



# CASANOVA OAK KNOLL

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

July 2008 [www.cona.info](http://www.cona.info)

phone 831-375-6241

email -- [conamonterey@aol.com](mailto:conamonterey@aol.com)

### City Manager Conducts CONA Neighborhood Tour

#### Neighborhoodwalking tour attendedby MontereyCity Staff

Last May 14<sup>th</sup> Monterey's City Manager, Fred Meurer, toured our neighborhood with members of your CONA board of directors. Fred brought along representatives from city planning, code enforcement, police, fire and public works. All together, we were a group of thirteen.

In the next few months, Fred is having these tours in all of the Monterey neighborhoods, along with several commercial districts. A little bit of history- Fred has been here on two other tours, with the first one being over 20 years ago. He is very familiar with our issues and problems.

CONA was well represented with old and new board members. Fred pointed out the remarkable improvements we have accomplished in this twenty-year period. There are still some nagging problems that remain. As we walked for about an hour and a half, our board members elaborated on their concerns and issues along with reiterating the comments that many of you made at our last annual meeting.

Sometimes, when we live in one place a long time, we adjust to problems and just ignore them after a while. It was good to see problems brought out and creative city staff members offering new

solutions (picture on inside page). Plans are being made to make this an even better neighborhood.

After a period of delay, our neighborhood revitalization project is back on track. Monterey's housing department is in the process of finalizing documents that summarize the conclusions from our revitalization meeting.

These final documents will be categorized and used to apply for targeted eligible grant programs to improve our neighborhood.

Last year, a relative of a handicapped resident in the Old Town neighborhood politely contacted their neighbors and asked them to please not block sidewalks with their cars. Some of the neighbors who parked on the sidewalks were hostile to the point of threatening. They claimed a right to the sidewalks for themselves. Citing Federal law (ADA access), the handicapped took their case to the Monterey City Council. The Council asked the Police department to study this situation citywide. They were surprised to find this problem is prevalent in all our neighborhoods. It seems that a period of non-enforcement had resulted in resi-

dents feeling an entitlement to use city easements for their own exclusive use. That is now history. **The Monterey Police Department started a months long education process and are now in a full enforcement program.**

Quoting from a letter sent to CONA the police department states.... "Parking a vehicle on or otherwise obstructing the sidewalk, including allowing your vehicle to extend into the pedestrian right-of-way while parked in a driveway, even your own, is a violation of California Vehicle Code section 22500 which states in part:"

"No person shall stop, park or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended...on any portion of a sidewalk, or with the body of the vehicle extending over any portion of the sidewalk. Lights, mirrors or devices that are required to be mounted upon a vehicle under the Code may extend over the sidewalk to a distance of not more than 10 inches."

As baby boomers age the numbers of disabled will rise and even more will need use of our sidewalks.

If you see accessibility issues like the ones stated here please contact Monterey Police at 646-3830.

### CONA PARK DAY – AUGUST 10, 2008

This tour was similar to our neighborhood walk. In the first week of May, our City Manager, representatives from the city staff, the N. Fremont Business Improvement District Board of Directors, and members of the CONA board took a two-hour walk of N. Fremont Street. Sidewalks that are not handicapped accessible, the difficulty crossing this highway, the speed of the cars and most pointed out the deterioration of not only the street but of the businesses. Monterey receives almost a million dollars a year from the transit occupancy tax from the motels of N. Fremont Street. Our surrounding communities are rapidly planning new hotel/motels and visitor serving projects. N. Fremont must keep pace. This year our City Council, as a starting project, approved \$27,500 for a N. Fremont Streetscape Traffic Engineering Study to start a renovation of this important commercial and neighborhood resource for Monterey.

Last March our association voted to recommend to the City Council an entry project for N. Fremont Street. The City Council scheduled a special study session to fully explore what CONA was proposing. Councilwoman Nancy Selfridge requested an onsite tour of the proposal with Monterey's city engineer, Tom Reeves. We met and thoroughly walked the area. CONA board members also attended.

CONA proposes a complete renovation of the entry to the City of Monterey starting at Canyon Del Rey. The area we are referring to is what we call the landfill site. The large hole next to N. Fremont Street a few hundred yards south of Canyon Del Rey.

CONA's goals are:

1. Fill in the hole by extending the Fremont culvert through it; part of this property belongs to the City of Seaside.
2. By filling in the hole, the street can be widened to three lanes southbound. One would be a right turn lane from Canyon Del Rey all the way to Casanova, helping with the gridlock at that intersection.
3. A full sidewalk from Casanova to Canyon Del Rey.
4. Landscape an attractive entry to our city.
5. This widening would allow a u-turn movement back to Monterey from N. Fremont.

