



CASANOVA OAK KNOLL

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

JULY 2001

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HOTLINE 373-1012

Airport contamination news!

Latest news on the TCE plume and cleanup delays!

On June 27th the United States Army Corps of Engineers held a meeting at our community center to explain the results of their spring testing of the TCE plume in our neighborhood. Important new results are: The plume origin on the Airport is actually 3400 ppb (parts per billion) not the original figure of 1700ppb. This reading is approximately 50' to 60' deep. The EPA action level for drinking water is 5ppb. Last summer the testing showed the plume reaching our park, now the new testing results indicate it runs down the north side of Ramona down to Safeway.

The readings vary from below 5ppb to 40ppb and with a high of over 200ppb under the park. Many health related questions were asked.

The USACE has informed us that their budget has been halved for next year. The net effect to us is that our health risk assessment has been postponed for a year. This is the most important part of the cleanup for us. It will explain if we have a significant risk to health from long term exposure to this chemical. We have the agencies involved requesting that these deleted funds be returned and that this high

priority assessment takes place as programmed.

The USACE has expressed concern over any new production water wells placed in service downstream from our neighborhood. The concern is that large pumping of a similar or even a deeper aquifer could actually draw the higher concentrations down from the Airport to our neighborhood. The Monterey County Health Department will monitor all well permits in our vicinity to ensure that the contamination levels do not get worse.

Related stories are included on other pages of this newsletter.

Neighborhood Traffic Study approved by the Monterey City Council

Speeders, truck traffic, pedestrian safety and parking are the issues

This CONA traffic study was approved by the Neighborhood Improvement Program and was confirmed by the City Council.

Late this summer, we will call a meeting of our traffic committee (members signed up on their annual renewal forms).

We will go through an established process to develop alternative suggestions dealing with speeding and other traffic issues (such as heavy trucks and the resultant noise).

Three to four neighborhood meetings will be called to give all our residents a voice in the plan.

As a plan emerges, we will develop the objectives and priorities then go back to the Neighborhood Improvement Program for funds to start the actual construction of road improvements. Please join in the process and be part of the solution!

CONA Street Trees also approved for 2001

Last call for requesting either a holly oak or a liquid amber tree. Planting will take place in a

couple of months and must meet the requirements of being in the City easement area of your lot. We have

a limited number of trees. If you have not signed up please call and reserve your tree now!

CONA ANNUAL PARK DAY – AUGUST 12, 2001 1:00 P.M.

Neighborhood Cleanup

CHANGES FOR NEXT YEAR!

The big load pickup increased in use again this year. The dumpsters were filled to varying levels, none being really packed. It was the judgment of the volunteers who supervised the loading that we only filled about 4 of the 6 figuring, the fractions of each. There was a consensus that we have achieved our goal of eliminating fire hazards from our neighborhood.

Given the number of volunteer hours required, all were in agreement that we should cancel future dumpsters until we have more NERT volunteers, and everyone is in agreement that we need the dumpster program back. Other neighborhoods are now showing interest.

We will continue to ask the City of Monterey to provide the big load pickup for large items on one day next year. This was very successful and it provides an ideal method to increase recycling.

Of course, any customer can request a big load pickup at their house during the year. Just call Monterey Disposal and they will schedule a time.

Garage Sale

Another large event continued this year. We face even more competition from rummage sales, estate sales and similar promotions all over the Peninsula. They are happening every weekend and there is no way to avoid it. We got more than our share of customers. We observed many Sunday shoppers this year, something you may want to try in the future.

Neighborhood Improvement Program Results and City Council Approvals

This was a very difficult year for NIP. In spite of the largest budget in our history, about \$2.4 million dollars, we faced a large amount of public safety proposals. In the guise of traffic projects, and drainage projects with large six figure price tags. Normally we complete around 40 proposals, this year we finished at only 19. Dozens of small projects lost out. CONA projects passed were:

CONA street trees \$7,500

CONA traffic study \$35,000

CONA Airport Road drainage \$150,000

CONA Melway Circle drainage swale \$6,320

Projects that failed to pass and will be re-submitted next year are:

Replacing the play equipment at the Park

Bruce Lane curb and gutter

N. Fremont drainage and widening.

Neighborhood Services

CML Home Repair-owned by Gary Carlsen. Specializes in all phases of home repair, electrical, carpentry, and plumbing. If you have a small job that needs to be done, give him a call at 373-3426.

