



NEW MONTEREY Neighborhood News

May 2010

Next meeting: Monday, May 10 – Hilltop Center – 7 PM

LIVING IN AN URBAN FOREST – At 7 p.m. on May 10th Robert Reid, Monterey’s Urban Forester, will speak to the New Monterey Neighborhood Association on the subject of living in an urban forest. Monterey’s urban forest contributes greatly to our quality of life. Trees conserve energy, help clean the air, and provide a home for wildlife

Monterey is a Tree City. To qualify, a community must have a board or department that oversees tree issues, a tree ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

Mr. Reid will discuss tree care, tree trimming, the tree ordinance and the City’s forestry program. Don’t miss this interesting program!

CRIME REPORT – Police officers representing our neighborhood Community Policing Team met with just twelve citizens at Scholtze Park Center last month to update us on police activity in New Monterey. Sergeant Frank Russo, Officers Ethan Andrews and Ron Blair ran thru the statistics for the last six plus months. Of 244 reported incidents, most involved vehicle burglary (forced entry) and property theft (no forced entry) from vehicles. These are opportunistic crimes where someone spots something in the vehicle and takes it. The officers pointed out that if we don’t leave anything visible in our cars, and lock them, we can usually avoid these crimes.

There were 23 stolen property crimes in homes. No other category stood out, except for traffic enforcement. Your dues will be compensated in perpetuity just by avoiding a citation for failure to stop and speeding, and the locations for heightened compliance are at David and Pine (stop sign) and Prescott and Cypress (speeding). Citations during the period numbered 44 stops, 27 speeds, 25 cell phone use, 23 seat belts, and 20 accidents, most of which were on Hawthorne Street. Extra caution, please, at Irving.

The officers reminded the audience that it is now the law that if your wipers are on, your headlights must also be on. A professional truck driver there mentioned that it is critical that we make ourselves visible, especially to big rigs, in our defensive driving efforts.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – You may be getting the feeling that the world is caving in. That things we took for granted, like schooling for children and safety nets for workers and guaranteed income for retirees would always be there, is now not so certain anymore. Much of this is out of our control, but rethinking it and adjusting to the new realities is not. And while, at the end of the day, we are each responsible for ourselves, more than ever before we need to rely on those close to us. Those include our families, of course, but they also include the local goods and service providers, our local government in the form of emergency responders and keepers of the hardware, such as water, sewage, roads and rules. Let me ask you to look closer to home for answers to our needs. Let me ask you to support those locals who provide these life needs by buying their services, their products and their suggestions for change. Tighten your radius of involvement. In other words: Think globally. Act locally.



Howard B. Fosler

PARK & RECREATION ACTIVITIES – The Summer/Fall 2010 Activities Guide, now called *play! Monterey*, is available for pick up at the Monterey Sports Center, the Monterey Recreation & Community Services Department Office, your local community center, the Monterey Public Library or at the City’s web site. You can register on-line, by mail, fax or in person. Spaces are limited. Plan your summer activities early to get your preferred choices.

HILLTOP CENTER – Art in the Park. Families can spend a day together making cool crafts and enjoying a day full of activities. This free event for ages 3-12 years is held outdoors at Hilltop Park Center on Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

BIKE MONTH – All sorts of things are happening on two wheels this month. See TAMC’s web page: <http://www.tamcmonterey.org/bikeweek/index.html>. Take advantage of discounted bicycle safety assessments. Bike to work or school on Thursday May 13 and have breakfast for free!

GARDEN NEWS by Alexandra Albin – I always look forward to the Saturday edition of the Monterey Herald, mostly for the Home and Garden section of the paper. There are always good tips and inspiration to be found between Tom Karwin’s weekly article and the feature story. This week was no exception and was especially exciting with the recognition that May is a great for gardens and garden tours. Here are some of my favorite annual upcoming Garden events:

May 8th: The fantastic Annual Cooper Molera Adobe Plant Sale: 10 am to 2 p.m., at 575 Polk, downtown Monterey. There is a great selection of historic adobe plants, generally drought resistant. All proceeds support the park’s education programs.

