



The Greenbelt

Volume 167

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LATE SPRING SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS AND MOSQUITOES

By Peggy Scoggin

Have you noticed an increase in buzzing and biting insects this spring? You may be seeing (and feeling!) those pesky and dreaded mosquitoes, which are returning this month with a vengeance.

Because mosquitoes carry the West Nile virus, which can cause serious illness, it is important that we help the Northern Salinas Valley Mosquito Abatement District (NSVMAD) in their efforts to control mosquitoes. Mosquitoes breed in water so please don't provide them any breeding areas! Please check around your home, yard and neighborhood for standing and stagnate water in decorative pools and plant pot saucers, old tires, hot tubs and swimming pools. You can report standing water in unoccupied yards and you can request mosquito fish from the mosquito district. Their methods and materials used are reported to be safe enough to allow animals to drink from the water to which they are applied. You can also find available at local hardware stores a product called "Mosquito Dunks" which claim to be harmful to mosquitoes only. I have used these in my frog pond and they work well if I remember to use a new one each month.

The NSVMAD was established in 1950 to protect public health and comfort by abating existing mosquito breeding sources and prevent new ones in order to permit full use and enjoyment of our backyards, recreational facilities and surrounding area. We support the abatement district through our property taxes and a \$5.00 parcel fee that is in place through 2016. You can contact them at: phone number: 831-422-6438

Email: Info@MontereyCountyMosquito.com

Highway 156 Update

By Barbara Meister, Public Affairs Director for the Monterey Bay Aquarium is co-chair of the CalTrans Citizen Advisory Group on Hwy 156

After multiple designs by CalTrans engineers in response to many years of citizen's input and a completed EIR, a viable solution for Hwy 156 congestion and safety is at hand. The plan includes a new interchange at Hwy 101 and 156 that will separate the slower local traffic from the fast-moving interregional traffic and a new 4-lane road adjacent to the existing 156, which then converts to a local road for the neighborhoods. Now, how do we pay for the \$240 million price tag?

Without federal earmarks, and only a trickle of state dollars to the county annually, that leaves sales tax, and the new idea of having drivers pay a toll when they use the road. We've come close to passing a sales tax measure before, but always fell shy of the 66.7% majority threshold to pass. There is some talk that a statewide ballot initiative might be proposed to lower the threshold in 2016 at the earliest. That leaves us looking at the question of tolling. A preliminary study showed that tolling, while exempting residents in the Castroville-Prunedale corridor (including Oak Hills residents), could pay for 75% of the project. A market survey found that tourists (942 surveyed who live within 150 miles and nationally) are willing to pay a toll up to \$5.00, citing their familiarity with paying tolls for the Bay area bridges. The survey also found local residents (948 surveyed residing within 50 miles of 93940-948 zip codes) were strongly opposed to paying a toll. If the new 4-lane road is tolled, the existing 156 will remain 'free' with likely additions of stop signs to ease access to the neighborhoods. Some fear that tourists will avoid the toll road and divert to local roads. Maybe some will. But it is more likely that a Silicon Valley tech worker heading to Monterey on a Friday evening won't think twice about paying \$5 when he or she is likely to spend \$500 over the weekend.

There are many more questions to be studied to determine if and how a tolling option would work. A supplemental EIR will need to do an in-depth traffic study to determine just how much diversion might happen with tolling. Key questions of who pays and who doesn't will need to be analyzed and yet to be negotiated. CalTrans has reassembled the Citizen Advisory Group to provide needed input to the process. More info can be found at http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/hwyproj/hwy156_CAG.html

OHHA REMINDERS

- **Oak Hills Spring Garage Sale Date Change:** Suzanne Burr organizes the semi-annual Oak Hills garage sale. The Spring garage sale has been moved to **May 31**. She does all of the advertising as well as putting together maps and addresses of those home participating in the sale. Please call Suzanne at 633-0514 to let her know that you will be participating in this year's event.
- **Pool Key Activation:** If you have not signed the new Pool Card Key agreement form, your card has been deactivated. If you wish to use the pool this season, you need to contact Steve at the office and schedule a time to see him to sign the new agreement. Please bring your ID and your pool key when you meet with him to sign the form.
- **Board Elections:** If you have not sent in your ballot, there is still time to vote. Ballots must be received by May 5th or bring the ballot to the annual meeting on May 6.

Upcoming Community Events

- **May 3-4, 2014 Japanese American Heritage Days.** Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf. Free. Interactive and educational activities will include outstanding presentations by local historians, a photo exhibit of the Japanese fishermen in Monterey, abalone cooking demo, origami, ikebana and bonsai demos, abalone races, a tea ceremony, and much more. www.montereywharf.com
- **May 18, 2014 - Artichoke Festival Classic Car Show and Parade.** Castro Plaza in Castroville . Free. Enjoy one of the fastest growing vintage shows in Northern California plus a very special Parade. www.artichoke-festival.org
- **May 30-31, 2014 - 55th Annual Castroville Artichoke Festival** – Monterey County Fair & Event Center - A commemoration of all things artichoke with artichoke cooking demos, wine tasting, live music and more. www.artichoke-festival.org
- **June 7, 2014 – 83rd Annual La Merienda Celebration** – Memory Gardens – Custom House Plaza. A colorful fiesta barbecue of delicious foods, wine, beer, soft drinks, gallant dons and donas, lovely señoritas, lively music and festive dance. www.montereyhistory.org

Get Involved!

Supervisor Lou Calcagno has openings on the following boards, commissions and committees:

- The Boronda Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee
- The Commission on the Status of Women
- The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (alternate)
- The Equal Opportunity Commission
- The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District Advisory Committee

If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving on one of the above boards, commissions and committees, please send a letter of interest to: Supervisor Lou Calcagno, PO Box 787, Castroville, CA 95012. Be sure to list your qualifications and your contact information including your home address, telephone and email address.

Focus on Local Businesses—Buy Local!

Castroville Tire & Rim: 11500 Merritt Street, Castroville, CA 95012 (831) 633-6000. Founded in 2002, Castroville Tire takes appointments and drop-ins on a first come first served basis. They offer competitive prices and are widely respected for their quick efficient tire installation, honesty, and extensive expertise in the tire field. Castroville Tire also sells a wide array of rims, does 4-wheel alignment, wheel balancing, tire repair and rotation.

Become an Informed Voter!

An important election is coming up on June 3rd – be sure to vote! Research the District 2 Monterey County Supervisorial candidates on your ballot. Candidates for our own Monterey County Supervisor District 2 include Maria Bonilla Giuriato, Ed Mitchell and John Phillips. For future candidate forum events: <http://lwvmryco.org/calendar.html>

Attend the Annual OSHA meeting on May 6th, North Monterey County High School at 7pm and get a chance to meet and talk to the candidates.

OAK HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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