



CASANOVA OAK KNOLL

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2014 www.cona.info phone 831-324-4569 or 831-375-3465 email -- conamonterey@aol.com

Monterey City Council approves N. Fremont Specific Plan

After almost four years, and dozens of meetings; finally, on April 1st, the Monterey City Council held their last meeting to vote on the N. Fremont Specific Plan.

The Council minutes from that meeting are... "Approving the North Fremont Specific Plan with the following amendments; requiring 1.5 parking spaces per unit, with at least one assigned space per unit and no shared parking, permit three story structures with a 35 foot maximum height with great scrutiny by the ARC and Planning Commission to ensure that the residential neighborhood is protected from noise, privacy invasion, and loss of light

and that they would consider building mass importantly.... Voting yes were Downey, Sollecito & Della Sala, and voting no were Haffa and Selfridge."

Councilmember Haffa said "that... he appreciates the concessions on the parking, but is unable to support the motion due to concerns regarding the building heights".

Twenty-two of our neighbors showed up on a rainy night and sat through three uncomfortable hours to express their opinions to the City Council. Unquestionably, this was the most contested city plan in decades. The neighborhood felt the process was flawed from the first meeting. The Planning Commission and

the city staff started with a vision and then tried to convince those who have to live every day with their vision to accept it. The end results are totally dependant upon how the city commissions will either empathize with the residents or give in to developer's demands.

What we heard meeting after meeting was that residents asked that their concerns be addressed and not be lectured to about how developers need to pencil out a project. That is not the way you get community support.

This November is a city election and you get to vote.

CONA 32nd Annual Garage Sale June 14th & 15th

Take the opportunity to join with your neighbors and clear out all your unwanted possessions.

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

flyer is enclosed inside. **Featured items can be listed on our webpage to target your customers!**

Chemical plume cleanup project is officially done!

The United States Army Corps of Engineers Cleanup has finished the plume cleanup!

March 19, 2014 officially marked the end of the chemical plume cleanup under our neighborhood. After almost 14 years of effort; and a full 11 years earlier than originally projected; we closed this milestone in our neighborhood history. When the program started, our federal funding ranking was last in the Western United States, 364th. At the finish, we were number one in allocated financing for a total of \$18,000,000.00. Con-

gressman Sam Farr attended this meeting. He was responsible for convincing Congress to do the cleanup.

In fact, the United States Army Corps of Engineers employed a breakthrough technology with a bio-metabolism cleanup plant; the first of its kind. Millions of gallons of contaminated groundwater were pumped out of the ground, treated and pumped back into the aquifer. This system is responsible for saving millions of dollars and shortening the program by over a decade. The cleanup plant in our park has been re-

moved and everything has been restored to original condition. CONA residents requested that three monitoring wells be retained for monitoring on a 3-5 year basis. These monitoring wells are simply a pipe that has a locked cover with the pipe extending down to around 80' into the ground. The other 19 wells were all pulled and filled.

The full information for this cleanup project will be maintained online for future generations. The USACE has left a plaque at our community center that directs future inquiries to their website.

CONA ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 25, 2014 . @ 7:00 P.M.

CONA 2014 Annual Meeting

One of the most time consuming challenges for all of us has been the chemical plume cleanup; finally finished after 14 years. Fifty-two binders, six solid feet of documents that had to be read and comments submitted. Would the cleanup have taken place, and would it be finished without an active neighborhood association? Most likely it would still be in the investigative stage. Obviously we need more neighbors to step forward and volunteer. It is imperative that our present volunteers are able to pass on all our institutional knowledge so that this neighborhood can move ahead and prosper.

The North Fremont Specific Plan process has been a very trying time for our residents, especially those directly impacted. We hope our city government has learned from this process, and that the future will bring a more community oriented planning process, a comment often made by our neighbors. Three-story commercial was opposed by all three neighborhoods that are abutting N. Fremont. The concession the Council voted was to limit the total height to 35', which is an improvement over the 40' under previous discussion. But it still is three stories. Now the city is finalizing another controversial plan, the Waterfront master Plan. This Plan recommends replacing the Wharf parking lot with a park, extending Scott street through the Custom House Plaza, and it keeps the future Light Rail Train running through the Window on the Bay Park. So then we add-in the downtown plan with turning Alvarado into a two-way street and renaming Historic street names that will create even more controversies. Monterey residents can choose the path of our future when they vote for Mayor & City Council in November.

