbon into the atmosphere. According to Rattan Lal, director of Ohio State University’s Carbon Management and Sequestration Center, the world’s cultivated soils have lost between 50 and 70 percent of their original carbon stock, much of which has oxidized upon exposure to air to become CO2.

Without carbon and critical microbes, soil is degraded to simple dirt, which has been occurring at epidemic rates around the world. Many scientists indicate that regenerative agricultural practices can reverse this process, reducing atmospheric CO2 while also boosting soil productivity and increasing resilience to floods and drought. Techniques to promote this process include planting fields year-round in crops or other cover, and agroforestry that combines crops, trees, and animal husbandry.

Given our heavily agricultural economy in Monterey County, the way we utilize our land could have profound impacts on climate change. In addition to increasing crop yields, it will also be very important to consider this potential resource in reducing atmospheric carbon in the coming years to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

*Sink definition: A part of the physical environment, or more generally any physical system, that absorbs some form of matter or energy.

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**Neighborhood Improvement Program - submit a proposal**

There's still time to submit your ideas for a neighborhood improvement. The deadline is **Friday, February 17**. Get ideas and learn all about this great program at monterey.org/NIP.

Stay involved by checking the meeting schedule, and help decide on which projects get funded. Contact the Engineering Office with any questions, (831) 646-3921.

✔ Nomination Period Now Open - Submit Your Project Today!  
**Deadline is Feb. 17, 2017**
The Housing and Property Management (HPM) office develops and administers a variety of housing programs and policies that seek to: enhance available housing opportunities and fulfill the community service needs of low, moderate, and workforce-income households, and other special-needs populations including disabled persons, senior citizens, and persons at risk of homelessness.

**Property Management**

They are also responsible for the administration and management of city-owned properties including property and lease administration, property services, special projects such as the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP), the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Redevelopment projects and the Window-on-the-Bay project.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Objectives and Scope**

The HPM distributes funds to non-profit organizations providing community services to low- and moderate-income Monterey residents through its annual community services grant funding process.

Each year, non-profit organizations can apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Agencies may be awarded a Grant based upon the target population and services they provide. This year’s CDBG application period just opened January 7 and applications are due February 24, 2017. The program manual and application packet is available on the Community Services Grants page at monterey.org/housing.

**Homeownership Programs**

The City provides affordable ownership opportunities at a number of sites, through deed restricted, price controlled covenants. The Purchase and Resale Program provides for a small increase in value each year. It is an opportunity to gain all of the benefits of ownership, such as tax benefits, increased equity and freedom from renting.

To qualify to purchase a home in the Program, a household must have a family member who works in the City of Monterey, or the household must live in the City. The income from all adults living in the household must be below the maximum for a Moderate Income Household.

Much more information about services and programs offered are available online. You can also contact the HPM office at (831) 646-3995. The office location will be moving soon from Van Buren Street. Watch for details coming soon about their new office location.
Recently, Monterey City Code (MCC) 23-4 was amended to prohibit alcohol on public beaches except by valid written permit. This amendment was a result of a combined effort by the Recreation Office and Police Department to improve the experience and conditions of public beaches for everyone and reduce resultant crimes often associated with alcohol. This alcohol prohibition also brings Monterey beaches in line with other local jurisdictions.

The MCC 23-4 now requires beach attendees who wish to consume alcohol to receive a permit from either the Recreation Office or Police Department depending on the size of their proposed event. All events of eleven people or more are required to receive a permit through the Recreation Office. This permit is associated with the Group Beach Use Permit ($50 resident, $65 non-resident) available online at monterey.org/events or monterey.org/parks. All events of ten people or less are required to receive a permit ($10) from the Police Department.

A promotional and badge-pinning ceremony was held at the Council Chamber on Thursday, January 26. Congratulations to Monterey Police Sergeant Ethan Andrews for his promotion to Lieutenant. Congratulations also to Monterey’s newest Police Officers: Edward Gimbel, Sabrina Perez, Alfredo Sabino and Brandon Silveira.
The Monterey Fire Department is adding new members to its ranks. Nine firefighter recruits began an academy on January 9, 2017, to fill existing vacancies and several added positions. This group represents some significant achievements for the Department as it is the largest and most diverse group of Firefighter Recruits ever hired by the City of Monterey.

The Fire Department applied for and was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant in 2016. This grant will pay for the cost of three added positions for two years. In September 2016, the City Council added two further positions to help offset overtime costs. In addition to these new positions, the Department is filling four vacancies due to retirements.

The new Recruits will undergo a rigorous training regimen that includes not only firefighting skills, but also advanced rescue skills, marine safety operations, aircraft firefighting, and emergency medical care. The Academy will run 18 weeks after which the firefighters will complete the remainder of an 18-month probationary period where they will continue to refine their skills while working as part of a fire company. With the addition of these firefighters, the total sworn staffing of the Monterey Fire Department will be 82 personnel of which 78 are assigned to the Operations Division.

The Monterey Fire Department provides fire protection and prevention, rescue, and emergency medical services to the cities of Monterey, Sand City, Pacific Grove, and Carmel-by-the-Sea, as well as to the Presidio of Monterey, Naval Postgraduate School, La Mesa Village, and the Monterey Regional Airport.

For more information about the Monterey Fire Department visit montereyfiredepartment.org and join the neighborhood social network Nextdoor at nextdoor.com to receive our neighborhood updates.
Beginning in February 2017, Monterey Fire will be converting to a new county-wide fire agency station and apparatus numbering system to coincide with Monterey County Emergency Communications implementation of a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software. Under the new system, every fire station and apparatus in the county will have a unique number. Monterey Fire has been assigned the range of numbers from 11 through 20.

