



CASANOVA OAK KNOLL

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

March 2008 www.cona.info phone 831-375-6241 email -- conamonterey@aol.com

Accidents continue on Airport Road

Recent motorcycle accident results in injury

It is the location of our neighborhood's Bermuda triangle of traffic accidents.

This most recent accident occurred on the curve of Airport Road on an early February Sunday evening about 7:00 p.m. A motorcycle lost control coming down out of the curve, crashing near Bush Street on Airport Road. There was an injury, fire trucks, and an ambulance, a now recurring sight. A while back, a car lost control and drove through a front yard fence, same location (morning), another one

lost control going up the curve and drove through a fence on Lilac at Airport (early morning).

The worst case was a 2:00 a.m. out of control pickup on Airport, careening onto Lerwick, damaging three cars and totaling one of them.

At last, our next phase of traffic calming is about to happen. There will be an Airport Road median (near the curve) with three bulb-outs that will start construction in about 2 months. This one project will directly affect traf-

fic speeds on Airport Road more than everything else we have done.

Brick crosswalks and bulbouts, one on Ramona and one on Casanova, are scheduled to start construction in mid-to late March. Both of these crosswalks were actually approved over 6 years ago. Traffic calming is a very time consuming, consensus building process and as we have seen a very expensive one. Please be patient with the construction and road closure process. The final result will be worth it.

A new look for CONA's entrances

New entry signs are now being installed on three streets

It has taken many years and now finally the new signs are going up.

Our neighborhood has had an identity problem since the day we incorporated into the city of Monterey around 1952. Originally, we were in the County's jurisdiction. Ever since then visitors assumed they were in Seaside.

When our association reformed in 1981 we started addressing the perception that we were a step child of Monterey. The two granite monument signs on N. Fremont were a starting effort.

Our new entry signs were designed to address two issues. One, to clearly state that this neighborhood is in the

City of Monterey and second, to let motorists clearly know as they left our commercial district they were entering a residential neighborhood.



Entry sign under construction!

The project was stalled for a few years because the city did not want anything solid put in the medians (Ramona & Casanova) that would injure an errant motorist. Thus the idea of a breakaway sign was designed for those two streets. The bollards are hollow.

For those new here, the designs were computer-generated into photographs and voted on at last years annual meeting. The majority vote at this meeting picked exactly what you will see now.

The pictured sign is about to be moved to its final location. This will be explained at the upcoming meeting.

CONA ANNUAL MEETING –March 19, 2008 @ 7:00 P.M.

Monterey's Community Policing

Initiative Revisited

Prepared by Chief of Police Tim Shelby

In late 2005, the Monterey Police Department implemented an innovative approach to delivering quality service to those who live and work within the City. 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 assigned to each. These members are assigned to their areas on a permanently basis. The purpose of the MCPI was to create a framework and vehicle for community outreach and education, information sharing, collaboration on area problems and quality of life concerns, and the development of lasting relationships with community members. We strongly believe that all of 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.

Since the implementation of the Community Policing Initiative, each CPA has had at least two meetings, some many more. These meetings are held specifically for those who live and work in the CPA. Monterey Police personnel have seen the value in these opportunities to meet and get to know those community members, who have chosen to participate in the Community Policing Initiative. Unfortunately, attendance at CPA meetings and day-to-day contact with the CPA officers has been less than envisioned. In 2007, the Police Department sent out 22,630 flyers to CPA residents and business owners inviting them to Community Policing Initiative meetings. The highest attendance at any given meeting was roughly thirty people. In one CPA, the number of Department personnel present at the meeting routinely outnumbers community members present.

In order to succeed, the Community Policing Initiative requires not only *our* commitment to you but also *your* commitment to us. The Community Policing Initiative is not about us, but rather about how we can better serve you, make your neighborhood safer, forge mutually beneficial partnerships, and give you the opportunity to develop a relationship with your CPA officers - officers that you can communicate with directly about problems and concerns in your neighborhood.

The Monterey Community Policing Initiative is a unique opportunity for you to interact with your Police Department in a way that very few other police agencies offer. It is an initiative that cannot and will not be successful without your support and participation. As your Police Chief, I urge you to visit our web site, www.montereypolice.org to learn more about the Community Policing Initiative, discover what CPA you are in, who your CPA officers are and how to contact them. We also would appreciate and be very thankful to have you attend the next CPA meeting in your area.

