

volume XXXVI, no. 3

A Report from the City of Monterey to its Citizens and Friends

Summer brings reopening - Message from the City Manager



Monterey Conference Center is open and welcoming guests

Summer 2021 - we are seeing our City returning to a more normal life - yet, known unknowns, specifically the COVID-19 variants and the effects on unvaccinated and vaccinated, are impacting our return. Still, the Monterey Peninsula is full of people enjoying our natural beauty and our iconic destinations including Cannery Row, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Fisherman's Wharf, recreational trail, and beaches.

Monterey's Sports Center is - once again - open seven days a week. Many of our residents have returned to enjoy workouts or to play as a family in the pools or gymnasium. Our team in Parks and Recreation has reopened Scholze Senior Center, which will offer programming for our older demographic. Our summer program has been completed and many of Monerey's children were participating in sold out programs held throughout town. Our Library is open.

Here is the bottom line of our Finances: The reopening of our facilities was only made possible by the infusion of \$6.5 million from the American Rescue Plan Act, a measure passed by Democrats in Congress in

March 2021. While the \$6.5 million covers just about 20% of our COVID-19 losses of more than \$32 million, we were able to bring back employees to help us staff the Sports Center, Library, Conference Center and recreation centers. Our budget also restored previously unfunded positions in our Police Department, Public Works and in our Housing division.

"The course of the pandemic will decide if we can achieve this goal..."



Message from the City Manager, continued



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Over the next 12 months our City's revenues, specifically hotel, sales and property taxes, need to increase by \$6.5 million just to ensure that we can continue the service levels we restored this year through the help of the American Rescue Plan. The course of the pandemic will decide if we can achieve this goal of maintaining services - being vaccinated is one way of ensuring that our communities can return to a post-pandemic new normal.

Yet, as we are putting together this City Focus, we are seeing California's infection rates increase. The message to all of us remains - be vigilant and continue to trust science and medical experts. There are no "flip-flops" by our health experts, but conscientious and transparent discussions and adjustments made in a pretty serious battle.

Monterey is ready for a new renaissance. Our employees are here to help and serve you. Please take a moment and enjoy reading our City Focus. As always, if you have any questions, concerns or just want to talk, please feel free to reach out to me personally at uslar@monterey.org or call me at (831) 646-3760. Have a safe summer!

Hans Usle



City facilities reopening after COVID-19 closure: City offices remained open virtually during the COVID-19 stay at home order, but city facilities had to temporarily close. Now staff are back in offices and facilities are reopening: the Library, Conference Center, Sports Center,

Museums, and Community Centers, are all open, some with limited hours, most with fewer programs and services, and all adhering to the latest Monterey County and State health expert guidelines to help us all stay safe from COVID-19.

We are happy to see you again, and thank you for your continued vigilance to help defeat COVID-19!

Monterey Fire Department open house a big success, vaccinations continue



Monterey Fire Department continues to vaccinate people through various COVID-19 vaccine clinics, offering all three vaccine options: Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson). On July 31, 2021 they hosted an open house at Fire Station #13 on Montecito Avenue. The event attracted many families to enjoy tours of three fire engines, a Firefighter Challenge Course, face painting, crafts as well as a basketball free-throw contest organized by the Monterey Recreation Division, a visit with the Monterey Public Library's Bookmobile, hot dogs, cotton candy and popcorn, and an opportunity to get

vaccinated.

The second dose clinic for those who received their first dose of Pfizer at the open house is August 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The Fire Department also have vaccine clinics scheduled at the Farmers' Market and Marketplace on Alvarado Street on Tuesdays.

As of August 1, 2021, the Monterey Fire Department has held 60 clinics and administered 4,461 doses.





Thanks to everyone who participated in the open house. It was a fun to see so many people there!

