

NEW MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

SEPTEMBER
2012

NMNA



Meeting Date Changes

• September 12

Wednesday – members' meeting

• September 26

Wednesday – Candidates' Forum

• October 15

Monday – members' meeting

• November 19

Monday - members' meeting

All meetings are at Hilltop Center at 7pm.

Meeting Agenda

Many items under consideration this month include appointing our NIP representative and an alternative for next year. That person will have great sway over how our neighborhood spends thousands of dollars on capital improvements here and in other neighborhoods in the City. It is an important job, one with a significant say about what gets fixed. If you have an interest in the subject please plan to attend our meeting to share your views.

Candidate Forum Scheduled-

The Association will sponsor a forum for the four candidates for City Council to share their ideas with us and answer questions. Mayor Chuck Della Sala, running unopposed, has also been invited to speak. This may be your best opportunity to address specific questions to a candidate.

Those of you who attended the school board candidate forum last year can vouch for the value is seeing the candidates personally, together with their challengers, and comparing positions and responses to questions posed on the spot. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 26, from 7pm to 9pm at Hilltop Center.

The winners will have a big say in what happens to the direction our City takes on a number of issues. We have to find a new City Manager to replace retiring Fred Meuer. We have all the adjusting that will follow that significant change. We have big budget issues to face, like what to do

about the pension problem, how to fund the infrastructure shortfall, how to stimulate our downtown economic growth, what cooperative adjustments can be made with neighboring cities and so on.

Some candidates' views are quite diverse on these issues. You will soon be asked to voice your opinion by selecting the candidate that best represents your opinion, or in whom you have the most trust of his/her decision making ability.

What is decided in Washington is certainly important, but it can be argued that the people making decisions in the Council Chambers have more direct impact on our lives. How many potholes you hit on the way to work, how fast the ambulance gets to your house, how much you pay in sales tax, how clean our parks are, what you pay for quality cable service, how often you are in traffic jams and how safe you are in your home are all directly affected by who we ask to sit on the Council.

Membership Dues: 2012 NMNA Membership Form

Basic: \$10

Additional Support: \$20

or

\$ _____

Make checks payable to
NMNA and Mail to:

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Deliver my newsletter via Email: Yes No

Comments/Suggestions?: _____

Bay View Campus

By now you know plans are in the works to open a Birth to Three preschool at Bay View possibly by the first of the year. There are three programs proposed, a fee-based Preschool, an Early Childhood Development Clinic and an Infant Diagnostic Center. Fees will be charged for the preschool, although an effort will be made to keep them reasonable. **Below is the text of the proposal as found in the MPUSD's agenda for its last meeting:**

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PROPOSED:

In an effort to provide a full continuum of early intervention services in all three learning communities, the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District is pursuing the establishment of the Monterey Early Childhood Center located in the City of Monterey. Currently Seaside and Marina Learning Communities have established children centers, Seaside Children's Center and Marina Children's Center. As a vendor for the San Andreas Regional Center (SARC), the Monterey Early Childhood Center will include the following three programs and services for students within MPUSD and the "Bay Zone" (Carmel, Pacific Grove and North Monterey County):

1. Infant Diagnostic Center

a. Partnership with SARC to intake and complete all early intervention referrals for students residing within the Bay Zone, including MPUSD, Carmel, Pacific Grove and North Monterey County.

2. Early Childhood Development Clinic

a. Partnership with SARC to provide intensive therapy, individualized academic instruction, language and social skills training for students, aged infant to 3 years old who are either diagnosed with or have an established risk of developmental delay.

b. The Early Childhood Developmental Clinic is based upon the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) focusing on the developmental milestones including language and communication, social and emotional, cognitive, fine motor, and gross motor.

3. Fee-based Preschool (Reggio Emilia)

a. A feasibility study along with parent survey confirmed that the philosophy of the Reggio Emilia inspired Preschool would be desired by the parents in the Monterey Community. The study showed that the existing Reggio Emilia Inspired preschool in the City of Monterey is full and presently carries a waiting list. To start, the preschool will have one a.m. and one p.m. session with 20 children each.

b. The Reggio Emilia Approach is an educational philosophy focused on preschool and primary education. The approach is a supportive and enriched environment based on the interests of the children through a self-guided curriculum.

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What isn't clear is why the center will be placed at Bay View when the Bay View Academy has asked for the space and has its roots in New Monterey. Some feel the proposed Early Childhood Center would be better suited for the centrally located Del Monte School site.

Additionally, why the playground has been placed off limits for all intents and purposes for the last six months remains an enigma. The District says it really doesn't care, although it put up a fence that bifurcated the park and locked out the upper two thirds, until your Association complained and the lock was removed. Unfortunately, the fence, which seems to have no purpose, remains.

The City, which owns the locks, has yet to provide access from Hoffman Street. Meanwhile, the park remained virtually unused all summer. It hasn't said when children might again be able to play there.

In Memoriam
Barbara Bass Evans



August 7, 1934 - August 9, 2012

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PERSISTENCE IS THE MOST POWERFUL TOOL  
KNOWN TO (WO)MANKIND.

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WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN
SELDOM MAKE HISTORY.

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