

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

Covid-19 vaccines the next big hurdle - Message from the City Manager



MPUSD Nurse Melanie, after receiving her first Covid-19 vaccination

2021 is here! Already, the new year has brought us new challenges ranging from an insurrection to an impeachment and spikes in infection and hospitalization rates accompanied by a slow roll-out of vaccinations. On the other side of this spectrum, we witnessed an inauguration and a competent, "ready to get it done" administration transitioning into their new roles.

California's Stay at Home Order closed again many businesses - the seven-week Stay at Home Order showed an immediate effect on our City's sales and hotel taxes revenues. Over the next three months, our City staff will need to balance the existing budget and provide the Council and the community with a projection for next year's budget, which will start on July 1st.

In parallel, our teams are working on plans to reopen our Sports Center, Library, Senior Center and other community (park) centers, and possibly the Conference Center. Vaccines and vaccination rates will determine when we can return to the new "normal." Our opening strategies will be driven by public health considerations and by our finances. In effect, we will be discussing solutions with the Council and the community based on what we can afford. These will be tough discussions and even tougher decisions. I trust that at the end, we will see the solutions implemented are reflective of the wishes of our community.

**"So much depends on
vaccines..."**

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So much depends on vaccines, and in response our City staff is engaged on multiple levels in providing support to the Monterey County Health Department to organize vaccination events.

Our Peninsula’s Mayors are working very closely and collaboratively together to share with the elected County leaders our insights, needs and support.

We published a new public outreach platform - www.haveyoursaymonterey.org. Currently, the potential implementation of commercial cannabis retail operations is the main topic presented there. I encourage you to check out the new virtual engagement tool.

Enjoy this edition of our City Focus - there is so much to tell, share and ways for you to engage!

2021 is here! Our society has adjusted to living within the confinements of a worldwide pandemic. Going forward it is my sincere hope that every day will bring us a step closer to return to our cherished “Monterey Way.” Anda!

City Manager Hans Uslar



Vaccination registration links, available on the news page of monterey.org/coronavirus:

- [Monterey County Health Department Website](#)
- [CHOMP Website](#)

First-hand account of COVID-19 vaccination drive-through at CSUMB

BY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER LAURIE HUELGA



I took my husband to get his first vaccination this morning (Feb. 5, '21) at CSUMB - he is in the **current tier group**, age 75 and older. We signed up earlier in the week on the **MCPH Vaccination Registration Page**. This is the first week they are providing this larger, drive through clinic. It was great! We brought our dog, Finn, along for the ride. His ears perked up when he thought he was going on an outdoor adventure. Once we told him it was just a car ride, then his expression changed, but he was still happy it wasn't him getting the shot.



Finn's excited face as he awaits an outdoor adventure



Finn's face when he realizes his adventure is only a car ride, yet still relieved he's not the one getting the shot

The email provided thorough location instructions - LOT 59 off A and 7th streets (**SEE MAP**). All along the way they have A-frames lining the route showing arrows to LOT 59. Here's a bulleted list of the process we experienced:

1. Once we arrived, a representative directed us to the car line, and let us know they have five lanes and the process will go fast once we are in. We only waited about 10 - 15 minutes to get to the front of the line.

(article continued on next page)

First-hand account, continued

2. After entering the main lot area, staff have iPads to check you in with an ID, ask you COVID-related symptom questions, and then direct you to one of the five lanes, very clearly marked.
3. When you get to the front of your line, another staff member asks your reservation time, checks your name off the list, and asks if you've ever had an anaphylactic allergic reaction to any shot in your past, and the nurse prepares the shot.
4. The shot is administered.
5. After the shot is administered, they give you a vaccination card with instructions and the date for the second dose, and they direct you to another section of the lot to sit in your car for 15 minutes to make sure you don't have any adverse reaction.

Staff walk up and down the parking lot aisles and check on everyone waiting. It was really a breeze, and very well done. More clinics like this one will continue to be scheduled as vaccine availability increases. The [chart showing who is currently eligible](#) is available on the same County website. We hope this first-hand account of our experience helps you understand the process for when it's your turn. Thank you to all the health care workers for working so hard to help get us all vaccinated! We are on our way to defeating COVID-19!

Email questions to webmaster@monterey.org



Finance Corner - All hands on deck to tackle the pandemic's economic impacts



Like many local businesses, the City's finances have been rocked by the pandemic. The majority of City revenues come from taxes. [The top five revenue sources for the City make up 83% of the total general fund](#) - three of those five are sales tax, property tax, and hotel tax. The ripple effect is that when business is slow, the City's revenue decreases, reducing funding for vital programs and services, and ultimately diminishing quality of life for residents. For both fiscal year 2019/20 and 2020/21, the combined estimated General Fund COVID-19 revenue deficit is (\$34) million -- fiscal year 2019/20 of (\$11) million (-14%) and fiscal 2020/21 of (\$23) million (-28%).

