



# CASANOVA OAK KNOLL

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MAY 2013 [www.cona.info](http://www.cona.info)

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### Monterey Planning Commission approves N. Fremont Specific Plan

#### Continued blight or overdevelopment, are these your only choices?

Monterey has held dozens of meetings over the last two plus years, all the while developing a reputation of planning by survivor. Those who are left get to decide!

Last January, the Monterey Planning Commission approved the N. Fremont Specific Plan. This meeting was preceded by two town hall meetings at the CONA community center. About 40 of our residents attended each of those meetings. They strongly expressed their opinions about the potential impacts on our homes from the changes this plan proposes.

#### The plan to change the zoning on all of N. Fremont has been dropped.

A motel could have changed to a store or a business could change to a motel. Examples: In Shape or CVS changing to a

motel or hotel, this is no longer in the Specific Plan.

The residential benefit parking district in which businesses could purchase parking rights on our residential streets has also dropped out of the plan.

The Plan still has the following parts that were **approved** by the Planning Commission:

On the N. Fremont frontage at the sidewalk, buildings may be 35 feet high by property right, 40 feet by use permit. With requirements for elevators in multi-story residential units above commercial stores, the elevator equipment will stick up over the top floor. The Planning Commission will decide how high the roofs need to be to hide the equipment on top. 50 feet plus is what we could see along N. Fremont Street (and along

Bruce Lane), depending on particular circumstances.

Shared parking, in-lieu fee parking, and waived parking requirements, will all be decided by the Planning Commission. If the situation does not work out as planned (not enough parking supplied on-site), the only relief direction would be spill over parking in the neighborhood; no other options are presented.

Many of our members felt they were not being heard, but instead sold a vision of developers and city planners. Our residents stated over and over, "Remember Cypress Center".

The longest planning process ever, endless meetings, and being told time after time "there will be no new buildings, **no relief from blight unless we accept up to 3 story buildings next to our homes**".(cont. on page 2)

### CONA 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Garage Sale June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

Take the opportunity to join with your neighbors and clear out all your unwanted possessions. This is the best way to do it. The weekend after the sale you can dispose of unwanted large items

during our CONA 2013 Spring Cleanup. How convenient is that!

The association places ads in the Herald for you. Everyone does their own sale in their own driveway. The details

flyer is enclosed inside. This newsletter is only delivered to current CONA members (dues pay for the printing). Please encourage your new neighbors to join CONA.

### Spring Cleanup - Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00a.m.- 4:30p.m.

Every single family CONA household will be receiving a Spring Cleanup inventory survey form by mail in May.

The City of Monterey is funding this cleanup through a grant that supports neighborhoods designated as a revitali-

zation area. Monterey Disposal is making a special effort with this program.

Please be prepared to indicate the types of materials that you want picked up and whether you need physical help getting it out to the curb.

Only those residents that complete and return the inventory form will be able to participate. **No exceptions.** **When you receive the form please mail it back promptly.**

**CONA ANNUAL MEETING May 15, 2013 . @ 7:00 P.M.**

## CONA 2013 Annual Meeting

Can you afford to not participate? This is your neighborhood and for most of us, our largest asset is our homes; we need to protect our property rights. We can best do that together, speaking in one voice. Please make an extra effort to come to the annual meeting, and ask your new neighbors to join you.

This year we have two Monterey Council members, Nancy Selfridge & Alan Haffa, coming to meet you and hear what is important to you.

In the near future, the City of Monterey will be making several major decisions. The Council will be hiring our first new City Manager in over 20 years, and looking at adoption of new Master and Specific Plans. These decisions will change the direction of our city for many decades to come. This is your opportunity to let our elected representatives know your views on our city's future.

CONA needs volunteers to step forward to take the lead as an event coordinators. In the past we have put on Park Days, Holiday parties, along with special events. Remember the Trolleys we rented to sing Christmas carols? We now have many new residents in the neighborhood who have not had the chance to meet us; new events would provide that opportunity. Let us know if you can help.

### (N. Fremont Specific Plan continued from page 1)

CONA has always maintained that we have encouraged profit for development, but not at someone else's loss. Our members want to see redevelopment with the most intensive uses over on Fairgrounds Road, not adjacent to residential homes. Neighborhood-serving commercial businesses are essential to reduce traffic congestion in our city. More tiny storefronts such as Starbucks and Subways are not what we need. Larger stores, which are economically viable and serve our residents are needed.

