

## The Road Ahead - A message from the City Manager

It is clear: COVID-19 has changed our daily lives in more ways than one. On our daily walks through my New Monterey neighborhood, we see neighbors working in their gardens, stopping what they are doing and taking the time to say "hello". When passing other walking neighbors, we wave to each other, often friendly words are exchanged. Neighbors have started caring for each other in new ways - the pandemic is spreading friendliness among us.

All in all: Monterey has pulled together as one neighborhood and as one united City. We do not sweat the small petty stuff right now. Let's keep it this way and continue to spread friendliness, understanding and caring. We are so richly blessed to have each other.

The pandemic has also changed our daily lives by shutting down so many cherished activities. All schools are closed through the end of this school year. The Monterey Bay Aquarium, our hotels, restaurants, small businesses, our Sports Center, Conference Center, library and recreation centers were closed because of the pandemic. The City's budget has been devastated.



Our City Council took several courageous steps to help balance our checkbook. Like many of you, we are doing our best to adjust our budget by reducing our expenditures and adjusting our service levels to our new low revenue levels. The financial crisis has just started and we are not even in the midst of it. Over the coming months we will jointly define a new meaning of our Monterey Way.

On June 3rd, Monterey will be celebrating its' 250th birthday! It will not be the celebration we had planned for, but nevertheless, we will be proudly and virtually celebrate with all of you. Think back how many challenges our City has mastered since June 1770 - the current challenge will be no different. We will get it done.

As I am finishing these lines, next door, a mother is joyfully playing with her child. "Rapido, rapido" she is shouting.

Yes. Rapido! Anda! Stay Safe!



## Mornings with the Manager LIVE on YouTube

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**Mornings with the Manager-** LIVE Updates from City Manager Hans Uslar about the local coronavirus status, and how the City can support you and your neighbors - Watch LIVE or On Demand.

**Next episode: Thursday, May 7, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

**See the FULL PLAY LIST ON YOUTUBE**

## COVID-19 Local News

The best way to keep up with City of Monterey local news about the pandemic is to 1) sign up for the City Focus newsletter, which you've probably already done since you are reading it (but tell a friend!); 2) Refer to our extensive web pages at [monterey.org/coronavirus](http://monterey.org/coronavirus); 3) Connect with us on our abundant social media channels, all available @CityofMonterey - on Facebook, Twitter (you don't have to have a Twitter account to read the news), Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Nextdoor.



## Colton Hall lit in blue and red in tribute to first responders

Historic Colton Hall stands steadfast as it has for nearly 180 years through changes and challenges. In honor of our first responders, health care workers, essential workers and the community as a whole, Colton Hall will remain lit in half red and half blue for the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic and shelter in place order. The City is proud to support the incredible contribution these groups unselfishly make every day. We also thank our community members as we get through this together (apart).



## Monterey Conference Center shines to honor hospitality

The Monterey Conference Center in partnership with their vendor, PSAV, has lit up the center with purple lights to show support of the hospitality industry. The pandemic is deeply affecting many of hospitality workers and having a devastating ripple effect on the local economy. #hospitalitystrong





# Video Message from the Police Chief - We Have the Watch

BY CHIEF DAVID HOBER

Here's a COVID-19 video message from Monterey Police Chief David Hober:

(Direct link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZ8hZKi6qj8>)



# MPD Monthly Report, March 2020

On March 10, 2020, the MPD Command staff issued the first MPD Memorandum addressing issues relating to COVID-19. Since that time, the MPD has researched the most contemporary ways to serve the community while ensuring the workforce is protected from the virus.

The MPD has altered many of the ways it does business which has resulted in new policy creation. Contingencies have been considered and planned for in the event the workforce becomes infected. Nineteen procedural memorandums have been issued since March 10th to adapt law enforcement services to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Read the full monthly report at [monterey.org/Portals/4/PDFs/MonthlyReports/MPD-Monthly-Report-03-2020.pdf](http://monterey.org/Portals/4/PDFs/MonthlyReports/MPD-Monthly-Report-03-2020.pdf)



# City's Emergency Operation Center activated March 16, 2020

BY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER LAURIE HUELGA

On March 13, City Manager Hans Uslar issued a **Local Emergency Proclamation** due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which shut down City facilities and accompanying programs, and postponed events. Three days later, the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated.