It's been nearly a year since the Monterey Conference Center, Monterey Sports Center, Monterey Public Library, museums and community centers have been open for full service operations. Consequently, dozens of City staff remain laid off. Of the original 92 positions (68 of those were filled) that were laid off, we have been able to hire back a number of positions, leaving 50 individuals still on the layoff list. Despite this loss in community programs and services, the City of Monterey administrative, public safety including public works operations has never closed; some teams are working from home and helping the community virtually.

So where are we right now, and where are we going?

We are concentrating our finances on local programs, people, and businesses. To help our community get through, we have established:

- Renters eviction protections
- Rental assistance program
- Deferred commercial rent
- Local business grants
- Eliminated permit fee for outdoor seating program

Please see the Monterey Responds chart on page 7 for details about dollar amounts spent on these programs.

From a local restaurant owner about the business grant program

"We've endured many stops and starts, including being shut down for three months... All the while, we've felt supported by the City of Monterey and appreciate the efforts of those involved with the Local Economic Stimulus Plan. We are grateful to be doing business in a place where small business is acknowledged and supported."

(article continued on next page)

The fiscal year runs July 1 - June 30. We have brought regular updates to City Council about the tools we have to tackle the budget challenges and balance the budget:

- Two recent tax initiative successes are two of these tools that will help - Measure G 1/2 cent sales tax (\$4 million per year) and Measure Y hotel tax increase (\$2.8 million per year) -- thank you voters!
- Coming up:
 - ▶ Feb. 16 City Council Meeting - A Fiscal Report and Budget Amendments
 - ▶ A May Council Meeting - Fiscal Update
 - ▶ A May Council Study Session - present the biennial budget for fiscal year 2021/22 and 2022/23
 - ▶ A June Council Meeting - approve budget for new fiscal year

We hope you can join us for these meetings, held virtually and available on YouTube with the option to call in and participate during public comment periods. We will be asking residents about program and service priorities in order to best bring back services post-pandemic that matter most. We will also be reaching out in other ways to get your feedback. Thanks for staying involved to help us bring back city programs and services you love!

Responses from local renters about the emergency rental assistance program

"I'm so thankful for everything that you have done. I will never forget the kindness, time, effort and care you have shown me during these troubling times. Please accept my deepest thanks. You're amazing!"

"I ran to my husband this afternoon when I saw this message. You cannot imagine how much this means to us. I may sleep tonight. First time in many months. I'm so overwhelmed with gratitude, it means so much to us!! Thank you,thank you!"

"Thank you so much, I don't even know what to say I am just so happy! This means the world to me! I really appreciate the city of Monterey providing this for us, thank you...thank you so much!"

"Oh my goodness I'm so so happy to hear this I have tears in my eyes - thank you, thank you. This whole Covid thing has been the worse thing ever. I will let my landlord know. Again thank you so much."

Monterey Responds - Nearly a year of the pandemic and we have come a long way



It's important to record and track the steps we are taking to combat the pandemic threat, both to understand the communities needs, and to learn and improve our City response for future emergencies.

We will continue to track, monitor, adjust, and react to help our community get through COVID-19 and the resulting economic fallout.

Please take a look at how the City has responded since March to the coronavirus - from emergency housing assistance, development of an active business and economic recovery team, distribution of meals, mask mandates, to being just a phone call away for many isolated seniors, and much more.

The City thanks the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation for Monterey County, the United Way of Monterey County, and numerous other community partners for their collaboration and community support.

City of Monterey Responds

Emergency Rental Assistance Program update

The pandemic has caused a lot of financial stress to many. Last summer the City created an emergency rental assistance program designed to mitigate potential homelessness and displacement of existing Monterey residents and workers who are experiencing a decrease in household income due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus, unable to pay their rent. The City may provide up to a maximum of six (6) months of rental assistance.

The first week in February 2021 the City issued 73 payments totaling \$139,393.32 to cover program participants' February rent. This brings the totals numbers as of February 5, 2021 to:

- Number of Assistance Payments Issued: **372**
- Number of Households Assisted: **158**
- Total Amount of Assistance Issued: **\$864,597.87**

The City has exhausted the funds for this program, but we are identifying potential City, State, and County funding sources to continue this critical program.

Complete program guidelines and applications in English and Spanish are available at monterey.org/housing. Or call 831-646-3995, or United Way 2-1-1



Local November election results

BY CITY CLERK CLEMENTINE BONNER KLEIN

On December 1, 2020, the City Council officially declared the November 3, 2020 election results that were certified by Claudio Valenzuela, Monterey County's Registrar of Voters. Monterey's voters reelected Mayor Clyde Roberson for a new two-year term, reelected Councilmembers Dan Albert and Alan Haffa for new four-year terms, and approved Measure Y, increasing the City's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT, or "hotel tax") from 10% to 12%. The TOT is paid by visitors to the City, with 16% of proceeds going to the [Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program \(NCIP\)](#) and 84% to the City's General Fund. Mayor Roberson and Councilmembers Albert and Haffa were sworn into office for their new terms, and following the Council's annual rotation practice, the Council appointed Councilmember Tyller Williamson as Vice-Mayor for 2021. Thank you to all the Monterey voters who participated in the process!