The City of Monterey's emphasis is on high density residential in our commercial areas. That may be ideal downtown but when that development intrudes on homes it is a different story.

Parks and Recreation fees are mandated for multi-family areas but are waived in the commercial mixed use areas. These residents need and deserve to be served just the same as everyone else: to leave their needs out of the requirements for high density housing is just plain wrong. It is assumed that they will stay single, need no more parking, and not have children. When these things happen our planning process does not have a plan B. Our neighborhoods will be forced to absorb the impacts.

At the very first meeting, our members made it very clear they did not want to see the "tunnel look" down our very long N. Fremont Street. This Specific Plan gives us exactly that look. Stepped back buildings or not, it will look like Lighthouse Avenue, but most of it will be 3 stories.

Our choices are limited now, if we do not accept what the Planning Commission has decided, we must let the Monterey City Council know how we feel when it comes before them for a vote in July.

Some options can be a legal challenge or just move forward with a Neighborhood Protection referendum and take our arguments to a ballot.

### Next CERT class!

If you have been thinking that you would like to take Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), you might be interested in our next class. We will be teaching the FEMA-approved curriculum September 8 – October 17. in Monterey's EOC. There is no cost to participants.

This class teaches how to prepare home and workplace for emergencies, light search & rescue, emergency medical techniques, fire extinguisher use, and Monterey CERT organization. These are good life skills. Classes are open to ages 13 to 80+.

To register or learn more, email [MontereyCERT@Hotmail.com](mailto:MontereyCERT@Hotmail.com) or leave a message at 646-3416.

## 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

2013

### GENERAL MEETING

May 15 – Wednesday

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

PARK CENTER

735 Ramona

#### Agenda

7:00 Call to order

Reports

2013 Election of officers

Old Business

2013 Priorities

New Business

7:20 Thane Wilson, Monterey Housing Department - Neighborhood Revitalization- grants & loans

7:40 Monterey Council members Selfridge & Haffa – the subject is CONA concerns

8:45 2013 Spring Cleanup

9:00 Adjournment

## COME & BRING YOUR NEIGHBOR

2012

### CONA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President-Richard Rucello

Vice-president-Gary Carlsen

Secretary-Tuppence Cabot

Treasurer-open

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

## 2013 Calendar

May 15 – 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

June 8 & 9 – Garage Sale Sat.&Sun

June 15 – Spring Cleanup (Sat. only)

December – Firemen's Toy Drive

## **Police hold town hall meeting on neighborhood questions.**

**March 6, 2013:** Based upon a request from the neighborhood association presidents last August, Monterey neighborhood representatives met with Police Chief Phil Penko and his staff to discuss crime issues in the city.

The Chief reported that there has been an increase in burglaries in the city but that his staff has been very active in arresting these offenders – including using DNA to identify offenders (a first on the Central Coast). He and his staff attribute the increase to the release of inmates from state prisons and early releases from the County Jail due to court orders and overcrowding. His staff also pointed out that there have been a recent increase of heroin use and this usually increases theft.

The Chief said that their staffing is currently 51 sworn officers and 17 support staff (an 18% percent reduction in staffing from previous years). While they are also dealing with some staff out for work related injuries, they are meeting minimum staffing levels on patrol. He attributed this to his staff making hard staffing decisions to keep the line of officers protecting the public.

Another of the issues discussed were response times to calls-for-service. For the past year, the AVERAGE response times for the top three priority calls were (from the time a County Dispatcher takes the call and passes it to the officer by radio until that officers arrives on the scene of the call): Priority 1 (highest priority and potential of danger to the public and officers), 3 minutes 49 seconds. For Priority 2 calls (high priority but less danger to the public and officers), 3 minutes, 12 seconds. And, for Priority 3, (lower priority but still important), was 5 minutes, 23 seconds. We discussed instances where the response time for burglaries (not in progress) was delayed to over an hour, but the average response times are certainly within common levels and may be characterized as good times. It was pointed out that if a response was delayed more than 10 minutes, dispatchers are directed to pass the information on to the supervisor on duty.

The Chief reports that he is committed to working smarter because the city does not have the staff that they previously had. With the day-time population of workers and tourists, they continue to focus meeting crime trends and changing tactics to address crime. One new tool is a multi-agency task force to address narcotics and high priority type crimes.

