



CASANOVA OAK KNOLL

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

April 2010 www.cona.info

phone 831-375-6241

email -- conamonterey@aol.com

Neighborhood Improvement Program canceled for 2010

The City of Monterey is facing a \$5.3 million dollar deficit

In an unprecedented year, the Monterey City Council and the Neighborhood Improvement Committee has unanimously voted to suspend the Neighborhood Improvement Program for one year.

Last year, NIP contributed \$400,000 toward the budget shortfall. This is the first time the program has been completely suspended since its formation by the voters of Monterey in 1985. The suspension underscores how serious our economic situation has become. Monte-

rey is facing a budget deficit of more than \$5 million dollars in the coming year. This economic recession is affecting every city in the United States, and most of the other cities have much bigger problems than we do.

To ensure the continued services to seniors and children all the neighborhoods in our city are willing to make these sacrifices. All City of Monterey departments are facing severe cutbacks including our Library. City of Monterey employees are being asked to make ma-

for financial concessions to help balance this budget.

The projects submitted for this year's neighborhood improvement program will be included into next year's program. All the neighborhood traffic calming projects in the city are still on hold.

We can expect reduced city services for the next few years to come; therefore we will all have to have extra patience in waiting for responses to our needs.

CONA Neighborhood Watch

Time to get to know your neighbors:

Your association has delivered all of this years 2010 membership cards with a neighborhood watch card. It is time we renewed our efforts towards an effective neighborhood watch. Knowing your neighbors, looking out for their homes and them looking out for yours is the heart of every neighborhood watch.

It is important for you to have contact information for your immediate neighbors. Strangers in the yards? Unusual activity? Let's stop crime before it becomes a problem. You may print extra copies of the neighborhood watch cards from our website www.cona.info. Spend a few minutes with your neighbors and fill out each others cards.

Recently there has been a string of automobile burglaries in the City of Monterey. As we are writing this copy we received a call that a vehicle on Edinburgh was broken into on the night of the March 19th. A window was shattered and property stolen. In the rest of the city a pattern of thefts has emerged in which mostly unlocked cars are targeted, large numbers of them.

Both Dry Creek Road near Skyline in Monterey and New Monterey have had many incidents. Unlocked cars allow thieves access to the interior of the car, the glove compartment and in most cars the trunks lock release. They are looking for high value, easily grabbed cell phones, laptops, cameras and brief cases. We are talking about well over a

dozen cases a night in each of those locations.

The Monterey Police warn residents to not leave valuables visible in their parked cars and to always lock the car. Please be aware that this is a current and ongoing problem.

The police also urge residents to lock all doors and windows of their homes.

Unlocked, they are the favored method for burglars to gain access to homes. So many seniors developed the habit of leaving windows ajar for air circulation, never locking them. Thieves are well aware of their habits. The prime time for ordering new security alarm systems is always the day after a break-in. It is time for all of us to re-look at our old habits.

CONA ANNUAL MEETING –April 15, 2010 @ 7:00 P.M.

CONA 2010 Annual Meeting

The CONA neighborhood revitalization plan has been delayed for a few years. CONA and the City of Monterey staff have been working towards getting this program up and running. The plan will be presented to you at the Annual meeting on April 15th. It will then go to the City Council for adoption on May 4, 2010.

On our annual meeting agenda will be a presentation by the City of Monterey Housing Department of this plan. We will review the priorities that our residents came up with three years ago and see if we need to amend them.

Adoption of the Revitalization plan allows the City to focus existing CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) entitlement funds in the CONA neighborhood, allows use of CDBG rehabilitation funds to assist some Moderate Income households with grants and low interest loans, not just Low Income households, allows continued CDBG funding for the Code Enforcement Officer with 50% of time spent in Revitalization area, allows CDBG funding to be used for commercial/economic development loans or grants without extensive administrative costs associated with monitoring job creation (can benefit N.Fremont Street businesses adjacent to the CONA neighborhood). Adoption of the plan also can assist or place the City in better position to capture future Federal or State grants that might be offered and targeted to the Plan area. Improves our competitiveness in grant applications.

An immediate benefit is that the HPM staff is already recommending \$20,000 CDBG in the next fiscal year to be targeted for neighborhood remodels, repair and/or beautification. Neighborhood input will be requested to prioritize how the funds are spent.

We will have a short presentation from the Sgt. Frank Russo of the Monterey Police Department on the CONA Neighborhood Watch. There will be an emphasis on methods we can use to prevent crime in our area.

