



# CASANOVA OAK KNOLL

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

July 2006 [www.cona.info](http://www.cona.info)

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### **Clyde Roberson – Neighborhood visionary retiring!**

**If we were to point to one elected official that has had the greatest effect.....**

....on the progress of our neighborhoods without a seconds thought we would name Clyde Roberson, Monterey City Councilman.

With unfailing support for neighborhood issues, and, more importantly, with a visionary's ability to solve problems with innovative solutions, Clyde has never ceased to support this and every other neighborhood in the City of Monterey. One conversation with him led to our nationally renowned Neighborhood Improvement Program, a program that has funded over \$42 mil-

lion dollars into neighborhood improvements.

It's interesting that this program is today being replicated in a city in the former Soviet Union state of Croatia. The word has spread all over this world. What an amazing idea; residents defining problems and solutions to problems with a solid funding source.

From new sidewalks to our community center, Clyde has advocated countless projects for CONA including our parking program, which cured the Fairground's overflow that dominated our streets, to helping us end the unbearable

noise of the motorcycle races. Clyde has always been an ally and a true representative of the people; a quality that is usually lost in candidates a day after the election. He has never missed a beat in over 25 years of public service and has earned his retirement this November. Clyde's service started as a councilman, mayor, retirement and then councilman again.

For the "Window on the Bay", the Monterey Sport Center, and our community center Clyde's legacy will never be forgotten.

### **House Listing breaks neighborhood record!**

For the first time in the history of the Casanova Oak Knoll

Neighborhood, a listing of one of our neighborhood houses has made the front page of the Monterey County Herald Real Estate section. This spot is always saved for prestigious homes from exclusive areas of the Monterey Peninsula. This listing was the first anyone can recall that exceeded an asking price of one million dollars. Last month, the City of Monterey lead the entire peninsula in percentage of real estate listings that were in escrow. That number was 22% in escrow compared to neighboring cities in the 8 to 11% range.

Our neighborhood currently has 2 large apartment complexes in the process of converting rental units into owner-occupied condominiums. This neighborhood is changing rapidly from aging homeowners and rentals to young families with different needs and expectations, who are willingly to pay the price to be homeowners.

All throughout the neighborhood our residents are reinvesting in their homes with two story additions, new bathrooms, driveways, and landscaping. It is encouraging to observe the resurgence and revitalization of our area.

The positive effects of raising prices are just a reflection of everyone's hard

work in improving the image and quality of life or our area. It's a good thing.

New residents! Please get involved and continue the work of all those no longer here. Active participation in CONA is your best way to protect your investment.

**And for a step backward, CONA must make you aware that the Fairgrounds motorcycle-racing issue is back again, scheduled for an exhibition during the Fair. Please read and respond to the article inside calling for immediate member action. Protect your quality of life and your property values.**

**CONA MEMBERS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION...see page 2.**

## CONA Driveway approach lottery

This NIP project proposed by one of our residents addresses lowering rolled curbs in front of legal driveways to deal with the increasing heights of the pavement in the streets due to the half a century worth of asphalt treatment buildup.

Phase I was completed last year, Phase II was a cutoff project awaiting any surplus NIP funds which came through in May, and Phase III was approved under this years NIP program. 26 addresses remained in the first lottery leaving 14 slots to be filled. A separate flyer is being delivered to all eligible homes under the focus of this NIP project. The scope of work must be adhered to and any changes require a change in scope and must be voted on by the NIP committee. All addresses that are approved by the previous lottery follow and anyone who wants to withdraw should notify the association as soon as possible. We plan to construct all 40 new driveway approaches at the same time to save money. Approved:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 257 Lerwick     | 14. 238 Lerwick    |
| 2. 238 Dundee      | 15. 252 Littleness |
| 3. 245 Littleness  | 16. 214 Littleness |
| 4. 57 Melway       | 17. 218 Edinburgh  |
| 5. 234 Edinburgh   | 18. 301 Euclid     |
| 6. 210 Edinburgh   | 19. 44 Melway      |
| 7. 226 Edinburgh   | 20. 205 Lerwick    |
| 8. 230 Littleness  | 21. 201 Stuart     |
| 9. 213 Edinburgh   | 22. 205 Littleness |
| 10. 233 Lerwick    | 23. 210 Stuart     |
| 11. 248 Littleness | 24. 246 Edinburgh  |
| 12. 221 Littleness | 25. 49 Melway      |
| 13. 206 Edinburgh  | 26. 12 Fern        |

