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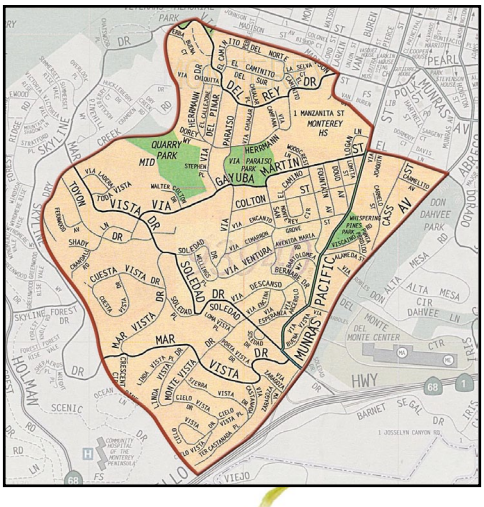
The Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association (MVNA) is one of fifteen City of Monterey neighborhood associations that represent the residents of Monterey.

MVNA Boundaries include Monte Vista, Monte Regio, Peters Gate, Toyon Heights and Woodbridge Acres.

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.

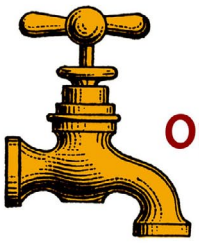


MONTEREY VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

The Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association invites you to its

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING



6:30-8pm Tuesday, May 14

Monterey Public Library Community Room

Our regional water supply: now and into the future.

WHAT IS FEASIBILTY?

Approved by voters in November, Measure J requires the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) to conduct a feasibility study as a first step to get the facts on a public buyout of Cal Am. If the study shows that a public buyout is financially feasible and in the public interest, MPWMD would proceed under eminent domain to negotiate and buy Cal Am's local system. MPWMD would become our new public water utility.

Is feasibility a simple matter of dollars and cents, or are there intangible benefits to local ownership and control that should be considered as well?

Speaker: Molly Evans, MPWMD Chair

A NEW WATER SOURCE

Pure Water Monterey is a groundwater replenishment project that plans to replace the 3,500 acre feet per year of water that is currently being pumped out of the Carmel River by treating and reusing a variety of wastewaters from the area. This advanced purified recycled water is being injected into the Seaside Basin to be stored to provide for the water needs of our region.

The water generated from Pure Water Monterey will provide the Monterey Peninsula with a new source of potable water beginning this summer.

Speaker: Mike McCullough, Monterey One Water Government Affairs Administrator

Message from the MVNA President:

Let's hope that Spring is here! We can't complain about not getting enough rain this winter. With all the rain I think our neighborhood held up pretty well. A few trees down, electricity out for a day or so, but we don't have to look far to see people who truly suffered from the affects of this winter.

With Spring comes two events that I hope will interest all of you enough for your participation:

The first is the **Neighborhood Improvement Program** (NIP). This year we have 10 projects submitted by residents of this neighborhood that will be voted on for funding out of the approximate $4 million from Transient Occupancy Tax (ToT). You will (if you haven't already) be asked to participate in a survey to rank your interest in these projects for funding (see page 2 for more info). In addition, the projects that have the best chance for funding are those that bring out the most residents to the N.I.P. meetings. Those meetings will be April 18 for Monterey Vista projects, May 2 for City-wide projects, and NIP decisions for project funding will be made the night of May 15 (see page 2 for locations and times).

The second event I want to mention is the **MVNA General Meeting**. Topic of discussion: Monterey Peninsula Water Issues - Update on the feasibility study for the buy out of Cal Am and the new water reclamation source coming online this summer. Both subjects will affect all of us in our water bills and the economic health of the Peninsula. Please attend - May 14, 6:30-8pm in the Monterey Public Library community room, 625 Pacific St.

Pat Venza , President of MVNA 831-375-8416
mvneighborhood@gmail.com

Your input is needed!

The MVNA annual Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) project survey

Every year Monterey residents can submit suggestions for capital projects to the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). All projects submitted this year are now up for consideration and will be voted on in May. The highest rated projects for the whole city (14 neighborhoods) will receive funding. The program is funded with ~16% of the hotel tax collected, or about $4 million per year.

