

City Focus

Fall 2020

volume XXXV, no. 4

A Report from the City of Monterey to its Citizens and Friends

City's work program expansive despite pandemic setbacks - Message from the City Manager



Welcome to our fall edition of our City Focus. Let me share with you some important information.

I'm sure you've noticed: The pavement conditions on our City streets are improving thanks to voter-approved **special sales tax measures**. Voters overwhelmingly approved a 1% special sales tax dedicated to road improvements, storm drain repairs well as sidewalk and ADA improvements. In 2015, when we started our resurfacing and reconstruction efforts our streets scored a 53 on a scale of 100 possible points. Today, our streets have improved to an **overall index of 69 and our residential streets have actually reached a score of 72!** Of course, like many of us, when I walk in my neighborhood I still see streets needing improvement. Let me assure you, we still have six more years of Measure S funding ahead of us getting it done! If you have questions about your street, please feel free to contact our Public Works Department for more detailed information. Here's a piece of trivia: 62% of our sales tax is actually derived from non-residents!

In September, we presented to our City Council more than 70 different projects, programs, and policies staff has been working on. The work program consists of a mix of topics mandated by State and Federal law, and initiatives brought forward by our councilmembers, commissioners, neighborhoods, and staff. All of these efforts are improving the quality of life in Monterey. Our limited staff and budget resources are requiring us to constantly adjust our work program throughout the year.

"...62% of our sales tax is actually derived from non-residents."



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The priorities Council set for us included fiscal stability, affordable housing, and COVID-19 response. Stated differently, our existing staffing levels require all of us to carefully prioritize our work.

And, yes, recently we added another major initiative to our work program, which is to work on allowing commercial cannabis retail operations within the City of Monterey. Our City Council, staff and public discussed the pros and cons of allowing cannabis businesses in our City. The consensus was to task staff to report back with a suggested roadmap for the implementation for cannabis operations. We will present a proposed roadmap by the end of this calendar year. Please stay tuned and help us find solutions, which are based on community input.

Also, the Council took a big step towards addressing issues surrounding social justice, Black Lives Matter, and the interpretation of Monterey's history. Our Council passed a comprehensive diversity resolution and also directed staff, as a first step, to provide an overview over our existing policies and procedures within our Monterey Police Department.

"The crisis has made us all realize what is really important..."

COVID-19 continues to be a challenge in our daily lives. Our Sports Center, Recreation Centers, Library, Museums, and Conference Center remain closed with limited services such as **curbside library materials pick-up** and **outdoor group exercise classes**. Many businesses have closed for good. Unemployment remains high, especially in the hospitality industry. Yet, when you take a stroll on Alvarado Street you will see new businesses moving into vacant spaces amplifying that small business owners are confident to invest into the heart of Old Town.

Still, we are in the middle of a severe recession and economic crisis and hopefully, we are approaching the final phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City's team remains committed to addressing all of our residents' concerns. The fiscal reality is that the City's budget has been devastated and that continues to force us to adjust our service levels to our incoming reduced revenues for the foreseeable future.

Our **Emergency Rental Assistance Program** is still available - a total of \$800,000 in funding was allocated for qualified individuals and families who live or work in Monterey and lost their jobs or hours due to COVID-19 - please contact us for more information. Our **Local Economic Stimulus Plan** - \$1,000,000 for businesses - has helped many businesses to survive - some of them were able to open again.

The pandemic also helped us to revitalize our strong partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce, Middlebury Institute, NPS, DLI, MCCVB, MCPOA, MPUSD, Neighborhood Associations, CERTs, advocates, etc. The crisis has made us all realize what is really important to all of us.

Thank you all for supporting our City Council, commissions, and our staff. Many of you have reached out to us and encouraged us through letters, emails and phone calls! Our staff appreciates everyone who cheered us on. We keep on doing our best to maintain your trust and confidence. Monterey continues to move forward.

ANDA!





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Be awesome - VOTE!



Be awesome - vote and sign up to track your ballot status. Thanks to the Monterey County Elections Office for the tracker!
<https://montereycounty.ballottrax.net/voter/>

A Monterey County Elections ballot drop box is installed outside the Monterey Public Library for all Monterey County voters. Drop off your ballot 24 hours a day until November 3, 2020 at 8:00 pm. The county is collecting ballots on a regular basis.



On the Fire Front - a first-person perspective

BY MONTEREY FIRE DEPARTMENT DIVISION CHIEF JUSTIN COOPER

This 2020 fire siege has been the worst fire siege in California's history. As of October 8, more than 4 million acres have burned with 8,400 fire starts unfortunately resulting in 31 fatalities, and 9,200 structures either destroyed and/or damaged. Locally we saw three major fire incidents. The River, Carmel, and Dolan fires all started during the same time causing evacuations, destroying property and land. This fire season appears to be a never-ending onslaught that feels a lot different than any fire season before.

Monterey Fire participates in the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) and responds throughout the state assisting agencies in large scale incidents. On August 13, 2020, at approximately 0530 hours (5:30 am) we were dispatched to a major wildfire that was threatening Californians, homes, and critical infrastructure including watershed and historic sites. Engine 313 composed of a 4-member team consisting of a Captain, Fire Engineer, and 2 Firefighters



"This fire season appears to be a never-ending onslaught that feels a lot different than any fire season before."

along with myself as the Strike Team Leader immediately loaded our equipment and headed to a rendezvous location outside of Bradley. Here we met up with 4 additional fire engines that included North Monterey County Fire District, Salinas Fire Department, Monterey County Regional Fire District, and Cal Fire. This 21-member unit is referred to a Strike Team and is numbered based upon where it is from and type of units it is made up of. Strike Team XMY2175C traveled in this 5-engine configuration and a SUV command vehicle to the Lake Incident in Los Angeles County.