We are here to serve you but need your help in order to make this innovative concept a success. We truly are at your service and we are *YOUR* Police Department.

Neighborhood Improvement Program 2008

Projects submitted for this year follow. The association will discuss and vote on them at our annual meeting on March 19th.

1. CONA sidewalk and curb repairs (neighborhood wide)
2. CONA driveway approach reconstruction
3. CONA park center security lighting addition.

OFFENDER WATCH

Sheriff Mike Kanalakakis has announced a new program to address Megan's Law in Monterey County. Currently, if you

want to see if any neighborhood you manage online, enter your zip code and view a map of where the offenders reside. In order to be cur-

DOOR PRIZES

All members at the annual meeting will receive a ticket for door prizes that will be drawn for:
**Fire Extinguishers &
Smoke alarms**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2008

GENERAL MEETING

March 19 – Wednesday

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

PARK CENTER

735 Ramona

Agenda

- 7:00** Call to order
Reports
2008 Election of officers
Old Business
2008 Neighborhood Improvement
2008 Priorities
New Business
- 7:30** Introduction of Council member
Nancy Selfridge
Questions & Answers
- 8:00** Deputy Police Chief Phil Penko
Community Policing
- 8:30** Neighborhood priorities
- 9:00** Adjournment

COME & BRING YOUR NEIGHBOR

2007

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President-Richard Ruccello
Vice-president-Gary Carlsen
Secretary-Tuppence Cabot
Treasurer-Darla Gustaitis
Board member-Michael Brassfield
Airport Chairman-Open
Webmaster-Louis Agaze
NIP Representative-Richard Ruccello
Alternate NIP Representatives:
Gary Carlsen

2008 Calendar

March 19 – 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

April 16 NIP hearings CONA Park center

June 7 & 8 – Garage Sale Sat.&Sun

August 10 – Park Day Sunday

rent you have to do this on a regular basis. Under his new program you would enter your email address and then you would automatically be noticed immediately when the offender registers their new address in your neighborhood. We commend Sheriff Kanalakakis for his use of new technology to safeguard our communities. Unfortunately, this program will only notify residents in the unincorporated areas of the county, not incorporated cities.

The Monterey Police Department is right now looking into the process that they can adopt to be part of this program for our city. Please encourage our police and city council members to make this a priority to safeguard our children.

Driveway approaches Phase V Project Completed!!

After five phases, we are finally finished with all the new driveway approaches for our neighborhood. Our process started with a lottery for three years, after which CONA took the requests as they came. Every household has been noticed by mailings each year for those five years.

The Neighborhood Improvement Program's deadline for this year was February 15, 2008. CONA submitted a new project in case new residents or old ones that changed their mind wanted to improve their driveway approach. This project required each homeowner to request this improvement on their city easement (driveway approach). The idea started with a member on Edinburgh and it just expanded to over a hundred homes. In retrospect, it would have been more efficient just to do one side of a block at a time but this would have required consent from everyone involved. Difficult to do with absentee landlords or those who thought this lowering of their curb would exacerbate flooding of their garages.

The originator of the project moved away a couple of years ago, we all owe them thanks for thinking of this solution to our cars scrapping curbs.

Fairgrounds on Concert Noise:

The Fairgrounds management has heard your complaints over the noise level of the last August Heart concert. They will now require all concerts to use the sound companies which handle the Blues and the Jazz festivals. New concert sound companies maintain the limits in the arena but, because of inexperience with this venue, speaker placement makes the sound louder outside rather than inside the arena. Any concerns should go to the CONA phone number 375-6241; we will then contact the management directly.

CONA needs a member to organize our many volunteers; it will take about 1 to 2 hours per week, please call.

Please update any email address changes

-CONA prints two major newsletters a year, many of our notices that go out during the year are sent by email. This is our best method to quickly notify our residents, please keep your address current, send changes to conamonterey@aol.com.

Recycle your batteries

Batteries are no longer allowed to be placed in our garbage cans. The heavy metals are toxic and cannot be put in our landfill. The City of Monterey makes it easy for us by letting us drop off used batteries, alkaline, lead, rechargeable, etc. at our community center, 735 Ramona. Open M-F, 1 to 9:00 p.m.

North Fremont Street news:

Club Fit is about to start their extensive remodeling of the old Safeway site. They plan a late summer opening of their fitness studio, physical therapist and spa.

The Bay Pet Hospital building that was approved for a mixed-use commercial building is on hold. We are told they need more water credits to move forward.

