Our Spring edition of our "City Focus" is here! Please take a moment to review the numerous articles written by our staff with you, our residents, in mind. We hope you will find them informative.

A lot is happening in Monterey! Walking down Alvarado Street, the historic heart of our City and probably one of the last places where you can regularly hang out with locals, you will find new businesses moving in. Established local spots like Rosine’s, Old Monterey Café, and Red’s Donuts never shut down during the pandemic and helped keep downtown active. ANDA!

While many other hospitality based businesses have returned to normal, here at City Hall we are in the middle of drafting our new budget for the next fiscal year. Yes, our main revenues such as hotel tax, sales tax and property tax have been impressive and we have made good use of those. We replenished our fund for economic uncertainty, we added capital reserves for our Sports Center and Conference Center, and we created a new Sea Level Rise Resiliency fund to name a few of the measures.

But, what is often overlooked, is that our fee based programs in Parks and Recreation, especially our Sports Center, have yet to see our customers return to pre-pandemic levels. Our flagship operation at Monterey’s premier fitness facility, our Sports Center, has seen a return of 50% of our customer base.

continued, page 2
Our Recreation summer programming will once again offer dozens of program including our popular summer camps. Yet, until we have also reached 2019 program participation levels, the City’s finances will need to continue to make up the differences between revenues and operating costs.

So today, I encourage you to take a new look at our programs and decide for yourself if you are willing to return to our Sports Center or our Recreation programs. We solved the Chicken and the Egg problem – we are already there and are waiting for you!

As always, thank you for allowing us to serve you. It is our privilege to work for the residents of our great City!

P.S. Don’t miss Monterey Mornings with the Manager, every three weeks on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. (next up April 20, May 11, and June 1), live at youtube.com/cityofmonterey

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Calendar

Staff is busy working on a Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 budget that will start July 1 and run through June 30, 2023.

To be part of the process, please join the City Council for Study Session "Budget Presentation Primer" on April 27 at 4:00 p.m. Adoption of the final budget is scheduled for the June 7 City Council Meeting, or if more time is needed, then the June 21 meeting.

This flyer explains how the pandemic has affected the City's budget.
Monterey Sports Center to celebrate 30 years, June 1, 2022
BY MONTEREY SPORTS CENTER MANAGER DR. ANDREA WILLER

On June 1, 2022, the Monterey Sports Center will celebrate its 30th anniversary! The idea of a “Swim/Gym” was presented to the Monterey City Council in 1986. The City Council and the citizens of Monterey strongly supported a facility that would serve the entire community, including children, teenagers, adults, senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and all members of the extended family. The concept of a “Swim/Gym” evolved into what is now known as the Monterey Sports Center which opened its doors on June 1, 1992.

Over the past 30 years, the Monterey Sports Center has built a diverse and inclusive community and is consistently regarded as the best overall fitness facility on the Monterey Peninsula. The Sports Center addresses many diverse needs within the community. It’s a place for kids to build skills, friendships, and self-confidence through swim lessons, basketball clinics, martial arts classes, and more. It is a safe haven alternative for teens to drop in after school to play basketball or work out with friends. It is a premier fitness facility with a variety of cardio and strength equipment and very robust personal training and group exercise programs. It also serves our active senior community with specific programs and classes designed and overseen by the Medical Advisory Board. The Monterey Sports Center truly has something for everyone.

Despite being closed from March 13, 2020 to March 22, 2021, the Monterey Sports Center is bouncing back and continues to serve the social, emotional, mental, and physical wellness needs of the Monterey peninsula. It continues to be the heartbeat of our community.

The Sports Center will celebrate its 30th anniversary by rolling back daily admission pricing for one day, offering throwback group exercise classes set to the 90’s top hits, and offering a 30-day pass for just $30!

