Housing

Looking Ahead

Living in Monterey: Affordable Housing Tops List of Area Issues, Concerns

Housing affordability and availability issues continue to be of great concern in Monterey. Comments and ideas gathered from community members at housing forums held earlier this year helped define some of the overall challenges.



As a result of these suggestions, the City has authorized the **creation of new programs** to help address some of the concerns. One of the programs the City is supporting this year is the Senior Home Share Program through Alliance on Aging. This innovative project matches seniors who have housing with people who need housing. Another proposed project would create a clearing house to match seniors in need of housing with landlords looking for responsible tenants.

In addition, the City has developed a **new staff position** that will focus specifically on housing programs, come up with creative techniques and monitor the issues. As a part of the process, we will **review existing affordable housing programs** and policies and look for new and better ways to help residents who are dealing with the high cost of housing. This will include an **added emphasis on work force housing.**

For more info, call 646-3995 – the City's Housing and Property Management Division or send an email. We need to hear from you on this important issue. Look for the Community Survey insert. Take a moment to complete the survey which includes a section on housing.

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Land Use

Year in Review

Growth in the City:

Del Monte Beach Resubdivision

Plans to resubdivide undeveloped lots at Del Monte Beach have

been approved. The City's decision about the property, located between Beach Way and the U.S. Navy property, created these projects: 1) **Del Monte Shores**, which went from 48 small residential lots to 12 standard residential lots, plus public open space and habitat areas; and 2) **Del Monte Villas**, which changed from six small residential lots and six commercial lots into three residential lots, plus public open space and habitat areas.



This spring the City finalized our Local Coastal Program. The program encompasses plans, regulations and guidelines on land use in Cannery Row, the Harbor, Del Monte Beach, Laguna Grande and Skyline areas. It also includes an implementation plan, which contains the Coastal Zoning Ordinance. The program has been submitted to the California Coastal Commission for approval.

Looking Ahead

Snapshot of Monterey's Future Now Under Development

A 15-member citizen committee is guiding efforts to update the City's major policy document – the **General Plan**. The General Plan is a set of projections, objectives and guidelines that govern the City's physical shape and character. General Plan policies are a basis for public and private development decisions and allow citizens, business owners and property owners to make knowledgeable decisions about their homes and businesses. Monterey's current plan was adopted in 1983 and is nearing the end of its 20-year life span.

The General Plan Committee meets regularly to review the vital elements that will guide the update process. These include preserving the City's natural and historic setting; meeting social needs, including housing; and maintaining a strong economy. Committee meetings are open to the public and are held the first Thursday of each month from 4-6 p.m. at City Hall. Public meetings are also being scheduled to gather input from the community at large. Look for your opportunity to participate in this process. Call for more info, 646-3759.

Projects bring Upgrades to Local Neighborhoods

Community members approved 34 projects totaling nearly \$2.4 million this year for the Neighborhood Improvement Program budget. Of those projects, about \$174,000 was committed to parks and open space improvements. Nearly \$1.2 million was designated for drainage improvement projects for eight different neighborhoods, and \$364,000 will go toward six traffic-related projects. As in past years, sidewalks and street widening continue to be high priorities in New Monterey, where five projects totaling more than \$335,000 are also on tap. Look for your opportunity to nominate projects in the winter edition of *City Focus*.

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Public Facilities

Year in Review

Plans for Upgrades, Expansion of Public Facilities Move Forward

Civic Center Upgrades

Proposed improvements to the Civic Center in downtown Monterey continued to be analyzed as we determine the best way to make City Hall more efficient and customer friendly. Office and storage space needs for all departments have been projected through the year 2020. And design options on the potential size and shape of the proposed addition, to be located behind City Hall between Dutra and Van Buren streets, have been developed. This project is expected to come before the City Council this fall for selection of a design concept. Almost \$6 million was allocated this past year to help finance the upgrades.



Sports Center Expansion

Construction on the 15,200-square-foot addition to the Monterey Sports Center is scheduled to begin this fall. To address growing community demands, the Center will have a larger cardiovascular room, weight room and multi-purpose room, along with other amenities. Total construction costs are now estimated to be \$7.6 million. Community donations from individuals and businesses are still being sought. For more info or to make a tax-deductible contribution, call 646-3866 or visit the Sports Center web site.

