



NEW MONTEREY Neighborhood News

February 2011

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

2011 - BRING ON THAT COMMUNITY FEELING – I thought I would write an article about why I love our New Monterey neighborhood and especially Alice Street. I have lived here for 20 years.

Everyone who lives here knows how convenient it is to get to Pacific Grove, Carmel, and most places on the Peninsula because of our central location. I like and frequent our New Monterey Lighthouse businesses and like the assortment of restaurants and shops. I am lucky enough to live on Alice Street and enjoy the sound of reveille in the morning and evening. I love the sounds of the fog horn and sea lions and even the occasional Pacific Grove High School band when the wind blows the right way. It's fun to see the wildlife in my garden such as squirrels, deer (when they don't eat my roses!), finches and other birds. I could live without the raccoons but they were here before me and luckily have not had their way with my cats.

But the best thing of all are my neighbors. Many of us have lived here a long time. We all know each other and help each other out. This year, my next door and across the street neighbors, Callie Muller and Cassandra Gallup Bridge organized an amazing bock party. It was very fun and we plan to make it annual event. It was held in September and on one of those very hot and wonderful weekends. All the neighbors participated and we blocked off the street from Prescott to Irving. Callie rented a jump house for the kids, Cassandra ran the snow cone machine and lots of games we played. The highlight was when the Monterey Fire Department came to visit and gave everyone hats and showed us all the workings of the fire truck. Not to be outdone, our local Monterey Policeman came by and visited too! The kids and adults loved all of it. And to top off our 2010 year, our street once again showed the spirit of the holidays and 13 out of 18 houses put up outside Christmas lights. It's great to see so much holiday cheer.

So in closing, I want to wish everyone and wonderful 2011 and want to thank our New Monterey Neighborhood Association volunteers and Board. I may not go to the meetings regularly, but always read the newsletter and appreciate their hard work and dedication to keeping our neighborhood informed of what is affecting us and special services we can participate in.

Happy New Year!

Patie McCracken
Alice Street

NIP KICK-OFF – January 27th Monterey's Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) Committee met to begin the process of reviewing project ideas submitted by the public and staff for FY 2011/2012.

A record 212 projects are on the list right now, 30 in New Monterey. Submittal deadline for ideas is February 15th at 5 pm.

There will be meetings February 10 and 24 to 'weed' the list of projects – to remove from the list projects already completed by staff and projects already funded, and to refer projects to other City departments that do not qualify for NIP funding or that can be addressed through already-funded programs (like new street lights). Residents who attended NMNA's annual meeting January 24th spoke in favor of:

- one of 6 requested Street Widening projects
- 3 Drainage Improvements
- Repair of 2 Trip Hazards
- ADA Access to Cypress and Hilltop Parks play areas
- a ramp at the Presidio end of Hawthorne for bike and pedestrian access .

The Lighthouse Business District has proposed a new wall and trees at Scholze Park. Design work is underway; funding to construct is needed. Restoration work on Sloat

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2/14 NMNA Board Meeting Monday 7pm
Hilltop Center (lower room), Jessie & Withers

2/15 Priority-based Budgeting, Tuesday time TBD
Council Chambers

TIME TO RENEW – It's time for us to ask for your support again. **Please renew your membership** so that your Association can remain vibrant and able to do the important work of City Hall oversight. Donations above the \$10 membership go far to help us reach other residents and carry the message of Monterey's largest neighborhood to appropriate centers of power. We appreciate and need you!

FROM THE PRESIDENT – We had a good turnout at our Annual Meeting and those present got up to the minute information on a number of issues. Representatives from the Presidio showed us their plans for substantial development under way now. We shared some of our concerns with them and were told we will be the first to hear when the plans are ready for release to the public in final form. We also were updated on the Bay View Academy proposition. A police officer also made a brief report on criminal activity last year.

Your new board of directors was elected. Unfortunately, none other than current board members offered to run and all were reelected. Officers will be elected by the board at the March meeting.

A thorough review of NIP projects followed and proposed projects were prioritized so our representative would bid our wishes at the next NIP meeting. We are fortunate that several of our projects are funded and poised to commence. The list was announced by our rep, Sharon Dwight.

We reasserted our intent to only get involved with issues that concern our neighborhood directly or indirectly and to concentrate on the Lighthouse Avenue corridor. We determined that business health, traffic flow and parking are intimately connected and must be dealt with together. With that in mind, your representative will join the new consultant and City staff to tour the eight block business area this week. We understand how important traffic flow is to the businesses and we intend to push hard for a rapid solution to the backup problem as well as the flow in general.