Other topics discussed were noise issues, neighborhood complaints about specific locations, gang problems and related issues, traffic enforcement, and feedback when information is requested from and given by neighborhoods. As an attending participant, I am thankful for the work our police department does and commend them for addressing police issues in an active and appropriate manner.

Not discussed at the meeting but certainly appropriate, we and our neighbors need to start pushing our elected city representatives to increase the staffing levels of this essential city staff.

In his message to the public, Chief Penko quotes one of my favorites, Sir Robert Peel (in 1829), “The Police are the public, and the public are the Police.” This relates to the relationship of our police to us as citizens. We MUST work

WITH the police to address our local problems. This means that citizens should be reporting suspicious or obvious crime problems; be a good witness by noting what a vehicle and suspicious person looks like – and report it to the police; this means that if you do not feel you are getting the appropriate police service, you should quickly call or meet a police staff person to address your concerns; this means that we should voice our concerns to the appropriate city government officials if we do not feel the police are getting the appropriate support for personnel. It also means that if you disagree with how or what that agency is doing, bring it to the attention of the appropriate person within the city and do this is a civil manner – it is working WITH the agency. It is also said that we get the level of service we deserve and without being a part of the community, that level of what is deserved may not be what is desired. We must participate and do our part in policing our city; be good eyes and ears, and care about what happens. One of the ways you can do this is supporting and being active in the efforts your Board is undertaking to revitalize our Neighborhood Watch program. CONA board member....Mike Brassfield

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

## **CONA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

Neighbors on Dundee have met to get to know each other, exchange contact numbers and restart their neighborhood watch.

Our next block meetings will include residents of Edinburgh, Lerwick, Ramona and Airport Road. Soon to be followed by Melway. We need volunteers to start block meetings on Ralston and Littleness. Can you volunteer to help?

## **CONA Traffic Calming progress**

It has taken awhile but installations of two smaller interactive solar speed signs will be installed soon near the middle of Casanova. They have been purchased and are ready for installation. They are funded by your Neighborhood Improvement Program.

Signs for Ramona have been vetoed by those neighbors and the funds will be returned to NIP.

Casanova at Melway bulb-outs and crosswalk are 50% designed. Last February, NIP approved \$42,000 to complete the design of an ADA crosswalk on Euclid at Casanova. Currently, there is no ADA ramp on the upper corner of this intersection. Standard ramps will also be installed on the corners of Ralston at Casanova. These access points will comply with current Federal disability law.

We hope to have both crosswalks built at the same time so that the cost efficiencies of that will result in lower costs. Heavy equipment, asphalt, concrete finishers will all be within a block of the two projects. The latest schedule shows this project construction in the month of August.

# 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, Litterness & 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 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

## 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
- New Bookmobile serving neighborhood
- Handicap access installed at park play area

## 2010

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

## 2011

- Crosswalks approved for disabled on Casanova
- Renovation for Park BBQ area approved
- Neighborhood Watch cards delivered to members
- Spring Cleanup was a success

## 2012

- NIP approves extra \$42,000 towards designing Casanova/Euclid ADA ramps & crosswalks
- CONA approved & purchased new CERT radios

## **Proposed R.V. Park in Del Rey Oaks**

### **Proposed RV Park Plan Fails in the Face of Overwhelming Neighborhood Protests**

In an inspiring show of collaboration between two neighborhoods, members of CONA (Board Member Kim Svetich-Will, Jamison Kaufman, and others), worked closely with a grassroots group of Del Rey Oaks residents lead by Veronique Dunham to successfully thwart plans for a 60-vehicle RV Park at the location of the former Golf driving range.

The collaborative effort included a letter campaign to members of the Monterey and Del Rey Oaks City Councils and City Managers, contact with local newspapers and TV stations, creative use of social media, and walking door-to-door to inform residents and collect signatures (more than 250) on both sides of the canyon in protest of the proposed RV Park. As a result, the group's efforts received a considerable amount of coverage, and when developer Brad Slama went before the Del Rey Oaks City Council on January 22, more than 50 CONA and Del Rey Oaks residents spilled out of the small City Hall building waiting for their turn to speak out against his proposal. That night, Mr. Slama withdrew his plans for the former Golf Range.