Mayor Clyde Roberson

View the Council's resolution, including vote counts for each candidate and Measure Y, online: [I-SEARCH](#) link to Resolution No. 20-179 C.S.



Councilmember Alan Haffa



Councilmember Dan Albert

I-SEARCH Monterey - the City's public search engine for meeting agendas, official documents, and records

BY CITY CLERK CLEMENTINE BONNER KLEIN



I-SEARCH Monterey

The City of Monterey's public search engine for meeting agendas, official documents, and records

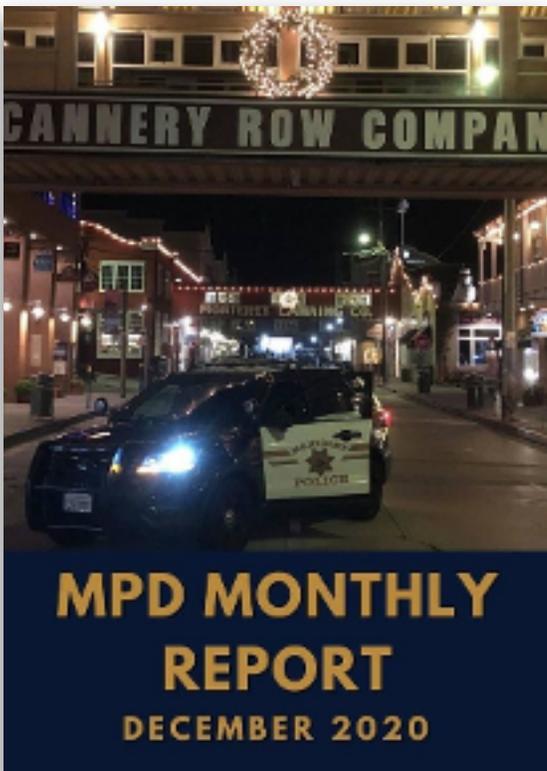
You may be familiar with I-SEARCH Monterey as the online location to view agendas and packets for City Council, Board, Committee, and Commission meetings.

Did you know you can also view signed resolutions, ordinances, and minutes on I-SEARCH Monterey? It's easy!

1. Using your browser, access <http://isearchmonterey.org> -- it's also linked from monterey.org.
2. In the blue bar at the top, select "Search Documents" to access the public access portal.
3. Choose your search type (minutes, resolutions, or ordinances), and a search term of at least 3 characters, then click "Search." You can narrow down the results if you wish, using the additional search parameters. Tip! If you know the meeting date and want to see every resolution adopted that day, enter the meeting date and use "resolution" as a generic search term.

Please know that documents must be prepared for signature and signed before they are uploaded to the portal. Staff members upload the documents as soon as possible after each meeting for public transparency, and are happy to answer your questions in the meantime if you are looking for a document before it is signed and ready to be uploaded. With questions about a meeting, residents may contact staff using the email address at the top of each agenda.

