



# COUNTY OF MONTEREY CAO Weekly Report

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- > NMC, NICU mark milestone
- > Holiday happenings

Happy Holidays  
and  
Happy New Year

The CAO Weekly Report will return the week of January 4th

## SPECIALREPORT



Post-election review posters showcase county, department messages and topics from previous reviews to encourage staff discussion.

## Post-Election Review Hones Staff Skills

### County Notes

- > Still gift shopping? Check these [tips on safer toys](#) for children from the Health Department.

Elections Department staff members keep their eyes trained on the elections process long after the voting is over. What happens after the ballots are counted and booths packed away? The post-election review.

As you may know or can imagine, each election takes many months of work in advance to plan and execute. But did you know that after each election, the department team comes together to analyze the events with an eye on improving processes for the future?

During the post-election review for this year's November 3<sup>rd</sup> election, all personnel were involved in reviewing what worked well so those processes could be leveraged going forward, and what needed improvement.



*Greta Arevalo, Elections Program Manager, posts assessments of the election to the board.*

“We always begin by acknowledging the good, that way we can celebrate the number of successful attributes that went into completing the election,” explains Gina Martinez, Assistant Registrar of Voters. “Then we work on identifying what areas or processes can be improved upon or made more efficient. The key is to immediately associate a program area or working group to evaluate the processes in greater detail and recommend actions prior to the next election.”

Some examples of the positive improvements coming from post-election reviews include recommendations to move the location for candidate filing. This resulted in fewer disruptions to staff and improved customer service. Another improvement was streamlining the

handling of ballots from the precincts on election night, which resulted in improved reporting time.

Some of the items Election Department staff plans to work on for the next election include expanding ballot drop off locations, improving signage for the temporary employees area and continuing to cross train the team.



## NICU Nurses Share Thoughts on Lifesaving Work

Every county job plays a role in serving the public and the community. However, some jobs go beyond service - they provide lifesaving assistance. Among those lifesavers are the nurses who work in Natividad Medical Center's (NMC) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

NMC's NICU is devoted to newborn infants requiring specialized care. It provides stabilization for initially ill newborns and intermediate intensive care and continuing care for growing newborns. This past fall, the NICU celebrated the tenth anniversary of achieving its Level III status and invited 'graduates,' babies who were cared for in this special unit, to celebrate with them. Many of the nurses were able to reconnect with their tiny patients who are now health, happy children. Marking this anniversary is an important milestone for the unit.

Some of the NICU staff reflected on their work and changes that have taken place to improve the outcomes for their tiny patients.

*I have worked in the NICU for 21 years because I love helping the most fragile patients and their families. I love seeing the (babies) progress towards home.*

*I have been amazed by the technology and ability to save smaller and more fragile infants with improved outcomes. The anniversary celebration was wonderful, it was great to see how happy and healthy all of our graduates were. It was a great feeling to know I was a part of their growth and good developmental outcome.*

- Kim Leavitt, RNC, BSN, NICU Supervisor



*One of the NICU 'graduates' giggles seeing a doll placed in a bed like the one she once used.*

*I have worked in the NICU 8 years. It is the best place to work, it's were miracles happen. In this unit, we have the 'best of the best.' I am fortunate to have great relations with most of the families who stay here for more than two weeks. I talk to all the moms! Even after the patient has gone home they call me or can visit any time.*

*The anniversary celebration was our way of saying mission accomplished! There were happy faces, happy families, great memories and a lot to talk about. Our families were so grateful for the service that they received and you can see it on their faces - they are just a grateful community.*

- Sylvia Torres, Medical Unit Clerk

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## Holiday Happenings - Good Will and Good Fun

The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) serves families every day, so it's no surprise that for a holiday fundraiser, staff would keep families in mind.

DCSS staff participated in the "Adopt-a-Family for the Holidays" program through Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Support Services. Last year, DCSS adopted one family and this year the department adopted two!

Fundraisers were organized and staff pitched in to donate monies to buy and wrap gifts for families from their 'wish lists.'





*Gifts for Jacob's Heart families from Child Support Services staff.*

Jacob's Heart's mission is to improve the quality of life for children with cancer and support their families in the challenges they face. For some of the families served by the organization, this will be their last holiday together; for all of them, the struggles of managing cancer or another serious, life-limiting illness is overwhelming. DCSS staff members worked together to bring happiness to these children and are incredibly grateful to have been able to make their holiday more joyful.

From good will to good fun - the Clerk of the Board's Office held its annual Gingerbread House Decorating Contest this week, giving county bakers some creative license with the tradition.

This year's epic creations ranged from an iconic structure, a library branchlet to cookie replicas of elected leaders. Congratulations to the winners:

**Department Submission:**

Treehouse Library - Monterey County Free Libraries  
(which came all the way from the King City branch!)

**Pre-Fab Kit House:**

Snowman House - Denise Hancock, COB

**Custom Design co-winners:**

Eiffel Tower - Claudia Link & Margarita Arista &  
'Ginger Board' Meeting - Ellen Wrona

**Failed Attempt (because they matter):**

Log Cabin Collapse – Denise Hancock



*Treehouse Library Gingerbread House.*