This year 12 projects were submitted within Monterey Vista Neighborhood (of which two were withdrawn). **We are inviting all residents of our neighborhood to rank these projects based on how you feel they would benefit our residents by answering the questions in this brief online survey**. The projects are numbered in the order they were received by the city. If you would like to more actively support one or more projects, consider coming to the following two NIP meetings where you can speak up to 3 minutes on any of the projects (for or against):

- **April 18th, 6:30pm, Hilltop Center, Jessie Street and David Avenue (Tentative: Aguajito Oaks –Monterey Vista)**
- **April 2nd, 6:30-8:30, Scholze Park Center, City wide comment night, including the Underground Conduit Placement CW-31**
- **May 15th, 6:00pm, City Hall (Voting night).**

The Board of MVNA greatly appreciates your participation and welcomes any comments you might have - please take the online survey by visiting **https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N6TYY87**

NIP in 2019 *by Bruce Zanetta*

Whenever I feel like cursing at all of those tourists flooding into town I remember the following to soften that white knuckle grip on my steering wheel. There is a whole lot of capital improvement going on throughout Monterey thanks to them. NIP, the Neighborhood Improvement Program is there because of TOT. No TOT does not stand for Tax On Tourists but rather Transient Occupancy Tax – OK maybe a fine point. TOT provides the funding that has offered a variety of improvements through the years in this neighborhood as well as every neighborhood throughout the city. And you get to decide the where and the how.

NIP was established or shall I say invented, by our current Mayor Clyde Roberson in 1985 and under his tutelage through the years has been rolling along with great success ever since and even despite the many obstacles along the way. It is unique to Monterey, as no other city has been able to duplicate it even to this day. And of course uniqueness attracts obstacles and difficulties that have to be constantly dealt with. To this day the State still has not figured out how exactly to deal with this one-of-a-kind out-of-the-box NIP organism.

Nevertheless, NIP not only survives but thrives. The NIP committee is made up entirely of volunteers with help from, mostly NIP funded, staff. Every year the work is challenging and this year is no exception as they try to balance new state regulations with the task and responsibility the city has given them. Every year they somehow manage to rise above the rising tide of difficulties. Personal note: It has this volunteer wondering how long he can hang in there.

Not only does NIP repair and improve neighborhood infrastructure, advance neighborhood health and safety, and make the home environment a better place, but you could further add that it indirectly assists city services as every improvement to a neighborhood funded through NIP can often result in one less project for the city down the road and thus more city budget moneys available for community services. Projects can range from a Mutt Mitt dispenser, to city lights along Fair Grounds Road, to trying to figure out why our oak trees are dying at such an alarming rate.

As you know Monterey Vista neighborhood has always been very involved in the Neighborhood Improvement Program and, as a vital participant, a bit of a mover and shaker over the years. For example we are the first and so far only neighborhood to directly involve every single resident of MV directly in the decision-making process by the use of a survey. Talk about capital D democracy. The survey is a lot of work but can be well worth the effort. Thank Hans and Pat the next time you run into them.

Continued on page 3

MVNA Membership Drive

Monterey has fourteen city-recognized neighborhoods, of which Monterey Vista is the second largest. According to the City, we have ~1400 homes, all of which are served by the Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association, or MVNA. Our Association has a board that meets monthly and organizes events such as the Annual BBQ/Picnic where members can eat for $1, the Candidates Forum before our City Council elections, our annual springtime General Meeting and further informative events on current topics affecting residents.

We also support residents needing help with local issues, such as with neighbors, the City, the environment or safety. As one resident wrote, "I originally figured MVNA was more of a social network; what I discovered is that it's an incredibly effective way to engage and collaborate with those who care about serious quality-of-life issues. I feel more connected and supported than ever because I know I can turn to MVNA for help."

Today, MVNA has about 450 members living in about 300 homes within Monterey Vista. Unfortunately, only about 30% of these are current, and residents are encouraged to keep their memberships updated. You can easily do so online at **montereyvistaneighborhood.org/join** or by mail. Board members are all volunteers but they do need funds for things like buying food for our annual BBQ, occasionally helping purchase needed supplies for our local CERT container and maintaining our website. Annual memberships are still only $10 per household and have not changed as far back as the board remembers.