David Wright, Monterey's Code Enforcement Officer will be at the meeting to address any issues or questions regarding city codes.

We will also discuss what type of neighborhood events everyone would like to see for this year. We need more volunteers to step forward to organize and put on these CONA events.

Please note that the N. Fremont Street Specific Plan meeting is on April 7th at the Fairgrounds. That meeting is to determine how mixed use commercial will be adapted to that street. The COPPS meeting is on April 22.

The Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood Plan update is scheduled to start this year. The last one was completed in 1985. That Plan stood the test of time protecting our neighborhood. We need that same type of vision to be translated into the new Plan. It will be a busy year for everyone.

CONA sends out email update notices during the year. We do not have the resources to print and distribute multiple flyers; we use email to get neighborhood watch alerts and current neighborhood information to our members. If your email address has changed please send the new one to conamonterey@aol.com. When it comes to watch alerts we have to rely on neighbors informing other neighbors. So when you get one, think of those around you that may not have computers and pass the word.

The City of Monterey now has the ability to make automated calls in emergencies through the County's Reverse 911. This system was used last month to warn residents to stay away from the shoreline because of the Chilean tsunami alert. This system will play a very important role in future emergencies.

Former NERT members have an opportunity to take a 90 minute update class to be a qualified CERT. Class is on April 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the EOC. Call 646-3416 or montereycert@hotmail.com

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

2010

GENERAL MEETING

April 15 – Wednesday

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

PARK CENTER

735 Ramona

Agenda

- 7:00** Call to order
- Reports
- 2010 Election of officers**
- Old Business
- 2010 Priorities
- New Business
- 7:30** Neighborhood Watch
- 7:45** Questions & Answers
- 8:00** Neighborhood Revitalization
- 8:30** Questions & Answers
- 8:45** Neighborhood priorities
- 9:00** Adjournment

COME & BRING YOUR NEIGHBOR

2009

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President-Richard Rucello

Vice-president-Gary Carlsen

Secretary-Tuppence Cabot

Treasurer-Darla Gustaitis

Board member-Michael Brassfield

Board member-Denise Marsaquerria

Airport Chairman-Open

Webmaster-Louis Agaze

NIP Representative-Richard Rucello

Alternate NIP Representatives:

Gary Carlsen

Mike Brassfield

2010 Calendar

April 15 – 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

June 12& 13 – Garage Sale Sat.&Sun

N. Fremont Street

In Shape has a target opening of July 2010

In Shape is a fitness gym.

(the old Safeway building)

Remembrances of CONA history

Picking up from the August 2009 newsletter we left off reminiscing on the South side of N. Fremont Street. Now to the North side of the street.....

Starting at Canyon Del Rey heading toward Monterey:

The P.G. & E substation was always there along with the little cottages on Casanova. These cottages are reserved by P.G.&E. employees who vacation here with their families.

During the fifties there were several vacant lots on this side of Fremont. At the time the name of the street was Fremont Boulevard.

Norma Jeans was a liquor store.

The present Monterey Produce was the Wishing Well diner. Out in the front they had a well with a roof overhead to complete the "Wishing Well concept". Many of the CONA original residents dined there. In the fifties they had a hamburger contest; if you broke the record your meal was free. A sergeant from Fort Ord broke the record with 19 hamburgers.

Big 5, previously was Griffiths unfinished furniture, and before that it was Dore's superstore, a furniture and appliance store, originally it was Union Furniture.

The present Gem store, was preceded by the Pink Elephant liquor store, do you remember the giant plastic pink pig on a free standing sidewalk mounted sign?

Monterey Bay Pet Hospital was actually functioning with a Vet for decades, now it is just rotting into the ground.

Monterey Lanes Bowling Alley was constructed in the mid fifties and competed with Cypress Bowl.

Monterey Cookhouse, was preceded by Point Joes, Monterey Joes, and originally Shakeys Pizza

Chef Lees was previously a Sambo's pancake house

Family Flea Market and Open House

Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center will be hosting a Family Flea Market and Open House Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Families will be selling their used toys, games, clothes, and other items at great prices! Table space goes quickly and is limited so sign up early. All ages are welcome to participate, however children 12 years and younger must be supervised by an adult.

\$15.00 booth space, and free admission to the general public. Booth registration begins Monday, April 26 and ends Friday, May 7 at Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center. Call 646-5665 for additional information.

Summer/Fall Activities Guide will be available Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at our Recreation Office, Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center, Hilltop Park Center, Scholze Park Center, Monterey Youth Center, and The Monterey Sports Center.

