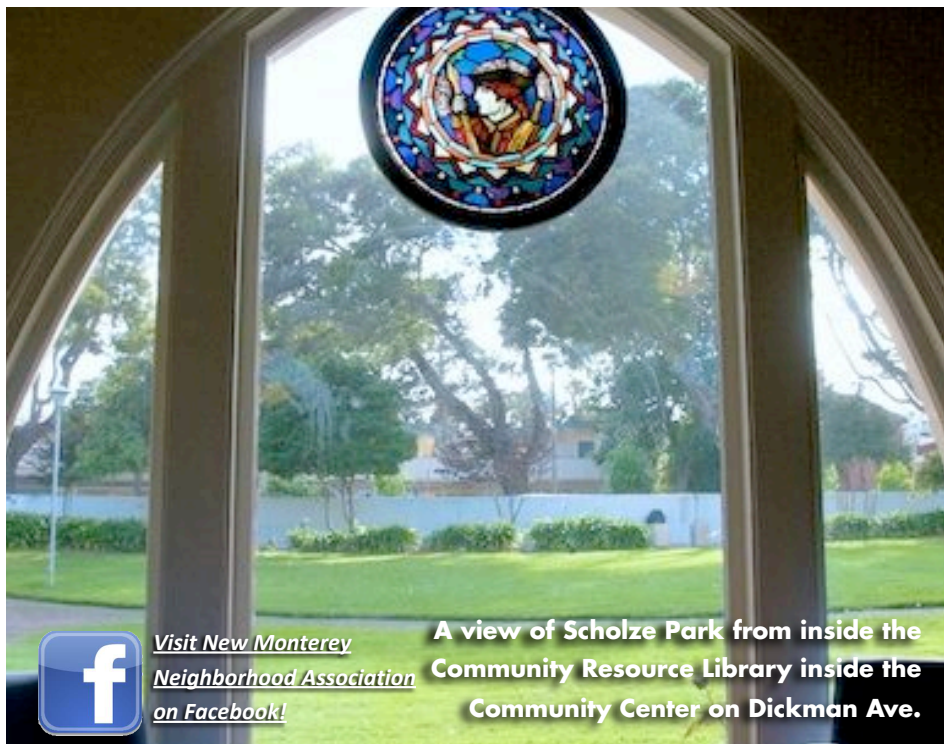


NEW MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

AUGUST 2012

ANNA



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A view of Scholze Park from inside the Community Resource Library inside the Community Center on Dickman Ave.

Our Next Meeting

Monday, Sept. 10. Hilltop Park
7pm. Open to all. There will be no meeting in August.

Movie Date

Next Saturday Night (8/11) the New Monterey Business Association presents *Movies in the Park*. We'll be watching the family sports comedy *The Sandlot* (1993), the story of a group of young baseball players in the summer of 1962.

All Movies in the Park will be held outdoors at Scholze Park, located at the corner of Lighthouse Ave and Dickman Ave in front of the Scholze Park Community Center. All films will begin after sunset, but you are welcome to come early and bring a picnic.

Bay View Academy will be selling snacks onsite to raise funds for the school. Remember to dress warmly and bring blankets and/or chairs. Please do not bring pets or alcohol. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Admission is free, but because space is limited, **tickets must be obtained in advance from any participating shop along Lighthouse Avenue in Monterey (look for the Movies in the Park poster in the window).**

At the event, your movie tickets will become **raffle tickets**, entered into a drawing for great prizes from local businesses!

Bay View Playground

The most underused playground in New Monterey is at the Bay View campus.

The reason is that it is almost impossible to get in to it. While there are five gates, only one is open. At the top of the long, steep stairs on Laine Street one can find an unlocked gate. If you are disabled, have more than one child, wish to take along a bicycle or stroller or if you get there late in the day you will be out of luck.

