



CASANOVA OAK KNOLL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2015 www.cona.info phone 831-324-4569 or 831-375-3465 email -- conamonterey@aol.com

Monterey Renaissance in process – major improvements on the way

In just the last 12 months, everything in Monterey has changed. We are about to experience the cumulative effect of years of hard work. We call it a Renaissance; others name it a giant leap forward. Meetings, discussions, plans are all coming together to mark a series of construction projects that will dramatically improve our community.

A completed N. Fremont Specific plan resulted in a State \$6.48 million dollar grant to improve bikeways, intersections and pedestrian access on N. Fremont Street. Monterey's Neighborhood Improvement Program has recommended \$200,000 of the required matching city funding to move ahead with this grant giving it the highest priority

of all the projects in the city. This shows neighborhood commitment to fixing our entry to the city. The design is slated to finish this year with construction next year. The Monterey City Council voted to move N. Fremont to first position for PG&E underground funding, (a five year wait on that one) with \$3.6 million dollars allocated so far.

Last November, Measure P passed by a 74% yes vote. Ramona is our first street to be done and repairs to the street will be done in May, and after curing, the resurfacing will follow in June. The City will be spending \$8 million dollars a year to repair streets, sidewalks and storm drains, throughout the city.

A new project will replace the Bay Pet Hospital; a sketch is inside this newsletter. It will be a new commercial mixed-use two story building.

The Monterey Conference Center will start a two year remodeling after Thanksgiving, at \$45 million dollars.

Casanova will have two new crosswalks plus handicapped access improvements, with construction this June.

Our park BBQ area will soon have a new shade-structure; we lost some of our trees. Other improvements include new matching playground fencing.

There are several major commercial projects in construction in the same time period. Many changes and improvements are coming.

CONA 33rd Annual Garage Sale June 13th & 14th

Take the opportunity to join with your neighbors and clear out all your unwanted possessions. The association places ads in the Herald for you. Every-

one does their own sale in their own driveway. The details are enclosed inside. Featured items can be listed on our webpage to target your customers! Talk

to your neighbors; when there are more sales next to you, it attracts more customers.

Measure P passes with a 74% yes vote --- Fixing Monterey Streets

The residents of Monterey have spoken, they want our streets fixed. This 4 year sunset sales tax increase of 1% will pay to have streets, sidewalks and storm drains repaired. All these projects have already been surveyed and given priority numbers.

This city has an interactive website up and current showing where construction is taking place with detailed timeframes,

www.monterey.org/fixingstreets You will be able to access this information at

any time to avoid traffic congestion and delays.

Estimates are that the city will expend \$8 million dollars a year totaling \$32 million dollars in four years.

The good news is that we are going to fix this city, with the other side of the coin requiring us to use all our patience on the forthcoming traffic snarls.

The City Council asked for a short 4 year sunset clause in order to regain the trust of the community. They acknowledge that we the citizens will be

watching closely how this tax money is spent. An oversight committee of residents is currently being formed.

Our city streets have deteriorated to the 50 PCI (pavement condition index) and we now have a goal with Measure P of raising that level to 70 PCI.

This whole process will take a very long time to accomplish; everyone is finally realizing that we have let our infrastructure fall apart.

CONA ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 24, 2015 . @ 7:00 P.M.

CONA 2015 Annual Meeting

The last year has been one of change. Monterey has elected three new City Council members. You have spoken and your voices have been heard. As our City Manager has stated, it is time the pendulum swings towards the residents. Our new council members are Timothy Barrett, Ed Smith and our longtime friend Clyde Roberson. Clyde has a history of serving Monterey in the past as a Councilman, Mayor and then Councilman again. Now he is serving again as our Mayor. Clyde has made a lifelong commitment to serving our community.

He is co-founder of the Neighborhood Improvement Program and led the city to establish the Visitor Accommodation Facility charter amendment. This legislation was instrumental in preventing 19 hotels, which were in the planning process, from being built on our coastline.

That Charter amendment put a halt to a proposed Hotel Grande Del Monte which would have risen five stories from the present Urgent Care near the Wharf continuing North all the way to the Kayak building, yes, across Figueroa Street, it would have walled off our waterfront from our residents. There is a blindness to greed which can destroy a community; we are fortunate to have leaders like Clyde who have the vision and courage to prevent it. If you wonder who got the Sports Center built, it was Clyde's leadership.

Clyde has been responsible for major direction changes in Monterey's history; for this and so much more we asked him to be our featured speaker. Please attend. Bring a new neighbor and let him know your opinions about Monterey and how we can make it a even better place to live and raise our families.

