

NEW
MONTEREY
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

NEWS

NMNA

JANUARY 2012



Happy New Year!

It is time to renew your support for your neighborhood association by subscribing again for the year. \$10 will secure your membership. \$20 will underwrite the expense of the newsletter distribution. Additional sums will go far to support the work of your association which is done by available volunteers. Bylaw covenants require that all sums expensed by the association must directly benefit the neighborhood. **Your support insures our voice is heard at City Hall.**

Get Involved

We need new members. Please invite your New Monterey friends and neighbors to join the association. Numbers speak loudly at City Hall. And we need the financial support of many people to make our work meaningful. Please consider contributing your time and talent as well as your treasure to the association. This is a good time for each of us to consider whether we are doing enough to be considered good, active citizens. The democratic process requires involvement. Without involvement we abdicate control to the activists, not the majority. We have seen how results can be skewed when this happens. Especially in this election year, please get engaged in the democratic process. The best place to start in in your own neighborhood.

Upcoming Meetings

Our first meeting of the year will be Monday, January 9. It will be the last with the current officers and board and will involve finalizing our work for last year and setting goals for this year's new board which will be created at the Annual Neighborhood Meeting Monday January 23.

If you only make one meeting, please try to be at this one on the 23RD. You will hear what was accomplished last year and what is in store for coming months.

Our special guest speaker on the 23rd will be City Manager Fred Meuer who will share with us the status of the City as we emerge from the most serious recession in fifty years. He will tell us how he intends to regain fiscal balance lost during this period, when service levels will be restored and where the money will come from to get the City operating again at an optimum level.

You will also have an opportunity to vote for a new board of directors to lead us this year. The board will elect its officers from within.

You will also help choose community improvement projects for us to submit to the Neighborhood Improvement Program. You will also be able to meet our patrol officers from the Police Department and learn about the crime situation in New Monterey.

At our February meeting you will meet our new Police Chief, Phil Penko, who will share his vision of the department's future.

All meetings are scheduled for 7pm at Hilltop Center, at Irving and Jessie Streets.

From the Prez

At its last Study Session of the year in December, the City Council requested representatives of its seven committees and commissions to report on their status. It was an interesting meeting for me for it was the first time I had attended this annual event.

In nutshell from each activity center shared informally what it had accomplished and what challenges it faces. You can read more about it on page 2 in the Year End Study Session Report.

What interested me most was the attitude of the presenters. Each was upbeat, energetic, succinct and full of fervent enthusiasm about her role in making the City run. It left me with appreciation for each one of them and the work they do, but more importantly, for the quality of leadership we have in Monterey.

Our city runs well largely because these people and their leaders, who exemplify and create this attitude, put so much of themselves into their jobs. They act like they have a calling, not a job. They left me feeling like Monterey meant everything to them and they were honored to be here.

Yeah, I know I probably got carried away by the season, but it sure felt good to be there with them that day.

- Howard Fosler



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Membership Dues: 2012 NMNA Membership Form

Basic: \$10
Additional Support: \$20
or _____

Make checks payable to NMNA and Mail to:
P.O. Box 2642
Monterey, CA 93942

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Deliver my newsletter via Email: Yes No

Comments/Suggestions?: _____

NIP: MONTEREY'S NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

NIP dates back to 1986 when City voters approved using room tax revenue to create and/or upgrade buildings, parks, sidewalks, drainage and more across the city. Unique to the Plan is that the process is led by the neighborhoods. Each year residents are encouraged to suggest projects that would correct problems or improve Monterey in some way.

At the January 23 NMNA Annual Meeting, we will discuss priorities for project ideas submitted by that date. This year the deadline to submit ideas is February 17.

NIP Proposal forms are available by calling 646-3887 or by going online. If you wish to talk about your project idea, contact our NIP representative, Sharon Dwight, at 375-0841.

Come and help us decide how to spend tourist tax proceeds for New Monterey's highest needs on the 23rd.

NIP PROJECT STATUS IN NEW MONTEREY-

David/Terry Crosswalk:

Design work to begin in January

Grace/Prescott Widening:

PG&E needs to move pole so work can proceed

Prescott/Divisadero: Complete.

