



CASANOVA OAK KNOLL

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

March 2005

www.cona.info

phone 831-375-6241

email -- conamonterey@aol.com

Relief from speeding cars is finally on the way!

CONA Traffic Calming construction to start in early spring!

At last! In 2001 our association proposed and received \$35,000 for a NIP traffic calming study to address speeding vehicles in our neighborhood. Upon completion of this study, with city council plan approval, we received \$215,000 from the Neighborhood Improvement Program for Phase I & II of the plan. The preliminary estimates were shown to be low. To enable construction to continue, the association had to reorganize project priorities, postpone some traffic calming elements, and make compromises. CONA went back to NIP for permission for the changes and they granted an additional \$17,000 last month to make our projects viable. The re-

moved elements are only postponed; we will eventually finish the plans final elements.

The landscaping for the traffic medians will be discussed for your approval at our annual meeting on March 30th. (See story inside regarding volunteer gardeners needed for our landscaped medians). CONA entry signs had to be postponed, we will request specific funding for them this year from NIP. Since signs do not have a direct affect on automobile speeding, this was one obvious area for cost cutting.

Delayed funding for N. Fremont Street drainage Phase II has put on hold any further drainage projects in our neighborhood. Lack of drainage

had directly impacted traffic calming costs especially the curb bump outs.

The city traffic engineer's opinion is that with the implementation of Phase I & II and the pending design and construction of Phase III, traffic speeds on our main streets may be lowered at least 5 mph. With this reduction in traffic median speeds we will again qualify under state law for radar enforcement. Our first priority has been the safety of neighborhood streets. **Please come to the meeting and be part of positive action to improve your neighborhood.**

Do we have a true dialogue with the city?

Is our area of Monterey treated differently by Monterey city government?

The following letter was received in the CONA mail. We felt you would be interested, especially as it ties in with this issues article "Shared Views are there different standards in our city"?

"In my opinion, many neighbors were very disheartened by the approval of the Cypress Center. Mr. Rucello presented an eloquent argument against the development by explaining the current

problems with Safeway and Longs. And how these problems have never been adequately addressed. We also had a nice turnout at the meetings. CONA's Herculean effort wasn't enough to dissuade the City of Monterey from approving the Cypress Center. This, in my opinion, explains the apathy among Dundee residents. Do we have a true dialogue with the City? Or have we simply been ignored?

Also, we have a lot of young families, people holding down two jobs and other obligations which make attending meetings difficult. (If we are not involved in the dialogue-what's the point? So, maybe we should have petitions and a core group of eloquent speakers to present our case. Maybe the city will begin to have a true dialogue with us".

.....*CONA member, verbatim, handwritten & unsigned*

CONA ANNUAL MEETING –March 30, 2005 @ 7:00 P.M.

CONA volunteer gardeners needed

With the coming construction of our long awaited traffic calming projects we will be reviewing the landscaping plans for our traffic medians at our annual meeting. The association has heard from numerous members about the importance of showing neighborhood pride with these medians. The city of Monterey has agreed to leave a small area at the beginning of each median for our own plantings. This is a perfect place for bright colorful annuals to announce the entries to our neighborhood. There are three (3) medians that will need regular maintenance. We are looking for those among you who wish to volunteer to take a direct part in the public perception of our area. Please call our neighborhood number 375-6241 and volunteer. CONA will start a fund so that these plantings can be kept up with new plants year around.

Monterey code enforcement officer

Monterey has hired a new code enforcement officer, Al Fasulo. Al started as a Monterey Fire Inspector working 3 ½ years in that position before starting work as the Code Enforcement Officer. Call Al for any code enforcement issues at 646-3750.

City of Monterey Budget Deficit 2005

With the failure of Monterey's Measure K in the November election our city is facing some very serious financial decisions.

The city budget is projected to be out of balance in its operating budget by \$2 million dollars a year from this July on to our indefinite future. The city cut over \$5 million dollars from the budget in the last 2 years. Those previous cuts leave few options now. The extras are gone. The city council is asking the community for ideas, ideas for more cuts and more revenue. We will monitor and inform our membership over any proposed cuts to come.

Eddie's Bar—Erotic Art Show moved!

Our residents took note of recent advertisements in the Herald and Coast Weekly publicizing an Erotic Art Show with live bands. The association worked many years to prohibit such uses adjacent to residential homes. The former Brick House's problems motivated our association to successfully lobby and lead the city to alter the zoning codes.

Nothing is permanent in this life. There will be those in the future to challenge and attempt to change anything they do not like. The only way to protect our neighborhood is to get involved. The next story is an example on this point.

