



# NEW MONTEREY Neighborhood News

November 2011

Nov 13th, NMNA members meeting. 7pm Hilltop Center

## COMING EVENTS:

**City Council- Tuesday 14th, Council Chambers, 4pm**

**NMNA community meeting Monday, Nov. 13 at 7pm.**

**Henry Ruhnke and Kim Cole will update us on the Specific Plans for Lighthouse, Downtown and North Fremont.**

**Lighthouse Avenue:** Your board is concerned that the leading proposal from the City will turn Lighthouse Avenue into a bigger traffic mess than it already is, and on your behalf we have asked the City Council to broaden its study in order to look at the whole picture. The business community was pleased, as were we, that the parking lanes on both sides of the street will be widened. However, we are concerned that the added space will be taken out of the center. The four traffic lanes will be narrowed in order to come up with the added parking space, according to the proposal. At the same time, the speed limit will be increased to 30mph and left turn lanes may be reintroduced requiring thru traffic lanes to be reduced to one in each direction or parking spaces sacrificed to accommodate them.

For a complete update, including the latest on Downtown changes, come to the resident's meeting on Monday, the 13th at Hilltop Center. All are invited. Kim Cole from Planning and Henry Ruhnke the architect behind the whole idea will describe the plans and status of the downtown redo and the Lighthouse corridor. This is big stuff that will affect us for years to come. We will report on it in the next newsletter, but we strongly suggest that residents come and hear for themselves what they have in store for you.

**Crime:** It's still a big issue and even more so after airing it at our last meeting. A review of the data provided by the police department suggests there is no crime wave. There is crime, however. Just the other day a homeowner at Spencer and Drake had tools stolen from the back of his pickup truck parked backwards in his carport. Gasoline was reported siphoned from a tank nearby, and in an adjacent neighborhood there was a forced entry while a woman was at home.

In response to reports of graffiti, vandalism and habitation of vacant Bay View Once- A- School the police department and MPUSD have assured us they will give crime in our neighborhood closer attention.

Our best response now is to report everything to the police department or responsible entity. The more we report the more attention we will get and the safer things will become.

- For crimes in action call the police at 911.
- To report an incident, defined as anything concerning safety that disturbs you, call 646.3914.
- Police Department (general information) 646.3830
- If you see something that the City may be responsible for check its website or call 646.3914. Graffiti should be reported immediately. By the way, the City will appreciate you reporting streetlights that are malfunctioning now that it is dark longer than it is light. See below for more contact information.

**ATT U-verse Cable Subscribers:** You will be happy to learn TV coverage of city governance meetings is now available on channel 99. Finally. It took a while, but it is great to have. Kudos to those responsible.

**Code Enforcement:** There are two items that come up frequently and even more often lately. One is trash cans that are left out for extended periods. To paraphrase the code **Sec. 14-1. Storage of Solid Waste**,...it has to be stored in containers out of sight. **Sec. 14-3. Collection Service Required.** Everybody has to do it, and ...containers for solid waste collection shall be placed adjacent to the street on the day of collection ... no person shall leave any residential ... containers, or any other items for collection ... at the street curb or in any other place on the property visible from the street before 6:00 p.m. on the day prior to the day of pickup and beyond 7:00 p.m. the day of collection.

Due to the number of complaints we are getting we will ask the City to enforce these ordinances firmly for the next few weeks. You may assist them and help alleviate this blight by helping those who need it, reminding neighbors of the requirement and then by reporting scofflaws by phone or on line at:

<http://edynamicportal.ci.monterey.ca.us/DP1/Metroplex/Monterey/customer-service/starthere.asp>

And no, it is not ok for anyone to remove anything from your trash cans. **Sec. 14-7**

Another issue is **excessive lighting**. This time of year brings more lighting complaints as outdoor lighting tends to come on earlier. Perhaps the best way to think of it is that your property rights-including your right to light things up-stops at the end of your property. As compliance officer put it recently, "... The rationale is in keeping with the legal theory that one has a duty to keep the effects of conditions on his property (e.g. noise, dust, odors, radioactivity, etc.) on his property and not adversely affect a neighbor's property..." It comes down to us all being considerate of each other.

