

# Message from the MVNA President:

## Bright Spots Amid The Pandemic

*"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."* — Charles Dickens

It can become overwhelming: the constant stream of grim news about the coronavirus pandemic with events changing so fast. Every new week seems unrecognizable from the last. It is painful, miserable and difficult. We can't see into the future and know how or when this will end. But there are bright spots amid the crisis and to stay resilient in uncertain and frightening times, it is important to remember and acknowledge they do exist, and by doing so they may help keep hope alive.

Right now you are probably asking what positives are there to remember amidst all of this dire news. But one doesn't have to look far to see kindness being celebrated all around the world and right here in our neighborhood. People are serenading each other from windows and balconies. Some are adopting or fostering pets from overcrowded animal shelters. Volunteers are buying groceries for their neighbors. Neighbors are sharing disinfectant supplies with neighbors who are without. Cities are starting programs to feed the homeless and others at risk. Stores are offering exclusive hours for older shoppers. Heroically, countless health care workers are putting their lives at risk caring for patients in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics and other facilities. I ask myself every day whether I would have the courage to take such risks. Responding to dire equipment shortages at hospitals, people are are sewing scraps of shower curtains and fabric into masks. Some landlords are waiving or lowering rent, and

# MONTEREY VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER



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many employers are recognizing an obligation to look out for the well-being of employees. Brave grocery store workers, an indispensable work force in the crisis, are showing up to provide food and essential items. Even though many schools are closed for the rest of the academic year, teachers continue to provide online lessons for students and some districts continue to offer lunches for pick up to many students. For some, this may be their main source of daily nutrition. Miracle of miracles, Congress cooperated and agreed

on a two trillion dollar Stimulus Bill that will provide some economic relief to laid off workers and small businesses. The IRS and The State of California Franchise Tax Board postponed until July 15 the filing and payment deadlines for all individuals and business entities.

Some major corporations are also helping. Some hotels are offering free lodging to doctors, nurses and other health care workers. Some companies are converting machines to build ventilators and clothing companies are making masks, while brewing companies are repurposing breweries for making sanitizer. Facebook has donated more than 700,000 masks, and Apple, pledged to donate millions more to the United States and Europe.

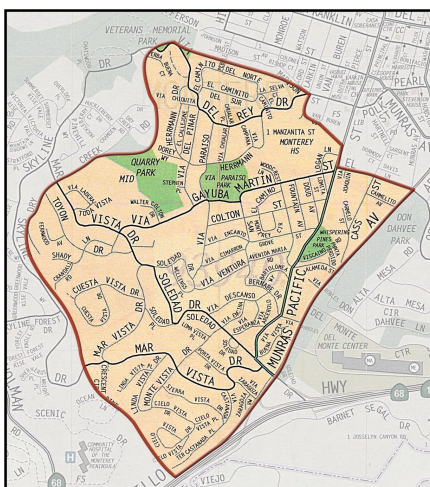
Though a vaccine is expected to be at least 12 months away, doctors are scrambling to improve testing and find anti-viral treatments. A team of hundreds of scientists are testing 50 drugs as possible treatments against the virus.

Meanwhile, we have all been given a chance to be heroic, though it's hard to feel like you're saving the world while watch-

**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.**



During the current shelter in place order virtual Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association board meetings are held monthly, usually the first Monday of each month on an online conference application from 6:15 to 7:45pm. 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](http://montereyvistaneighborhood.org)

Email: [mvneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:mvneighborhood@gmail.com)

MVNA Officers & Directors	
Susan Nine (President)	333-6882
Jean Rasch (VP & NCIP Rep)	625-3200
Charles Martin (Treasurer)	373-0649
Kristin Dotterer (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	655-0357
Marta Kraftzeck	375-2146
Ray Meyers	905-5327
Mike Pekin	372-9121
Bruce Zanetta	647-1997



- Save the Date -

The Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association  
invites you to the 2020

## MVNA Annual Picnic/BBQ

**Saturday, September 19**  
**Via Paraiso Park**

More Details to be announced as  
they become available. Stay tuned!

### MVNA Membership Update

With help of our President’s Special and our MVNA newsletters, our current contributing membership has risen to 175 households, a record for MVNA! Comparing this to the 1529 members on nextdoor.com, however, we still have room to grow. So, if you’re interested in joining us, you can do so online at [montereyvistaneighborhood.org/join](http://montereyvistaneighborhood.org/join). MVNA memberships are for the whole household. Membership includes invitation to our annual MVNA BBQ/picnic, to be held at Via Paraiso Park on Saturday, September 19th this year.

### Message from the MVNA President *Continued from previous page*

ing Netflix from your couch. But maybe, for most of us, just staying home is the most helpful thing we can do right now. It seems to be slowing down the spread of this life threatening novel virus. Slowing the spread is helping those putting their lives at risk to fight this. By staying well and flattening the curve, we help keep hospitals and medical staff from becoming overwhelmed. By staying home and taking precautions, that just might mean one less hospital bed, test kit or ventilator that is needed and one less contagious exposure to those on the front lines.



 *The City of Monterey's*

## OPERATION OUTREACH

*Supporting Monterey's most vulnerable populations  
to reduce the feeling of isolation during the  
COVID-19 emergency closure of facilities*

**Together we are all helping reduce the spread of COVID-19  
by staying home. Monterey Recreation and the Monterey  
Public Library staff are just a phone call away.**

**Call 831-646-3933**

*Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm and Saturday, 10am-6pm*

[monterey.org/coronavirus](http://monterey.org/coronavirus)

As we shelter in place we have been given the time to think about the opportunities available to practice acts of kindness ourselves that can make a difference. We can donate money and supplies, and reach out to check on our friends and family or post uplifting messages on social media. Hopefully, cabin fever will be the only ailment we contract. When that takes hold, I suggest a walk through our lovely neighborhood waving from a safe distance to our wonderful neighbors who are out doing the same.