Also May 8th: Monterey Rose Society’s 30th Annual Rose Show from noon to 5 p.m., hundreds of Roses on display at the Alladin Nursery, 2905 Freedom Blvd. in Watsonville. More info at: <http://montereybayrosesociety.org/>

June 6th: The Monterey Bonsai Club showcases an amazing selection of Bonsai from club members from 11 am to 4 p.m. at the Monterey Buddhist Temple in Seaside. I highly recommend this show if you have any interest in Bonsai. Once I saw an Oak Tree the size of a small doll house that was over 100 years old. It was amazing!

All these tours reinforce my desire to build a relationship with New Monterey homeowners and gardeners so we can have a garden event next year.

It also reminds me that my neighborhood holds the best tips about gardening. By simply walking in my neighborhood, I see what grows best in my neighbors’ yards and locations. New Monterey covers a wide range of micro climates, so what works at the top of the neighborhood does not necessarily work down on the Row. The next time you need to find



a new plant, go out and look at what grows best in your neighbor’s yard.

Next Month, more pictures and stories from some local neighborhood homes and gardens. If you want yours to be considered please contact Alexandra Albin (alex.albin@me.com) or 831.372.4813.

WHAT’S NIP DOING? – The usual Neighborhood Improvement Program meeting schedule has been discontinued for this year. Project ideas can still be proposed for next year by calling 646-3921 and asking for an NIP form or going to www.monterey.org/planningengineering/nip/nipform.pdf.

NIP projects recently completed in New Monterey:

- Hawthorne/Dickman handicap ramp

NIP projects inn design:

- Prescott sidewalk (Taylor to Seaview) the conceptual plan is complete for the full length of the project. Staff is working on alignment of the new southeast corner of Devisadero/Prescott. There is funding for concrete sidewalk, handicap ramps at corners, and neighborhood entry planter at Devisadero. June construction.
- Hoffman Park design approved by Parks & Recreation Commission April 15. The concept plan reduces the parking lot size, relocates the CERT storage container closer to the corner of Archer & Hoffman, and creates a community garden with about a dozen garden plots that will be offered by lottery to residents of New Monterey once built. There is money to move the CERT box at this time. Future funding will be required to create the planting areas.

AREA PLAN UPDATE – The area plan update was removed from the Planning Commission work plan by City staff. But one of your Board members made a presentation to the Planning Commission and our area plan update is back on the work plan.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER TO RETIRE – After 23 years of service, Cathi Cristobal will retire this month to spend more time with her grandchild. We have very little trouble with nuisance animals due largely to the responsible pet owners in residence and the effective action of Officer Cristobal over these many years.

ANIMAL ORDINANCES – Please be aware of these Code items:

- Dog running free: \$100 fine first offense
- Dog feces: \$100 fine first offense
- No dog license: \$100 first offense
- Barking dog: \$50 first offense

LIGHTHOUSE BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROGRAM FUNDED –

On December 16, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010. Within the bill was a \$2.77 million appropriation for Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) for its Bus Rapid Transit program on the Monterey Peninsula. The federal funding will be matched by \$700,000 in California Proposition 1B Transportation Bond funds, which were approved state-wide by voters in 2006.

The 6.75 mile \$3.5 million project will fund improvements along the Fremont/Lighthouse corridor, including new shelters, “smart” signals at intersections that will be coordinated along the corridor to improve traffic flow, curb expansions, sidewalk improvements and wheelchair accessible ramps at bus stops, and electronic real-time bus arrival/departure signs connected to MST vehicles via Global Positioning System (GPS). The “smart” signals will help improve traffic flow for buses as well as cars throughout the corridor. For example, if a bus is running late, signals will stay green slightly longer than their normal cycle times so that MST vehicles can proceed through intersections in order to get back on schedule. The new electronic passenger information signs will tell customers waiting at stops exactly how long until the next bus will arrive. And, at key intersections, MST buses will have special lanes in which to bypass traffic congestion, providing a high quality transit experience along the corridor.

Coupled with these infrastructure improvements will be enhancements to the operations and scheduling of the transit lines that serve the Fremont/Lighthouse corridor. What is now a nearly one hour trip from residential areas in upper Seaside to work locations on Cannery Row and the Aquarium on two buses with a transfer in downtown Monterey will be replaced with a quicker “one-seat-ride” on a single Bus Rapid Transit vehicle.

Bus travel times through the corridor are expected to improve by 50%. Frequency would increase from every 15-30 minutes to every 10-15 minutes.