-- Hans Jannasch, MVNA Board Member and past President

Stay informed! Be involved!
Join the Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association!
Yearly dues are only $10 per household.

Print and fill out the form below.
Make your check payable to MVNA & mail to:
MVNA 532 Herrmann Dr. Monterey, CA 93940

Name _____

☐ new member ☐ returning member

Address_____

Phone_____

Email address_____

Please include Yearly Dues: $10.00 per household.

You can also join and pay dues online by visiting
http://www.montereyvistaneighborhood.org/join

NIP in 2019 *continued from page 2*

Follow the link to an online survey here to let your neighborhood NIP reps know which proposed projects matter most to you. We hope you can take some time to rank and rate your priorities of the numerous projects. Each project is briefly described but if you need further information on any project contact your MV NIP representatives.

For this year, our neighborhood has a wide range of proposed projects that fall within our neighborhood boundaries plus one city wide globally scoped project that could fall well outside of our neighborhood. I would like to take a moment to focus on that latter mentioned project since it effectively illustrates how wide-ranging, influential and impactful these NIP projects can potentially be.

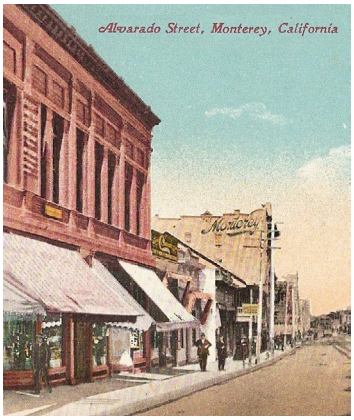
This city-wide project presented by our neighborhood has three very important goals. First it takes a first concrete step toward a future of undergrounding our utilities (both power and telecommunications). Secondly, it is a pragmatic, cost saving, step toward meeting a dig once objective. Thirdly it paves the way toward city-owned utility infrastructure (if ultimately desired by community) and even city owned utilities (if desired someday).

It is designed to symbiotically piggyback with measure S. There are 10 streets in Monterey that are designated to be completely reconstructed as measure S is implemented. Put simply, the goal of this NIP project is to put the trenching and conduit for future utilities in the road site before these streets are reconstructed so as to avoid a digging that street up again at a future date. The project targets the first of these streets and hopefully the rest to follow to complete the dig once and first steps into the future objectives.

That is NIP - to improve the present and the future. NIP meetings coming up that you may be interested in attending:

***Thursday 4/18/19 at 6:30 pm located at Hill Top Center – public comment on Monterey Vista proposed projects for 2019**
***Thursday 5/2/19 at 6:30 pm located at Scholze Park Center – public comment on City Wide proposed projects for 2019**

If you run into me at any of the meetings, feel free to ask questions and I will do my best to answer or find some one who can.



Upcoming MVNA Meetings & Events:

April 22 - Undergrounding Committee, 6:15, Monterey Library, guest Steve Wittry

May 6 - MVNA board meeting, 6:15, Monterey Library

May 14 - MVNA Annual General Membership Meeting, 6:30, Monterey Library

May 28 - Undergrounding of utilities committee, 6:15, Monterey Library

June 3 - MVNA board meeting, 6:15, Monterey Library (waiting for final Library scheduling)

June 17 - Undergrounding of utilities committee, 6:15, Monterey Library

July 1 - MVNA board meeting, 6:15, Monterey Library (waiting for final Library scheduling)

September 21 (tentative) - MVNA neighborhood picnic

Affordable Housing in Monterey?

In surveys conducted by the City of Monterey of its residents and those who work here, housing is the number one issue of concern. Rents are rising, and the homeless population grows. There are 25,000 jobs in Monterey and 22,000 people commute in from outside the city each day to work at those jobs. For those of us fortunate enough to be able to live here the lack of affordable housing affects us with traffic congestion, impedes the building of a strong cohesive community, and potentially threatens our general quality of life.

The City is looking to former Fort Ord property that is owned by Monterey now as an potential site for providing a location for some of the 600 plus units of affordable housing that the State of CA is mandating it provide. With no infrastructure on this land chances are slim that a commercial developer will consider it profitable to build the neighborhoods needed there.

