



CASANOVA OAK KNOLL

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MAY 2011 www.cona.info

phone 831-375-6241

email -- conamonterey@aol.com

CONA Spring Cleanup set for June 18th.

Mark your calendars for this one time cleanup project!

The neighborhood cleanup plans have taken extra time to set up. The program manager left the city and while everyone was trying to deal with this we have had one of the most unusual winters in decades. We needed a rain free weekend, we will see.

The City of Monterey housing and property management office has been working with the CONA Neighborhood Association to program a neighborhood clean-up event. The event is scheduled to occur on **Saturday, June 18, 2011. On this date Monterey City Disposal Company will coordinate curbside pick-up of large and miscellaneous items like large awkward items, as well as, household hazardous waste.**

Monterey City Disposal Service will also provide assistance when needed to

get the large and/or bulky items out to the curb for those households who can not manage the move on their own.

Funding for the clean-up event is being provided through local use of Federal Community Development Block Grant funds that have been received by the City of Monterey.

In order to assist the Neighborhood and Monterey City Disposal Service in determining the full scope of the clean-up need, the City's housing and property management office staff will be calling all of the residents who have responded to the CONA Spring Cleanup Survey to clarify the number and types of waste items that are intended to be turned in for pick-up. The housing and property management office will also be using these calls to inform the residents of

other types of assistance programs that are currently available to senior and low and moderate income households in the Neighborhood.

If you did not turn in a survey form but you still would like to participate in the pick-up event you should call the housing and property management office and leave your contact information.

A staff member will get back to you with questions on your pick-up needs and information on the program. **The office number to call is (831) 646-1743. Please call and leave your name and contact information.**

A staff member will be returning these calls on a regular basis.

CONA 29th. Annual Garage Sale June 11 & 12

Time to clean out the garage!

Perfect timing to clean out your garage and house, sell what you can at the annual garage sale, and then get rid of the rest on the next Saturday at our CONA spring cleanup.

Our main purpose for the garage sale and cleanup is to rid our neighborhood of excess fire load. News stories of fires devastating neighborhoods are more common every year. With small lots, good size houses, garden sheds, lean-to,

carports, storage sheds and fences our homes are all almost touching. Let's break the burnable chain of combustibles and participate in the cleanup.

CONA places ads in the Monterey Herald for the garage sale. Please pass the word to your own email lists, and post e-notices wherever you can. Start talking to your neighbors and get the enthusiasm up for these events; let's make this a record setting garage sale! Remember to put signs or balloons on your

street corner; they attract more cars with buyers to enter your street.

The garage sale flyers and details of the spring cleanup will be delivered to all our residential houses in mid-May.

CONA newsletters are only delivered to current CONA members. The Garage sale flyers are being delivered to everyone this year because we want the Spring Cleanup information to reach every home.

CONA ANNUAL MEETING –May 25, 2011 Weds. @ 7:00 P.M.

CONA 2011 Annual Meeting

2010 turned out to be a year of continuous follow-ups to keep our neighborhood revitalization program slowly moving forward. The Spring Cleanup will be part of this program.

Representatives from the Monterey City Housing Department will attend the meeting to answer questions regarding the cleanup and to describe the various aid programs for our residents.

At this time the 2011 Neighborhood Improvement Program is in doubt because of the economic situation with the City of Monterey. We started the year with a \$5 million dollar deficit. Budget reductions to staff have at this point reduced the deficit to \$4 million dollars. The present retirement system (PERS) for city employees has proven to be unsustainable. This week the City sent out 38 notices to present employees stating that their positions may be eliminated. About 50 positions were cut last year. This all computes to vastly reduced services to our residents, and the continued cancellations of city events and celebrations.

Still on hold after 3 years are many previously approved Neighborhood Improvement Projects. For CONA, those projects on hold are traffic calming elements to complete our traffic plan and also replacement street trees. NIP has always contributed more than a fair share in the cities financial problems. It is time those already approved projects be allowed to be completed. If we wait any longer, the estimated budgets for these projects will be totally out of date and no longer financially feasible. Our elected representatives need to hear from everyone of you. To be silent now is to undo years of hard work, public participation and any possible progress for all our neighborhoods.

Foreclosures in the city and our neighborhood in particular are finally slowing down. The total number now is well past 30. Several of these are condo units at the Cypress Park complex on Casanova. The City of Pacific Grove is in the process of passing a "Blight ordinance" aimed at banks not maintaining foreclosed properties. This is something that Monterey needs to look at very closely.

N. Fremont Street is currently in a dire condition. We have the Pet Hospital vacant and deteriorating very badly. Eddies is vacant and in a similar state. Norma Jeans is out of business and Doctors on Duty has a sign announcing a moving date of May 2 to a new location in Seaside. The Blockbuster chain is in bankruptcy. The new N. Fremont Specific Plan draft is *proposing* at this time a 300% FAR for properties along Bruce Lane, a **3 story maximum**.

It is vital that our organization stays active and engaged at all levels. Your participation is of paramount importance. We cannot afford to let our neighborhood deteriorate.

Please come to our annual meeting, volunteer if you can, participate in the Spring Cleanup, and talk to your neighbors. If you have not filled out your neighborhood watch cards from last year, you have a great reason to meet and exchange contact information with your neighbors. This is the best way to keep our neighborhood safe. The blank forms are available on our website at

www.cona.info .

