



PACIFIC GROVE WEEKLY SUMMARY

February 6, 2016

CITY COUNCIL

Major actions taken by the Council at its regular meeting on February 4, 2015 include:

- ❖ Received presentations on gull abatement efforts and the current status of the ongoing water supply projects
- ❖ Authorized an agreement with Davey Resource Group to develop an inventory and GIS database of publicly owned trees in the City. The inventory will then allow the City to initiate a comprehensive long-term maintenance program
- ❖ Authorized an agreement with Access Monterey Peninsula (AMP), which will upgrade the quantity and quality of programming available to Pacific Grove occupancies and allow residents to use the resources to create local programming.
- ❖ Held second reading and adopted an ordinance approving a lease with Lighthouse Fellowship of Pacific Grove for unused office space in the Community Center.
- ❖ Authorized an agreement with IPS Group for the purchase of smart parking meters to replace the existing meters.
- ❖ Approved a lease with the Union Pacific Railroad for the railroad right of way through the golf Course and ending at Sinex. This will allow the City to conduct sewer maintenance efforts on lines running under the right of way without having to seek UPRR approval each and every time. In addition, it will allow the City to respond to maintenance needs without having to wait for UPRR to dispatch crews, not of which are stationed near PG. The lease is at no cost to the City.
- ❖ Continued its ongoing efforts to identify major strategic issues and priorities that will guide the budget development effort.

The agenda reports and supporting documents for all of these actions are on the City's website, at <http://www.cityofpacificgrove.org>. Details of the actions taken will also be available, upon completion and adoption of the meeting minutes, which will also be posted on the website.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Seagulls. The City is taking a three-step approach to discouraging the gulls that return to PG each year in the winter and spring from congregating in the downtown. The gulls that seasonally inhabit nests on rooftops of the multi-story buildings have become a nuisance and a health hazard to residents and visitors alike. The City wants to disperse the gull population and nests over a wider area, and closer to the shoreline, so that the impact of droppings is not focused in areas with the highest concentration of pedestrians and outdoor diners.

The first step is to identify where rooftop nests currently exist, as arriving gulls, have a strong desire to return to their nest from the previous year. Many owners of downtown buildings do not know if they actually have a nest or two on their rooftop. To assist the owners, the City retained Monterey Drone to conduct a overflight video of the rooftops in the downtown, using a small remotely piloted vehicle, to visually identify where existing nests can be found. Now that the nests have been identified, the City will contact the building owners and request that the nests be removed by February 20th. This date was selected to avoid interfering with the nests once an egg

is present. Once an egg is present, Federal protections come into play and the nests cannot be disturbed.

Once roofs are cleaned and any remaining nests from last year have been removed, most of the gulls, not finding their nests, will start searching for a nesting site. We then employ the second step, which is to fly raptors amongst the searching gulls, to further encourage them into seeking a site outside of the downtown to build their nests. Thus, the raptors are not flown to attack the gulls. Their very presence in the air above the downtown buildings is a deterrent for the roaming gulls to seek areas without the added concern of raptors in the area.

The City has contracted with West Coast Falconry to fly the raptors intermittently in March and April. While in the area, the raptors often don't have to be airborne, as their presence on the arms of their handlers can adequately agitate already uneasy gulls. The City's intent, of course, is not to hurt any gulls or to reduce their ability to reproduce, just to disperse the nests over a much wider area and, if appropriate, closer to open water. Seagulls that eat shellfish produce better eggs with a lower mortality rate. Gull eggs that are produced from parents that eat human garbage do not fare as well.

The third requires abating sources of food in the downtown. The City is working with local business owners and Waste Management to secure disposal bins so that gulls cannot access the garbage.

CITY BUDGET

The City is now initiating its annual budget development process. The Council addresses the budget in a measured, sequential fashion, in order to provide numerous opportunities for all citizens to provide input. This input can be by letter, e-mail, talking to staff or a Councilmember at City Hall (or in the grocery store, wherever you see us!), or by attending one of the many Council meetings.

Here is the current schedule of upcoming sessions that will address various aspects of the budget:

- Feb 18 – Five-year fiscal forecast and options for increasing revenues and decreasing expenditures in the outyears
- Mar 18 – Proposed capital improvement projects and equipment purchases
- Apr 15 – Review by Council of budget alternatives
- May 6 – Budget ordinance introduction
- May 30 - Budget adoption

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, the Monterey City Council recognized CERT members for their service to the community.