More news and resources concerning the issue of affordable housing can be found at:

https://monterey.org/Services/Community-Development/Housing

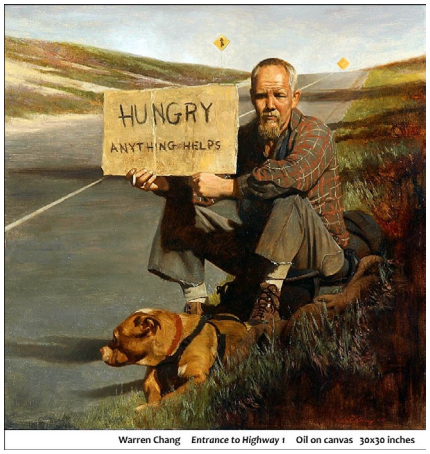
https://www.kion546.com/news/monterey-residents-react-to-three-story-development-near-homes/1064910186

https://voicesofmontereybay.org/2019/01/17/2019-the-year-of-housing/

https://www.montereyherald.com/2019/04/05/analysis-of-impediments-to-fair-housing-draft-document-in-public-review/

https://www.montereyherald.com/2019/04/08/are-in-law-units-the-secret-solution-to-the-states-housing-shortage/

City Homeless Shelter update to the MVNA Board *Mike Pekin, MVNA Board member*



Warren Chang *Entrance to Highway 1* Oil on canvas 30x30 inches

1. This topic timely because there is substantial grant money available to address unsheltered homeless immediately.

2. Our Peninsula has history of success with sheltering a troubled clientele in need of recovery services. Genesis House in Seaside, treating drug addiction successfully for decades; Interim & mental health; Community Human Services (CHS) operation of Safe Place youth shelter assistance; and Safe Passage, housing for ½ dozen youth with specified educational and therapeutic plans and activities. These existing and successful sheltering programs have substantial connection with rehabilitative services as the cornerstone for their purpose and success.

3. The state and federal grants available are for: "sheltering with minimal contacts with rehabilitative services". This emergency shelter model takes in for the night the highest practical number of homeless on a first-come, first-served basis. The intake usually starts in the early evening, 5pm or so, and discharges from the shelter 7am-ish. There is no responsibility for this concentrated group in the Community throughout the day, until the shelter re-opens in the evening; to repeat the same cycle. The track record of emergency shelters providing minimal connection with rehabilitative services is very damaging to the Communities conducting these operations.

4. Our City is participating in obtaining funding for emergency shelters, but has not set up any guidelines for what we expect to accomplish, and how. There is no City plan for the safe and productive operation of these facilities in our Community.

5. Interested residents have been, for two years, unsuccessfully, attempting to Agendize before Council and/or Planning Commission, the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness to bring together the divergent group of faith-based church programs; Homeless Service Providers; homeless advocates; and representatives from the neighborhoods and commercial property owners already zoned for homeless shelter construction as a matter of right, not application.

WIRELESS & UNDERGROUNDING NEWS

Undergrounding Committee Report *Jean Rasch, MVNA Board member*

Right now our efforts are aimed at supporting the NIP City Wide proposal to allocate $250,000 in NIP funds to install conduit underground in 2019 in a residential area while streets are torn up for total rebuilding ("restructuring"). This idea combines Measure P/S funds with NIP funds to the goal of the most cost efficient conduit placement while restructuring streets. $250,000 could lay 6-7 blocks of parallel conduit on both sides of a street, according to preliminary estimates from our Public Works engineers.

The pilot project will be an opportunity to realize conduit placement after the requests from residents for an infrastructure plan that undergrounds utility wires in neighborhoods for safety, health, economic, and scenic reasons. We will learn how expensive it is to place conduit simultaneously with restructuring. We will see if the resulting cost savings yields a community more (or less) eager to increase conduit placement. We will assess how long it takes to build a critical mass of conduit sufficient to remove poles. We will see if nearby neighbors fund their own connection to the conduits. We will learn whether the successful placement of conduit will interest the neighbors to proceed with funding beyond the pilot area. We will learn if a successful pilot project will yield a community increasingly interested in future NIP support of future conduit placement at restructuring.

