Giving Campaign Honors Hardworking Coordinators

Last year’s Employee Giving Campaign was a great success and organizers took the time to honor some very hardworking volunteers. This week, the Executive Team for the Employee Giving Campaign held an appreciation luncheon for the Department Coordinators who volunteered during last year’s campaign.

Being a Department Coordinator for the campaign requires a lot of extra time and effort on top of all regular work duties. The campaign slogan last year was “Everyone can be a Superhero” and campaign chair Jody Holtzworth of Child Support Services says the Department Coordinators truly fit that description.
All those who took part in the campaign, have a lot of which to be proud. $134,556 in pledges were raised, a 2.3% increase over the previous year!

“It is always a pleasure supporting the Monterey County Employee Giving Campaign,” says Yessica Ramirez, Development Manager of United Way Monterey County. “The success of the campaign is thanks to the dedication of Jody Holtzworth, her team and the generosity of all County employees!”

During the lunch, coordinators received certificates of appreciation, shared ideas and best practices and enjoyed a drawing for prizes.

Planning for this year’s campaign is starting soon and there will be a call out for coordinators in June. If you are interested in being on the Executive Team, contact Jody Holtzworth at x8721 or Anna Olds at x5341.

County Park Feels Storm Impact

This week’s storm has held up to its predictions: rain and lots of gusty winds. That has kept RMA-Public Works crews busy.

Jacks Peak Park also got a lashing from the storm Thursday afternoon, when high winds felled a Monterey Pine across the access road to the park. Because of its location, Jacks Peak being the highest point on the Monterey Peninsula at approximately 1,066 feet above sea level, this park gets a lot of wind.

Monterey Pines are particularly susceptible to rain and high winds, says Sarah Trueblood, RMA-Parks Administrative Operations Manager, because of their shallow root system. They are renowned for their picturesque shapes, which is also due to the winds.
Because fallen trees happen often, the park typically remains open when trees fall along trails or other areas, but a blockage requires closure until the way is clear again. RMA-Parks staff was able to quickly cut up the tree, clear the way and assess the area for any other damage, resulting in a closure of just a few hours.

If you were safely inside during Thursday’s weather, Parks staff captured the power of the wind in the park as they cut up the fallen tree, which is posted on the Office of Emergency Services Facebook page.

Winds knocked this tree across the Jacks Peak access road.

NMC Earns Blue Cross Blue Distinction Awards

Hospitals which show expertise in delivering improved patient safety and better health outcomes can earn national recognition from Blue Cross Blue Shield, a federation of health insurance agencies.

Natividad Medical Center (NMC) has been recognized with a Blue Distinction® Center for Bariatric Surgery and a Blue Distinction® Center for Maternity Care. This is the second time NMC has been awarded this distinction for both Bariatics and Maternity Care.

To receive a Blue Distinction Center for Bariatric Surgery designation, a healthcare facility must demonstrate success in meeting patient safety measures as well as bariatric-specific quality measures.

“Bariatric surgeries are among the most common elective surgeries in the United States,” says Dr. Alexander Di Stante, Director of Bariatric Surgery.
“The distinction also includes accreditation by the American College of Surgeons Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program.”

The Blue Distinction Center for Maternity Care evaluates hospitals on quality measures for vaginal and cesarean delivery in addition to decreased early elective delivery rates.

“We take great pride in providing high quality maternity care to our community,” says Dr. Peter Chandler, Director of OB/GYN at NMC. “We are honored to be recognized by Blue Cross Blue Shield for our expertise and a commitment to quality care.”