There are currently approximately 14 vacant positions to be drawn by lottery. All homes eligible will have flyers delivered. A new lottery will take place on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Bookmobile

Did you know that the Bookmobile stops on Lerwick Drive every other Thursday from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.?

Did you know that you can order books and other library materials from the library over the phone or online and pick them up at the Bookmobile?

Unable to use the Bookmobile or Library?

If you're a housebound resident of the City of Monterey, you qualify for the Library's free Outreach service.

For more information call Outreach Coordinator, Joanne White at 646-3710 or visit the Library's website at [www.monterey.org/library](http://www.monterey.org/library).

**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.

## Longs – Pharmacy drive through

Last year, Longs Drugs requested that the city allow them to remain open until midnight, requiring a use permit. Longs posted their east side parking lot (facing Airport Road) as a no-parking area after 10:00 p.m. in response to neighbor concerns over possible late night noise. So far, no complaints have been received and this mitigation appears to be working well.

Longs has now been approved to modify the building to construct a pharmacy drive-in window on their east side. The east side entrance will be removed leaving only the N. Fremont entry. The interior of the store is going to change to move the pharmacy to accommodate this new drive-in. There will be new landscaping to shield cars and noise from the neighborhood.

## Bay Pet hospital

City staff says the property owners will be proposing a commercial retail and residential mix.

**Rollicks Internet café** has closed and will be replaced by a donut shop.

**Paris Motel** has changed names to the Candle Light Inn.

**Undergrounding/streetscape** The North Fremont Street Business Improvement District has successfully requested that the City of Monterey change the priority list for undergrounding utilities. The council put N. Fremont in the second position behind Del Monte Avenue. Undergrounding of wires should precede all streetscape, drainage and sidewalk improvements. The goal is to beautify the street while making it pedestrian friendly. Crossing N. Fremont Street is at times dangerous, and new improvements should be designed to address this situation. The Business Improvement District is working hard to address the many issues facing our commercial area. One important project they are planning to fix is the clearing of obstacles from the sidewalk to make it handicap accessible. Currently these obstacles force pedestrians to walk in the street to get around.

## Safeway N. Fremont.. *To be or not to be*

Following the recent closure of the downtown Safeway rumors of the closure of the North Fremont Safeway began. It has been known for years that Safeway originally wanted the Ralph's site in Del Rey Oaks. Plagued with a small parking lot, overstressed especially during holidays, our Safeway recently completed a reported \$3 million dollar remodel. Now they want to move, according to several of their employees. If this happens, Monterey will lose two supermarkets; one to be replaced by a Trader Joe's. The rumors we hear are that major sporting goods stores are looking at this store. Seeing elderly residents struggle up Casanova with their groceries, we wonder if they will be able to make it up the hill from the Ralph's location. They will have no choice!

## Battery disposal rules in Monterey

### What to do with your batteries?

As mentioned in the last City Focus, in February 2006, the Department of Toxic Substance Control banned all batteries (and fluorescent bulbs) from the landfill. To alleviate additional vehicle trips to the landfill to dispose of batteries properly, the City has received permission to collect alkaline and rechargeable batteries at select City facilities **beginning June 1**. As mentioned in earlier publications, please convert to rechargeable batteries instead of using alkaline batteries. Rechargeables last much, much longer (at least a year or more) and can be recycled. Alkaline batteries are **not** recyclable but must still be handled as hazardous waste.

