

The CAO Weekly Report

The week of May 18, 2015



Monterey County Administrative Office
Lew C. Bauman, CAO

In this edition:

- Fiesta of Hope a sell out
- Clean Up Day activities bring in the trash
- Social Services honors its own
- Check out the new website



Fiesta of Hope Celebrates Mental Health Services

The Fiesta of Hope celebrated its 11th anniversary promoting community mental health services on May 7th. This year's event was held at the Embassy Suites in Monterey.



Fiesta of Hope keynote speaker Gayathri Ramprasad enjoys some of the beautiful artwork at the event.

The Fiesta's mission is to raise awareness about mental health resources; support and honor those impacted by mental illness and celebrate the accomplishments of community members who have faced and overcome mental health challenges.

Sponsored by the Monterey County Mental Health Commission and the Behavioral

Health Bureau, the event was a ‘sell out’ with 220 attendees. The Fiesta has strong support in the community, and offers attendees quite an evening, including a keynote speaker, an art exhibition and sale, resource tables, dinner and an awards ceremony.

This year’s keynote speaker was Gayathri Ramprasad, author of “*Shadows in the Sun: Healing from Depression and Finding the Light Within.*” In her presentation “Hope, the Gift that Keeps on Giving,” Ramprasad shared her successful battle and recovery from life-threatening mental illness.

During the awards ceremony, locals were acknowledged for outstanding service and achievement to patients, youth and professionals with a special Award of Honorary Recognition from the Mental Health Commissioners to Dr. Wayne Clark, the County’s former Behavioral Health Bureau Director who is now Executive Director of CalMHSA, the California Mental Health Services Authority.



Members of the Mental Health Commission presented an Honorary Recognition Award to Dr. Wayne Clark, former Behavioral Health Bureau Director, seen holding his blue plaque in the picture above.



Health Department/Volunteers Pitch in for Monterey County Clean Up Day

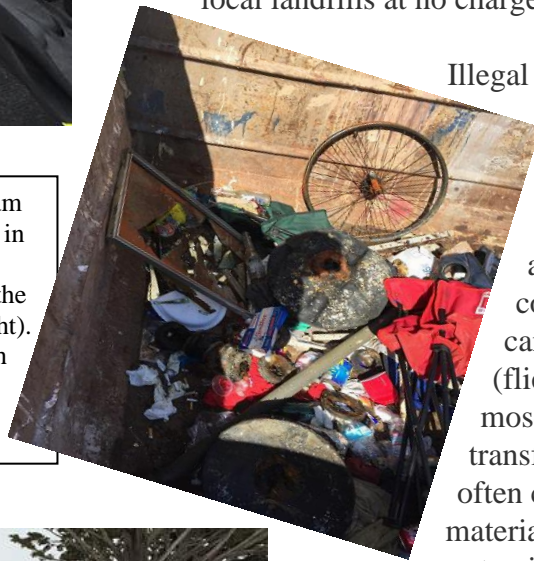
The 2015 Monterey County Clean Up Day, which takes place each year the Saturday before Earth Day, counted its success by the pound - the thousands of pounds of garbage and trash cleaned out of parks, rivers and the shoreline.



With coordination, a helping hand and support from the Health Department, 260 volunteers rolled up their sleeves on April 18th to pitch in and clean up at various spots around the county, even diving into the Monterey Bay to haul out trash. Locations included Del Monte Beach where the Modesto Dream Divers were at work; Gonzales, Elkhorn Slough, Natividad Creek and Marina Beach. Seven working groups collected 9,600 pounds of trash and litter in one day.

The Health Department provided these groups with vests, buckets, trash grabbers and coupons for disposing of all the garbage and litter collected at local landfills at no charge.

A member of the Modesto Dream Divers suits up to dive for trash in the Monterey Bay (above). A sample of some of the items the group pulled out of the bay (right). Volunteers at work on the beach with supplies provided by the Health Department (below).



Illegal dumping and littering are more than an just eyesores - they are health and safety concerns since they can attract vectors (flies, rats, mosquitoes) which can transfer diseases and often contains hazardous materials which can contaminate ground water and soil or create a fire hazard.