Buzzards restaurant is now closed.

Chef Lee's is listed on a Monterey Planning Commission study report in a mixed-use study request. It has been listed for sale for some time now.

Sushi by the Bay is open (formerly Casa Moreno)

Residents and business people have been requesting a solution to big semi-truck rigs parking for long periods of time in front of the PG&E substation and in front of the old Safeway building on N. Fremont Street. The comments are that the trucks block right turn lane maneuvers, and are very unsightly. This is a major entrance to our business district, it is supposed to be a green and forested entry (N. Fremont area plan). It is now a big rig storage yard. A request has been made to make this a "no parking area" to permanently solve this issue.

825 Casanova Condo conversions

Last year the Monterey City Council passed this apartment-to-condo conversion project. They found a solution to our residents concerns and created a project the developers were willing to build. Unfortunately, the housing market fell apart right after the approval and this project is on hold. The permit will stay valid for a period of two years. Hopefully, the market will recover so that they can move forward.

CODE COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Proactive Code Enforcement activities continue in the Casanova-Oak Knoll Neighborhood as part of the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Project. Recent efforts include:

- Removing a junkyard behind a commercial auto service business on Fairground Rd.;

- Investigating garage conversions and unauthorized second residential units;
- Eliminating unauthorized commercial signs and banners at businesses along North Fremont St. and Casanova.
- Eliminating unauthorized exterior alterations and uses at businesses along North Fremont St.;
- Removing inoperative or unregistered commercial trucks and trailers parked illegally on North Fremont Street at Casanova Ave. next to the PG & E substation;
- Eliminating health hazards associated with loose garbage;
- Improving conditions along Bruce Lane – removal of litter, trash, junk and pursuing dumpster enclosures;
- Repainting, replacing or repairing dumpsters located at North Fremont businesses;
- Improving residential property maintenance, especially where derelict vehicles, junkyards and outdoor storage exist;
- Contending with vehicles parked on sidewalks;
- Facilitating sidewalk and right-of-way repairs;
- Abating graffiti;
- Evaluating landscaping and site maintenance at Cypress Center;
- Promoting façade improvement grants, commercial property improvements, maintenance, repairs, and development of businesses in the North Fremont Business District of Monterey.

After the winter rainy season, there will be increased attention to weed and brush removal.

For more information or to report a condition about which you have a concern, contact David Wright, City of Monterey Planning/Housing & Property Management Divisions by phone at (831) 646-3750 or e-mail to DWright@ci.monterey.ca.us.

Light Brown Apple Moth Spraying

Last year CONA used email to alert our neighborhood to the changing moth spraying schedule. We will continue that practice as spraying continues this spring.

So far, residents concerns are not being heard by our Agriculture Department. Noticeably absent is information from their trapping program. Many traps can be seen as you walk about the neighborhood. It should be a priority that they disclose the numbers of insects trapped. We need to know if their spraying is working or not. Some communities to the north are just having twist-tie attracters installed instead of spraying. Our low numbers should justify the same method.

Christmas Toy Drive 2007

Last years toy drive started slow and then it just snowballed. For the last several years CONA has collected toys for our own Monterey Firefighters toy drive. Each year they develop lists of needy families, collect the gifts, and on one night (at least 75 people) wrap the gifts. Santa gets on a Fire truck and delivers right to each family. Our members went all

out this year, and a couple of our own Secret Santas contributing an amazing stack of gifts. This year in the following photo you can see two bicycles, many game balls, a piano keyboard and stand; it was an outstanding outpouring of Christmas Cheer. If you need to cheer up at this time of year, please take part in helping our own Firemen ensure all children have a chance at a merry Christmas.



Walli Poirier one of CONA's longtime gift collectors.

New Bookmobile coming!

Bookmobile #3 on the way.

The Monterey Public Library has an update on the progress of the Bookmobile vehicle replacement. The contract for the new Bookmobile has been signed and the vehicle is being built as of this writing. The projected delivery date is December 2008. Meanwhile, the Bookmobile continues to serve the Casanova Oak Knoll neighborhood on Lerwick Drive, every other Thursday from 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. The Bookmobile schedule is posted on the library's Web site www.monterey.org/library. For more information call Joanne White at 646-3710.