Two paths forward on COVID-19

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM MONTAGE HEALTH/COMMUNITY HOSPITAL OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

In July 2021, Dr. Mark Carvalho, CEO, Montage Medical Group, and Dr. Allen Radner, CEO of Salinas Valley Medical Clinic and chief medical officer of the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System, co-wrote an opinion editorial piece sendt to local media on the importance of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Everyone wants to be done with the devastating medical, social and economic consequences of this pandemic. Unfortunately, there is little reason to believe that the virus that causes COVID-19 is ever going away. The question is how we can successfully mitigate its presence and move on.



Early in the pandemic, we hoped that COVID-19 would disappear. Nineteen months into the pandemic, however, the virus hasn't disappeared but has progressively mutated into increasingly more infectious variants. It is quite likely that everyone who hasn't been vaccinated will ultimately be infected with COVID-19. (For example, prior to the development of a measles vaccine it was believed that up to 98% of the population became infected.)

The majority of those infected with COVID-19 (as with measles) survive with self-limited infections. Unfortunately, a small percentage of those infected with either illness die or are left with debilitating problems. A small percentage of a large population translates to frighteningly large numbers of avoidable illnesses and deaths.

Remarkably, we have the opportunity to choose our path forward. With the introduction of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines we can choose from two options — vaccine-induced immunity or the immunity conferred by infection. One clearly is a more difficult road.

By every marker, the risks of complications and deaths from a COVID-19 infection exceeds the risks of vaccination. Additionally, as immune dysregulation is a component of a COVID-19 infection, the immunity from an infection may not be as robust as the immunity from a vaccination (hence the recommendation to vaccinate individuals who have had an infection). Critically, while the vaccines are not 100% protective, those vaccinated who become infected have milder illnesses. Greater than 90% of the country's current hospitalizations and deaths have occurred in unvaccinated individuals. Overwhelmingly, in our county, current Covid-19 hospitalizations are occurring in the unvaccinated.

While the rapid development of an effective vaccine should be celebrated, our evolving understanding of the virus coupled with the ease with which disinformation can be disseminated has instead undermined popular confidence in scientific messaging. Given the advantages of vaccine-induced immunity, however, the overwhelming majority of US healthcare workers have chosen this path. At the Salinas Valley Medical Clinic and Montage Medical Group, 166 physicians have opted for and strongly encourage vaccination for their patients. Currently, there are tens of thousands of unused vaccines in Monterey County. Vaccines available, at no cost to patients, to everyone 12 years of age and older.

We will ultimately get past this — the question is how many unnecessary lives will be lost because we took the more difficult path.

Allen Radner, M.D. is the CEO of Salinas Valley Medical Clinic and chief medical officer of the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System. Mark Carvalho, M.D. is the CEO of Montage Medical Group. https://www.montagehealth.org/patient-family-resources/coronavirus/two-paths-forward-on-covid-19/

Common questions about COVID-19 testing

Where can I get a test?

Free COVID-19 tests are available at state supported testing sites throughout Monterey County. Some clinics and pharmacies also offer testing. Register for a free test at a site near you, or call 1 (888) 634-1123 to make an appointment.

Does it matter what type of test I get?

Yes — the right test for each person's situation really does matter. Here are the different types of tests:

PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests are highly reliable for people with or without symptoms. They show an active infection or recent past infection. If you do not have symptoms and want to be tested for travel, work, or some other reason, you should get a PCR test. (There are now also nucleic acid amplification tests, which are similar to PCR tests.) PCR tests are available for free at county testing sites. They are also available for a fee at Doctors on Duty, and through commercial labs such as Quest or ArcPoint.

Antigen or rapid antigen tests should be used only if the patient has symptoms. The results are not reliable for people without symptoms, so antigen tests should not be performed on people without symptoms or for reasons such as travel or returning to work.

Antibody tests indicate whether someone may have had an infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. It does not diagnose a current infection.

Timing on results varies; ask the provider you are using.

If I tested positive, should I have a second test later to show that I no longer have COVID-19?

No. According to the CDC and Monterey County Health Department, you must quarantine for 10 days after the positive test result. A second test is not helpful as those who have tested positive can still test positive for COVID-19 for months after the positive result. After the 10 days, it is thought that you are no longer contagious to others if no symptoms are present.

