



NEW MONTEREY Neighborhood News

April 2011

Next meeting: Monday, April 11 – Hilltop Center – 7 PM

NIP PROCESS GOES FORWARD – On March 15, the City Council discussed the Neighborhood Improvement Program and saw for the first time the more than 200 projects proposed for funding. They have asked that NIP funds be directed to essential maintenance and public health & safety projects this year.

With cost estimates completed in March and video tape review in early April, the NIP program moves into its public hearing phase. Two meetings are held to give people in the community a chance to speak about the projects:

- Wednesday April 13 - Aguajito Oaks thru Oak Grove projects
 New Monterey's evening for comment This is the best time for New Monterey neighbors to come and be heard about projects. The other meetings allow for comments, but the April 13th meeting is set aside for that purpose. To see New Monterey's project list, see NMNA March newsletter. **Note:** This meeting is held at Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center, 735 Ramona - 7-9 PM
- Monday April 18 - Old Town thru Citywide projects – Council Chambers - 7-9 pm
 - Thursday April 28 - City Council Chambers - 7-10 pm. NIP Voting night, the evening that the committee prioritizes projects and prepares a list of project recommendations for City Council.

Public participation is welcome in all NIP meetings.

PRESCOTT SIDEWALK NEARS COMPLETION – Since December your NIP funds have been at work along Prescott. The Don Chapin Company has been pouring new sidewalks and access ramps along Prescott between Taylor Street and Sea View. A new french drain was installed above the sidewalk between Jessie & Devisadero to keep the sidewalk dry.

The final pieces? The curb will be modified at Devisadero to improve pedestrian crossing safety (see the picture below), and a little more concrete sidewalk will be poured. Pedestrians are already loving what this NIP project has done.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4/11 NMNA Board Meeting - Monday 7pm
Hilltop Center (lower room), Jessie & Withers

Moses Stites, a member of the Planning Commission, will be guest speaker April 11. Stites has worked in government for 22 years and has hands on experience with regulations that affect much that happens in the State. He will share ideas intended to help make the Association more effective in its approach to the regulatory bodies.

CERT CLASSES OFFERED IN MAY – With earthquakes and tsunamis in the news, lots of people want to know how they and their families and friends can be safer.

Monterey CERT is offering a 20-hour class in Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Medical, Fire Suppression, Search & Rescue, Radio Communications, and Utility Management on two weekends in May.

- Saturday May 7 8-5 pm,
- Saturday May 14 8-5 pm, and
- Sunday May 15 8-noon.

Participants attend all three days.

If those dates work for you (or if you want to get on the waiting list for the next class), email MontereyCERT@hotmail.com or leave a message at 646-3416.

The class is filling fast, so don't delay!

The training is at no charge for teens & adults. The City of Monterey sponsors CERT. People who complete the training are invited to participate in team drills and call-outs.

CERT TEAM ACTIVITIES – Saturday, April 16 - Monterey CERT hosts a representative from US Geological Survey to learn about earthquake fault lines in the Monterey Peninsula area and discuss with a Fire Department representative Monterey's Emergency Plan and Evacuation plans.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS – Our own business district now boasts of eleven 'best of category' businesses according to the Monterey County Weekly's latest poll. Lighthouse Business District announced that the following businesses all ranked first in their category. All deserve a look the next time you are seeking services in their areas of endeavor:

- Bamboo Reef Dive Shop:** Best Dive Shop
- BookBuyers Monterey:** Best Bookstore - Used
- Bulldog British Pub:** Best Bar for Darts
- Creative Visions Tattoo & Body Piercing:** Best Tattoo Parlor
- Crystal Fish Sushi:** Best Japanese/Sushi
- Gianni's Pizza:** Best Pizza
- Goodwill Industries:** Best Secondhand Clothing Store, Best Thrift Store
- Henry's BBQ:** Best Barbecue
- Mary Jane's Novelties:** Best Headshop
- Monterey Bay Aquarium:** Best Place to Take Visitors, Best Place to Work
- On the Beach Surf Shop:** Best Surf Shop
- Oya Salon:** Best Salon
- Sakura Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar:** Best Niche Nigiri

**NMNA regular meeting – April 11 – 7 p.m.
Hilltop Center, Lower level – Jessie and David**

WHARF LEASES – Following our meeting last month, when Bill McCrone discussed his findings based upon re-searching the wharf leases, the City plans hearings to look into the matter. McCrone believes the City is desultory in its negotiations and enforcement of leases on the wharves. Stopping short of claiming actionable recourse, McCrone says the City is losing millions of dollars of income with tenant favorable leases and it needs to stop. The City spokesperson say the leases are reasonable and just, but hearings are planned nevertheless to look into the matter.



BUDGET – Latest income figures for the City indicate a slight improvement in tax revenue. Led by the Cannery Row district, proceeds from sales and Transportation Occupancy Tax are finally trending up again, albeit slightly overall. Property tax continues to lag. This means the budget remains extremely tight and further cuts are inevitable unless the trend becomes more robust soon. City Manager Fred Meuer reminded us recently that the capital maintenance and improvement budgets need to be recharged first when things finally start to turn around or we will continue to have budget crises well into the future.

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.

LIGHTHOUSE AVENUE TRAFFIC – City traffic engineers at the request of your association retimed the lights along Lighthouse corridor in order to improve the flow to the tunnel. Additional adjustments were made along Del Monte Avenue. We hope these changes are apparent to you. On to Foam!



GRAFFITI – Three large graffiti tags were removed by the City shortly after they were reported. Fast response to this blight is a critical part of controlling it. You may call in a siting by phone or by reporting it on the City's website. Graffiti is vandalism. Parents of minors caught tagging may be held responsible for restitution.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – Isn't it nice not to be in a season of election politics?

BIG SUR – Now that we are being denied our enjoyment of the beautiful southcoast, it is time for us to plan our next outing there. Imagine what your favorite place holds for you and start pondering the joy of again being in that special moment when you are completely at peace, in Big Sur. Soon!

EARTHQUAKE – Pity those poor people in northern Japan who have lost so much in the double whammy of nature's fury, not to mention the nuclear disaster. Four hundred aftershocks so far. Are we ready for our turn?

DRIVER ALERT – We noticed a driving hazard as one exits the tunnel on to Foam Street. Signs point ahead to Cannery Row, but there is a street sign there that says Cannery Row. The alert motorist may see it and turn right into the dead end Coast Guard breakwater area. We asked the City to correct the confusion that could cause tourists to brake unexpectedly as they try to resolve the errant signage, but it has declined. Local drivers should be prepared for unexpected behavior of tourists at this corner.



Look for New Monterey Neighborhood on Facebook



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NEW MONTEREY Neighborhood News

NEW MONTEREY Neighborhood Association

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