Looking Forward

Waterfront Projects, Traffic Safety Rank High on List of Activities

Monterey Bay Waterfront Park

Only two private properties remain in the West Project Area of the Window-on-the-Bay park project, between Camino El Estero and Park Avenue. Under the City's opportunity-buying program (willing seller/ willing buyer), there will be a focus this year on negotiating with the owners of these properties for acquisition and inclusion into the park. Expansion of the park provides more open space and recreational opportunities, such as volleyball (pictured), along the coastline.

Traffic Safety Improvements

Design of the next phase of traffic and safety improvements for Del Monte Avenue is underway. This program will mirror roadway upgrades already in place at the east City-limit entrance adjacent to Seaside. The new project, a portion of which runs along the Window-on-the-Bay project area, includes the roadway from Camino El Estero to Palo Verde Avenue. The improvements – paving; turn lanes; curb, gutter and sidewalks; traffic signal improvements; and landscaping – will be done in phases, beginning next spring with construction between Palo Verde and Sloat avenues.

Catellus Property

After much community input, plans are now being discussed for the public use of the Catellus

parcels, adjacent to Wharf II at the Figueroa Street and Del Monte Avenue intersection. The City purchased the parcel on the west side of Figueroa last year and has an option to purchase the parcel east of Figueroa Street before February 2002. Proposed designs illustrate different ways of developing and using the land. They propose sites where buildings would be removed or added and areas for open space and waterfront/recreational use. Specific items include locations for the Coastal/Recreation Trail and restrooms; boat storage and access to launch facilities; and parking and vehicle access. The needs of current tenants are key concerns. An analysis of a preferred plan will be reviewed by the City Council. The plan will then be sent to various City committees for input and review before a final recommendation is presented. For more info or to follow the plan through the review process, call or email Senior Planner Rick Marvin at 646-3885.

Evolving Needs of Public Require Analysis of Library Space, Layout

How will the Library adapt to new tech-nologies and incorporate new material formats? What about the need for collaborative study and group meeting spaces? These are some of the issues the Library is working to address as it updates the master plan for the facility. The existing Library building was designed in 1950 and was last remodeled more than 17 years ago. The current design cannot adequately accommodate modern technologies and services that have been added in response to changing customer needs. For example, the open, spacious layout of the Library was timely in 1950 when libraries were used for reading and silent study. Today's customers use computers, browse large collections of CD's and videos and want space for group interaction. For more info or to participate in the process, call or email Library Director Paula Simpson at 646.5601.

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Economic

Year in Review

Development Decisions Affect Local Economy Revitalization of Downtown Safeway

The City continues to work with Safeway representatives to bring

an expanded, modern grocery store, which includes additional

public parking, to the Munras Avenue site that sits on City-owned property.

As we negotiate a proposed lease renewal, we have also asked that Safeway consider creating affordable housing as part of this project.

However at present, there does not appear to be sufficient property to accomplish all three uses grocery store, private/public parking and housing – without impacting the adjacent Cooper-Molera historic building.



We continue to work with the developer and landowner to complete construction of the Monterey Peninsula Hotel, approved for the undeveloped Monterey Bay Aquarium. Revised plans for the project include preservation of open space at McAbee Beach. Construction was delayed for years due to financing issues. At present, the project is delayed due to litigation over the environmental review process.

Area Plan for North Fremont Gets Go-ahead

The 10-year area plan for North Fremont Street was approved last year. Plans are underway to establish a Business Improvement District and add street beautification/improvements in the main commercial district. The overall goal is to support the economic revitalization of the business area in harmony with the surrounding residential areas.

Looking Ahead

New Laws that Permit Contracts with Military Neighbors Sought

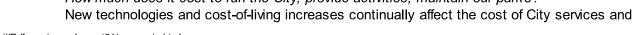
We continue to cooperate on a variety of different levels with local military neighbors and work to ensure that our collaborative efforts can continue. Since 1998, the City has been contracted by the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center & Presidio of Monterey to provide a variety of City services. We are paid to provide street sweeping, building maintenance, storm drain and sewer maintenance. At present, we are also discussing future contracted partnerships with the Naval Postgraduate School, which could include street sweeping and sewer and storm drain maintenance.

Such contracts for providing City services on military installations are only allowed through temporary demonstration legislation which will expire in January 2002. The City is working with our military neighbors to secure permanent legislation allowing such partnerships to continue into the future. The main goal for the City remains the same: to provide military neighborhoods with the same level of service enjoyed by surrounding City neighborhoods in a cost-effective manner.