What if I need a test to return to work or school, or to travel?

Testing and repeat testing is not recommended to "clear" people to return to work after having COVID-19 or a COVID-like illness. Current recommendations are for people to be cleared to return to work based on CDC guidelines and improvement of symptoms without the need for a repeat test.



City of Monterey introduces a new website, offers a site search challenge to win Monterey 250 commemorative gear

The City of Monterey today announced the launch of a brand new city website at monterey.org. Our current website content management system was outdated, not supported, and took in-house development and hosting. The new website CMS, *Revize*, provides development and hosting and much more robust features, including enhanced search and ADA accessibility features, facility and services directories, new calendaring and enotify features, and more. Some of the robust features are still upcoming but will be completed soon. It will take search engines a few more days to re-index the site, so searches may result in errors. Following a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process, a website design firm was identified, with a first year costs of under \$15,000, with a free website redesign in four years. The project was

completed in less than six months, an aggressive and notable timeframe given the complexity of the website.

To promote the exploration of the new website, the City created a type of scavenger hunt. The first 15 people who email the correct answers will win a set of Monterey 250 commemorative gear - a baseball hat, t-shirt, and poster.



The deadline to participate is Friday, August 27, 2021. (Please note: Until the search engines - Google, Bing, etc. - finish re-indexing the new site, using the search feature may send you to a 404 page not found.)

To participate for a chance to win gear from last year's celebration of Monterey's 250th birthday, find the list of items below, copy and paste the correct web page for each item in a list, and email to: *webmaster@monterey.org*. Include your name and city of residence. (Please note: We will not mail items to winners.)

Find the following:

- 1. A photo of two basset hound dogs on a beach.
- 2. A photo of the brand new wildland fire engine.
- 3. What does MDOT stand for? Find the page hint: related to Monterey Police
- 4. Besides the home page, and the City's Twitter account, where would you look for emergency information?
- 5. Where do you find Planning and Building permit information?

We appreciate the community's patience as we continue to make changes to this new website, and encourage your feedback. Please send comments and suggestions about the new site to webmaster@monterey.org.

Summertime Individual Car Washing Best Practices

BY TRICIA WOTAN, ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS MANAGER

Did you know that even a quick 10-minute car wash at home may produce more than 100 gallons of polluted runoff the to environment? When washing cars, the dirty/soapy water often contains oil, grease, metals, dirt, and other pollutants from the surface. vehicle's Depending on where



the car is washed, the dirty water may flow into City gutters and storm drains that flow to the Monterey Bay. Instead of allowing this to happen, use these summertime car washing 'best practices' to help protect the Monterey Bay, and the marine life that lives there.

- **Commercial Car Wash:** This is the best place to wash our individual vehicles and protect the environment. Commercial washers are equipped with high-pressure hoses and sophisticated machinery that limits the amount of water used. An automatic car wash will use about 30-45 gallons of water per vehicle according to a 2018 study by the International Carwash Association. Commercial car wash facilities are either directly connected to the regional sewage treatment system or their water is recycled and reused onsite for water savings and conservation.
- Car Washing at Home: If you're the DIY type, and where feasible wash your car on a permeable surface like grass or gravel that will allow the ground to absorb and filter the dirty water. Conserve water by using a bucket of water rather than running the hose; use an automatic shut-off nozzle on the hose. Use products labeled "non-toxic", "phosphate free", and "biodegradable"; sunlight assists in the breakdown of these products when they're slowed and captured by permeable surfaces.
 - If vehicles are washed on a hard surface (non-permeable) such as a driveway, try to berm the wash waters and either divert or broom into a landscape area or use an appropriate wet vacuum system to collect and dispose of them properly into a landscaped area or your sanitary sewer.
 - Soapy/dirty car wash waters are not healthy for marine life.
 - Important note during drought: Check for local water restrictions to ensure this at-home use of potable water is allowed – drought conditions may limit or prohibit this use in some instances.
- **Go Waterless:** If your car only needs a light touch-up from a small amount of dust or dirt, try a waterless car wash spray as appropriate.

