

# Safety Net



*A special section of the City Focus about you and your police department*

## Working Together to Solve Challenges

### Community and police are partners in neighborhood safety

Not merely buzz words, “community involvement” is a call to action at the Monterey Police Department. Responding to the ever-changing needs of the community, MPD is moving toward a more interactive approach to delivering law enforcement services.

It is a transition of heart, as well as of philosophy.

“We cannot reduce crime and maintain the high quality of life we have here in Monterey without the support of you, our residents,” says Police Chief Gary Brown. “To succeed, we must have your active participation.”

Realizing that the traditional police model relies on a reactive approach to crimes and disputes and does not impact the root causes of such activity, the department has taken a new path in serving the City.

This new philosophy is known as Community-Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS).

COPPS promotes a more proactive approach to solving problems wherein we work together with residents and visitors to help create safe communities.

Although COPPS is a new term, the City’s Police Department has been moving toward this for some time. Our waterfront patrols, using bikes and all-terrain vehicles, and downtown walking patrols are all part of the strategy that puts officers in contact with our community members on a routine basis.

In addition, a police officer has been assigned as a liaison to each neighborhood and business association to help solve other issues within your community. In these ways, you get to know us, and

we get to know you.

The traditional law enforcement approach saw officers responding to calls for service, quelling the immediate situation and moving on to another call. But this didn’t address the cause of a problem. Under COPPS, police performance is no longer based primarily on crime

and arrest statistics, it is based more on the resolution of community issues and on how safe and secure residents and visitors feel.

Every member of the MPD recently completed training in the COPPS philosophy which stresses the uses of innovative and creative problem-solving methods.

A department-wide effort that will take some time to fully implement, COPPS is built on the belief that we, the police, can’t control crime by ourselves - we must form partnerships with you, our citizens. Working together we identify and address the causes of crime and fear as well as other quality-of-life concerns.

Community residents and business owners must help share the responsibility of maintaining safe neighborhoods. We are committed to being your partner in making Monterey a safer community in which to live, work and visit. ■

*For information on which officer is assigned to your neighborhood, contact your Association President or Community Services Sergeant John Sammis at 646-3971.*



Promote safety, form a Neighborhood Watch on your block.

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Calling all M.V.P.s, the police need you on our team.

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Teens can join the police team, too; become an Explorer.

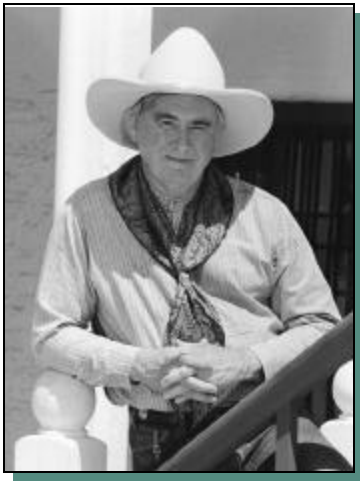
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Know current laws and how they affect you.

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## From the Chief

"We still make house calls."



Monterey Police Chief Gary Brown

*Howdy!*

Here at the Monterey Police Department we pride ourselves on providing the best police services available. We are responsive, effective, caring and efficient.

Thanks for taking the time to learn more about us.

Our 80-plus women and men, augmented by dedicated volunteers, place your needs above our own. Service is a given here.

If you have an immediate concern and don't know who to call, talk to us. We will sort it out without "passing the buck" and deal with

it ourselves or refer it to the proper place. Remember: We still make house calls.

Make sure to read the information in the *Safety Net*. It will enlighten you about the inner-workings of the local "cop shop."

At your service,

Gary E. Brown  
Chief of Police

## Linking Neighbor with Neighbor

### Neighborhood Watches can help keep areas safe

Know thy neighbor, it could save you thousands in lost dollars and heartache. That's the reality of joining MPD's Neighborhood Watch program.

The program, jointly run by you and your neighbors, has helped reduce crime and has brought neighborhoods together.

"Residents are more in tune with who belongs in their neighborhood and are more readily able to identify suspicious activity," says Community Resource Officer Phil Penko. "We must rely on you to be our extra eyes and ears in the community and notify us when something out of the ordinary does occur."

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that encourages neighbors to know each other and take active roles in keeping their neighborhoods safe. It empowers citizens and increases their sense of ownership in the community.

With this increased participation, residents become more accountable for what

occurs within their neighborhood and have more power to do something about it.

