

Features

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City Tackling Budget Challenge

The City's annual budget process looks a bit different this year. The process creates a plan for services, activities, programs and facilities – based on expected income. This year, revenue projections are off and more unpredictable because of recent events as well as economic uncertainty at the State level and throughout the nation. We are now in the process of adjusting our spending plans to maintain a balance budget and prepare for a successful future.

How much less money does the City have?

Estimates project a \$4 million gap between operating income and expenses in the coming fiscal year, and a \$4.3 million gap in the next, 2003-2004. Similar to governments and businesses elsewhere, the slow economy has caused revenues that are driven by buyers and sellers to decline. In addition, the tragic events of September 11 have kept visitors at home. Our <u>City budget</u> is dependent on visitor revenues for funding programs, facilities, and services – more than 50% of the City's General Fund is generated by visitors.

How is the City addressing this challenge?

In the upcoming fiscal year, we plan to balance our budget via selective hiring freezes, ongoing department reorganizations and, perhaps, through the use of special reserves set aside for this purpose. In the long term, the City must re-evaluate how we spend money and carefully review the value of all City programs, services and facilities. We will explore opportunities to shed programs and services that would have minimal community impact and continue to look for new and better ways to do business.

The City will re-look the fees charged for services and activities. We will continue to work to complete projects like the Cannery Row hotel and continue marketing to visitors, to increase our tax base without increasing tax rates.

Maintaining Balanced Budget Takes Strategic Planning

The City's 2002-03 annual budget is currently under development. And community suggestions and comments are vital to establishing the City's financial plan – and even more important during these changing economic times. Let us know which City services and programs are most important to you!

"During this process we will identify specific strategies to balance the City budget and connecting with our citizens is an important step in shaping the City's priorities," says City Manager Fred Meurer.

How can you participate?

- 1) Attend the <u>Community Connections</u> forum scheduled for Thurs., March 14, from 7:15 to 9:30 p.m. at the Monterey Conference Center, 1 Portola Plaza.
- 2) Participate in the other public meetings and/or hearings during the budget development process, see budget meeting calendar below.
- 3) Call 831.646.3799, fax 831.646.3793 or <u>email us</u> with your suggestions and ideas . For more details call 831.646.3940, or visit the <u>Budget</u> pages.

Budget News to remember:

- March 14, 7:15 p.m., public forum, Monterey Conference Center
- March 25, Life Support/Social Service grant applications due to Recreation
- March 29, Cultural Arts Grant Applications due to Museum
- April 25, 7 p.m., NIP Committee Project Selection, Council Chamber
- May 21, 7 p.m., City Council Reviews NIP Projects, Council Chamber
- June 4, 4 p.m., City Council Budget Study Session, Council Chamber
- June 18, 7 p.m., City Council Public Hearing, Council Chamber

Dates are subject to change. Check our Web site frequently for current meeting dates and times or call 646.3935.

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Public Service Center Design Proposed Design

The needs of the community and City staff continue to outgrow existing space at the Civic Center with offices in cramped spaces scattered around City Hall. To address this issue, the City has developed plans to create a "one-stop" public service center. Proposed designs were recently submitted and will be brought before various City commissions. Look for



opportunities to review the Public Service Center design plans.

Why is an upgraded Civic Center needed?

Much City office space is located in cramped, dilapidated wooden bungalows and buildings that were not originally designed to serve as offices or to house our current number of employees. For example, a bathroom serves as both a kitchen and copy room in one area. The buildings provide little room for storage of files or plans, and adequate environmental conditions are not available to support the protection of historic records, resources and documents.

What is being proposed?

A one-stop Public Service Center where community members can do business with the City – especially business involving planning, zoning and construction. The "first phase" would include building a two-story annex directly behind City Hall between Dutra and Van Buren streets. There would be plenty of storage for City records and museum artifacts and photos. The Service Center would provide even better customer service and would require fewer funds for staffing upkeep and maintenance. The "second phase" will address needs of our public safety departments.