Batteries must be placed **INSIDE** the provided containers that will be marked for battery waste **ONLY** and during regular hours of operation.

**City Hall**, City Clerks Office, Few Memorial Hall, Pacific & Madison, Room 6, Phone: 646-3935

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Monterey Library**, 625 Pacific Street, Phone: 646-3932

**Casanova Oak-Knoll Park Center**, Ramona & Euclid, Phone: 646-5665

Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Hilltop Park Center**, Jessie & David, Phone: 646-3975

Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday 9 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Monterey Senior Center**, 280 Dickman Avenue, Phone: 646-3878

Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday 9 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Monterey Youth Center**, 777 Pearl Street, Phone: 646-3873

Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Whole Foods Market** Monday - Sunday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Remember: Fluorescent bulbs must be taken to the Marina Landfill for proper disposal. Please call the Monterey Regional Waste Management District at 384-5313 for their hours of operation.**

Questions or comments, please contact Angela Brantley, Solid Waste Program Manager, 646-5662 or

[Brantley@Ci.Monterey.Ca.Us](mailto:Brantley@Ci.Monterey.Ca.Us)

## Free E –Waste Recycling

Televisions, Fax Machines, VCR's,  
Monitors, Computers

Monterey County Fairgrounds  
Carnival Parking Area

Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Sat/Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>. & 30. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1-866-335-3373

## Community Emergency Response Teams: Attention former NERT graduates!

In order to accommodate the persons who need to make up the odd CERT class to complete their training, we are going to offer a "Super Make-Up" class on August 12 & 19 from 0830 to 1700 (5:00 p.m.). If you know of anyone who needs to make up a class, please have them contact Gemma @ 646-3900.

Agenda for CERT make up class days

August, 12, 19 2006

Saturday, August 12, 2006

0830 \* 1030

Class 1 (Disaster Preparedness)

1030 \* 1230

Class 2 (Fire Safety)

1300 \* 1500

Class 3 (Disaster Medical Operations

part 1)

1500 \* 1700

Class 4 Disaster Medical Operations

part 2)

Saturday, August 19, 2006

0830 \* 1030

Class 5 (Light Search & Rescue)

1030 \* 1230

Class 6 (CERT Organization)

1300 \* 1400

Class 7 (Disaster Psychology)

1400 \* 1600

Class 8 (Terrorism & CERT)

**Most former NERT graduates need one additional class to qualify and be certified in our newly adopted CERT program. Be part of the solution; call today, and prepare yourself and your family to survive.**

Thank you all for your support for this important program.

**Roger Reed**

**Fire Captain**

## CONA Traffic Calming

With NIP approval of Phase V of our traffic calming plan, phases III & IV are now combined to address as many elements as possible. Curb outs at Dundee/Ramona, school bus crosswalk at Lerwick/Ramona, Ralston at Casanova, bulbs out at Lilac/Airport, bulb out at Edinburgh/Airport and a traffic median at Fern/Airport are the projects that have received approvals from adjacent property owners.

One of the side benefits of the traffic calming on Casanova will be the construction of the Melway drainage improvements that has been delayed for a few years.

Eight new handicap ramps will also be installed in our area. Three new entry signs, two new solar speed signs and the 40 new driveway approaches **all add up to a lot of new construction.** We are attempting to combine construction bids to save money and reduce road closures and detours.

All the many years of hard work are about to show in a substantially improved neighborhood appearance with many new safety and speed control projects.

## Street Tree Replacement-10 available!

All street tree replacements have been on hold for over 3 years due to city staff cutbacks. Our city forester has agreed to plant 10 replacement Liquid Ambers for areas that have lost their street trees in our neighborhood. Please call 375-6241 to be placed on this new list. The forester will decide which locations have the highest priority to be replaced.

