

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

“The 100 Plan” By Mike Brassfield, Emergency Planner

The City of Monterey has recently sponsored Emergency Preparedness classes to assist our citizens in preparing for all-risk emergencies. Part of this class builds upon the supplies we keep in our homes. Emergency planners used to say that everyone needs to keep 3-days worth of supplies in your home in case of emergencies. Well, if you look at disasters that occur in the US, you will note that this is not enough.

Even staying within a budget, we can all easily build upon what we keep in our homes by starting what is called, “The 100 Plan.” Start with your normal menus; what the family likes to eat. Then create a menu of about 40 meals with the items on your menu food list. Write out the menu and the recipes for these meals. Then start building up your supplies to ensure that you have what your recipes call for. You will find that you can build up your supplies and still stay within a budget.

Then, if you normally buy canned goods and dry food mixes, work to accumulate 100 cans of food. This should include meat products such as chicken, tuna, salmon, beef, pork, turkey, etc. Also, vegetables, fruits, some ready mixed meals in a can, and whatever your family will eat. A clue for this is not to buy things the family will NOT eat. Remember, keep it simple and easy to prepare. Next, build up 100 pounds of beans, rice, pasta, instant potatoes, and other dry food products. This can include flour and corn meal.

An easy meal we use is pinto beans, a small canned ham, and cornbread. Good food, easy to produce with a minimum of fuss and it uses materials on hand. The small ham comes from CVS or Walgreens sales where they periodically cut the price of these hams (and other meat products) in half. So, we are saving money as we improve our safety position.

Once you start on this plan, mark dates and rotate the products as you use the inventory. It is a waste to just buy it and put it aside to spoil. It is also good practice if you need to prepare it for an emergency.

Besides working to improve your food supply, you can start with a simple thing like water. A goal might be to have 100 bottles or gallons of water available. If this is not pure water, then you need a way purify what water is available if there is no city water.

Next, if the bank and auto-teller machines are not working, put 100 bills aside. You can pick the denominations but the idea is to have instant cash available and stay within your budget.

Start now to make your home safer if you have an emergency. By the way, a friend recently told me that these kinds of supplies came in handy when a large number of people came to his home for a meal. He just pulled products out of his supplies and it worked well.

Neighborhood Improvement Program

Your Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) in Action. By Mike Brassfield, CONA Board and NIP Alternate.

The Monterey City NIP Committee has recently finished another round of projects for the neighborhoods within the city. With the current budget problems, it was a remarkable experience this year.

You may recall that the NIP became a part of the City Charter years ago to utilize a small portion of the Transient Occupancy Tax paid by visitors to our city hotels and motels. This program allows citizens and the neighborhoods within the city to propose projects within those neighborhoods. As an example, CONA came up with four (4) projects: 1) CONA Park Radio Room Improvements (to improve the CERT Radio capability); 2) Casanova/Melway Exit Crosswalk/ADA Access (install bulb out, handicap ramps, and brick paver crosswalks at Melway Exit and Casanova Avenue intersection, and a crosswalk for handicap access will increase the safety for pedestrians wishing to cross Casanova Avenue to get to Cypress Center and Safeway); 3) CONA Park Picnic Area Improvements (renovate Casanova Oak Knoll Park picnic area. Install new decomposed granite surface, replace barbecues, and construct arbor to update the heavily used 20 years old picnic area); 4) 41 Melway Cir. Storm Drain Repair (rehabilitate corrugated metal storm drain pipe for 40 feet of 12 inch line between 41 Melway Circle and Safeway).

Your NIP representative (one of the NIP founders), Richard Ruccello, and the two alternates, Gary Carlson, and I all took turns voting on all this year's projects for all the neighborhoods and we are grateful at our success in gaining approval for our four projects.

An observation of mine was that this year seemed to start with the lower cost projects and then build to include higher cost projects. It seemed that an unstated view was that we would try to gain at least some projects throughout the entire city before we voted for higher cost projects; like we all wanted to spread things out as much as we could in these tight budget times.