How will it look?

As shown in the rendering above, the design incorporates existing historic elements of the surrounding Civic Center complex. Old Town residents in the building's vicinity are providing input about how the building fits into the overall character of the neighborhood.

What about costs and should we be building during changing economic times?

The City has an obligation to maintain and invest in our existing facilities. We have developed a plan to finance the building in a responsible way, through savings we have been accruing over time for this purpose. The Public Service Center is estimated to cost about \$16 million.

More Waterfront Property in Community Hands

Prime waterfront parcels along Del Monte Avenue are no longer available for private development. The City purchased the remaining half of the "Catellus" commercial coastal property adjacent to Window on the Bay Waterfront Park and Wharf 2. More than seven acres of prime waterfront real estate is now permanently secured

for recreational and public use.

In late 2000, the City bought the adjacent commercial parcel (Catellus west) and has been working with the community on a plan that makes the property available for public use. The purchase of the final piece is a great example of partnership funding at its best. Of the \$7 million spent for the seven acres (both parcels combined), \$3 million came from State grants,



\$1 million from a Packard Foundation grant and more than \$125,000 from private citizens. Enjoy your waterfront and work with us on its transformation... you earned it! Look for community meetings where you can come and give your input or call the Planning Division at 646.3885 (suggest@ci.monterey.ca.us).

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And the Survey Says...

Results are in from the Community Survey distributed in the City's Annual Report. Nearly 800 responses were collected. Thank you for giving your input. The survey gave community members the opportunity to rate City services and programs. Survey questions focused on 1) Housing in Monterey; 2) Stormwater Management; 3) Emergency Preparedness; and 4) July 4th Activities.

Here's what we learned:

Housing in Monterey: Citizens are generally supportive of pursuing the development of affordable housing (77%) but are divided on the issue of investing resources in housing for public employees. Regarding development of housing, respondents more strongly favored for-sale housing in outlying areas. Written comments frequently addressed the Fort Ord property. **Stormwater Management:** Four out of five respondents know the difference between a sewer and storm drain; and how to dispose of car oil and household hazardous waste. More than half know the laws regarding storm drains.

Emergency Preparedness: Most citizens (88%) have installed smoke detectors, and 64% check them regularly. More than 60% said that they could be self-sufficient for 72 hours, in case of an emergency. Almost half know CPR, about a third have a list of critical disaster supplies.

July 4th Activities: At some point, 77% of respondents have witnessed the fireworks, more than 50% have seen the parade and just under half have attended the lawn party. Only 12% of respondents with an opinion had never viewed these activities. About three in four support all three activities and only 3% believe the City should not continue any of these activities.

Thanks for your input. Click here to view the <u>comprehensive survey report</u> with graphics. Look for our Community Survey each fall or send in your thoughts anytime.

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In the News

<u>Service Request</u> | <u>Seniors Save on Taxis</u> | <u>City Boards & Commissions</u> Rent a Bike Locker | <u>Property Lines</u> | <u>MVPs Help make Community Safe Place</u>

Report Problems, Service Request 24-7

Imagine this: It's 8:15 p.m. and you discover the streetlight in front of your house isn't working. Log onto the Internet, contact the City and request that the light be fixed. While online, you receive a service number and an email stating that your request has been processed for action. The next working day you receive another email telling you the work has been finished.

No need for imagination. Try it out by logging onto www.monterey.org/publicworks. Community members can now report service problems 24 hours a day, seven days a week by using the online service page. Community members receive a service number, which can be used to track the request via the Internet.

The types of online services include:

- Abandoned Vehicles
- Curb Repair
- Damage to Sign
- Dead Animal
- Illegal Dumping
- Parking Enforcement
- Potholes
- Utility Repairs
- Yard Waste Collection

"For the first time, we will have an interactive system in place that gives citizens a chance to report problems and request services online," says Public Works Director Bill Reichmuth. "Our City is only the third city in the country to provide this type of service. Take a look – we are happy to serve you."

