


**Breaking News
About the Public
Purchase of
Our Water
System!**



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MONTEREY VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Message from the MVNA President *By Susan Nine*

I've got some good news and some bad news. I'll give you the bad news first.

With great disappointment, MVNA's Board of Directors voted to postpone our Annual Barbecue Members Only Picnic for another year. Recent developments showing a dramatic surge in Covid cases from the delta variant among the vaccinated and unvaccinated has convinced us that it would be risky and possibly unsafe to hold a large scale event including food service this year. I am sure everyone is aware of and watching this increase unfold, so I don't need to tell you how important it is to get vaccinated and take precautions even if vaccinated, for the sake of your health, and that of the community, health care workers and those facing the public every day in stores, restaurants, and while providing other services.

Perhaps if we all do our part, we can keep this surge from escalating to the point where sheltering in place ever needs to be imposed again. It's been so great to have been able to visit friends and family mask-less as long as we were all vaccinated, and return to dining out again and other things we've avoided the past year. But some of those freedoms may need to be restricted again, primarily because many are still refusing to be vaccinated or live in places where vaccines haven't been readily available. The delta variant is messing with our minds and bodies and we need to adapt just as the virus is adapting. Our main, if not only, weapons are the vaccines and whatever precautions we can take to slow down if not take down this new threat.

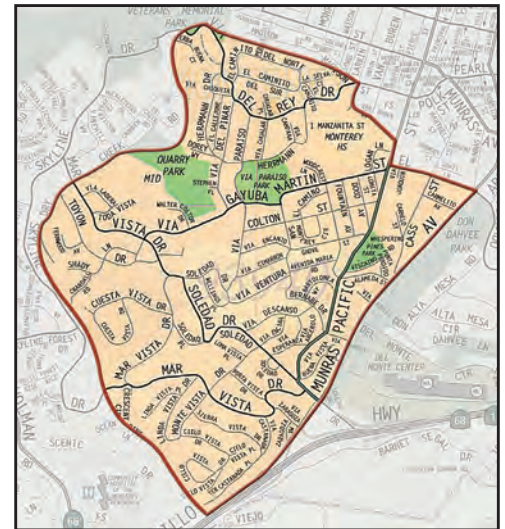
Now for some good news:

- First of all, MPUSD children will be returning to school next week with masks and other safety protocols in place. We wish them best of luck!
- Although there will be no picnic, your MVNA Representatives are meeting monthly Via Zoom and will continue to do so.
- The NCIP program is being funded again and that Committee is meeting to prioritize the backlog of previously approved projects that were defunded to provide revenues required to keep the City financially afloat.
- Our Underground Utility Committee has been at the forefront in pushing for undergrounding, particularly in the highest fire hazard zones of the City and now PG&E fully endorses and is committed to providing funding for extensive undergrounding throughout California and locally, we hope in part thanks to MVNA's lobbying efforts.
- Also, all current MVNA memberships will automatically renew for free effective September 1st. New memberships will also be free. We will be funding MVNA with donations, rather than required membership dues. Though voluntary, donations will be greatly appreciated since we will no longer have income from membership dues.

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The Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association (MVNA) is one of fifteen City of Monterey neighborhood associations that represent the residents of Monterey.

Our goal is to preserve and improve the quality and character of our neighborhood areas.

Our services include review and comment on selected city programs, proposed ordinances, and building designs. We provide assistance to members in resolving neighborhood concerns.

New Water Could Be Flowing to the Peninsula by December 2023

by Jeana Jett

After months in negotiations, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Board was set to approve a Water Purchase Agreement with Cal Am at its July 16 virtual board meeting. That did not happen. In its public deliberations about Cal Am's proposal, the MPWMD Board pointed out that Cal Am is still holding out for its desal installation, should the Pure Water Monterey Expansion fail.

According to the draft version of the Water Purchase Agreement, Cal Am continues to believe that the water available from the Pure Water Monterey Project and its Expansion "provides insufficient supplies to meet customer demand without the desalination component...and therefore [Cal Am] intends to continue to seek all necessary approvals for development, construction and operation of the MPWSP desalination plant".