The group has kept up the momentum. They hope to convert the area of the former Golf Range into a park or green recreational space that would benefit the community. To that end, they spoke at the February 20th Monterey Regional Park District meeting in the Old City Hall in Seaside, asking for support and guidance. On March 26th, the Del Rey Oaks City Council received a report on the options of use for the former Golf Range, and the results of the Parks Ad Hoc Committee Meeting that was held on March 14.....CONA Board Member Kim Svetich-Will

## **“The Hole”, a.k.a. “the Landfill”**

There is the continued look of blight when anyone enters the City of Monterey from Canyon Del Rey. The first perception everyone has of Monterey's entrance at Canyon Del Rey is blight! As you look to your right entering Monterey you see a large hole that is quite similar in appearance to a landfill.

CONA has attempted to get our city to address this situation for many years. This land is owned by Seaside, and the adjacent land by the P.G. & E substation. The substation has been cutting many of their screening trees down so now we have that great toxic industrial look. Laguna Grande Lake is controlled by the Monterey Regional Park District.

It makes sense that the Park District should extend all the way to N. Fremont Street, install a connecting culvert in the hole, back fill it level, which would then make this entrance a welcoming parkland instead of a landfill look. This filling in will allow an extra lane on N. Fremont (Canyon Del Rey to Casanova) so that traffic making a right turn onto N. Fremont can do so without having to merge. It will also allow a full ADA sidewalk and bike path from Casanova to Canyon Del Rey. Everyone thinks this is a great idea, but our leaders have not wanted to make it a City of Monterey priority. Let's change this problem into a solution. Please let our Monterey City Council know the time for talk is over, we need action.

## **CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)**

At last year's CONA annual meeting our membership, by unanimous vote, dedicated the funds necessary to purchase 4 additional CERT radios for use by our CONA CERT team.

The radios we were using faced a January 1, 2013 deadline by the FCC to be replaced. This system allows our neighborhood CERT team leader to communicate directly to the City of Monterey Emergency Operations Center. It also gives us communication among our team members.

In a disaster, with a loss of power, phone and cell phone service going down, we are still able to communicate. Our system does not need power or repeaters to work, it is self-contained. In an emergency, the Green hats are not only your safety line but also your communication link.

Once a month all the team leaders in CERT meet and organize events, programs and fundraising for the program. Behind the scenes our CERT program is making fantastic progress. We have integrated with Carmel, Pebble Beach, Pacific Grove and Marina CERT teams. We also have monthly radio drills testing our communication abilities Peninsula wide.

## **Saturday, May 18 9:00-12:00 emergency preparedness for the physically challenged:**

Monterey Youth Center:

Mike Castaneda, Sarah Blackstone and Harvey Pressman invite people with disabilities, caregivers, family and first responders to consider the needs of disabled and physically challenged during an emergency – how to shelter in place and what needs to happen if evacuation is required, call 649-3050 or email to [CERV501c3@gmail.com](mailto:CERV501c3@gmail.com).

## **CONA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

A few months ago there was a break-in on Edinburgh. It was a daytime event. When CONA was notified we immediately sent out an email blast to our members.

Right away we started getting reports of sightings of the two men described in the initial report. The replies came from Fern, Lerwick and then Ramona. It was very apparent that the only way we can quickly notify you is by email. Phone trees take a lot of time and a considerable number of volunteers. Just contacting volunteers takes valuable time so please keep us informed of your email address changes.

In this case two men were apparently watching for residents to leave their homes, and then they would immediately go to the home and enter it.

We cannot emphasize more, please get to know your neighbors, exchange numbers and call them if you see something that doesn't look right. Please attend your street's upcoming block parties. Look out for your neighbors and they will look out for you.

*You will install an alarm system, either now or after a break-in. It is less stressful if you do it now.*

**Close it!**

**Lock it!**

**Hide it!**

## **Community Partnerships**

Sollecito Ball Park, baseball infield: Thanks to \$166,500 from NIP, plus private and grant funding of \$230,000, the infield at Sollecito ball park is now artificial turf. No more holes in the ground causing injuries. If you get a chance, you can see how NIP directly helps the young people in our community. This field is heavily used 7 days a week.

## **Library endowment, the 1849 challenge**

Back in 1849, 39 Monterey residents contributed the money that started the first Public Library in our State. You have an opportunity to prepare our Library for the future by becoming a Charter Member of the 1849 Society. The public fundraising for this membership has just started. A gift of \$1,849.00 or more puts your name down as a Charter Member with all funds going to the Monterey Public Library Endowment Fund. Leave a Legacy of Literacy for future generations, please call Sirie at 646-5632.