So, pull out your leotards and leg warmers, your parachute pants, or your Dolphin short shorts and celebrate the Monterey Sports Center’s 30th Anniversary on Wednesday, June 1, 2022!
The Monterey Police Department’s 2021 Annual Report has just been published. The 22 page Report provides information on staffing, calls for service, crime and traffic statistics, police transparency, hiring and training, as well as priorities for 2022. Please enjoy reading through the comprehensive report. Get to know more about your Monterey Police Department and your community.

The annual reports are posted along with the monthly reports under the Get Informed tab at montereypolice.org.

In a message April 8, 2022 on their social media channels, Monterey Police posted: “In the last two weeks, MPD Officers have arrested three different individuals in possession of Fentanyl. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 80-100 times stronger than morphine and often results in overdose death. Fentanyl is often mixed into other drugs such as heroin, cocaine, and fake pills. One pill can kill.”

To help combat this troubling situation, the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD) and Montage Health produced a new video, Student Safety Resource Video - What is Fentanyl?

Available in English and Spanish, the City of Monterey and Monterey Police encourages everyone in the community to watch and share the video with family and friends. Knowledge is power. Let's work together to stay safe and keep our community healthy.

Follow the Monterey Police Department on social media: @montereypolice on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and on Nextdoor. Get mobile text alerts by texting 93940 to 888777.
In case you missed it, the Monterey Bay Search and Rescue Council conducted a Search and Rescue exercise March 24, 2022 off Asilomar Beach. The scenario was based on a report of a 'Person In the Water' search.

The drill included the use of drones, and inter-agency communications and coordination, as drones can pose a major threat to aircraft performing searches. The multi-agency team included Monterey Fire Department Battalion acting as the Incident Commander, two U.S. Coast Guard Station Monterey 47 ft motor lifeboats, U.S.C.G. H-65 helicopter from Air Station San Francisco, U.S. Navy H-60 from Naval Air Station Lemoore, Seaside Fire Department Drone Team, California State Parks Life Guard jet ski, Cal Fire Battalion, and the Pacific Grove Police Department.

Photo credit: Lawrence Gay - see more photos at https://instagram.com/p/CbiMBgPlCDP/

Monterey has an active and well-organized volunteer (CERT), funded by the City of Monterey.

Here’s the link to the April 2022 edition, featuring a home fire safety checklist, calendar of events, and information about the latest response to a fire on Prescott Street in Monterey.

For more information on CERT, or how to become a CERT member email training@montereycert.org. The monthly newsletters are also linked from monterey.org/cert
The City of Monterey has regulated wireless facilities that provide cellular service for many years. City ordinances have been updated periodically as technology and federal regulations have changed. The last significant update was in 2016. The City Planning Commission will be considering an update to the City ordinance starting on April 26, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Wireless services continue to evolve. The days of larger facilities disguised in flag poles, faux trees and on top of buildings is dwindling. These larger sites may be maintained and antennas replaced as needed. However, newer technology provides service in smaller networks. Many of the major wireless service providers are looking towards pole mounted facilities on existing or new telephone poles in the right of way. There will be considerably more facilities as the new technology is installed.

The proposed ordinance requires use permits for all facilities that will include noticed public hearings. The City can regulate the aesthetics of facilities and confirm conformance with federal radio frequency standards, however, we can not regulate the technology. Please come and learn more about wireless facilities at the Planning Commission public hearing on April 26, 2022.

The agenda will be posted in advance at isearchmonterey.org.

The Tenant Protection Act (AB-1482) establishes a limit on how much rents can be raised annually and provides certain eviction protections for renters. Rent increases in California are now limited to 5% annually plus an inflation adjustment based on the local Consumer Price Index, but the total increase cannot exceed 10%. The Act also provides new eviction protections related to just-cause and no-fault evictions.

There are a number of exemptions included in AB-1482, so anyone interested in more details should contact ECHO Fair housing, and read the Frequently Asked

Questions
New hotline number to report potential short term rental violations

The City of Monterey is actively enforcing Monterey City Code (MCC), Section § 22-19.5, the "advertisement of short-term rentals" ordinance. Any house rental of less than 30 days is illegal in Monterey. If you think a violation of this ordinance is taking place, please call the Short Term Rental Hotline at (800) 673-0203.