The pilot project selection site will be chosen by the Director of Public Works based on criteria such as readiness for the project to start in 2019; size of the job; and ease of the job (number of driveways, curvature of the roads, number (or lack of) sidewalks, etc.).

The intent of the submitters (myself, Hans Jannasch, and Bruce Zanetta) and of the community who support the project is that the City move forward with placement of conduit in residential neighborhoods during restructuring of streets and develop a true "dig once" policy.

Please attend the following meetings to express your opinion. The NIP is very much influenced by residents who express support for projects:

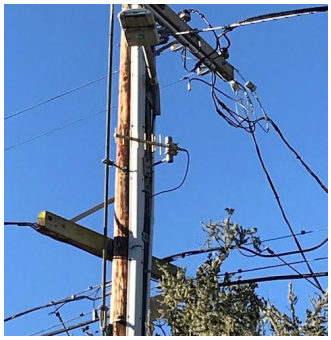
May 2, Thursday at 6:30 pm-8:30 Scholze Park Center. If you can't sit through the whole evening, I expect it to be on the later end of the evening. Public comments will be taken. Showing up matters this night. Comments should be brief, but they are important, as is the total number of people present in support.

May 15, Wednesday at 6:00 pm at City Council Chambers. Voting night. Show up early and expect a long night. Comments should be brief, but they are important, as is the total number of people present in support. If you cannot attend, email me a letter of support that I will submit: **jean@jeanrasch.com**

Wireless and Undergrounding News

FTTH vs. FTTN and the Selling of 5G *Ray Myers, MVNA Board member*

Think of the fiber being placed on the poles in our area as a very fast highway, instead of a slow two-lane road we now have. Now think of that highway coming right into the neighborhood and stopping right near your home, but not into your home. When they hook up your home to your existing copper (slow two-lane road) lines, the traffic acts like a bottle-neck and has to slow way down. That is what they are doing in our neighborhood. Sometimes they run the fast highway all the way into your home, and that is called FTTH (fiber to the home), or FTTP (fiber to the premises), but this is not as profitable to them, as the "last mile" as they call it is very expensive. What they are building is a network of FTTN (fiber to the node) on our power lines (ugly thick black lines lowest on the poles). From the nodes they can either run directly to your home at a premium cost, or more likely, connect to your existing copper lines (telephone cat5 or coaxial) into your home.



This antenna across the street from Via Paraiso park is a directional antenna and is typically used for communicating with smart meters.

That same fast highway that ends in a node can also be used to directly connect to their 5G cellular radios, which are then amplified (gain) by their proposed utility pole cell antennas and broadcast directly to your smart phone or to another antenna on your home for broadband Internet service. This is what we all fear the most -- due to the high frequency of 5G and its inability to transmit distances, the antennas will have to be ubiquitous throughout the neighborhood and only 300 feet apart.

Other than that, there is another smart meter repeater further up Via Paraiso and tons on new fiber splice/connection boxes, like this one is on Via Encanto.

If we have underground power AND city municipal fiber optic cable (in the ground) the utility poles will come down, and all the fiber (including ATT fiber) will have be buried in conduit. The fiber can still be used to power the 5G radios and antennas, but this time they will have to build their own poles for their antennas, or be subject to more restrictions to use our street light poles.

Of course, they like the idea of running the highway (fiber) on our telephone poles and selling this simple inferior hybrid system of fiber and copper for more money, while they complete the real rainmaker, 5G broadband Internet services provided by potentially dangerous microwave radio antennas.

MVNA board members have been attending Planning Commission and City Council meetings hopefully representing all of you on the issues that we have heard are of concern to you. We may have defeated the first round of cell towers into our neighborhood, but we are sure it won't be the last. The Wireless Ordinance subcommittee, of which there were three Monterey Vista residents as members, has done the first cut of the ordinance and it is waiting now for legal review and then finalize it and send onto the Planning Commission and City Council. The board members have been going to City Council asking for this process to be expedited as without the new ordinance we are still vulnerable to invasion by the telecom industry.