**Speed:** The problem, especially on cross streets, with speeding continues and probably won't improve anytime soon. And it seems like some people enjoy seeing how high they can make the radar speed reader go up on Prescott. We have asked for more enforcement. We will see if it helps. Please consider how valuable saving one minute is as you speed up Prescott compared with taking a risk that you may not be able to stop in time for a car coming onto Prescott from a cross street, or a child darting into the street

**Literate Couch Potato Alert-** If you are the old fashioned reader who still enjoys turning pages manually, but finds the libraries way too far to go, there is the mobile library service that comes to our neighborhood at Hilltop Center regularly, every other Thursday (not Thanksgiving) from 3:15 to 4:15pm. This month that's on the 10th, and the 8th and 22nd next month.

A Special Open House Bookmobile stop is scheduled for Saturday the 12th from 1pm to 3pm to let you have a look and at 1:30pm to allow you to dialogue your ideas on how to improve library services. This is a good time to see what they offer and make your suggestions in person.

**The Homeless-** Some thoughts to consider

- Often these people are homeless involuntarily. Some have chosen a different lifestyle. As one of many consequences, they have a different type of home than do we, but they are not exactly homeless. They are not immobile.
- Homeless people need food, water, clothing, income and shelter like everyone else. Their means of providing for themselves may differ from many others' methods, but it is neither illegal nor immoral to be homeless. Situations that provide easy access to those basic needs will attract homeless persons.
- Being homeless is not a crime. A person's actions are far more relevant than their appearance or station in life. However, do not hesitate to summon the police if a crime has occurred or when a person behaves in a threatening manner, whether the person is homeless or not.
- If a neighbor observes anything that appears to be amiss at the old Bay View School campus, or anywhere else in the neighborhood, they should call MPD on the non-emergency line 646.3914. When they call in, they will generally be asked if they want "officer contact". We suggest you say "yes" to officer contact. If you say no you may waste the officer's time. The officer might drive about the area a bit looking for something amiss. To a significant degree this will be akin to searching for a needle in a haystack. It will be far better if the neighbour agrees to "officer contact" so that the cop can speak with the reporting party to get a much better idea about the situation. City of Monterey Municipal Codes may be used by the Police Department to deal with a variety of situations. When violations of these codes are observed, they should be promptly reported.
- If the reporting party wants the police to take action, it will be necessary to sign a complaint. For a lot of these "crimes", the officer has limited range of possible actions and the range is reduced if (s)he didn't personally observe the activity and no observer who did is willing to sign a report of such observance.
- For information on how to help the homeless please go to <http://www.unitedwaymcca.org/>

**Storm Drain Pollution:** In the City of Monterey storm drains flow directly to local creeks, estuaries and into Monterey Bay without treatment. They are about to be flushed by coming rains. Remember this when you go to the beach, surf, swim in the ocean, go fishing, and eat local sea food. You, your friends and family all depend on healthy waterways and oceans. Storm water pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near streams or the bay. Common sources of this pollution include spilled fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment, construction debris, landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers, and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour into a street or storm drain. Remember to clean up all spills when they happen! If building materials or other wastes get into a gutter, storm drain, or creek call the Public Works Department immediately. Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. call 646.3920 for other hours call the 24-hour emergency service at 646.3914.

**How To Report Almost Everything-** Sans emergencies, the best portal for asking for attention from the City is thru its Service Request site:

<http://edynamicportal.ci.monterey.ca.us/DP1/Metroplex/Monterey/customerservice/starthere.asp>

For questions regarding a request, please check the Plans & Public Works main page for specific number related to your request, or if you're not sure call 646.3462 during business hours. For non-business hours call the 24 hour non-emergency service 646.3914. (Police)

A good place to make comments when you are not sure where else to go is the Citizen Comment Form: <http://www.monterey.org/en-us/departments/citymanagersoffice/citizencommentform.aspx>



Visit your association on Facebook

**Membership Dues: 2011 NMNA Membership Form**



**Basic - \$10**

**Additional Support - \$20 or \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make checks payable to NMNA and mail to address below.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Deliver my newsletter via email? Yes  No

Comments/Suggestions?

**2011 NMNA Board Contacts**

- Howard B. Fosler – President – 649-6935  
hbfosler@sbcglobal.net
- Barbara Bass Evans – VP – 372-8323
- 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](http://newmontereyneighborhood.org)