**The EOC is a central command and control facility responsible for carrying out the principles of emergency preparedness and emergency management to support the City function thereby protecting residents and businesses.**

The City of Monterey has technically always had an Emergency Operations Center, however over the years it has evolved and grown with the sophistication of emergency planning, technology, and personnel expertise. The facility is located behind the Monterey Police Department on Madison Street. The current facility was funded in part by the Neighborhood Community Improvement Program (NCIP) back in the early 1990's.

Monterey's EOC staff proudly trains regularly for emergency incidents of all types: fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, active shooter situations, and hazardous chemical emergencies. Pandemics are not as often used in training exercises. In all predicted emergency situations, EOCs are normally activated for a day or two, or perhaps at most a couple of weeks. Thankfully, much less often are EOCs activated for weeks on end as during this COVID-19 emergency.

The EOC can be activated at different levels depending on the level of emergency. We are currently activated at Level 2, meaning the EOC is open at all hours and all sections, but we are staffed remotely due to the need to quarantine. The sections include the Incident Command led by the Section Chief - Assistant City Manager Nat Rojanasathira, followed by Section Deputy - Fire Division Chief Justin Cooper; as well as staff in the following sections: Care and Shelter; Logistics; Operations/Public Safety; Operations/Public Works; Planning/Intelligence; Finance/Administration; and the Public Information Officer.

Teams from all the sections have twice daily virtual briefings, where we coordinate efforts, identify top priorities for the day, and work together to help the community and staff through the incident. I can tell you in the over seven weeks with the EOC activated, our spirits are positive and our energy level is high. We are in this for the long haul - for whatever it takes.

We are thankful we have such a great community to work for, and we appreciate the residents and business community seeing the importance of following the Monterey County Shelter in Place orders.

The EOC team thanks you, and the City of Monterey thanks you. We will get through this together by staying apart.



# Business Action & Economic Recovery Team

On March 17, 2020, the City of Monterey and the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce announced a "COVID-19 Business Action and Economic Recovery Team" partnership to tackle two critical issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic: 1) addressing short-term impacts from the loss of business to local employees and their employers, and 2) prepare for economic recovery once the COVID-19 threat has diminished. The momentum is good as we work together with approximately 50 leaders from business and non-profits, including the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau (MCCVB) and Monterey County Hospitality Association (MCHA).



We have also created a Monterey Peninsula Small Business Relief Fund through the Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC), and a "Day One Committee" to develop a formal business recovery plan with numerous components. This plan will be proposed to the Monterey County Health Director with the intention of allowing businesses to reopen if they operate under appropriate standards and guidelines. In addition, we have moved forward on many other fronts in this short but unprecedented time:

1. March 25 - [Eviction Moratorium Ordinance](#)
2. March 28 - [List of Restaurants Open and List of Special Shopping Hours at Grocery Stores](#)
3. April 2 - [Posted Resources for Employees and Employers in ENGLISH and SPANISH](#)
4. April 10 - [Adopted a Rent Deferral Program for City of Monterey Tenants](#)
5. April 21 - [Council approved a Local Economic Stimulus Plan \(LESP\) for \\$1 million using Tidelands and Parking funds. The Community Foundation of Monterey County will help the City administer this Plan.](#)
6. April 21 - [Council approved \\$800,000 CDBG funding for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#)

This is just a summary of economic recover projects in the works. To learn more please visit Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce website at [montereychamber.com/article/emergency-resources](http://montereychamber.com/article/emergency-resources) or the City's website at [monterey.org/coronavirus/Economic-Resources](http://monterey.org/coronavirus/Economic-Resources)



## City finances in dire situation - temporary layoffs, program fund deferments, service reductions



At the two most recent City Council virtual meetings, the Mayor and Council had to make painful decisions to temporarily layoff 82 employees due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are a City family, and it was with a heavy heart that the City Manager had to make the recommendation.

Additionally, over \$3 million of the Neighborhood Community Improvement Program (NCIP) program fund was temporarily diverted to cover lost General Fund revenue. While the NCIP program is closed for the year, we still have over 60 projects in the queue to be completed from the list from prior years.

While it remains unclear how or when the pandemic will end and the local economy will recover, it is very clear that even more severe cuts remain to be made to balance the FY 2020- 2021 budget. Stay tuned for more as we learn more.