Related to this is the hiring of contractors by the City of Monterey to

Continued on page 7

Wireless and Undergrounding News

Continued from page 6

review cell antenna applications. This is important because we want contractors who will be working for the residents of Monterey and not for the interests of the telecom industry. Because of our participation at the City Council meetings the first round of companies was rejected and a new round of asked for. Within that group one of the contractors was going to subcontract to pro-telecom industry company. The vote by City Council was to include that the company be told they would be awarded the contract only if they did not subcontract to the pro-industry company.

I want to thank a few people in our neighborhood who are unbelievable researchers. Susan Nine, Nina Beety and Ray Meyers. Because of these people we can go to City Council armed with facts to support our concerns with issues and companies.

It has been almost a year since the City of Monterey convened a subcommittee tasked with drafting a stronger revised wireless facility ordinance; one designed to maximize local control over siting decisions of high frequency microwave antennas and equipment. The residents of Monte Vista and Old Town neighborhoods had succeeded in keeping thirteen utility pole and streetlight densified cell towers from placement within these residential districts. They would have all been operating 24/7 now, right outside people's homes and near our schools but for residents who put in countless hours and joined together to say no to neighborhood embedded cell towers. But residents realized, as they became familiar with the local ordinance and state and federal telecommunications laws and court decisions, that improvements were needed to strengthen Monterey's ordinance, especially with the impending trillion dollar telecom

industry's expressed intention to blanket cities and residential districts with hundreds of thousands of 5g antenna systems operating at much higher microwave radiation frequencies and power levels than ever before, with no testing to establish the safety of this ubiquitous electrosmog to those living under its perpetual cloud.

The subcommittee chosen by the City Council consists of five resident reps from various neighborhoods and two planning commissioners. By early December the committee completed its draft after many public meetings with public input. There are two retired engineers, a retired city planner, a retired attorney, two retired law enforcement officers, and a retired physics instructor that make up the committee. But so far no action has been taken to put the recommended draft before the Planning Commission and then the City Council for final adoption. The importance of getting the revisions in place and in force before more applications for cell facilities are made cannot be overemphasized. According to city staff, the new ordinance is awaiting legal review by an outside consulting legal firm. But it has been almost four months since the committee last met and no information concerning the status of the revised ordinance has yet come to light. Please contact City Council Members and express your concerns that the new ordinance has not yet been adopted.

We are also attaching a link about an elementary school in Ripon, California. There is a cell tower on school grounds there and parents are alarmed about the unusual number of cases of faculty and student childhood cancers that are occurring there. For comparison sake, the statistical number of childhood cancers per 100,000 children is sixteen, and this is a school with 400 students.

https://ehtrust.org/fourth-student-has-cancer-parents-demand-removal-of-cell-tower-from-ripon-school/

Wireless & Undergrounding News Continued on page 8

Wireless and Undergrounding News

Very good news from CA Supreme Court. If interested, you can read opinion from link below. Since the veto of SB649, the only State law that grants telecoms access to public rights of way is in CPUC. This is specifically a "limited" grant of access which must be done so as not to "incommode" the public. This case establishes a municipalities traditional zoning authority over siting decisions, as well as affirming that aesthetic considerations come under the definition of incommode. There is no Federal law granting access to the public rights of way. Most red states have adopted a SB 649 type law granting unbridled access, but not CA and most blue states. This decision has been years in the coming, but is now a fully published decision by the State's highest court and is now binding precedent in CA lower courts. It's a stunning affirmation of local, municipal control, specifically regarding siting decisions of wireless facilities.

https://www.aglmediagroup.com/california-supreme-court-rules-against-wireless-industry/

-- Susan Nine

Boeing has given us a very good example of what can go terribly wrong with technology when it is rushed to production and into the market before it is ready.

Personally, I always said that I was not opposed to that telecom horizon technology of 5G. But I was and am and always will be opposed to unproven technologies being rushed to market.

Verizon was in a very big hurry to get in the 5G game. So big a hurry that they were stepping into a neighborhood with no technology yet developed, probably no idea what it would even look like. AT&T is also in that big hurry with mystery technology to do something of the same. Players in the telecom industry are in a big rush to be the first to get to the 5G mother load.