CONA has come a long ways since we reorganized in 1981. We have an active membership and a strong board of directors.

All of the neighborhoods have realized that neighborhood associations are absolutely necessary organizations to the health and well being of our residents.

This was very apparent when CONA responded immediately to the chemical plume report resulting in a successful fourteen year \$18 million dollar cleanup. Without this association, the board of directors and our active membership it would have been a totally different outcome.

Please mark your calendar for our annual meeting. Meet your neighbors and stay connected, that is what a neighborhood is all about.

CONA Email address errors!

Emails are our first and primary method of alerting our members to important information, neighborhood watch alerts, upcoming meetings, concert ticket offers, etc. Currently 16 addresses come back as undeliverable. If you have not received CONA emails in the last 30 days please send your current address to conamonterey@aol.com.

Sometimes members change their service providers and other times we cannot decipher the handwritten membership forms.

Next CERT class September 19,26,&27nd. 2015!

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

If you need a make-up class please let us know.

Become part of the solution not part of the problem.

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)
Drawing at the end of the meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2015

GENERAL MEETING

June 24 – Wednesday

7:00 to 8:45 p.m.

PARK CENTER

735 Ramona

Agenda

7:00 Call to order

Reports

2015 Election of officers

Old Business

2015-2016 Priorities

New Business

7:30 **Featured speaker**

Monterey Mayor Clyde Roberson

8:45 Adjournment

COME & BRING YOUR NEIGHBOR

2014

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President-Richard Rucello

Vice-president-Gary Carlsen

Secretary- Treasurer-Tuppence Cabot

Board members

Michael Brassfield

Kimberly Svetich-Will

Robert Yoha

Paul Warfield

Webmaster-Louis Agaze

NIP Representative-Richard Rucello

Alternate NIP Representatives:

Mike Brassfield

Kimberly Svetich-Will

2015 Calendar

June 13 & 14 – Garage Sale Sat.&Sun

June 24 – 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

December – Firemen's Toy Drive

33rd . Annual
Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood Association
2 Days!!!
Neighborhood-Wide
GARAGE SALE

Rain or Shine
Saturday & Sunday June 13 & 14, 2015
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.

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

Neighborhood Improvement Program 2015

April 23th. was voting night and it was an all time record. All three of your representatives voted and participated that night. Many projects were sent onto the City Council for discussion and approval, here are a few examples:

- New basketball courts
- Terrace lighting and a kitchen for the Library
- Historical park in the Lower Presidio
- A new piece of play equipment for Dennis the Menace Park
- Street, drainage, and park improvements
- A Monterey water study
- A TOT lot for Oak Grove

CONA trees are decimated

It seems as though every Saturday morning you can awaken to the sound of chainsaws roaring. This seems to be the day when city employees are not on the job and so-called contractors find it the ideal time to cut down trees. We have pine tree pitch canker and whatever is happening to our coastal oaks has reached a point where it has forever changed our green skyline.

No longer can you see a green canopy as you go down our streets. Dozens of trees have been removed in the last few years. You can identify many causes;

- Disease
- Drought
- Insect attack
- New owners who do not like trees
- Lack of patience in waiting for trees to recover.

The result is still the same, hundred year old trees gone and possibly replaced by a pot sized tree that has a very low chance to become full grown. This all snowballed when the

city chose to close the city forestry department. Now, a few years later, we have irreparable losses to the forests of Monterey. This is Casanova Oak Knoll, and we are changing.

New Garden Center in Del Rey Oaks

After many different proposals, the city of Del Rey Oaks has approved and has under construction a new Garden Center at the former Golf driving range. They heard from a number of our residents whose homes are just above this area.

Everyone agrees that this is a better and less impactful use than the original RV park concept.

N. Fremont Bay Pet Hospital

This building on N. Fremont is finally going to be torn down and replaced with a new commercial building with apartments above and behind. Our members have been contacting us with questions about what it will look like, the sketch of what is approved is this:



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
- 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

1997

- Full time director at Park Center
- NERT radio base station Park Center
- 3 additional NERT radios A.T.&T.
- 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
- 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
- \$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

- **\$6.48 million dollar N. Fremont grant**
 - **\$200,000 in NIP matching funds for N. Fremont Park BBQ shade structure**
 - **ADA and sidewalk repair on Casanova**
 - **Melway storm drain relining**
 - **New CONA CERT shed roof approved by NIP**
- More to come!**