## **Doc Ricketts lab and the start of the Jazz Festival**

Did you know that after Doc Ricketts died a small local group bought his lab for a social club? It was at their social meetings that this group started the Monterey Jazz Festival. The Lab is now under the ownership of the City of Monterey. Whenever you can you need to take a tour of this building, the history of it is fascinating-from Doc, John Steinbeck to international celebrities.

## **Monterey County Fairgrounds**

The Monterey Blues Festival is no more. Declining attendance and rising costs have put an end to this classic Monterey event.

The CONA Fairgrounds Parking Program 2013:

Monterey County Fair: August 28 - September 2, 2013

Monterey Jazz Festival: September 20 - 22, 2013

Tentative events which require Promoter payment for parking services: California Roots Music & Arts Festival, May 25 - 27, 2013

At press time no concerts have been booked.

Monterey Bay ReggaeFest, August 9 - 11, 2013 has been removed from our parking program since their attendance has been so low the last few years. They will use the carnival grounds for their parking.

## **Neighborhood Improvement Program**

For 2013 CONA has proposed ADA improvements to sidewalks and ramps throughout the neighborhood. This involves pavement issues, guy wires and tripping hazards. What is becoming very apparent is that a number of seriously handicapped residents are having a very difficult time getting around on neighborhood sidewalks. This has caused CONA to reevaluate our infrastructure and propose corrections.

The second proposal for 2013 is a combination of park improvements, replacement of most of the sand in the playground to a fiber fill (more safety for falls), a new bench for parents, and some fence repairs.

Please take a look at our beautifully renovated BBQ area at the Park. Well done, Louie Mancuzzo!

## **Casanova Oak Knoll Chemical Plume Clean-up**

The ground water table and chemical concentrations at the park and on the airport have dropped. The water table has dropped 15 to 20 feet since testing began in 2000. This is most likely from the continued drought.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers will be trying some air permeability tests in April and May.

There will be a Technical Review Committee meeting in June with a possible conclusion of closing wells and potential changes in process.

We are arriving at a point where the cleanup process may be over. In July 2000 our cleanup site was ranked last out of 350+ cleanup sites in the Western United States. Within a year we rose to 1<sup>st</sup>. place and had a budget for the cleanup allocation of \$14 million dollars. At the time, the cleanup timeframe was estimated to be 10 to 15 years.

## **N. Fremont doom & gloom**

Joining the list of closed businesses is:

Blockbuster

Doctor's on Duty

Outdoor World

Eddies

Pet Hospital

Car lot next to Pet Hospital

As the depression deepens, and we await the economic unknown we need to understand what works and what doesn't work. There are reasons these businesses closed, some are technologies change (Blockbuster), one the owner passed away, and another one the tenant bought their own building in Seaside. We see a lot of attention paid to other business districts, they are in the news, ours rarely is.

On a lighter note, the City of Monterey is pulling several dead redwood trees out of the median, you might have notice the dead branches. The medians are in the process of being replanted.

## **Monterey Peninsula Airport District**

A little history: the Airport Northside was once a former Naval Air Station. The Navy stationed torpedo bombers here for training during World War II. This area evolved into Fleet Numerical, the National Weather Service, and the light industrial Northside.

The Airport District put a road into an area they called the new Northside. The traffic generated from this new area was supposed to go through the city of Del Rey Oaks to Canyon Del Rey. After many years of negotiating, the City of Del Rey Oaks said no. The Airport District then proposed a road around the East end, by Tarpey's to Hwy. 68. The Hwy 68 coalition sued the Airport District in court, the District then designated the new road for emergency vehicles only.

This, leaves the only access road to this new area, down Airport Road through our neighborhood.

Now you know why it is essential to keep our association organized and active. As the wagon master used to yell "we are surrounded".

## **CASANOVA OAK KNOLL OAK TREES**

The current condition of some of the oaks within the neighborhood:

Most of the property owners who have oaks on their property have been aware of the last three years of above average California Oak Moth activity. The cycle of the oak worm activity normally runs over a seven year cycle, but depending on annual temperatures and rainfall year to year activity can vary. Normally, the last three years of the infestation results in many oaks being completely defoliated by the worms. **After the peak of the feeding activity ends, most trees will recover and produce new leaves after measurable rainfall begins in the winter.** However, if annual rainfall amounts are under average as they have been over the last two years, some oaks may not recover as quickly. In some cases involving older trees, they may not have enough stored food within their roots to produce enough new foliage to keep the tree alive and some may die from starvation.