Street Sweeping Best Practices - It takes a village!

BY ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS MANAGER TRICIA WOTAN AND SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR TED TERRASAS



The City of Monterey's waste hauler Monterey City Disposal Service (MCDS) also provides street sweeping services that serve Monterey residents and businesses, alike. The program's goal is to assist with keeping Monterey streets clean and litter-free as best as possible, while also reducing contaminants that can make their way into our storm drainage system and reach local waterways, including the Monterey Bay.

To ensure effectiveness of this program to sweep trash and debris off our streets, your help is needed! Please:

- Move your vehicle off your street on the assigned dates for sweeping at your location.
 - Sweeping in most locations is either weekly or every other week, except for business districts that are swept multiple times per week due to their high use.
- Keep trees and shrubs trimmed back from your sidewalk and street.
 - Overgrown vegetation may interfere with the sweeper and garbage trucks, too.

To learn your street's sweeping schedule, visit http://www.montereydisposal.com/our-services/street-sweeping



- 1. Locate your street on the 'Street Sweeping Legend/Map' and click on the applicable Map Number to learn your street's 'frequency' of sweeping.
- 2. Then, view the 'Street Sweeping Calendar' to see the exact dates when your Map Number is scheduled for sweeping the Calendar also indicates 'Day' or 'Night' sweeping, as well.

Visit the MCDS Street Sweeping web page to learn more.



REPORT SANITARY SEWER SPILLS AND ILLEGAL DUMPING

To report sanitary sewer spills and illegal dumping to the street, waterways, or the storm drain system, please call one of the following:

(831) 646-3921 (during business hours)

(831) 646-3914 (during after hours)

911 (county-wide, anytime)

NEW in 2021! Single-Family Household Battery Recycling Program

BY MALLORY PANKRETZ, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR The City of Monterey Sustainability Office is pleased to announce that Monterey City Disposal Service can now collect household batteries for recycling! Single-family households in Monterey may now recycle batteries by placing them on top of their recycling carts.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES Accepted Batteries 9V, AA, AAA, C and D

- Place in a clear zipper bag, 1-quart or less
- Tape the tops of all square-base batteries (bags with untaped terminals will not be collected)
- Place bag on top of the blue recycling cart lid do not place inside cart
- Only one 1-quart bag will be collected per week
- Bags containing items other than what is specified above will not be collected
- Liquid-acid and car batteries will not be collected
- Single-family residences only. This service is not available to multi-family or commercial customers.



Questions? Contact Monterey City Disposal Service at (831) 372-7977 or the Monterey Sustainability Office at (831) 235-5415. Connect with the Sustainability Office on Instagram: @montereysustainability

Housing Programs Snapshot, FY 2020-2021

The Housing Programs 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.

Please refer to Plans and Reports for more information, and take a look at the just published Housing Programs Snapshot for fiscal year 2020-2021. This of course was a unique year given the pandemic, and the housing programs reflect the unique needs. Print copies are also available in the Housing Programs Office, lower level of Colton Hall. You can call (831) 646-3995 with any questions.

For more information on city housing programs, visit monterey.org/housing.



creating an Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The City spent approximately \$960,000 in Community Development Block Grant and other funding to provide emergency rental assistance to low income households. The program was unique in that eligible applicants included persons that lived or worked in the City of Monterey, ensuring our workforce was included in the program. The City received an additional \$1.25 million from Monterey County and the United Way of Monterey County to continue the Emergency Rental Assistance through December 31, 2021.

In addition to Emergency Rental Assistance, the City's Housing Programs Office continued to provide funding for a variety of housing and community development programs, while also soliciting development proposals to bring 150 new affordable housing units into downtown Monterey.