As pointed out at the July 16 Board meeting there's a big underlying catch: Cal Am has no determinable legal groundwater rights in Marina, the site of its proposed desalination plant. As one speaker at the meeting noted: "We cannot simply write a blank check and endorse unknown future desal projects when Cal Am has no right to the water".

The Board ultimately voted for more negotiation on the Water Purchase Agreement language and will bring it back for a vote by October 18 or sooner. At this time, the delay in signing the Water Purchase Agreement is not expected to delay work on the Pure Water Monterey Expansion and could have new water flowing by December 2023.

The Water Supply and Demand Report and two supporting reports make it clear that the Pure Water Monterey Expansion Project will provide plenty of water. Although coming online later than originally scheduled, the Pure

Monterey One operation has been highly successful, so there is no reason to believe its expansion will be any less successful despite Cal Am's claims.

Nevertheless, Cal Am concedes that the water supplied by the Pure Water Monterey Expansion Project will be available before the desalination plant is operational. "All they [Cal Am] can do now is to try to convince the Coastal Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission that they still need to build desal because the Expansion is not enough water", according to Melodie Chrislock, Managing Director of [Public Water Now](#).

As to the \$129 million Cal Am has spent on the proposed desal project, without producing any used or useful assests. The CPUC will determine if Cal Am can charge us ratepayers. Cal Am wants the MPWMD to agree NOT to object to Cal Am's reimbursement plan by ratepayers. Regardless of the MPWMD's views regarding this reimbursement, the CPUC is not likely to listen based on its past responses to similar issues.

Of concern is whether Cal Am will be able to aggregate its valuation with the \$129 million when it comes time to purchase Cal Am through eminent domain as set forth by the substantial win on Measure J in 2016.

The Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association endorsed Measure J.

Membership update *by Hans Jannasch*

As you may have already read in the President's Message, the Board of the MVNA voted to eliminate annual membership dues and encourage donations to help cover our annual costs for things like website maintenance and meeting supplies. With the continuing evolution of the pandemic and having to cancel our annual MVNA BBQ/ Picnic once again, we felt that our residents would be better served by not requiring annual dues, while still being informed through our newsletters, periodic emails, and forums we organize to inform residents on local elections, critical issues and ballot measures. We are proud to currently count 291 households with at least 457 residents as MVNA members and invite all others living within the MVNA boundaries to join us for free.



To either join MVNA, or make a donation, please go to: <http://www.montereyvistaneighborhood.org/join>

The Board of MVNA greatly appreciates all donations and looks forward to hearing from you. We strive to fairly represent all our residents and serve you as outlined on our website.

A MVNA History Lesson *By Pat Venza*

The Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association (MVNA) was founded in 1979. The name was the Monte Vista Homeowners Association as this area was called Monte Vista and adjacent to it was the Monte Regio area of the City. It is now all Monterey Vista. The reason for the forming of the association was the selling of the land at 400 Mar Vista by the school district to a developer. Like all groups it takes something big in your own backyard to get people motivated. That area was forest sitting in the middle of our neighborhood and a developer came in to build a high-rise condo complex, but because of the MVNA it became a Planned Unit Development with low structures that we now see today. A good compromise!

Active in that first year were a few people who still live in this neighborhood. Maureen and Hugo Bianchini, Bill Hyle was the first president (since deceased). The next year, 1980, Clyde Roberson and Ruth Vreeland (now deceased, but remembered by many) joined the board.



The forming of the MVNA led to other neighborhood associations in the City, but MVNA was the first (or maybe second) in the City. Within a few years Clyde Roberson ran for City Council and then mayor where he furthered the importance of the neighborhood association by starting the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NCIP) which allowed neighborhoods to use a portion of the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) for improvements within the neighborhoods.

A BIG thank you to our founding members!