While driving south on Highway 101 approaching the Grapevine a large luminous smoke column could be seen. We were approximately 1-hour drive time out and knew instantly we were going to be put to work. Temperatures in the area were a staggering 105 degrees when we arrived, and it was not going to get any cooler as temperatures spiked upwards of 108 to 111 degrees throughout our deployment.



We arrived at the Incident Base Camp at Castaic Lake which was still being set up. We checked in along with only a few other strike teams. We were immediately placed on the fire line providing structure protection and constructing direct fire line throughout many structures on the northern end of the fire. Structure protection consists of different tactics to either defend, or improve defensible space giving a house the best chance of not catching fire. Placing direct fire line along a fire's edge is extremely difficult work. This basically involves scraping away the unburned fuel down to mineral soil in a line that can be anywhere between 3 feet to 60 feet wide depending on the size of fuel and advancing fire. Our initial fire line consisted of a 6-foot cut removing brush and a 3-foot scrape down to direct mineral soil. Our division was many miles, so we just started in one place where the burned and unburned fuels met and began the construction.



While out on the fire line the conditions are hazardous and at times can be straight out dangerous. Conditions that can vary from steep terrain, extreme heat, fatigue, dehydration, aircraft flying overhead dropping water and retardant, high winds, lightning, traffic (people trying to evacuate from their houses as we are driving in to protect them), advancing fire fronts with flame lengths that can reach well over 100', trees that fall due to being weakened by fire, rattlesnakes, and even animals fleeing the fire, all present

hazards. Another new variable with all of this now is COVID-19 and the additional precautions we needed to take to protect each other. Fighting wildland fires is all about risk management; we will risk a lot to save lives and property, but we risk nothing for property that is already lost.

As days started to blend together, we continued line construction and also conducted holding operations utilizing fire to burn the unburned vegetation between our fire line and the advancing fire. We do this in a controlled manner to check the fire and contain it. After every operational period (typically 12 or 24 hours long) we arrive back at base camp to restock supplies, fuel equipment, and maintain apparatus.

A typical day starts before the sun rises. At 0500 hours lunches are packed along with ice and water. After eating a quick breakfast and attending a 0600 hours operational briefing we drive to our work assignment. The drive can take an hour or more depending on assignment location. We then are briefed by the off going resources and then we get to work. Work typically involves hiking a good distance (sometimes 5+ miles) wearing all of your wildland fire protective gear, carrying a hand tool like a shovel or axe, backpack of hose with additional nozzles, and even a chain saw with fuel that can all add additional weight of up to 30 to 45 pounds.



"Day 9 was an eerie day for many of us."

Operations continue throughout the 12-hour period. We finally are relieved by the evening crew typically around 1930 hours. After arriving back at base camp by 2100 hours, we eat dinner, restock supplies, and then get some much-needed rest before the process starts all over again. Shifts basically become a 16+ hour shift.

Day 9 was an eerie day for many of us. While on the fire line we received reports from home that families of our firefighters from our strike team were being evacuated due to the River, Carmel, and Santa Cruz fires. We knew instantly we would be reassigned north to assist due to the amount of homes threatened, and potential lives at risk.

At 0800 hours we went through the demobilization process which includes vehicle inspection, restock, and closeout of paperwork at the incident. We were reassigned to the CZU Lightning Complex in Santa Cruz County. Then it was off to the races to start the same process all over again.

This is just one of many strike teams and resources we have sent since the fires have started. Sitting back at home taking time to reflect on our deployment, one realizes the magnitude of how many firefighters it takes putting one fire out of this size, let alone the 29 large fires currently burning in the state that far exceeds these two fires combined.

Our deployment lasted a total of 21 days. The Lake Fire was finally contained at 89,000 acres and the CZU Lightning Complex at 86,000 acres. We experienced emotional and physical challenges and mechanical break downs of apparatus. On the positive side, our strike team successfully saved over 45 houses and we were fortunate to have only three minor firefighter injuries which were all cared for. Everyone made it home safely.

**VIDEO: From
Monterey
Fire: “Serve
up fire safety
in the
kitchen!”**

montereyfiredept.org



<https://youtu.be/sBeSNceVED8>

**See more educational and informative
Monterey Fire Department
videos at montereyfiredept.org**

**October
2020 CERT
Newsletter**

The October issue of the CERT newsletter is published.