Downstairs Colton Hall, 570 Pacific Street monte

monterey.org/housing

North Fremont Bike and Ped Improvement from Casanova to Canyon Del Rey - the North Fremont Gap Closure Project

BY ASSOCIATE CIVIL ENGINEER MAX RIESER The award-winning North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Access Project was a great addition to the network of bike paths or trails that people can use to safely walk or bike throughout town. However, that project was grant funding dependent and unable to incorporate (as intended) the segment of Casanova Avenue to Canyon Del Rey Boulevard. This has left a temporary connection "gap" where no sidewalk nor bike lane exist on the north side.

The City of Monterey's Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program allocated funds to design a solution. The block presents several challenges such as environmentally sensitive areas, steep slope/ elevation changes, right-of-way width constraints, as well as being a multi-jurisdictional area (the cities of Monterey and Seaside and Caltrans). City staff and consultants have analyzed the challenge and determined the most cost effective solution to be a pedestrian bridge.

The bridge will provide a Class I mixed-use path that will connect users from the North Fremont corridor to the much larger future FORTAG network. The bridge will be a pre-fabricated, pratt truss style structure, with ADA-compliant concrete decking. We anticipate steel cables to match the aesthetics of the constructed North Fremont bike lanes as well as pedestrian-level lighting, but the design is ongoing (and input is welcome). The construction cost estimate is \$1.5-2M. The current project is funded for the project design only, not construction. The goal is to have a completed design, "shovel ready" project by the end of the year, which will put us in a position to apply for grant funding to close the gap.

Keep an eye out at

https://haveyoursaymonterey.org/north-fremont-street-transportation-corridor

for the development of a project information page and FAQs. Below is rendering of the proposed project design.





Updated Measure S paving schedule map



We made good progress this summer on paving streets. Here's an updated map showing the planned work into fall, weather conditions allowing. The new map is available below and the list of streets for completion in 2021 are both on the website at monterey.org/fixingstreets.



Waterfront Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF)

Construction of the Waterfront Resource Recovery Facility is complete. This new unit will allow wharf merchants to recycle and compost their food scraps in an environmentallymanner. friendly This is another important step forward in the City's stewardship of the environment.

The facility is located along the Recreation Trail in the Waterfront Lot. The project cost \$1.04 million, with nearly 95% of the funding coming from the Tidelands Fund and the Marina Fund, and 5% coming from the General Fund.



Monterey Recreation offering recreation opportunities for all ages BY RECREATION MANAGER SHANNON LEON

Since late Spring, Monterey Recreation has been offering adult softball leagues and a variety of summer camps for youth. With summer winding down, we will be bringing back many of the great programs and services that the community has come to expect. The Hilltop Park Center, El Estero Park Center and the Scholze Park Center will be open with programs and activities returning in phases beginning August and September.



Register now for the following program;

- 30+ Adult Baseball League
- Men's and Co-ed Softball Leagues
- Pee Wee Soccer and Junior Soccer
- Monterey Recreation Preschool Programs at El Estero and Hilltop Park Centers (Preschool begins August 3. Please call the location of your choice to make a registration appointment.)

Programs that will be offered soon include;

- Programs at the Scholze Park Center for Adults and Seniors
- Gymnastics at El Estero Park Center
- Fall School Break Programs at Hilltop Park Center
- Youth Flag Football League
- Pilates for Bone Health and Balance at Hilltop Park Center
- And Much More!

Stay Tuned! Please check our website at monterey.org/rec for updates as more programs are added and opened for registration. You can also email montereyrecreation@monterey.org and request to be added to our email list to ensure you receive the latest updates. It's time to *play!Monterey*.



Focus on fitness at the Monterey Sports Center



What is the best fitness program for getting in shape? The answer is: one that you enjoy! If you enjoy your workout, you will be

more committed to it and see faster results. little а extra motivation Need or accountability? Sharing your fitness goals and exercise interests with a Personal Trainer helps you develop a program that leads to success. Whether it is losing weight, building strength, conditioning for sports or recovering from an illness or injury, the Monterey Sports Center team is here for you. Get your multi-session package for as low as \$35/half hour.