To comply with state guidelines to prevent the spread of Covid our monthly Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association board meetings are held virtually, usually the first Monday of each month on an online conference application from 6:00 to 8:00pm. You are welcome to attend any of these virtual Board meetings, or to suggest agenda items to share your concerns. Please contact a board member for more information.

Web: montereyvistaneighborhood.org

Email: mvneighborhood@gmail.com

MVNA Officers & Directors	
Susan Nine (President)	333-6882
Jean Rasch (VP & NCIP Rep)	625-3200
Charles Martin (Treasurer)	373-0649
Kristin Dotterrer (Secretary & Historian)	262-2301
Hans Jannasch (Membership, NCIP alt)	373-0872
Pat Venza (Past President)	375-8416
Michele Altman	214-2545
Nickie Bach	747-1613
Jeannie Ferrara	236-1111
Jeana Jett (Outreach)	655-0357
Marta Kraftzeck	375-2146
Ray Meyers	905-5327
Mike Pekin	905-3756
Bruce Zanetta	647-1997

It is the policy and practice of the MVNA to ensure equal opportunities without discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, national origin, genetic information or any characteristic protected by law.

Adopted by MVNA Board of Directors, 2021

Message from the MVNA President *Continued from page 1*

Here is a list of some of the many things our all-volunteer Officers and Directors are providing for the neighborhood:

- Admission to MVNA's famous neighborhood BBQ picnic every September (hopefully next year)
- Representation on neighborhood issues to City Council and Commissions • Informal neighbor dispute resolution
- Resident surveys on neighborhood related issues to help inform MVNA representation
- Regular newsletters that keep residents informed and entertained
- Researching historic information on neighborhood properties, and residents of note
- Candidate/Measure forums to help inform our voting choices
- Informational meetings and speakers on vital local issues
- An organization that fights to preserve our quality of life, and our uniquely beautiful environment
- Representation for city funded Neighborhood and Community Improvement Projects that benefit all residents
- Subcommittees for undergrounding, outreach, wireless issues, etc



- Maintaining an active neighborhood website
- Fighting to keep cell towers out of residential areas

Here are some of our accomplishments just this past year, during a pandemic no less:

- Fought for and got approval of a gas-powered leaf-blower ban in residential areas of Monterey and are making sure it is being actively enforced
- Successfully presented a City Candidates Forum on Zoom for the local City Council and Mayoral races
- Got the City to repair damage and drainage problems caused by neighborhood road resurfacing

- Was instrumental in helping get Measure Z passed to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax at a time when extra income was vital for maintaining even minimal City services
- Pushed for and got a thousand plus page EIR for the proposed Stadium Complex Project at Monterey High, embedded within MVN, to at least partially evaluate environmental and historic impacts from implementation of this project that uses our Measure I tax dollars
- Helped get the City to resolve a series of vicious dog attacks reported to MVNA by residents

To help support MVNA's work on behalf of all residents, please make checks payable to MVNA and mail to:

MVNA, 532 Herrmann Drive, or donate by credit card on our website:

<http://www.montereyvistaneighborhood.org/join>

All best and warm wishes for your safety, wellbeing, and happiness—MVNA

PG&E Makes Big Announcements *By Ray Meyers*

It was a classic case of good news and bad news when Patti Poppe, PG&E CEO, gave a press conference in Chico, CA on July 21st to talk about wildfire news and proposed PG&E plans.

First the bad news:

The press conference was given in the backdrop of stormy times for PG&E --their faulty and neglected equipment has proven to be the cause of numerous devastating wildfires since 2017, leading the company to filing bankruptcy in 2019 and pleading guilty to 84 felony counts of involuntary manslaughter. And, since getting out of bankruptcy, the CPUC (California Public Utility Commission) and a federal judge continues to oversee its criminal probation for breaking promises to remove the danger of trees coming in contact with its power lines. It was further revealed that PG&E equipment was likely the cause of the Butte County Dixie Wildfire, which as of this story is still raging and has burned over 550,000 acres, destroyed over 1,100 buildings, and is the second largest wildfire in California history.



