

2008 Survey Citizen Comments

Traffic

Please address what citizens can do to curtail excessive commercial traffic cutting through their neighborhood, including commercial vehicles using residential streets for parking every evening. It is difficult to pull safely in and out of the driveway when trucks and vans are blocking your view. Also it is unsightly. These vehicles should be parking in business lots, not in our neighborhood. (Villa Del Monte)

What is being done about the ugly traffic congestion on Fremont Blvd between 3 – 6 p.m. every day??

Need a 4-way stop at McClellan and Hawthorne. When trying to cross Hawthorne on McClellan, the driver cannot see oncoming traffic.

Please work hard to find an alternative route to Airport Rd. The traffic and noise from the Airport Business Park is beginning to be a real issue. While suing the actual airport is probably not viable, I bet the business district is a different matter. The speeding, litter and noise are becoming unbearable.

Is there a way to place a traffic light at Skyline Forest and Holman Highway? It's a very dangerous & heavily used intersection (much higher traffic count than "5th gate")

Ticket cars parked on wrong side of streets. Enforce stop sign violations do something – please anything to get things back in order.

Traffic Issues in New Monterey holiday weekends and Memorial to Labor Day are a huge concern. We've been talking about the traffic pattern issues for years. The "no left turn" on Lighthouse has not alleviated the backups.

Stop speeding on Skyline Drive during the night.

Speeding on city streets, potholes, poor street maintenance

The City needs more roads to get from New Monterey to Monterey. Lighthouse Ave is practically gridlock all day long.

Install a left-hand turn lane on Del Monte heading west, onto Sloat.

Make Lighthouse Ave 1-way coming to Monterey from David to Pvt Polio and use the street closest to ocean, Foam or Wave 1-way just west of tunnel to David.

Del Monte Beach neighborhood needs a second auto entrance and exit road.

Cars speeding on Cielo Vista and Monte Vista

DLI traffic needs to be resolved! Suggestions: 1) Encourage car pooling. Central park and meet and ride. 2) Open and Utilize the Artillery Gate and parking area 3) Create shuttle service on base. Please conduct a traffic survey of single passenger cars vs. multiple riders. Create incentives to carpool. Limit hours on Franklin and High Street gate to M-F 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ban motorcycles from using Franklin and High St Gates.

We need an extra lane on Highway 1 in each direction.

I would like to see more emphasis on green transportation. Biker's rights should be addressed.

Speeding traffic

The traffic on Franklin St continues to be a problem – way too fast. Please consider speed bumps, such as on other areas we have, to FORCE slower speeds.

The City and DLI did an excellent job leasing Larkin School with no impact on Old Town residents. The traffic to DLI has increased greatly and the City has taken no steps to manage it. There are a lot of things that could be done. Decrease hours on Franklin and High gates – re-open Artillery gate – improve traffic flow with one-way streets. This is #1 concern of Old Town residents. It's time the Council and Manager address it.

I feel strongly about the need for more traffic police at Del Monte and Fremont during peak traffic hours because people are purposefully running lights. Also too much graffiti around – too many cars blasting their music and the trees have been so cut back between our streets and the highway that we hear traffic more than ever!

It is very hard to get up Prescott Hill at 25 miles an hour – can it be raised to 30 miles an hour, like David Avenue?

Thank you for the recent double yellow striping on Skyline Drive. However, the patching could have been done better. Concern: I make a left-hand turn from Skyline onto Forest Ridge on my way home. Often there are fast autos coming from the other direction. Nighttime headlights are a good warning of auto coming, daytime is another matter of a potential accident. A possible flashing light post needed?

Traffic in New Monterey. I'd like to know what others think about traffic solutions. My idea: extend Hawthorne St to Private Bolio and use lower Presidio route on weekends and 4 – 6 p.m. busy weekdays. Close Priv. Bolio to military then – they can use Taylor and High St and re-open Artillery for them.

At the intersection of Munras and El Dorado, it would be smooth traffic if you arranged for right turn only lane to allow cars to turn right toward the Presbyterian Church and the medical center.

Please take into account increased traffic – East (out) bound traffic light on Fremont and Webster must be longer. Southbound lane of Aquajito between Fremont and (1st) right turn to MPC must be FOR RIGHT TURN ONLY –then Glenwood traffic can take second right turn and not interfere with traffic exiting MPC – Traffic exiting Glenwood Circle to Aquajito to north needs a better flow, or MPC traffic needs a stop sign or intersection needs a traffic light, or La Mirada need a safer exit or all of the above.

