



NEW MONTEREY Neighborhood News

June 2010

Next meeting: Monday, June 14 – Hilltop Center – 7 PM

GARDEN NOTES Fred Nolan, a longtime Monterey Peninsula resident and a 12-year resident of New Monterey shares his thoughts and some great pictures of his garden:

If gardening is a dreary task for you hire someone else to do it. That said, you can have a lot of fun in the garden. The first thing that you want to do is take the drudgery out of it. I have not mowed a lawn in 28 years. That's how long ago I got rid of my lawn. The only reason I can see for a lawn is as a playing field for pre-school children. The kids grew up and the lawn disappeared.

Now, I get to do the fun stuff like raise flowers, lots and lots of flowers. You can buy rather good vegetables at our grocery store and especially at the farmers market. I let others grow the veggies (see why below). I grow flowers all twelve months of the year. There is never a time of the year that I do not have something blooming. The greatest bloom of the year, however, is April and May.

The object behind all this is color, lots and lots of color. Not just any color. The colors are planned to work together. I don't believe in a riot of color. I believe in a rhapsody



of color. All the colors in my garden are harmonious, not accidental. Color is a fascinating thing to study. The color wheel is the place to start studying color. You can use any color theme you want in your garden just so the colors don't clash. So get the color palette right and then learn how to grow the flowers. That sounds backwards but it isn't, otherwise you can spend an huge amount of effort and end up with

*Please see **Garden Notes** on page 3*

FROM THE PRESIDENT: Are you tired of hearing how our government has insufficient money to do what it is expected to do? The drumbeat of cut, cut, cut on all levels leaves one to wondering how this continues to happen, over and over? I can tell you how.

Discipline is required to truly budget long term. We go from boom to bust to boom on a regularly predictable cycle. And while wild swings of the economy since WW II have been mitigated by various means, the inability of governments at every level to survive the economic vagaries endemic to capitalism painfully continues. In good times, we take on more responsibilities. We spend more. When the bad times come along, we don't have the money to pay for them.

Like a family, our government needs to develop the discipline to spend based on its dependable income. Does a prudent family spend bonuses, rewards, spiffs, windfalls and inheritances as if they will always be there? Not if it wants to continue to be prudent. It will commit to long term spending only of dependable income. It will spend the undependable income on very little, and certainly not on long term, on going commitments. A smart family will save it for a rainy day.

We recently saw that we must rely on the government to sustain us during hard times. In fact, it could be argued that one primary purpose of government is to protect our economic welfare. To do that, the government must learn to restrain spending in good times in order to be able to sustain us in bad times- the spender of last resort.

Not one level of government in this country can do that. Not one level has the discipline to say no and to not spend up to the level of income. None of us individually can do that in the long run. Why in the world would our government think it can do so?

The solution lies with us, unfortunately. We must realize that because the government has the revenue, it does not mean it can spend it. Like us. It must save. We must learn that a healthy government will have huge reserves in good times that will be called upon to be spent in bad times.

Our cries for more from our government are so loud that it finds it impossible to say no. Once we understand that it is in our interest for government to be fiscally penurious we might stop asking for more, unless we are willing to pay now with higher taxes. Pay as we go. What a concept. Can a democracy do that?

Howard B. Fosler

CITY BUDGET Things continue to darken at City Hall with regard to the budget. Projected revenues fail to meet expectations and the trend is alarming. The state has taken back over \$2 million as a forced loan, and the City wants to cancel funded NIP projects poised to proceed. We don't agree with this attempt to undo what was already agreed to and intend to question this proposal.

There is a proposal to spend about \$300,000 on a traffic study to see if Alvarado Street should be made two way again. We don't think this is the right time for such a study. Things are not good and are getting worse. We will continue to monitor service cuts as they develop.

STAY LOCAL FOR A QUICK GETAWAY Why leave Monterey when as a local you can get great deals down by the water? Many restaurants continue to have local menus (ask if you don't see one) with special rates. And parking discounts are available at two venues:

- Waterfront - 7 days/week - first 2 hours free parking with 939 zip code (not good for meters)
- Cannery Row Garage - 7 days/week free after 4pm with 939 zip code

HISTORIC SURVEY The Association is completing it's compilation of historic material it wants to include in the City's analysis of New Monterey. Importantly, it is also suggesting a refreshed format that it feels will be more comprehensive and in line with other such surveys. Should you wish to make suggestions or contributions, now is the time. We encourage you to call one of the committee members to discuss your thoughts.