On behalf of MVNA I urge everyone to stay home, stay hopeful, stay healthy, and stay focused on the bright spots. As my beloved mother used to say, “This too shall pass.”

Yours truly, Susan Nine, MVNA



# Opportunities for Virtual Civic Oversight and Participation

By Jeana Jett, MVNA Board Member

Amid all the possibilities for altruism, virtual ways to interact with family and friends, and unique ways to learn new skills, MVNA members also can participate in local government and issues of on-going concern while sheltering in place.

Perhaps you have wished you had the time for more civic participation by attending City Council or commission meetings. Perhaps you have something to say about policies regarding 5G cell tower installations in residential neighborhoods, pickleball courts in residential parks, leaf-blowers, street parking, traffic, the Neighborhood Improvement Program, the Transient Occupancy Taxes; and/or homelessness. Perhaps local Water or the Monterey High football field remodel are issues you do not want lost track of while we all stay at home. Now, given your newly-acquired at-home time, consider learning more about and participating in our Monterey City government and local issues.

## MONTEREY CITY GOVERNMENT

1. Members of the public may watch the live stream of the City Council and Boards and Commission meetings at <https://monterey.org/tv> or on television Channel 25.
2. Meetings of the Monterey City Council and its Boards and Commissions will be conducted with virtual (electronic) participation only. Members of the public may participate before and during each meeting by submitting comment(s) to [cityclerk@monterey.org](mailto:cityclerk@monterey.org) from an email account or a cell phone's texting app. The clerk will read each received public comment aloud into the record at the designated time, subject to time limits that may be imposed pursuant to the Brown Act. In the subject line of a public comment email, please specify the meeting body and date and indicate the relevant item number or "general" to help staff easily receive and organize public comments. Example subject lines: Public comment for Planning Comm. mtg. 3/24 - General Public comment for Council mtg. 3/25 - Item 1

The frequency and length of public meetings will be minimized. Non-urgent and nonessential City business with expected public feedback will be postponed. You may also send written public comment of any length directly to the individual City Council Members at the email addresses listed below, before meetings take place.

3. Viewing Meeting Calendars and Agendas for City Council, Commissions and Subcommittees: [www.isearchMonterey.org](http://www.isearchMonterey.org)
4. Contacting local officials:  
Mayor: [roberson@monterey.org](mailto:roberson@monterey.org)  
City Council: [haffa@monterey.org](mailto:haffa@monterey.org) [smith@monterey.org](mailto:smith@monterey.org) [twilliamson@monterey.org](mailto:twilliamson@monterey.org) [albert@monterey.org](mailto:albert@monterey.org)  
City Manager: [uslar@monterey.org](mailto:uslar@monterey.org)  
City Attorney: [davi@monterey.org](mailto:davi@monterey.org)  
City Clerk: [cityclerk@monterey.org](mailto:cityclerk@monterey.org)

## MONTEREY PENINSULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. Viewing Board Meetings in real time/archived & Viewing Board Agendas and Minutes  
[https://www.mpusd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=1006438&type=d&pREC\\_ID=1317610](https://www.mpusd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1006438&type=d&pREC_ID=1317610)
2. Sending Comments to Board Members and Superintendent  
Superintendent: [pkdifferbaugh@mpusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:pkdifferbaugh@mpusd.k12.ca.us)  
Board: [tjennings@mpusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:tjennings@mpusd.k12.ca.us) [amyles@mpusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:amyles@mpusd.k12.ca.us) [awhitmire@mpusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:awhitmire@mpusd.k12.ca.us)  
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## LOCAL WATER ISSUES

Everything you need to know about water locally and the public purchase of privately-owned CAL AM, contact: Public Water Now: <http://www.publicwaternow.org/> Melodie Chrislock, Managing Director [mwchrislock@redshift.com](mailto:mwchrislock@redshift.com)



# Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program (NCIP) Report

By Jean Rasch, MVNA Board Member and NCIP Commissioner

Established in 1985, the Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program (NCIP) directs a portion of tourist-generated dollars directly back into the City's residential neighborhoods. Each fiscal year, a committee consisting of Monterey residents considers all submitted projects and recommends which projects should be funded. Several community wide meetings are held and projects are finally voted on by the NCIP committee.

Due to the coronavirus, the NCIP meetings for 2020 are on hold, as is the program. Watch for announcements through NextDoor or check in with MVNA Board members and NCIP reps Jean Rasch or Hans Jannasch. You may also follow events at [Monterey.Org/NCIP](https://monterey.org/Residents/Neighborhoods/Neighborhood-and-Community-Improvement-Program) or <https://monterey.org/Residents/Neighborhoods/Neighborhood-and-Community-Improvement-Program>.

## News on NCIP Backlog By Pat Venza, MVNA Board Member



Monterey Mayor Clyde Roberson and kids from Monterey Recreation Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center cut the ribbon at their newly reopened park, featuring new play equipment and ADA upgrades. Improvements were paid for by the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NCIP), which directs a portion of hotel taxes to neighborhood and community improvements.