The main purpose of the project is to provide a single-seat express transit service between the residential areas of Seaside and the commercial areas of Downtown Monterey, Cannery Row, and the Lighthouse District. The project will utilize existing bus stops on Lighthouse at Irving, Hoffman, and Reeside.

Construction is expected to begin in late 2010 with operation expected to begin in late 2011.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS – China’s tragic magnitude 6.9 earthquake on April 13 and the recent devastating earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, Mexico, and elsewhere have many wondering if this earthquake activity is unusual. Scientists say 2010 is not showing signs of unusually high earthquake activity. Since 1900, an average of 16 magnitude 7 or greater earthquakes — the size that seismologists define as major — have occurred worldwide each year. Some years have had as few as 6, as in 1986 and 1989, while 1943 had 32, with considerable variability from year to year.

With six major earthquakes striking in the first four months of this year, 2010 is well within the normal range. Furthermore, from April 15, 2009, to April 14, 2010, there have been 18 major earthquakes, a number also well within the expected variation. “While the number of earthquakes is within the normal range, this does not diminish the fact that there has been extreme devastation and loss of life in heavily populated areas,” said USGS Associate Coordinator for Earthquake Hazards Dr. Michael Blanpied.

Though the recent earthquakes are not unusual, they are a stark reminder that earthquakes can produce disasters when they strike populated areas, especially areas where the buildings have not been designed to withstand strong shaking. What can you do to prepare? Scientists cannot predict the timing of specific earthquakes. However, families and communities can improve their safety and reduce their losses by taking actions to make their homes, places of work, schools and businesses as earthquake-safe as possible. The USGS provides information on how you can prepare at the Earthquake Hazards Program Web site.

Large earthquakes will continue to occur just as they have in the past. Source: 

INTERESTED IN CERT TRAINING? – The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is the eyes and ears of the Fire Department. We see and report so the Fire Department can decide where to put their limited resources. We learn how to plan at home and work for emergency situations, fire suppression, how to determine degree of structure damage, how to work as a team to search for and extricate the injured and trapped, emergency medical treatment and more. Business owners and residents can benefit from this basic knowledge.

The training is free. The next regular class will be offered September 18, 25 & 26. Our goal is to train an additional 120 people by this time next year. You may contact the Monterey CERT team to indicate interest in CERT training at montereycert@hotmail.com.

**NMNA regular meeting – May 10 – 7 p.m.
Hilltop Center – Jessie and David**

CERT ACTIVITIES – Saturday, April 24th, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members attended a training exercise to learn how Monterey will be divided up for quick damage assessment by CERTs after a major event (hurricane, tsunami, earthquake, flood). Fire Chief Mazza introduced CERTs to the new Damage Assessment procedure at this training.

On Saturday, June 26th, CERTs will be activated by the City’s new ESponder system to field test the assessment procedure in neighborhoods. All NERT and CERT personnel are urged to take part.

The New Monterey CERT team (and all NERTs who are interested) will be getting together one evening in May to discuss activation and team building. Date and time TBA.



Once the Hoffman Park CERT box is relocated, the New Monterey CERT team will be actively requesting help to outfit the new CERT box with tools and other supplies. If you have extra tools or would like to make a contribution, please contact New Monterey’s CERT team director, Sharon Dwight at 375-0841.

NAME CHANGE – Move over Mr. Dickman, Mr. Scholze has reasserted himself. In March the City Council approved the Parks & Recreation Commission’s recommendation to rename the Senior Center to Scholtze Park Center. Mr Scholtze left the land to the City years ago and the name change is intended to eliminate the notion that the facility is for senior’s use only.

NEWS FROM SCHOLZE PARK

- Bingo is revamping. Go down every Monday from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and stay for...
- Tap dancing classes have just started. Act quickly to join the Monday class from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m..
- More activities on line or call – 646-3878.

SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION –

Supporting contributions above \$10 gives the association not only an influential head count, but as importantly, the funds with which to do its work. We have had contributions of as much as \$100 from people who understand the importance of citizen vigilance and the need to constantly strive for improvement in our neighborhood. Thank you!



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? _____

Make checks payable to NMNA and mail to address below.

2010 NMNA Board Contacts

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NMNA Website

newmontereyneighborhood.org