The Friends of the Monterey Public library

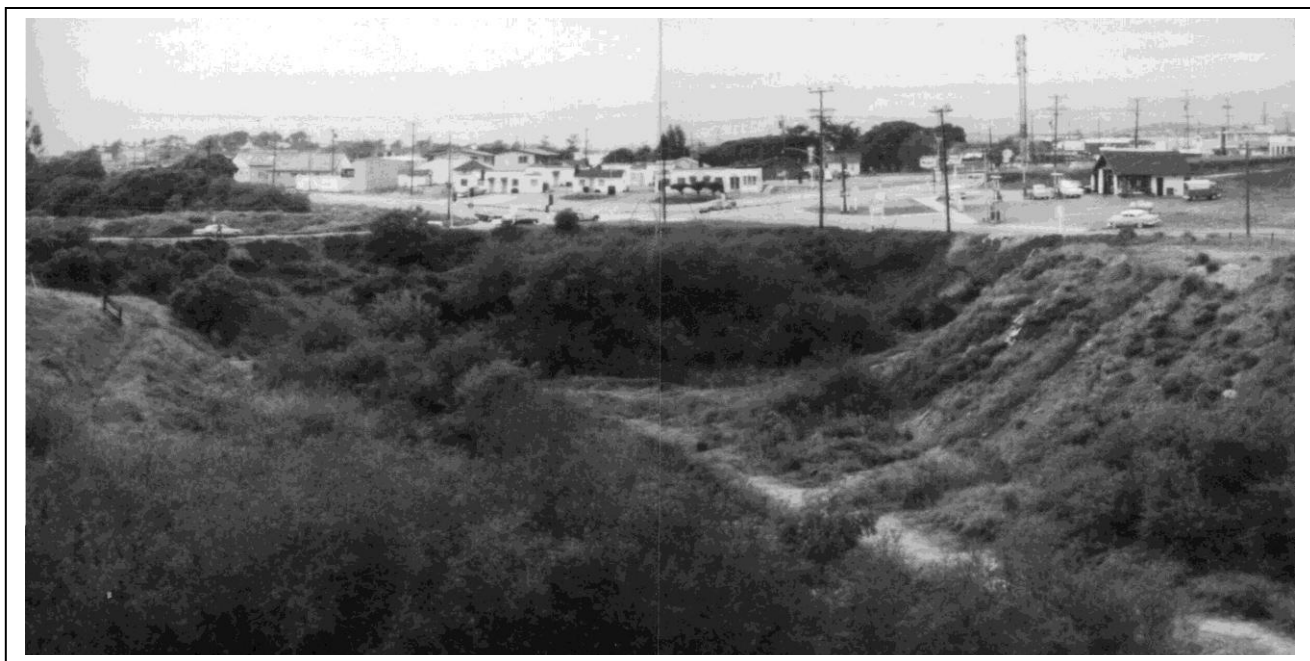
Welcome your contributions to the Ruth Vreeland Folklore Collection

All monies go directly to books and story-telling programs for children & adults at the Monterey Public Library

Donors who contribute \$75 or more by May 22 will be invited to join the Vreeland family to celebrate Ruth's 75 birthday at a tea party in June 2010

Make checks payable to: MPLFriends/Vreeland Collection and send to the Monterey Public Library 625 Pacific St., Monterey, CA 93940

For more information call 831-646-5601



..... Dick Baumann historical collection. Depicted is Fremont Blvd. c.1950's. View from rear of Melway Circle north with Fremont upper left(look at the car). Upper center is the Canyon Del Rey intersection. Note steel high voltage pole in upper right for point of reference. The fence in the far left center is now the location of Black Bear restaurant. The canyon was filled in and is the site of the present Safeway. Xerox copy printing duplication degrades photographs, you can see it clearly at www.cona.info .

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 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 Safeway 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
- City Council supports CONA Airport resolution 2008

- Sidewalk trip hazards repaired
- New streetlight in front of Park Center
- New Fairgrounds fence facing neighborhood
- New traffic calming reduces speeds in CONA
- City engaged in meetings with Seaside to design new entry at Canyon Del Rey
- North Fremont Street Streetscape Plan started.

2009

- **Replacement emergency water tank**
- **N. Fremont streetscape adopted**
- **CONA CERT team doubles in numbers**
- **CONA Neighborhood revitalization program is underway**
- **New Bookmobile serving neighborhood**
- **Handicap access installed at park play area**
- **2010 & More to Come**