The 2020 Neighborhood Community Improvement Program (NCIP) will not be happening this year. Last year the name got changed from Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) to be more accurate to include the City-Wide projects, of which there are many each year; that is why it is now NCIP.

The NIP began in 1985 by then Mayor Clyde Robertson. His idea was that the residents of the neighborhoods should get direct benefit, and have a say in, the use of a portion of the hotel tax collected in Monterey. To do this a NCIP committee was/is formed each year with one representative from each neighborhood deciding on what projects will be funded. The projects are submitted by any resident of Monterey. These projects MUST be capital improvement projects or forest maintenance (that one is kind of cheating, but very needed for our safety).

In the past few years the amount that is allocated to NCIP is approximately \$4 million dollars. In past years this program,

which is only in Monterey, has done some great work in our neighborhoods like park equipment, ball field improvements, park land purchase, street improvements, studies that were then funded to improve safety on streets and sidewalks. The idea, and the early implementation, brought our neighborhoods wonderful things. BUT now it is broken and needs to be fixed!

The Monterey City staff has not been able to keep up with the amount of projects funded each year. Currently there are 187 projects on the "funded list". Some dating back to 2007. There has been no priority list to get the projects done. A few come in and are completed within a year or two and others are never started. Some of these projects are very expensive projects. I was a NCIP representative for the Monterey Vista neighborhood for 3 years, and an alternate before that, I would say that an average project is about \$150,000. That amounts to over \$28,000,000 sitting somewhere waiting to be spent.

Here are my concerns with the NCIP as it currently is:

Mainly that the residents are not informed at the time of submitting a project, or at any of the NCIP meetings, that the wait to see YOUR project completed (if it is funded) can be years away or possibly never. I have seen people so excited when their project gets funded, but years later lose faith in the system, which they should.

In times of financial emergency (which the City says we are now in) the City Charter says that the NCIP funds can be kept in the general fund. The City Manager and Mayor have said that is what will most likely be done this year. That is a reasonable thing to do for two reasons:

- It will add \$4 million to help cover a \$5 million upcoming deficit. (A question is where does the interest on the approximately \$28 million go? Does it stay with NCIP or does it go into the general fund? There is also the uncertainty of the City's financial state due to the Corona Virus adding more deficits.
- Secondly, it will give the staff a year to clean up SOME of the past projects before more are added. This was a great One-of-a-Kind program that did wonderful work for many years.

My hope is that City Council and City Staff can find their way out of the backlog it is in and make it a vibrant program again.



# French broom, MVNA, and volunteering

By Alan Washburn

**Before getting to French broom, let me first tell you about a different invasive weed called stinkwort.** The California infestation apparently started in the Bay Area and is now trying to spread south. You can read about Palo Alto's frustrating efforts to control it here if you are connected to the internet. I was unaware of the weed until last Fall when an alert friend of mine noticed it growing on a vacant lot on Stevens Place that borders Quarry Park. I pointed it out to the city, suggesting that the plant ought to be removed quickly lest it spread (I do not know of any other place in Monterey where it grows—if you do, let me know). The city replied that it not illegal to grow stinkwort, and they would not enter private land to remove it. I next contacted the lot's owner, got permission to enter his land to remove the stinkwort, and removed it with help from my friends. Those friends now include other residents of Stevens Place, who were also concerned about the infestation when the situation was explained to them. All the pulled plants were put in garbage bags (10 of them) and then ultimately into green garbage bins, since many of the plants had set seeds. The stinkwort growth will probably recur, but at least we gave the plant a good hit in 2019. Maybe in 2020 we can get to it before the seeds set.

I tell this story about stinkwort to make the point that there are some things that ought to be done, but which the city will not or cannot do, either for legal or fiscal reasons. Some of those things can be done by neighbors who volunteer, and MVNA could play a role in organizing and encouraging such projects. MVNA could also play an educational role and perhaps exert some social pressure. It is one thing for Al Washburn to ask you to get rid of any stinkwort that appears on your property. It would carry more weight if MVNA were to ask you to do that, especially if MVNA were to offer some help in doing so. With regard to invasive plants in particular, perhaps MVNA could maintain and advertise a list of plants that are considered unneighborly because of their tendency to spread, even though allowing them to grow and multiply would be legal. Many people who harbor such plants are not aware of the consequences for neighbors, and MVNA's taking a position on that would help. My candidate for a list would consist of stinkwort, French broom, poison hemlock, and pampas grass.



I don't mean to restrict MVNA's volunteer efforts to invasive plant control. The current fiscal emergency in Monterey, together with the sudden need to manage the Old Capital Site, will strain the city's resources for other things such as trash collection. We have the resources to help, and could do so. We should take partial responsibility for the maintenance of public places in our neighborhood. Residents of some communities are subject to coercive restrictions on use. MVNA's "restrictions" would have to be persuasive, rather than coercive, but could still be effective.

## French broom "landscaping"



A recent picture of a local private French broom infestation. Every year those pretty yellow spring flowers turn into pods that spread thousands of seeds in the fall. Many people who harbor such plants are not aware of the consequences for themselves and their neighbors.

Now I would like to tell you about French broom, my purpose in doing so being to convince you to kill it whenever you see it, whether on public property or your own, and to tell you how to do that.

