



COUNTY OF MONTEREY
CAO Weekly Report

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- > Wellness Program cooks up healthy eating demo
- > Kudos for county website make over

SPECIALREPORT



Patricia McFadden from the Health Department (l) makes the rounds at the first Contracts and Purchasing Vendor Showcase.

County Notes

- > Animal Services is partnering with community groups to offer [a low cost microchip, vaccine and cat neuter clinic in King City on April 17th.](#)

Vendor Fair Offers Business Showcase for Employees

A chance for county employees to meet, greet and do some 'test shopping' gave the Contracts and Purchasing Division's vendor showcase event that personal touch.

A total of 30 vendors, all under Countywide Service Agreements, participated in the Vendor Showcase which took place on March 31st at the Contracts and Purchasing offices at Schilling Place.

About 100 employees turned out for the event, coming through either on break or during lunch and were treated to lots of useful giveaways from vendors such as bags, pens, mini plants and other goodies. Palace Art & Office Supply offered a drawing for a new printer for all who attended and Jeff Pennoni from Facilities was the lucky winner.

“One of the main reasons we had this showcase was so employees could meet face-to-face with the vendors who are already contracted under the Countywide Service Agreements,” says Gina Encallado, Contracts and Purchasing Management Analyst. “We have recently added many new vendors and it gave them an opportunity to showcase their goods and services instead of just being another name on a list.”

The event ran from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Encallado says both vendors and county staff appear pleased with the results. A survey sent to all vendors came back with overwhelmingly positive feedback and employees appear to feel the same. Here are comments from some county staff who attended.

“The vendor showcase provided a convenient way to meet a variety of vendors all in one place. Hopefully next year even more vendors will participate.”

– Idalia Ow, Management Specialist – ERP Payroll Coordinator

“Contracts/Purchasing staff did a great job organizing and showcasing the local vendors. The vendors were well informed and provided additional information and details on their products and services that were very helpful. The Economic Development staff enjoyed meeting the vendors and making contacts that we can use when determining our department needs in the future. It was a very successful event.”

- Debby L. Bradshaw, Economic Development Department

“I thought it was very well organized and the vendors were very informative. It was like a smaller version of the vendor shows one attends in Vegas.”

-Jaime Ayala, Budget and Analysis Division



Mary Zurita, Executive Assistant (l) and Maegan Ruiz-Ignacio, Administrative Secretary-Confidential (r) come away with information and much more from the Vendor Showcase.

Website Make Over Featured in Business Gallery

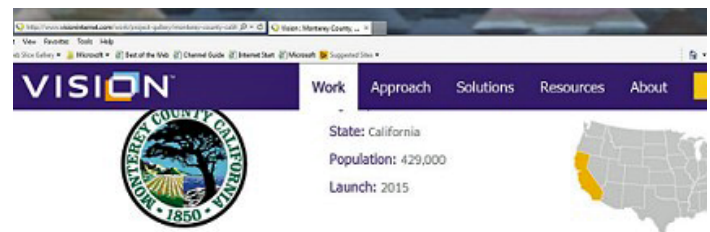
It's hard to remember what the old county website looked like after nearly a year of enjoying the web upgrade. The before and after shots show an amazing transformation.



It's that 'wow factor' in the transformation that Vision Internet is going for and why the company added images of the old and new county website to its [business project gallery](#). In fact, Monterey County is a 'featured project'

on the company website, which also includes a comment from Eddie Urena, one of the Systems Programmer Analysts who worked on the upgrade.

Vision Internet was the vendor which assisted the Information Technology Department (ITD) in launching the new web portal. One of the major goals of the project was to showcase the beauty of Monterey County, which was accomplished by highlighting location and event images from each of the Supervisorial Districts. The web development team also took care to create user-centric content designed to serve residents, visitors and businesses looking to conduct business with the county online.



Having the company feature these before and after shots highlights the vast improvements the department made to the site. County departments apparently agree, as more than half of county departments have migrated their website content to the new content management system. The team has received positive feedback from both users and content editors about the user-friendly interface and ease of functionality.



With the successful portal launch, ITD intends to continue to improve user experience and provide up-to-date tools to keep our website current.

Wellness Cooks Up Fun and Healthy Eating Workshops

Healthy eating isn't always easy to manage, but the Employee Wellness Program is here to help! As part of a series of workshops on healthy eating this week, the program offered employees cooking demonstrations as well as best tips for eating on the go.

The programs are part of a series of workshops being offered this spring taught by Chef Adrienne Saldivar Meier, a professional cook and recipe developer. The classes equip employees with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions when preparing healthy meals for themselves and their families.



“Part of living a healthy lifestyle is making healthy food choices,” says Melissa Pouch, Wellness Program Coordinator. “Eating right doesn't have to be complicated or expensive.”

The series kicked off this week with four demonstrations titled “You Are What You Eat” which were held April 5th and 7th at the County Government Center and at the Ag Commissioner's Office. These lively and tasty workshops taught participants the importance of eating a balanced diet as well as the nourishing, disease fighting properties of ingredients used in the class. There was also an “Eating on the Go” workshop offering tips on making healthy



Chef Adrienne Meier shares tips on healthy eating while cooking up tasty options for county employees to sample (above). At left, the end result of one demonstration ready to be shared with attendees.

food choices when eating out or snacking. If you missed this month's demonstrations, be sure to check out the exciting opportunities offered in May and June!

The Wellness Program provides health education workshops including nutrition classes on an ongoing basis. Topics change monthly, so be sure to take a look at the [Wellness website](#) for upcoming events.