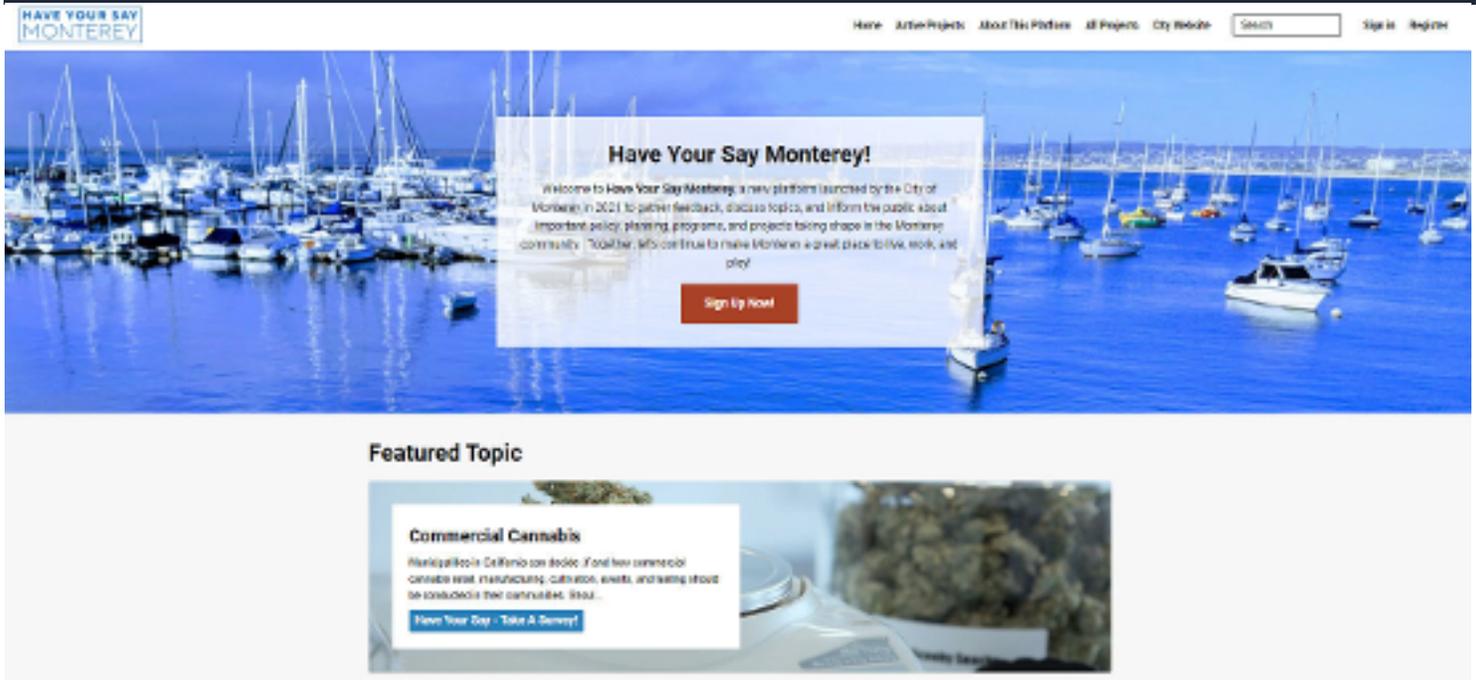
Monterey Police December Monthly Report



The Monterey Police December Monthly Report is published. Monthly Reports are released approximately 30 days after the month's end once statistical data is verified. Each monthly edition is a very comprehensive report that includes narratives about key topics like COVID-19 Education and Enforcement, Patrol information, and updates from the Community Action Team (CAT) and the Multidisciplinary Outreach Team (MDOT). There's also staffing and department activity statistics, including reported crimes.

The January Report will be available soon. You can see this report as well as past reports on the Monterey Police website at monterey.org/police/Get-Informed/Monthly-Reports

New in 2021 - Have your say Monterey! - featured topic, commercial cannabis



In case you missed it, the City of Monterey in January launched a new public engagement portal to compliment the City website and social media sites. *Have Your Say Monterey* is a new platform that empowers residents, business operators, and members to learn from and provide valuable feedback to their city government on important policies, programs, and projects taking shape in Monterey.

Visitors to the dynamic web portal can engage with the City by reading reports, watching videos, asking questions, and taking surveys during a time that is most convenient for them. In addition to cannabis, active topics include the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Transportation Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan, the North Fremont Transportation Corridor, and more.

Public input received through the interface on topics such as cannabis operations, will be shared with decision-makers, including the City Council, staff, and City commissions.

The cannabis survey is open through February 7, but if you missed sending yours in, there's still more opportunities to participate. Survey results will be presented and discussed at the February 24 City Council Study Session. Community members can join the meeting and provide feedback then.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to sign up on the new portal at haveyoursaymonterey.org. Let's keep the conversations going - your input is important!



'Adapting a Threatened Transportation Network to Sea Level Rise' Plan adopted by City Council

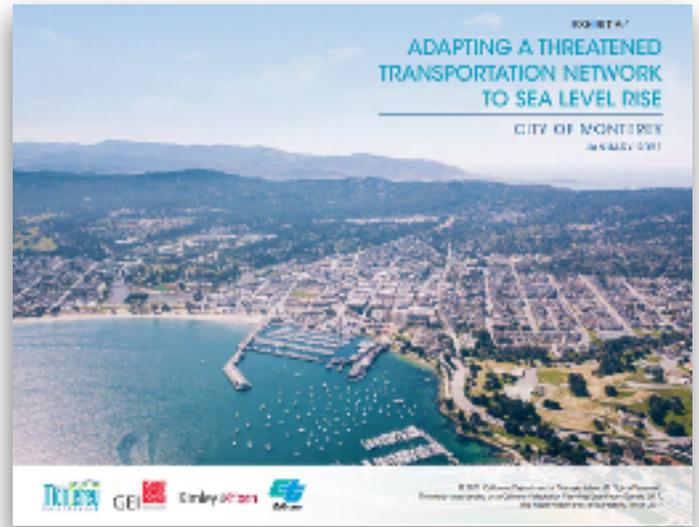
At the February 2 Council Meeting, the City Council adopted by unanimous vote a new sea level rise adaptation plan, *Adapting a Threatened Transportation Network to Sea Level Rise*.

The City of Monterey is leading the charge by doing this type of transportation study. Parallel to us, the City of Santa Cruz is doing a similar study. So the Central Coast is taking the lead in California. In 2018, the City secured a \$212,000 Caltrans grant to study the effects of sea level rise on the City's transportation network and develop transportation adjustments.

According to FEMA every \$1 spent on natural hazard mitigation reduces related future costs by an average of \$6. Thus, by adopting this study the City is better able to tackle the challenge of sea level rise later.