We have problems with parents dropping off students at Monterey High School. They stop in the blind curves on Herrmann Drive and at the stop sign on Herrmann and Via Del Rey. It would help if the small bridge at the lower entrance of the High School was completed so drop-off of students wasn't such a hazard and congestion in the residential area above the High School!

Please make the Franklin and High Street intersection a 4-way stop! Thank you.

The traffic signals in New Monterey continue to be frustrating. Lighthouse and Foam have signals that are out of sync with each other or change to red even when no cross traffic is present. Foam signals change for no reason and Lighthouse Ave should be synchronized for traffic headed towards the tunnel. A walk signal bulb is out / Lighthouse @ Drake.

Daily I am surprised and disappointed by how incredibly disrespectful the military personnel are of the speed limits and local residents in the Old Town neighborhood. Please send the Presidio a friendly reminder that the laws apply to them too on our streets. Motorcycles doing 60 mph wheelies down an otherwise quiet street is egregious and shameful.

Do not permit crossing walk use on the east side of the corner of Lighthouse and Drake Street. Pedestrian traffic slows high volume of vehicular traffic.

A major correction needed. Open travel again through the DLI – FLC and Presidio. Why it would improve business in PG and New Monterey. Quick route to hospital if an emergency or prompt action needed. It was available all during WWII – they should cooperate as it is only a school and per your report in 2000, we saved them over a million. Sell stickers or cards to locals and let the tourists use the tunnel. You can if you try.

Stop / slow cut-through traffic between Hwy 68 and Mar Vista / Monte Vista Neighborhoods.

English Avenue's traffic has greatly increased since the time of the opening of the Home Depot. People drive too fast and since there are no sidewalks, it's "an accident waiting to happen." Especially children and parents walking to the school bus stop, etc. Relatedly, cars park on the shoulder, blocking the areas where there is a sidewalk, so you have to walk in the street. Please enforce the "blocked sidewalks" law!

Traffic signals coming off Highway 1 near Seaside High School are very confusing.

Would like a cross walk @ Skyline and Wright Place. The double yellow line on Skyline is great. How about repainting the lines on Mar Vista between Skyline and Monte Vista as well as on Monte Vista. Folks don't seem to remember the middle of the road isn't for normal 2-way traffic.

Parking

Montecito, Ramona, Dela Vina areas need parking space markings. Sometimes a car is parked in a way that ends up using enough space for 2 cars. Since there is already limited parking, this may help resolve the problem.

How about leaving some parking spaces for the general public that need to do business at City Hall or the Rec Dept? All the employees park in the only parking lot. Really annoying and not people friendly on the part of the City.

Commercial vehicles left on public streets need to be ticketed regularly. Especially in streets around our parks in our business areas. Isn't the time limit 24 hours? Many stay parked in the same location or days or weeks.

My street in New Monterey has several large hauling trailers parked on the street – corner of Pine and Drake Streets. They could pose an emergency hazard. These rigs should be parked in a commercial zone not in a neighborhood setting. Monterey traffic looked the situation over. They say nothing can be done. The rigs must be moved however “every 72 hours.” What can be done about this?

Please, please ticket people who park on the wrong side of the street. It's really dangerous and the City could get lots of revenue.

Parking on sidewalks is a particular problem here in the Casanova Oak Knoll area where we have rolled curbs (between Airport & Ramona). I would like to see some enforcement by the Parking Division (starting with warning tickets rather than fines)

Please assess the traffic flow and parking situation in the Trader Joe's vicinity. 2 or 3 more eating establishments will likely make the bus station and adjacent streets jammed. Thank you for asking.

City of Monterey planners were remiss in arranging for ADEQUATE parking at Trader Joe's. Most discouraging! And new plans for the building across the street – is parking being really researched?

I live on Herrmann drive for 25 years right behind MHS the last 34- years. The parents dropping their kids off have moved into the residential areas – stopping on blind corners 3-4 deep to unload students – backed up at stop signs 4-5 deep to unload students. Via Del Rey @Herrmann, can we get this under control?

Should be handicapped parking on Alvarado St.

Parking for residents when events are at the fairgrounds i.e. Dela Vina Ave. wheelchairs have difficulty going up and down Dela Vina – sidewalk is uneven and very dangerous. This is not ADA compliant. City of Monterey is open to for a lawsuit.

You should do a survey about PARKING! It is INSANE to make people move their car every hour or two! All parking should be FREE, and only abandoned cars of illegal (red zone etc) should be dealt with. The parking division WAS NOT created to generate income!!