We thought that this would be a perfect time for everyone to personally meet the newly appointed City Manager, Mike McCarthy. Mike has been with our city since 2002. Prior to his Monterey career Mike was a police officer for five years in Washington State, then worked for NASA's Inspector General's office, City Manager's office of San Jose and then moving to Monterey to work in Human Resources. This will be the first neighborhood meeting he has attended as speaker since his appointment to full time City Manager. He has scheduled time to hear your opinions and concerns.

Our CONA CERT team graduates now total more than 30 members. We cannot emphasize more how important it is for you and your family to take this training. You will employ these skills throughout your daily life, guaranteed.

All our neighborhood streets have CERT's on them except two; Dundee and Littleness. In an emergency event it is vital that we have a continuing assessment of each area of our neighborhood, this information is updated hourly by radio to the Fire Department, so if you live on these streets please make a commitment and sign up for the September class. Become part of the solution.

Next CERT class September 13,,20,&21st. 2014!

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist their families and others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. This 21 hour instruction is Free of Charge

The next class occurs over three weekend days: **September 13, 20 & 21st**. To enroll e-mail: montereycert@hotmail.com, those without e-mail may phone (831) 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
See's candy (donated)**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2014

GENERAL MEETING

June 25 – Wednesday

7:00 to 8:45 p.m.

PARK CENTER

735 Ramona

Agenda

7:00 Call to order

Reports

2014 Election of officers

Old Business

2014-2015 Priorities

New Business

7:30 **Featured speaker**

**New full time Monterey City
Manager, Michael McCarthy**

8:45 Adjournment

COME & BRING YOUR NEIGHBOR

2013

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President-Richard Rucello

Vice-president-Gary Carlsen

Secretary- Treasurer

Tuppence Cabot

Board member-Michael Brassfield

Board member-Denise Marsaquerria

Airport Chairman-Open

Webmaster-Louis Agaze

NIP Representative-Richard Rucello

Alternate NIP Representatives:

Mike Brassfield

Kimberly Svetich-Will

2014 Calendar

June 14 & 15 – Garage Sale Sat.&Sun

June 25 – 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

December – Firemen's Toy Drive

**32nd Annual
Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood Association**

2 Days!!!

**Neighborhood-Wide
GARAGE SALE**

Rain or Shine

Saturday & Sunday June 14 & 15, 2014

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 garage sale in their own driveway.

**NEW THIS YEAR --- Email in a list of your top 3 or 4 items--listing price & your address
All will be listed on our webpage and in social media – target your customers!**

Send list to conamonterey@aol.com

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

Airport Master Plan

The Monterey Regional Airport District has about 20 people from different interest groups who are participating in developing a new Master Plan study for the Airport ("Planning Advisory Committee"). The last update to the master plan was in 1992. The new master plan is to cover the period of the next 20 years, is required by law and will take about 18 months to complete. CONA's interests are represented by CONA Board Member Mike Brassfield. Some immediate issues in mind are:

1. Commercial vehicle/auto traffic from the airport into our residential neighborhood.
2. Water runoff from the airport into the neighborhood (City of Monterey).
3. Aircraft that make right angles flying over the neighborhood as they depart the airport and growth related issues such as appropriate commercial development, parking, and terminal development (among others).

City of Monterey Planner Todd Bennett also participates in this process. Coffman Associates and CommuniQuest are facilitating the process. We will keep you updated as time goes by....mpb

El Nino coming ===== 78%probability

The National Weather Service is predicting an El Nino year starting in August. If we return to the wet cycle, this is the time to get those outside chores out of the way. Please look at the condition of your roof, trim any overhanging tree branches and clear away debris from any drainage areas. Be safe, not sorry.

Hunters Supply

The former Doctors on Duty building will have a new tenant later this summer, Hunter's Supply. Michael Van Valkenburgh and Michael Handley have had a business in Salinas for several years. They are in the processing of renovating the space and plan on opening around August. They specialize in serving the needs of the sportsmen in Monterey County. They provide quality firearms and accessories, including clothing.

They have one of the very few outlets around that take consignments, so you now have a means to legally selling those heirlooms you do not need.