HIGHLIGHTS:

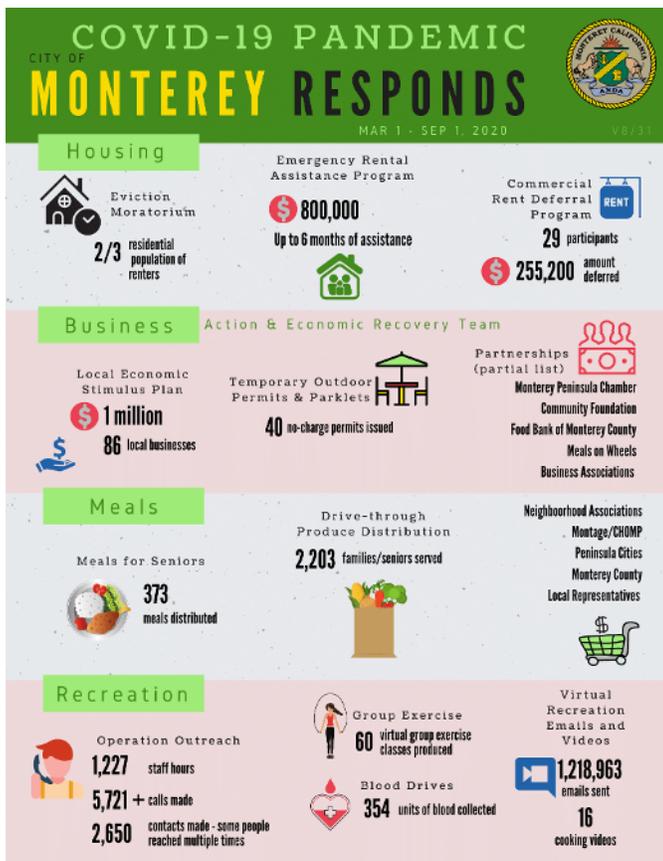
- CERT responds to missing man search on Ft. Ord Property
- Hand-held radio use review
- Fires continue to devastate our State and local communities
- A thank-you note from Monterey City Manager Hans Uslar

Read the October edition in PDF at:

monterey.org/Portals/0/News/CERT/2020/CERT-Oct-2020.pdf



Monterey Responds - Six months into the pandemic and we have come a long way



We think it's important to record and track the steps we are taking to combat the pandemic threat, both to understand the communities needs, and to learn and improve our City response for future emergencies.

We will continue to track, monitor, adjust, and react to help our community get through COVID-19 and the resulting economic fallout.

Please take a look at how the City has responded since March to the coronavirus - from emergency housing assistance, development of an active business and economic recovery team, distribution of meals, mask mandates, to being just a phone call away for many isolated seniors, and much more.

The City thanks the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation for Monterey County, and numerous other community partners for their collaboration and community support.

City of Monterey Responds

Monterey Police September Monthly Report



Just published...the Monterey Police September Monthly Report. Each monthly edition is a very comprehensive report that includes narratives about key topics like COVID-19 Education and Enforcement, Patrol information, and updates from the Community Action Team (CAT) and the Multidisciplinary Outreach Team (MDOT). There's also staffing and department activity statistics, including reported crimes.



You can see this report as well as past reports on the Monterey Police website at monterey.org/police/Get-Informed/Monthly-Reports

Working through the pandemic's impact on the City budget

The City of Monterey's Executive Team has been working extensively over the past seven months to strategically adjust for budget shortfalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City Council made the difficult decision to initiate layoffs which began in June, which ultimately resulted in the temporary layoff of 71 positions. On September 15, Finance Director Lauren Lai, presented to City Council a **General Fund Preliminary, Unaudited FY20 & Aug 2020 YTD Update**. This report shows a projected revenue loss of over \$31 million dollars for FY2020 and FY2021. (The Fiscal Year-FY is July 1 to June 30).

The key takeaways from that presentation and how we will combat this significant loss of revenue are:

- COVID-19 financial havoc continues
- Aside from COVID-19 health restrictions, we must reassess which services and facilities we can afford to reopen and when
- Hybrid solution is required
- FY20 Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program (NCIP) funds covered the General Fund revenue loss - thank you to our residents and neighborhoods!
- FY21 programs/position reductions, employee concessions, use reserve, and other reductions
- Continue monitoring COVID-19 and continue reporting our findings
- Balance service, safety, and fiscal ability and continue to work together

Then on October 6, the Finance Director presented to City Council a report to **Authorize Changes to FY21 Budget Various Other Funds and CIP**. This report outlined over \$7 million in revenue reductions from funds other than General Funds. These losses were also due to the pandemic.

The City Council and the public will hear another report at a December Council meeting that will present an overview of actual revenues and expenditures that will be telling as to 1) how we are tracking with the budget forecast, and 2) how quickly the economy is recovering from the economic fallout of COVID-19.

Since the Shelter-in-Place Order, some services that were closed have reopened on a limited basis: the Sports Center hosts outdoor group exercise classes, the Library offers curbside pickup of library materials, and the Recreation Division provides preschool programs at Hilltop Park Center along with produce and food distribution at El Estero Park Center. Until the Monterey County population reduces the number of COVID-19 positive cases and deaths, we can not move to a lower tier based on California's reopening guidelines, and that will continue to impact the City's ability to reopen facilities and bring back staff.

We remain hopeful for a vaccine that will help us move through this difficult time and back to some normality for our whole community. **Find more information about the pandemic's impact on the City budget at <https://monterey.org/Coronavirus/Fiscal-Impacts-and-Labor-Issues>**



The latest on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) - next meeting October 27

BY PRINCIPAL PLANNER
ANDE FLOWER

CITY OF
MONTEREY IS
UPDATING
ACCESSORY
DWELLING
UNIT (ADU)
RULES

"GRANNY"
UNITS



PARTICIPATE IN
THE PROCESS

monterey.org/planning

The Planning Department is re-introducing discussion about Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). This is because the state law has superseded our own rules. Until we update our regulations, the state laws are in effect. State law specifies requirements for the creation of Junior ADUs and authorizes ADUs in more locations. State law also limits size regulations, requires less parking, and provides for a more limited review, among other things.