The key takeaways are that there are solutions to dealing with sea level rise, however they are very expensive and they each have drawbacks. We need to prepare now for temporary flooding from coastal storms. We need to partner with agencies and get approvals for doing beach nourishment to limit beach erosion. We need to apply for more funding to conduct a robust benefit-cost analysis to help decision-makers decide whether we should 1.) build a sea wall or 2.) let the sea flood Del Monte Avenue but build alternative transportation infrastructure that will be able to handle all the traffic rerouted from Del Monte Avenue.

To stay engaged on this important topic, people can register for the Have Your Say Monterey engagement portal. There's a dedicated page on the site for sea level rise. The Planning Office team will post updates about any grants that we're applying for, and people can upload comments any time they want. Case studies, reports and this final adopted plan will also be posted there and at monterey.org/planning.



Gas leaf blowers prohibited on residential lots

A new Monterey City Code Ordinance 22-18.1 took effect January 1, 2021 that prohibits gas-powered leaf blowers on residential lots. Electric and battery-powered leaf blowers are still permitted between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Monterey City Council approved the recommendation by the Community Development Department staff after much community discussion around noise disruption and air pollution emitted from gas blowers in neighborhoods.

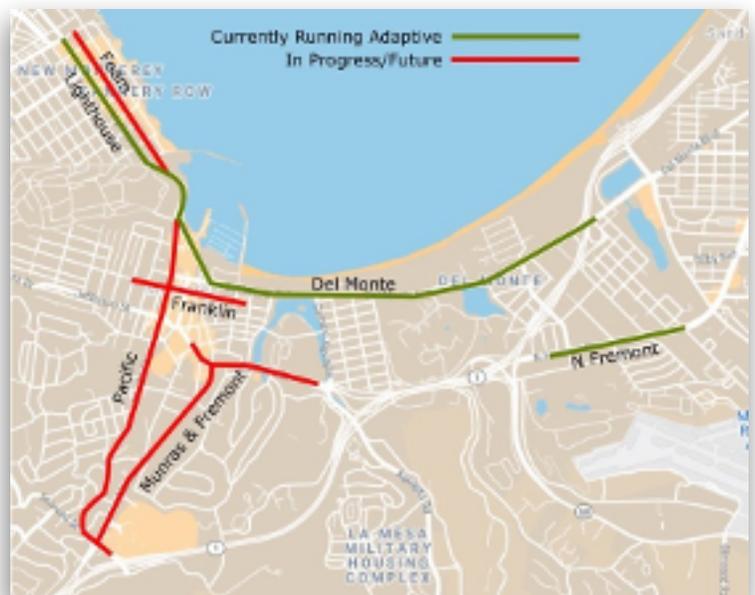
Refer to monterey.org/codecompliance for more information.

Traffic Engineering earns TAMC Excellence Award

The City of Monterey Traffic Engineering Team received a Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC) 2020 Transportation Excellence Award for the Citywide Adaptive Traffic Control System. The Adaptive Control System project currently runs on 21 intersections. It uses vehicle detection and artificial intelligence software to respond accurately and immediately to real-time traffic conditions.

The results are more efficient use of the existing roadway system, including less traffic congestion, reduced travel time, and safer roads for city residents and more than 4 million visitors per year. Managing the project in-house allowed the City to upgrade equipment, install new fiber optic lines, and set up the system software and equipment more efficiently than using outside contractors, resulting in an estimated cost savings of over \$70,000.

The *map* shows the road sections using the technology. Watch the short video below, (https://youtu.be/OgQw4_GE_ig) and learn more about the City's Traffic Engineering projects at monterey.org/traffic.





**Monterey
Conference
Center earns
GBAC STAR™
Facility
Accreditation
and
staff member
gets certified
as a Pandemic
Compliance
Advisor**

The Monterey Conference Center has earned an accreditation as a Global Biorisk Advisory Council GBAC STAR™ facility. GBAC STAR™ is the cleaning industry's only outbreak prevention, response and recovery accreditation for facilities.

GBAC STAR™ is the gold standard of prepared facilities and GBAC STAR™ accreditation means that a facility or facility service provider has:

- Established and maintained a cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention program to minimize risks associated with infectious agents like the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).
- The proper cleaning protocols, disinfection techniques, and work practices in place to combat biohazards and infectious disease.
- Highly informed cleaning professionals who are trained for outbreak and infectious disease preparation and response.

In addition, Monterey Conference Center staff member Tonya Hufford completed a certificate course as a *Pandemic Compliance Advisor* for Meeting and Event Professionals from the Health Education Services Provider.

The program relies on GBAC's comprehensive training, which teaches the proper protocols, correct disinfection techniques, and cleaning best practices for biohazard situations like the novel coronavirus, and requires an annual re-accreditation process.

Learn more about the Monterey Conference Center at montereyconferencecenter.com



Monterey Conference Center staff member Tonya Hufford holding her Pandemic Compliance Advisor Certificate

Public Works receives Project of the Year Award

The Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) announced a Project of the Year award for the USAG Presidio of Monterey/City of Monterey USAG POM Pavement Repair for projects under \$5 million. The City of Monterey and Presidio of Monterey have an Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA), signed in 2016. The agreement covers operations, maintenance and repair for 2.2 million square feet of building space in 174 facilities in Monterey and 24 in Camp Roberts. These cost reimbursement agreements provide the platform for the garrison to access other services provided by the city. The agreement is valued at \$8.2 million.

