

The CAO Weekly Report

The week of May 25, 2015



Monterey County Administrative Office

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In this edition:

- Emergency Services Week demo stops traffic
- Check out the new budget tool
- Family Fun Festival mixes information and fun for locals



Emergency Services Week Event Wows Attendees



It's a bird, it's a plane - no, it's the Bear Valley Helitak crew wowing the crowds by demonstrating rescue techniques over the soccer fields along Constitution Boulevard in Salinas.

Drivers traveling along Constitution Boulevard near Natividad Medical Center got a big surprise last week as Monterey County's Emergency Medical Services Agency held its annual Emergency Medical Services Week event.

During the showcase of emergency equipment and services held at the Salinas Soccer Fields on Constitution Boulevard, the Bear Valley Helitak helicopter crew showed off rescue techniques to

hundreds of event goers gathered below. The display was so realistic, it stopped traffic nearby.

“This annual event gives us the change to showcase the many organizations that work together to provide Emergency Medical Services” said Mike Petrie, Interim Director of the Monterey County EMS Agency. “The public can meet the professionals and learn more about the EMS system.”

The event brought out about 350 people, mostly school children and teachers from nearby schools as well as some local residents.

Not all displays at the event stopped traffic, but all played an important part in educating the community about critical emergency services. Inquisitive youngsters were able to get a look inside ambulances, fire trucks, Haz Mat and rescue vehicles. Students in a local EMT training program demonstrated what they have been learning. Service providers had information booths and answered lots of questions about their work as first responders.



Another crowd pleaser is the Cal Star ambulance helicopter, which had youngsters lined up to get a look inside.



Youngsters were able to talk to first responders about what happens during an emergency situation.

A total of 16 organizations participated in the event, highlighting the diversity of services involved in providing EMS. Petrie explains that Monterey County’s EMS system is truly an organized effort, from training, developing a system of emergency response, the mobilization of responders and medical care in the field and in local hospitals.

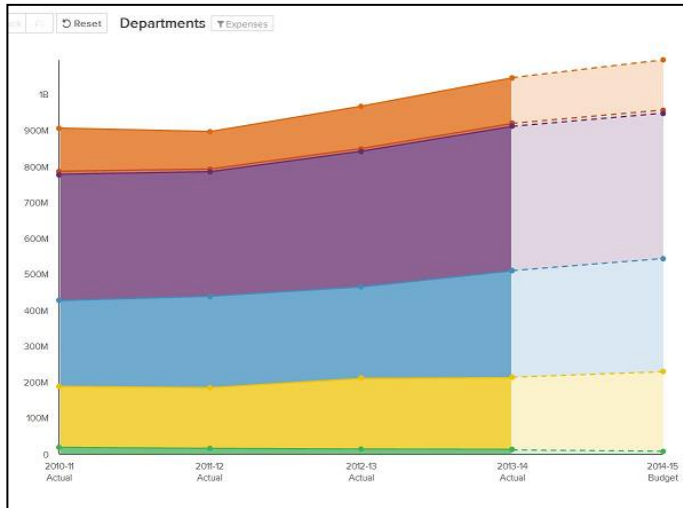
This is the first year the event has been held at the soccer fields. In

past years, the EMS event has been held in the Health Department parking lot on Natividad Road. Organizers moved the program over to the soccer fields so that they could expand the demonstrations.



Budget and Analysis Division's OpenGov Financial Tool Getting Good Reviews

Have you tried out the new financial analysis tool on the Budget and Analysis Division webpage? If you haven't, [here is where to start](#).



Here is a screen capture of the online financial tool.

The tool comes from new software being used by the Budget and Analysis Division called OpenGov. This program makes budget information for Monterey County more accessible and easy to understand. This software displays four years of county spending and revenue detail in a user-friendly portal. Users can view historical revenue and expenditure trends over time plus explore multiple views of budget data such as by fund, department, expense or revenue type.

For the public, there is a 'Budget 101' section under the 'Help' section which explains the county budget process which uses multiple funds.

The new financial transparency portal was launched in April and is already getting positive reviews from staff and the public alike says Assistant County Administrative Officer Dewayne Woods, who led the initiative to bring the project online.

"This new online tool provides more access to the County's budget information than we have ever been able to provide before," explains Woods. "It transforms volumes of raw financial data into an interactive, digital format, enabling better analysis and understanding of the County's budget."

The change is also getting good reviews in the press. In writing about the new program, the Monterey Weekly newspaper gave it a shout out saying "Government tech upgrades are good news and so are improvements in government transparency. That makes Monterey County's new interactive budget website a double win for taxpayers who want to know what their hard-earned dollars are paying for." The Californian complimented the new program for showing how taxpayer money is collected and spent.



Festival Brings Families Together for Fun, Awareness

The Behavioral Health Bureau of the Health Department is pleased with the success of its Family Fun Festival.

The numbers tell the story: the event drew more than 650 to Natividad Creek Park on May 17th for music, entertainment and education. The goal of the festival is to increase awareness that mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being and to reduce the stigma and discrimination against people with mental illness.

On hand were 37 county and community-based organizations which used the relaxing and enjoyable community event to offer information about mental health resources and support.



Aztec dancers provided exciting entertainment at the festival (above). Youngsters (and the young at heart) enjoyed the bubble ceremony (right).



One of the highlights of the day was the bubble release. The 'bubble ceremony' was fun for both children and adults but has a deeper meaning as a symbol of hope and support for the mental health of children, youth and adults in Monterey County.



Volunteers and organizers gather to celebrate the results of their hard work.

The Bureau is grateful to its partners in this event: Partners For Peace, The Boys & Girls Club, Sun Street Centers and First 5. Also, thanks go out to the festival's planning committee: Juan

Estrada, Dana Edgull and Elizabeth Ambriz from Behavioral Health; Kathy Bauer and Norma Medrano from Partners For Peace; Jose Moran from the Boys & Girls Club and Sylvia Ramirez and Jorge Rubio from Sun Street Centers.