NATURAL DISASTERS Several people were unnerved by last month's article on earthquakes, so we will put your minds to rest with this report. Tsunamis present very little threat to New Monterey residents. You need not do anything to prepare to be swept away by a tidal wave unless you live below Wave Street. However, if you work downtown or around the estuaries south to Fremont Street, you might want to check this website: <http://www.monterey.org/fire/preparedness/tsunamifyer.pdf>

CERT To sharpen skills required during a crisis, a citywide emergency practice will occur on Saturday morning, June 26, when CERT certified neighbors will be out driving streets and assessing simulated damage. Every street in Monterey will be surveyed with the results reported to the crisis command center downtown. It will then assign emergency response teams to the hardest hit communities as needed. When you see green helmeted, yellow vested

folks scampering past your house that morning just wave and be thankful they are there.

HOT TOPICS FROM MAY NMNA Minutes of NMNA meetings are in the Archives on the NMNA website for your reference. Here are highlights from the May meeting.:

Tree Trimming – A number of important topics were discussed, led off by Robert Reid, Urban Forester for the City. Mr Reid emphasized how important the timing and manner of cutting trees is to the surrounding forest as well as to the tree being trimmed. Most trees need to be managed for safety, good health and optimum enjoyment. Harmful tree cutting is against the law. As a rule, trees may be trimmed by twenty-five percent without permission, but a trained arborist's skill is essential for the health of the tree. Improperly trimming a tree can be harmful if not fatal to the tree. Trees trimmed at the wrong time –it varies by species- can jeopardize the surrounding trees by attracting an infestation of beetles and other pests. There is no City fee to trim or remove a dead, dying or dangerous tree.

One has no inherent right to a view blocked by a tree. We have a particularly good record in our neighborhood of finding ways to trim trees for safety and view shed while maintaining the benefits of trees. In the rare instance when neighbors can't agree, a certified tree arborist can often help. There is information on the City's website and California Civil Code, sec: 883 & 884 can help. There are good reasons why you as a tree owner should cooperate to maintain your trees. It makes for happy neighbors and it may be just a matter of time until you want your neighbor to trim a tree for you.

Graffiti – There was a graffiti attack recently in the 400 block of Hawthorne Avenue. The City tries to respond promptly to graffiti defacement. Doug Stafford 646-3926 is the person to call. If the problem persists, let your Association know about it. We will get the police involved. Spray paint scrawl is highly contagious. Don't condone it by ignoring it.

Traffic Conditions on Hawthorne Street – Responding to complaints, your association asked the City to review conditions on Hawthorne Street to see if anything should be done to make it safer. A study is in progress.

Broadcast Music on Cannery Row – Spotting a Planning Commission agenda item to request approval for music to be broadcast out doors on Cannery Row caused your association to challenge the proposal resulting in the request being dropped from consideration. Vigilance at work.

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a conflicted group of colors and shades.

If you want to start experimenting with color you can try just a few flowers in containers with a harmony of colors and have a tremendous impact. Blue lobelia does great in New Monterey. Just one container is a great place to start. Buy planting mix at the supply store, never use garden soil it is too heavy. Put a couple of fertilizer sticks in the pot. Fertilizer sticks are usually used in indoor plants but they work just fine in outside containers. If your first container is a success you can even get fancy and buy a concrete pedestal to put your pot on. That way you can use it as a focal point in your yard. You will amaze yourself and astonish your friends.



My garden is the result of a lot of failures and some successes; I have managed to repeat some of the successes. The failures have gone out in the trash. Don't feel bad about plants that didn't make it. The house (mother nature) always wins. It all boils down to your own microclimate. As a matter of fact, it is all about microclimate. For example, if you try to grow plants that need the heat of Carmel Valley you will have miserable results in foggy New Monterey (remember my point about veggies above). Microclimate doesn't just mean your neighborhood. I have a different microclimate on one side of my house than I do on the other. The shady side is often up to ten degrees colder than the sunny side. In foggy New Monterey it is possible to grow shade plants right out in the sunshine. Foggy New Monterey is not a great place for roses so I just don't grow roses. Heat loving plants in general do not do well in our neighborhood. Plants that grow well are those that do well in the coastal fog belt, such as annual Cineraria, Lobelia, Delphiniums, Swan River Daisies, Santa Barbara Daisies, Peruvian Lillies, Society Garlic, Margueites, and Agapanthus.