The award will automatically be submitted for a Regional Award (Western States) and then if successful, to the National level.

More information about APWA is available at <http://monterey.apwa.net/>

More information about the IGSA agreement is available at montereymodel.org



Recycling issues during Covid-19 and some solutions

It's pretty easy to say that most people are home more and have been for the past year due to the pandemic. That's great - as staying at home can help stop the spread of the coronavirus and get us all past this disturbing time. That said, we are doing some damage to the landfill with all this staying home. The list of chores may be smaller, and your home may be less cluttered and cleaner, but we still need to be reminded that recycling responsibly is a task we must all partake in the 21st century.

Believe it or not, there are ways to recycle right and ways to recycle wrong. For tips on how to do it right, and save the planet, please visit:

- <https://www.monterey.org/Services/Community-Development/Sustainability/Recycling>
- <https://www.recycleacrossamerica.org/tips-to-recycle-right>

A great tool to help you know if something is recyclable or not is the *What Goes Where* app, available for IOS and Android. *What Goes Where* app is Monterey County's guide to help you determine how to recycle everyday materials. Plastic containers, pizza boxes, coffee cups, bags, paint – the app will guide you to curbside programs and nearby drop-off locations to maximize reuse and recycling options. <https://whatgoeswhere.info/get-the-app/>



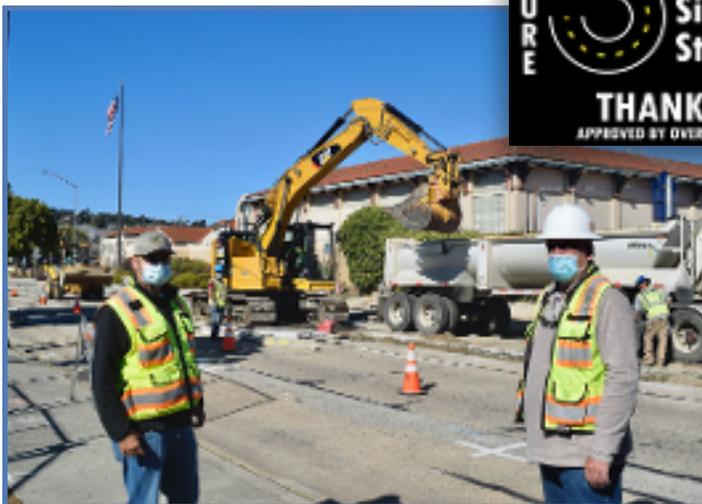
Measure S street, sidewalk, and storm drain work continues

See the latest Measure S project schedules linked below:

- **MEASURE S Citywide Sidewalk Phase 5** - Downtown and Oldtown areas - Prep work starts the week of 2/15 - [SCHEDULE](#)
- **MEASURE S Citywide Road Rehab.** - Mar Vista Dr. (From Mar Vista to Monte Vista), Ramona Ave. (Montecito to Fremont), Munras Ave. (Munras to Fremont) - [SCHEDULE](#)
- **MEASURE S Franklin Street Storm Drain Improvements** - [SCHEDULE](#)
- **MEASURE S Citywide Curb Ramps Phase 3** - Downtown - [SCHEDULE](#)



These and other construction project schedules are available at monterey.org/construction. Here are some photos of current work.



Finding reassurance, connectedness in city updates on social media

BY ERIC PALMER, COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, the crisis raised the importance of informative and trusted voices. In addition to government websites, residents jumped to social media for information, reassurance, engagement and guidance from their local governments.

The City of Monterey is active on many social media sites, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Nextdoor and LinkedIn. These sites saw a major increase in traffic and engagement as the City of Monterey delivered critical public health messages, breaking news and updates about City services when in-person interactions were suspended.

Instagram, a photo-sharing social network, received over 4 million visits. Facebook post views in 2020 were three times as large as 2019. Another success story was YouTube. The City of Monterey used this video sharing site to stream public meetings for the first time, including City Council, boards and commissions, and a new biweekly update from City Manager Hans Uslar. Residents can ask questions live to the City Manager, who gives updates about COVID-19, recent and upcoming City Council decisions, and other programs, policies and projects important to our community. Our Recreation Office produced over 60 "virtual recreation" videos, including group exercise programs from Monterey Sports Center staff and family cooking demos. Over 900 people viewed our videos each day in 2020. Nextdoor, a social network for neighborhoods, allowed us to send targeted messages to affected neighborhoods.



Learn more about our social media program at

<https://monterey.org/City-Hall/Newsroom/Connect-on-Social-Media> and connect with us in 2021!

Support local businesses even without spending money

While we never really took our local businesses for granted, one of the pandemic's silver linings is recognizing how much we love our favorite local businesses, and how they help make Monterey home.