We need more parking space e.g. near the Fairgrounds, on Casa Verde, and downtown, especially during Farmer's Market. How about requiring landlords to furnish 2 parking spaces per residential unit? Also, parking downtown should all be 90 minute – to short to even eat.

Some planning commissioners downgrade the need for parking spaces because they want to build, build, build. Citizen has to be able to find parking near shopping or they will go elsewhere.

Parking is a problem in downtown Monterey. That is why I commute a lot to Pacific Grove or Del Monte Center. We have no hardware store in town.

Streets

The street pavement on Alvarado needs to be cleaned, sidewalks need to be power washed or steam cleaned. The pavement is filthy.

I do believe the City could be kept cleaner. I refer to the area by the old skating rink on Del Monte. The area by San Carlos Cathedral on Del Monte. Streets are rarely swept; I have never seen a street sweeper in Monterey.

We need sidewalks for walking! Too many cans and stuff – not enough sidewalks. Too many cars parked on the street sometimes it's difficult to drive through – people using street as a raceway on Saturday nights.

To say again – as I've said many time before – Foam needs to be resurfaced. The City can do other places that have needed it less. Why not Foam?

Sidewalks on Pacific Street between Soledad & Alameda.

Recently you put curbing structures in the center of the streets where I live. They are a hazard to traffic. People hit them with car wheels. You spend money on this unnecessary activity and the roads are breaking up, potholes develop, and road have rough pavement. Drive along North Fremont Street and you will see what I mean. Your priorities are mixed up!

New Monterey on Lighthouse Ave is in need of new sidewalks, or clean or repair. Especially McClellan to Hoffman.

Thank you for sweeping the streets in Aquajito Oaks especially Abinante Way

Filthy sidewalks and stairwells around Pacific / Calle Principal / Alvarado Streets downtown

There are a lot of roads that need re-surfacing. Would like to see North Fremont Street fixed up and looking like North Del Monte.

Why are 5-axle trucks allowed on city streets, damaging them as quickly as they're repaired?

Walkways / bike paths need to be placed in key areas in the City. For example, upper Prescott Ave. needs improved sidewalks and a bike path (lane) would significantly improve safety in this area.

The upper New Monterey street/side street access is run down and terrible looking. I would like to see a quality upgrading to the gutter area (such as to match those on 1200 block of Roosevelt) and sidewalks and streets. The streets need to be re-graded. Many side streets have a “hump” in the center rather than a flattish side-to-side grade when looking up or down the street.

I would like to see better efforts at street cleaning.

Soledad Drive – still a problem with potholes! Entire street needs to be resurfaced.

The city sidewalks are filthy, downtown, Cannery Row and all around. There is always an excuse why you can't do this – polluted run-off into the bay or shop owner's responsibility. Well why not just have city workers sweep and scrape gum up and trim back ice plant etc and collect the debris for disposal then wash the walks with water. What would go to the bay would be bird droppings and the birds do that from the air anyway.

As a resident of Josselyn Canyon Rd., I would like to point out that the lack of sidewalks on this road makes it very dangerous for pedestrians. In space there is shade from trees and the many curves make it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians. The provision of a sidewalk would make a great difference to the safety of our residents.

The intersection painting for walkers should be used on every intersection, more particularly at entry to Wharf 2 and entry to coast guard pier.

Monterey is a tourist town; therefore you need to have bigger and more visible street signs. The current street signs are small and very hard to read. The name of the streets should be bright in large print so you can see the street name clearly day or night.

Planning

Downtown Monterey needs architectural overhaul. You have lights, trash, paving, and benches: you need a strict rule for architectural committee to oversee signs, awnings & storefronts. Imagine set-back white umbrella restaurants as in antique center. Please do this last thing to bring the Alvarado block back, one plan, and one time. Also get the junk off Del Monte Ave., cars, junk stores, wrong image. Clean up the rest, please just ask the architects.

I still think it would be nice to have some historical identification signs in front of Cannery Row buildings associated with the real buildings / sites that Steinbeck fictionalized in his novels.

What is the vision of future buildings architecture by the planner?

Overbuilding with no water! Affordable housing for the last of the middle class

The new Trader Joe's shopping complex is a terrific downtown improvement!

New bad architecture – like Trader Joe's. Why was its exterior not required to be better designed like the Peet's building next to it? The Trader Joe's looks like a strip mall in anywhere, USA. It should not have been approved for historic downtown Monterey.