Next Time Take a Taxi- Seniors Save 50%

How do seniors save 50% on taxi rides?

Through the City's Senior Taxi Scrip Program, seniors can purchase a \$20 booklet of taxi scrip (like coupons) from the City for \$10. Scrip is used like cash – to pay for cab fare with the Yellow Cab Company to travel anywhere within the City limits.

What are the rules?

Scrip is only good for travel within Monterey city limits. Seniors must be at least 65 and live in the Monterey city limits. Scrip cannot be given or sold to someone else and can only be used with the Yellow Cab Co.

Where can I buy scrip booklets?

Booklets are available at the Scholze Park Center, Hilltop and Casanova Oak Knoll park centers and at the City's Revenue Office.

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For info call 646.3944 or email us.

Focus on City Boards & Commissions

The **Planning Commission** helps create a vision for the future development of Monterey. Almost every decision must strike a balance between private benefit and overall public good. This commission has several important functions:

- 1) **Developing and maintaining the City General Plan**. Currently the Commission is leading the update of the City's 1983 General Plan.
- 2) **Developing specific area plans.** The City Coastal Plan for the entire waterfront area from Seaside to Pacific Grove was recently completed by the Planning Commission and is now before the California Coastal Commission for approval. The Planning Commission is also working with the Old Town Neighborhood Assoc. to complete a neighborhood plan for the Old Town residential area.
- 3) Administering the City's Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.

Projects requiring Subdivision, Use Permit and Variance approval are submitted to the Commission at their monthly meetings. They also hear appeals of decisions/recommendations made by the Architectural Review Committee and Small Subdivision Committee.

4) Performing research and developing other programs, plans and policies as assigned by the City Council. The seven-member commission meets on the second and fourth Tuesday each month at 4 and 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Commission members serve as volunteers and are appointed by the Council.

For more info on the Planning Commission, call the Plans & Public Works Department at 831.646.3885, or email Plans & Public Works Director, <u>Bill Wojtkowski.</u>

Rent a Bike Locker

Bicycle lockers are now available to rent at the Cannery Row Garage, 601 Wave Street, and the East Custom House Garage, at Washington Street and Del Monte Avenue. Lockers can be rented on a monthly or quarterly basis. Rates are \$15 per month or \$36 per quarter. There is a refundable key deposit of \$10. For more info, call the Parking Division, 340 Tyler Street, at 831.646.3953 or link to the <u>City's Parking pages</u>.

Legal Beagle...

Property Lines - The Final Answer

Unfortunately, obvious "boundary lines," such as fences or sidewalks, do not always mark accurate property lines. In many cases, a community member's property line can extend to the curb or even to the centerline of the street. While the land still belongs to the property owner, often the City has an established "right-of-way" or easement to have sidewalk, drainage, sewer or other utility improvements across this land. It can be confusing when deciding who is responsible for cleaning slippery sidewalks, trimming trees or unclogging sewer backups. A property survey could be needed to conclusively establish property lines.

Remember – it's better to know where the property line is than to assume that a sidewalk, hedge, fence or even utility pole defines the edge. Before making improvements take the time to find out. For info regarding City easements and public "rights-of-way" on private property, call the Public Works Department at 831.646.3920 or the City Attorney's Office at 831.646.3915 (suggest@ci.monterey.ca.us).

On Volunteering...

MVPs Help make Community Safe Place

Who are MVPs?

Monterey Volunteers in Policing. Twenty-six volunteers logged more than 4,000 hours last year promoting safety in our community.

What do MVPs do?

