



COUNTY OF MONTEREY

CAO Weekly Report

SPECIALREPORT

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Magician Brian Scott gets some help from one of the young library patron during his show.

County Notes

- > Share the news. Monterey County Health Department clinics are hiring medical staff. Details and qualification information is [here](#).

Summer Reading 'For the Win' and For the Fun

Monterey County Free Libraries Summer Reading program is about halfway over and participants both young and old have been having a great time with this annual event.

Summer Reading at Monterey County Free Libraries is a lot more than just books! Sure, there is the traditional reading log with prizes, but during this program, the library branches come alive with fun and activities for all to enjoy.



Sterling the Bubblesmith puts youngsters in the mix as he makes some pretty amazing bubbles at a library branch event.

Among the performers this summer are Sterling the Bubblesmith, magician Brian Scott, popular musical storytelling group Cascada de Flores and Circus of Smiles. Of course there is the library staple of preschool story time and for a little 'STEM' fun, MAD Science. [Each branch has a calendar of activities](#) so be sure to see what is happening at the county library near you.

Library staff say locals look forward to these summer performances and they are a seeing great response, with branches such as Soledad and Marina hosting audiences of more than 200 children and adults.

Libraries encourage reading all year long, but during the summer, in-branch performances attract families into the library and remind them to read, which is a good thing since studies show that reading and other learning activities during the summer help children maintain their academic skills and avoid the "summer slide." Did you know that county libraries also offer science kits at most branches during the summer? Children, tweens and teens can play with gears, marble towers, magnets, microscopes and explore science.

Did you take part in a summer reading program? You might have found out about the program through a series of entertaining email surveys. For the past couple of years, library staff has been sending out summer reading surveys to county employees, offering fun trivia questions and sharing information about library resources and services. County employees who take the survey can win prizes too, so be sure to check it out the next time it hits your inbox.

Opportunities to Serve: County Commissions

Monterey County has a variety of board, committees and commissions which provide important oversight and service to the public. County Supervisors make appointments to many of these commissions and there are some vacancies they'd like to fill.

Perhaps one of these panels addresses a community need or issue that interests someone you know? If so, pass it along. Those interested in serving and live in the district with the vacancy, should contact the supervisory office listed for more information. There is more information about the commissions with vacancies at the available links.

Commission Vacancies for District 1

[Commission on Disabilities](#)
[Equal Opportunity Advisory Commission](#)
[In-House Supportive Services Public Authority Advisory Committee](#)
[Community Action Commission-Group A](#)

Commission Vacancies for District 3

[Housing Advisory Committee](#)
[Commission on the Status of Women](#)
[Monterey County Mental Health Commission](#)
[Monterey County Historical Advisory Commission](#)
[Domestic Violence Coordination Council](#)

Health Department Looking for Social Media/HIV Project Volunteers

The Monterey County Health Department's HIV/AIDS Prevention Program has been selected to participate in a pilot project aimed at those living with or vulnerable to HIV in the LGBT community and is looking for project volunteers.



The project, *Peer2Peers - Sex Positive/Affirming Messaging for LGBT People*, is a pilot project funded by the State Office of AIDS. Project coordinators are looking for ten community members to participate in this innovative four-hour training.

“We were chosen because of our social media capacity, local HIV demographic information, past record organizing trainings and work with community groups,” says Programs Coordinator Amanda Mihalko. “We are hopeful that building this capacity within the community will help spread the word about local HIV prevention efforts, the importance of care and inspire others to share these messages.”

Volunteers will learn to develop positive messages to share on social networks to promote testing services and treatment for people living with HIV or those who may be vulnerable to HIV.

“Social media can be a powerful tool to reach a large number of people,” says Mihalko. “The idea of the focus group is to teach individuals how to reach out to their networks of friends and share positive health messages, specifically HIV prevention and treatment messaging. Our role at the Health Department will be to offer trainees accurate local information and resources to share with their social networks.”

The training will take place in August, but those interested in participating should contact Amanda Mihalko at 831-755-4626 or mihalkoa@co.monterey.ca.us by July 18th. A \$25 stipend will be provided to focus group members for their participation.