Monterey has already sent letters to Seaside and Del Rey Oaks to begin talks on how we can all cooperate to make progress on the immense traffic congestion of this area.

On the downside of this walk, CONA must let you be aware of continuing comments we hear that may affect our neighbors. As we walked Bruce Lane two NFBID members asked if one, the city could consider closing a public street, Bruce Lane, to allow larger building sites for the adjoining commercial properties. This would bring new businesses at least 40 feet closer to homes. CONA pointed out that several homes on Dundee made approved additions to their homes with garages and carports built on Bruce Lane with permits. This is called prescriptive use, a legally binding use. This seems to have quieted the comments for now, but we have heard these proposals for years. The second comment was a question to CONA members, would you want to see what is there now or would you be willing to support whatever multi-

ple stories it took for a developer to "pencil out" their project? We are sensitive to what happened with Cypress Center in which five homes lost ocean and forest views for that penciled out project. The businesses are upset because they wanted to be on the street and visible. The houses lost their views. That was a lose lose. CONA is asking to sit down with the property owners on N. Fremont and make new redevelopment a win win instead for everyone.

## StreetTreeReplacement!

The last tree plantings went very well; our neighborhood now has several new trees to beautify our streets. With a caveat that we do not go on water rationing this fall, we will continue with more plantings. You have a choice of either an evergreen tree or a deciduous tree (loses leaves in the fall). Our forester is experimenting with more street friendly varieties. Remember these trees must be placed within the city easement, usually about 12 feet from the curb edge. The area must be away from water and sewer lines. If you want to be placed on the waiting list, please call 375-6241. Drive down Littleness and look at how everyone is cooperating by making a beautiful streetscape of Liquid Ambers.

Voting is over and the City Council has approved the budget. Twenty-five projects in general NIP voting were voted and approved this year. Tied for first place was the CONA sidewalk repair project. This project will repair heaved and raised trip hazards on our sidewalks and gutters. A detailed survey was conducted and each spot is noted.

Other projects approved were greenbelt maintenance projects to remove fuel and deadwood from Monterey's greenbelts for fire prevention. Our skateboard park, through vigorous support from teenagers, received \$160,000 for an expansion of this crowded park. Traffic calming and sidewalks won approval throughout the city. Repair of the city tile mural of the conference center made it along with a new tile mural on the recreation trail. This one will be on the same spot that Sebastian Vizcaino landed in 1602 and declared the land for Spain and named Monterey Bay. The French Consulate building (visitor center) will now have a complete earthquake retrofit for this important historic building and Dennis the Menace Park is receiving a new umbrella-climbing tower that will be Federal rule compliant. The Monterey Youth Center received \$50,000 for renovations. The complete list can be viewed at [www.monterey.org](http://www.monterey.org) under the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers has just completed extensive evaluations on the progress of the cleanup of the chemical plume. This plume originated at the Old Navy Air Facility from World War II into the fifties. There are two cleanup plants, one on the Airport property and one in our Park. The level of toxins pumped out of the underground aquifer is now into the millions of gallons.

There are two methods of cleanup in our Park, one is charcoal filtration and the other is injection of industrial grade

hydrogen peroxide. The second method is being discontinued due to rapidly diminishing effectiveness. The charcoal filtration will continue. Downhill from the Park the chemical levels are pretty much static, as projected. They are not increasing. The actual plume boundaries through further testing has been shown to have reached past the P.G.&E plant and just touching near the edge of the side of the hill near Laguna Grande Park. These reports are available for your viewing at our community center. It is also available online at the Monterey Air Facility site on the USACE website.

Belleci's Janitorial  
Window Cleaning  
831-372-2238

Overly aggressive door-to-door solicitors continue to be a problem in CONA. Flat streets, and easy access make us prime targets. Recently reported to CONA was a solicitor who came back to one house and demanded that a relative pay for a nonexistent contract. Three other solicitors actually went into one resident's back yard and tried to intimidate an elderly resident into buying their products.

**The City Code allows door to door solicitors, with the following restrictions.**

Sec. 22-19. Regulation of Door-To-Door Solicitors.

**No solicitor, peddler, hawker, itinerant vendor or merchant, canvasser, or transient vendor shall enter upon residential property for the purpose of soliciting orders for or selling any goods, wares, merchandise, or service, including subscriptions or orders for books, magazines, or periodicals, if a notice prohibiting soliciting or peddling is visibly displayed upon the property;** and further, no such soliciting or peddling shall occur during the hours from sunset to sunrise. (Ord 3319; 4/03)

**The solution is to place a "No Solicitors" sign near the front door of your home. They are inexpensive and available at any hardware store. Call the police if anyone violates your posting.**

## Traffic Calming delays

Last May CONA forwarded word from the city that Airport Road traffic calming construction would be started in a couple of weeks. We have just been notified that this project construction has been delayed until late July. There will be detours and traffic delays once they start. Three curb bulb outs and one median have been approved, designed and funded. Traffic speed enforcement is ongoing. The city will conduct speed surveys after the traffic calming is finished so that we can see the effect of this project.