Some of the places you'll find MVPs: patrolling the streets, assisting in administration, checking on vacant homes and fingerprinting children (see photo) at special events – such as the Monterey County Fair, July 4th celebration and DARE Day. "It's an opportunity to give

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something back to the community," says MVP Rob Simmons. MVP Tawfik Sabet, named Old Monterey Business Association's 2001 Volunteer of the Year, makes sure that no cars get towed from Alvarado Street in preparation for Tuesday's Old Monterey Market Place. Sabet visits every business on the street each Tuesday to remind patrons that they need to move their cars.

Why are MVPs so important?

MVPs play a significant role in non-law-enforcement policing. Public Education Officer Adam Costa says the volunteer program is a partnership with the community. "People are taking an active part in preserving safety and improving quality of life." Completion of the Citizens' Police Academy is a prerequisite to becoming an MVP. For more info, call the Police Department's Public Education office at 831.646.3819. For other City volunteer opportunities, call 831.646.3719 or link to the City's Volunteer Pages

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City Briefs

Volunteer Today | On Cable TV, Web | All About Hiring a Contractor Kids Get Fire Safety 101 | Public Art on Display | Teens Live at the Library

Teens Can Earn \$\$ this Summer

- Who: Teens 16 years or older who love being around children.
- Qualifications: Willing to learn. Should be creative, organized, responsible, energetic, talented and flexible. Must have a positive attitude that combines enthusiasm, spirit, cooperation, patience.



 Positions: Recreation leaders, swim instructors, lifeguards, day camp counselors, resident camp counselors and resident camp support staff. Application deadline for summer employment is Friday, April 5, at 5 p.m.

Applications are available at the Recreation and Community Services office at 546 Dutra Street or link to our <u>Summer Jobs page</u>. For more info on part-time jobs and summer employment, call 831.646-3866 or email <u>Cindy Vierra</u>.

Choose Your Own Assignment, Volunteer Today

- Help with spring events for children at the Casanova Oak Knoll Community Center, Sat., March 23.
- Volunteer at History Fest on Sat., April 27.
 Training will be held Weds., March 27, from 7-9 p.m. at the Stanton Center.
- Help protect the Harbor dock,

be a **Sea Lion Watch volunteer** (must be at least 16 years old).

- Stage managers are needed for the Spring Student Dance Concert at the Monterey Conference Center, Sat., May 11 from 2-5:30 p.m.
- Groups of all ages and any size can volunteer to plant trees.
- Calling all teens 13-16! Spend eight weeks working alongside City staff in summer camps, sports programs, video production, Web design and more. Applications, due May 10, are at www.monterey.org/volunteen and at City Hall. To sign up or for more info call the City's Volunteer Services at 831.646.3719 or email Julie Dillemuth.

On Cable TV, Web - Council Meetings Summarized, Programs, Activities Discussed

On Cable Ch. 25

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 a.m.

Council wrap up – offers a brief summary of major actions taken or discussions held by the City Council at their regular meeting. It also provides information on upcoming meetings.

Monterey up to date – discusses issues and projects coming before the Council and provides info on news and events that affect the community. Find out how to get involved and participate in the City's decision-making process. Upcoming topics include housing, budget planning, the historic Mesa Neighborhood and a visit with the Police Chief.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6 p.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays 9 a.m.

Eye on Monterey – talk show takes an in-depth look at City programs and activities and how they benefit the community.

On the Web

www.monterey.org/cityhall.html

Report problems and request City services for Public Works projects 24 hours a day

Focus on Trees

All About Hiring a Contractor

When hiring any contractor to work on your trees, make sure the company has four important things:

- 1) A state contractor's license to perform tree work
- 2) Comprehensive general liability insurance (CGL) adequate to cover potential losses
- 3) Workers' Compensation Insurance for everyone working on your property
- 4) Certification as an arborist from the International Society of Arboriculture

These four items protect you, your property and your trees. The State license (D49) shows that the contractor is legitimately established.

CGL insurance protects residents/tenants and property in the event of injury or damage. Workers' Compensation Insurance protects the individuals working on your property and can reduce your liability for their work-related injuries. The arborist's certification by the I.S.A. indicates that the contractor is committed to industry standards of tree care and must attend periodic training to maintain certified status.