French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) has many characteristics that would seem to make it an ideal landscaping plant. You don't have to water it, you don't have to spray it, you don't have to feed it, and, in spite of all that neglect, it still grows nicely and produces pretty yellow flowers. Unfortunately all those flowers produce seeds, and the plant's ability to thrive on neglect means it can produce lots of them. The seeds are poisonous, so birds are of no help in spreading them. The plant instead relies on water movement and the explosive power of its seed pods to move the seeds around. The plants grow to be about 8 feet tall, and a patch can get so thick that it prevents human entry. Mature stands can exclude all other forms of plant life, as well as humans, and are a fire hazard. Say "French broom" to Google to read about it. The yellow-flowered plant that infests meadows and roadsides and parks in Monterey is French broom (not Scotch broom, a different plant).

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## Neighborhood Wildlife on Parade!



Wild Turkey and hungry buck photos taken and posted to [NextDoor](#) by neighborhood residents.

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### French broom, MVNA, and volunteering *Continued from previous page*

The best method of killing small French broom plants is to simply pull them out of the ground with your hands. Even three or four foot plants can be removed that way when the ground is wet. You can safely just leave them lying there, since the plants will not re-root once they have been pulled up. Larger plants will need a weed wrench or some other tool to get them out of the ground. Don't just cut the top part off, since the plant will recover and be even harder to remove if you do that. Glyphosate (Roundup) is effective on small plants, but not on large ones.

If your desire is to get rid of a patch that has been there for several years, your main problem will be the seed bank. A significant fraction of the soil will consist of broom seeds, since they can lie there for years before sprouting. Seedlings will come up for years after the large plants have been removed, and they grow fast. I once removed all the big plants from a private patch that I was suddenly refused access to. Four years later the patch had completely recovered from my efforts. So begin by admitting that removal of an old French broom patch is a project that will take years, even though the effort required will gradually go down as time advances. If you think you are done once the big plants have been removed, you are wasting your time in removing them. The picture shows what broom looks like when it first sprouts: exactly two (it is a dicot) shiny circular leaves are attached to a central stem. These small plants are easily pinched out, and the best time to do that is in late winter when most of that year's plants are up and the ground is still wet. Once the ground hardens, there is a danger of breaking off the plant, rather than uprooting it, in which case it will simply form new leaves. You have to get those roots out of the ground.



Quarry Park is a good example of how long it takes to get rid of a heavy infestation. That park is an attractive target for removal because it is bounded by roads on two sides, Via del Pinar on the East and Dry Creek on the West, and by private property with board fences on the North. It is only on the South side (Walter Colton School) where neighboring broom finds it easy to invade, and so, once the park is clean of broom, it shouldn't be too difficult to maintain it. However, it hasn't been easy to get it clean.

MVNA has held five annual Genista pulls, each involving about a dozen people working for a morning. Those organized pulls stopped after 2013, partly because the city was insisting on some expensive insurance that MVNA couldn't afford. The Quarry Park Broom Bashers (or QPBB, a Google group with no insurance or formal link to either MVNA or the city) was founded in 2016 and resumed the effort. Most of the big broom was pulled and hauled away in 2017, the most difficult plants being those

that had previously been weed whacked (the stumps still need to be pulled, and are hard to get hold of). By now it is possible to walk through the park and convince yourself that the broom is gone. It is not gone. Little ones are still coming up in numbers that are sometimes breathtaking, and need to be removed lest the plant resurge. We'll get 'em!

If you would like to join QPBB in our prolonged effort to rid the park of French broom, shoot me an email at [awashburn8@comcast.net](mailto:awashburn8@comcast.net).



# Defensible Space

## Keeping yourself and your property safe during wildfire season

By Nickie Bach, MVNA Board Member

Though California is officially out of its recent seven-year drought, global warming has increased the likelihood that we will experience further droughts. Monterey's Mediterranean climate makes it a desirable place to live, but it also means that dry conditions will return. Even though the current spring weather is giving our countryside green hues, we need to remember that we must still be vigilant about preparing our homes for the prospect of a wildfire, and that preparation includes maintaining a defensible fire space around our homes.



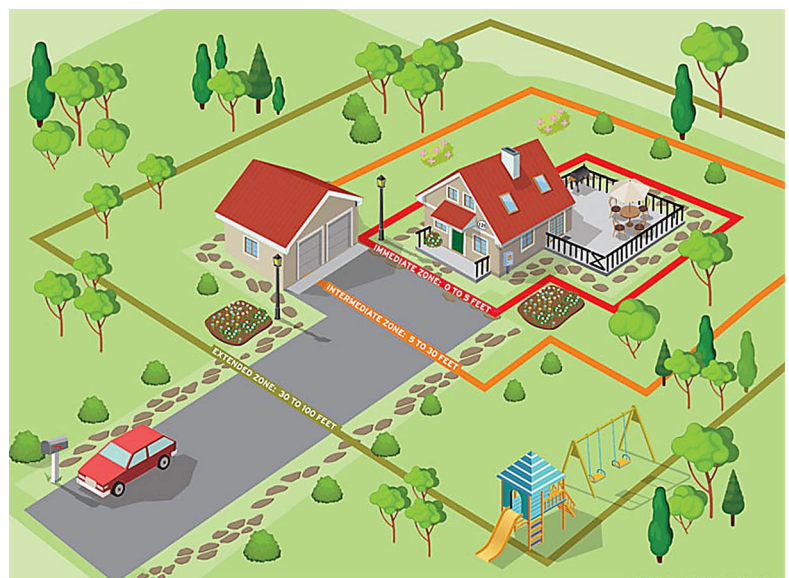
We're probably all familiar with principles of "defensible space," but a quick refresher may be beneficial. Defensible spaces won't prevent fire, but by reducing the amount of fuel sources around your home, they can reduce potential damage, slow the advance of fire, and keep flames smaller and on the ground. (The following pointers/reminders come from [fema.gov](http://fema.gov), [firewise.org](http://firewise.org), [readyforwildfire.org](http://readyforwildfire.org), [NFPA.org](http://NFPA.org), [firesafemarin.org](http://firesafemarin.org) and [fire.ca.gov](http://fire.ca.gov). Those websites have supplemental information; you can find additional guidelines, as well as download helpful detailed pamphlets and fact sheets.)