Why are we allowing all the new subdivisions but I can't get water credits to add a master bed/bath suite to my home?

Consider the integrity of our local heritage aesthetics when planning for future development. Green initiatives.

More bike trails similar to the recreation trail would be wonderful. A trail from the recreation trail to Sloat to the Fairgrounds to Ryan Ranch would make commuting much safer.

Highlight what steps the City is taking to be green.

43 years we have lived in Monterey happily! We were most impressed with response of the fire department in our medical emergency. Our main concern is the lack of foresight of city departments and Council for adequate parking for new projects. The most recent is Trader Joe's parking lot. If we find no parking available, we are discouraged about going there. You need to change the requirements. Anyway, thank you for a great city!

Create a section of Cannery Row as a Window-on-the-Bay as you did so splendidly on Del Monte. Open space will attract more people (and locals) than any retail space could. Thank you!

Limit the height on all new buildings to no higher than 3 stories.

Streets that are primarily dedicated to bicycles with cars as secondary (low speed)

Affordable housing

There are so many empty houses in my neighborhood. It is blight and a house shame that they sit empty and ugly (Hawthorne at Drake). Once a house is fixed up, they seem to lose all charm of the old wood windows, shingle siding. This would never happen in other cities like SF & New Orleans. We live in Monterey because of the architectural history. That includes 60 year old homes also.

With all the development plans in Monterey near Trader Joe's, there are only going to be more accidents and frustration because there is not enough parking. There needs to be a multi-level garage in that area before more retail/housing is built.

Stop condo conversions. It decreases market value and ability to resell later. Stop allowing structures such as current construction at Sierra Vista Drive.

Police

Support our Police Dept. No one wants to see our PD in the place P.G. currently is in.

We live on Prescott Ave and have been very impressed with the regular presence of a police officer monitoring the traffic. We have considered attending our local CPA meetings. It will be a priority for us in the future. Thank you for your interest in our community's well-being.

Nicer Police Man!!!

I love the city of Monterey. Very Happy the X-Police Chief is gone – I believe he did much more harm than good! But the rest of the agencies are wonderful. We have high hopes for Tim Shelby.

Compliments to the Police Department for organizing and conducting the Neighborhood Policing Teams. The team has been very responsive. Even though we cannot attend all the meeting, we received an email follow-up. Many thanks for keeping our area safe!

I like the MPD's CPA program. I attended the first session. Fortunately, here at Del Monte Beach, I have not observed any issues requiring the services of the police department. That may be due to the unobserved work of our CPA officer.

CPA meetings should not be scheduled at dinner time if you want better attendance. Try 8 p.m. or Sat morning for examples.

I'm sorry people haven't attended the neighborhood police meetings; they have been informative and valuable. Please don't discontinue them.

Even though attendance may be light at the Community Policing meetings, I believe it is a great program and needs to continue. Smaller meetings hosted at private homes may be worth a try.

Keep the Salinas gangs out of Monterey.

The police are almost always very nice in Monterey!

What is the city doing about gang activity? Prevention?

Chief Shelby's perspective on sidewalk parking issues is well stated and we will do our best to comply.

I shouldn't be distressed at the lack of attendance at the Community Policing Area meetings. Far from being a negative indicator, few people showing up is a positive indicator of confidence and satisfaction with our offices. Certainly, many would show up if they had a gripe to voice! I know I'm not alone in being very satisfied with our local law enforcement and feel grateful to live in such a well-run and well protected community.

Police visibility in the neighborhood is appreciated.

We need policing of the speeders who travel up and down the road to Vets Park.

I'd like the police force to continue enforcing the speed limits and traffic rules in our area (Old Town) as they have been doing lately. Do keep up this good work.

I was sorry to read that so few residents attended neighborhood meetings. I did attend and certainly appreciated the information and meeting the officers. Thank you very much.

Homeless

Homelessness in Monterey, especially on Alvarado St, the lower part near Wells Fargo Bank needs to be remedied.

Forget pet cemetery and focus on helping homeless people.

Homeless men begging on Alvarado Street sidewalks have become a serious problem – I fell unsafe walking there alone, especially after dark. Is it possible to provide food and shelter for the homeless away from our business and residential areas? They can be seen all around the downtown area at night and this does not create a good impression for tourists visiting Monterey.

The homeless are a major problem. They vandalize cars. They sleep everywhere. The police do little about it. The public library is a haven for the homeless. I won't let my daughter go to the library by herself.

Why do we allow the influx of panhandlers on Alvarado St?