Motorcycle Races proposed return to Fairgrounds

---Denied by Fair Board!

On Thursday, February 17th the Board of the Monterey County Fairgrounds heard a presentation requesting a return of Motorcycle racing to the Fairgrounds. **In a later unanimous vote, the Board denied the request.**

Motorcycle racing at the Fairgrounds was the number one noise complaint in our neighborhood for years. When our association was reformed in 1983 the second committee formed was a Fairgrounds committee. One of our first actions was to request an end to racing noise. In 1992 the Fair Board ceased all racing at the Fairgrounds. We wish to thank the Fairgrounds Board of Directors and management for denying this use. Also, our appreciation is extended to Monterey City Council Fairgrounds subcommittee, Clyde Roberson and Chuck Della Sala for their neighborhood support in this issue.

DOOR PRIZES

All members at the annual meeting will receive a ticket for 4 door prizes that will be drawn for:
Fire Extinguishers

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2005

GENERAL MEETING

March 30 – Wednesday

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

PARK CENTER

735 Ramona

Agenda

- 7:00** Call to order
Reports
2005 Election of officers
Old Business
2005 Neighborhood Improvement
2005 Priorities
New Business
- 7:30** **CONA traffic calming**
Landscaping traffic median designs for CONA approval
- 8:00** **Featured speakers newly elected Monterey City Council Members: Jeff Haferman**
Libby Downey
Subject: CONA membership concerns
- 9:00** Adjournment

COME & BRING YOUR NEIGHBOR

2004

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President-Richard Ruccello

Vice-president-Gary Carlsen

Secretary-Tuppence Cabot

Treasurer-Darla Gustaitis

Board member-Michael Brassfield

Board Member-Douglas Marble

Airport Chairman-Peter Gustaitis

Webmaster-Louis Agaze

NIP Representative-Richard Ruccello

Alternate NIP Representatives:

Gary Carlsen

CONA

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
NEEDED!**

We have many volunteers waiting to serve. CONA needs a coordinator that will assign the many tasks that must be done. Please call or email!

Monterey City Council-New members

Top voter getter was Jeff Haferman, Old Town resident, and works in our neighborhood at Fleet Numerical. Libby Downey was elected to the council after serving over 20 years on the Parks & Recreation Commission.

2005 Neighborhood Improvement Program

A new year and new proposals to improve our neighborhood. CONA will vote for neighborhood consensus of these projects at our annual meeting on March 30th.

1. CONA Traffic Calming Phase IV \$150,000
2. CONA Entry Signs (3)
3. Park Bench in front of Community Center
4. CONA curb cuts for 20 additional driveways
5. ADA handicap ramps for sidewalks, 6 locations identified by city staff.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS DISTRICT, TOO!

N. Fremont BID president, Debra Stewart...

The North Fremont Business District of Monterey (NFBDM) is part of your neighborhood and like a good neighbor many of our goals are similar to yours to help make this a better place for all of us to live, work and shop.

In November 2003 the Monterey City Council created the North Fremont Business Improvement District, and your NIP representative is on the advisory committee helping us with an ambitious vision for the future.

One of our important mutual goals is to bring undergrounding of utilities to North Fremont Street, which will greatly enhance the appearance, ambience and property value of the area. Research is being done, meetings and discussions are being held to study when and how this goal can become a reality.

A more immediate result of NFBDM activity was the establishment of a banner project for the North Fremont Street median, which last year resulted in a vivid display for the Monterey County Fair and the Jazz Festival. These and other events will be highlighted in the months to come culminating in a very special banner display for the 2005 Holiday season!

And speaking of the holidays, NFBDM is planning a huge and exciting community event to be held at the Monterey County Fairgrounds during December. Much needs to be done to make it happen, but stay tuned. Hint: it's cold and rhymes with nice!

You can support the efforts of the North Fremont Business District by shopping in its retail stores, dining in its fine restaurants, recommending its lodging facilities to your out-of-town visitors, enjoying a variety of activities including golf and bowling and utilizing the varied professional services available.

Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month and interested guests are welcome. For more information call 647-1827.

CONA DRIVEWAY APPROACH 2004 LOTTERY RESULTS

2004 NIP Project to reconstruct 20 driveway approaches Drawing held November 18, 2004

Results include extra drawings in case project costs are under bid. The construction order is in a city priority list and is expected this spring after the rains stop. **Signed property waivers may be required** for those homes in which additional flooding from overflowing curbs is possible.