Following are definitions for these types of rental units:

- **ADU:** attached or detached living space with a separate entrance, bathroom, and kitchen.
- **Junior (JADU):** attached living space with a separate entrance, efficiency kitchen with cooking appliances, counter and storage cabinets. JADUs may share a bath or include a bathroom.

Some of the differences between the City's existing ADU ordinance and state law are as follows:

- **Minimum lot size:** City code did not allow any additional units for property that is less than 5,000 square feet. State law now clearly prohibits a city from requiring a minimum lot size.
- **Multifamily:** City code did not allow ADUs associated with multifamily structures. Cities must now allow multiple converted ADUs and detached ADUs on lots with a multifamily dwelling.
- **Setbacks:** City code enabled existing accessory structures to become ADUs, regardless of existing setbacks, but offered no other setback exceptions. State code allows 4-foot setbacks in the rear and side yards for ADUs. Cities may not require correction of physical nonconforming zoning conditions for an ADU or JADU.
- **Owner occupancy:** City code required owner occupancy for all ADUs. Under state law, all ADUs are exempt from owner-occupancy requirements until January 1, 2020. Cities may then impose occupancy requirements, but only to ADUs created after that date. State law does require owner occupancy for a JADU.

ADUs, continued

- **Parking:** City code required replacement parking for garage conversions, with exceptions for ADUs within one-half mile of a public transit stop. State code requires a parking space when a newly constructed detached ADU is not within a half-mile walking distance from a bus stop. Replacement parking for JADUs created as attached-garage conversions may be required with a City's ordinance.
- **Height:** City code restricted accessory structures to no taller than 12 feet high. State code allows detached ADUs to be as tall as 16 feet.
- **Ministerial:** City code required Planning review for any ADU within a Design Review Area. State code requires that all compliant ADUs and JADUs, which are not considered separate dwellings, be reviewed only with a Building Permit.
- **Size:** City code restricted the size of an ADU to be no more than 50% of the size of the primary structure, up to 1,200 square feet. Under state law, the minimum size must be 250 square feet, or as low as 150 square feet if the City adopts a lower efficiency-unit standard. Any maximum size restriction included with a revised ordinance can be no less than 850 square feet for attached and detached studio and one-bedroom ADUs, and 1,000 square feet for two or more bedrooms. A JADU must be entirely within the walls of a single-family dwelling and can be no larger than 500 square feet.

The City of Monterey is updating ADU rules to integrate new state laws with our City Code. In drafting new rules, we want them to fit community needs and make them easy to understand. The State allows City codes to be less restrictive but not more restrictive than state law. Over the next few months, we will be presenting concepts to the Planning Commission that go beyond minimum state requirements with the following goals in mind:

- Streamline regulations
- Adapt ADU rules to our unique situations in Monterey
- Expand development standards only when it reflects neighborhood character
- Recognize opportunities to encourage off-street parking

Participate in the Planning Commission Meeting on October 27th

For the new regulations to be reflective of community consideration, we need as much participation as possible in the early stages of sorting through priorities and possibilities. Regional efforts are also underway to support development of this type of housing. Two such agencies that would like to hear from those who would appreciate some support with their efforts:

- **United Way** has an ADU Advisory Group that is working closely with folks who want to build ADUs because they want to understand the local process and assist, if possible. If you are interested, please contact Kelly DeWolfe, Impact Associate – Affordable Housing at 831-372-8026 x115.
- **Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay** has financing opportunities available. If you are interested, please contact Satish Rishi, Chief Executive Officer at 831-469-4663 x11.

For Planning questions, please contact Ande Flower at flower@monterey.org.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program accepting applications



CITY OF MONTEREY
EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DO YOU LIVE OR WORK IN MONTEREY?
DID YOU EXPERIENCE A LOSS OF INCOME DUE TO COVID-19?

Learn more and apply at [MONTEREY.ORG/HOUSING](https://monterey.org/housing) or call 831-646-3995

Don't live or work in Monterey? Call 2-1-1 for assistance.

2-1-1
Get Connected. Get Help.™

The City of Monterey is pleased to offer an Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The program is designed to mitigate potential homelessness and displacement of existing Monterey residents and workers who are experiencing a decrease in household income due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus, unable to pay their rent. The City may provide up to a maximum of six (6) months of rental assistance.

Applicant Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the Monterey's Emergency Rental Assistance Program, applicants must meet the following requirements:

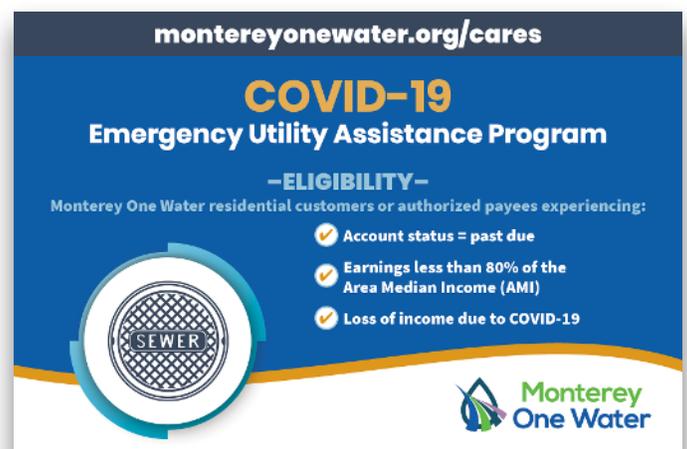
- Live or work (or formerly work) in the City of Monterey
- Experiencing a loss of income due to COVID-19
- Be able to provide a lease agreement or letter confirming tenancy from your landlord
- Have been current on rent payments prior to COVID-19
- Make less than 80% of Area Median Income