Ask for written proof of these four items before hiring a contractor.

Look for additional tree topics in upcoming editions: proper vs. improper pruning; pine pitch canker; and mature tree care.

For more info call the City's Urban Forestry Division at 831.646.3860.

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Kids Get Fire Safety 101

At the Fire Department Monterey third graders know when to stop, drop and roll. Each fall the Monterey Fire Department takes lessons into the school to teach fire safety.

What do kids learn about?

- home escape plans
- smoke detectors



- when to call 911
- stop, drop and roll techniques how to crawl underneath smoke

Some fun too...

Students also get a close-up view of an Aerial Ladder Truck. Fire hats, an activity book, stickers as well as additional info on fire safety for parents are also part of the package. For info on how you can be fire safe, call the Fire Department at 831.646.3908 (suggest@ci.monterey.ca.us).

Arts & Culture -Public Art on Display

A new public sculpture now resides at the end of Cannery Row, near San Carlos Beach.

Sanctuary is a cast bronze sphere of seaweed and kelp standing in a tide-pool of rocks and sea creatures. A continuous flow of water spouts from the center of the sculptured fountain.



The piece was first inspired and created as a temporary sculpture to commemorate California's Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary). The project featured a fountain surrounded by a sphere of kelp, and it highlighted various aspects of California history that led the way to statehood. The piece, titled On the Golden Road, was displayed at Custom House Plaza for more than a year. The sculptors then donated the center sphere to the City. It has been refinished and installed in a fabricated tide-pool base at the edge of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary – hence the new name. For more info on arts and culture in the City, call 646-3858 or visit www.monterey.org

Teens Live at the Library

Poetry Circle: Open Mike for High School Poets welcomes all teens.

What is it about?

Teen poets gather at the Monterey Public Library each month to let their voices be heard, to share their poems, meet other poets and discuss poetry.

On New Year's Eve, four of the regular participants gave

a poetry reading in the Library as part of Monterey's First Night celebration.

Parents, teachers and other adults are welcome to come

listen, but only high school poets may read at the open mike.

For schedule or info call or email <u>Jeanne McCombs</u> at 831.646.3949, or link to the <u>Library pages</u>.

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For History Buffs Only...

Your Free Passport to the Past – History Fest 2002

Experience Monterey's heritage first-hand with family and friends on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. From Native American and Mexican California, through the heyday of the fishing industry and the World War II era, this is your passport to an exciting variety of sites, exhibits and activities for all ages – FREE of charge.

Enjoy tours and get an insiders' look at historic homes/adobes and gardens, museums and other cultural institutions with historic materials. Speakers and reenactors will help bring history to life through their performances, dances and demonstrations. Passports can be picked up a few weeks before the event at any of the following locations: Colton Hall Museum (Pacific Street



between Madison and Jefferson); Cooper-Molera Adobe, (Munras Avenue at Polk Street); Monterey Public Library, (Pacific and Madison streets); Presidio of Monterey Museum, pictured, (Corporal Ewing Boulevard); and the Pacific House, Maritime Museum or Custom House (Custom House Plaza).

For more info call or email the <u>Maritime Museum</u> at 831.372.2608, ext. 17 or call the Colton Hall Museum at 831.646.5640.

Pioneer Family Documents Tell Tales

Historical papers from a Monterey-area pioneer family, including letters, deeds and assorted inventories, are now a part of the Monterey Public Library's collection. The Pyburn Papers, dating from 1847 to 1899, document the social, business and political life of the community. They provide a unique view of Monterey and the region during the 19th century, including news from the gold fields and daily family and community events.

