



NEW MONTEREY Neighborhood News

February 2010

Next meeting: Monday, February 8 – Hilltop Center – 7 PM

ANNUAL MEETING – Threatening weather did not dampen the spirits of the 20 plus neighbors who attended the annual meeting of our residents.. Mayor Chuck Della Sala gave an interesting talk concerning the budget situation and what it means for the immediate future of the City. He indicated the \$1.7 million deficit could have meant likely means layoffs and definitely means a reduction in the level of services were it not for the use of NIP funds that will offset the shortfall. These issues will be faced by the City Council in the next few weeks. For more information, see the minutes of the meeting on our website.

NIP – For the first time, the Neighborhood Improvement Program Committee is recommending that the City Council use next year’s NIP funds to balance the City’s budget instead of approving new projects. If the City Council agrees at their February 2nd meeting, all project ideas submitted this year will be held for consideration next year. Staff time can be redirected toward designing and constructing the seventy five approved/ funded NIP projects from prior years.

New Monterey looks forward to completing as many as 12 projects this year, including:

- sidewalk on Prescott, from Taylor to Sea View,
- a new handicap ramp at Hawthorne and Dickman,
- Spencer 600 widening,
- Jessie crosswalks at Irving and Withers,
- a security light in Cypress Park,
- parking improvements at Grace & Prescott
- study of Cal-Am’s David Avenue Reservoir for capturing rain runoff.

NIP Committee will meet February 25th to handle procedural questions and will meet throughout the year as projects need more funding or design questions arise. Representatives from participating city neighborhoods will meet February 25 to polish their presentation to the City Council in March.

We will let you know when others are confirmed to proceed.

This is the time when we are fortunate to have Sharon Dwight as our representative. No one does a better job of looking out for her ‘hood than Sharon. Questions? Give her a call 375-0841.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION – It’s over. It was fun. Let’s take down those holiday lights now.

FREE LUNCH – Well almost. Adults are invited to lunch at the Senior Center every weekday but Wednesday at 11:30am. It’s \$6 for adults, but if you are 60 or over it’s just \$3. Well, almost free. What a perfect way to enjoy a healthy meal, meet some folks and participate in activities at the Center. (No lunch 2/15)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – Our Association is in good shape. We have 44 percent more members and thanks to the generosity of many members, we are fiscally sound. That gives us better standing at City Hall, the ability to pay the fees necessary to challenge Commission decisions and the funds to further expand our membership. We are better prepared to look after our interests now that we have over 150 active members whom we represent. I cannot tell you how much your response means to your organization and to me. It is clear we have a citizenry that cares about this neighborhood and is willing to support it financially. You should be very proud of NMNA and its members. I certainly am.

The new year agenda has a few known challenges. We will closely monitor the difficult budget issues facing the City Council. We will begin the process of revising our Area Plan. This is the guideline the City will use in making decisions that affect our neighborhood, such as zoning matters, use permits, building specifications and redevelopment. We invite participation from you in this important endeavor.

We will also look at the Lighthouse Avenue Specific Plan. Who among us does not feel that traffic should flow more fluidly, that the businesses could be more specific to our needs and that a bit of beautification would add to its modest ambiance? How tall is too tall? How much parking should there be and where? What should the resident/business mix be? The Specific Plan will look at all of that and more.

This is my last message as your president. It has been my pleasure to serve you. Thanks to all, and especially to the folks at City Hall, who provided so much support and encouragement to me throughout the last year.

Howard B. Fosler

IMPORTANT DATES –

- Tuesdays- Farmers Market. Alvarado Street (They need our support this time of year)
- 2/8 New Monterey Neighborhood Assn monthly meeting Hilltop Center 7pm
- 2/10 String Quarter – Colton Hall Music Series 7:30pm free
- 2/14 Valentines Day
- 3/3 Taking Stock – Colton Hall Music Series 7:30 free
- 4/1 Census Day



**NMNA regular meeting – February 8 – 7 p.m.
Hilltop Center – Jessie and David**

DUES NOW PAYABLE – Your donation on top of that \$10 will help us with our work. By paying now, you are assured of receiving your newsletter, of being counted as one who cares, and it will help us with our budget projections. Thanks in advance for your generous support.

CITY NEWSLETTER – Now only available electronically, City Focus comes to you via email or download. Sign up for your automatic copy at www.monterey.org and click on – pay attention here- “NEWSLETTER SIGN UP”. You can also watch it on TV three times a week if you have Comcast. See below.

TV BROADCAST – Those of us who have ATT cable, att-U-verse, as it is called, do not get the City’s broadcasts. It seems ATT and the City are at odds about the requirement that Channel 25 be carried in accordance with its franchise agreement. The squabble goes on while citizens are left in the dark. We are watching this untenable situation hoping for rapid resolution.

NEW BOARD ELECTED - Your board has two new members, Christina Riddoch and Brian Greenshields. Christina owns a local business and Brian works at NPS. We welcome their energy and ideas as they join incumbents Bruce Crist, Barbara and Bob Evans, Sharon Dwight, Joanne Kelly and Howard Fosler. We will vote for this year’s officers at the February 8 meeting.

Membership Dues: 2010 NMNA Membership Form

Basic - \$10
Additional Support - \$20
or _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Deliver my newsletter via email? Yes No

Comments/Suggestions? _____



– If you have not yet taken the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) we invite you to consider taking the classes, beginning Thursday, March 4th. Six Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm at the City’s Emergency Operations Center behind the Fire Station at Pacific & Madison.

What can you do to help yourself and your family be safer?

- Water for at least 3 days.
- Some food set aside.
- Know what to do for simple injuries.
- How to use a fire extinguisher and
- Recognize whether a building is safe to enter.
- Do you have the tools and know how to turn off your gas and electricity?

New Monterey needs more people to help us assess damage, and, if you choose, to help us help our neighbors. Please consider taking the classes. The City of Monterey picks up the tab. You won’t regret it. Find out more from montereycert@hotmail.com

HELP NEEDED TO FILL OUR CERT BOXES

New Monterey is bringing a second CERT box online – a place to store tools and supplies to help neighbors at time of emergency. If you have tools you no longer need or would like to make a tax deductible contribution to the New Monterey team to buy tarps, medical supplies, tools and more for the two CERT boxes in the neighborhood, call 375-0841.

2009 NMNA Board Contacts

Bruce Crist – 333-1876
 Sharon Dwight – 375-0841
 Barbara & Bob Evans – 372-8323
 Howard B. Fosler – 373-6323
 Brian Greenshields – bhgreens@nps.edu
 Joanne Kelly – cassego@sbcglobal.net
 Christina Riddoch – christina_riddoch@hotmail.com

NMNA Website

newmontereyneighborhood.org