### MAKE IT YOUR HABIT TO:

- Keep your roofs and rain gutters clear year round.  
During wildfires, embers ignite the majority of homes that catch fire. Wind can carry embers more than a mile; dead leaves and pine needles are extremely combustible and make your home vulnerable.
- Regularly keep flammable materials away from exterior walls.  
Anything that can burn, e.g., plants, mulch, stored firewood, patio furniture, is a potential fuel source.
- Help prevent ember penetration by replacing or repairing any loose or missing roof shingles or tiles. Additionally, check your home's roof, eave, attic, and foundation vents to ensure their screens are in good condition. (1/8 inch metal mesh screening is recommended.)
- Keep your trees and shrubs properly thinned and pruned.  
Landscaping plants should be in singles or small groupings in order to break the horizontal spread of fire. Leave spacing between trees and shrubs.
- Be aware of nature's combustible materials gradually piling up on your property.  
Though a canopy of oak trees might be fire-resistant, many of our local oaks have died or are still drought-stressed. Any dead oak leaves left on the ground or on roofs are a highly flammable fuel source.
- Remove branches that overhang your roof and chimney.
- Contact the appropriate utility company if tree branches are in overhead lines.

### IN THE AREA 30 FEET OUT FROM YOUR HOME:

- Keep plants low.
- Regularly remove dead vegetation and accumulated flammable debris such as mulch, pine needles, leaves, firewood.
- Clear away any dead branches or dead trees.
- Don't store items under your deck.
- Clear flammable vegetation from around your deck.
- Remove small conifers sprouting between mature trees.
- Keep grass(es) cut to a height of no more than 4".
- Keep the lower branches of large trees pruned to 6-10 feet from the ground.



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## Defensible Space *Continued from previous page*

### IN THE AREA EXTENDING 30-100 FEET FROM YOUR HOME:

- Remove heavy accumulations of ground debris, e.g., leaves, twigs, pine cones.
- Remove dead tree and plant material.
- Remove small conifers sprouting between mature trees.



Many landscape plants are just as combustible as wildlife vegetation. They, too, can contain resins and oils; can have narrow leaves or thin needles; can have waxy or fuzzy leaves; and/or can accumulate dead leaves and twigs around the plant. If you have plants on your property that readily ignite and burn, you may want to consider removing them (if permissible) and replacing them with low maintenance plants that are native, drought resistant, and noninvasive. Many Monterey yards contain commonly combustible plants. Some examples that you may want to reassess are listed below:

- Acacia species are noted for their rapid growth and privacy screening, but they are fire prone.
- French and Scotch broom (genista) are invasive, they displace native plants, are highly prolific, and fire prone. In California, genista is harmful enough to be classified as a “noxious weed” and it is subject to State regulations. (See “French Broom, MVNA, and Volunteering” on page 5)
- Pines, cedars, firs, and cypress are easily susceptible to fire. If yours are large and well-established: remove all limbs within 10’ of the ground (or 1/3 the height of the tree if it is less than 30’ tall); regularly remove all dead wood and twiggy growth; provide canopy separation so that no limbs touch nearby trees or plants; remove all “ladder fuels,” shrubs, and immature trees growing below; faithfully remove fallen needles - - especially during fire season.
- Rosemary bushes have a volatile oil content, and have a tendency to collect dead material.
- Many of our oak trees contain Spanish moss, a highly flammable epiphyte (a plant that grows on other plants). When Spanish moss is moist, it can become overly heavy which, in turn, can strain and weaken branches to their breaking point. Hand removal is the non-chemical control for Spanish moss.



COVID-19 Special Hours <b>GROCERY SHOPPING</b> 			
<b>ANDRONICO'S MONTEREY/PACIFIC GROVE</b> Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM		<b>TRADER JOE'S MONTEREY &amp; PG</b> 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM every day	
<b>SAFeway DEL REY OAKS</b> Tuesdays and Thursdays from store opening to 9:00 AM	<b>TARGET SAND CITY</b> Wednesdays 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM	<b>COSTCO SAND CITY</b> 8:00 to 9:00 AM Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday for members ages 60 and older, and immune-compromised	<b>WHOLE FOODS MONTEREY</b> Daily from 8:00 to 9:00 AM for residents 60 years of age and over. Checking ID's at the doors.
<b>LUCKY'S PACIFIC GROVE</b> No special hours 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM	<b>GROVE MARKET PACIFIC GROVE</b> No special hours 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM Sunday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM	<b>SMART AND FINAL SEASIDE</b> No special hours 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM	<b>GROCERY OUTLET SEASIDE</b> No special hours 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM



# WIRELESS & UNDERGROUNDING NEWS

BY Nina Beety, MVNA resident

## CHOMP/VERIZON FACILITIES

Community Hospital wants to lease space to Verizon to install eight large cellular antennas on its building. The Monterey Planning Commission approved this on March 13, but I have appealed the decision to the City Council. Cell towers do not belong on a health facility. Please contact the Monterey City Council if you also oppose this project:

[roberson@monterey.org](mailto:roberson@monterey.org), [albert@monterey.org](mailto:albert@monterey.org), [haffa@monterey.org](mailto:haffa@monterey.org), [smith@monterey.org](mailto:smith@monterey.org), [tyller@monterey.org](mailto:tyller@monterey.org)

Wireless radiation is recognized by the World Health Organization as a possible carcinogen, with recent U.S. National Toxicology Program and Italian research confirming it is a carcinogen. This radiation damages DNA, causes oxidative stress, negatively affects the body at the cellular level, and is associated with a range of health problems including cardiac and neurological disorders. For more information on health and environmental effects, see Physicians for Safe Technology [www.mdsafetech.org](http://www.mdsafetech.org).

