Reservation System Connects Community to County Parks

A new online reservation system for County parks is making it easier to book activities and showing interest in the updated Park Pass program.

The new system launched in late January and is off to a great start. Since it went live, The RMA Permit Center, which oversees the system, reports 218 reservations have been made and approximately 800 Annual Park Passes have been sold, which is an increase in pass sales overall. The Call Center
has also received 536 calls related to Parks reservations or services since the first of the year.

“All in all, we’ve received positive feedback from the public regarding how easy the system is to use and navigate,” says RMA Permit Manager Freda Escobar. “Being able to pay online is a huge plus.”

The public can quickly make and pay for reservations on the RMA website for camping or picnic sites at Jacks Peak, Toro, Royal Oaks and San Lorenzo Parks.

This example from the reservation system shows customers can easily select the time and site they wish to reserve.

"Before our new parks reservation system was in place, guests had to reserve everything over the phone or in person, which could take upwards of 40 minutes,” Holm said. “With the new system, we’ve been able to streamline the process, allowing guests to reserve everything they need online and speed up the process of refunding deposits.”

This system has been several years in the making. Market research began in 2017, an RFP was issued later that same year and completed early last year. The cost for three years’ service, including implementation, training and maintenance is $60,600.

Another bright side to the new system is easy access to purchasing Annual Park Passes. When new park fees took effect January 10th, so did new options in the Annual Pass program. Users can now purchase an ‘all parks’ pass or, for a lower cost, a pass for the park they frequent most often. So far, of the 800 passes sold, the most purchased pass is the Annual Boat Pass for Lake Nacimiento (338) followed by an Annual Pass for all parks except Lake Nacimiento (145). Of the specific park passes, Toro has had the most interest, with 50 passes sold so far.

Public Surplus Sale Draws Shoppers

The County’s occasional public surplus sales are still a hot ticket for shoppers.

The latest sale, which was held Friday, February 22nd, drew thousands of views to the photos and

Monterey County Administrative Office
price list on the [County’s Facebook page](#).

On the sale day, just under 60 buyers turned out and spent big with sales totaling more than $1,800. That surpasses the total from the last public sale five months ago, which netted about $1,000.

The next public access to County surplus will be a Donation Day event, during which local non-profit agencies are able to take items at no cost.

Remember, County departments don’t need a sale day to check out what is available at the surplus storage, just call Contracts and Purchasing.

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**Natividad Says I ♥ You With Cardiology Services**

As the month that is dedicated to matters of the heart comes to a close, the health professionals at Natividad remind us to take care of our hearts.

While we celebrate Valentine’s Day in February, it is also Heart Health Awareness Month. The CDC says about 610,000 people die of heart disease in the U.S. every year.
Natividad is helping change that statistic. Did you know that the hospital has expanded its Cardiology Department with additional doctors as well as new tools and technology, including the new Care Center and clinic that opened last year?

The outpatient center focuses on non-acute care, offering long-term and preventative cardiology services including routine lab work, medication monitoring and testing. The center has the capability to perform echocardiogram, stress testing, electrocardiogram, event monitoring and pulmonary function testing; doctors perform hundreds of these tests each month.

“It's an improvement in functionality and service,” says Chief of Cardiology Dr. M. Kerala Serio. “We are now full service and more easily accessible for our patients. All testing can be done in one place.”

Preventative care under the guidance of a cardiologist can improve heart health or prevent heart disease altogether. Know your own heart health – check out the information box at right and talk to your doctor.