Poppe insisted things are getting better this year. She said PG&E will spend \$1.4 billion removing more than 300,000 trees and trimming another 1.1 million. She also admitted that PG&E is “not making enough progress” and that a startling 8 million trees were still within striking distance of its power lines.

Now the good news:

Poppe continued on to introduce a new proposed plan by PG&E, comparing it to a moon shot, “We are committing today to undertake one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history our state. We are committing to bury 10,000 miles of lines, starting in our highest fire threat districts in our highest fire threat areas. We are starting today.” This news is important to the residents of the Monterey Peninsula and especially Monterey Vista, as much of its forested area is classified a high fire risk zone or is adjacent to these zones.

When brought to her attention that this new policy was a polar reversal from PG&E’s position of the past, Poppe said, “We know that we have long argued that undergrounding was too expensive. This is where we say it’s too expensive not to underground. Lives are on the line.”



To put their goal in perspective, 10,000 miles of underground lines would be almost half way around the planet or across the United States and back twice. This goal also represents about 10% of PG&E’s distribution and transmission and would cost \$15 to \$20 billion, based on the figures used to estimate underground conversion costs on PG&E website. Poppe also stated that she believes the actual cost will be on the lower end of the estimates, due their company’s recent experience in the process, economies of scale and new technologies currently employed.

It is estimated to take ten years to complete this project and the plan is to work with local and state agencies to best implement a strategy to get approximately 1,000 miles per year completed. To be sure, the “devil is in the details”, so stay tuned.

In the meantime, for over two years many dedicated folks comprised of residents and several neighborhood association board members have formed a group and meet via Zoom sessions (open to the public) once per month. Their goal is to research the feasibility and costs of undergrounding utility lines in Monterey for improved safety, security, reliability, and to restore the natural beauty of the area that utility poles and the now required over trimming our trees has compromised. This group has a website Montereyundergrounding.net that is dedicated to providing information on the subject and to encourage more public participation in this effort.

Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program Update

by Jean Rasch

The Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program (NCIP) met for the first time since the epidemic, via Zoom, on July 8. The City Budget estimates \$2-3 million will come in from TOT tax in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, releasing those dollars to NCIP projects in July of 2022. There are \$7,000,000 of approved but as of now defunded (due to the economic collapse) projects.

The main topic of the meeting was how to prioritize those 2-3 million dollars. It was noted that the 2012 Policies and Procedures Manual, in revision now, states that projects be done in the fiscal year after confirmed by the City Council (page 18), meaning the expectation is that projects be done in chronological order. So the committee is looking at on-hold projects by year and by vote rank each year.

Some projects may no longer be needed. It was noted that the procedure to remove approved projects is called deappropriation, which consists of no longer feasible or no longer wanted projects. Here is the procedure for that from the manual (page 21):

In the event that an approved project is not feasible, staff will discuss the pertinent facts and the NIP Committee will review the details and documentation with staff.

If a neighborhood project is no longer wanted, the neighborhood representative will discuss to what extent there is neighborhood consensus to deappropriate the funds. No deappropriation action will be taken if the neighborhood representative or alternate is absent from the meeting.

So each neighborhood is looking at their approved but not yet funded projects. Let us know in the next month if you were central to a project that is no longer needed. We will proceed from there in the next year. --Jean 831-625-3200