Next year everyone can decide the priorities for completing the rest of the CONA traffic-calming plan. Already, the present owners of adjoining properties have vetoed three street medians of the original plan. Properties that would lose parking according to the present city rules have final veto rights.

## Neighborhood Garage Sale

Every year our neighborhood wide garage sale is a little different. This year we had approximately 30 homes participating on Saturday. Sunday saw about a dozen houses with sales. We found many homes with sale leftovers stacked on curbs waiting for charity drive pickups.

Thanks to city planner Todd Bennett for collecting two of pickup loads of Ewaste for the Fairgrounds recycling event from our neighborhood. The city housing department, under our neighborhood revitalization program, is looking into tying in a neighborhood cleanup project next year similar to what we used to do with our dumpster cleanup in years past. This will require volunteer supervision.

## Library

The Friends of the Monterey Public Library will hold their 5th annual Monterey House Tour "Places from the Past", on Saturday, October 19, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This is a great opportunity to visit some of Monterey's interesting and historic homes and buildings, including a rare peek inside Ed Rickett's Pacific Biological Laboratory and home on Cannery Row. The event will raise funds to help purchase books for the Library and Bookmobile and to support cultural programs for all ages. Tickets are \$20 per person at the Library Check-out Desk in advance or \$25 at the Library on the day of the event. For information call Kim Bui-Burton at 646-5601.

Mark your calendars! The Friends of the Monterey Public Library have more plans in the works for raising funds to buy books and other materials. On the first Saturday of each month, the Friends hold a book sale in the Library from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. You'll find great books at bargain prices and help the Library at the same time. The date for the Friends' annual Chocolate & Wine Tasting has been moved to Friday, February 20, 2009. Watch for announcement of details by checking the Friends' Web site at [www.mplfriends.com/](http://www.mplfriends.com/).

## Bookmobile Update

The Library's new Bookmobile is being built at this moment. The custom 30-foot vehicle will feature solar powered generator for lighting, public Internet access, an extra low floor for wheelchair, walker, and stroller accessibility, and lots of space for books! The Library expects delivery of the new Bookmobile at the end of the calendar year or in early January. In the meantime the Bookmobile continues to service the Casanova Oak-Knoll neighborhood on alternating Thursdays from 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. on Lerwick Drive. Stop by to borrow books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, Large Print books and audio books for children and adults, sign up for a library card, or just to say "hello" to Joanne and the friendly Bookmobile staff. For more information about the Library and Bookmobile call 646.3932 or visit us on the Web at [www.monterey.org/library](http://www.monterey.org/library).

Jeanne McCombs

Special Services Coordinator

Phone: 831.646.3949 Email: [mccombs@ci.monterey.ca.us](mailto:mccombs@ci.monterey.ca.us)



## Message from our community center's director

Hello everyone, my name is Rachel Deis and I am the new Recreation Coordinator at Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center (since January 2008). I was born and raised here on the Monterey Peninsula. I graduated from Chico State with a major in Liberal Studies and a minor in Recreation Administration. I began working for the City of Monterey Recreation and Community Services Department in 1995 as a counselor at Camp Quien Sabe. Since then, I have worked in our Playgrounds Program as an Assistant Director, as the Afterschool Site Director here at Casanova, at Whispering Pines Day Camp as the Director, and as a Recreation Specialist at the Recreation Administration office and at the Monterey Youth Center. I am so thrilled to be back at Casanova. This is a great center surrounded by an even greater neighborhood! I look forward to meeting each and every one of you, and hearing about what types of classes and programs you would like to have at our community center.

We currently have a Preschool Program, an Afterschool Program, a drop-in Teen Program, many specialty classes for youth, and several healthy-choice classes for adults. We also have our Pool Pals and Taxi Scrip Program for seniors. In addition, we have BBQ and Facility Rentals. My door is always open, so please stop by the center, introduce yourself and see what we have to offer. We are open Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**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.