Here are four quick ways to support those businesses, without even spending money:

1. Engage with local businesses on social media
2. Write a review
3. Subscribe to email content
4. Offer word of mouth referrals

A big shout out to local Monterey businesses for all you do to make our community so amazing!

Share this postcard and tag your favorite local businesses, and your favorite city of course, @CityofMonterey!





**VIDEO:
Monterey
Firefighters
read: "How Do
Dinosaurs Eat
Their Food"**

**2021 CERT
training &
February
newsletter**



<https://youtu.be/sBeSNceVED8>

**See more educational and informative
Monterey Fire Department videos at montereyfiredept.org**

The past year has presented unprecedented challenges to every part of our communities. CERT is no exception. During their many deployments in the past year, they have required masks, separation and conduct visual sign-in. CERT training has occurred in Big Sur, Carmel and Carmel Valley with much of the instruction occurring via in-person interactive computer based ZOOM. CERT thanks their FEMA Certified CERT instructor Isabelle Preti for developing quality on-line instruction, supplemented with one day of in-person, skills training. Strict COVID-19 safety protocols were always followed for the in-person training.



As CERT progresses into 2021, they will continue to follow all recommended safety protocols at our deployments - require masks, separation, and sign-in visually. Teams will be sent to assigned operational areas in separate vehicles. They work to assure every member responding to a CERT Alert will be deployed with a radio for effective communications while maintaining distancing. Equipment is sanitized after use.

Upcoming online CERT training:

monterey.org/Portals/0/News/CERT/2021/CERT-Online-Training-2021.pdf

February Newsletter:

monterey.org/Portals/0/News/CERT/2021/CERT-Feb2021.pdf

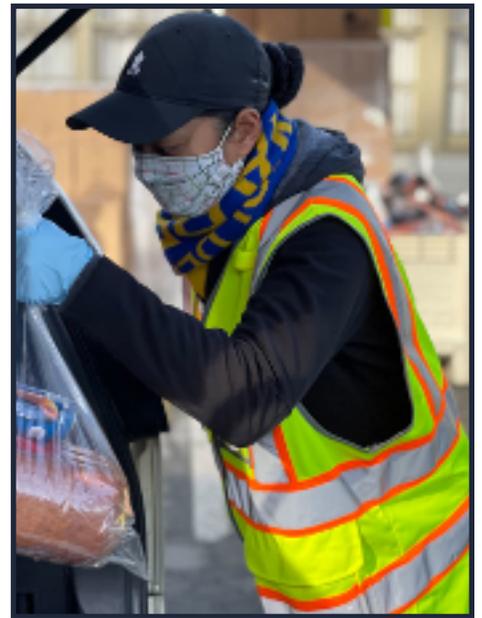
Monterey Recreation and community partners food drives

SUBMITTED BY INTERIM RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER SHANNON LEON

Monterey Recreation has two regularly scheduled food programs going strong to provide food for families and seniors - one drive-through food and produce distribution with the Food Bank for Monterey County, and one with Meals on Wheels. The produce distribution has served over 25,000 people and taken over 7,500 reservations since the pandemic began. The Meals for Seniors program has distributed almost 3,000 meals to date. Both programs are taking reservations - get details at monterey.org/rec or reach out to staff by email montereyrecreation@monterey.org or phone (831) 646-3866.



Many thanks to our community partners,
Food Bank for Monterey County and Meals on Wheels!



Monterey Recreation expands pre-school programs - reserve your child a spot!

BY
INTERIM RECREATION &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
MANAGER SHANNON LEON

The Monterey Recreation Division of the Parks and Recreation Department is excited to have preschool programs open at both the Hilltop Park Center and El Estero Park Center. Programs are for three to five year olds, and are scheduled from 9:30am to 12:30pm or 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Tuesdays through Fridays with strict COVID-19 protocols in place.



While the current programs are almost full, if you are interested in getting your child on a wait list for additional programs opening this summer and the following school year, please email montereyrecreation@monterey.org or call and leave a message at (831) 646-3866. Time for some fun!



Outdoor exercise is essential!

BY MONTEREY SPORTS CENTER MANAGER DR. ANDREA WILLER

The California Department of Public health deems outdoor recreation as an essential service, even during the most recent Stay at Home Order, and we could not agree more! To promote and protect the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of our community, the Monterey Sports Center will continue outdoor Group Exercise classes on our beautiful Sun Deck.



Worried about crowds? Don't be! 93.5% of participants feel safe taking classes because we maintain at least 10' of physical distance. *Worried about sharing equipment?* No need! 96.7% of participants feel safe because equipment is never shared and always cleaned and sanitized after every class. Guess what? 93.5% of all participants report feeling "Very Safe" attending outdoor group exercise classes at the Monterey Sports Center!

Check out the schedule to find your favorite class and instructor, monterey.org/Portals/2/PDFs/Outdoor-Group-Ex-Schedule.pdf

All memberships and passes are currently frozen so preregistration and payment are required. Classes are just \$8 each. Register online at monterey.org.

If you have additional suggestions on how we can best serve you, please email the Sports Center Manager at willer@monterey.org. We look forward to seeing you back at the Sports Center soon.