Homeless around Del Monte shopping center. Beggars on Munras Ave.

Tell cops to stop harassing homeless people – they have nowhere else to go. Must we be so heartless just to boost the city's squeaky-clean image?

Stop / slow homeless population – Beggars and crime are increasing by Del Monte Mall.

Parks / Beaches

Need more parks in Monterey, less industry in downtown Monterey

Use lower wattage lights for park lights – Archer Park does not need such brilliant lights. The Bounce Houses at Archer Park (for parties) are inflated using excessively noisy generators which typically run the full day. These could be plugged into the electric outlets located at the Archer Center. Or Bounce Houses could be restricted to just the Oak Park where they are not so close to the residents homes.

Get rid of the old defunct sewer plant on Del Monte Beach please. After it was closed, the notice said it would be dismantled the next year – that was in 1982!!!

When are you going to finish the project on Del Monte Beach – seems like nothing is happening. Please don't plant any more shrubs going down from Del Monte Beach and let them die – no water – why are citizens asked to water at times early AM and late PM and the city doesn't do it at those times – often seen at high noon

Windows on the Bay is fantastic, beautiful, Hats off to the City. With the popularity of bocce ball, I would like to see a couple of courts somewhere on the Windows by the Bay. I think it would be used quite a bit.

Concentrate all your time and financial resources to open the Window on the Bay.

Trash in creek in front of Del Monte Shopping Center.

Make the dog park larger and longer.

More dog parks in Monterey! The one by Dennis the Menace Park is pretty small. We definitely need a DOG BEACH in Monterey, where friendly obedient doggies can be off-leash!

I would like to see the bathrooms at Del Monte Beach replaced/updated. They are an eyesore, and I feel our citizens and visitors deserve better.

Just a compliment to the Parks Maintenance group and services – Tremendous job. I visit 3 parks a day – every day – and they are in impeccable condition. I appreciate the diligence and I thank you for the care and services provided. What a great place to live!!

The Del Monte Beach needs more attention. It is used by the entire county but the city seems to leave it to residents to clean up. The porta potties smell. The parking lot taken over by the contractor is a mess. The clean-up people need more help on a daily basis. Do something! Or have your July 4th celebration somewhere else.

Greenbelts need better maintenance in some areas. City keeps extending greenbelts but need more personnel.

Trees

The law that prohibits taking down of a Monterey Pine tree without going through bureaucratic hoops is ridiculous and unfair. That law need to be re-evaluated and reformulated and make it fairer for the Monterey homeowner who wants and needs to take down a tree on their own property. Shame on the City! I'm a lifelong citizen of Monterey.

Help us trim city trees to improve our view of the Bay and Monterey. We lost it during Bill Conner's reign because he claimed we killed 40 trees and would be fined for all 40. They are still all alive and growing!!

Neighbors to be asked by the City to window their trees for other neighbors to prevent lawsuits.

Signs posted on posts and trees should be removed by the city since otherwise they are left there forever.

Recycling / Trash / Green

Please work toward charging trash rates by weight of can so encourage not to waste so much. We compost and recycle and don't ever have full cans but pay full rates.

Columbus Property Management has discontinued recycling at the apartments, 161 McClellan and 484 Spencer. This seems wrong. Is there anything the City of Monterey can do about this?

I live in an apartment complex and am very frustrated with the tenants that try to recycle Styrofoam, trash bags, electronic devices, etc...which then contaminate the curbside recycle bin. Maybe the "mixed" recycle bin approach has not worked for this area. What can I do or the City do to educate people again? Any way Monterey would have a curbside compost bin?

I would like to see the city ordinance about garbage cans enforced in my neighborhood. Many cans are left out for days before and after pick-ups. This is a very proud neighborhood, taking care of appearance, except for this very bad habit of homeowners seem to have.

What about a local site, such as the recycling bins near the fire department, for dropping off hazardous waste. I hope you don't honestly think someone is going to drive out to Marina to drop off hazardous waste? I think more people would dispose of hazardous waste correctly if there was an in-town drop-off site for small amounts of hazardous waste. The Library's idea to take old batteries was excellent and I drop my old batteries there quite often.

Determine and promulgate the city carbon footprint and total greenhouse gas emission. What is the plan to reduce?

How are all city-located businesses being monitored, encouraged & if necessary helped or fined – to recycle: paper, glass, cans, etc? They represent a big chunk of our city.

