



# COUNTY OF MONTEREY CAO Weekly Report

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- > A little library makes a comeback
- > Primary time! Elections takes information on the road
- > County employee honored for lifetime achievement

## SPECIALREPORT



Gathering to break ground for the new library are (l-r) County Librarian Jayanti Addleman, Kathleen McNulty, HUD, Supervisor Simon Salinas, Bud Sarmiento, Assistant CAO Manny Gonzalez, Sheriff Steve Bernal, Miguel Lomeli, San Lucas School Board and Mary Gunn, Monterey Peninsula Foundation.

## Collaboration Brings Library Branch Back to Life

### County Notes

- > The Monterey County Cowboy Poetry contest for youth is now accepting submissions. Click [here](#) for details.

The parcel of land at Teresa and Main Streets in San Lucas is not much to look at right now, but scores of supporters came out this week to kick off the long awaited rebuilding of the library that has served the area for 100 years.

Community leaders, donors, grantors, area school children, residents and county staff all came out to celebrate the library project that means so much to this small, rural community - a project that was pulled from the brink of demise by determination and community support.

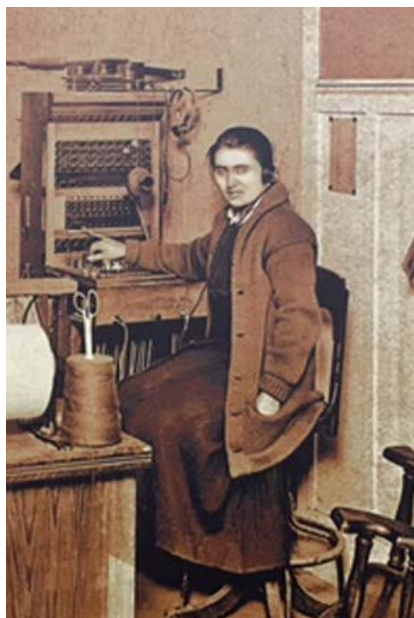
Gold shovels in hand, those who have and will play an important part in the library project turned dirt on the small property to cheers from the crowd.



*Bud Sarmiento (left) with wife Paula (right) talks about the importance of supporting libraries. The new San Lucas library will be named after his mother, Mary Agnes Young, pictured below.*

The first San Lucas library was built in June 1916 and moved to its current location in 1990. When remodeling efforts to the old building were started in 2010, there were so many problems found in the structure that it had to be demolished. Further complications included ground contamination on the site which had to be remediated.

"It was heartbreaking for us when we had to close the library at San Lucas in 2010, and then for six years we struggled to cross one hurdle after another that seemed to keep popping up in our way," says Monterey County Librarian Jayanti Addleman. "This groundbreaking marked the culmination of the combined hard work of the staff and the community. It was simply amazing to see all the happy faces of the people who were there to support their new library. I can't wait for the doors to open later this year."



The new library will be named the Mary Agnes Young Library. Mary's family, the Sarmientos, became angel benefactors, donating \$350,000 to the project in her honor. Mary Agnes, who was born in San Lucas and spent her early years there, also served as a librarian at the county library in Gonzales.

Monterey County and the Library set aside funds for the effort. Other donors and grantors include the:

- San Lucas School Board
- Monterey Peninsula Foundation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Monterey County Community Development Block Grants

The Monterey County Resource Management

Agency is overseeing the project. The new library will be approximately 1,200 square feet and include a Sheriff's field office. Other features include:

- Larger selection of materials
- Space to host school visits
- Solar photovoltaic electrical system
- Recycled building materials
- Water efficient fixtures
- Energy efficient HVAC units



*Architectural drawing of the new San Lucas library.*

# You Have Questions, Elections has Answers

You hear a lot of talk about ‘getting out the vote’ during the election season, but getting voters ready to vote and helping them navigate and understand the process to make their choices is just as important.



*Elections staff held a voting information program at the Sunset Center earlier this month, just prior to a performance by the Capitol Steps political comedy group performance.*

That is where the staff at the Elections Department comes in - they have been making presentations and conducting outreach events throughout the County, explaining how voters can be prepared to vote during the June 7<sup>th</sup> election.

Just this week, staff held two “Get Ready to Vote” presentations in English and Spanish at Cesar Chavez Library in Salinas. Here are the dates and times for upcoming events:

May 17<sup>th</sup> at the King City Branch of the Monterey County Free Libraries, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

May 18<sup>th</sup> at the AMGEN event at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

May 19<sup>th</sup> at the 2016 Community Job Fair in Seaside, 9:00 a.m. – Noon.

Here are some of the most commonly asked questions at community events and the answers:

Q. Where can I find out if I’m registered to vote?

A. Call Elections at 831-796-1499 or visit our [website](#).

Q. Where can I see my polling place and voter guide?

A. The voter guide and polling locations are online. Polling locations are also noted on the back cover of the voter guides voters receive by mail.

Q. Can I vote at the polls if I’m a vote by mail ballot voter?

A. Yes. Vote by mail voters who want to vote at the polls must bring the vote by mail ballot they received and go to their assigned polling place in order to surrender their ballot.

Q. What ballot will I get if I’m a ‘no party preference’ voter?

A. No party preference voters can request at the polls or by mail a ballot from the Democratic, American Independent or Libertarian party. If a no party preference voter wants to vote a ballot from the Republican, Green or Peace and Freedom party, they must register to vote under that party by May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Q. How do I register to vote or update my registration with a change of name, address or political party preference?

A. Register online at [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](http://RegisterToVote.ca.gov) or get a registration form from the nearest Post Office, Library, City Hall or the Elections Office.

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## Lavonne Chin Honored by United Way

You may know Lavonne Chin as the Special Events Coordinator at the Parks Department, but you may not know that community groups have also been benefitting from her skills for many years.

The United Way honored Lavonne with one of its highest honors, the Outstanding Lifetime of Services Award, when it gave out its Community Service Awards last month.

Did you know that Lavonne has been a dedicated, active volunteer for organizations throughout Monterey County for more than 20 years? She has served on five non-profit boards and as a member or chair of at least 20 fundraising events.

It was her friends at the Arts Council for Monterey County who nominated her for this highest award. For the Arts Council, Lavonne drew on her event planning skills as chair of the organization's annual Champions of the Arts Gala. In this role, she provided leadership and event coordination, fine tuning the gala to incorporate new elements such as the "Fund a Need" auction, which raised over \$15,000 in just a few minutes.

Congratulations Lavonne!



*Lavonne Chin (center) with husband Gordon Chin (left) and Arts Council for Monterey County Executive Director*