Thank you for your awareness, interest and support in ensuring advertising of short term rentals doesn’t adversely impact Monterey neighborhoods and residents’ abilities to find affordable housing options.

Find out more about code compliance at monterey.org/codecompliance.

Ins and outs of Code Compliance
BY CODE COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR RORY LAKIND

Cities need codes to keep residents safe, and to coordinate planning for the benefit of creating and maintaining thriving communities with happy residents.

One of the most common issues that the Code Compliance Division works with is building without a permit. The best way to avoid this situation is to review the plethora of information on the City's website, or contact the Building & Safety Division at (831) 646-3890 or Planning Division at (831) 646-3886. A building permit is required for many different projects at your residence or business.

Examples for when you DO NOT need a permit include:

- Painting the interior or exterior of a home or business
- Replacing kitchen cabinets that are of the same dimensions
- Minor non-structural repairs

We suggest you contact us first, to avoid the possibility of additional expenses, delays or citations if the work requires planning, building, or engineering permits. Our teams in both offices work hard to help you through to project completion. The City Code is available online with a great search feature at https://monterey.municipal.codes/.
The City of Monterey has been working to fulfill a state-mandated regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) that assigned Monterey 3,654 housing units (1,177 very low income, 769 low income, 462 moderate-income, and 1,262 market rate), and to place this housing closer to jobs as well as address equity metrics, all within a 2023 to 2031 timeframe. The aspirational goal to address these issues is impossible with the current water supply restrictions imposed by the State.

To address the lack of water to fulfill the housing needs requirement, City of Monterey Mayor Clyde Roberson, on behalf of the Monterey City Council, sent a letter on March 17, 2022, to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). In the letter, Mayor Roberson requested that the State Water Resources Control Board immediately lift the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) since the illegal diversions have ceased. If the CDO is lifted, developers could set new water meters and work within the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District’s Credit System.

The City supports affordable housing and through rezoning of Garden Road, and looking at other City-owned properties that can be converted into affordable housing, it is on track to fulfill the California Department of Housing and Urban Development mandate. We continue to urge the SWRCB to allow us to do just that. Read the related news release

Residents will begin seeing more streets fixed this spring and summer, thanks to Measure S funding. The Citywide Road Rehab Phase 3 is now in full swing and is scheduled to be completed by early August.

This phase of work includes five schedules encompassing streets in Old Town, Downtown, Monte Vista neighborhood, Del Monte at Hannon avenues, and Henderson Way off Garden Road. See Map and the LATEST SCHEDULE

We appreciate your understanding while we complete this work, and thank you for overwhelmingly voting yes on Measure S! Updates continue to be posted at monterey.org/construction.
When planning home upgrades and renovation efforts this year, consider using alternatives to architectural copper to protect our local environment. Stormwater runoff from buildings and streets picks up pollutants along its path, including copper. Most runoff flows untreated to the Monterey Bay, resulting in these pollutants being deposited there. Common sources of copper in the environment may include vehicle brake pads, tires, automotive fluids, pesticides, anti-fouling paints, wash waters, and architectural building materials.

While the State is phasing out copper brake pads in the coming years, other building and landscape products with copper such as roofing materials, shingles, downspouts, gutters, rain chains, light fixtures, and the like, are common in our area. When rainfall encounters these surfaces, it picks up the metal, along with other pollutants, and delivers them to local waterways. At elevated concentrations, copper may be harmful to aquatic life. For these reasons, look for outdoor product alternatives for homes and gardens and to better protect the environment.

