

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) has been assigned new responsibilities:

Everyone should now know what CERT is in Monterey. In a regional disaster their green hats are probably the only help you are going to see for days.

Monterey's new disaster plan now asks CERT members to assess major damages in every neighborhood in Monterey. Each neighborhood needs to get that information to the Emergency Operations Center within 60 minutes after a disastrous event. We will use telephone land lines, cell phones, and finally our CERT radios to directing contact the EOC. **All CERT members will receive up to the minute cell text messages and emails of the current emergency situations in the city. That system is called Esponder.**

In the Emergency Operations Center, one person is assigned the task of Incident Commander. That person has the entire City of Monterey's considerable resources at hand and will have to decide where to commit those resources. Once committed, the resources are difficult to move, given road hazards, traffic jams, etc. For example, if we have extensive fires, and if we are late reporting this information, the fire engines may have been ordered to another part of the city. Our neighborhood assessment responsibilities include all 1,895 residents, living in 305 single family houses and 740 apartment units. It also includes our side of North Fremont Street, the Fairgrounds, and everything we can assess to the rear of our area, Fleet Numerical and the Airport Northside. Every street assessed with 60 minutes. A daunting task. One that needs your help; please take CERT training.

Tsunami maps

Have you been in the City of Monterey's Emergency Operations Center? On the wall is a new Tsunami threat map that depicts our city.

Can you think of a day we can go through without a disaster hitting somewhere in this world? One thing is clear, the more information you have beforehand the better chance you have for survival.

The good news is that our neighborhood is high enough to be fully out of any risk zone in the city from wave action. The bad news is that you might be in the red high risk zone when away from home. The high risk areas cover our waterfront from the Aquarium to Seaside. The entire downtown is also included in this area. Look at Monterey from the sea and you can see where a large wave will run, El Estero, Oak Grove and up Canyon Del Rey. If you hear of a warning or feel a strong quake it is up to you to get you and your family out of that risk area immediately. If a quake creates a wave in Chile it will take hours to get here, so there would be plenty of warning. If the earthquake is centered in our bay, a wave will just take a few minutes to reach shore. Preparedness is about being ready, and planning is always a key to survival.

Where are the high risk areas? The link to the Fire Departments copy of this map is <http://www.monterey.org/fire/preparedness/tsunamiflyer.pdf>

Tree cutting fines

Last year the Monterey City Council passed a new ordinance that levies huge fines for illegally and deliberately cutting city trees and trees on private property. The fines target professional tree trimmers and property owners who instruct them to illegally down or over prune trees. The penalties would amount to twice the value of the required replacement tree which could amount to \$76,000.00, as well as the replacement cost of the tree. If you have questions call 646-3860 and ask for the City Forester.

N. Fremont specific plan

April 7 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Location--Turf Club at the Monterey County Fairgrounds. The meeting will discuss setting priorities for the future redevelopment of N. Fremont Street into a mixed use commercial district. You will be able discuss your priorities regarding commercial properties that are adjacent to residential. **Dundee residents need to pay attention at this meeting; they are the closest to commercial in our neighborhood.** Mixed use commercial refers to apartment or condo units built above commercial businesses.

Parking in front yards

The problem keeps returning. Monterey city ordinances prohibit parking in front yard setbacks. Parking is allowed in front of the garage (not blocking sidewalks) and on paved areas directly adjacent to the driveway. What happens is that a few residents start parking in the front yard and when they get away with it others copy them. The city ordinance prohibits this practice. Chapter 38 of the Monterey 3.City Code, Section 38-23 subsection g. details the specifics of the ordinance. The city codes are in place, it is up to everyone to see that they are enforced.

Garbage cans

We have a lot of new residents in our neighborhood who may not know that their garbage cans are blocking the sidewalk when they put them out each week. Our handicapped residents are unable to move along the blocked sidewalks. Anything that blocks sidewalks is in violation of handicapped access. Parents with strollers and small children also face the same barriers. So please be considerate of others and put your garbage cars in the parking strip each week.

Foreclosures hit our city hard!

Every street in our city is feeling the effects of what is called an economic downturn. Recession? Depression? Whatever the name, the results are devastating. Our area has seen at least 15 foreclosures that we know of, there are probably more than that with another wave coming. These are trying times and are even more reason why our association has to remain active and organized. We cannot avoid facing our problems, we must stand united to protect our homes neighborhood and city.

Ramona CONA entry sign

You have probably noticed that the CONA entry sign on Ramona was knocked down and destroyed by a vehicle accident a few weeks ago. The city is seeking reimbursement for the repair costs and the replacement sign is presently being fabricated, it on the way to being finished. We know our neighborhood identity signs are important to our residents.

Property damage accidents keep happening and nobody can figure out why.

We are not quite sure how to interpret this continuing type of property damage done by errant vehicles. To summarize; just the week before the sign was hit another accident occurred on Ramona at Littleness. A vehicle left the road, hit the sidewalk and crashed through the front yard of a resident, driving through two locations in the front picket fence and collided with a pickup truck that was parked by the garage. Last year, a vehicle ricocheted off parked cars on Melway Circle damaging several vehicles. Airport Road has seen three vehicle accidents with cars driving through front yards. Two stop signs have been also knocked over on this same street.

We are unable to figure out why we have so many single car accidents on our streets. We went for many years, decades even, without this happening.

The interactive traffic signs on Airport Road are proving to be effective in encouraging speeding cars to slow down. Recent statistical data received shows that cars that were exceeding the speed limit slowed down 35% of the time once they passed the blinking sign. This percentage is remarkable in that it is a fixed object slowing the cars down. If the police follow up with strict speed enforcement we will see a larger percentage reduction of speeding cars in the next report. CONA has obtained funding for 4 more of these signs; the City Council has put all these type of projects on hold until the economic situation for the City improves.

Graphs and the Airport Road report are available at www.cona.info. The report shows each vehicle's speed before the V calm sign and after the sign. It also shows the time of day for each speeder.



Damaged CONA entry sign on Ramona

Fairgrounds parking program

Resident Permit Parking Program – Fairground Special Events

The resident permit parking program for the Oak Knoll area will be in effect during the upcoming events:

Monterey Bay Blues Festival June 25 – 27, 2010
Reggae Festival July 30 – August 1, 2010 (tentative)
Monterey County Fair September 1 – 6, 2010
Monterey Jazz Festival September 17 - 19, 2010

During these events, one-hour time limit signs will again be placed throughout the Oak-Knoll area and enforced by the City of Monterey parking staff. You are required to display the resident permit on the driver's side of the dashboard of your vehicle(s). As a reminder; permits for Dundee are a different color and permits from other streets are not valid on Dundee. **All parking regulations, such as parking in the wrong direction and blocking driveways, will also be enforced even if you have a permit.**

If you are a new resident to the Oak Knoll area and have not yet received permits, or if you require additional permits, please visit the Parking Division Office at 340 Tyler Street, Monday – Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Remember, to maintain handicap access the barricades will be placed in the parking strip in front of our homes. This is done so that sidewalks are not blocked to wheel chair access. You may move the barricades a few feet in either direction to maintain your parking access.

If you need additional information or have questions concerning this program, please call the City of Monterey Parking Division at (831) 646-3953.

COPPS meeting on April 22, 2010 - at our community center. Mark your calendars!

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