CHOMP has AT&T and T-Mobile cell antennas now, and Verizon's equipment will increase the radiation levels considerably. For more information on the project;

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/stop-verizon-cell-antennas-at-community-hospital>

## CAL-AM SMART METERS

Cal-Am is asking the CPUC to raise rates and surcharges. The company did not tell the public that it wants to spend millions on new smart water meters and wireless nodes (small cell towers) throughout the community. Smart water meters' wireless emissions are a health and environmental hazard, and the meters have accuracy and over-billing problems ("leaks"), and require frequent replacement. This new capital investment will also inflate Cal-Am's sale price, while shifting the responsibility for problems to the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District if sold. Yet, MPWMD staff support the meters. Tell the MPWMD board and the CPUC that you oppose Smart Meters in General Rate Case A.19-07-004.

Public Advisor: [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)

MPWMD: [alvinedwards420@gmail.com](mailto:alvinedwards420@gmail.com) [georgetriley@gmail.com](mailto:georgetriley@gmail.com)

[district5@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:district5@co.monterey.ca.us) [water@mollyevans.org](mailto:water@mollyevans.org)

[jcbarchfaia@att.net](mailto:jcbarchfaia@att.net) [gghwd1000@gmail.com](mailto:gghwd1000@gmail.com)

[dpotter@ci.carmel.ca.us](mailto:dpotter@ci.carmel.ca.us)

More information on smart meter problems:

[www.smartmeterharm.org](http://www.smartmeterharm.org)



## Additional information:

EMF Scientist [www.emfscientist.org](http://www.emfscientist.org)

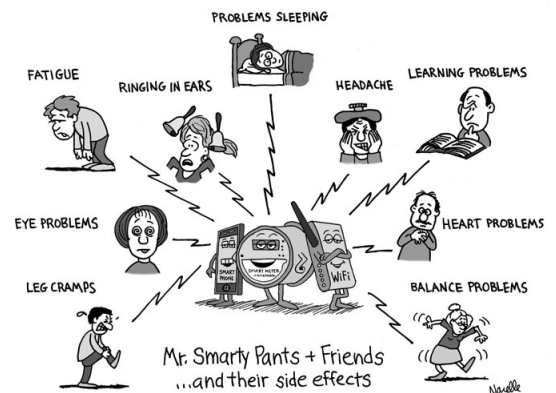
Electromagnetic Radiation Health [www.saferemr.com](http://www.saferemr.com)

Bioinitiative Project [www.bioinitiative.org](http://www.bioinitiative.org)

Environmental Health Trust [www.ehtrust.org](http://www.ehtrust.org)

## About the Author

Ms. Beety has been investigating the health effects of EMF radiation, now pervasive in our environment, since 2006. She has published many articles, testified at local and state hearings, and filed formal comments at the FCC. She is also a spokesperson for those disabled by electromagnetic sensitivity, an increasing health problem recognized by the U. S. Access Board and the Department of Labor.



# An Update on Monterey County Real Estate

By Michele Altman, Realtor, MVNA Board Member

During this time of uncertainty, I am committed to helping you navigate the dynamics of this new environment in which we're all operating. I would like to give you a quick update on the real estate market, as this industry, like many others, is in a state of flux at the moment. The real estate market is also a prime indicator of our economy and of course housing is something that affects all of us. I don't know what exactly the next few months of buying and selling homes will look like, but I would like to share what I do know. Real estate sales are deemed an essential service under the shelter in place order. However, agents should not be conducting any in-person business outside the home — open houses, listing appointments, or showings. This includes vendor work such as photographers and stagers. Property maintenance, such as a plumbing or roof repair, are deemed essential for safety and sanitary purposes.



I want to share with you that the business of real estate will continue as realtors service their clients within the current guidelines to reduce their risk during these unprecedented times. Realtors can list homes for sale with the contracts being done via DocuSign. We can then publicize the home for sale on the MLS service. The California Association of Realtors has put a halt on "days on market". (DOM) This means your home will be put on pause until the restrictions are lifted and business goes back to normal. All open houses are posted virtually online. For the moment buyers must shop virtually. The historically low interest rates are stimulating buyers to continue to purchase homes. Our area is seen as a safe haven away from larger cities and over crowding. Sales are continuing to happen but the expectation on timing to close escrow must be adjusted. Buyer & Seller signings are done by mobile notaries as the title offices are currently closed to the public and the officers are working from home. We are fortunate to be sheltering in place in our beautiful Monterey neighborhood! Also of note, escrow companies are working remotely and the county is still recording documents electronically.