Some alternatives may include coated steel roofs, aluminum or galvanized downspouts and gutters, and non-copper rain chains and light fixtures. If architectural copper already exists outdoors on your property, try to direct that runoff to a landscaped or planted area, cover the copper feature with a non-toxic long-lasting clear coating, or replace the feature when it’s time to do so with a different product. And lastly, avoid using chemicals that accelerate outdoor copper corrosion (to achieve a patina). Let’s think twice about the outdoor materials we use, and help protect our Bay! LEARN MORE

The Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program certifies businesses that go above and beyond regulatory requirements by preventing pollution and conserving natural resources. The program is a successful partnership of environmental agencies, utilities and nonprofit organizations that assist, recognize and promote businesses and government agencies that volunteer to operate in a more environmentally responsible way.

Learn more about this important program at https://greenbusinessca.org/cityofmonterey
Residents can now help reduce landfill greenhouse gas (GHG) emission impacts on climate change by recycling accepted food scraps in their green curbside cart.

Why is diverting food waste significant? When food scraps are placed in the landfill, they emit methane due to the lack of oxygen. However, when food scraps are diverted to be composted, emissions are primarily composed carbon dioxide due to the availability of oxygen. Methane is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere, thus contributing more readily to climate change. Additionally, the resulting compost supports nutrient-rich soils wherever it’s deposited.

A few tips on recycling your food scraps:

- Residents may use bags to line their kitchen pail, then place them in the garbage once ready to be discarded. Residential customers should not place plastic bags (petroleum or plant-based) in the green cart.
- Do not place raw meat or liquids in the green cart.
- Do not place compostable plastic food service-ware in the green cart.
- Layering food scraps between yard trimmings can help minimize odor.
- For multifamily properties that have not yet received a bin, you can contact your property manager about the new collection – where the cart will be and when they will have it on site.
- Free kitchen scrap pails are available for pickup at the City of Monterey Planning Office and the Monterey City Disposal Service office Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (closed from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.). While supplies last. One per household.

**Questions? Contact the Sustainability Office at (831) 235-5415 or Monterey City Disposal Service at (831) 372-7977.**

Connect with the Sustainability Office on Instagram @montereysustainability - Providing sustainability tips, resources, and other information to promote environmentally conscious living in Monterey.

And on the web: monterey.org/sustainable

Tips are also available within seconds via the What Goes Where mobile app or at WhatGoesWhere.info.
The City of Monterey is proposing to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products and single-use disposable e-cigarettes within City limits, and the City Council and staff want community feedback. Two community virtual town halls are scheduled. Register for your preferred Town Hall using the links below:

- Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. - Zoom Link
- Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. - Zoom Link

The ordinance bans the sale of all flavored tobacco and vape products along with all disposable e-cigarette products regardless of flavor by retailers but does not prohibit their continued use and will not impact citizens in possession of flavored tobacco or disposable e-cigarettes. Youth vape usage has been trending upward since the early 2010s and the Surgeon General of the United States declared a youth vaping epidemic in 2018.

The City’s proposal is an effort to minimize underage exposure to flavored tobacco products, which are increasingly marketed to youth by tobacco and vape companies. In addition, a ban on the sale and distribution of disposable e-cigarettes is an extra step to preserve Monterey’s invaluable natural environment. Once passed by the City Council, retailers of these products will have 180 days to sell the remainder of their inventory before the ban is fully enforced.

This comes just a few weeks after the Board of Supervisors passed a similar measure for unincorporated areas in Monterey County. Several other cities in the area have passed similar laws, including Pacific Grove and Santa Cruz, and the State of California passed its own bill in 2020. California voters will consider a veto referendum to overturn Senate Bill 793. The veto referendum has been submitted by the California Coalition for Fairness, a group largely funded by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Philip Morris USA and its affiliated U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Co.

Hundreds of municipalities have enacted similar bans to curb youth vaping and smoking. Studies show that vaping and smoking from a young age inhibit proper brain development and increase the odds of addiction to tobacco and other harmful substances later in life. It has also been found that detrimental chemicals from e-liquid and lithium-ion batteries, often from disposable e-cigarettes, pollute the environment and can be harmful to wildlife and water quality.