William B. Pyburn arrived in Monterey in 1850 as a carpenter, and soon established himself as a merchant operating gambling tables and a Carmel Valley farm. His son, William Henry Pyburn, was born in Monterey where he opened a grocery and Western Union office, before moving to Salinas for a career in public office. The Pyburn Papers donor, Robert Johnson, recovered the papers from the Pyburn house in Salinas before its demolition in 1959. For info call Library Archivist Dennis Copeland at 831.646.3741.

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Odds and Ends

Working for the City | For Monterey Pet Owners | Teens Strain Brain, Win Recycle Old TVs and Computers | Keep Your Sidewalks Safe

Visit the Museum | City TV, Cable Channel 25

Landmarks Denote Neighborhood's Roots

The oldest neighborhood in Monterey sits on the lower mesa overlooking El Estero and the Royal Presidio Chapel. Developed at the end of the Spanish period (1817-1822), it was the first residential area to be built once permission was granted to construct buildings outside the confining walls of the original Presidio.

Now bordered by Fremont Street, Via Mirada, Mesa Road and Eldorado Street, this area has been continuously inhabited for nearly 200 years. Some adobes survived relatively unchanged. Other early adobes were reconfigured a full century later (1922-1925) by a local builder, J. C. Anthony. Intent on recreating the "Spanish town on the Mesa," he added several additional homes in variants of the Spanish style.

All were built, like the originals, out of native chalk rock, locally made adobe and tile. During the next 80 years, the hillside that served as a cow pasture until the 1920s became home to structures in a variety of styles. To recognize this historic area, the City is developing a booklet to capture the story. The Monterey Mesa; A Neighborhood through Time is scheduled to be released this May.

On Saturday, May 18, a self-guided walking tour of "Historic Homes and Hidden Gardens of the Monterey Mesa" will by held. The event is organized by the Monterey Museum of Art in conjunction with the annual Springtime at La Mirada festivities.

To order a copy of the Monterey Mesa booklet, call Colton Hall Museum at 646.5640 or visit the Monterey Museum of Art stores. To reserve tickets for the walking tour, call 372.5477.

Working for the City

Have you ever considered working for the City of Monterey? City employees serve the public in many ways from maintaining the City's parks and roadways and ensuring public safety to issuing business licenses and building permits. Info about current openings is available at the Personnel Office, 399 Madison Street; on the job hotline 646.3751; or link to our <u>Jobs</u> page. Applications are accepted for current openings only; however, anyone can fill out an Interest Card for positions not currently open. For more info call the City's recruiters at 646.3765 (jones@ci.monterey.ca.us).

"One-Stop Shopping" for Monterey Pet Owners

Get great pet care at low prices with the City/SPCA partnership.

Where do I take my pet?

Monterey Peninsula College Farmer's Market, every fourth Thursday of each month, 2 to 4 p.m. *What services are provided?*

- Microchip: \$12
- Rabies vaccinations, required for all dogs in the city: \$7
- Licenses, required for all dogs in the city: \$9 (if the dog is spayed/neutered) or \$24

Rabies vaccinations protect you and your pet! Microchips and license tags provide added

security when a pet is lost or stolen. For more info, call the SPCA at 373-2631 ext. 224.

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Teens Strain Brain, Win

Check it out!

New interactive info boards loaded with Internet research questions, brainteasers, cool facts along with poems, quotes, cartoons and unique Web sites are now at your local community centers. Great prizes are awarded weekly for coming up with correct answers. Visit the Teen Rooms at Hilltop, Archer and Casanova-Oak Knoll park centers and the Monterey Youth Center.

Old TVs and Computers? Think Recycle

Television sets and computer monitors are hazardous waste, both contain lead and mercury. Please DO NOT throw these items in the trash, recycle them. Single-family residents who pay for standard garbage service can call Monterey City Disposal Service at 372.7977 to request a large-item pickup. Apartment dwellers and business owners can take these items to the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Center. There may be a charge for dropping off the items, and charges vary according to the item's size. Call 384.5313 for details.

