

News from the Monterey County Fairgrounds

On behalf of the Monterey County Fair Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Casa Nova Oak Knolls Neighborhood Association (CONA) for being an active community partner with the Monterey Fairgrounds. Over the past two years, the Fair has spent over \$500,000 in capital improvements. In 2007 and 2008 alone, five major capital improvement projects have been completed! Completed in 2008 is a slurry seal to all roadways in order to freshen up our appearance and a complete remodel of our Monterey Room Banquet Facility is slated for renovation in December of this year. We will be completely renovating the Monterey Room restrooms, adding dressing rooms and a storage facility. As you are aware, the Fairgrounds Fence replacement is almost completed with the addition of Gate 8.5 across from the Longs Parking Lot. The Fence will be completed when a curb is added along the bottom portion of the fence line, as well as Gate 8.5 gate hinges being switched over so the gate swings into the Carnival Lot.

In 2009, the Fairgrounds will be receiving a \$140,000 grant from the State of California for Carnival Lot improvements. This will include installing 12 additional full hook up stations on the East side of the Carnival Lot as well as paving the dirt portion of the lot located adjacent to the barn area.

The Fairgrounds is a State Agency, however we are responsible for generating all of our own revenue with the exception of approximately 5% of our funding from State of California Horse Racing revenues. With the recent completion of the Monterey Bay Blues Festival, it is fresh in everyone's mind how interim events at the Fairgrounds fund our facility! In this trying economy, the Monterey County Fair is proud to announce a 30% increase in interim event rentals and revenues from 2007. The Fair has increasingly become the popular place for family events, quincenearas and weddings.

The Monterey Fairgrounds is actively working with the North Fremont Business District to implement its Streetscape plan and continues to work at being a better neighbor and partner to the Neighborhood Association. The Fairgrounds and the Business District have partnered on providing electronic waste collection days during the past few years and look forward to the next planned event in October of this year.

Last but not least, on everyone's mind is 'Where is everyone going to park this year for the Fair?'. The Fair has secured parking at Monterey Peninsula College for the week of the annual Fair with free transportation provided by Monterey Salinas Transit. We have also secured several business lots along Garden Road for parking after 5:00 p.m. daily with shuttle provided. Vendors and Livestock Exhibitors will be parking off site as well. Fair staff has been working very closely with the City of Monterey to ensure that adequate parking is available.

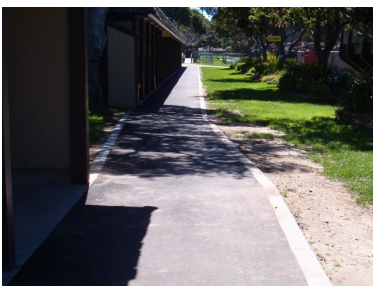
If residents have questions about the Fairgrounds and its projects, or would like to contact me for any reason, please call 372-8106 or e-mail: kelly@montereycountyfair.com. We hope to see you all at the upcoming 72nd Annual Monterey County Fair!



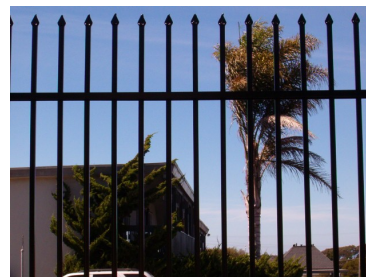
New Entrance and ADA Ramp
On North side of the Pattee Arena



New Entrance and Entry
on South side of the Pattee Arena



New ADA asphalt walkway
In vendor arcade



Fence replacement project
along Fairground Road

The Monterey Community Policing Initiative

In 2005, the Monterey Police Department implemented an innovative approach to delivering quality service to those who live and work here. The Monterey Community Policing Initiative (MCPI) divided the City into twenty Community Policing Areas (CPA) with a sergeant, two officers, and a civilian department member permanently assigned to each. Its purpose was community outreach and education, information sharing, collaboration on issues affecting your quality of life and the development of lasting relationships with community members. These elements play an intricate part in the pursuit of our mission, which is to provide excellent police services, while working in unison with the community to make our City as safe as it can possibly be.

The Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood is in Community Policing Area 18. CPA Team 18 works in unison with CPA Team 17 to help resolve issues in either of these two areas. The team members assigned to these areas are:

Area 17/18 Sergeant Frank Russo, russo@ci.monterey.ca.us, 646-5600 x 2036

Area 18 Officer Jason Newby, newby@ci.monterey.ca.us, 646-5600 x 2012

Area 18 Officer Greg Galin, galin@ci.monterey.ca.us, 646-5600 x 2065

Area 17/18 PST Alma Altamirano, altamira@ci.monterey.ca.us, 646-5600 x 2062

Area 17 Officer Eric Stidham, stidham@ci.monterey.ca.us, 646-3819

Area 17 Officer Maribel Torres, torres@ci.monterey.ca.us, 646-5600 x 2029

We haven't changed the way we handle normal police-related calls for service. If you need an officer for something immediate please call 911, if it's an emergency, or 646-3914, if it is not. Your CPA officers are available to help resolve on going issues with graffiti, noise, neighbor disputes, and the like. We, your CPA officers, are ready to assist you in seeking answers to difficult problems. We have the resources of the City at our disposal - ready to help.