Fog by itself is not the only factor you have to consider when gardening in New Monterey. Another big consideration is our big resident deer population. Unless your garden is in some way protected from the deer you really are not free to grow what you want. My garden is protected on all four sides by driveway gates, walkway gates, with fences and hedges. If the planning commission would approve a

moat and drawbridge I would go for that. Charming as these beautiful animals are, they are New Monterey gardener's worst enemy. In just one night they can eat your garden right to the ground. So what don't these midnight marauders eat? Oddly enough, in different neighborhoods they eat different things.

Word on the street here in the Coastal fog belt is they do not eat Marguerite, Pride of Madeira, the gold and silver bush, and Society Garlic. This gives you a relatively small garden palette, but outside the wall or fence that's the way it is. Fortunately if you really get to know these plants you can mix and match them and come up with some very pleasing combinations.

Outside the fence those are your choices. Inside the fence a garden of cool weather plants are yours. So, try a single plant in a pot and if you don't kill it try another. Who knows there may be good a gardener lurking inside you waiting to get out. Happy gardening. To enjoy color pictures of my results go to: <http://www.newmontereyneighborhood.org/gardenNolan/>

WEEDS – Just a reminder! Spring has sprung and so have the weeds.:

City Code Sec. 14-10. Public Nuisance.

No owner, agent, lessee, or other person occupying or having charge or control of any building, lot or premises within the City shall permit weeds to remain upon the premises, public sidewalks, streets or alleys between the premises and the centerline of any public street or alley.

If this is an issue, please contact a board member for further advice.

DO YOU HAVE EMAIL? Have you shared your email address with the NMNA? If you have, then you are seeing the pictures of Fred's garden in living color and you membership dollars go just that much further.

Also, if you share your email address with the NMNA we can share emergency or other urgent information about things going on in the neighborhood or City. We do not sell or share our mailing list.

**NMNA regular meeting – June 14 – 7 p.m.
Hilltop Center – Jessie and David**

BELLY DANCE FOR FUN AND FITNESS Enjoy learning techniques and experience the joy of expressing yourself at this lively class with Jamaica Sinclair. This is a terrifically fun way to work your core! Ages, 18 up, beginning Monday July 7 – July 19 (No Class Jul 5) from 9:00-10:00a.m. at the Schulze Center Fee: \$24 Sorry, ladies only.

MEMBERSHIP Your support of the association that represents your interests is needed! If you have not renewed, please do so now. Without you, we have less clout at City Hall and fewer resources to effectively represent you. Freedom isn't free, as they say, and neither is good government. It takes vigilance and that takes money. If you don't support government oversight, don't complain when things go badly.

NIP The good news is that Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) projects funded in previous years retain their funding. New Monterey's Prescott sidewalk project is in final design, with a meeting June 3rd to settle the last details. Construction will likely be in late summer/early fall. Grace 700 Power pole is awaiting PG&E - and the end of a long, wet winter.

near Cypress.
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? _____



The Hoffman Park CERT storage box relocation has been approved by the Parks & Rec Commission. That is to happen soon.

BALLET FOR CHILDREN Hilltop Park Center. offers a ballet program at two different skill levels. Taught by Carol Richmond. Dress Requirements:

For girls: PINK ballet shoes, PINK tights, BLACK leotards.

For boys: BLACK ballet shoes, knee socks, athletic shorts, WHITE tee shirt (tucked in).

Pre-Ballet – These are basic classes in pre-ballet movement for younger students. Exercises and simple dances are designed to promote strength, flexibility, coordination and self-expression. Certain ballet positions and movements are introduced. For Preschoolers who will enter kindergarten in the Fall of 2010.

Ballet I – This ballet class emphasizes correct alignment, proper muscular development and safety of execution. Students learn traditional French terminology and are exposed to the classical music and history of ballet. For ages 1st grade and older.

2010 NMNA Board Contacts

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NMNA Website

newmontereyneighborhood.org