



# CASANOVA OAK KNOLL

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2019 [www.cona.info](http://www.cona.info)

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### N. Fremont Pedestrian/Bikeway ribbon cutting slated for September

The very first emphasis of this year's long N. Fremont construction project has been gridlock reduction and pedestrian safety. That is the primary reason all the intersections have been reconfigured; to cut down the time it takes to cross the street, the diagonal crosswalks have been squared up to reduce distance (time) and add current ADA access standards.

The median bike paths have steel railings coming, intersection light buttons and now an upcoming new addition; our Monterey NIP has designated funds to design the last block walkway/bike connection (Casanova to Canyon Del Rey), thence down to Jim Moore Drive, all the

way to Reservation Road (FORTAG) a TMAC Measure X separated bike path.

The bikeway design of the N. Fremont project was prompted by some existing safety concerns for bike riders. Existing conflicts are parked cars opening doors, over a hundred driveways (in and out) with a 35 mph major thoroughfare (27,000 vehicles per day). Bike safety prompted the median bikeway, eliminating those conflicts, with bike riders now able to push a button at each light to reduce dodging all those vehicles in turning movements.

Change is difficult, new is very different, and being first in the State is the hardest of all. Over six cities have al-

ready contacted our engineers stating they are copying this design. It has garnered a lot of attention.

Coming are traffic cameras, the ones that only count numbers of cars and will be able to better control traffic flow during peak hour impacts. Gridlock reduction, a primary goal, all part of this design.

The finishing touches are waiting on P.G.&E for hookup of the new traffic lights, with an estimated ribbon cutting in mid-September.

At the ribbon cutting a free drawing will be held to give away an electric bike. You will receive details and a flyer by email.

### City approves three story mixed use at Airport Road/N. Fremont

**Monterey Planning Commission approves 40 apartments over three commercial businesses.** Eight of the apartments will be dedicated to low income units.

The Commission vote was 4-1 with two commissioners absent. The N. Fremont Specific Plan was adopted by a different City Council in 2014, back then they approved up to three stories (a 3-2 vote) 1.5 parking spaces per apartment unit, whether 1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. If there are no variances in a Specific Plan proposed project, it only requires a city staff review, no public hearings. In this case the owner was allowed 38 apartments and asked for 40 triggering the

Planning Commission hearing, May 28<sup>th</sup>. at that hearing the Commission voted on only 2 items, the extra two units and a reduction in parking from 60 spaces to 58.

Those were the only two items that could be appealed, an unlikely City Council supported change as it would not affect the height or mass of the building.

It is very clear that if CONA has major concerns or wants to oppose future projects we must show up at these meetings in overwhelming numbers. The 2014 Specific Plan adoption over resident's strong objections set N. Fremont on a course to duplicate the Lighthouse

Avenue corridor. A Commissioner noted in his comments that we would most likely have to start a new permanent residential parking program to deal with spillover parking from N. Fremont Street development. Construction is slated to begin in January.

At this point in Monterey's history; all a developer has to say is "affordable housing" and they will get whatever they want. In all Commercial districts, the focus is now on housing. Resident serving commercial is disappearing also in light of internet buying habits. It is going to take very special businesses to survive in the "new economy".

**CONA ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 8, 2019 . @ 7:00 P.M.**

## CONA 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

There are defining moments in our neighborhood history. It is critical that we stay organized and be able to communicate and respond to rapidly changing events that could change our neighborhood forever.

One of those times was last summer. The Monterey Airport District (MPAD) started a new Airport Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The focus for us was their development plans for the New Northside (mostly vacant land now). One of the options being researched was the single access street they would use for all their development plans. They looked at Airport Road and later upper Casanova.

We had two CONA Board volunteers to monitor their public workshops, Mike Brassfield and Robert Yoha. We drew up concerns, and coordinated with the City of Monterey Planning Department.

This effort paid off. The Airport District chose instead to pursue a new road through to Highway 218 in Del Rey Oaks. They are meeting with very strong opposition from residents of that city. The State CEQA act requires them to go through an entire new EIR to change these findings, this would cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars and at least a year. The threat of increased traffic through our streets has stopped, but it could come back. We will be watching their progress at Del Rey Oaks closely.