MONTEREY UNOCAL 76-owned by Harry Mucha, a member of C.O.N.A., at 2045 N. Fremont St. (next to Chef Lee's) 375-8415. Harry runs a full service neighborhood service station with full auto care. **CONA members are offered a special discount. \$10.00 off any \$30.00 or more purchase of a product or service (excluding gasoline). Please show your membership card for this "members only" special offer.**

The association cannot check out or guarantee any work or services but merely lists them for your convenience. There will be a small fee of \$5 per service to cover the additional printing costs. Please call the Hotline at 373-1012 to arrange to give us the needed written information.

NERT

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team

This training will benefit you and your family throughout your entire life. First aid, CPR, choking, medical triage, search and rescue and fire suppression. House fire, automobile accident or home accident, you need this training.

Free training classes are scheduled; please call Tish at 646-3719, sign up now and join the CONA team.

There will be two Saturday all day classes – August 4 and 11 or September 22 & 29. The regular six evening class schedule is on October 3, 10, 17, 24 and November 7 & 14. There is a minimum class size please sign up so that the class is not canceled.

CONA May 31, 2001 Special Meeting

This well-attended meeting discussed two neighborhood issues:

The first one was a proposal for a planned unit development on Ramona. The consensus of the neighborhood vote was to recommend to the Monterey Planning Commission that this project be denied. The following day, the applicant withdrew the project for further changes. We will keep you informed.

The second presentation was an open and wide ranging exchange of opinions with the new owner of the Cypress Bowl property. Further discussions are planned in the new future.

Airport Northside NSSI II hanger project

On June 13, 2001 the Monterey Peninsula Airport District approved a mitigated negative declaration on this project *without preparing* an Environmental Impact Report. The board heard our neighborhood's and the City of Monterey's concerns and felt it was not necessary to do any further review on this project. They passed the project without any limitations in place to prevent jets from being stored there.

The Monterey City Council agendized this item on its July 3rd. meeting with the possibility of voting to legally challenge the Airport Districts finding. It was at this meeting the developer of the project voluntarily offered to, in writing, request that no jets be allowed in the new facility. With these assurances the Monterey City Council declined legal action and instead voted several motions to their staff. One of which is to evaluate the possibility of reducing truck traffic in the neighborhood. The other was to actively engage the Airport District in dealing with our many concerns through the Airport/City Liaison group.

The Monterey Airport District at their next meeting followed through and changed their lease with the developer to reflect the provision to prohibit jet storage in the new facility. Fuel odors, traffic, noise and cumulative impacts still need to be addressed.

Garden Road a Parking Lot?

Same old proposal from new people. The Fairgrounds lost their use of the Navy Golf Course driving range for parking. The Navy spent a lot of money upgrading their facility and they don't want cars destroying it. The Fairgrounds then proposed to the Monterey City Council on July 17th, with the Fair just a couple of weeks off, their plan. The original plan was to have parallel parking on the Golf Course side of Garden Road with diagonal parking on the Hwy. 68 side. A narrow one way traffic lane would be between. By the way, they wanted to put a booth in the center of the street and charge for the parking.

We won't list all the problems with this proposal, the Monterey City Council did just that and voted it down.

The same problems keep coming back every few years. Hopefully the new Fair management and new Fair board members will make parking their priority from now on and come up with long term solutions to their parking dilemma. We are on their mailing list and guess what, they have a whole list of committees their member's sit on. Parking is not on this list. It should be number one. *As you go by the fair take note of trucks and cars that stay in the same places for the week.*

2001

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United States Army Corps of Engineers

The latest word on the investigation into the contamination plumes in our neighborhood are as follows:

The Remedial Investigation (RI) report is due out at the end of July. The Preliminary Assessment (PA) has been delayed until mid-September. This report is being assembled by a private contractor, Tech Law. They were hired by the Army Corps to do a comprehensive investigation of Navy records and on site interviews to determine if there are any other location the Corps needs to evaluate for contamination. We are told they have assembled over 6,000 pages of relevant documents.

The next public meeting is going to be held at our community center in late September or early October.

At the present time the anticipated budget cuts may end up extending the rest of the investigation into the future. The original plan had called for a cleanup to be in place by 2007. The cutbacks have now extended this to 2009. The FUDS cleanup funds are very political and there is constant pressure for everyone to steal each others budgets as happened last year to us.

It appears as though our future will be one of constant vigilance and struggle to get this toxic mess cleaned up. Talk about the victims being victimized again and again.

This neighborhood is a changin'

This last round of house sales has the neighborhood in a buzz. It is not only the sky high prices and the rapid sales but also the demographic(people) changes. Less older people and rentals, replaced with new younger couples with young children moving in.

Lot's of major remodeling taking place with new homeowners protecting their home values and raising the appearance of the neighborhood. Now it is time to get them involved in the association, **invite them to our Park Day.**