*You can view videos of the meetings at [monterey.org/Coronavirus/COVID-19-News](https://monterey.org/Coronavirus/COVID-19-News)*

## N95 mask drive a huge success - thank you!

The City of Monterey asked residents, businesses and nonprofits to donate spare, new N95-rated masks to help protect first responders. The City maintains a supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for use by firefighters, police officers, and public works staff. Due to high demand and a potential increase in COVID-19 emergency calls, the City asked members of the public to donate any spare additional PPE they have in their possession.

Thank you so much to the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce for coordinating a drop-off location and getting the word out. We were able to collect **a total of 836 N95 masks through the mask drive!** We received a single donation of 400 masks from the Big Sur Health Center. The D'arrigo Brothers agriculture firm donated a large number as well. Thank you to everyone who donated!



**Slideshow (online version) of some of the donations being brought in from the mask drive**

## Masks, masks, and more masks

BY ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST LAURIE HUELGA

Masks are now required during the pandemic by the health experts. We are a very fortunate community. We have had several grass roots individuals and groups step-up to make sure our community has as many masks as possible. They have contributed literally **over 100,000 masks** to first responders - hospitals, police, fire, other emergency personnel, grocers, schools - as well as all of us in the community. **We are very thankful for their speed of action, and their volume of impact, through their wholehearted outreach to our community. We are forever grateful.**



Christine, who started the Sewing Sisterhood of Monterey



The Families and Friends of Stevenson School Anti-COVID-19 Team

# Public Health messages from CHOMP

The Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) and Montage Health have been great leaders in this fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. They have responded to our questions and proactively provided us information that we are all asking for during this unprecedented time that has fell upon us.

Here are some important reminders we have posted in our public restrooms throughout the City, developed in collaboration with CHOMP. Additionally, we highly recommend watching the short video on the tips for wearing masks, a newer public health recommendation to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus.

## Tips for wearing a mask safely VIDEO



## Safe shopping tips

Let's face it. Shopping is not fun and it's definitely not easy right now. We thank the grocery workers for all they are doing to help us get through.

Here are just a few tips to keep the routine safe and maybe simpler.

**click the image to enlarge**



# Meet the challenge - we will get through this

There's no doubt about it. This predicament is hard. The pandemic is hard. The staying home is hard. The work situation is hard. The not working is even harder. We all want to be productive, creative, and maintain a living for ourselves and our family. Right now we have to be united in beating COVID-19 so we can all get back to work. If we open businesses too soon it risks depleting the gains we have made and more people can get the virus.

That's why the City of Monterey is taking this seriously and sending a clear, cohesive message - stay home, maintain physical distancing, and if you don't live here don't visit right now. Monterey will be here for everyone when this is over. For now, life is different, and we have to be okay with that. Please continue to support local businesses as best you can so they are here when we are ready to return and enjoy all they provide.

Take care of yourself, your loved ones, and stay healthy. We will defeat COVID-19. Let's do it sooner than later.



**Partial beach and park closures effective May 1, 2020**  
**READ THE NEWS RELEASE**

## Measure S work and other essential construction

There are several Measure S projects in the works throughout the City. We are taking advantage of the unfortunate situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and Monterey County Shelter in Place order to get essential road and other construction work done.

A few of the projects include: MEASURE S Alvarado Street Improvements - includes ADA ramp additions, storm drain and tree well improvements, repaving of the full street - estimated to be completed by Memorial Day, May 25.; and MEASURE S Citywide Road Surface Repair Phases 1 and 2.

Get all the details at [monterey.org/construction](http://monterey.org/construction) and sign up for weekly email updates.

All City public works projects abide by shelter in place guidelines.



## April & May 2020 CERT Newsletters

CERT has published special editions of their newsletter during the coronavirus emergency. Learn more about how to get involved.

Read the April edition in PDF at:  
[monterey.org/Portals/0/News/CERT/2020/CERT-Apr-2020.pdf](http://monterey.org/Portals/0/News/CERT/2020/CERT-Apr-2020.pdf)

Read the May edition in PDF at:  
[monterey.org/Portals/0/News/CERT/2020/CERT-May-2020.pdf](http://monterey.org/Portals/0/News/CERT/2020/CERT-May-2020.pdf)



## Environmental Protections Continue

BY ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS MANAGER TRICIA WOTAN

If you see a sewer spill or illicit discharge to the environment, please contact us: during business hours 831-646-3921, after hours 831-646-3914, or 911 (emergency, 24/7).