Our city is unique with this NIP as I am sure that there are people in city government who can always find ways to spend public money. It is unique that the neighborhoods can themselves vote in projects for the much smaller portions of the city where they live. I am constantly talking with people who see our city and comment how well the neighborhoods look in comparison to other cities. I can proudly respond that it is our NIP that gives us the chance to work in the local areas on projects we want to happen. It is a nice feeling and I really enjoyed this year's NIP projects and process.

19 Parks projects
11 City priority projects for storm water and roads
5 Bulb-outs and American with Disabilities crosswalks
4 CERT/EOC projects
4 Sidewalks new/repair
9 Other

Make it a goal to recruit one new member into the Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood Association.

New Charter School Opens its Doors in our Community

On August 15, 2011, Bay View Academy (BVA) a public, independent K-5 charter school that opened its doors for the 2011-2012 school year. Like traditional public schools, BVA is free and open to all students. BVA is located at the Del Monte Elementary campus on Casa Verde Way.

Founded on the core principles of community, innovation, and passion for learning, BVA offers a broad academic program that sparks imaginations and produces creative and critical thinkers. Using charter school flexibility, BVA allows students to discover and pursue their interests, offers hands-on learning, actively involves parents, and extends the classroom beyond its walls into the community.

Community involvement, including partnerships with local educational, cultural and research organizations enriches the [academic program](#). At BVA, all children are artists, authors, scientists, musicians, and mathematicians,,,,,Paul Warfield, CONA Board Member

Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center

Hello neighbors! This summer is shaping up to be another beautiful summer in Monterey's "sun-belt!" Casanova Oak Knoll Park BBQ areas are wonderful for your next birthday party or other special event. Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center itself, is an also indoor option for your next event. With a maximum capacity of 75 people, the light and airy center offers vaulted ceilings, a full kitchen, activity room and main hall area.

Don't forget to join in on the enriching classes and events offered at Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center this Summer/Fall season. We continue to offer Tot and Youth classes such as Masks, Pumpkins and Other Spooky Creations, Mini Monet, Tots-In-Motion, Art Camp, Studio Art for Kids, Beginning and Intermediate Piano and much more! Our Cooking Kids Classes are also a great way for kids to learn their way around the kitchen and whip up some delicious delicacies!

In addition to our Tot and Youth Programs, we offer Adult classes, including Dog and Puppy Training Classes, Walking Politely on a Leash, Canine Recall, Bicycle Maintenance, Home Buyer Workshops, and Computer Basics.

November we will be having a Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair. Artisans can sell your handmade creations! Table space goes quickly and is limited so sign up early! Registration for this event ends Friday, November 30th and can be taken at Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center. Please feel free to call us at (831) 646-5665, email us at deis@ci.monterey.ca.us, or stop by anytime! Our hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 1 p.m.-9 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. We look forward to serving you soon!

CONA Block Captains Needed!

Every block in our neighborhood needs someone to pass out newsletters, spread the word from CONA emergency emails and to connect with everyone on your block through an annual Block Party.

Noise Impacts from Fairgrounds

What is too loud? Current Monterey City Code for music originating from a commercial business is 65db. at the commercial property line. The Fairgrounds criteria is 95 db 100 feet from the stage. This translates to a high over 80 db ¼ mile from the Fairgrounds. If yours is like most other homes in the neighborhood with double pane windows sometimes the concerts are so loud you cannot hear your television with the windows closed. There have been times when a hand placed on window glass could feel the bass drums. That is at ¼ mile from the source. Monterey City Codes do not apply to the Fairgrounds which are on State of California land. At some point the City of Monterey has to take some responsibility for this situation. It is not fair to anyone who lives here to have to endure this level of sound. It is far past time that each and every one of us needs to let our elected city representatives do what we elected them to do, represent their constituents.

Last year we endured the "Rave" with drumbeats the entire night, still there at 7:00 a.m. the next day. The Trace Adkins concert had alcohol problems, used our yards for restrooms and had out of control noise levels. Then there were the Deadheads from the Grateful Dead, with marijuana sales right on our streets.