In August of 1994, the Monterey Fire Department responded to a growing concern on the part of the citizens of Monterey to provide disaster response training. With this in mind, the Monterey Fire Department brought the San Francisco Fire Departments highly successful *Neighborhood Emergency Response Training* (NERT) program to Monterey. The first class of Monterey CERT trainees completed the course in February of 1995. Each participant receives a student manual, safety helmet, vest and a graduation certificate. At the time of enrollment, you may register to

become a volunteer disaster worker for the City. Quarterly drills are coordinated by fire department personnel to maintain and improve CERT skills.

CERT is a community organization that 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 & rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT Members use these skills in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. Below is a photo of CERT members assisting the fire department during a storm.

If you are interested in becoming a CERT volunteer, the next CERT training starts on March 5, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for seven consecutive Thursday evenings. If you would like more information about CERT please email them at montereycert@hotmail.com or call (831) 646-3416. You may also visit their website at <http://montereycert.org>.



LAW/POLICE DEPARTMENT

Weekly Highlights. Attached you will find Chief Myers' Weekly Police Report for the week of January 30, 2015 to February 5, 2015, with the Year-to-Date Monthly Highlights.

Employee of the Quarter. Elizabeth Conti-Yeo, Animal Control Officer/ Police Services Technician, has been named Employee of the Quarter for the period October to December 2014. Liz was selected by a review panel of her peers for her team work, leadership skills and costs

savings measures. It is noted in her nomination, that this past year Liz assumed expanded duties from those of her Animal Control Officer assignment. Liz stepped in to assist the Police Department front desk to work as a Police Services Technician at a time when the department was undergoing staffing changes. She approached these new duties with efficiency, care and dedication and with an eye to cost saving measures. Further, in these expanded duties, Liz continually examined the technician processes and procedures and looked for ways to improve services for the community. Liz will be recognized by the City Council at the January 21st meeting and you are invited to join us that evening in honoring and thanking Liz for her service to our community.

LIBRARY

Best Of. For the first time ever we are excited to learn that Pacific Grove Public Library has been selected to move into the final round of voting for 'Best Library' in the 2015 Best of Monterey County Readers' Poll! This final round is taking place (now!) from February 5 - February 26 at www.mcweekly.com/bestof2015 The poll has been won by Monterey Public Library every year and this year we have a chance.

MUSEUM

Monarchs. On Saturday, February 7, join us for a special lecture on the national effort to save monarch butterflies from 3-4 p.m. Sarina Jepsen, Endangered Species Program Director for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, will present information the conservation status and needs of the monarch butterfly. The lecture begins at 3 pm. Admission is \$5 at the auditorium door and free for Museum members. <http://www.pgmuseum.org/nightowl/>

Night Owl. On Valentine's Day, Feb. 24, be sure to head to The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History for our special Night Owl event "The Science of Seduction." This year's event features the popular Central Coast band SambaDa! Night Owl: The Science of Seduction begins 7 p.m. and is \$15 general admission and \$10 for Museum members.

<http://www.pgmuseum.org/museum-events/2015/2/7/lecture-the-national-effort-to-save-monarch-butterflies>

California Naturalists. And don't forget registration is now underway for California Naturalists classes. Click here for more information. <http://www.pgmuseum.org/california-naturalist/>



PLASTIC BAG BAN

Effective March 1, 2015

BANNED

single-use plastic
carry out bags



10¢ CHARGE

recyclable paper bag



NO CHARGE

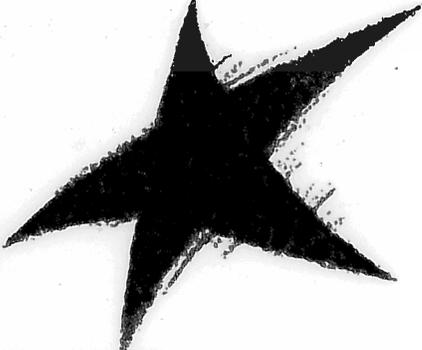
- WIC, SNAP and CalFresh
- Small paper bags for:
 - Greeting Cards
 - Prescriptions
- Plastic bags for:
 - Produce
 - Meat
 - Bulk Items
 - Wet Items



AVOID THE CHARGE: BRING YOUR OWN BAG



<http://www.ci.pg.ca.us/plasticbagban>

VOTE 
FOR US
BEST OF 
MONTEREY COUNTY®

TO VOTE,
GO TO →

WWW.MCWEELY.COM/BESTOF2015

Pacific Grove Public Library
550 Central Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Congratulations!