Keep Your Sidewalks Safe, Slip Free

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the area in front of their property and keeping it free of safety hazards. When it rains, or during irrigation, water seeps over sidewalks and forms mossy areas where pedestrians can slip and fall. How to clean your sidewalk: Use a stiff bristle broom to whisk moss and foreign material away. Use biodegradable soap, if needed. Do not use bleach or other cleaners since runoff ends up in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary. For more info, call the City's Construction Management Division at 646.3997 (clement@ci.monterey.ca.us).

Visit the Museum

The Presidio of Monterey Museum is open and easily accessible to visitors. Visitors can enter from Artillery Street or Private Bolio Road and turn onto Corporal Ewing Road before entering the military base checkpoint area. Museum hours are Thursday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

City TV, Cable Channel 25

Eye on Monterey- Tuesdays at 8 pm and Wednesdays at 9 am. **Council Wrap-up & Monterey Up-to-date-** Tuesdays at 8:30 pm and Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

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Community Tips

Save a life | Grass, Tree, Plant Trimmings | Postal Services
First-time Homeowner Loans | Bicycling Safety

Safety Tips -Rules of the Coastal Trail Road

The Monterey Coastal Trail is a multi-use trail, used for walking, biking, rollerblading and jogging. To help ensure that outings are safe and fun, use these tips on trail etiquette and rules of the road.

- Do not speed or use the trail as a raceway. Bicyclists should travel very slowly around crowded areas.
- Stay on the right-hand side.
- Keep dogs on a leash that is no longer than six feet.
- Pick up after your animal, do not leave animal waste along the trail.
- Skateboarding on the trail between Pacific Grove and the Custom House Plaza is prohibited.
- Be aware if traveling the trail after dark. Carry a cellular phone, if possible, and report any suspicious activity.

Save a Life

Learn how to save a life. Free CPR classes for adults and teens 16 years and older are offered at local community centers. For reservations call 646.3873.

Grass, Tree, Plant Trimmings

Resources not Waste Community members who have tried composting yard trimmings and vegetable food scraps can attest to the beautiful soil that is generated from this process. If you want to find out how to compost, just give us a call. We can get you started and answer any questions. It's fast, fun and easy.



On the other hand, if you place trimmings in the 64-gallon cart at your home, remember these guidelines: Place grass, tree and plant trimmings only in the large green bin. Remove any poison oak, ice plant and palm tree fronds. Do not place any plastic (bags, containers, etc.), concrete, rocks or glass in the containers. Any

additional trimmings must be placed in a 32-gallon open container (plastic bags are no longer acceptable). Trimmings are trucked to the landfill where they are mulched. This mulch is available for purchase for topsoil for gardens. Topsoil helps retain water and eliminate weeds. For more info, call the City's Recycling Coordinator at 646.5662 (<a href="mailto:branches:br

U.S. Postal Services in the City

- 565 Hartnell Street
- 686 Lighthouse Avenue (inside Longs Drug Store)
- Stamps are available at many supermarkets

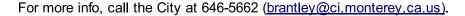
Loans for First-time Homeowners Available

Looking to become a first-time homeowner? If you live or work in the City, ask about our downpayment assistance program. Maximum income guidelines apply to this program. Call 646-3995 Monday thru Friday for more info or visit www.monterey.org/housing

Bicycling Safety for Adults

If you ride your bike or rollerblade, wear a helmet. Accidents happen quickly and the impact is great. The ONLY defense for your head is a helmet. Tips for purchasing/wearing a helmet:

- 1. Look inside the helmet to ensure that it is Ansi or Snell approved.
- 2. Slip the helmet on. Before clipping the chin strap on, the helmet should fit snugly.
- 3. The helmet sits on top of the head, not to the back or to the side. The front of the helmet should extend past the middle of your forehead.
- 4. Adjust the straps so that the small tabs are fitted snugly under your ears. Adjust the bottom strap so that it is snug.
- 5. Buy it and wear it.



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City of Monterey

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