Obviously we must keep alert and organized. Please come to the Annual Meeting and support your Board. Volunteer yourself to keep this a great neighborhood! Bring a new neighbor with you.

## Ralston requests to add to Fairgrounds Parking program

Last Memorial Day, the Cali Roots Festival held its 10<sup>th</sup>. anniversary at the Monterey Fairgrounds. This event has steadily grown its attendance and with that its impacts to our neighborhood. It is a well run event, all except for parking. The shuttles and bus service does not keep up with the crowds.

This year parking citations increased 60 citations over last year, with 35 double citations (\$70 total). The enforcement does markedly reduce the trash, abuses and crime acts.

There are definite pros and cons to the program. Each year several of our residents get cited because they failed to put the parking cards in their car windows or failed to follow the rules.

This year there were many complaints from apartment residents-many of them having difficulty finding parking for their extra vehicles. This resulted in many of them (along with concert patrons) parking on Ralston, the last street without the parking program.

The City of Monterey process requires a petition signed by a majority of property owners to request an addition to the Fairgrounds Parking Program.

This program is enforced 11 days per year. Cali Roots, Artichoke Festival the Fair and Jazz Festival. This issue is solely in the control of residents of Ralston, it is their decision whether to move forward. Obviously large concerts impact us the most, and the Fairgrounds needs to find solutions to parking.



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## DOOR PRIZES

All members at the annual meeting will receive a ticket for door prizes that will be drawn for:

Fire Extinguishers

Smoke alarms

See Candies - Donated

Drawing at the end of the meeting

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2019

## GENERAL MEETING

August 8 – Thursday

7:00 to 8:45 p.m.

PARK CENTER

735 Ramona

Agenda

7:00 Call to order

Reports

2019 Election of officers

Old Business

2019-20 Priorities

New Business

7:30 City Manager Hans Usler

Assistant City Manager

Nat Rojanasathira

8:00-8:45 Question and answers on issues affecting CONA

8:45 Adjournment

## COME & BRING YOUR NEIGHBOR

2018

## CONA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President-Richard Ruccello

Vice-president-Gary Carlsen

Secretary-Mary Larkin

Treasurer-Debra Maxwell

Board members

Michael Brassfield

Kimberly Svetich-Will

Robert Yoha

Paul Warfield

Scott Dent

Faith Dent

Webmaster-Louis Agaze

NIP Representative-Richard Ruccello

Alternate NIP Representatives:

Mike Brassfield

## 2019 Calendar

August 3 Public Safety Day-Colton Hall lawn

August 8 – 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

August 16 – Movie in the Park!

December – Firemen's Toy Drive

## Neighborhood Improvement Program 2019

This year, some new State regulations on meeting procedures and voting has delayed the vote at NIP, which is a one of a kind program in the United States. It has been extremely successful in neighborhood and City-wide projects amounting to over \$70 million dollars since 1985.

## Monterey Public Library CONA Bookmobile Stops:

The library comes to you. Avoid the gridlock and lack of parking.

**Every Thursday you can find the Bookmobile at**

Casanova Oak Knoll Park 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Lerwick Drive 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Books and materials can be ordered on line for delivery at these stops: [www.monterey.org/library](http://www.monterey.org/library)

## Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center

### Movie in the Park—August 16

The Monterey Fire Department and Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center invite you to our Movie in the Park on **Friday, August 16, 6:00-10:00 pm**. Enjoy a summer evening with friends and family while watching a free movie outdoors at the beautiful Casanova Oak Knoll Park! Delicious food, goodies and face painting will be available from 6:00-8:00 pm or while supplies last. The event itself begins at 6:00 pm. The movie will begin around 8:00 pm. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give us a call 646-5665! We hope to see you here!

## CONA Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale June 2019

Last month we held our 37<sup>th</sup> consecutive garage sale, with lots of people coming by. This is an effective way to clear clutter from our homes and reduce fire hazards. Many of our members took advantage of Haz Mat Day at Monterey Peninsula College right after the sale.