## Friendly reminder to pick up after your pet

On March 20, 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) notified the City and other local agencies statewide that while they continue their efforts protecting the "...public health, safety, and the environment consistent with all federal, state, and local public health directives and guidelines related to COVID-19" they also expect timely compliance by the City and all other regulated communities with all Water Board orders and other requirements. They clarified generally that implementation of board-established water quality protection orders and regulations are considered to be within essential governmental functions during the COVID-19 response, including comparable exceptions to shelter-in-place directives provided by local public health officials.

To this end, the City continues to oversee, manage, and perform compliance inspections, investigate spills and illicit discharges, and enforce applicable environmental laws. In doing so, we will continue to notify and guide local businesses, contractors, and property owners when we observe an issue and work with you to improve pollution prevention measures or actions at your location.

Whether we're working with our own City team members or in the community, we are committed to protecting our local environment and waterways, including the Monterey Bay, during the COVID-19 emergency.



For all the pet owners in Monterey, our dogs, cats and other furry pets are loving having us home. Many are getting more walks than usual and they are loving that too.

Monterey Parks and Recreation wants to remind dog owners to please remember to bring dog bags and pick up after them. It's better for the environment, for your dog, and for all of us.



# Help our Haulers - Monterey Disposal Service

BY SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT MALLORY PANKRETZ



# Think before you flush

BY ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS MANAGER TRICIA WOTAN

Monterey City Disposal Service is working to keep our community safe and clean. During the shelter in place, residential waste has increased.

- For public health, please **do not overfill your carts** and ensure the lids close completely in order to prevent pest and litter issues.
- **To add carts** to your residential service, contact MCDS at (831) 372-7977. Additional bags placed out for collection will be picked up for a fee; we suggest you contact MCDS prior.
- Additional **recycling carts are available**, and less expensive than garbage carts. The more you recycle, the less expensive your service is.
- **Sort recycling** mindfully, and check *What Goes Where* ([whatgoeswhere.info](http://whatgoeswhere.info)) if unsure about how to dispose of an item. Please do not bag recyclables.
- Should you be using this time to do yard work/improvements, please remember that **dirt and treated wood are not allowed in yard waste carts**.
- When placing carts out for collection, be sure to **provide adequate spacing** (18" minimum) between carts and other objects or cars.



For more information please visit the Monterey Disposal Service website at [montereydisposal.com](http://montereydisposal.com)

Did you know? Wetted wipes - often called "flushable" wipes - are NOT flushable. Wipes of any kind, regardless of package directions, must be placed in the TRASH and not in a toilet. Wetted wipes and other bathroom items flushed down a toilet clog plumbing and cause sewer backups. These can turn into messy and costly spills at home, work, and for the environment!

Dispose of these bathroom items in the Trash ONLY:

- Cotton swabs/tips, wipes
- Make-up pads, wipes
- Baby, fecal, and sanitary wipes
- House cleaning wipes
- Sanitary pads, tampons, applicators, wrappers
- Condoms, wrappers
- Bandages, wrappers
- Dental floss, dental strips, wrappers
- Kitty Litter



Medications (visit [dontrushtoflush.org](http://dontrushtoflush.org) for Bin Drop Off sites for unused prescription and OTC medications)

Flush toilet paper only – everything else goes in the trash can!

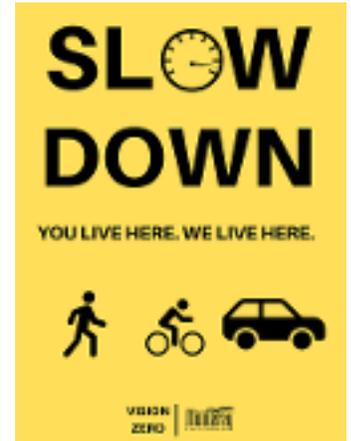
## Vision Zero Monterey Safety Reminder

BY ENGINEERING ASSISTANT MARISSA GARCIA WITH ART BY LIZZY



Art by Lizzy, age 8

With more people out and about in our neighborhoods, look out for pedestrians and bicyclists in the neighborhood! Slow Down. Save Lives. Keep Proper Social Distancing.



## Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant - we need your feedback

BY ENGINEERING ASSISTANT MARISSA GARCIA

Traffic Engineering Staff is continuously working on identifying grant funding opportunities for transportation infrastructure projects. Grant applications are highly competitive and require extensive effort. Over the last five years the City has been awarded over \$12 million dollars in grant funding for transportation infrastructure projects and programs.

The City is currently in the process of applying for Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant funding in the upcoming grant cycle, in which grants are due June 2020. The purpose of the ATP grant program is to encourage more walking and biking in California communities. The ATP program funds infrastructure projects which increase safety and access to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and improve public health.

**We are conducting outreach and would like your feedback about pedestrian and bicycle improvements to the intersection of Del Monte Avenue/Lighthouse Tunnel and Washington Street. The survey will be open through May 11, 2020.**

Receiving grant funding allows us to improve our City infrastructure without using City General Funds.

**Please use the following link to provide feedback on this intersection. Thank you for your feedback!**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MRY1ATP>



## Monterey Bay Community Power steps up to help the community

ALL Monterey Bay Community Power customers will receive 50% cost deferment on their May and June Bills for immediate and impactful relief in the communities we serve. Please refer to the link for details and resources: <http://mbcp.org/covid-response>

**MBCP Responds to COVID-19 with an Estimated \$22m in Deferred Customer Electricity Costs**

JAN 1 – APR 30, 2020	MAY 1 – JUN 30, 2020	JUL 1 – DEC 31, 2020
<b>7% Savings</b> MBCP customers receive a monthly discount compared to PG&E rates	<b>50% Off</b> All MBCP Electric Generation Charges	<b>2% Savings</b> MBCP customers will continue to save, monthly, compared to PG&E rates

MBCP customers can expect a 50% rate reduction on their May and June electric bills as a response to provide financial relief to all customers.  
[mbcp.org/covid-response](http://mbcp.org/covid-response)

## California Grocer's Association Assures Communities We Have Enough

We are asking CA to buy what you need for a week and don't over buy. Getting shopping patterns back to normal reduces stress on the distribution system, ensuring our stores have food and supplies needed. There's #Enough4All, if we Buy Smart and Don't Overfill our Cart.



# 2020 Census Response Challenges During Shelter in Place

BY MEDIA SPECIALIST ERIC PALMER

Right before shelter in place orders, the Monterey County Complete Count Committee was gearing up for the 2020 Census to begin. The Committee is made up of government agencies, including staff from the City of Monterey, nonprofits, local media, school districts, advocacy groups and other community partners and influencers. April 1 marked Census Day across the United States, the once-in-a-decade count of residents.

This count helps determine congressional representation and billions in federal funding for schools, infrastructure, health care, hospitals, housing and food assistance and much more. It is very important that our County gets a complete count to ensure that our community gets that funding, especially in light of the health and economic crisis hitting our nation.



Residents have the option to respond online, by phone or mail. Look out for questionnaires in your mailbox, if you prefer that option. Homes that do not respond to the Census will be visited by a U.S. Census Bureau enumerator in mid-August through October.

**As of mid-April, Monterey County's response rate is only 46%, lagging behind the statewide response rate of 51.7% and the national response rate of 50.5%. Let's make that up with a win the response rate for Monterey County!**

Unfortunately, due to shelter in place orders, the Committee had to suspend in-person outreach to educate our community about the importance of the Census. While we have a strong digital campaign in place, the challenge is to reach what is known as "hard to count" (HTC) populations. HTC populations in Monterey include seniors, immigrants, non-English speakers and homeless residents, many of whom don't have access to or are not comfortable with online response. These in-person booths, kiosks, assistance centers and pop up events would have helped reach these residents. Other local HTC populations include military, veterans, children ages 0-5, renters and students. The Complete Count Committee is hard at work coming up with strategies to encourage participation. Thankfully, the federal government has **extended the deadline for response from July 31 to October 31**, giving us more time to get a complete count and educate the public about this important civic duty.