Loans are more tricky, although some good news is that Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac have relaxed appraisal and employment verification standards: <https://www.housingwire.com/articles/fannie-mae-freddie-mac-relax-appraisal-employment-verification-standards-in-wake-of-coronavirus>

Some lenders are allowing "no contact" appraisals, including virtual inspections through use of apps such as Facetime, Skype, WhatsApp, etc. Exterior inspections are done with real-time texting with the resident inside the home sending texts in real time to the appraiser while the appraiser conducts an exterior inspection.

Our company has generated a Corvid-19 addendum which protects buyers in escrow and may not be able to perform due to being impacted by these circumstances.

While the immediate future remains unclear, there is still some encouraging news. For buyers, rates should remain historically low (30-year fixed around 3.5% and the 15-year around 2.9%), and there will be a large selection of inventory coming as sellers prepare for the return to business as usual. For sellers, we anticipate a good amount of money being moved from the stock market and invested into real estate. Couple this with a large pool of buyers who will be waiting for their chance to shop again with that great rate, and it is apparent that — whenever we do return to business as usual — the market should be very healthy and active.

**MONTEREY CALIFORNIA**

VIEW FROM MONTEREY HEIGHTS SANITARIUM

MONTEREY Heights Sanitarium is situated in the best part of Monterey. Sheltered by the pines from the full force of the ocean breezes and yet having a magnificent view of the beautiful bay which, while large enough to shelter the combined navies of the Atlantic and Pacific, is almost completely land locked. Monterey has the finest winter and summer climate in the United States.

**AN IDEAL HEALTH RESORT**

Lillie Sanatorium  
Merchants Association  
Monterey County Gas & Electric Co.  
A. M. Aggeler, Grocer  
David Jacks Corporation  
Wright & Gould, Real Estate

F. M. Hilby, Druggist  
Littlefield & Masengill, Eureka Stables  
Francis Doud  
Ella Thomas, Real Estate  
Monterey News Co.

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# So Just Where Does Wine Come From?

by Marta Kraftzcek, MVNA Board member

Our tale begins with a fable about where wine came from.



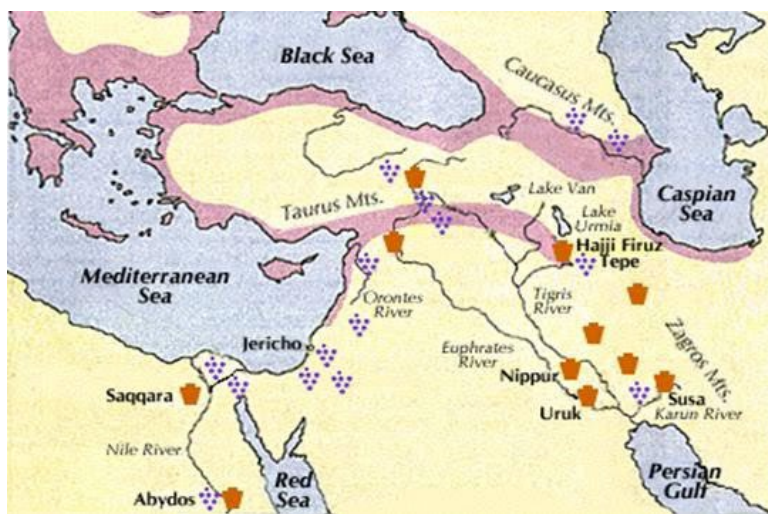
**There was a princess in a Persian Harem** that had fallen out of favor with a semi mythical King, named Jamsheed, and had decided that she wanted to kill herself. So she went looking in the food stores of the palace for something that might do herself in. She happened on some table grapes that had spoiled and were rotting and felt that maybe those would do the trick. After eating them and drinking the juice instead of dying she found herself in much better spirits and started to think that life really wasn't so bad. Eventually she passed out.....

**When she awoke she found** that the King greatly approved of her "new" attitude and she was back in his good graces. The King shared the discovery

of the effects of these "spoiled" grapes with his court and decreed that there should be an increase in the production of this fermented beverage .....and so goes the story of the origin about where wine came from.

**The oldest evidence of winemaking** dates from about 6000 BC and points to an area in the Caucasus Mountains in what is now Iran and Azerbaijan. Carbon dating of storage vessels found in these regions has given us proof of the timeline. It is very likely that wine was common prior to this time however other vessels used to store wine, such as skins, did not survive long enough to offer us proof.

**There are approximately 60 species of grapes**, or the genus *Vitis*, worldwide with the majority of grapes that are used in wine production from the species *Vitis vinifera*, or those grapes that originated in that region of the Caucasus Mountains. Within the species, *Vitis vinifera*, there are between 5,000 to 10,000 different varieties although currently only about 1500 varieties are commonly used in commercial winemaking. These include some of the varieties that you are most familiar with, such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Zinfandel. Over time grapes have interbred and mutated as they have been transported around the world leading to the creation of new varieties.



**The first wine to arrive in Egypt** was most likely imported, in roughly 4000 BC, from Canaan, an area that now encompasses parts of Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Israel. Unlike beer, wine was made exclusively for the royalty and elite. Wine played an important role in the ceremonial life of ancient Egypt and was considered a valuable commodity consumed mostly for festivals and on special occasions. Wine was believed to be a gift from the Egyptian god Osiris and to possess divine qualities.

**When the Scorpion King's tomb was excavated** over 700 jars of wine were discovered, containing approximately 4,500 liters of wine needed to carry him into the afterlife. Many of the inscriptions on wine containers found in this and other tombs indicate quality, vintage, vineyard designation, winery name, the owner and even the winemaker, which is not much different from a present day label.

