

NEW MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS



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One of the great landmarks in our New Monterey Neighborhood, Ed Ricketts' marine biology lab.
Photo by Fielding Mellish

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Important Dates

- **January 10:** *Traffic Calming & Crosswalk Plans Presentation, Hilltop Center, 5:30pm-7:30pm*
- **January 14:** *Members Meeting Hilltop Center, 7pm*
- **January 28:** *Annual Membership Meeting. Guest Speaker Alan Haffa, Councilman. Hilltop Center, 7pm*
- **February 11:** *Membership Meeting Hilltop Center, 7pm*

Happy New Year!

We are so fortunate to live in this neighborhood, in this area and in this great country. We have the right to express our opinion about how we want things to be. In fact, we just did so in November. And elections have consequences. We influenced how things will be different in the children's children. With that in mind we should put some measure of thought into our closer community. What do we want it to be like tomorrow? How can it be better for everyone? What are we overlooking? Aren't you glad you can actually impact those issues? May your pursuit of prosperity, health and happiness be satisfying in this new year.

Community Meeting

David Avenue Traffic Calming & Crosswalk Plans- The City will hold a meeting to present its plans to ask for community input regarding improvements, including traffic calming and ideas for a new crosswalk at Terry Street. The meeting is scheduled to take place Thursday the 10th at Hilltop Center, 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Your Turn

Interested in helping your neighborhood? We have openings on the board of directors of our association. Are you ready to give something back? Contact a board member for information today.

Coming Soon

We are planning our year, including guest speakers to address us. We intend to hear about the Community Fishing Sustainability Plan for Monterey Bay and the Downtown Specific Plan. We also plan to delve again into the airplane noise issue again since several complaints have emerged recently. Let us know if you have some suggestions for speakers or areas of concern.

Association Membership

It is time to renew your membership and newsletter subscription by sending in your dues this month. \$10 will get your name on the list of citizens who care about our community, and a donation in addition will assure the work of the association is funded adequately to accomplish our goals.

Most important, however, is the number of members the association can say it represents when it makes an appearance at City Hall. If a person shows up to make a request who says he represents the Committee for the Comfort of the Calico Cats of Monterey the first question in the minds of the commissioners or councilmembers is how big is that committee. And so it is with us.

We need to count you as a supporter if we are to have clout down there. We need your neighbors, too. Ask them if they are interested in joining by providing a copy of the newsletter. Many people don't know there is an association that looks after their interests at the City. Many would appreciate knowing, and you can help.

Membership Dues: 2013 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?: _____

Haffa to Address Annual Meeting

In January each year we come together to meet and greet our neighbors and to ascertain the direction of our activities to improve our community. On Monday, the 28th, we will do so again. We will review the events that occupied your association's board last year and hear from them as they share what their concerns are moving forward. We will have an opportunity to comment on what they did and what they did not do. We will give them direction for this year toward the issues we want them to look into and prioritize those issues. We will have an opportunity to serve by offering our help in areas of our personal interest. We will nominate and elect our board. And we will be honored to have as our guest speaker Alan Haffa the newly elected Council person who will share with us his concerns and goals for the City.

All are welcome. Please plan to attend and bring a neighbor. You may pay your annual dues there and refreshments will be served. 7pm, Hilltop Center, Jessie at Irving, top level.

Report of the Committees and Commissions

The City Council recently heard the annual reports from all the standing committees and commissions serving the City. Although the session is always upbeat it does give the groups a chance to air their complaints and offer suggestions. It is often quite interesting. For instance, Neighborhood Improvement Program spokesman, Rick Heuer, questioned the delay getting projects through the engineering department. Heuer said 91 projects have been approved and 52 of them are funded, but only 18 were completed last year. 32 remain on the desk awaiting design completion.

Heuer pointed out that NIP's budgets for projects includes the cost of plan development and wondered why the City could not hire someone to do the work since the money to pay for it is provided in NIP's proposal.

Other interesting revelations were heard. For example, the **Architectural Review Board** now includes five architects. Technically, it is a proficient

group. Chairman Mike Dawson didn't say anything about its improved reasoning ability or its inclination to ignore Neighborhood and Area Plans.

Historical Preservation was dormant. No permits were issued last year for improvements to historic property as there were no applications.

The Library remains underfunded and therefore seriously short on services. It remains closed on Sundays, and closes early three nights a week, although it still managed to serve nearly 330,000 people and lend 500,000 items last year. Council member Solicito commented how important the library is to our youth. They are going to hang out somewhere, he said, what better place than the library? Can we afford not to have it open when the youngsters most need it?

Parks and Recreation chair Mike Marotta mentioned the return of the 4th of July parade as a major event for the City. There were 7,000 people who attended the Lawn Party, many of them coming following the parade which was welcomed again after several years of absence.

Chief Planner Chip Rehrig finished the meeting by reporting that revenues are up for building permits and Transit Occupancy Tax revenue. While it is hard to say how much of the building permits revenue increase is the result of the City taking over Pacific Grove's operations, he inferred net revenue is up appreciably over last year as a result of more economic activity in the City.

At the conclusion, the NIP program was cited for its cooperation in diverting its allocated funds to help the City squirm through the last few difficult years.

Two final notes, Alan Haffa was seated as the new Council member. He garnered more votes than any other candidate. And voter turnout at the polls in Monterey topped 82% of registered voters.

Congratulations Monterey.

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NMNA Website

newmontereyneighborhood.org