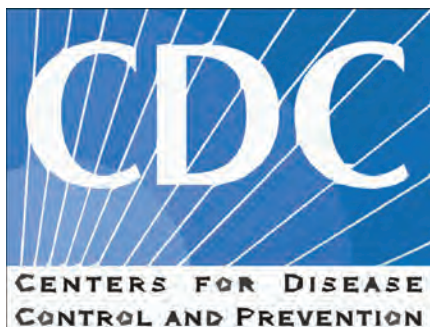
COK Tree Study
El Caminito Del Norte Streetlight
Montecito Park Improvements, Ph 4
Accessible Beach Mats
Fisherman Flats Park Improvements
COK Park Improvements
Don Dahvee Creek Path, Construction Ph I
Emergency Operations Center Upgrade
Oak St 500 Block Widening phase 1
Simoneau Plaza/Trader Joe's RRFB
Laguna Grande Pk Vball Court Turf Replacement
Colton Hall Repointing, Ph II
Deer Forest/Elk Run Retaining Wall
Citywide Dog Amenities
Spray Ave Tot Lot Resurfacing.
Mar Vista Drive Radar Sign
Skyline Forest Dr/HoL. Hwy K-Rail

Recent Updates from CDC

Put on Your Masks and Thinking Caps: Interpretive Summary for August 13, 2021

COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to increase, especially in areas with higher levels of community transmission and lower vaccination coverage. Pediatric cases and hospitalizations have also increased in recent weeks. Rates of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations are lower in children of all ages compared to adults, but some children develop acute COVID-19 requiring hospitalization. In addition, some children who have had COVID-19 may later develop Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a rare but serious condition associated with COVID-19.

As of July 30, 2021, CDC has received reports of more than 4,400 children in the United States who have been diagnosed with COVID-19-associated MIS-C.



Because children can be affected by COVID-19 and severe complications can occur, schools are encouraged to implement CDC's updated Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K - 12 Schools to keep children safe. CDC's updated guidance recommends that schools implement layered prevention strategies, including universal masking by all students ages 2 years and older, staff, teachers, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. CDC also recommends eligible students, parents, teachers, and staff get vaccinated as soon as possible. Vaccination among eligible populations is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19, especially to children under the age of 12 who are not yet eligible for vaccination.

Schools can safely reopen by implementing safety precautions. During previous COVID-19-related school closures, many children lost access to important services, including school-based healthcare services, special services for students with disabilities, physical education, and nutrition programs. School closures also contributed to increased anxiety and loneliness in many children and teens. Schools provide safe environments for learning and support healthy peer interaction important for social and emotional development. Children benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to inperson instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.

THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY IN VIA PARAISO PARK

The Monterey Public Library maintains five Little Free Libraries in City parks, but the Monterey Vista Neighborhood is home to the first, and the sweetest of them all! After the Little Free Library in Via Paraiso Park was closed for more than a year, it's back! This isn't exactly news since it reopened in May, but we can still celebrate its return.

In 2015, John McCleary wanted to build and maintain a public Little Free Library. These are often installed by residents on their own curbs, but John had the idea of placing it in Via Paraiso Park. Aware that there must be City laws and restrictions, he began asking people with the City and the Friends of the Library. He found out that others associated with the Friends of the Library were also thinking about creating a Little Free Library.

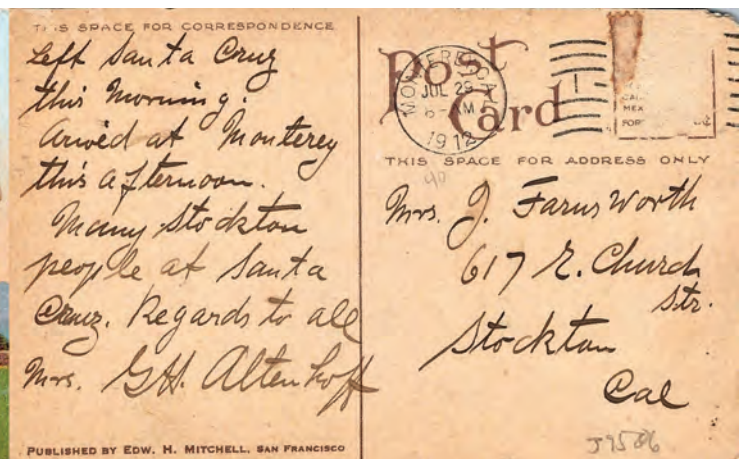


With a visit to a City Council meeting and in cooperation with the Friends of the Library, John got location approval and the required specifications. Any structure on public property must follow ADA and public health specifications. This was to be the first Little Free Library on public property in Monterey.