Group A-Highest priority

- | | | | |
|----|-----|---------|------------|
| 1. | 705 | Airport | Catteda |
| 2. | 709 | Airport | Rendernick |
| 3. | 729 | Airport | Bailey |
| 4. | 733 | Airport | Voltaire |

Group B-2nd. priority

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---------------|------------|
| 5. | 213 | Dundee | Nichols |
| 6. | 225 | Littleness | Storelli |
| 7. | 249 | Edinburgh | Colson |
| 8. | 245 | Lerwick | Lee |
| 9. | 234 | Lerwick | Poirier |
| 10. | 22 | Melway Circle | Watson |
| 11. | 222 | Littleness | Brown |
| 12. | 246 | Lerwick | Duggan |
| 13. | 214 | Dundee | Maschmeyer |
| 14. | 253 | Lerwick | Lam |
| 15. | 25 | Melway Circle | Carlsen |
| 16. | 202 | Edinburgh | Gustaitis |
| 17. | 41 | Melway Circle | Baumann |
| 18. | 242 | Littleness | Zabrowski |
| 19. | 225 | Dundee | Xavier |
| 20. | 226 | Littleness | Carnazzo |

Group C - Cut off projects that may be constructed

if remaining funds allow, we wanted to be sure all funds were expended in case bids came in lower than expected.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---------------|------------|
| 21. | 257 | Lerwick | Clark |
| 22. | 238 | Dundee | Selbicky |
| 23. | 245 | Littleness | Randazzo |
| 24. | 57 | Melway Circle | Shook |
| 25. | 234 | Edinburgh | Singh |
| 26. | 210 | Edinburgh | Silva |
| 27. | 226 | Edinburgh | Czaplak |
| 28. | 230 | Littleness | Cutrufelli |
| 29. | 213 | Edinburgh | Cothran |
| 30. | 233 | Lerwick | Petersen |

A new NIP project has been proposed for 2005. This will also do an additional 20 driveway approaches if it passes. It will compete with dozens of other NIP projects this year. In addition, this year the city council has recommended that approximately a third (\$500,000) of the NIP budget be diverted into addressing the city budget deficit. It is up to our members to lobby the NIP that this project has merit.

The appropriate NIP meeting to voice your support is on April 18, 2005, 7:00 p.m. at the Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center, 735 Ramona.

Shop Local! Support our businesses!

MONTEREY UNION 76

- Tune-Ups • Brakes
- Smog Inspection • Lube & Oil Change
- Engine Diagnostics • Tires & Batteries
- 30-60-90K Factory Maint

**NAPA AUTO CARE GUARANTEED
AUTO REPAIRS**
Repairs Available M-Sat.

375-8415 Serving Peninsula For Over 40 Yrs
2045 N. FREMONT MONTEREY

Lube, oil & filter for most cars to CONA members for \$34.95, show your card. 375-8415

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.

VILLAGE MOTOR WORKS – member of CONA – at 2191 N. Fremont St. (next to Monterey Lanes) 649-5105. Complete foreign & domestic auto repair. Specializing in electrical and smog diagnostics & repair.

EAT AT JOE'S

MONTEREY JOE'S RESTAURANT

15% OFF

OPEN FROM 11 A.M. TUE—SUN

LUNCH * DINNER
HAPPY HOUR
WEEKEND BREAKFAST

EARLY DINNER MENU
\$9.95 4:30 PM – 6 PM

SHOW YOUR CONA MEMBERSHIP CARD TO QUALIFY FOR DISCOUNT. OFFER VALID ON REGULAR LUNCH / DINNER MENUS.

TEL (831) 655-3355 CLOSED MONDAYS

2149 N. FREMONT ST. MONTEREY / AMPLE FREE PARKING

Need part time work?

The most asked question we receive, “Where do we find occasional help for gardening, putting up Christmas lights, or for odd jobs around the house?” This question is asked all the

2030 North Fremont St.
Monterey, CA
831-373-3381



Poolside Rooms
Fitness Center
Business Center
Free Parking

Think of us when you have more relatives than rooms!

We can Help!

* Not Valid on all special Events & Holidays.

Teen gardeners wanted!

Email conamonterey@aol.com

Ads provided for July newsletter


McLeod and Associates,
REALTORS

Gina Carnazzo
REALTOR

26358 Carmel Rancho Lane, Suite 1
Carmel, California 93923
831-625-5965
1-800-832-0210
Mobile: 831-277-0294

Gina lives in the Casanova Oak Knoll neighborhood. Let her assist you in all of your real estate needs.

time by our senior residents. Teenagers used to perform these many tasks for their neighbors. Can they use basic garden tools, lawn mowers, and the big question – will they pull weeds? Call or email and we will let residents know.