Complete program guidelines and applications in English and Spanish are available at monterey.org/housing. Or call 831-646-3995, or United Way 2-1-1

COVID-19 Emergency Utility Assistance Program - Available for Monterey One Water (M1W) residential customers

In collaboration with the County of Monterey and the United Way of Monterey County, a COVID-19 Emergency Utility Assistance Program is now available for Monterey One Water residential customers. This program is designed to provide utility relief for eligible households facing financial instability because of a loss or reduction of income due to COVID-19.

Funding for this program was provided through the CARES Act and the program is available until all funds have been allocated or December 30, 2020, whichever comes first. Applications will be reviewed and approved on a first come first served basis. If approved, Monterey One Water will issue a one-time credit to the customer's account in the amount of up to two-billing cycles. Missed payments must have occurred between April 2020 through November 2020.



montereyonewater.org/cares

COVID-19
Emergency Utility Assistance Program

—ELIGIBILITY—
Monterey One Water residential customers or authorized payees experiencing:

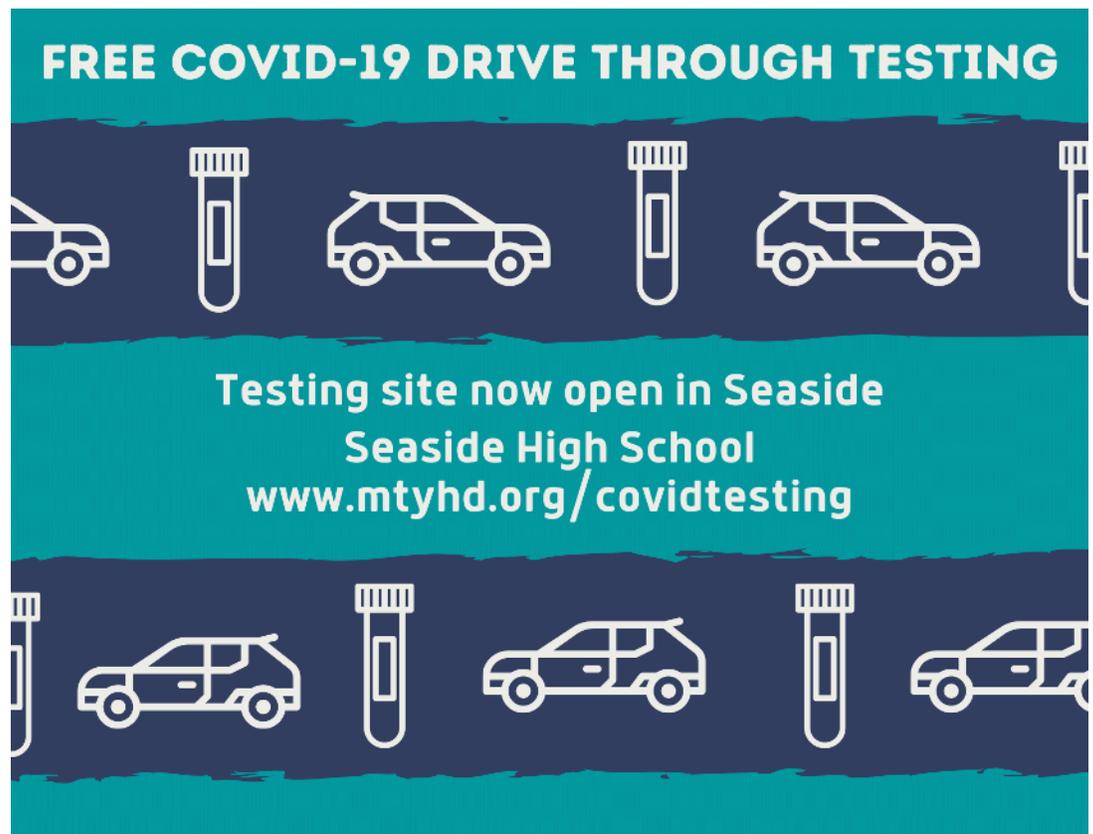
- ✓ Account status = past due
- ✓ Earnings less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI)
- ✓ Loss of income due to COVID-19

SEWER

Monterey One Water

Flyer in English and Spanish | Complete details at www.montereyonewater.org/cares

**State
supported
COVID-19
testing site
open in
Seaside**



Beginning, Tuesday, October 20th, FREE COVID-19 testing will be available in Seaside Tuesday through Saturday from 8 am to 8 pm. The testing site will be at Seaside High School, 20 Noche Buena Street.

This testing service is provided in partnership with California Department of Public Health and OptumServe. The State sponsored testing sites are required to meet an 85% utilization rate. Unfortunately, the site in Greenfield has not been well utilized in the last couple of months and the State is supportive of relocating the testing site to another area in the County with limited access to testing services. The last day of testing at the Greenfield location was Saturday, October 17th from 8 am to 7 pm.