## Measure S on last Novembers Ballot

A couple of years ago all of the CONA streets were fixed and topped with a new slurry seal under Measure P, a 1% Monterey Sales Tax. Measure P expired last March, hence the reason Measure S was put on the ballot last fall. Measure S proposed extending the tax for 8 years to finish fixing all the streets in Monterey (remaining 70%).

Monterey voters agreed and set a State election year record of 82.09% yes!

## It's the Economy! Or is it?

More and more of Monterey's economic engine comes from tourism and the military. Commercial fishing is pretty much gone.

With Car Week (Month?) looming, we will have an influx (over tourism?) of visitors coming at us. But is it profitable for Monterey? If it was, why would Monterey is facing huge budget deficits? City of Monterey's CAL PERS, the out of control pension system, along with an enormous infrastructure deficit (over \$200 million dollars) is driving the budget cuts. There are City buildings desperately needing repair that are going unaddressed. Our community Center is now down to two evenings a week..

Is the answer more taxes? You are about to be asked this, how does Monterey balance our needs?

## DISAPPEARING COASTAL OAK TREES

An alarming increase in mortality of our landmark CONA oaks has encouraged us to do a lot of research on this problem.

This research has resulted in disturbing news, Sudden Oak Death Syndrome.

The second World Symposium on Sudden Oak Death Syndrome was held in 2005 at the Monterey Conference Center. A Forrest Pathologist in a Berkeley research project was discussed labeling this fatal tree disease to Coastal Oaks and Tan Bark Oaks. The disease; a water borne mold, originated from China in the 1990's. The mold infested ornamental plants that were imported into California. Specifically they were Rhododendron plants.

This fatal disease to oaks with a DNA analysis has shown it has mutated millions of times producing a Monterey specific variant. Our American Coastal Oaks have no defense against this mold, millions of trees in the State have died. The mold prevents water and nutrients from the soil passing up the trunk of the tree. There are specific symptoms of this disease in our area, it is very wide spread.

Berkeley is a leader in identifying the disease, and has developed a treatment that counter acts this mold.

The research has led to a proposed NIP project to test our CONA Oaks, both tree trunks and soil. Through laboratory analysis we can identify whether our trees are infested, what stage they are in, and if they can be treated.

This year, five CONA landmark oaks have fallen. The landmark oak on Lerwick at Ramona fell on a nice calm evening. This tree can be seen in a 1946 aerial photograph as a native oak. As part of the NIP study we have obtained aerial photographs from 1946 (before houses were built), 1998 and 2019. These matching aerial photographs are being enlarged and printed. We will be able to follow the native tree lifes through the decades. This will be invaluable information to ensure the future of our native trees. Our neighborhood title is "Oak Knoll". Coastal Oaks have been here for hundreds if not thousands of years, yet our globalization and need for pretty plants are killing our forests. Dutch Elm disease and Chestnut blight have devastated vast portions of the United States. Now its California forests under siege...pictures of fallen Landmark Oak..Lerwick at Ramona





# 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 for 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 highest survey results in City
- Door viewers & smoke alarms installed for members.
- **1985**
- CDBG funds sidewalks on 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 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 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 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 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
- 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
- **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
- **2015**
- NIP passed Stuart traffic study
- FAA Airport success in restoring flight patterns
- Success in moving GWR pump station
- N. Fremont Adaptive Signal upgrade
- **2016**
- Airport Rd reconstructed and resurfaced
- \$10,000 designated for CONA street trees
- Implemented Neighborhood Video Partnership
- CONA Shed solar backup for radio installed
- Successful agreement to get Eddie's demolished
- **2017**
- New playground and ADA upgrades for our Park, NIP funded and in design
- CONA cooked 550 hotdogs & served 22 gallons of lemonade for Movie in the Park, over 800 hundred attended!
- Measure P-resurfaced CONA & new handicap ramps on Airport Rd.
- Stuart Closure completed by NIP-one year ahead of schedule!
- **2018**
- **Successfully stopped the Airport Master Plan from using CONA streets as access to the new North side.**
- **CONA supplied complimentary lemonade to record 900 at Movie in the Park**
- **Installed Free Library at the Park**
- **CONA CERT now has 50 graduates**
- **2019 More to come!**