The Monterey County Fair
August 16-21, 2005
Lettuce Entertain You,
A Celebration of Monterey County Agriculture
It's almost time to enter the Fair!
Entry Guidebooks will be ready on May 1, 2005
Purchase your pre-sale tickets for only \$5.00 starting May 1, 2005 in the Fair Office.
For more information, call 372-5863 or
www.montereycountyfair.com

FAX 394-7574
Monterey 394-7378

MONTEREY BAY PEST CONTROL, INC
1997 DEL MONTE BLVD
SEASIDE, CA 93955
RESIDENTIAL YARD & GARDEN

C.O.N.A. ACHIEVEMENTS

Our neighborhood had an organization as far back as 1958, but there was a long period of inactivity on the part of our neighbors in the 70's. In 1982 the problems facing our neighborhood started to accumulate. The Mahara condominiums brought them to a critical point. It was this project that focused residents on forming a renewed neighborhood association that could deal with our problems. As you review the *short highlights* (included would be an annual garage sale, and park day), please note how the successes have changed **your quality of life in our neighborhood**.

1983

- Neighborhood Plan & Survey
- Reopened Fairgrounds Road to Jazz Festival parking.
- Park renovation & cleanup
- \$22,000 HUD grant

1984

- CPR class
- Neighborhood mediation classes
- 45 street trees planted
- Neighborhood Watch-1st in Monterey to implement a full watch program & paid for our own signs.
- Carved Park sign (by Leland Peterson)
- Neighborhood Plan completed with highest survey results in City
- Door viewers & smoke alarms specially installed for members.

1985

- CDBG funds for sidewalk on one side of Airport Road. \$50,000
- Life membership to Planner Butch Cope
- New Bookmobile ordered for City
- J.C.Penny Community Service Award
- P.G. & E. Community Service Award

1986

- Capital Improvement Program -\$50K Casanova right turn lane to N. Fremont
- Street sweeper is back!
- Fairgrounds parking program
- Sidewalks curbs & gutter on Ramona

1987

- Stop sign installed at Bruce Lane
- New retaining wall with landscaping at Fairgrounds & Airport Road
- Dundee fill in sidewalks completed
- Sidewalks installed on Lerwick
- Ramona side street stop signs
- Casanova finished in fill sidewalks and added a school bus stop area.
- Ralston granite boulders oak island
- Garden road walkway approved

1988

- Sidewalk infill continued on Airport, Edinburgh, Littleness & Stuart
- Cypress Bowl building torn down
- Installed City of Monterey entry monument on N. Fremont.
- N. Fremont Street name change
- Caroling Trolley for Christmas

1989

- Major remodeling of park, new playground equipment, barbecue area
- Approval of sidewalks on Airport, Euclid, Fern and Bush Streets
- Approve bike path on Mark Thomas

- Successfully opposed Ramona 14,000 sq. ft. office building
- Successfully petitioned Monterey Planning Commission to require more attractive design on Blockbuster
- Successfully opposed live entertainment at Brick House

1990

- Airport Road beautification project
- Airport Road & Olmstead intersection approved & in design
- NIP purchased property for a Community Center

1991

- Airport implements noise abatement
- Community Center planning started

1992

- Fairgrounds **stops** motorcycle racing
- Generator added to Park Center
- Fairgrounds carnival gate landscaped with funds from C.O.N.A.

1993

- Community Center opens!
- Pre-school started at Center
- Ivy street sidewalks approved
- Airport sound insulation under way
- 1993 Xmas Caroling Trolley Ride \$1,237 for Herald's Christmas Cheer

1994

- Emergency Preparedness Class
- CPR Class
- Parking Ordinance approved
- Lilac sidewalks approved
- Voting precinct moved to Center
- Questionnaire compiled
- Neighborhood 5 year plan completed
- Water storage tank for Center
- N. Fremont landscaping approved
- Picnic area renovation approved
- Spaghetti dinner fund-raiser for teen equipment at Center

1995

- N.E.R.T. graduated 25 team members
- Purchased 2 Emergency radios
- Obtained special FCC license
- Picnic area renovation completed
- CPR class
- Acoustical tiles & carpet added to the Community Center

1996

- N.E.R.T. graduated almost 50, #1
- Playground fencing & flagpole
- Purchased 3rd. emergency radio
- Emergency Operations Center passed

1997

- Full time director at Park Center

- NERT radio base station Park Center
- 3 additional NERT radios A.T.&T.
- New park lawn & irrigation (NIP)
- NERT steel storage shed to be installed at our Park

1998

- Successfully raised funds for police night scope and new canine unit.
- Activated NERT team 3 times during heavy rains in February.
- Resident parking program for Melway Circle started.