Boeing was in hot competition with Airbus when they pushed the retrofitted not yet ready 737 Max into the market. Boeing had, attempted a rushed retrofit design that consequently messed with good aerodynamics and aircraft control, then hurried software that was supposed to compensate for that rushed retrofit design, then triple timed engineers and finally in a frenetic pace to the finish line skipped pilot training and did not build the necessary pilot trainers. All this to beat Airbus to American Airlines and the rest of the Airlines market.

It is in the nature of Large companies to put their shareholders above customers needs, safety, and even the companies long term best interests. It is our federal agencies that are supposed to be the watchdogs over these companies to prevent such unhealthy behavior.

Absent was the FAA during the unfolding of the Boeing problem and then crisis. In the case of 5G the FCC, run by a corporate transplant, one upped the FAA, by actually facilitating the large telecom companies wild race to the 5G prize. Concerns for what is right and good for the customer were and are not just being ignored but actually proactively pushed aside by this federal friend to the big corporations.

Now after tragedies and public protests the FAA is finally engaged. Now Boeing is trying to fix the problems with more software patches. Pilot training is yet to be determined. So I pose this question to you and I. Do you and I want to step onto a 737 Max anytime soon? I don't. Do you and I want untested and rushed 5G in our neighborhood; I don't.

-- Bruce Zanetta

Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association board meetings are held monthly, usually the first Monday of each month (except for July and December unless needed), at the Monterey Library community room from 6:15 to 7:45pm. You are welcome to attend, or to suggest agenda items to share your concerns. Please contact a board member for more information.

MVNA Officers and Board Members	
Pat Venza (President)	375-8416
Susan Nine (Vice President)	373-4334
Mike Pekin (Secretary)	372-9121
Charles Martin (Treasurer)	373-0649
Jean Rasch (NIP Representative)	625-3200
Hans Jannasch (Membership/Past President/NIP Alt)	373-0872
Bruce Zanetta (NIP Alt)	647-1997
Michele Altman	214-2545
Ray Meyers	375-3045

Double rainbow over Monterey Vista - March 10, 2019
Photo by Arthur Simons

Hats off to Alan Washburn!

It should be noted that neighborhood improvement projects can manifest in many forms. While our Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) offers a formal recognition, assessment and approval process for residents seeking improvements in their neighborhood, sometimes an individual takes on all those roles and decides to tackle a problem they recognize and take responsibility for on their own.

Some years ago, local residents of MVNA sponsored "Genista Pulls" to help eradicate the invasive Genista monospessulana (French Broom) plant from Quarry Park. Quarry Park was dug out in the 1930's to provide granite rock for the Monterey Breakwater and is now a local park that is part of the trail network connecting Via Paraiso Park with Huckleberry Hill.

Flanked by fellow neighborhood genista eradication squad members, Al Washburn holds an immense specimen of the invasive that he pulled up singlehandedly with the help of his handy weed wrench.

Genista is a fire-prone plant that, unchecked, can grow to over 10 feet high with thick stalks and deep roots. Our urban foresters know that Genista "ignites readily and burns intensely, and should be removed if present in a home's Defensible Space zone or close to roads and driveways" (firesafemarin.org). Genista thrives in the shaded, moist environment and steep hillsides of the cul-de-sac park and the labor intensive job of clearing it away has been a problem for our over-worked foresters to manage.

But one enthusiastic participant in this event was Alan Washburn. Quietly working now over the years, Alan has continued to champion the cause to eradicate Genista from Quarry Park. In recent years, Alan created the "Broom Bashers"- a collective of neighbors who are onboard to help rid the quarry of this fire fuel hazard.

But often in recent months, after a good rain, I would walk into Quarry Park and witness Alan working alone with his root digger, pulling the youngest Genista shoots out from around the paths and then self-belaying on precarious cliff edges on near vertical slopes to uproot the oldest and deepest plants responsible for re-seeding the park. He then would carefully stack the uprooted plants on the side of the path for our city foresters to collect. Walking through and scanning the hillsides today, I do believe he has managed to commandeer the removal of every plant!

Sometimes we need just look around us to see what needs to be done and just do it! You are an exemplary model of this ethic, Alan. Thank you so much!