Testing is open to individuals with symptoms and without symptoms. Testing is recommended for healthcare workers, first responders, caretakers to high risk individuals, individuals considered close contacts to others with COVID-19, and anyone that is concerned that they may have been exposed to COVID-19.

COVID-19 testing will still be available in South County at seven locations in Greenfield, Gonzales, King City, and Soledad. Reservations should be made in advance at these sites. State supported sites, including the other one in the county at the Cesar Chavez Library in Salinas, accept walk ins and appointments. Appointments to get tested may be made by visiting <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or by calling 1-888-634-1123.

Please bring a legal identification if you have one to help ensure contact information is captured correctly for results reporting.

More information is available at www.mtyhd.org/covidtesting

Community Hospital/Montage Health leading us through COVID-19



The Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and Montage Health have been great local leaders in our community with the fight against coronavirus. Their dedicated web page is frequently updated with the latest and most important information we all need to know.

Check out chomp.org/coronavirus for daily updates and to stay informed with local COVID-19 news directly from the first responders helping us get past the pandemic. They are here for us.

City of Monterey Parks Division invites you to be a VIP!

The City of Monterey invites you to
BE A VIP!
Volunteer in Parks
Tuesdays
Call the Parks Office at 646-3860
for information and details

Beautify your city!
Get outside!
Help build community!
Have fun!

monterey.org/parks

The City of Monterey Parks Division invites residents to participate as a Volunteer in Parks VIP. Volunteers in Parks (VIP) are a group of volunteers who assist in general maintenance and beautification of City parks and gardens. VIPs assist with planting, pruning, weeding, and landscape maintenance. Information, tools, and instruction are provided. No experience is needed other than an enjoyment of the outdoors. VIPs typically work on Tuesdays, 9:00 – 11:30 am. All COVID-19 protocols are strictly followed. If interested, please contact the City of Monterey Parks Division, 831.646.3860

Learn more about Monterey Parks at monterey.org/parks

Pandemic Perspective - Birthday party planting trees

SUBMITTED BY URBAN FORESTER JUSTIN PROUTY

Each City Focus issue in 2020 we have included a local "pandemic perspective". Here's a shelter in place feel-good story that shows resilience and positivity. In the first week of October, a resident reached out to the City of Monterey Urban Forester, Justin Prouty, letting him know she wanted to plant trees for her birthday party. She and her family raised all the funds to purchase 12 Monterey Cypress trees, and they celebrated her birthday planting them at **Window- on-the-Bay Park**.

All volunteers and parks staff wore masks and observed social distancing. Volunteers worked in two separate shifts of 10 people each to avoid congregating in large groups. The birthday party shows a great example of how we can still hold memorable events while following COVID- 19 guidelines.



Monterey County Public Health guidance for a COVID-19 safe Halloween

The Monterey County Health Department is encouraging residents to seek out safer holiday activities this year:

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES:

Not Permitted (gatherings and events are not currently allowed under local and state health orders):

- Halloween gatherings, events or parties with non-household members are not permitted unless they are part of your social circle of 12 individuals or less, are conducted outdoors, and are otherwise in compliance with Social Circle Guidance.
- Carnivals, festivals, live entertainment, and indoor haunted house attractions are not allowed.

Not Recommended:

- Door to door trick or treating is not recommended because it can be very difficult to maintain proper physical distancing on porches and at front doors, ensure that everyone answering or coming to the door is appropriately masked to prevent disease spread, and it involves touching high contact surfaces such as doorbells and candy bowls.
- "Trunk or treating" where children go from car to car instead of door to door to receive treats is also not recommended, since it is difficult to avoid crowding and sharing food.

Permitted and Encouraged:

- Online parties/contests (e.g. costume or pumpkin carving)
- Car parades that comply with public health guidance for vehicle-based parades including:
 - a. Drive by events or contests where individuals dress up or decorate their vehicles and drive by "judges" that are appropriately physically distanced.
 - b. Drive through events where individuals remain in their vehicles and drive through an area with Halloween displays.
 - c. Drive in events where individuals can receive a treat bag (limited to commercially packaged non-perishable treats) or take away item from an organizer while the participants remain in their vehicle.

[*Learn more on the Monterey County website.*](#)



Sustainability Office updates

BY
SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT
MALLORY PANKRETZ

While many household hazardous waste (HHW) drop off locations are currently closed due to COVID-19, residents may still take HHW to the Marina Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) or retailers currently accepting items such as batteries (such as Home Depot in Seaside).

Please do not wishcycle - Wishcycling is the practice of placing items in the recycling bin (such as plastic bags or styrofoam), hoping they're recyclable when they are actually a contaminant. Contaminated recycling or yard waste containers can result in the cart not being emptied and a contamination fee. When in doubt, visit WhatGoesWhere.info for best recycling practices or give us a call.

Governor Newsom's Executive Order relieving retailers of California Redemption Value (CRV) redemption obligations ended on August 24th. CRV locations listed on our website (montereyrecycles.org) are currently required to redeem CRV containers. Non-compliant retailers may be reported to CalRecycle at complaints@calrecycle.ca.gov or 1-800-RECYCLE. Residents are encouraged to call their preferred buyback center prior to visiting.

Did you know? The rates you pay for garbage service also pay for street sweeping throughout Monterey, keeping the City clean and protecting the bay. Please do not blow or sweep debris into the street (it's illegal).

Help keep Monterey beautiful and prevent litter by ensuring your carts contain all waste, are not overflowing, and have the lids closed.