*Learn more about the Census and respond today at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).*

# Week by week - Comfort, Connection, Compassion, Community

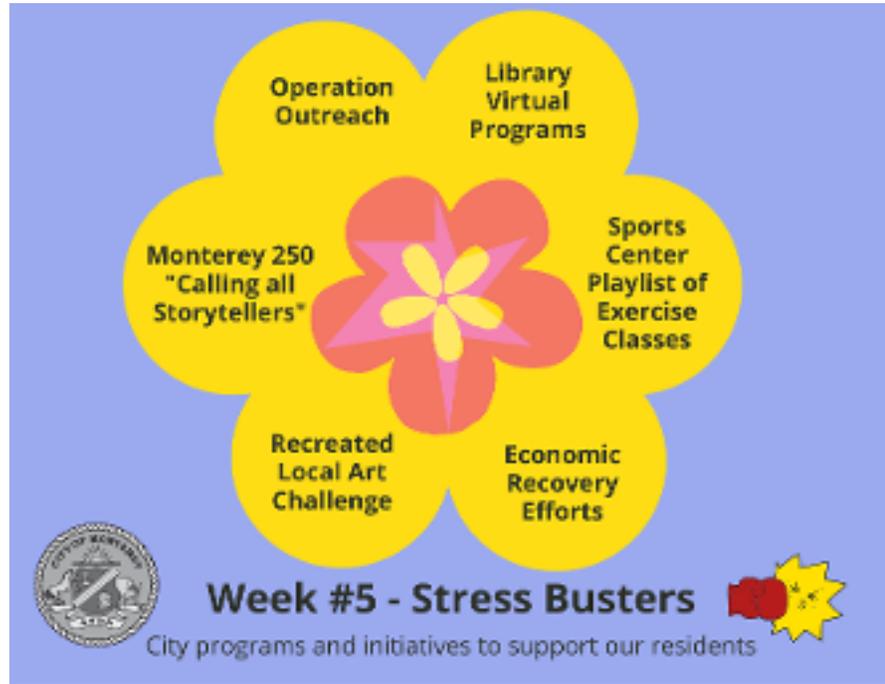
BY ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST LAURIE HUELGA

Here is just some of the important messaging we are hoping is resonating with our residents to help them get through this tough time. We will get through this. We will defeat COVID-19 and our economy will recover! (Click images to enlarge.)




# Stress busters Monterey style

Across all departments, the City of Monterey is working to help our residents get through this difficult time during COVID-19 pandemic and shelter in place order. The next few pages offer a few "Stress Buster" ideas to help people of all ages cope with the current change in their daily lives., as well as some heartfelt messages from our staff



# New Virtual Recreation Center

The Monterey Recreation Division now offers a Virtual Recreation Center. We are committed to ensuring that our participants have resources to maintain healthy lives, grow meaningful relationships and have motivating experiences. We realize that Virtual Recreation is a temporary measure until we are able to offer our in-person programs and services again. In these challenging times, our Virtual Recreation Center will bring programs and resources to you and your family in the comfort of your own home with the hope of making it easier for you to prioritize your health and well-being. We will update this page regularly with new resources as they become available. New weekly activities will be posted every Friday.



**Visit the Virtual Recreation Center at**  
[monterey.org/Coronavirus/Stay-Home-Stay-Connected/Virtual-Recreation-Center](https://monterey.org/Coronavirus/Stay-Home-Stay-Connected/Virtual-Recreation-Center)

## Monterey Recreation Presents: That's Good! Buffalo Wings Cooking Demo

Here's a video preview of just one of the fun projects brought to you by the Virtual Recreation Center



### A message for Monterey Recreation and Monterey Sports Center participants

Dear Monterey Recreation and Monterey Sports Center Participants,

Sometimes in life, you see someone going through a rough time and you want to say something to them. However, you just don't know what to say.

This is the situation we have been in, as we've been calling some of our

participants to check in with them. It's times like this that you realize there are no words that will help. The best you can do is just be present and supportive.

So that is our message to you, our participants (and friends). We are in this thing together. We share the exact same concerns, fears and frustrations. And when this crisis is over, we will be there to help you.

In the meantime, if there is anything we can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Staff are working remotely and are checking messages and email throughout the day. We will provide updates on our facilities, services and programs including summer activities as soon as we possibly can. In the meantime, please visit the [Monterey Recreation](#) and [Monterey Sports Center](#) web pages for updates and ideas to recreate and exercise at home. Also, the Monterey Sports Center has a variety of online exercise videos available for you.

We may still have a number of rough weeks ahead of us, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. And that light gets a little brighter every day. We will get through this. Be strong and know that all the staff of Monterey Recreation and the Monterey Sports Center are thinking about you and we miss you.

Once again, we appreciate you and our hearts are with you. We all will come through this stronger! But for now, we are stronger together by staying apart.

