Maps Illustrate County History

Be sure to stop by the Monterey Room at the County Administrative Building this week and take a look at some rare maps of Monterey County from its early days.

The maps are available for employees and the public to see for a short time - they are reproductions of hand drawn maps of early Monterey County which are part of an extraordinary collection at CSUMB.
Dr. Ruben Mendoza, Chair of the School of Social, Behavioral & Global Studies, made a special presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting last week about this unique collection. The collection includes historical maps, data, documents and publications about land use and water development. It is available online and is used by scholars, historians and researchers around the world.

Dr. Mendoza and the original collector, Dr. Dave Hornbeck, shared the story of how the collection was amassed. You can see Dr. Mendoza’s PowerPoint presentation, which includes comparisons of maps made hundreds of years ago to modern day satellite images which showcase the incredible skill of these early cartographers. They also presented the Board of Supervisors with a framed reproduction of a map of the Monterey Bay area from 1770 which is strikingly similar to modern images of the area nearly 250 years later.

While the maps and other data in the collection are an information treasure, they are also examples of the fine work done by early mapmakers. Among the samples that can be seen in the Monterey Room are Diseños, which are simple sketches of rancho areas that accompanied petitions to the Mexican government for grants in Alta California (after 1828), to more detailed maps created from those sketches.

The framed map gifted to the County will remain on display in the Monterey Room but the other samples from the collection must be returned next month so check them out!
Sheriff’s Office Saves Big With Surplus

You have heard a lot about what’s available at County surplus. Here is how one department has saved big ‘shopping’ surplus.

The Sherriff’s Office has been a big customer at surplus this year. By using available items instead of buying elsewhere, it has saved more than $150,000 to date, outfitting offices with top quality items.

Jaime Ayala of the Contracts/Purchasing Division shares highlights from the long list of items the Sheriff’s Office was able to take from surplus stock.

“This year, the Corrections Division took 12 task chairs (valued at $350 each) and the King City substation took 12 chairs plus a lift ergonomic desk (valued at $2,000) and laptop equipment (valued at $100). The Investigations Unit took five workstations (valued at $850 each) and 80 cabinets were installed in the Salinas deputy locker room (worth almost $1,250 each).

Sgt. Daniel Robison says the 80 cabinets were part of a work area upgrade.

“I am in the process of redefining some of the spaces used by our Patrol Division in the Central Station of the Sheriff’s Office,” says Robison. “By using surplus, I was able to create a secure area for gear and working files plus a cleaner, safer work environment.”

Ayala says County departments spent more than $2.8 million in office equipment-related expenditures in 2017.

“Imagine the savings if they shopped surplus first,” he says.

Where to Eat? There’s an App for That

A new app developed by the Health Department helps diners find the safest place to eat, no matter what is on the menu.
“MC Food Inspection Findings” is a new phone app developed by Environmental Health Bureau and Information Technology staff; it’s available through the Apple Store and Google Play Store.

Install the app and you’ll have easy access to a lot of information about eateries and food facilities. The app allows users to:

- Find information about food facilities near their current location.
- Get the location, phone number, address and name of a selected food facility.
- View the two most recent inspections for a facility which includes violations or compliance status and whether it earned the County’s Gold Seal for excellent food safety practices.
- View inspection findings from all permitted food facilities in the County.
- Use a customer complaint link to send health and safety concerns to the County including a photo.

Choosing a facility which has earned a Gold Seal is a great idea. For more information about the program and what it takes to get the coveted Gold Seal, visit the website at www.mtyhd.org/goldseal.