

2007 COMMUNITY SURVEY: We Want to Hear from You!

Every two years, the City of Monterey conducts a comprehensive Community Survey to gauge citizen satisfaction with the quality of City services, programs and facilities. The Community Survey rates the City's appearance, government, community services, neighborhoods, business districts, safety and programs. Results are compared with previous years so the City knows what works and what needs improvement, from the perspective of residents and business owners.

Survey results can help shape budget priorities for the coming fiscal year. For example, the 2005 comprehensive Community Survey revealed a decline in service level satisfaction with some neighborhood street conditions, library and police services. Those declines paralleled budget and service cuts made in previous years. The City used the 2005 survey to make the case for bigger budget expenditures in ensuing years to improve services in those areas.

In 2005, the City got high marks for maintenance of parks, beaches and trees; preservation of open space and historic resources; harbor/marina services, garbage collection and recycling; and overall City services, all hitting greater than 92% satisfaction levels in the 2005 Survey.

The 2007 comprehensive Community Survey is inside this edition of City Focus. Please take a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire and mail it back. The 2007 Community Survey is your chance to let the City know how you feel about your neighborhood, your government, your City and your safety. Whether you've got concerns or kudos for the City, we want to hear from you!

ENVIRONMENTAL CAR WASHING

By Rick Riedl, *Engineering*

Outdoor car washing can carry high amounts of contaminants into local waterways and the ocean. The water used to wash the grime off cars often carries nutrients and metals that are harmful to the environment. The problem with wash water flowing down the street and into storm drains is that it ends up either in a local lake or the ocean without first being treated. Commercial car wash facilities recycle their wash water and are required to discharge to the sanitary sewer. So most storm water impacts from car washing are from residents, businesses, and charity car wash fundraisers that

discharge polluted wash water to the streets. You can help reduce the storm drain pollution by adopting some simple car washing practices:

- Use a commercial car wash
- Wash your car on gravel, grass, or other permeable surfaces
- Capture wash water before it reaches the gutter or build a barrier in the gutter to create a pool that can be pumped out. Captured wash water can be pumped into the sanitary sewer with either a sump pump or wet vacuum.

NEW, AFFORDABLE CONDOS

By Sandra Reeder, *Housing & Property Mgt.*

The City of Monterey has approved a number of condominium conversions in the last year, turning apartments into condos to increase home ownership opportunities. Each of the projects is required to commit 20% of the total number of units to affordable, below-market-rate ownership units. As a result, there will soon be 99 new condos in Monterey available to low- and moderate-income households. These condominiums range in size from studios to two-bedroom units.

The City also has approved a few workforce units for people earning between 120% and 170% of median income (between \$93,300 and \$105,740 for a family of four). These condos are available for purchase by anyone living in the City, or employed by a City of Monterey-based business. If you have questions about eligibility or want an application to be placed on the waiting list, call the Housing and Property Management Office at 646-3995.