From the staff of;

Monterey Recreation and the Monterey Sports Center



# Help us plan to reopen the Sports Center

BY MONTEREY SPORTS CENTER MANAGER DR. ANDREA WILLER

Monterey Sports Center

#stayhome  
#stayconnected

PLAYLIST OF GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES  
**Find your inspiration for motivation.**

monterey.org/sportscenter

monterey.org/coronavirus

**TAKE THE SURVEY**

Dear Valued Members and Guests of the Monterey Sports Center:

The Monterey Sports Center staff are working diligently to plan for re-opening when it is safe and permissible to do so. We want your input on how we can work together to get the Monterey Sports Center back up and running just as soon as it is safe to do so.

We have put together a short survey to get your thoughts on what re-opening might look like, what your concerns are, and what your ideas are to make sure everyone is safe and healthy through these transitions. Your feedback is invaluable. The survey is just a few questions and will take less than two minutes to complete.

Thank you for your feedback. We look forward to seeing you when the Sports Center re-opens!



# ART RE-CREATED! Participate in a local Art Challenge!

BY ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST LAURIE HUELGA

Even though most of us are stuck at home during Coronavirus quarantine and can't go out and enjoy art in museums, that doesn't mean that life has to be boring or uncultured. The Getty Museum in Los Angeles challenged art fans (and now the City of Monterey Museums and Cultural Arts Office has borrowed that great idea) to post photos of themselves recreating their favorite works of art from the safety of their homes. People responded with a lot of enthusiasm and flooded social media with their unique artistic interpretations. [SEE GETTY MUSEUM BEST EXAMPLES!](#) (Thanks for the great idea, Getty Museum!)

1. Look at the Getty Museum Examples for Inspiration
2. Choose your favorite local artwork from the choices found at <https://monterey.org/Coronavirus/Stay-Home-Stay-Connected/Recreated-Local-Art-Challenge>
3. Find three things lying around your home
4. Recreate the artwork with those items
5. Send us a photo of your artwork and identify the # of artwork you recreated!
6. Email [webmaster@monterey.org](mailto:webmaster@monterey.org) by end of day, May 15, 2020.



# Calling all storytellers - A birthday we won't forget!

BY COMMUNICATIONS ANALYST LAURIE HUELGA

Sadly, the celebrations for Monterey 250 are on hold now that we are all dealing with the pandemic. We are trying to find "virtual" ways to keep the spirit of the significance and importance of the birthday alive. For sure, this will be a birthday we won't forget.

While we have canceled or postponed the signature events, there is a unique opportunity to participate. We are "Calling all Storytellers" to send us your story about how Monterey has impacted you in some way. It could be a personal story, a story from a relative who lived long ago that was passed down through the generations, or a story you heard from someone else about Monterey that impacted your life in some way.

We will continue to collect the stories and bring them together in a special Monterey 250 short stories collection.

**June 3rd, 2020 is Monterey's 250 birthday. While it will no longer be what we have been planning for nearly two years, we know it will be a birthday that we won't forget.**

**Let's continue with the public health practices and defeat COVID-19 together. That is the best birthday present we can give ourselves, and our beautiful city we all love.**



## Calling all Storytellers!

The City of Monterey is celebrating our 250th anniversary this year and we are looking for stories that have impacted our history. If you have a story to tell, please keep it one page, and email it to [page@monterey.org](mailto:page@monterey.org)

We will review all submissions and include the approved stories into our Monterey 250 Short Story collection!

***Stay Home. Save Lives. Meet the Moment***

## City Services and Activities Status Dashboard



Many city facilities are closed during the Shelter in Place order, and have been since mid-March. Facility closures have greatly impacted city services and activities. Fortunately some services are now offered virtually. We are working on a [new services and activities status dashboard](#) that will keep you updated with the very latest information.

We know you miss the many ways you used to interact with and participate in City programs and events. We miss you too! We look forward to being able re-open facilities and providing services once again. Until then, thanks for doing your part to keep our community COVID-19 -free as much as possible.

# Virtual Library offers innovative ways to provide services

BY LIBRARY MANAGER KIM SMITH



Although Monterey Public Library closed its doors to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, staff have continued to serve our community in innovative ways. We've extended due dates, waived late fees, and can issue a card remotely. We've expanded our ebook and streaming media services by transferring funding and taking advantage of free offers from vendors.