More, bigger recycling containers

I am pleased Monterey has begun taking concern for the environment. However, more needs to be done. There is often "green washing" that happens when org/gov/individuals claim to be environmentally focused but actually do the minimum just to get by and give the appearance of taking action.

Infrastructure

The highest priority for the City must be to rebuild the ageing, outdated and unsafe infrastructure. Even worthwhile projects such as the Library and Sports Center need to be lower priority – safety first!

Street, sewers and storm drain repairs need to be invested in now. Maybe a "city" tax to invest in now.

I would support a bond issue to meet present and future infrastructure and building needs. I am privileged to be here.

The conference center, the sports center and the public library should be self-supported by increasing or charging fees to those who use these facilities.

As repairs are being done to the Lighthouse Tunnel, would you install a ground wire for car radio reception like Herb Caen successfully obtained for the SF Stockton tunnel? It shouldn't be too expensive. Also post a sign not to blow horns (only for emergency) to avoid deterioration.

Give us more information on plans for infrastructure work.

I read with interest your article on "Investing in the Future."

E-commerce

The more online services the better, reduces long-term costs. NERT quarterly training calendar online with email reminders. Consolidate City calendar with all events.

For the e-commerce section of this survey, there were many questions re: online applications/payments, etc. Would there be an additional charge for this convenience? If so, will the user be advised of the fee before the process is started? Web sites that notify a user of a fee after a transaction is completed are not appreciated by me and I will not use it again.

This survey on e-commerce barely scratches the surface of possible options – you should look into it further. Paying for building & planning fees, parking passes, Sports Center memberships, etc – all of those should be on the table. The City's view of e-commerce is "outdated", behind the times as demonstrated by this survey.

Not everyone owns a computer or knows how to operate one. I am 84 years old, and I could not care less.

Do all the people in Monterey have computers to go online? What about old and disabled that don't have online?

The Monterey Public Library web site is a lifesaver for me! As a working mom, with you ones at home, I can't always get to the library during operating hours. Being able to reserve books online – and have them pulled and waiting for you for pickup is a tremendous service! Being able to renew online is extremely helpful as well. I would be willing to pay overdue fines online if the service was available. Thank you for enabling my family to read new books every week from the Library!!

The lack of easily accessible information to be found online (a main Monterey web site with every bit of info needed) really limits this city...there could be so much more commerce if only people knew the small nooks and crannies around here!

I do not have a computer.

Emergency

How to notify residents of a tsunami warning?

Emergency preparedness for our pets in case of a major disaster, is there any?

During the January power outages, it was impossible to reach PG & E. Why didn't the City provide updates to us about power restoration? I was without power nearly 3 days and it was very frustrating, as people a block or two away did have full power and it was impossible to find out what was going on, how long it would last, should I get a hotel, etc.

Emergency Preparedness workshops where citizens are taught how city services are administered during public emergencies such as catastrophic weather events. How a citizen can be of use to city staff during an emergency is important.

Thanks for supporting the CERT program.

I tuned into 1610 and thought the information was inadequate. Tried to find a local station with local storm info and all I found was a Santa Cruz station that had a few people call in and provide Monterey / Carmel info. It felt like a 3rd world country! Thank God we didn't have a major disaster.

City Focus

This new City Focus is very good.

Thanks for the City Focus – it's informative and nicely laid out!

The new newsletter layout and design are beautiful but hard to read because of so much low contrast print and background combinations. You should put reminders on issues about co-existing with local wildlife – deer, raccoons, geese, etc.

Thanks for the 1610 AM info! I was clueless. I wrote it in large letters on my radio.

Highlight details in City Focus on meaning of "green building"

Glad to get the City Focus way out here to keep an eye on inside city limits.

I like City Focus for the key city information it provides.

Well-organized survey. How about same format but on WATER – ways used, ability to cut back – use of drought tolerant plantings – water saver shower heads, etc.

Thanks for sending out City Focus. I've never lived in a community before that had a regular newsletter.

The "glossy" City Focus is difficult to read plus it seems to be a waste of money to do color. Why not use recycled paper!!

A dumb survey

The light blue print is very difficult to read in small print. Appreciate the enlightenment on blocked sidewalks. Would like similar information on the "loud radio" from vehicles and the misuse by strangers of garbage cans put out for collection.

In these tight economic times, please consider saving money on the City Focus by printing on thinner paper and one color only (like this page).

Newsletter continues to be of high quality (good editing) and of high interest. Very good to include Emergency Info radio number in this edition. Also good – the many web referrals, including getting City Focus online. For big, messy, never-ending projects like the current Pacific Street, we need more information. The Herald doesn't cover these things very well. I'd like to see more in the newsletter or least a link to the city web site.