We have assurances that this will never happen again. We will make sure it doesn't. Remember this is an election year.

Fire Hazards

Weeds are full size and drying out. Not only are the seeds now blowing everywhere, they are a fire hazard. Please attend to them before we have a spreading fire. 4 th . of July is almost here, there are always those who set off rockets. If you notice fire hazard weeds, please notify our city code enforcement at 646-3750.

Driveway Approaches

We had an inquiry about the possibility of another driveway approach project. Several years ago the Monterey City Council made a policy decision that this type of project could not proceed because of the economic situation facing the city. That situation is just getting worse here and world wide. A turnaround is now looking to be a very long way off.

N. Fremont Street leads city in TOT increase in last 1/4

2011's last quarter (October to December) saw N. Fremont Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) jump 27% compared to the previous year. If you recall last fall was sunny and warm. Little snow in the Sierra's led to an increase in tourism. The rest of the city saw raises of 11-14%. N. Fremont contributed a total for last year of \$1.2 million dollars to our hotel tax. This money supplies general city services for all our residents.

There is talk of changing the name of N. Fremont Street again, what do you think? See the agenda.

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**Future Changes to Monterey
What do you think?**

At a May City Council meeting the subject was possible changes to the streets of Monterey.

One possibility being studied was whether to proceed with possible name changes to major streets in the city. Discussed were changing the names of Munras, Abrego, Washington and Fremont streets. There are around 30,000 people in Monterey, three showed up to speak. There is a staff recommendation to close Polk street to cars, and to close a portion of Pearl street.

Part of the studies also recommend moving Del Monte, at Figuero; the three lanes would head towards Wharf II and then make a hard left behind the old train station. The three lanes would enter the tunnel right by Urgent Care. Under study is a plan to move Alvarado through the Custom House Plaza meeting Scott Street about where the fountain is now.

**News from the City Traffic Engineering Division:
Radar Speed Signs**

The radar speed signs on Airport Rd. were funded by the Neighborhood Improvement Program and installed in 2007. Since their installation the signs have reduced speeding on Airport Rd, especially for vehicles traveling between 25 mph and 35 mph.

Although the signs have proven to be effective traffic calming devices, the City has received some feedback from the community that smaller radar speed signs are preferred in residential neighborhoods. In response, the City Traffic Engineering Division conducted a multi-step evaluation process to determine the sign and vendor that would best meet the needs of neighborhoods and City staff.

The new radar speed sign that the City will use in residential areas is SafePace 100, made by Traffic Logix. This sign is smaller than the existing radar speed signs on Airport Rd, displays driver speeds, is solar-powered, collects and stores data.

Monterey on the Move

The City is developing a pedestrian bicycle and transit plan and needs your input. The plan will identify and prioritize projects that will strive to make walking, bicycling and riding the bus around the city more convenient and pleasurable. Public outreach for the plan will begin in May and continue through the end of the year.

If you would like wider sidewalks, bicycle paths, wheelchair ramps, dog-friendly drinking fountains, real-time information at bus shelters or other improvements in your neighborhood or around the city, let your voice be heard. The goal of the plan is to make the streets of Monterey a friendly place for all users. If you would like to participate in the planning process and give valuable input, contact Ariana Green, Transportation Planner agreen@ci.monterey.ca.us, (831)-646-3473.

More on the agenda at our annual meeting.

Radar signs to be installed on Casanova

New solar speed signs will be installed on Casanova. Last September, the Monterey City Council released on hold funds that allow this project to be installed.

Radar signs will not be put on Ramona

After multiple attempts to get consensus on this street for installations of these traffic calming devices, we have not received any support for this project. Ramona solar speed signs will not be installed and the funds (\$30,000) will be returned to the NIP program.

Traffic Calming

The City Council has released \$117,000 of the CONA traffic calming Phase V money, it has been on hold for several years. We are following our CONA Traffic Calming Plan, the Traffic Engineer has picked one of the unfinished projects as the next one (a median) on Casanova.