We encourage you to contact us even if it's just to chat or ask a few questions. We have community meetings twice a year and everyone is encouraged to attend. We'll send out flyers announcing the date and location of the meeting a few weeks prior. If you'd like to send us your email address, we'll put you on our subscriber list. Periodically, we send out emails to subscribers that contain safety tips and other information we think you might find useful.

The success of a program like this depends largely on community participation and support. If we work together there are few problems we cannot resolve or, at least, mitigate. We would like to thank all those who have already been active participants in the program and invite you all to join us in this most worthy effort.

Fire Department CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

New classes announced!

Here is your chance to prepare yourself and your family to survive a crisis. This training is essential for all life emergencies. Please call 646-3900 to make a reservation today and become part of the CONA team. Be part of the solution not part of the problem!

Agenda for CERT September 15 * October 27, 2008

Classes held on Monday evenings from 6:30 * 9:00 PM

September 15, 2008 Class 1 (Disaster Preparedness)

September 15, 2008 Class 2 (Fire Safety)

SATURDAY September 20, 2008 QUARTERLY DRILL

September 22, 2008 Class 3 (Disaster Medical Operations part 1)

September 29, 2008 Class 4 Disaster Medical Operations part 2)

October 6, 2008 Class 5 (Light Search & Rescue)

October 13, 2008 Class 6 (CERT Organization)

October 20, 2008 Class 7 (Disaster Psychology)

October 20, 2008 Class 8 (Terrorism & CERT) (former NERT graduates need this class to remain active)

October 27, 2008 CERT GRADUATION

Wireless Telephone Laws FAQsfrom the Monterey Police Department

Two new laws dealing with the use of wireless telephones while driving go into effect July 1, 2008. Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions concerning these new laws.

Q: When do the new wireless telephone laws take effect?

A: The new laws take effect July 1, 2008

Q: What is the difference between the two laws?

A: The first law prohibits all drivers from using a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle. (Vehicle Code (VC) §23123). Motorists 18 and over may use a hands-free device. The second law prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from using a wireless telephone or a hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle (VC §23124).

Q: What if I need to use my telephone during an emergency, and I do not have a hands-free device?

A: The law allows a driver to use a wireless telephone to make emergency calls to a law enforcement agency, a medical provider, the fire department, or other emergency services agency.

Q: What are the fines if I'm convicted?

A: The base fine for the FIRST offense is \$20 and \$50 for subsequent convictions. According to the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule, with the addition of penalty assessments, a first offense is \$76 and a second offense is \$190.

Q: Will I receive a point on my drivers license if I'm convicted for a violation of the wireless telephone law?

A: NO. The violation is a reportable offense: however, DMV will not assign a violation point.

Q: Will the conviction appear on my driving record?

A: Yes, but the violation point will not be added. **Q: Will there be a grace period when motorists will only get a warning?**

A: NO. The law becomes in effect on July 1, 2008. Whether a citation is issued is always at the discretion of the officer based upon his or her determination of the most appropriate remedy for the situation.

Q: Are passengers affected by this law?

A: No. This law only applies to the person driving a motor vehicle.

Q: Do these laws apply to out-of-state drivers whose home states do not have such laws?

A: Yes

Q: Can I be pulled over by a law enforcement officer for using my handheld wireless telephone?

A: YES. A law enforcement officer can pull you over just for this infraction.

Q: What if my phone has a push-to-talk feature, can I use that?

A: No. The law does provide an exception for those operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (excluding pickups), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle or tow truck, to use a two-way radio operated by a "push-to-talk" feature. However, a push-to-talk feature attached to a hands-free ear piece or other hands-free device is acceptable.

Q: What other exceptions are there?

A: Operators of an authorized emergency vehicle during the course of employment are exempt as are those motorists operating a vehicle on private property

DRIVERS 18 AND OVER

Drivers 18 and over will be allowed to use a hands-free device to talk on their wireless telephone while driving. The following FAQs apply to those motorists 18 and over.

Q: Does the new "hands-free" law prohibit you from dialing a wireless telephone while driving or just talking on it?

A: The new law does not prohibit dialing, but drivers are strongly urged not to dial while driving.

Q: Will it be legal to use a Blue Tooth or other earpiece?

A: Yes, however you cannot have BOTH ears covered.

Q: Does the new hands-free law allow you to use the speaker phone function of your wireless telephone while driving?

A: Yes.

Q: Does the new "hands-free" law allow drivers 18 and over to text page while driving?

A: The law does not specifically prohibit that, but an officer can pull over and issue a citation to a driver of any age if, in the officer's opinion, the driver was distracted and not operating the vehicle safely. Text paging while driving is unsafe at any speed and is strongly discouraged.

Eric Stidham

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