Other environmental and urban factors that affect the health of native oaks include prolonged drought over several years in which some oaks may intentionally shed their leaves to prevent the tree from dying of lack of water. California Live oaks are one of the few evergreen trees that have the ability to do that in order to preserve the water inside the tree. The urbanization of native oak groves in California has also played a role in the loss and demise of trees. When development occurs, oaks are often removed to accommodate homes and other types civilized improvements. These impacts not only result an immediate loss of trees, but over time trenching for sewer and utility lines and grading for streets and driveways can weaken the health of trees remaining to the point where they can die years later. In addition, some property owner's choose to install lawns and other water loving landscapes that can result in oaks getting too much water in the dry season that can encourage root rot fungus that can kill trees over time.

On a more optimistic note, I do think many of the oaks that are currently without foliage will be producing new leaves throughout this spring and early summer (**happening right now!**). New oaks that are planted and maintained in a proper manner can thrive and grow to compliment neighborhoods like yours and replace trees lost in the past. Residents who may be interested in more information about the care oaks should contact a local certified arborist to assist them with their care and maintenance....Robert Reid, City of Monterey Forrester

## **Last years 2012 Spring Cleanup**

The cleanup that was designated for last August just could not get off the ground. Delays from the city organization just kept getting the date pushed back. Finally, in the fall it was just decided to just wait for the spring. It was a major disappointment, out of the hands of CONA.

We have a firm date from all involved for June 15<sup>th</sup>. for this year.

## **Gas Tank Removal at Eddies**

You may have noted the deep hole in front of Eddies in February with men and machines working around it. Your Board members have previously requested that the city and county examine the site for underground tanks (Eddies was the location of a gas station in the early fifties). Residents had noticed two older gas storage tank filler caps, but we were assured that there were no tanks on the site.

The owners representative had told us that they had examined the site back in 1991 and found nothing. It was not until this recent excavation that they found the two large tanks buried. One appeared to be about 16' long and the other slightly bigger. We were told that they removed about 4,500 gallons of gas/water from these tanks.

The tanks have been removed and the hole filled but we are still waiting to see if the asphalt will be replaced....CONA Board member..Mike Brassfield



## **Your own disaster preparedness**

In a disaster, water is your first need, a gallon a day per person for at least a week. Two people would need 14 gallons on hand. Remember this would be your only water if the taps run dry. Food and medicine would be similar; they now recommend a weeks worth of everything. Water and freeze dried food are readily available in stores here or online.

Please take the time to plan for an emergency, put aside what you will need. Make a plan A and then a plan B.

## **Volunteers needed to advertise our Garage Sale**

CONA needs some volunteers willing to advertise the Garage Sale electronically. It could be through Craig's List or social media. The more information we can get out on it the more successful it will be. Please let us know if you can help and where you will post it. Contact us at [conamonterey@aol.com](mailto:conamonterey@aol.com)

**31<sup>st</sup>. Annual  
Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood Association**

**2 Days!!!**

**Neighborhood-Wide**

**GARAGE SALE**

**Rain or Shine**

**Saturday & Sunday June 8 & 9, 2013**

**Start time 10:00 a.m.**

**\* No pre-registration**

**Each year our association places multiple ads in the Herald listing all our streets. All our members are invited to have their own garage sale in their own driveway. The large number of sales we have each year draws huge crowds. So be prepared.**

**Your Choice! Saturday or Sunday – BOTH OR NOT AT ALL**

**CASANOVA OAK KNOLL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**SPRING CLEANUP 2013**

**JUNE 15, 2013 – SATURDAY --- 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Expect a mailing in May, in it will be a required registration form, this must be filled out and mailed back promptly.**

**No exceptions will be made, and no last minute forms will be accepted. There will be a deadline listed.**

**All items for pick-up must be placed on the curb prior to the pick-up time.**

**The City of Monterey in cooperation with Monterey Disposal will be making this offer of a special pick-up for large items. This offer is only for Casanova Oak Knoll residents.**

**We are the only neighborhood in Monterey receiving this service.**

**Help is available to those physically unable to bring large items to the curb for this event.**

**There is a check box on the form you will be getting in the mail.**

**Let's get rid of the clutter and make this a fire safe neighborhood**

**Hazardous material cannot be taken in this event. A new program is being developed so that Monterey residents can arrange weekly pick-up of these items. This is planned to be announced in the fall.**