Correct Cart Placement



Questions? Contact the Monterey Sustainability Office at (831) 235-5415. Connect with the Sustainability Office on Instagram: [@montereyesustainability](https://www.instagram.com/montereyesustainability)



Monterey Recreation continues to provide crucial services during COVID-19

BY
INTERIM RECREATION &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
MANAGER SHANNON LEON

The Monterey Recreation Division of the Parks and Recreation Department has been serving the Monterey community in new ways during the coronavirus shelter in place. Even with limited staff, we have been able to do some amazing things. The **Virtual Recreation Center** highlights new, free activities every week including crafts, science experiments, recipes, helpful tips and a weekly activity with your chance to win a prize for the most creative entry.

Prize winners are featured in the ever expanding photo reel posted in the Virtual Recreation Center. Cooking with Montana has produced over 21 unique videos and recipes. We also have started a partnership with Creative Brain Learning to offer online courses that are fun, educational and augment your child's distance learning curriculum.

During this time, Monterey Recreation has fostered partnerships with the Food Bank for Monterey County, Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula, American Red Cross and more. El Estero Park Center has become the central hub for drive thru and in-person services. A Family and Senior Drive Thru Produce Distribution is offered every Monday serving over 3,700 families and seniors since the end of June. A Senior Drive Thru Meal program is offered every Tuesday-Friday where seniors 60 and over can pick up a fully prepared meal. We also have become a premier partner with the American Red Cross and have hosted ten blood drives and collected over 395 units of blood. Additional blood drives will be offered monthly.

Monterey Recreation is also beginning to offer limited in-person, recreation programs such as Preschool. We hope to safely expand programming as conditions allow.

Visit the *Virtual Recreation Center* page at monterey.org/coronavirus for the latest updates on all the services Monterey Recreation is offering. Monterey Recreation staff are always here to help. Please email us at montereyrecreation@monterey.org.



Outdoor Group Exercise Classes at the Monterey Sports Center

BY MONTEREY SPORTS CENTER MANAGER DR. ANDREA WILLER

The Monterey Sports Center continues to expand outdoor Group Exercise classes to provide a fun and effective way to maintain your wellness goals. All classes are held on the beautiful Sun Deck and strict modifications are maintained to ensure everyone's safety. **Check out the schedule** to find your favorite class and instructor (insert schedule). All memberships and passes are currently frozen so preregistration and payment are required. Register online at montereysportscenter.org.



While the Sports Center was only open a few weeks this summer, staff were constantly observing, talking to guests, and taking note of ways to improve when we reopen. One major change you will see is the reorganization of cardio and strength equipment to maximize our capacity. When the Sports Center reopens, all cardio equipment will be relocated to the concourse and gymnasium to allow us to expand our strength equipment into the "cardio room". This reorganization will allow us to serve more guests while still maintaining strict capacity limits.

If you have additional suggestions on how we can best serve you, please email the Sports Center Manager at willer@monterey.org. We look forward to seeing you back at the Sports Center soon.



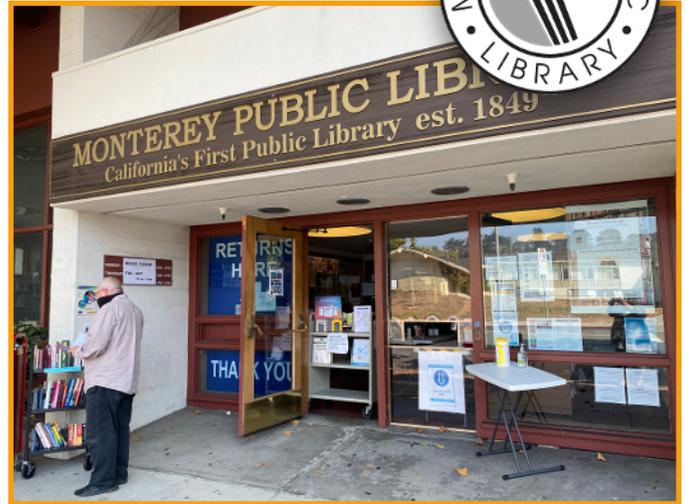
Sidewalk pick-up a nice "getaway" from the news

BY MONTEREY PUBLIC LIBRARY MANAGER KIM SMITH



The days are getting shorter and one of these days it might even start raining. It's the perfect time to cozy up with a good read. Our successful sidewalk pickup service provides reading material to almost 200 people a day who check out approximate 600 books and DVDs. That's 3,000 a week being routed through our temporary pickup window installed in our front door!

If you're not already taking advantage of this popular and free service, what's stopping you? Obtain a library card by filling out the form at www.monterey.org/library. Connect to one-on-one assistance by calling 831-646-3933 or emailing refdesk@monterey.org. We realize not everyone can



just jump online, search our catalog, and place things on hold, so we're happy to help. Let us know what you're looking for or if you'd like a curated selection of materials and we'll hook you up.

Other cool stuff we offer that you might want to ask us about:

- Live educational programs on Zoom: check our calendar for the schedule
- Ebooks: take advantage of our two collections with Northern California Digital Library and CloudLibrary
- Flipster: read popular magazines digitally
- Homework HelpNow: free access to a tutor online
- New York Times online: get past that paywall!
- Ancestry & Heritage Quest: research your family history ...and more!