Stations will be numbered as follows:

- Station 11 - Downtown Monterey (Pacific Street)
- Station 12 - New Monterey (Hawthorne Street)
- Station 13 - North Monterey (Dela Vina Avenue)
- Station 14 - Pacific Grove (Pine Avenue)
- Station 15 - Carmel (6th Avenue)
- Station 16 - Monterey Airport

Phone numbers remain unchanged. Find out more at montereyfiredepartment.org

The next CERT training takes place over seven consecutive Thursday nights from March 9 through April 20, 2017. Class time is 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Attendance at all seven classes is necessary to graduate.

All classes are taught in Monterey. Anyone may enroll by sending an email of interest to: training@montereycert.org Once enrolled you will receive a confirmation with class location and further details. CERT Training is offered free of charge. Those without email can leave a phone message at (831) 646-3416.

This course provides 24 hours of community service credit to High School Students.

Be “in the know” on all the weekly construction happening around town - make sure you check monterey.org/construction and review the “Construction this Week” section. Information gets updated every Friday afternoon for the following week. It includes all major City of Monterey construction projects, and a few large projects managed by other agencies, like the Cal Am Monterey Pipeline Project.

Also, review the maps showing the Measure P street resurfacing status and the “What a Relief” Sewer Rehabilitation Program status up to January 2016.

Monterey.org/construction

Pavement resurfacing status

Sewer rehabilitation status
Check out the NEW Monterey Channel 25 schedule at monterey.org/tv! Besides airing public meetings (including City Council, Planning Commission, Architectural Review, Historic Preservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission), the channel also features original programming produced by the Communications and Outreach Office. Watch fun and informative programs about City services, events and attractions. Watch online or on Comcast or AT&T U-Verse. Here's the direct link to the schedule: http://monterey.org/Portals/0/Schedules/Monterey-Channel-Guide.pdf

AMP Media launched an online customer satisfaction survey to measure the awareness and impact of its public access and city government cable television production services among Monterey County residents.

The survey will run until February 15th. To encourage survey participation, respondents will be eligible for a random prize drawing from supporting local organizations.

Get all the details and take the survey at www.ampmedia.org/survey
Monterey Public Library’s newest program, Movie Science Theatre 3000, invites children in 3rd through 5th grades to explore science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) through a cinematic lens. Each week kids will experiment, explore, and deepen their understanding of STEAM through activities based on popular movies. From designing boats for Moana to exploring sounds via Sing!, this is a program that is sure to inspire, delight and educate.

[monterey.org/library]

Sample a wide variety of local wines, and enjoy a dazzling array of sweets and savories featuring chocolate in its many forms. The event features a beer garden, live music, “Balloon Pop” buy-a-prize, silent auction, live music and more fun than anyone should be allowed to have in the library!

Tickets are $30 in advance or $35 at the door. Must be 21-up to attend. Purchase tickets at the Library Help Desk or online at www.mplfriends.com

Friends of the Monroe Public Library’s 12th Annual Chocolate & Wine Tasting Benefit
February 17, 7 - 9 p.m.
Monterey attracts pro baseball
BY MEDIA ASSISTANT ERIC PALMER

Play ball! Professional baseball is coming to Monterey! On January 17, the Monterey City Council unanimously approved a special event permit for Sollecito Park to the Pecos League.

The Monterey Amberjacks will go to bat starting June 2 and play 16 games in the summer season. Come cheer on our local team on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

The Pecos League is an independent professional league with 12 teams in Colorado, California, Kansas, New Mexico and Texas. Go Monterey 'Jacks!

Check the schedule at montereyamberjacks.com

Old Monterey Foundation to Hold Ceremony for Entrance Sign Unveiling at Lower Presidio Historic Park on Friday, February 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

Old Monterey Foundation is pleased to announce a special Lower Presidio Historic Park Entrance Sign Unveiling Ceremony at the entrance to Lower Presidio Historic Park on Friday, February 3rd from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. The ceremony will take place at the bottom of the hill off of Pacific Street and Artillery Road.

The Lower Presidio Historic Park, described as “The Most Historically Significant Site on the West Coast” and “One of the Most Beautiful Places in Monterey”, is on its way to becoming a true historic public park to be enjoyed by locals and visitors. Don't miss this event. Download a copy of the invitation here: monterey.org/Portals/0/News/LPHP-SignCeremony.pdf

Watch the video, also on YouTube https://youtu.be/Lg7X0spnC4k
The Monterey Sports Center is pleased to announce that a brand new line of strength training equipment is now featured in the Weight Training Center. Matrix, a high-quality brand of stack weight and free weight equipment, replaces the Hoist line of equipment that has been featured since 2002. Staff is ready to assist you if you have any questions regarding use of the new equipment. Come on by to take a tour of the facility and speak with our staff about classes, programs, and memberships.

Check out our updated class schedule on the Group Exercise page: monterey.org/sportscenter/Group-Exercise

Monterey Recreation is currently recruiting staff for our summer programs. We are looking for people who enjoy being around lots of children and can be flexible and adaptable in a variety of situations. Successful candidates need to possess a positive attitude that combines enthusiasm, spirit, cooperation, patience, and a willingness to learn.

We are looking for candidates with strong references that indicate dependability and a sense of integrity. Benefits for these positions vary according to each job but include income, work outdoors, development of leadership skills and being a positive role model for children. Positions available include Playground Recreation Leader, Day Camp Counselor, Camp Quien Sabe Resident Camp (Counselor, Kitchen Helper, Crafts Leader, Handyperson and Cook).

The application deadline is Fri., March 17 by 5:00 p.m. Apply at 546 Dutra Street, Monterey, 646-3866. Spread the word about our exciting job opportunities.

More information can be found online at monterey.org/rec