“Once an area is known as a spot for illegal dumping, the amount of trash left there can spiral out of control quickly,” explains Juan Carlos Quevedo, Monterey County Environmental Health Specialist who coordinates clean up events. “If there is a problem in your neighborhood or park, contact us and we’ll help you organize a clean-up event.”

The Environmental Health Bureau even has an A-to-Z guide for starting and coordinating a clean-up event, so any day can be Earth Day!



Social Services Recognizes Staff Achievements

The Department of Social Services honored its best at the department's twice yearly Employee Recognition Program last month.

This recognition event is peer driven – staff members nominate co-workers for top honors and a selection committee chooses the winners. On hand to celebrate these achievements and hand out awards were Supervisors John Phillips and Jane Parker. Honorees received certificates and a tote bag with fun prizes plus were treated to a reception.

“Everyone in Social Services is so proud of our colleagues who go that extra mile to support our community,” says Director Elliott Robinson. “It means so much to take the time to say ‘thank you’ and recognize people who embody service excellence. Congratulations to all who were nominated for being mentors, leaders, innovators, role models and coming together as a team – you are the best!”

Here are honorees and the categories for which they were recognized:

Customer Service:

Rick Olaguibel
Vickie Brunson
Adriana Narex-Tapia
Juan Mercado
Alejandrina Urquizo
Veronica Ceja

Innovator:

Arthur Lomboy
Fawn Mackey

Leadership:

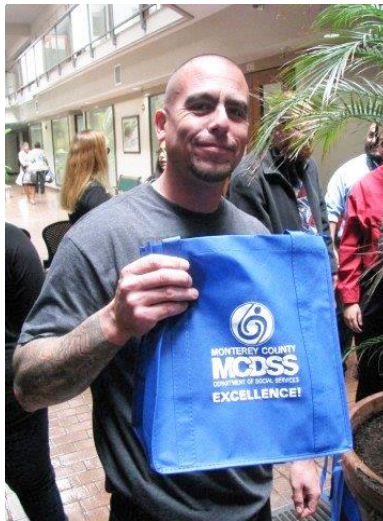
Sam Trevino
Florence McGuire
Maria Marquez
Juliette Starner

Mentor:

Toni Aleksich
Arturo Vargas
Alex Soltero
Rose Quezada

Role Model:

Lun Wang
Aaron McDougal



Rick Olaguibel proudly displays his tote bag prize after receiving a Customer Service Award (left). Jeri Partida (l) and Cindy Avelino (r) show off their awards (below).



Martha Rogers
Victor Caravez

Team Award:

This award was given to the members of the Fair Labor Standards Act Workgroup.

Ron Lee
Katrina Maxwell
Jeri Partida
Sam Bradley
Margaret Huffman
Margarita Mendoza-
Flores
Flora Godinez-George
Sylvia Ballantyne,
Cindy Avelino,
Leticia Artiaga
Erika Estrada
Janie Reed
Josie Camarena
Linda Gutierrez
Armando Ramirez
Kathy Johnston
Joshua Schwin
Viridiana Zizumbo
Irene Cole
Bertha Gonzalez
Maria Dawson
Jackie Chavez



Celebrating Employee Recognition event are (l-r) Elliott Robinson, DSS Director; Henry Espinosa, DSS Deputy Director; Josephina Camarena, honoree; Maggie Mendoza-Flores, honoree; Manny Gonzalez, Assistant CAO; Tony Acosta, Community Action Partnership board member and Priscilla Barbara, Aide to Supervisor Simon Salinas.



New County Website Up and Running

If you have not had a chance to explore the new county website that went ‘live’ this past Monday, the staff at Information Technology invites you to take a look around the site.

This is the first upgrade to the overall county site in about 12 years. Besides the cosmetic changes there are lots of new and useful features such as:

- Simplified navigation
- Language translation
- A full featured search engine
- Maps to county facilities
- A ‘How do I.’” query option to help people find services
- E-notifications
- Links to real time traffic cameras
- Information that is tailored to the wide variety of people who use the county site: residents, visitors and businesses.



Screen capture of the new county webpage.

Design work on the website was done primarily by ITD staff with development assistance provided by a company that specializes in government websites. Also assisting in the effort was a multi-department employee working group which met periodically over a year’s time, discussing and reviewing top website needs.

The next upgrade to the website will be a new county intranet site, so stay tuned. In the meantime, check out the site then take the online survey - your opinion counts!