Books in the hands of caregivers and kids

BY MONTEREY PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF MEMBER KIM SMITH

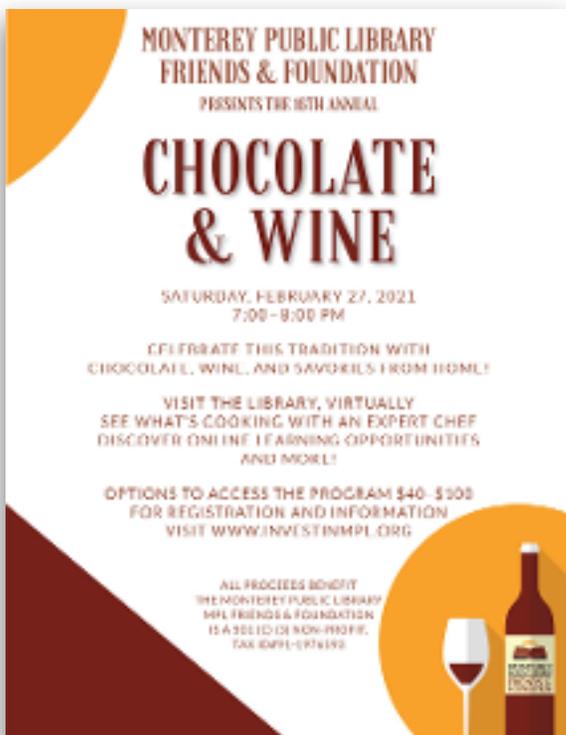
The pandemic has caused significant disruption to schools and families, and placed in-person educational library programs on hold. The vast array of online learning options can be overwhelming, and there is concern that new learning formats can lead to screen fatigue. Monterey Public Library is working to put books into the hands of caregivers and kids, in fact 40% of the items being checked out in recent months are for kids.

Our Friends and Foundation raised funds through the Monterey County Gives campaign and thanks to the generous support of our community we will be adding more new books to our collection, continuing to offer *Homework Help Now*, our free online homework tutoring service, plus adding additional staffing support from friendly youth librarians, ready to answer your questions and recommend books.

Also from January 28th – March 9th is the return of our *Winter Reading Program* for kids! Pick up a reading log, snuggle up and read for six hours, and then come pick up a prize book! Monterey Public Library has always partnered with schools and families to inspire and educate our community's children. While many uncertainties exist, families can continue to rely on this trusted institution for easy access to books, expert staff and guidance through the maze of online services.



Popular Chocolate & Wine event goes virtual this year



The *Monterey Public Library Friends and Foundation* invite you to the library's annual Chocolate and Wine fundraiser. It is a virtual event this year, so you can enjoy tasting and sipping from the comfort of your home, February 27th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

See the flyer for details and to sign up.

**Help the Library and help the community during this struggling time.
LIBRARY WISH LIST**



Monterey 250 is past, but you can still order memorabilia

BY ERIC PALMER, COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Before the coronavirus pandemic upended our lives, the City of Monterey looked forward to 2020. The year marked our "sestercentennial" and a committee of City staff, residents and business leaders brainstormed ways to celebrate this historic milestone. Throughout our 250th anniversary year, we had planned year-long community celebrations. The Old Gray Mare, the Monterey Fire Department's 100+ year old fire engine, was featured in the world-famous Rose Parade on New Year's Day to help promote the events. In February, the Monterey Conference Center kicked it off with a creative, pop-up mini golf course with holes created by local businesses and organizations and City of Monterey departments.

When the pandemic hit, the City of Monterey had to turn its attention to responding to this crisis. Because we could not celebrate as a community, we looked at ways to recognize this milestone virtually. We collected stories from residents and shared them on our Monterey 250 website. Colorful commemorative banners decorated city streets. We created a playlist of historic documentary videos on our YouTube page. KSBW aired a special news series on Monterey 250, with segments about the military and fishing industry. Our most special and historic event was the virtual gathering of our four living mayors. Spanning five generations, the discussion included Mayor Clyde Roberson, Dan Albert Sr., Peter Coniglio and Chuck Della Sala. Over 1,700 people have watched these community leaders reminisce about important moments and decisions in the history of Monterey.

From 1770 to 2020, the City of Monterey has had a colorful and storied history. In addition to our natural beauty, our history and historic landmarks are part of what makes our community special. Take a look back at the virtual Monterey 250 celebration with the mayors, on YouTube and monterey250.org. Posters, hats, and t-shirts are still available to purchase with cash or check only. Email webmaster@monterey.org to place an order, and we arrange pickup in front of the Library.



Merchandise is \$20 each including tax. Email webmaster@monterey.org to place your order and schedule pick up in front of the Monterey Public Library





In case you missed it, see our holiday video featuring local musician Bailey McEachen on youtube.com/cityofmonterey - wonderful to watch anytime

Watch for the spring issue coming in late April

City Focus Newsletter

Winter 2021
volume xxxvi, no. 1
published since 1985

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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 October.