When you get to the top where the playground is you will find a new fence is installed to encumber you from enjoying the eastern two

thirds of the playground where the grass is and the basketball hoops are located. The track is also there and once upon a time there was a garden.

A gate in the new fence is now open, however, it is recommended one not take multiple children with differing activity interests, because a parent will not be able to provide supervision in the park split by a fence.

There are no signs indicating the park is open to the public, how one might gain access to the park, whether both sides of the park are available, what the hours of operation are or how a physically challenged person might enjoy the park.

More rightfully now called a park rather than the playground it was for a hundred years, your association is discussing the distinct effort to discourage use with the District, which controls the grounds, and the City, which has an interest in providing the grounds to the community.

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?: _____

City Financial Situation

Not long ago Don Rhoads, Finance Director of the City, gave the Monte Vista Neighborhood Association an update on City fiscal matters. The good news is that it looks like things have bottomed out, if not quite turned around. We are far from solvent, however. Revenue is up for TOT taxes, sales taxes, property taxes. Expenses are stable so long as the State doesn't get away with its latest grab of revenue which was challenged in the courts.

Employees are in their second year of no COLA adjustments and their prior salary concessions continue. Our agreement to provide services for the military continues to be a reliable source of revenue. In fact, Fred Meuer was recently praised nationally for this program. It is now a prototype for other cities to follow. If the economy continues to improve Rhoads is expecting a 3% annual increase in revenue over the next two to five years.

The bad news resides in two areas. Retirement obligations are currently funded at about 80% of their requirement. We are in deep arrears on this account, as are most cities in California. A large backfill approaching \$1½ million may be required, although Monterey is in the top 11% of cities in its PERS funding obligation.

The second problem area is infrastructure funding. Everything wears out and will eventually need replacement or repair. We have purposely underfunded this account while trying to keep people employed and services maintained as revenues dropped during the recession. We must now catch up and get this fund back on pace if we are to meet our obligation to the future citizens of Monterey. We used up these resources. It is our duty to pay to return them to good order. Rhoads said he has no idea how these problems will be met as it is up to the City Council to provide that guidance.

Community Emergency Response Team

You may be aware our neighborhood could well be cut off from most help if certain emergencies occur. It behooves us to be prepared to deal with an emergency independently and block by block until help can reach us. That is the motive behind the thirty or so people in New Monterey who have taken the training to become pre-first responders, or those who arrive on the scene of a crisis before the professional trained responders get here.

Most of us have planned for our family's safety when a crisis occurs. We know what our children and partners will do if there is an earthquake, urban fire, tsunami or the like. We know what we will take when we are evacuated on a moment's notice. And we are prepared to respond in place (live in the basement without water, gas or electricity).

Once our families are safe we will turn to our neighbors to offer help. Our CERT Team, in an organized, planned manner, will account for the condition of the neighborhood, secure it from further harm and search for those needing assistance. **They will report to a community center, ours is at Hilltop Center,** where the reports will be collated and relayed to the Emergency Operations Center downtown behind the police station.

The EOC will coordinate the response of the first responders (police, fire, ambulance) in the most effective manner that does the most good. Our needs might not be the highest priority in their estimation. We might have to wait our turn for help. Our CERT team is trained to provide the leadership and expertise that will be needed in such an event.

Training and preparation are the keys to the effectiveness of our response and CERT does a lot of each. For instance, they recently completed a Radio & Damage Assessment drill. On August 9 they will practice Traffic Control. Follow-up Tabletop exercises will occur 8/16 and 8/18. Continuing Team Orientation drills will occur 8/27, 9/24, 10/22 in EOC. UASI "Medical/Health Surge Drill will be on 9/5. And the quarterly drill on 10/27 will focus on PG&E for First Responders.

A new class for those interested as well as CERTS wishing to refresh will run from 9/6 to 10/18. More information is available on line: <http://montereycert.org/> or from Sharon Dwight, our Team Leader, at ddwight@redshift.com. See Board Member listing for her telephone number.

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