## Dead Birds

Recently it has been brought to the neighborhood's attention that dead birds have been found around some neighborhoods. It appears that the birds may have been killed by some type of weapon, possibly a pellet gun. Not only is this act against the law, it is highly dangerous. Unfortunately, one of our residents found out all too well how dangerous this can be. The resident was hit in the face by what is believed may have been a ricocheting pellet of someone trying to hit a bird on the telephone wire surrounding his home. The impact was strong enough to break the nose piece of his glasses and break the skin on the bridge of his nose. If it weren't for the resident wearing glasses, the pellet would easily have lodged in his eye.

This type of behaviour should not be condoned. The police department has been made aware of the incident. They advised that should anyone be caught killing birds or other wildlife they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Please watch out for each other. If you know of someone who may think shooting birds is an innocent past time, please inform them of the law or notify proper authorities....submitted by CONA member

## Neighborhood Revitalization Meeting Rescheduled for Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>.

This second meeting, (the first was at our last annual meeting), was delayed; we are back on track to help our senior residents improve the safety and appearances of their homes. It will feature a pizza dinner with the meeting to follow. **The city is going to mail invitations to everyone. So look for the letter to come.**

David Wright, Neighborhood Revitalization Coordinator, City of Monterey Housing Department, 646-3995.

## City Council election

For the first time in two decades we will be faced with major changes to the majority of our city council. Our long time mayor Dan Albert and Councilman Clyde Roberson, are both retiring.

They leave the city financially strong with several large prudent cash reserve accounts. A balanced budget and thoughtful management leaves our city in an enviable position considering neighboring cities in crisis mode.

## Community Policing

The Monterey Police Department has conducted several meetings in our neighborhood under their new community-policing program. The most recent crime statistics report shows a low crime rate for our area with the majority of events emanating from N. Fremont Street. The residential portion of our area has around one break-in per month. That would be one too many. We used to have a very organized neighborhood watch. That has changed over the years as so many properties have changed ownership. The best way to lower crime is to get to know your neighbors and look out for each other. Make a point of talking to your neighbors and encourage everyone to look out for each other.

Your neighborhood contacts for the police department:

**Officer Jason Newby 646-5600x2012**

**Officer Albert Duran 646-5600x2065**

**Sergeant Frank Russo 646-5600x2036**

## Neighborhood Improvement Program 2006 results!

What a year! Over a hundred great projects proposed, here is what passed:

CONA received extra money to complete 3 new neighborhood entry signs. The highest ranked project in the city was a \$50,000 NIP contribution to a new Monterey High football field, where parents are raising over \$1.5 million for the all-year synthetic field and track.

CONA traffic calming Phase V received \$175,000 in the second position. We will spend a year evaluating the effectiveness of these improvements after construction.

CONA also received money to fund a possible joint use baseball diamond in the Fairgrounds carnival area. Our driveway approach projects received approval for Phase II and Phase III. See previous article. Eight new handicap ramps will be installed in our neighborhood.

Backup generators, emergency water storage facilities, historic monument repairs, park improvements and a new roller slide for Dennis the Menace highlight a great list of projects.

As far as we can determine, NIP is a singular unique program in the United States. Projects are proposed by residents, reviewed and recommended by neighborhood representatives and then reviewed by the city council. A truly grassroots problem-solving program that this year exceeds \$42 million dollars in improvements to our neighborhoods and city

**BELLECI'S JANITORIAL  
WINDOW CLEANING  
831-372-2238**

## CONA Entry Signs

The extra money NIP has approved will be sending the Entry Sign project into design. Two of the three signs will have to be installed within the traffic medians on Ramona and Casanova because of a lack of public land on either side of the street. Airport Road at Fairgrounds is another story. We have city planting areas on the side of the street so we have extra design capabilities. The city requires medians to be free of structural obstacles in case of accidents. So median signs are required to break away easily.

These 3 signs have some wording priorities on design, one to announce our neighborhood as a residential area, two that we belong in the city of Monterey and three that it serve as a method of neighborhood beautification.