The golf course renovation is moving along well and the contractor is ahead of schedule. Contractors usually figure in "rain days" and as you know, we don't get rain days here this time of year. The schedule is for the contractor to complete the renovation in four hole increments. The first increment (Holes 1-4) should be ready for grassing in late July. The irrigation is completed on these holes and the lakes are in the process of being filled. Cart paths for the holes were completed last week and the pumping station will be installed next week. This week greens construction will begin on the holes and bunker construction will begin. Sodding around the bunker edges, lake edges and areas subject to erosion will soon follow. The grassing on the course will be done through a process called hydro-seeding. Once it has been seeded and watered once, the holes are turned over to our maintenance staff and the grow-in period begins. This process of renovation is scheduled to last until mid-December with the course opening in June, 2009. The grow-in period on the last holes completed will in fact determine the actual date of opening. Sam Jepsen, General Manager, Monterey Pines Golf Course, 831.656.7659

## CONA SPECIAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

This meeting will be different from anything you have experienced in preparing for emergencies. It will consist of game planning for the unexpected. Questions will be raised about our level of preparedness. The answers provided will help you and your family to survive a catastrophic event. What if a major event strikes the peninsula resulting in a total loss of power and water:

1. If you are not home, at work, shopping, etc., and the streets are not passable, can you walk home? Do you have shoes clothing, and water to be able to make the trip?
2. If you cannot get home, do you have someone designated to help your spouse, children, or pets?
3. Do you have sufficient water supplies for drinking, cooking, or washing wounds?
4. Do you have sufficient food that is non-perishable to get you through the event?
5. If there is a small fire in your home do you have an extinguisher and the ability to put it out before it spreads?
6. Do you know how to shut off your utilities if the authorities recommend it?
7. Are you able to treat bleeding wounds or broken bones?
8. If your supplies are lost do you have a backup plan?

**Look for the flyer to come to you in September! Those that a plan have the best chance to survive.**



**L. to R.** Richard Ruccello, CONA, Nancy Selfridge, City Council, David Wright, code enforcement, Fred Meurer, City Manager, Forrest Ebbs, City Planner, Darla Gustaitis, CONA, Mike Brassfield, CONA, Paul Warfield, CONA, Leslie Sonne, Monterey Police, Frank Russo, Monterey Police. Taking the picture is Gary Carlsen, CONA, and arriving later was Bill Reichmuth, Deputy City Manager Plans/Engineering and Felix Colello, Monterey Fire. Location is at CONA's new entry sign on Airport Road.



Discussion gathering on Bruce Lane.

.....this article submitted by a CONA member

Due to our proximity to the airport, CONA residents understand that we must put up with noise from aircraft. However, we should not be expected to endure unnecessary noise from aircraft that are being flown along improper flight paths.

Past attempts by concerned Monterey citizens to address the problem of aircraft noise have failed. In addition, a resolution passed the Monterey City council imploring the FAA and/or the Airport Board to fix the problem has produced no tangible results. The reason - the airport's "noise abatement procedures" are entirely voluntary and unenforceable. Safety regulations, on the other hand, are enforced and corrective action can be taken against a pilot who is not in compliance. Therefore I have been in contact with John Howard, the manager of the Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) in San Jose. While the FSDO has no control over airport noise issues, they are willing to intervene from an aviation *safety* perspective, specifically with regard to aircraft flying too low over populated areas like CONA.

Pilots taking off from the Monterey airport to the west are required, after takeoff, to climb to at least 900 feet above sea level before making any turns off the runway center line. In addition, pilots must cross highway 1 before initiating a right turn. From my observations, most commercial pilots follow these rules. However, at least half of all single engine private aircraft turn to the right well before reaching highway 1 and thereby fly directly over our neighborhood at altitudes well below 900 feet. These actions are clearly a safety violation.

What can be done? Mr. Howard has asked me to report to him any instances of departing aircraft turning too early and flying low over our neighborhood. Any reports his office receives will be investigated and corrective action can be taken against the pilot. However, I can't do this alone. I need help from my neighbors in CONA. Anytime you notice a departing aircraft turn early and fly low (below 900 feet) over our neighborhood, please report the following to me:

1. The exact time and date of the takeoff
2. The plane's registration number (if you can see it!)

3. The colors of the aircraft and type of aircraft (single engine, high wing, low wing, etc)
4. Any other details that would help identify the aircraft.

I will then forward all information to Mr. Howard for investigation. I believe that once word gets out that our neighborhood is willing to report these violations, pilots will stop breaking the rules and we can enjoy a safer (and quieter) neighborhood.

I would prefer you email your reports to me. If that is not possible, then give me a call. Also, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments about any of this. Thank you.

Duane Dykema  
Edinburgh Ave  
831-915-0883  
Email: dx3@comcast.net

## 2008CONA Annual Meeting

Last March we held our annual meeting. The following officers were elected to your board of directors. Richard Rucello, president, Gary Carlsen vice-president, Tuppence Cabot, secretary, Darla Gustaitis, treasurer, Mike Brassfield, Paul Warfield, Denise Marsaquerria board members with Louis Algaze CONA webmaster ([www.cona.info](http://www.cona.info)).