We also have a web page that provides recommendations for some of the cool free stuff available on the web. You can still reach library staff by phone six days a week at 831-646-3933, and we can answer questions about anything!

Library staff also participated in [Operation Outreach](#), calling at risk local residents when shelter in place started, making sure they were connected to the resources they needed. Please connect with us via our website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube (social media links available at our website [monterey.org/library](http://monterey.org/library)) to find out about interactive and recorded digital programming.

We have storytimes, bilingual songs, and science experiments for kids. We've also offered yoga and talks on local history, plus special content for teens. We'll continue to produce more, and thank those of you who took our programming survey.

We're making plans to reopen in-library services when safely permitted to; meanwhile find us online or call us to get connected!

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The graphic features a dark blue background with a faint map of Monterey County. At the top, the title "IN THIS TOGETHER: COMMUNITY VOICES" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below the title, the subtitle "Documenting Life during the COVID-19 Pandemic" is written in a smaller, white, serif font. On the left and right sides, there are circular logos: the Monterey Public Library logo on the left and a "250" anniversary logo on the right. The bottom section of the graphic is a lighter blue box containing text and a list of submission types.

**IN THIS TOGETHER:  
COMMUNITY VOICES**

*Documenting Life during the  
COVID-19 Pandemic*

In this Together: Community Voices sets out to document our community's experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic through writing and art. All forms of expression document how we cope, survive, and live as our lives have changed.

**Submissions can be:**

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Memoir
- Reflections
- Poetry
- Photographs
- Artwork

To submit your experiences, please visit [www.monterey.org/library](http://www.monterey.org/library)

## New Library Project - In This Together: Community Voices

In this Together: Community Voices sets out to document our community's experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic through writing and art. Become part of this historical record by submitting an entry to *In this Together: Community Voices*.

Submissions can be poetry, fiction, non-fiction, memoir, reflections, photographs or artwork; all forms of expression document how we cope, survive, and live as our lives have changed. These submissions will document our experiences and will become a historical record that we will be able to look back on. Help us record this time through your personal lens.

## Pandemic perspective

BY UNIVERSITY STUDENT AND CITY OF MONTEREY INTERN COLIN COOL

Hey everyone.

My name is Colin and I'm currently finishing my third year at the University of Virginia's Engineering School studying Systems Engineering. I moved to Monterey my junior year of high school and was lucky enough to land an internship that summer with the city's communications office. I spent the summer helping out reconfiguring the city's website and got to know more about how the city was organized and run. Now, almost 4 years later, I'm sent home to continue my studies from home while quarantining during this pandemic. Of course, my friends and I are all devastated having our time at school robbed from us so suddenly however, it seems that these feelings are pretty universal and this is a troubling time and reality for us all to adjust to.

Upon returning home and settling down into a routine with schoolwork, catching up on readings, and bingeing shows and movies, I began investigating ways to lend a helping hand around town to solve local issues. Thanks to my mentors years ago, I was able to reconnect with the same office where I spent my summer, pick up right where I left off, and get back to helping out with the COVID-19 portion of Monterey's website. I am grateful to not only have the opportunity to be welcomed back into the city's arms but to know that I am able to contribute what I can back into the community.



This crisis has jarred our way of life suddenly and violently. We now face unprecedented issues and more questions than answers for our future. What impresses me about the human spirit, however, is its ability to adapt so well to changes and nevertheless prosper moving forward. Now is a time for our kind to unite and fight the virus on all fronts in whatever capacity we can. I am so inspired by the responses by small businesses, essential frontline workers, teachers, public workers, and the countless others who in spite of the chaos around us continue to devote themselves to the wellness of those around them. I encourage everyone to find their own ways to help out those

around them whether it be donating, sewing masks, participating in Operation Outreach, delivering groceries for those unable, or whatever method you choose. Your own personal well-being is just as if not more important as well so take advantage of the resources available to stay mentally and physically healthy.

To everyone that has lost, struggled, or is scared during these times, I am sorry. But know that we will come out of this sooner or later. In the meantime the best we can do is practice compassion, humility, and love and take care of each other. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy future!

~ Colin



Monterey Recreation - Virtual Recreation Center's "Chalk your Walk" project.  
Share a picture of your drawing and tag us in your photo  
#ShowUsHowYouPlayMonterey

## City Focus Newsletter

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