If you have questions they can be reached at 831-758-4868, their manager is Marco Russo.

CONA House prices rising!

Monterey housing prices have showed an unusual 20% hike last year. From the latest escrow closings, it appears that prices are continuing to rise. At one open house in our area the realtor exclaimed that they received three offers that day, two at full price and a successful one at full price+.

The realtors are emphasizing that this is a very desirable area. The demographics of our neighborhood are rapidly changing from older adults to families with young children.

We are also seeing a rise in absentee owners. Members who lived here, and moved away, are currently renting their homes are still maintaining their CONA membership. Vacation homes are also becoming popular with a few (3 we know of) in our area.

Please greet the new neighbors and explain the benefits of joining the neighborhood association.

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 toy drive), please note how the successes have changed **your quality of life in our neighborhood.**

1983

- Neighborhood Plan & Survey
- Reopened Fairgrounds Road 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 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 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 Airport, Euclid, Fern ,Bush
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Park Center Acoustical tiles & carpet upgrade

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 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
- 1st 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

2013

- **USACE Plume cleanup finished at \$18 million**
- **N. Fremont Plan finished with CONA input**
- **32 CONA CERT graduates – sign up now!**
- **Solar radar speed signs installed on Casanova**

2014
More to come!

NIP-Casanova and Americans Disability Act

Community Development Block Grants will be directed at ADA access on Casanova. The sidewalk and handicapped ramps will be going in on this street in the month of June. The repairs will replace sidewalks that are angled badly for walkers and wheelchairs and will repair apartment driveways that do not comply with Americans Disability Act standards. Later this summer a larger project that we have been working on for over seven years will be finally constructed. Two new crosswalks will be installed, one on Casanova at lower Melway and the second on Casanova at Euclid. These projects target longstanding issues with wheelchairs using the traffic lanes to cross Casanova. Bulb outs and brick paver crosswalks will finally address an increasing pedestrian hazard.

Neighborhood Improvement Program 2014

April 24th. marked the end of another round of recommended NIP projects. Notable for this year for our area is a new study which will bring a number of different jurisdictions together to look at conceptual plans to redesign the North Fremont entry at Canyon Del Rey. The study will show alternatives to widening N. Fremont by one lane westbound. This will finally allow full pedestrian access on that side of the street. That would be the north side from Casanova to Canyon Del Rey and it would entail filling in that large gaping hole below the PG&E substation. Needed bicycle lanes would also be included. This is going to take some time to accomplish with the funding for this study being the first step. This area has been described for years as "the landfill entry" to Monterey.

CONA MEMBERS EMAIL ADDRESSES

Have you been getting CONA emails? One of our most important duties is keeping a current email list operational. Many members send in their dues in the form of just a check. They may have changed their email servers and/or email address and then failed to send in those changes. CONA urgent messages can include neighborhood watch alerts, complimentary concert tickets, and any message we need to send you quickly, all require a correct email address. **Please send any of your changes to conamonterey@aol.com.**



MONTEREY 76

SMOG & AUTO REPAIR

STAN R. SANTOS
Smog Technician and ASE Certified
Tel: 831 333 9400



LUCKYZONE INC
2045 N Fremont Street
Monterey CA 93940

Cell: 831 238 1653
www.peninsulasmog.com

Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center -- Programs

Learning and growing through play is the focus of Camp "Lots-O-Tots." Activities include arts and crafts, music and movement, storytelling and dramatic play, science and nature programs. Pre-register at Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center. For ages 3-5 years (must be "potty" trained).

Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center is excited to introduce new art classes for kids coming this Summer. Kids will learn how to design and write their own books in Adventure Books and Beautiful Books. Kids will learn how to use paper, make use of cardboard for 3-D designs and clay to create amazing art work in Fantastic Faces, 3-D Landscapes and Interiors and Paper Magic. With The Art of the Hand, kids will make henna-inspired designs and decorate hand casts to make decorations or gifts from their own hand prints. Have you ever wondered how a treasure map was made? The mystery is solved in Treasure maps! You will get to use your imagination and make one of your own in this fun class.. **Kelli Lockwood Recreation Specialist, Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center, 646-5665**