1999

- First 2 day neighborhood garage sale
- Neighborhood 8 dumpster cleanup with NERT supervision
- Largest NERT drill in city's history
- First CONA City Council town forum at our Park Center
- 35 street trees planted
- NERT emergency shed installed

2000

- Exposed Airport toxic plumes
- New N. Fremont Plan adopted
- N. Fremont Phase I drainage passed.
- 40 street trees planted
- Storage added to Park Center
- Upper BBQ area renovated

2001

- Restored \$350K Health Risk Study
- Additional \$1.5M accelerates cleanup
- \$35K CONA Traffic Study
- Melway drainage improvement
- Opposed PUD development
- \$150K Airport Road drainage passed
- \$7.5K in additional street trees planted

2002

- Melway/Casanova drainage NIP \$52K
- Casanova/Ralston crosswalk \$25K
- Stuart partial street closure \$8K
- N.Fremont signal coordination \$30K

2003

- Cona traffic calming I&II-\$215K
- New playground equip -\$8K
- Bruce Lane curb&gutter -\$43K
- Chemical cleanup accelerated 3 yrs.

2004

- NIP 20 driveway approaches \$60K
- CONA traffic calming phase III \$200K
- Solar speed signs \$30K
- Park Center pre-school deck \$5K
- Park Center power window opener \$4K

2005 More to Come

Shared Views –are there different standards in our city?



Looking From Deck



In the 1980's our residents continually stated that we were the stepchildren of Monterey. Never quite being treated the same. We worked and fought to change that image, but it still keeps coming back. Here are three recent examples:

Case #1. A couple of months ago a home on Harrison Street in Old Town Monterey came before the Monterey City Council with a 2nd. story remodel request. Maybe you caught the meeting on Channel 25, our public access channel. The neighbors testified, the council members had taken field trips and discussed this item for over one hour. The hot issue was shared views. The council was clear; any views impacted from the second story addition could not block existing neighbors views. If there were views, they had to be shared.

Case #2, Del Monte Beach just a couple of weeks ago. After 20 years of negotiation, the vacant lots between Del Monte Beach and the Navy land are being developed. Part of the requirement of this development is construction of a 5' wire fence protecting the dune habitat area behind homes on Dunecrest. The neighbors want a 2' wire fence, the city staff offered a compromise of 4'. Most of the fence behind Dunecrest **faces sand dunes**. Their view of sanddunes is very important to them, as it should be.

2004 Fireman's Toy Drive

A wonderful success. A big thank you to all the CONA members who gave new Christmas Toys to this worthy cause. We helped unload over 3 truckloads of toys that dozens of volunteers wrapped for a Santa delivery.

Many children received a toy this year because of your generosity.

Case #3 Melway Circle. The photo above and on the left does not do the view justice. What you cannot see because of printing clarity is a view of the New Monterey hills, trees, the ocean and Santa Cruz mountains. What exists now (photo on the right) is a wall 30 feet high. What view is shared? Why are views precious in only certain areas of Monterey? What is this double standard? One view is irreplaceable, while the other is justified as economic development.

The Monterey City Council approved the updated General Plan in January. This plan encourages mixed use development on N. Fremont St. Present city code allows 30 foot high buildings. Variances can be requested to increase height, reduce setbacks, and reduce parking requirements. Not one person on the plan's committee lives adjacent to N. Fremont. Is it a case of promoting affordable housing or of "build it in their backyard not mine"?

For over two decades, our residents have pleaded with the Monterey City Council to enact new legislation protecting residential homes from the commercial impacts of businesses. **From the photographs presented here it can be clearly seen that whatever protections are in place are inadequate.**

ATTENTION! NERT GRADUATES!

Special training day for graduates of NERT on March 26, 2005 will be held at the Monterey Conference Center 9:00 a.m. to Noon. NERT is being merged into the federal CERT program. There will be new training on terrorism awareness and will certify previous NERT graduates into the CERT program.

New green helmets, vests and backpacks will be issued to all new graduates of the new CERT program. Please fill out and mail back the forms you received from the Fire Department.

NEW NERT/CERT CLASSES STARTING

New class starting on April 13, 2005 will run for six consecutive Wednesdays from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. **Call 646-3900** to register today! Sign up your whole family it will be the best thing you can do for their welfare. This training will help you regardless if it is a major earthquake or a traumatic car accident. Don't panic be prepared!

All members who checked this box on their membership form will be notified of the new class. **Join the new CONA CERT team**