Priority Briefs...

City Evaluates Cost of Doing Business

How much does it cost to run the City, provide activities, maintain our parks? New technologies and cost-of-living increases continually affect the cost of City services and





collaborations. One focus for the year will be to evaluate if and when fees for certain services should be adjusted. This analysis will help us balance our income and expenses efficiently and reduce our reliance on taxes.

Shuttle Program Continues to be Successful

The City, in partnership with Monterey-Salinas Transit and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, provides free shuttle service to and from popular destinations from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. The Waterfront Area Visitors Express (WAVE) serves as a point-to-point shuttle, and we continue to work with our partners to provide funding for this very successful program. For more info visit the <u>WAVE</u> web site.

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Community Services

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Social

Year in Review

Affordable Childcare

The Monterey Center for Children and Families has been open for about a year. Enrollment at the Center continues to grow at this affordable childcare facility. ARAMARK Educational Resources operates the Center under contract with the City.



Reading to Babies

Parents and their babies gather at the Monterey Public Library on the last Friday of each month at 10 a.m. for songs, rhymes, stories and fingerplays. For info, call 646-3934 or email vsdesk@ci.monterey.ca.us.

Meeting Recycling Goals Now and for the Future

With your help the City has been able to divert more than 60% of waste from the local landfill, exceeding our targeted goal. In 1989, the State passed a law requiring all cities to recycle or divert 50% of landfill waste by the year 2000. Through aggressive waste reduction, graduated garbage rates and recycling programs – such as yardwaste collection, large item pickup, motor oil recycling and construction debris recycling – we have met the challenge. To learn more about recycling, call 646-5662 or email brantley@ci.monterey.ca.us.

Learn About Your City

City TV – Ch. 25 Eye on Monterey, details programs and activities at the City. Tuesday, 8 p.m. and Wednesday, 9 a.m. Council wrap up and Monterey up to date, highlight City Council meetings and upcoming agenda issues. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead

Addressing Needs of Children, Young Adults Takes Coordinated Community Effort

Over the last year, the City has made strides in expanding and developing programs to address the needs of children and young adults. Such efforts include initiating **new afterschool programs**; expanding the **Homework Pals program** to new sites; strengthening collaborative **relationships between Colton Middle School/ Monterey High School students** and the City; and developing the summer **Volunteen program**.

However, we recognize much more can be done to support the needs of youth and families. A new position has been established to develop and strengthen community resources and



collaborations to meet local needs. The Community Resources Coordinator will work with City departments, schools, nonprofit organizations, neighborhoods and individuals to help identify available resources and 1) look for innovative approaches to address existing needs; and 2) develop an integrated, workable community plan. For more info, call 646-3719 or email sammon@ci.monterey.ca.us.

Progressive Partnership with SPCA Promotes Healthy Pets

An innovative new partnership between the City and SPCA is breaking new ground in the local area. The program is designed to help reduce the number of unwanted and homeless household pets and also assist with programs that support healthy, well-trained pets and knowledgeable pet owners.

Traditionally, the SPCA has provided 1) a home for lost or injured animals until owner and pet are reunited; and 2) adoption and spay/neutering services. However, Monterey and the SPCA are now collaborating to bring training classes and other opportunities directly to Monterey residents. Many of these programs will take place at community centers and other City locations. Look for upcoming opportunities on our Web site and through the local media. As part of this effort, the City is issuing spay/neuter vouchers that are good for a \$40 discount at local veterinary facilities. For more info or to pick up a voucher, call the City's Animal Control officer at 646-3820.

SPCA contact info: 373-2631 or www.spcamc.org.

SPCA location: 1002 Highway 68, directly across from Laguna Seca Raceway.

Shades of Monterey 2002 Calendars

Now available at the Monterey Public Library check-out desk: Shades of Monterey 2002 calendars. These 5-square-inch calendars contain photos of Monterey's bygone days, collected from community members. The cost is \$6.50, with proceeds benefiting the Friends of the Library. Please call Friends of the Library President Marianne Roser at 655-4420 for more info, or stop by the Library.

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Public Safety

Year in Review

Reserve Unit Gets Underway

The Reserve Unit of the Monterey Police Department has its first volunteer officer on board. During the next several months, Reserve Officer Troy Holt (pictured) will undergo extensive police



field training while working alongside an officer. The goal of the volunteer program is to build and expand the Reserve Unit to include at least ten Reserve Officers over the next few years.