A graphic titled "Library Wishlist" featuring a brass genie lamp on the left and a thought bubble containing a stack of colorful books on the right. The Monterey Public Library logo is in the top left corner.

- 1 BROWSE THROUGH THE LIBRARY WISHLIST AT MONTEREY.ORG/LIBRARY
- 2 ORDER FROM AMAZON OR YOUR FAVORITE RETAILER
- 3 GIVE A GIFT TO THE LIBRARY COLLECTION AND BE THE FIRST TO RESERVE THE BOOK! THANK YOU!

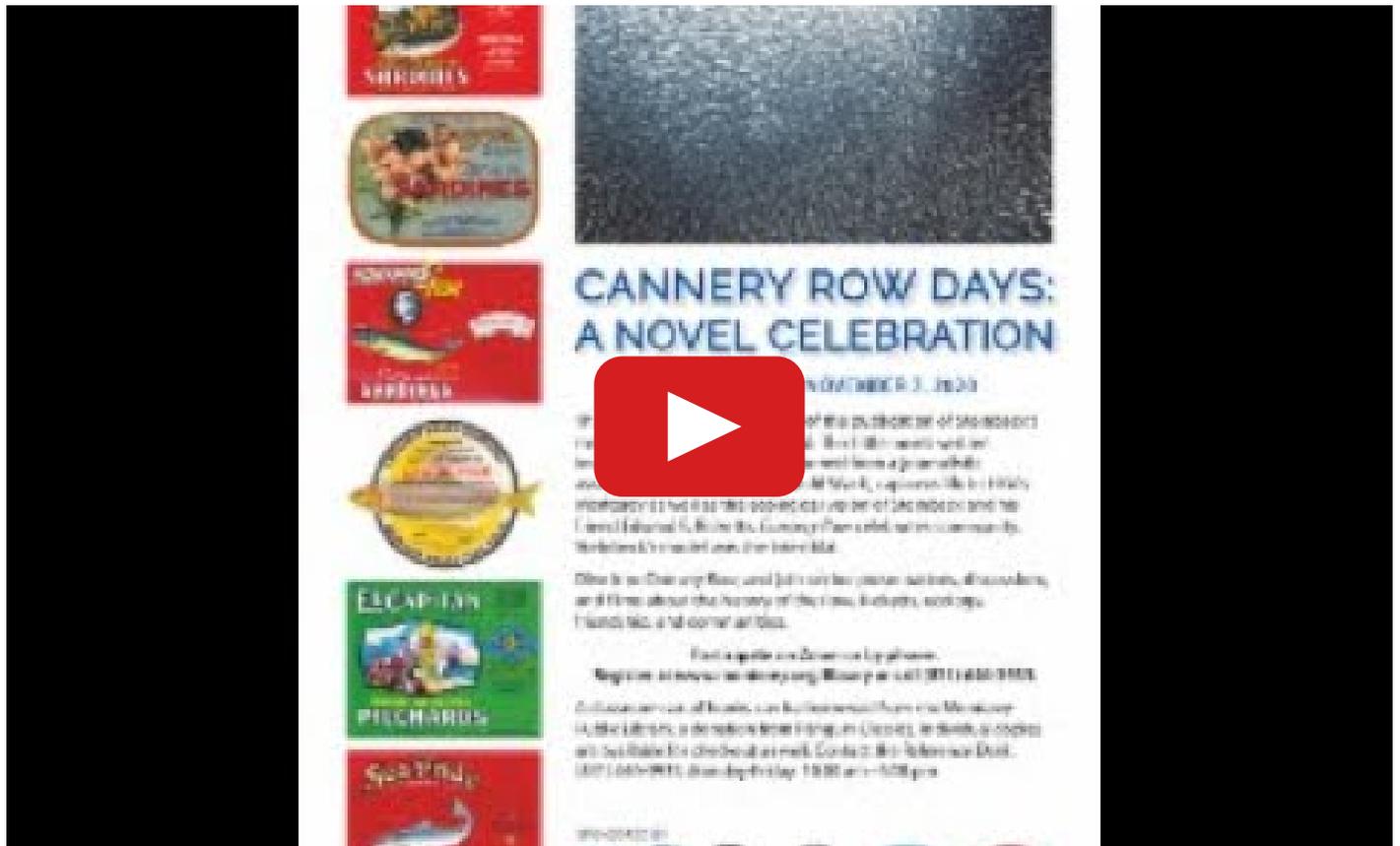
Help the Library help the community during this struggling time. See the Library **WISH LIST**

Cannery Row Days: A 75th anniversary novel celebration through Nov. 7

This year is the 75th anniversary of the publication of Steinbeck's masterpiece, *Cannery Row* (1945). This little novel, written immediately after Steinbeck returned from a journalistic assignment overseas during World War II, captures life in 1930s Monterey as well as the ecological vision of Steinbeck and his friend Edward F. Ricketts. *Cannery Row* celebrates community; Steinbeck's model was the intertidal.

Dive into *Cannery Row*, and join online presentations, discussions, and films about the history of the Row, Ricketts, ecology, friendship, and communities.

Participate on Zoom or by phone. Register at monterey.org/library or call 831-646-3933. Learn more at monterey.org/library/Events/Cannery-Row-Days



youtube.com/watch?v=QHt9gsP5XuY





We are so fortunate to have the Coastal Recreation Trail in our backyard.

Watch for the next issue coming in January 2021!

City Focus Newsletter

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