Your association is healthy and ready to represent your interests as needed. I am proud of our board. Each one is a talented individual with your best interests being his/her inspiration. You are well served by these individuals. Please be sure to thank them for the countless hours they invest on your behalf.

Howard B. Fosler

Monument is also proposed.

NIP Meetings are broadcast over the AMP channel 25. Public participation is encouraged at the meetings, especially Wed April 13 (at Casanova Oak Knoll Park) and Monday April 18 (at City Council chambers).



Letters will be going out to owners and residents of the six blocks where street widening has been requested. Phone responses will be tallied. New Monterey's NIP Representative will advocate for the project that has the strongest neighbor support.

Questions or comments? Sharon Dwight 375-0841

**NMNA regular meeting – February 14 – 7 p.m.
Hilltop Center, Lower level – Jessie and David**

STATUS OF NIP PROJECTS ALREADY FUNDED

- CalAm Reservoir/Regional Water – local match for grant application
- Cypress Park Security Light – Feb
- Fire Stn #2 PA System Upgrade – Done
- Fire Stn #2 & Hilltop Pk Ctr Water Tanks – Feb
- Grace 700 Pole Relocation – Starts Feb
- Jessie Crosswalks – No progress
- Lower Presidio Walkway – Finalizing Contract
- Prescott Sidewalk (Jessie to SeaView) – Feb
- Sloat Monument Drainage – Environmental Work
- Spencer 600 Widening – Advertising for bids, April start

On Hold by City Council Decision

- Prescott/Cypress LED Speed Sign
- Terry/David Crosswalk
- Underground Utilities Unit Cost Study

WHY I LOVE LIVING IN NEW MONTEREY, ITS ABOUT PEOPLE

As a self declared Community Outreach Cheerleader, I am really excited about the New Year and at the possibilities of sharing more interesting facts and interests about our neighborhood. When I am out and about in the neighborhood I am amazed at the amount of different kinds of talented, passionate, and interesting people who live in the New Monterey Neighborhood, from families who have been here for multiple decades to recent arrivals.

I am an avid gardener and architectural lookie loo. I love walking around neighborhoods and see people's homes and front gardens. When I went on a local garden tour years ago I realized that often what lies beyond the exterior walls is far more interesting. And, that is exactly why I got involved with the association last year. I thought it would be a neat way to meet neighbors throughout the region of New Monterey by meeting their gardens and homes. I ultimately was hoping to put together a garden tour but later realized how much work that actually was. I

still hope to make that happen.

Nonetheless, we put together a garden column that shared a number of the diverse gardens people have created through the neighborhood. Later in the year, we started a meet your neighbor column, to share stories and passions of people who live in the neighborhood. After that, we launched our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Monterey-Neighborhood-Association/123650897686649> an open community where people can share their interests, photos, and videos from within and around the neighborhood. Please join us there (you do need a Facebook account). A neighbor, Pattie McCracken on Alice street, shared pictures of Alice's streets block party. See, story above and pictures on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?fbid=158706217514450&id=123650897686649&aid=48644>



I love New Monterey. We live in a marvelous ecosystem above Cannery Row, near Pebble Beach and Pacific Grove on a strip of hill that rises from the Ocean to the Pines. It is fantastic to live in a neighborhood that retains old fashion appeal and is culturally diverse. But, what I mostly realize, as I meet people, that despite their background they are passionate about their community, and that keeps me excited and want to share more stories about the people who make up this community and their interests, gardens, homes. So, please share a story, or nominate a neighbor. We want to know more about our community members. Send a story to Alexandra Albin: Alexandra.albin@gmail.com or call to nominate someone: 831.372.4813.

STREET LIGHTS – If you notice a street light malfunctioning, help the City by reporting the problem. Note the location and pole number if possible. You may call 646-2937 or go to this City Service Request web address and fill in the blanks: http://edynamicportal.ci.monterey.ca.us/DP1/Metroplex/Monterey/customerservice/wiz_csr.asp



Membership Dues: 2011 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

- Howard B. Fosler – President – 649-6935
- Barbara Bass Evans – VP – 372-8323
- Brian Greenshields – Secretary – bhgreens@nps.edu
- Bruce Crist – Treasurer – 333-1876
- Sharon Dwight – NIP – 375-0841
- Bob Evans – 372-8323
- Alexandra Albin – 372-4813
alex.albin@me.com

NMNA Website

newmontereyneighborhood.org