Although the program relies heavily on citizen participation, we at MPD are committed to helping you get started on the right track. At your request, we will come to meetings, provide educational materials, listen to your concerns and work with you to resolve them. We can supply information on crime trends in your area as well as tips on home and personal security, property identification and other related topics.

Neighborhood Watch is a partnership between the Police Department and the community it serves. It is not just for single-family residents. Condominium and apartment residents can also form alliances and help improve the quality of life in and around their complex.

Ask us how! Call Officer Phil Penko at 646-3819. He will listen to your needs and help you set up that first meeting.

Together, we can make a difference and take a bite out of crime! ■



*National Night Out  
Coming This Summer*

Mark your calendars for August 4, 1998! Monterey will have its first National Night Out event. The event encourages neighbors to get together that evening and have barbeques or other special events within their neighborhoods.

This is another way to get to know your neighbors. Your creativity is the only limit! Police officers will stop by your events and McGruff, the crime dog, will also visit the various locations.

Call 646-3819 for more details. ■

# Join Our Team

Community residents of all ages help us do the job

## Become a teen Explorer

Get first-hand experience at what it's like to be a police officer in Monterey. Become a Police Explorer for Post 257, learn about police work, the law and how we interact with our community.

Teens 14 to 17 years old will have the opportunity to wear an Explorer uniform and assist the police in daily activities. Explorers attend bi-monthly meetings where they receive training and information on law-enforcement related topics.

### Explorers help us with:

- traffic control
- crowd control
- special events
- disaster situations



Explorer Patrice Blanks

If you or someone you know wants to get involved, learn about police work and make a difference in our community, contact School Resource Officer Michael Sargent at 646-3808. ■

## Participate in Citizens' Police Academy

Ever wonder what policing in Monterey is all about? Our Citizens' Police Academy is a great way to learn, up close and personal, how your police department operates.

We invite 24 members of our community to join us one night a week to meet the professional people who provide you with exemplary police support.

### Topics of instruction include:

- patrol procedures
- defensive tactics
- traffic enforcement
- court procedures
- narcotics and vice strategies
- firearms training
- investigation strategies
- recruitment and training approaches

There are two 12-week sessions each year. The next class is scheduled to begin in late August.

If you are free Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and want to find out more about the MPD, call Community Resource Officer Phil Penko at 646-3819 for more details. ■

## M.V.P.s Make Monterey a Better Place

You too can be an M.V.P. "Monterey's Volunteers in Policing" (M.V.P.), our volunteer program, is made up of people, such as William Wong, who want to give back to their community.

"I have been impressed by the Department's programs and efforts at community policing which require citizen participation and support," said Mr. Wong, who volunteers as a data-entry aide. "My volunteer support will, hopefully, be my contribution to these efforts."

The Monterey Police Department is committed to strengthening our bond with the community and enhancing the level of service we provide.

Only a year old, the MPD "volunteer unit" already has 13 volunteers on the team. M.V.P.s perform many tasks that

allow paid staff to concentrate on other projects and provide services that weren't offered before.

Volunteer positions include: fingerprinter, crime prevention aide, McGruff the crime dog, Web site

designer, records aide and Neighborhood Watch aide.

Starting this May, the M.V.P. ranks expanded to include a volunteer patrol unit to walk downtown, patrol the recreation trail, perform vacation house checks and assist at special events. These volunteers will wear an identifiable uniform and carry a radio.

All volunteers must successfully clear a background check and complete the 12-week Citizens' Police Academy (see story above). Generally, volunteers are asked to work at least four hours a week and attend a one- to two-hour training meeting each month. Call Community Resource Officer Phil Penko at 646-3819 for more details. ■



William Wong has volunteered at the police department for a year.

## Vehicles left on street may be towed

Abandoned cars have no place in the City. And vehicles cannot be stored on City streets.

Under City Code (section 22-72), vehicles left in one spot on the street for more than 72 hours can be towed.

Currently a registered owner, in violation of the ordinance, is given a 10-day notice to move the vehicle.

**Effective June 1**, identified vehicles will be marked with chalk on the tire and have a notice put on the windshield. Police personnel will come back after 72 hours, and if the vehicle doesn't appear to have been moved, it can be towed.

If you will be gone for an extended period of time, either park on private property or have someone drive your vehicle periodically. Let a neighbor know you will be gone so that they can inform police personnel. When practical before towing, we will check the neighborhood for the owner.

Abandoned vehicles are a part of neglected neighborhoods. Studies show that an area that appears rundown is significantly more likely to experience serious crime.