We will have a short discussion about Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness. This is preliminary to a June 22nd. meeting at our community center to discuss how you can prepare for an emergency, how our organization is going to help and to present brand new information about new science on possible hazards in our area. **We will introduce members of CONA who have completed CERT training. Get to know them now, not afterward!**

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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

2011

GENERAL MEETING

May 25 – Wednesday

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

PARK CENTER

735 Ramona

Agenda

7:00 Call to order

Reports

2011 Election of officers

Old Business

2011 Priorities

New Business

7:30 Spring cleanup

7:45 Questions & Answers

8:00 Neighborhood Revitalization

8:30 N. Fremont Specific Plan update

8:45 Neighborhood Preparedness

9:00 Adjournment

COME & BRING YOUR NEIGHBOR

2010

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President-Richard Ruccello

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 Ruccello

Alternate NIP Representatives:

Gary Carlsen

Mike Brassfield

2011 Calendar

May 25 – 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

June 11 & 12 – Garage Sale Sat. & Sun

June 18 – Spring Cleanup (Sat. only)

June 22 – Neighborhood emergency preparedness meeting 7:00-8:30p.m.

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CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

In 1995, I signed up for the course that preceded the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course with my wife. I had been involved in emergency planning for many years but being able to attend with my wife to address very local emergency problems had a certain appeal to me. The completion of the course also made her feel better about preparing for and getting through a disaster. We completed the course and later updated it to become CERT members.

Now operating under the National Emergency Management System, it is still practiced under the Incident Command System that will apply at all levels of emergency responses – even our very own neighborhood working with the City staff.

This is a city preparation plan that has real merit. It is volunteers working in their own neighborhoods preparing and helping their families and neighborhoods should something happen. We need more people to become part of the effort. Our neighborhood used to have over twice as many CERT volunteers. Many now have moved away or otherwise cannot participate so we need to refresh the CERT membership.

On a personal level, it is a planned approach that teaches people how to prepare their homes, train family members, and work with their neighborhoods, other CERT units and city staff. The training covers this and goes into specific things like training to show new members a planned emergency response approach; everything from how to turn off water, gas and electricity, how to store water for use in an emergency, and how to assist family members and friends in an emergency. It is a great opportunity for family members to use and prepare for an emergency but the information is useful at any time. There is no charge for those participating and there is no requirement for active participation with the teams but some volunteer time is most welcome and rewarding.

If you or someone in your family (age 13 and over) is interested or if you want more information, the CERT program can be reached at 646-3416 or you may email for information to montereycert@hotmail.com.

There is an old expression that, “All politics are local.” This applies to the politics that really mean something during a disaster or emergency. If you are not a part of the solution during such an event, you may be irreverent or just plain in the way. We need people to be a part of that solution and being a local emergency response member is a good way to become part of the preparation and solution. Operate locally and have a voice where it matters.

We recently saw what can happen in what is probably the most prepared nation in the world, Japan. Because of the training in the coastal communities, even a 30 second warning helped many people get moving before the waves struck. We need more people prepared to assist their family and neighbors in the event of such an emergency.

“TOUGH TIMES NEVER LAST...BUT TOUGH PEOPLE DO”.....Mike Brassfield, CONA CERT

Ask a new neighbor to join CONA!

Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center Happenings

Hello again, neighbors! Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center is offering new and exciting classes and events with the new Summer/Fall season. Please stop by and pick up a new copy of the Summer/Fall play! Monterey Activities Guide available Monday, April 25th. Registration will begin Wednesday, April 27th. Look for new, themed Tots classes such as Pint-Sized Pilgrims, Under the Big Top, Where the Wild Things Are and Spanish for Little Ones. We also offer art and specialty classes for youth, to include Summer Art Camp for Kids, Jewelry Making for Kids and Teens, After school Snack Attack, Mad Hatter’s Party and much more! Don’t think that we have forgotten about all of you adults out there. With the Summer/Fall season we will also offer a variety of adult and family classes. Have a blast in Mother and Daughter Belly Dance or learn how to repair and maintain your bicycle in Bicycle Maintenance. Have a Dog that needs training? Try signing up for our Dog Obedience classes. Families, come enjoy Family Night or Family Movie Night for a quality evening together!

Need a computer to check email or create a resume? We also offer internet access computers that are available to the public for free. If you need to learn how to check email or edit a document, we also offer Computer Basics for ages 11 and older.

Don’t forget that our park includes two beautiful, good-sized BBQ areas that can be reserved for BBQ parties year-round. The summer is booking up quickly, so reserve your date soon. We also rent out the Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center facility itself. The facility accommodates a maximum of 75 people and would be perfect for your next baby shower, birthday party, wedding reception and more!

Our operating hours are Monday-Thursday 1 p.m.-9 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Please feel free to call us at (831)646-5665, email us at deis@ci.monterey.ca.us or stop by anytime. We look forward to serving you!!!!

Tsunami articles, are you paying attention?

Last years April and August CONA newsletters both had articles about Tsunami awareness. The August newsletter included a pamphlet for your information. Last months disaster in Japan just put more focus on potential threats to our own community.

The police and fire department has its own CERT automated activation capabilities. The calls went out to CERT volunteers at 5:45a.m. with a request to report by 6:15 a.m. to Fire Station #1. **39 CERT’s responded and were dispatched to warn those on the waterfront of the possibility of high waves.** This is the largest CERT response to date! *One young mother with 3 small children insisted on her right to take her children on the beach to see the wave. She did!* This is an example of being part of the problem and not part of the solution.

Do you have an emergency plan for your family? Do you have a plan B if Plan A cannot work?

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

- **\$40K HUD grant for CONA spring cleanup 1st in city to get hazardous waste pickup**
- **\$20K provided for home remodels**
- **Program funds for CONA code enforcement**

2011 & More to Come