Want to learn how to use the cardio and weight room equipment more effectively? Ask about our Fitness Orientations! Group Fitness Orientations are free with a paid membership and offered on the first and third Saturday of each month. Just register online at montereysportscenter.org or stop by the Front Desk. If you prefer a private Fitness Orientation with a certified personal trainer, the cost is \$25 per 30-minute session. *For an appointment, email msctrainers@gmail.com.*

More Hours for More Fun at the Monterey Sports Center

The Monterey Sports Center has added more hours of operation! Now open on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. See the new schedule which includes expanded evening hours and babysitting service in the Kids Zone too!

Hours of Operation (subject to change)

- Monday Friday: 5:30 a.m. 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.

(Please see hours for Family Recreation Swim below. NOTE: Pools and saunas close Monday-Friday at 7:30 p.m. and on Sat. and Sun. at 3:30 p.m.)

Family Recreational Swim (Note: Children 5 years old and younger must be with a companion 18 years of age or older when in the water.)

- Monday Thursday: 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
- Friday: 2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Kids Zone Babysitting Service (For Ages 9 months to 8 years)

- Just \$10 per visit.
- Monday Saturday: 8:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.

(Maximum 2 hours per visit; \$10 per visit)



PARKING OPTIONS FLYER

Pickleball on the Peninsula BY PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR KAREN LARSON

For neighborhood locations, be mindful of the local residents and park in appropriate spaces while not exceeding the posted time duration.

Please use only USA Pickleball recommended pickleballs and paddles for quiet play. usapickleball.org and pickypickleball.com/quiet-pickleball-paddles/

Please keep excessive noise to a minimum.

VIA PARAISO PARK

Via Paraiso Park Tennis Courts 100 Via Gayuba

(831) 646-3866

Priority Times for Court Use:

Pickleball

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and 1st & 3rd Saturday of every month 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Tennis

Tuesday, Thursday, and 2nd & 4th Saturday of every month 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon

PICKLEBALL COURTESY

- Please keep excessive noise to a minimum
- Please use only USA Pickleball-recommended pickleball and paddles for quiet play.



monterey.org/pickleball

If the courts are not being used, anyone can play either pickleball or tennis. If players of both sports would like to play at the same time, and there is not enough court space for the players of both sports, the sport with the priority time is permitted to play and the other players should relinquish the court(s).

THE CITY OF

MONTEREY

All remaining days including Sunday mornings and all afternoons/evenings are open play and are first come first served.

Time Limits Singles: 1 hour Doubles: 1.5 hours

If no one is waiting, continue to play until others arrive. Courts are for tennis and pickleball play only.

Visit monterey.org/pickleball for a full list of pickleball locations on the peninsula







BY MONTEREY PUBLIC LIBRARY PUBLIC SERVICES MANAGER KIM SMITH

The library is open. It has been a long, wild ride, one that we could not have done without the support of our community and volunteers. We were the first library in the County to offer sidewalk service during the slow reopening from the COVID-19 stay-at-home order.

Upwards of 200 people a day used our sidewalk holds pickup service to borrow library items, but now we are looking forward to having browsing patrons back in the building.

Certain areas, such as nonfiction, DVDs, board books, and graphic novels rely more heavily on their visual presence to put themselves in someone's hands and out the doors. While we were closed, we are able to inventory and tag each and every item to deploy a system that will allow for more easy and quick checkouts. There's even a mobile app coming for those on the run!

Storytimes are resuming outside, and on Saturday, August 28th; join us for *Cascada de Flores*, a bilingual children's concert on the Colton Hall Lawn. For adults, we'll continue our local history, genealogy, and mindfulness programming. Check our website calendar for details!

The Bookmobile also restarted service! The schedule is available at https://monterey.org/services/library/bookmobile.php



The MPL Friends & Foundation is raising targeted funds for library collections, and the *Monterey Learns!* Campaign was launched publicly in February 2021.

For ways to become involved or make a donation, please visit investinmpl.org/monterey-learns





Monterey Fire Department's brand new Type 3 Wildland Fire Engine Watch for the fall issue of City Focus coming in late October

City Focus Newsletter

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(831) 646-3760

Suggestions: (831) 646-3793

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