Please notify us of any abandoned vehicles. Call the vehicle tipline at 646-3973, provide the vehicle location, description and duration of the violation. For more information, call 646-3819. ■

# New Local and State Laws Affect Community

**C**hanges in State and local laws help make our neighborhoods safer for visitors and residents alike. As the City department in charge of enforcing these new laws, we want to make sure you are aware of them.

**Most notably, is Megan's Law**, which went into effect on October 1, 1996. This law allows law enforcement to give out certain information regarding registered sex offenders who are classified by the Department of Justice as "serious" or "high risk."

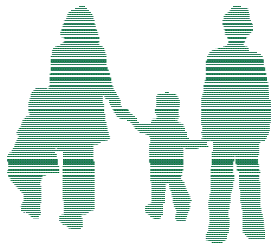
Though not a requirement, the Monterey Police Department took action when a convicted "high risk" sex offender moved into one of our neighborhoods. Information was distributed to alert residents and schools of the potential risk.

Earlier this year, we also released infor-

mation on "serious" sex offenders to smaller groups who need to be aware of the situation.

If you would like to get information on registered sex offenders living in Monterey, CD-ROM viewing is available at the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, 1414 Natividad Road.

Viewing hours are 1 to 5 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



**On the local front**, the Monterey City Council recently voted to prohibit dogs from certain City events, including the Old Monterey Market Place.

The Market Place has become more popular and continues to attract big crowds. The Police Department received complaints from citizens as well as the Old Monterey Business Association that dogs at this event often interfere with pedestrian traf-

fic and pose a safety risk. The Monterey County Health Department also advised us that because food is prepared and served at the event, dogs should not be allowed.

Other special events where dogs are not allowed (see City Ordinance 6-16.1) include:

- **July 4th Colton Hall Lawn Party**
- **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Colton Hall**
- **La Posada Procession**
- **Easter Egg Hunt at Sollecito Park**
- **Summer Playground Festival at Sollecito Park**
- **First Night**

We have issued warnings to people who violate this ordinance in an effort to educate the public and gain voluntary compliance to the new law. Citations will be issued to those who intentionally violate the ordinance. ■

## Howling at the Moon

*Talk to your neighbor about noisy pets*

**A** dog is man's best friend, or so the saying goes. But what can you do when "man's best friend" becomes a noisy nightmare?

Most problems with barking dogs or other noisy animals can be resolved by talking with the animal's owner.

By getting to know your neighbors, you open up the lines of communication, and in many cases, you can speak to them about your concerns. A great way to get to know your neighbor is by joining or starting a Neighborhood Watch in your area (see story Page 6).

If you continue to be disturbed by a loud or persistent noise, and you haven't been able to resolve the situation on your own, call the police on the non-emergency line at 646-3911. The Animal Control Officer or a police officer will respond and can take the following action(s): 1) Educate animal owner about the complaint and request voluntary compliance; 2) Issue citations for repeated offenses (City Code section 22-18); 3) Give a "noisy animal log" to the reporting party to keep track of repeated violations; and 4) Follow up on progress.

Working together, neighbor with neighbor, we can make a difference.

If you have questions regarding animal issues, contact Animal Control Officer Cathi Cristobal at 646-3820. ■

## *The who and what about gangs*

### **1. What is a gang?**

A gang is any organized group whose primary behavior involves criminal activity. Members often wear symbolic colors: markings or tattoos to identify their group.

### **2. Is there gang activity in Monterey?**

Gang members on the Central Coast are believed to view Monterey as a "neutral" area. Members are known to visit the City, but generally don't wear colors or seek out members of rival gangs. At present, there is no record of a certified gang member, who has been recognized by our court system, residing in the City.

Some non-certified individuals who are thought to associate with out-of-town gangs do reside in the City.

### **3. What is the City doing about gangs?**

Gang activity is not tolerated in the City.

We currently have two full-time School Resource Officers (SRO) assigned to schools to educate about gang and anti-crime topics. Additionally, the school district and Police Department recently established a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program to compliment the school's "Here's Looking At You 2000" drug awareness program. D.A.R.E. also emphasizes the pit-falls of peer pressure and gang involvement.

The Police Department also started our Youth Diversion Program (see story Page 4) for "at-risk youth," which is helping to curtail anti-social behaviors such as vandalism, fighting and ill-advised associations.

Help make our community a safer place to live by informing us of any suspicious activity in your neighborhood. ■