South County Managers Gather

While Salinas may be the hub of county government, many services - and employees - are found throughout the county.

The Management Council Council’s mission is to provide a unified voice and information for managers. The Council frequently holds events to discuss timely issues, organizes ‘meet and greets’ as well as ‘lunch and learn’
noonite get togethers; it is now adding events outside of Salinas for managers who can’t participate during these lunch time events due to travel time.

The latest event was this month, a gathering for managers in south Monterey County and it drew staff from Health, Library and Social Services Departments with branches and offices in this region. Also in attendance were managers who work in Salinas who wanted to meet their south county colleagues as well as some managers who live in that part of the county. The event was held at the beautiful Greenfield Library. Not only is it a wonderful branch, it is a central service location for the community.

The discussion for this get together focused on resident services with an emphasis on youth services in libraries such as cultural events and summer meal programs.

Organizers say the event was a success as some attendees had never come to a Management Council event before and really appreciated the closer location. Next on the Council ‘road trips,’ possible events on the peninsula to serve managers there.

If you’d like to find out more about the Management Council, please contact Joe Ripley (x1250) or Juan Pablo Lopez (x5091).

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**County Salutes Older Americans**

*They came, they saw, they conquered!* When it comes to mustering a crowd, few groups have brought the numbers that county senior citizens produced at a Board of Supervisors meeting this month.

On Tuesday, May 7th, more than 80 seniors from throughout the county traveled to the Board of Supervisors meeting to celebrate Older Americans Month as well as talk about the needs and challenges facing seniors in our communities.

And when we say traveled, we mean these seniors came by bus from South County, Seaside and Salinas for this special event organized by Monterey County Community Voice for Aging (MCCVA) with the help of locals, service providers and the Monterey County Area Agency on Aging, which
is a part of the Department of Social Services, Aging and Adult Services Branch and is responsible for federally funded programs for older adults, 60 years of age and older.

The resolution marking Older Americans Month recognized the many contributions made by older adults to their families and communities as well as the local Older Americans Act programs that serve them.

Among the seniors accepting the resolution was Kelli Keane, who was homeless for many years. She spoke about how Gathering for Women, an organization which provides supportive services and pathways to housing, helped her. Now, at age 86, she is a volunteer with Gathering for Women, helping other women get the same support she received.

Monterey County has more than 76,200 residents age 60 and over which is nearly 18% of the population and that number is growing. It's estimated one in five county residents will be 60 or older by 2020.
Farmers Market at Natividad Opens

Rainy weather didn’t stop the opening of the Certified Farmers Market at Natividad last week. It didn’t stop the shoppers either!

The market is a community staple at the hospital on Wednesdays from mid-May through October. It’s located outside of Building 200 and hours are 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The market is run by Everyone’s Harvest and all your favorites are back again this year: Stackhouse Brothers, Rodriguez Ranch, Golden Flowers, Gallardo’s Organics, Mai Thai Cuisine, Mix of Flavors, Chava’s Corn, Fruitas Fresca Barajas, Perfect Crumb, The Bearded Bean, Castellano Organic Farm, Hummus Heaven, and Luke’s Mobile Massage.

Not only are you able to get fresh and healthy foods, but shopping here supports small, independent businesses and artisans. EBT cards welcomed and encouraged!

Be sure to check out the weekly cooking demonstrations and tastings from local chefs that will give you inspiration for preparing your purchases.

“The market is part of Natividad’s ongoing commitment to promoting wellness and healthy eating,” said Natividad Assistant Administrator Andrea Rosenberg.