Police Alert! Break-ins spreading-----

The MO; the suspect starts early - usually with a driver/lookout. He actually watches people leave for work, then knocks on the front door. If nobody answers, he makes his way to the rear of the house and looks for unlocked doors and windows to make entry. The suspect is after jewelry - mainly gold because it's easy to hide and sell. He isn't in the house very long. Remember that the **MO** can change, we can tell you the break-ins have been during the day, and the point of entry has been open or unlocked windows and doors (there were a lot of these with warm weather last week)

We have one suspect in mind, but cannot release any details - I can tell you he is a white male, very thin and tall - 6 foot 5 inches. the driver/lookout is any one of his friends who are willing to help. Of course, he probably isn't the only one committing burglaries this way - but he's hard to miss. Also, all of the burglaries have been in the general area above Monterey High School and the MPC area. I am not familiar with any in the CONA neighborhood, but you are not very far away.

The bottom line is lock all doors and windows and watch out for each other! Report any suspicious activity to the police!.... Sgt. Frank Russo, Monterey Police Department



Donna Lee Scheiter
INDEPENDENT DEMONSTRATOR

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Monterey, CA 93940

Phone: 831.915.0069

Shop my Online Store 24/7
www.mbscrapbooking.stampinup.net
stampinup.donna@gmail.com

CERT Quarterly drill in CONA on Saturday morning June 21st. Watch the Green Hats gaining necessary skills



Photographic view of the present Safeway site, N. Fremont/Canyon Del Rey intersection (Walgreens is now in the upper left of photo). In view is a concrete culvert that collects the creek water from Del Rey Oaks and routes it to Laguna Grande Lake. This photo shows the start of filling of the canyon with over 16,000 truckloads of soil. The original store (MonteMart) was completed 8 months later for a total cost of \$2.5 million dollars. A included Herald article gave the above information c1966.....Photo is donated from the estate of Dick Bowman, photo taken from his backyard on Melway Circle.

Monterey County Fairgrounds Latest News!

Hello neighbors! The 2014 event season is upon us and we wanted to give you a rundown of what we have been working on and some exciting new events we have coming.

The Artichoke, Food & Wine Festival, formerly the Castroville Artichoke Festival has moved to our venue May 31st and June 1st. We look forward to welcoming this new event and hope that you will come over and enjoy the festivities. We also have a new blues event, Blues, Brews & Barbecue at Monterey Bay, July 26 & 27. This is a new promoter and we look forward to welcoming them as well.

Some of the events that will be returning include California Roots Music & Arts Festival, May 23 – 25, The Monterey Americana Festival (which will feature Dwight Yoakam this year), June 28th, The First City Festival, August 23 & 24, Monterey Bay Oktoberfest, September 13 & 14 and the Monterey Jazz Festival, September 19 – 21. And, of course, the 78th Annual Monterey County Fair, August 27 through September 1.

We have listened to feedback from last year's events and have been working in partnership with our promoters to mitigate issues that were brought to our attention. This year for the larger events you will see increased security both inside and outside of the Event Center gates including staffing of the Monterey Pines Golf Course to deter fence jumpers, a street clean up crew, implemented sound mitigation specifying the placement and aim of speakers as well as a technician on site and no general onsite camping. The parking program will also be implemented as usual with the addition of the Artichoke Festival.

We wish you a fantastic 2014 and hope to see you at some of the events! For more information about our events, please visit www.montereycountyfair.com.

NEW RESIDENTS ATTENTION

If you are a new member of CONA please be aware that we are entering the summer cycle of Fairgrounds events and there will be parking enforcement, (Ramona south to Airport Road) which is the resident only parking enforcement area. You need to contact City of Monterey parking to obtain resident cards for your vehicles and visitors. The Parking office is in the ground floor of the West Parking garage downtown, 831-646-3953.

When the program is enforced barricades are put up every 150', all vehicle codes are enforced, parking the wrong way on a street, and blocking a driveway (even your own) are cited. Everyone agrees that this program is difficult, but the alternatives are worse, such as coming home to find every space taken for blocks, so for now it is the best we can do. A survey was done 2 years ago with the majority of residents favoring only this temporary program.

All neighborhood alerts are sent out by CONA email, if you did not send a current email address in with your membership, please respond to conamonterey@aol.com. Whether it is police, fire or a city department needing to contact you, the association only supplies your phone contact numbers in an emergency situation. Our membership list is always confidential,