Links to register for the meeting and additional information is also posted at https://haveyoursaymonterey.org/flavoredtobacco.
A MIIS Graduate Student Intern's perspective
BY BRIANNA KENNEDY, INTERN, CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE

As a student in the International Environmental Policy master’s program at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS), working for the City Manager’s Office in Monterey appealed to me because of the opportunity to be exposed to the local policy-making environment. While I have previous experience in the corporate world, I wasn’t sure how those skills would translate to directing and drafting policy, something I consider integral to my future career plans. After a thorough interview process, I was fortunate enough to be selected for the internship and started in October of 2021. I immediately felt at home in the office due to the warm welcome by my new colleagues, and our Public Information Officer Laurie Huelga took me on a tour of City Hall and other City facilities to meet the rest of the friendly City staff.

My first assignment was an initiative brought to the City Manager’s attention by a Monterey resident and was gaining momentum throughout California – the youth vaping epidemic. I received some background information from my supervisor, Nat Rojanasathira, the Assistant City Manager, and was asked to research and provide policy options for an ordinance to ban flavored tobacco and vaping products. Before I knew it, I had presented my research and policy recommendations, drafted an agenda report and ordinance for the City Attorney to review, built an informational page for the initiative on Have Your Say Monterey website, scheduled two town hall meetings to collect feedback from the community, and drafted a press release – all things I had never done before. In late April, I will be leading the town hall meetings and eventually I will be presenting this initiative to the City Council for deliberation. As an intern, the trust and support I’ve received over the past six months from the team at the City Manager’s office, and the City of Monterey as a whole, is unparalleled. The experience I’ve gained from this one assignment has been invaluable, and is just the first of many projects I’ve had the pleasure to be a part of during my time here.

One of my favorite parts of the job was collaborating and exchanging knowledge with other city and state officials. I recently began working with the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services to place additional tsunami hazard zone signage around the city to align with the new tsunami hazard areas assessed in 2021. I also reached out to the ADA Coordinators of several surrounding cities to gather feedback and ideas when putting together the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Monterey's ADA Transition Plan update. Throughout the process of researching and drafting the ordinance for flavored tobacco, Monterey County Health Department officials in the Tobacco Program were incredibly helpful and encouraging. When the summer ends and it’s time to pass the torch to the next intern, my sadness to leave will be mixed with pride for the growth I’ve achieved here, gratitude for the valuable connections I’ve made, and excitement for the next student and the opportunities they will find to better our community.
Knowing how to identify poison-hemlock

Monterey has a plethora of outdoor opportunities, with many parks, playgrounds, and paths to recreate. Just like most communities with large outdoor environments, we have invasive plant species that has the potential to disrupt fun.

One of those plants is poison-hemlock. Poison-hemlock (Conium maculatum) is a wildflower that grows throughout the United States, and although its flowers are quite similar to those of Queen Anne's lace (Daucus carota), you want to avoid touching this plant. Poison-hemlock and Queen Anne's lace are both part of the wild carrot and parsnip families, which is where they get their similarity in appearance.

According to the USDA, "all parts of poison-hemlock (leaves, stem, fruit, and root) are poisonous," and the leaves are especially poisonous in the spring until the time that the plant flowers. It typically grows along fence-lines, and in moist places. To avoid confusing poison-hemlock and Queen Anne's lace, which is safe to include in flower arrangements and edible, here are a few ways to differentiate between the two plants.

STEMS
- Poison hemlock: Hollow stems that are green with purple spotting
- Queen Anne’s lace: Solid green stems

LEAVES
- Poison hemlock: Hairless leaves
- Queen Anne’s lace: Fine hairs on leaves

SCENT
- Poison hemlock: Has an unpleasant odor when crushed
- Queen Anne’s lace: Roots smell like carrots

Thanks for being aware of, and avoiding, poison-hemlock. More information is available in these three articles:
- http://ravensroots.org/blog/2015/6/26/poison-hemlock-id

Thank you to a Monterey resident for this article idea. Have an idea for a good article for an upcoming City Focus issue? Send your idea to webmaster@monterey.org
All three museums managed by the City of Monterey are open for visitors. Colton Hall and the Presidio of Monterey museums are open weekends 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the Pacific Biological Laboratories (PBL) offers free monthly tours.