He supplied the materials and construction himself, using lumber, paint & hardware he had at home. Another contributor purchased cement and plexi-glass from a lumberyard. Several neighbors and some associated with the Friends — Hans Jannasch, Mike Sovereign, Al Washburn and Bill Wojtkowski — helped in the construction and installation. A neighborhood celebration and grand opening was held on June 26, 2015.

On behalf of the Monterey Public Library, volunteers of the MPL Friends & Foundation maintain this gem. We also happen to be neighbors, so if our Little Free Library needs attention, please contact Diane de Lorimier: d.delorimier@sbcglobal.net or 831/214-0172.

On behalf of the Monterey Public Library, volunteers of the MPL Friends & Foundation maintain this gem. We also happen to be neighbors, so if our Little Free Library needs attention, please contact Diane de Lorimier: d.delorimier@sbcglobal.net or 831/214-0172.



An Ode to Dormancy Elizabeth S. Jannasch February-May 2021

Oh, how I swoon and swell for spring's light step
She heralds all that is first and new
Leaves of tender green, and debutante buds in burgundy sleeves
Who cloister in corners of branch and stem,
Like sisters-in-waiting for their very first dance
Whispering secrets as they wait to come out
And summer flirts in linen skirts and sassy hats
And pushes the hourglass on its side
Where I carelessly run and picnic my days
Sleep long in the sun and dream of what may
While botanical madness stirs furious and fast,
Spilling buckets of color 'cross meadow and grass
And I dance the long days tying ribbons 'round trees
And I come and I go just as I please.

But then there's my unrefuted respect for fall!
She comes like the wisdom of witches who call
With her wrinkles, rough edges and watch coat cinched tight
And rushes me homeward from outdoor delights
She blows chilly whistle with no-nonsense intention
Restores rhyme and reason and SNAPS AIR to attention!
A barefoot anarchist with directionless antics
I stumble in line and come to my senses
With reluctant obedience on a short leash of time
I quicken my pace and hurry inside.

For it is in the presence of winter's sweet pause,
That my heart returns home from the bluster of fall,
Wrapped in lavender quilts, sipping honey-laced tea
I sit like a seed in safe dormancy
And I knit the loose ends of regrets and transgressions
Where in stillness and silence I finally listen
To the one quiet tear as she falls to my cheek and
Whispers in grace that, "All is forgiven."

I watch undisturbed in the ember's warm glow
For the mid-winter rose to peak above snow
And who should come calling but Patience and Waiting
My fast winter friends who are good with time-taking
And we sit side-by-side and bear witness to all--
The tides of time passing, how they rise, how they fall
And how often we miss the voice of the Call
And bemuse the wave of life's ebb and its flow,
How little we do and how little we know

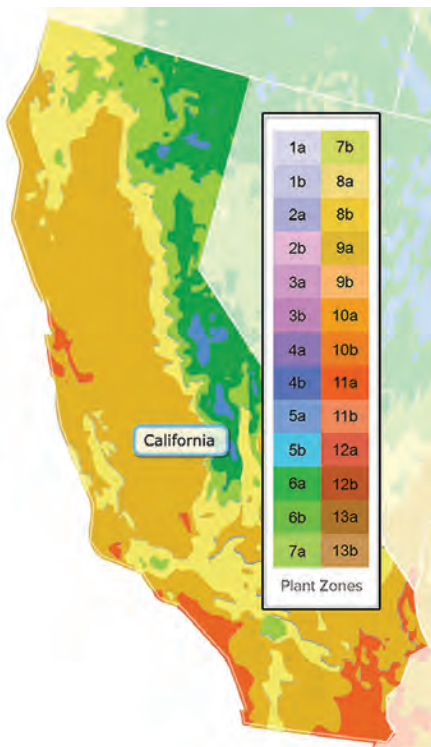
Then I smooth out the wrinkles of wishes unanswered
And iron a new dress for me just to dance in
Speak a small prayer for those who cannot
And tell an old story that someone forgot
Where waiting is compost for that which lies dormant
And the virtues of patience are finally rewarded