Parks Division will add simple landscaping to enhance the entry to New Monterey.

Prescott/Lily Speed Sign:

Final contract details needed before ordering the sign and several others in town.

Spencer 600 Widening:

PG&E to move poles out of street; otherwise complete.

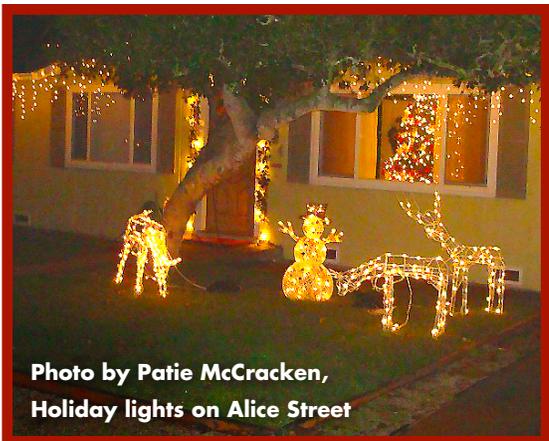


Photo by Patie McCracken,
Holiday lights on Alice Street

Year End Study Session Report:

The several boards, commissions and committees of the City gave their year end reports to the Council last month. In addition to their formal reports each gave a brief verbal report as well. Recapping:

Architectural Review Committee-

Scott McKenzie highlighted the completion of a new city wide regulation that attempts to standardize sign practices. He also mentioned that he is aware that enforcement remains deficient.

Parks and Recreation-

Suzanne Menendez Herbst highlighted the nineteen year old Sport Center as a jewel in the crown of Monterey's civic assets and pointing out over a million people used it in 2011.

Planning Commission- NM's own Leon Garden gave a positive report and cited the accomplishment of putting Land Use Planning on line for easy access to all. He also mentioned that NM resident Moses Stites resigned from the Commission due to business demands.

Parking Lot Locals Program CHANGES-

At the Waterfront Attendant Lot (between MOM and the marina) the revised plan now offers 2-hours of free parking Monday - Thursday to all Monterey County residents (any person residing in the 939 zip code area), when an hourly rate is charged. Monterey County residents present their ticket and a driver's license with a local zip code at exit to the Parking Attendant to receive the first 2-hours of parking free, except on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

At the **Cannery Row Garage**, Monterey County residents who enter the garage after 4:00 p.m. present their ticket and a driver's license with a local zip code to the parking attendant to receive free parking. Changed-when staff leaves for the evening and there are still vehicles present, staff places a night deposit slip on their windshield to collect the parking fee due. All locals need to do is write "local" on the slip and deposit with their garage ticket.

Colton Hall Museum/ Cultural Arts Commission-

Esther Rodriguez mentioned that even with a cut in hours, visits to Colton Hall increased emphasizing the importance it holds in our state's history.

Historic Preservation Committee-

Bob Petty noted how valuable the Mills Act has been in allowing owners of historic property to restore and maintain the integrity of these important vestiges of the past.

Library Board-

Clyde Roberson mentioned that staff is down by a third, but usage is up. 356,000 people used the library last year and over half million items were leant out.

Neighborhood Improvement Program-

Rick Heuer happily reported that after a prior year of no project completions, the current year had 213 and mentioned how valuable City engineer NM resident Tom Reeves has been to the effectiveness of the program.

Notice: CERT Class

The City of Monterey CERT program is offering a class for new volunteers. Class occurs February 11th, 18th & 19th. This is a two weekend series, taught Saturday, Saturday/Sunday. Students must complete all three days. Please find at least one person from your neighborhood to enroll in the class. Families are encouraged to attend. Persons under the age of 16 are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

To enroll, interested persons can send an e-mail to: montereycert@hotmail.com Persons without e-mail can leave a phone message at: 831 646-3416.

If it has been a while since you have taken the CERT training, please consider enrolling in the class. The teaching materials and techniques have changed a lot.

**Demetrius A. Kastros
Community Emergency Response
Team Instructor
(831) 224-0167**



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