Children and teenagers in the Casanova Oak Knoll never have to be stumped by a tough homework assignment again! Students from 4th to 12th grade, and in introductory college courses, can simply visit the Monterey Public Library's Web site www.monterey.org/library to get on-demand, free help from qualified tutors. "Live Homework Help" connects students to expert tutors in math, science, social studies, and English via the Internet from your Mac or PC daily, 1 - 10 p.m. Spanish speaking tutors are available to help students in math and science Sunday through Thursday 1-7 p.m. For more information call the Youth Services Desk at 646.3934.

CITY FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE

ARE YOU A SENIOR CITIZEN (AGE 62 AND OVER)?

DO YOU CURRENTLY OWN A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME IN MONTEREY?

IS YOUR HOME IN NEED OF REPAIR OR IMPROVEMENT?

IF SO, MAYBE THE CITY OF MONTEREY CAN HELP.

The City of Monterey offers a variety of free grants and low-interest deferred payment loans to households that qualify under program guidelines for home repairs and improvements related to:

- ☐ INSULATION
- ☐ WINDOWS
- ☐ PLUMBING
- ☐ ELECTRICAL
- ☐ HEATING PAINTING
- ☐ FLOORING
- ☐ ROOFING
- ☐ HOUSING ACCESSIBILITY (I.E. GRAB BARS, RAMPS, ETC.)

TO FIND OUT MORE AND SEE IF YOU QUALIFY PLEASE CONTACT:

Housing and Property Management
City of Monterey
669 Van Buren Street, Monterey, CA 93940
831-646-3995

Police chase throughout neighborhood!

Last October an attempted robbery at the 7-11 on North Fremont Street (Knife used) resulted in a police chase throughout our neighborhood. The police in hot pursuit of three suspects were on upper Lerwick for the whole evening searching for the suspected attempted robbers. The suspects tried to evade capture by running through the back yards of our residents. Fences were knocked down, and in one case a water pipe was snapped off as the suspects ran in the dark. All ended well and the police arrested all three.

Monterey City Council passes resolution supporting CONA's concerns on Airport Impacts

Last September the Monterey City Council placed on their agenda (Councilman Haferman pursued this for us) a discus-

sion and a vote for a council resolution regarding neighborhood impacts from Airport activities.

This hearing requested that our city council pass a resolution supporting our letter to them emphasizing three issues. 1. Reduce over-flights of our homes, 2. Bring back a night curfew and 3. Halt Northside development until the Airport District constructs another access road into that area. Please understand that we have been going in circles for decades, we complain and the Airport District says the FAA sets the rules. The FAA has been given absolute authority over the airspace by Congress. They do not see any problems. This resolution is a non-binding non-enforceable political statement of support of our neighborhood. It is important in that it sets a baseline that puts the FAA on notice that we have documented these problems. The FAA and the Airport Board's rigid denial that any problems exist are now on permanent video recordings for any future need of documentation.

New Green Ordinance?

The City of Monterey is considering a mandatory green ordinance. This ordinance would mandate new requirements on new construction and residential remodels. It will add costs to these building projects with the objective of lowering our carbon footprint on our environment. As we rush to replace incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent and high efficiency appliances, please consider what is happening right here in our own neighborhood.

The old Safeway property on N. Fremont had the interior demolished over 6 months ago and since then every parking lot flood light has been burning 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for 6 months. How many fluorescent bulbs do we have to replace to make up for this wanton waste of non-renewable energy? Doesn't any care?

Look around as you drive through town you will see many other lights blazing away in broad daylight.

CASANOVA OAK KNOLL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 19, 2007 – WEDNESDAY 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

C.O.N.A. AGENDA ITEMS

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 sidewalking 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 CONA 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

- New Park Bench installed at Park Center
- 3 New CONA entry signs approved
- CONA Traffic Calming Phase IV
- NIP 20 driveway approaches Phase II

2006

- CONA appeal of new loading dock for Safe-way results in mandatory quiet time
- The day after appeal the earsplitting gas generator turkey trailer left hopefully for good
- CONA Traffic Calming Phase V approved
- NIP 20 driveway approaches Phase III
- Successfully opposed return of motorcycle races at Fairgrounds
- Obtained extra funds for entry signs

2007

- **825 Casanova condo conversion approved**
- **Final driveway approaches approved**
- **Two solar speed signs for Casanova approved**
- **CONA entry signs installed**
- **Record breaking CONA XMAS toy drive**
- **Monterey Council supports CONA Airport resolution**

2008 More to Come

[REDACTED]