For in the stillness and grace of winter's repose
All is rested, divested, refreshed and composed
And I deepen my roots and sit with the truth
And sand the rough edges of hope 'til she's smooth
And as the midwinter rose pushes out through the snow
I know spring is coming and soon I will go
And dance in the fields and play with the wind
And behold the unfolding of life once again

Gardening in the Hood

By Susan Nine

Knowing your growing zone will help you find what will grow most successfully in your garden. Monterey Vista Neighborhood is within the USDA Zone 10a corresponding with Sunset's Zone 17-Oceanside Northern and Central California. Summer temperatures seldom exceed 75 degrees. Heat-loving plants disappoint or dwindle here. Freezing temperatures are rare. That being said some varieties of citrus or succulents or other varieties that grow here may require some protection on those occasions that forecast freezing temperatures. I like to use old non LED Christmas light strings on suscep-



tible plants like limes plugged into outdoor outlets on frosty nights or cloth coverings. (LED bulbs generate little heat). Keep in mind that all plants have differing water, sunlight, pH and soil requirements that must be considered and provided for along with climate zones, not to mention gopher and deer resistance. My Sunset Western Garden Book is my bible for quickly accessing all this info, though it's also easy to find online.

With rising food costs, and a possible reluctance to grocery shop, many of you have begun kitchen gardens with herbs and vegetables. Nothing is better tasting or healthier than freshly picked herbs, vegetables and fruits. There are so many wonderful varieties from which to choose that thrive in zone 10a. Use this link to see what you can start from seeds or as transplants throughout the months of the year in zone 10a. <https://www.gardenate.com/zones/USA+--+Zone+10a>

Because of gophers, poor soil, and/or limited space, many are building or buying raised beds. Some are buying galvanized or aluminum metal troughs, others use wood, though some recommend against pressure treated wood that may leach undesirable chemicals. Cinder blocks, straw bales or even cheap plastic non transparent bins (roots prefer darkness) are also great options. I use primarily black plastic bins from Costco, because I can move them around, they don't take up much room, they are cheap, gopher proof and it's easy to replenish the soil. For

any beds resting on bare ground, be sure to put down hardware cloth first or you will be feeding the gophers. In any of these options, I lasagna compost, combining alternating layers of green kitchen and garden cuttings, shredded newspaper and cardboard, dead leaves and potting/garden soil and any amendments and well composted chicken manure.

The top layer is potting soil that I can plant in right away while the lower layers quickly compost and provide a haven for earthworms. Avoid weeds with seeds. I drill plenty of holes for good drainage. I grow lots of lettuce, green beans, and herbs. It's such fun to just walk out our kitchen door and come back with a lemon, some parsley, chives or thyme, and the freshest lettuce money can't buy. Many wonderful videos are available on YouTube about making all sorts of raised beds, keyhole gardens and how to do lasagna composting. Here's one to get you started: <https://youtu.be/p-kcnRrKrGI>



Happy gardening 🌻

C.E.R.T. Training For Monterey Area Residents



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program uses a FEMA curriculum to educate 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. CERT also participates in searches for missing persons, serves as coastal spotters for persons swept out to sea, storm response and other emergencies.

Learn These Skills and Many More:

- Emergency First-Aid
- Use of a fire extinguisher
- Disaster Preparedness
- Shutting your utilities
- Rescue Techniques

- Communications when phones fail
- Assessing your home or workplace after an earthquake or storm
- Neighborhood search
- Working as part of a team

Classes are a combination of ZOOM based and in-person.

Classes occur weekends and start September 2021

CERT provides 24 hours of community service credit to Students!

Open to residents of Monterey and neighboring communities. Students under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. **To enroll, send an email of interest to: training@montereycert.org**