Sports Center

The cost to be a member at the Sports Center continues to rise and is getting to the point where I don't feel I can continue to participate. Wasn't it built with tax monies? Shouldn't it be made affordable for all Monterey residents? I am aware of the subsidized programs but I make too much income, although I am a single income with a house payment and the usual monthly bills. Please review the costs at the Sports Center and reduce them.

I am horrified to read to that the Sports Center needs so much money spent on it, that it should need "upgrades." Nor do I believe that it is "integral to the health and well-being of our community."

Have the Monterey Sports Center open earlier on Sundays.

There should be a higher charge for Sports Center use for non-residents. The difference between residents and non-residents is not significant enough.

Sports Center is great but too crowded with other city's residents. Please find ways to address this so that it is a more pleasant experience for those of us who live in Monterey. Why don't the other cities have their own sports centers?

The Sports Center is first rate. However, it could be managed a little better. It is not bad but it is not 1st rate. For example, there are plenty of attendants but they do not enforce the rules: cell phones, under age kids in the cardio room; 30 minute time limit, cleaning machines after use. Kids in the cardio room are a safety concern – most things are annoying. The janitors sitting around in front of the women's locker is WRONG.

Recreation

Open swimming center for outside – affordable

More toddler friendly recreational activities and museums (ages 1-2)

Thank you for the great 4th of July party!

Rec Dept needs to update Summer Park Programs – very outdated

The city should add a basketball court, like the Stillwell court at Caledonia Park in PG – at the Window on the Bay. One less volleyball court and one basketball court would create a great blend of choices.

Underground Utilities

We would like to have the utility lines put underground in our neighborhood.

Are there any plans in the future for the Fisherman Flats subdivision to have underground utilities?

I would like the city to start placing utility lines underground

Underground power lines!

Under grounding utilities

Please start gradually allowing PG&E to put our power lines under the streets.

You talk about the beauty of Monterey – Window on the Bay and parks and views but you don't seem interested in the fact that we look at those sites through power lines! If you truly want this area to be beautiful, you must bury the utilities. There always seems to be an excuse of no money but other projects are funded so start an account for this project.

Underground utilities

What are we doing to encourage underground utilities? Too many wires overhead in Old Town and it's dangerous and prone to failure with any storm.

City Council

The City Council needs to get its act together and behave in a civil manner. They were elected to take care of the citizen's business not to squabble and cost additional money to the taxpayers. They are an embarrassment right now.

As a long time resident of Skyline Forest, I have enjoyed Monterey's good governance and many amenities: Rec trail, Historical buildings, local parks etc. I am disappointed at the internal strife of the present City Council.

Council needs team building or we may end up looking like PG

I am very annoyed with the antics of Jeff Haferman and Nancy Selfridge – if I didn't know it, you'd think we were in Pacific Grove where such ridiculous behavior is commonplace. We live in a wonderful town with great and caring leadership which is evidenced by the few problems that exist...until now when Haferman feels the need to create problems where they don't exist and in the process cost the City time and money. He should be ashamed – by 14-year-old behaves better than he does.

How about getting some of our City Council people in line?

Distribute City Council & Commission agendas and staff reports 10 days before a public meeting

Construction

In my neighborhood, our old crosswalk was removed and a brick one was put in its place. It took about a month to be made. I really feel like the money would have been better spent to improve the schools or actual road problems that need to be fixed!

I just wanted to say I like that we are getting our roads fixed but your construction plans are very inconvenient for driving and living near a construction zone, particularly David Ave.

You must be wasting revenues because construction projects, like the High School bridge and football field – take forever. What possible excuse do you have? Also on Calle Principal, the Hotel Project never advances, yet you do nothing.

General

Could you explain the car dealership (empty) at the end of Franklin? Have you considered asking residents not to park on a particular side of the street (say from 9 – noon) once a month so the street cleaner could reach the curb all the way down the street at least once in a while?

Too many loose dogs and dogs left in backyards all day late into weekend evening to bark endlessly

Teenagers!! Need more focus and place in the evening for 16 – 19 or 20 year olds.

Fix the potholes, plant more trees, put all utilities underground, green credits for solar panels.

Blocked sidewalks – what about by hedges (.e.g. Deer Stalker and Deer Forest area) on Deer Stalker Path?

Like City to actively pursue keeping elementary school open in Monterey. Lost Larkin, Del Monte, and Monte Vista. What next?