*Continued on next page*

## So Just Where does Wine Come From? *Continued from previous page*

In about 1000 BC the Phoenicians were trading wine throughout the area surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. They were among the greatest traders of their time and owed much of their prosperity not only to their naval prowess but to trading in various goods, one of which were grapes and this trade helped to expand grapevine plantings throughout Europe.

**The Roman Empire spread throughout Europe** around the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to ultimately become one of the largest empires in world history. At the height of the empire the Romans ruled over 70 million people, which, at that time, was 21% of the entire world's population! Wine production thrived at this time. The Romans forbid growing grapes or importing wine from outside the Roman Empire, but eventually could not keep up with the demand. This led to the spread of grape growing to regions of Spain, Portugal, France and Germany as well as Italy. Around this time the Romans also began to use wooden barrels and glass bottles for wine storage.



**The Roman god Bacchus** was adopted from the Greek god Dionysus, and was celebrated as the god of the grape harvest, winemaking, wine, fertility and “ritual madness”. Bacchus was also called “the liberator” whose wine, music and ecstatic dance freed his followers from self-consciousness, fear and all cares. The “altered conscious” state produced by wine consumption has long been considered to be a religious experience dating from when wine was first produced.

**To be continued** in our next MVNA newsletter when “Wine moves to the New World”. Until then please enjoy a glass of local wine and maybe some of that “altered conscious state” that all of us could use about now!

**Marta Kraftzeck is a Winemaker at Scheid Family Wines. Born and raised in Monterey she is the first woman winemaker in Monterey County and a MVNA board member.**

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## Real Estate Update *Continued from page 10*

The National Association of Realtors has created a site which explains how the \$2.2 trillion rescue package benefits real estate, and you can see that here: <https://www.nar.realtor/political-advocacy/coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-act>

Lastly, for homeowners and borrowers, here are some points of interest from a recent update from our in-house lender:

\*Governor Newsom secured support from Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, U.S. Bank, and Wells Fargo and nearly 200 state-chartered banks, credit unions, and servicers  
\*FHFA, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae have released guidance to impacted borrowers.  
\*Credit Reporting: Servicers must not report to the credit agencies a Borrower who is on an active forbearance, repayment, or trial period plan.

\*Forbearance Plans: Servicers may approve forbearance plans for all Borrowers who have COVID-19 related hardship, regardless of property type. Please, also reference statistics below about recent Monterey County sales.

\*Loan Modifications: Servicers must conduct Modifications on Borrowers impacted by COVID-19 related hardship as long as the Borrower was current as of the date of the national emergency declaration on March 13th, 2020.

\*Foreclosure: Servicers must suspend all foreclosure sales for the next 60 days. Note this does not apply to properties that are vacant or abandoned.

### March 1-20, 2020 activity for Monterey County:

135 closed units  
\$141.8M closed volume  
Closed units are down 12% compared to March 1-20, 2019  
Closed volume is UP 22.6% compared to March 1-20, 2019  
Year to Date for Monterey County  
466 closed units  
\$451.9M closed volume  
Closed units are down 9.7% year to date compared to 2019  
Closed volume is UP 8.7% year to date compared to 2019  
Year to Date for Monterey County  
\$4M+ sales = 12 units vs. 7 this time last year = UP 71.4%  
\$2M-\$4M sales = 26 units vs. 25 this time last year = UP 4%  
\$1M-\$2M sales = 76 units vs. 60 this time last year = UP 26.6%  
Under \$1M sales = 352 units vs. 424 this time last year = DOWN 17%

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything at all. I am looking forward to a day soon where we can get together for a cup of coffee or go see some properties in person together. Until that time, take care and stay healthy. --Michele Altman



## **Governor Newsom Outlines Six Critical Indicators the State will Consider Before Modifying the Stay-at-Home Order and Other COVID-19 Interventions**

Published: Apr 14, 2020

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom today unveiled six key indicators that will guide California’s thinking for when and how to modify the stay-at-home and other orders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Governor noted that the progress in flattening the curve, increased preparedness of our health care delivery system and the effects of other COVID-19 interventions have yielded positive results. However, these actions have also impacted the economy, poverty and overall health care in California. Any consideration of modifying the stay-at-home order must be done using a gradual, science-based and data-driven framework.

“While Californians have stepped up in a big way to flatten the curve and buy us time to prepare to fight the virus, at some point in the future we will need to modify our stay-at-home order,” said Governor Newsom. “As we contemplate reopening parts of our state, we must be guided by science and data, and we must understand that things will look different than before.”

Until we build immunity, our actions will be aligned to achieve the following:

Ensure our ability to care for the sick within our hospitals;  
Prevent infection in people who are at high risk for severe disease;  
Build the capacity to protect the health and well-being of the public; and  
Reduce social, emotional and economic disruptions  
California’s six indicators for modifying the stay-at-home order are:

- \*The ability to monitor and protect our communities through testing, contact tracing, isolating, and supporting those who are positive or exposed;
- \*The ability to prevent infection in people who are at risk for more severe COVID-19;
- \*The ability of the hospital and health systems to handle surges;
- \*The ability to develop therapeutics to meet the demand;
- \*The ability for businesses, schools, and child care facilities to support physical distancing; and
- \*The ability to determine when to reinstitute certain measures, such as the stay-at-home orders, if necessary.

The Governor said there is not a precise timeline for modifying the stay-at-home order, but that these six indicators will serve as the framework for making that decision.

He also noted that things will look different as California makes modifications. For example, restaurants will have fewer tables and classrooms will be reconfigured.