

NEW MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

JANUARY 2013

NMNA



Stop in and check out the beautiful contemporary art at the new GreenChalk Gallery at 616 Lighthouse Avenue in New Monterey. Visit New Monterey Neighborhood Association on Facebook!

Important Dates

- **Monday, Jan 13th - NMNA monthly meeting** - 7pm Hilltop Center
- **Monday, Jan 27th - Annual Members Meeting** - 7pm Hilltop Center (upstairs), Guest Speaker, Tom Reeves
- **Monday, Feb 10 - NMNA monthly meeting** - 7pm Hilltop Center

NMNA monthly meetings are normally held at Hilltop Center, 871 Jessie Street on the second Monday of the month.

General Membership Meeting

Tom Reeves, City Engineer, will address our annual membership meeting Monday, January 27, discussing water quality, State standards for water flowing into the Bay, the joint project with Pacific Grove to capture storm runoff and treat it prior to release, and other related topics. Tom has served as NIP Coordinator for the past four or so years.

Board members will be elected and Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) project ideas will be prioritized by those attending.

January monthly meeting

Monday, January 13, we'll be planning for the annual meeting and hearing about Carl Outzen's revised mixed use plans for the 200 block of Lighthouse Avenue. Come and share your thoughts.

Creative Cinema Contest

If you know any middle school or high school students in Monterey County interested in videography, be sure to tell them about the 2014 short film competition, "Dialogues and Directions in Cultural Heritage" sponsored by California Preservation Foundation. \$300 cash prize and gift certificates to the winner. **Entry deadline March 21 at 5 pm.** Go to www.californiapreservation.org for more information.

Boards & Commission Reports

Each December these various groups make a report to City Council on their activities for the year. *Here is a brief review of each report.*

• **Appeals Hearing Board:** Sometimes city staff takes legal steps or charges fines to a property owner. This board hears appeals

of those actions when requested. It had two appeals last year.

• **Architectural Review Committee:** 153 reviews were processed this year versus 98 last year with various results. Home and business remodels were the greatest number, followed by tree removal requests. Being a Tree City, Monterey makes an effort to retain healthy trees. City Forester decisions may be appealed to ARC. Most requests were modified or declined. The third most numerous category was commercial signs. There is a new sign standard that ARC follows.

• **Cultural Arts Commission:** Responsible for Colton Hall, the Presidio Museum and the Pacific Biological Laboratory (Doc Ricketts' Lab), this group tries to balance preservation with utilization, not always an easy point to sustain. More evening music concerts are coming to Colton Hall and more tours to Doc's Lab in 2014.

• **Historical Preservation Commission:** New Monterey's Historic Context Statement was adopted this year. This Commission decides on Mills Act requests, which affords property owners tax savings and exemption from some building standards when renovating historic properties.

• **Library Board:** Sunday hours and services are being added back after several years of budget tightening. Sundays are serving over 400 people. The Summer Reading Program attracted 500 young people last summer.

• **Neighborhood Improvement Program:** Representatives from fourteen neighborhoods review proposed capital improvement projects and recommend City Council funding from Transient Occupancy Tax (room tax) paid by visitors. It is a way for neighborhoods to benefit

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Membership Dues: 2014 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?: _____

directly from the tourists who visit our city. \$2.7 million was distributed last year and this year they expect around \$3 million to be available. During the recession a backlog of projects developed. With additional staffing, NIP projects are again being constructed. Everyone may offer project *suggestions by February 15, 2014* for consideration in this year's budget.

• **Parks & Recreation Commission:** Summer programs served 40 thousand patrons while providing summer jobs for hundreds of young people. And the Sports Center in 2013 had over one million people pass its portals looking for a more healthful lifestyle. Over 300 gardeners showed up to share cuttings on their special day. They are especially glad to be again sponsoring popular Fourth of July Celebrations, partnering with Old Town Business District, where as many as 8,000 people showed up for the parade and picnic.

• **Planning Commission:** Charged with the responsibility to protect the standards of architectural acceptability and transportation flow, this group stays busy. Last year they wrapped up their studies of change for the Downtown and North Fremont communities and they are finishing up on a revised traffic pattern for the downtown business district. Lighthouse Avenue Specific Plan is on this spring's agenda. Updates of neighborhood area plans are to follow.

Dues are Due

Just \$10 for a Basic Membership entitles you to representation at City Hall for all things involving your neighborhood. You don't even have to show up. We will do it for you. When an issue arises which you feel affects our neighborhood your board may ask one of its members to monitor the issue and present the community's view for the record at a meeting. You may ask the board to take a position on your behalf. And when we can say that most of our residents are members it gives us a stronger standing before the various commissions and boards. You count, you add heft to our association simply by belonging to it. We encourage you to send your dues in now, and if you can add additional support you will help us expand our membership further. Please ask your neighbor to join, too. ***And by providing your email address for communication purposes you can save us the expense of printing and mailing your copy.*** We provide no lists to anyone. We use them only for the purpose of keeping you informed on issues of concern to our neighborhood through the association.

What is your vision?

Dream for a moment of what you would like your neighborhood to be like in five years. Think briefly how you would like to find your street if you went away and came back in the future. We will talk about this in the coming year, but to get you thinking here is the start of a list of things to consider.

• **Add your items, cross out the ones you dislike** and bring them to our February meeting to share with us. New Monterey's Neighborhood Plan is to be updated in 2014. Public participation will be important in that process.

To Make A More Perfect Community We Would Like To See:

- More noise control procedures.
- More police presence.
- Less traffic.
- More dog barking.
- Enable those whose view is blocked by growing trees to recourse.
- Slower Traffic.
- Improved traffic flow on Lighthouse Avenue.
- Better shops and services nearby.
- Better control of trespassing lighting from either street lights or from porch lights.
- Parking enforcement of rules for trailered vehicles, unused vehicles, motorhomes, commercial vehicles, etc.
- Better enforcement of neighborhood building codes on remodels & fences.
- Trash can rules enforced.
- No more airplanes flying over New Monterey.
- Better protection of views from trees and building additions.
- Improved street maintenance.
- Nicer playgrounds.
- Faster emergency response from all three services.
- Control of paint colors used externally.
- Help more young families move in.
- Limit vacant second homes.
- Improve neighbor to neighbor contact.
- Provide more opportunities for neighbors to meet.
- Discourage pets and children.
- Prohibit chickens and other farm animals.
- Restrict short term rentals
- Plant only native plants.
- Develop a neighborhood based water harvesting program.
- Crack down on illegal rental unit conversions.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from your board, Sharon, Ken, Bob, Nancy and Howard

2014 NMNA Board Contacts
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 Nancy Runyun
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 NMNA Website
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