Are there volunteer opportunities in the neighborhood where people live? Could be small scale & particularly helpful as citizens have old and young together.

Newspaper stands show up in the oddest places. How about more places like “Morgan’s” that display them in an orderly fashion?

Enough with the moth craziness! The health advisories indicate there is no issue with the pheromone. Spray and be done with it!

I would like to see the City rescind allowing public spaces to be used for political ads. It does nothing to advance political dialogue – it only adds clutter and defaces our beautiful park services. Please stop the “political graffiti.”

Happy we have Trader Joe/s.

Start giving tickets to people, young and old, who ride bicycles on sidewalks.

Overpaid City employees

Light pollution - use of unnecessary bright lights in commercial and residential districts

I must live within my means, so should the government. The city should be a minor landlord, divest the drains on funds to the public sector.

I would like the City to impose a fine on people who allow their dogs to bark all night long. Calling the police more than once to report this nuisance should call for a fine.

No clear cut guidelines on enforcement about barking dogs.

I believe we've overlooked in the area – RV's, campers, covered up cars & boats parked in driveways, yards and streets.

City should work towards being more student friendly. Farmer's Market is a really fun event and more community events like that would be a great idea.

Any chance of clearing up the old vet office on corner of Airport Rd and Fremont?

There are two peacocks where I live and at night they screech all night long – disrupting my sleep. NPS won't do anything, nor the SPCA, would like to know what can be done about this?

Feral cats – consider trap neuter return. Don't harass people that are feeding them.

Would like to stop gardeners from using blowers. All they do is blow debris from my neighbor's yard into my yard. They are noisy and dirty.

Infrastructure. Storm Water treatment. Pension Liability. Public Safety as a percentage of the budget. Fiscal Responsibility. Internet Security.

I would like to see the City do more about controlling rents, inspection of rental properties and providing as many free services as possible for residents. I am 61 with what most would consider a good government job but I barely make it here and will not be able to afford to retire here. Since the apartments down the street here converted to condos my rent has gone up \$100 in two years.

More code enforcement needed to enforce rules on the books. Yard sale signs look tacky all over the place.

Better enforcement of codes is needed. We need a full-time code officer to really get the codes enforced properly.

City Code Enforcement. Neighborhood Blights. Trapping Raccoons

There should be some term limits placed on the length of time NIP reps serve. Two or three feel like they own the committee and try to reign over the others with their own agenda. It is a valuable committee doing excellent work for the neighborhoods.

Some people have been on the NIP committee too long. They need some new more reasonable members.

I am concerned about the combination of the firefighters of Monterey with Pacific Grove and Carmel. I am not convinced that is a good idea for Monterey residents.

Monterey would receive a huge economic boost by aggressively pursuing cruise ship visits. We recently cruised into Monterey Bay and were informed by our fellow passengers that natural venues such as Big Sur, Shopping in Carmel and Just Taxis were difficult to find or visit from Wharf 1. By comparison, Victoria BC looks forward to 230 ships per year, with average \$200 spent by each passenger.

The City is very fortunate to have the Aquarium because it brings in TOT and sales tax revenue in large amounts it would not otherwise have. But the day of reckoning is coming because cities eventually will not be able to bear the cost of the retirement formula for safety personnel along with lifetime healthcare benefits. Train wreck in the making is not sustainable and is being paid for ironically by people who often have no retirement at all and perhaps not even health insurance. Cities need to band together to solve this problem. No City can do this alone.

Thank you!

As a senior citizen who doesn't drive, I appreciate the taxi tickets and rides – am able to go many places without depending on friends or family. Thank you so much!

Thank you for your magazine and efforts on our behalf.

We love our wonderful Recreation Department. Our family uses the Sports Center on a regular basis. We love Camp Quien Sabe!

We love Monterey City. Thank you.

Love this City! You all run it very well.

Thank you for the good work done!

I love Monterey! Thank you for taking the time to make our city better. Any services involving dogs or a cleaner environment are welcome.

Thank You – 2

Thank you Monterey for the Sports Center. I use it and love it!!

On the whole, I believe the City government of Monterey, its elected officials and paid employees are doing an excellent job. The City is well-run, which adds to the pleasure of living here.

Thank you City of Monterey for making this the Best and Most Beautiful City on Earth! Our adobes, gardens, parks are so well kept. I am proud to be a Monterey resident.

I am always impressed by city decisions and agencies – perhaps more so because I lived previously in challenging / challenged Pacific Grove.