Community Restoration Goal to Provide Added Support to Victims

Restoring the health of the community, meeting victims' needs and encouraging offenders to contribute to the healing process, is the main goal of community restoration programs. This philosophy, often referred to as restorative justice, focuses on ensuring that the rights of victims are not overlooked in the criminal justice process.

Additionally, community restoration condemns the criminal act, holds offenders accountable, involves the participants and encourages repentant offenders to earn their way back into society. The City's Youth Diversion Program is designed with this philosophy and blueprint. The program focuses on redirecting first-time youth offenders into positive behaviors and actions. Youth who have committed misdemeanors or infractions are referred from the juvenile justice system to a counseling program within our Police Department. Based on this successful program, we will be examining new ways to incorporate the philosophy and premise of community restoration into some of our other activities and endeavors.

Let us know what you think about public safety and the Monterey Coastal/Recreation Trail. If you want to complete a survey, call 646.3830 or email penko@ci.monterey.ca.us

Looking Ahead

Volunteers Essential to Public Safety Team

Expanding volunteer participation in the Reserve Police Officer and the Police Chaplain programs will augment the capabilities of our Police Department to respond to emergencies in the area. **Reserve Officers** support police officers and serve as a resource to assist in various emergency situations and special events. The **Police Chaplain Program** is designed to enlist the services of local clergy to assist the public, police employees and other City personnel in time of crisis.

Both programs complement the successful Monterey Volunteers in Policing (MVP) program where volunteers act as extra eyes and ears for the Police Department in the community (see photos at right). MVP's contributed more than 2,500 volunteer hours last fiscal year. All of these efforts focus on creating a "sense of safeness" while providing an opportunity for people to actively participate in local government and foster mutual respect and trust.

Fire Agencies Work for Regional Good

The City continues to coordinate with other local fire agencies to help provide a higher level of service to the entire region. Fire personnel coordinate regional training drills with other local fire organizations (pictured below) as prescribed by the Monterey County Mutual Aid Agreement.

In addition, we have worked with the City of Pacific Grove, California Dept. of Forestry Pebble Beach Station and the Naval Postgraduate School Institute Company Performance Standards this past fiscal year. The purpose of the Company Performance Standards is to allow all these organizations to respond using the same procedures and allow for efficient, effective cooperation during an emergency. The City continues to look for new ways to cooperate and better utilize limited resources to meet community safety needs.

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Historic Preservation 2001

<u>Presidio of Monterey Museum Celebrates Grand Re-Opening</u> |
Cooperative Effort Focuses on Upkeep of Local Treasures

Year in Review

Presidio of Monterey Museum Celebrates Grand Re-Opening

The newly renovated Presidio of Monterey Museum officially reopened in May at the Lower Presidio Historic Park. Museum exhibits cover the indigenous period, which highlights the area's Native American populations; through the Spanish and Mexican periods; and up to present day. The Museum focuses on the military's presence in the area, an important part of Monterey's heritage. With the help of volunteer guides, the Museum is open four days a week, Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. More than 26 volunteers have been trained to lead visitors through the new exhibits. More than 400 visitors visit the Museum each month.

For more info on the museum, call 646.5640 or visit the <u>Presidio of Monterey Museum</u> web site.

Looking Ahead

Cooperative Effort Focuses on Upkeep of Local Treasures

Preservation, interpretation and promotion of Monterey's fascinating history are in good hands. The City signed an agreement with Monterey State Parks and Monterey History and Art Association (MHAA) this past year to collaborate on "seamless" Historic Monterey.

Historic structures, resources and landmarks owned by separate entities and located throughout the City will ultimately have common signage and be identified and described in one common brochure. The three organizations plan to cooperate to improve the preservation and exhibition of historical resources, such as the stamp pictured at right, and streamline how the public learns about Monterey's history. As part of the agreement, we have identified mutual cataloging and database needs. Three types of materials are owned by the various agencies: books, archival materials (maps, photographs, letters) and artifacts (paintings, sculpture, furniture, costumes).

Last winter, the Library completed cataloging the books in the Colton Hall collection. They are now searchable at computer stations in the Library, on the Bookmobile and on the Internet at the <u>Library</u> Web site. The Library will also catalog books held by Monterey History and Art Association's Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library. The next step is to secure funding to complete cataloging of the remaining MHAA book collection in the Maritime Museum.

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