Another fun option to take you back in time is to use the Explore Historic Monterey multimedia cell phone tour - it includes maps, images, text and sound, and is available 24/7 at cityofmonterey.oncall.com.

We continue to add more content to the Museums web pages at monterey.org/museums. Links to sign up for the PBL tours are on the main page.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 25

REGISTRATION FOR MONTEREY RECREATION SUMMER CAMPS OPENS APRIL 25! Monterey Recreation is planning for the return of our much loved, traditional summer camps and programs including Camp Quien Sabe Youth Overnight Camp, Whispering Pines Day Camp and the Summer Fun Playground Program. We are offering a full schedule of summer camps for all ages and interests including Tiny Tots Summer Camp, Playwell LEGO®, NERF, Gymnastics, Woodworking and Chess Camps. Field Sports Camps include Beach Volleyball, Challenger International Soccer, Flag Football, Basketball and Track and Field Camp.

Registration will be available online 24/7 at monterey.org/rec. Follow Monterey Recreation on Facebook and Instagram or online at monterey.org/rec for updates as new programs will be added. STAY TUNED!

Full program information is posted on the Monterey Recreation registration website. Questions? Email: montereyrecreation@monterey.org. It’s time to play! Monterey.

**Monterey Recreation is still hiring for summer camps!**
Part-Time job opportunities at the Monterey Sports Center!
BY MONTEREY SPORTS CENTER MANAGER DR. ANDREA WILLER

The Monterey Sports Center is looking for outgoing, community-spirited, hard-working individuals for part-time employment. We are hiring for a number of positions including: Facility Attendants, Front Desk Attendants, Lifeguards, Swim Instructors, Personal Trainers, and Camp Counselors. Pick up an application today at the Monterey Sports Center front desk or visit our website at montereysportscenter.org.

If you have any questions, please call the front desk at (831) 646-3730.

Voted best health club in Monterey County 2014 - 2021!

Sports Camp is back at the Monterey Sports Center
BY MONTEREY SPORTS CENTER MANAGER, DR. ANDREA WILLER

Sports Camp will include over 20 fun activities each week and will allow opportunities for campers to learn new skills, make new friends, and build self-esteem and confidence. The Sports Center is offering eight action-packed weeks of camp June 6 - July 29, 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Each week offers fun activities such as swimming, soccer, wiffleball, basketball and more.

Camp is available for children 6-12 years of age. Early drop-off and extended pickup available for additional fee. Register online at montereysportscenter.org or at the Monterey Sports Center front desk. Please note: Space is limited.
Monterey Public Library offers learning kits
BY MONTEREY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUMS DIRECTOR INGA WAITE

Check out our new social and emotional learning kit backpacks for families. Each kit provides tools to equip parents to help children (ages 2 - 10) learn to identify and manage emotions. Subjects include anger, anxiety, empathy, gratitude, grief, kindness, loneliness, mindfulness, and patience.

Backpacks can be borrowed for three weeks (Library cards are free to all California residents). Backpacks contain books, a game, a tip sheet of activities, and suggestions for further learning. The backpacks are part of Monterey Public Library’s Resilience Project, an initiative funded by the Friends & Foundation through Monterey County Gives!

New online services directory helps you find what you need with a quick search

Under Services in the main menu at monterey.org, the Services Directory lists hundreds of service topics, the department/division responsible, and the best contact to get the information you need. You can search any city-related topic and see what options are available. You can also sort by heading. We invite any comments as to if it’s useful, or how it can be improved.

Send feedback to webmaster@monterey.org.
Back on March 1, shortly after Putin's Russian forces invaded Ukraine, the City of Monterey lit historic Colton Hall in blue and yellow, the national colors of Ukraine, to show unity and support for the Ukraine people. Peace must prevail.

Watch for the summer issue of City Focus coming in late July.