The 2015 Best of Monterey County® Readers' Poll is underway. As you may know we instituted a two round system this year. From January 8 - 29, our readers nominated their favorites to move onto the final round of voting where the top nominees will face off.

I am writing to let you know your business is moving through to the final round! Our readers have selected you as among their favorites for:

Best Library

There are several important things to know:

- The voting for the final round is from **February 5 - February 26** at www.mcweekly.com/bestof2015
- Though you may have already encouraged your customers to nominate you, *they need to go back and vote for you in this final round.* This is important - they got you on the ballot, now they need to cast their votes in the final round.
- Enclosed is a window cling that you should place in your business to let your visitors know that you're in the running for Best Of 2015. Place in a prominent location and encourage people to log in and vote!
- We have a social media share kit located at www.mcweekly.com/bestof2015 with several images we have made for you to download and use on your Facebook and website to encourage people to vote. Make sure to send all web traffic to www.mcweekly.com/bestof2015 to simplify things for your voters.

We have had a great response to this year's two-round process; over 43,000 votes were cast in the nomination period in January. Now comes the final round. February will be huge.

Sincerely,

Keely Richter
Executive Assistant

P.S.

If you would like to promote yourself with an advertisement on the ballot or in the print edition please call me at 831-394-5656 ext 128 and I will put you in touch with your Advertising Representative.

LOCAL & INDEPENDENT

668 Williams Avenue >> Seaside, CA 93955 >> 831.394.5656 >> Fax 831.394.2909 >> Classifieds 831.393.3939

www.MontereyCountyWeekly.com

Come Join in the Fun!
Magic Juggling & Stories with
Bob Kann
Pacific Grove Public Library
Tuesday February 17th
7:00pm



The Pacific Grove Unified School District neither endorses nor sponsors the organization or activity represented in this document

PACIFIC GROVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Annual Membership Luncheon

Friday, March 6 • 11:45 am to 1:15 pm • The Inn at Spanish Bay

FEATURED SPEAKER:



Casey Lucius, Pacific Grove Councilmember
Pacific Grove's Business Direction

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS



BEST RETAILER:
THE QUILL
Lisa Mefford, *Owner*



BEST ENTREPRENEUR:
PACIFIC GROVE OPTOMETRIC
Michael Neunzig, O.D., *Owner*



BEST SERVICE:
CANTERBURY WOODS
Norma Brambilla, *Exec. Dir.*



BEST LODGING:
BEST WESTERN: The Inn & Suites Pacific Grove
Andy Patel, *Owner* • (pictured) Ralph Felsing, *Gen. Mgr.*



BEST RESTAURANT:
RED HOUSE CAFE
Laura & Chris D'Amelio, *Owners*

Lunch Menu: Caesar Salad • Choice of Filet of Mignon or Vegetable Lasagna
New York Cheesecake with Berries • Coffee & Tea Service • Complimentary Monterey County Wine

\$25 per member, \$40 non-members

RSVP online at www.pacificgrove.org or complete form below

Please complete the information below and mail to: P.O. Box 167, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 • 831-373-3304

You may also fax to: 373-3317 or email to: rita@pacificgrove.org (RSVP is confirmed with your payment)

Response Form

Name _____ Filet Mignon Vegetable Lasagna

Name _____ Filet Mignon Vegetable Lasagna

Name _____ Filet Mignon Vegetable Lasagna

Company _____ Contact Phone _____

Check Enclosed Visa / MC _____ Exp. _____ CID# _____

Credit Card Address: _____

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AT&T PRO-AM EXPRESS SHUTTLE & TOURNAMENT TICKETS

From Downtown Pacific Grove • Museum of Natural History



FEBRUARY 11-15
6:30AM-6:00PM
\$20 per person/day
\$60 for a 5-day pass

Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce is offering
luxurious Pacific Monarch shuttle buses to the
AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am

Tickets and information at:

Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce
584 Central Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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