## Neighborhood Improvement Program Van Tour

A short story of how our traffic-calming project received the second position in NIP votes this year.

The competition was fierce this year with many neighborhoods vying for traffic calming dollars. In fact, we felt it was important to include ours for the first time in NIP's van tour, a once-a-year city tour of neighborhood projects on site to show the voting members any special circumstances.

Two city vans holding about 15 people showed up at the Fairgrounds carnival lot driveway. I started to give my presentation about the number of accidents occurring on Airport Road with cars knocking down fences when there was a loud crash. A car on the corner of Bruce Lane had struck a stop sign knocking the pole down and snapping its front axle. While the car was trying to back off with the sound of screeching metal, I lost the attention of my fellow NIP members as they watched the events unfold. A pickup was now in the process of ramming the front of the damaged vehicle in an attempt to dislodge it from the stop sign pole. Viewers claimed we staged the event, of course we did not. The police arrived and the committee eventually rated this project number 2 in the whole city.

Since this event, as we have been canvassing the area to get property owner approvals of traffic elements in front of their homes. We have continued to hear about more accidents that have occurred on their streets. The issue of speeding cars in neighborhoods is now the leading issue everywhere in Monterey. As the City Manager said at a recent City Council meeting regarding his last neighborhood presidents meeting, at least 90% of the meeting was talking about dealing with speeding.

The City Manager addressed this issue by increasing traffic enforcement throughout the city. The associations have received monthly statistics on the results of this increased enforcement. The stats were itemized by neighborhoods and showed dozens of citations listed. It was a very expensive few months for careless drivers.

## CONA MEMBERS ALERT!

It is with deep distress that CONA must inform its members that the Monterey County Fairgrounds Board of Directors has voted to allow a motorcycle-racing exhibition during the Fair on August 17<sup>th</sup>. You will not be allowed to attend. It will be a private viewing. You will just hear it. One director stated **“that the community may accept the event due to all the noise from the carnival at the same time.”**

One of the first topics our association under-took in our first year (1983) was elimination of the motorcycle races. An analogy of the noise levels at the time -- if your neighbor ran 10 chainsaws at once from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Hostile years followed with scores of heated meetings, culminating in a 1989 CONA list of requirements.

CONA required the agreement to be formally put on a Fairgrounds Board agenda with an official vote and copy in writing. We received that letter on June 27, 1989. Music curfews, new gate procedures, a ban on rock concerts and elimination of motorcycle races were all in this agreement.

**In exchange, CONA agreed to transferring over \$1,100 of our money to landscape the easement in front of the carnival grounds, spend Neighborhood Improvement Program money (thousands) to sidewalk, curb, and gutter from Bush Street to Fairgrounds Road. We also had to formally change the Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood Plan through the Monterey City Council to meet our part of the agreement.**

Fast forward to the present and we have new Fair Board Members (appointed by the Governor) and new Fair Management. **They say the letters and agreements are not in their files? Nobody there remembers any of these actions. CONA presidents have diligently saved 12 cases of files over the years, and we found all the letters!**

## CONA CALL FOR MEMBER ACTION!

**CONA members are strongly encouraged to immediately call, email, fax or leave messages for the Fairgrounds Board of Directors and voice strong objection to any type of resurrection of motorcycle races and insist that the Fairgrounds Board of Directors keep to their written agreements.** Please send copies to CONA.

Silence implies your consent and once they sign contract commitments we are back to square one. A city/fair liaison meeting is meeting August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will notify you at our Park Day if the event is continuing and ask for a vote on what you want CONA to do.

**Monterey County Fairgrounds Board of Directors  
2004 Fairgrounds Road  
Monterey, California**

**Email: [kelly@montereycountyfair.com](mailto:kelly@montereycountyfair.com)**

**Phone: 372-5863**

**Fax: 831) 372-8248**