Libraries serve up summer fun and lunch

Emergency alerts crucial for county workers

Library marks Apollo moon walk with ‘out of this world’ celebration

Books, Music…and Lunch at the Library

Libraries nourish the mind, food nourishes the body. This summer, youngsters can do both at County libraries.

This is a reality: when school ends for the summer, so does that midday meal for many local young people. Monterey County Free Libraries are helping address the summer ‘nutrition gap’ by joining the California Library Association’s Summer Meal Coalition.
The Libraries were awarded a grant of $167,000 for the Lunch at the Library programs.

The program is open to all youth 18 years of age and younger; they are invited to have lunch at the library and participate in some fun activities. Nothing brings people together like a shared meal, participants make new friends and enjoy the library. Parents are welcome to bring their own snacks to enjoy with their children.

Library branches offering lunch are: Big Sur, Buena Vista, Castroville, Greenfield, King City, Marina, Pajaro, Prunedale, San Ardo, San Lucas, Seaside and Soledad. If you do not see your branch listed there may be lunches served nearby. You can check at www.summerfood.usda.gov.

Contact your local branch library for lunch days or view their summer reading program schedule at www.emcfl.org

Will You Get a Disaster Alert?

County workers are often the ones helping those affected by local disasters. We need to get those important messages too, but you won’t get notifications if you can’t be reached.

We’ve had our share of disasters here (Soberanes Fire, winter flooding) and the southern California quakes are another reminder how important emergency notifications can be. All of us as County workers should be signed up to get emergency alerts to emphasize their importance to others and to be ready for any disaster.

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The recent quakes have encouraged a lot of locals to sign up. Since the first earthquake that happened on July 4th and through July 9th, 1,040 people have signed up for notifications here at home. If you haven’t yet, here’s how:

- Register for Alert Monterey County. This alerting system delivers text, audio or email emergency notifications to those in an area impacted or in danger during a disaster. If you don't have a landline or are away from home, the only way to be notified of emergencies is by having your cell phone or email(s) registered. Go to [http://alertmontereycounty.org/](http://alertmontereycounty.org/).

- Get text messages from the Office of Emergency Services through Nixle. Nixle sends messages directly to your mobile phone or other cell phone capable electronic device. Sign up by texting MoCoOES to 888777.

Besides signing up, we are fortunate to have the Office of Emergency in the ‘County family,’ and this office and staff are a great resource for information on being prepared. Take a look at their webpage on preparedness. Alerts will be particularly important with new safety power shutdown protocols by PG&E in the event of wildfire conditions.

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**You’ll have a Blast at the Carmel Valley Library**

**Apollo 11 Moon Walk Party**

Where were you on July 16, 1969? Even if you weren’t born yet, you likely know about the historic first steps on the moon and ‘One small step for man, one giant step for mankind.’

Get excited about space again and celebrate the Apollo 11 moon walk at the Carmel Valley Library, which is hosting an anniversary celebration on July 20th from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 65 W. Carmel Valley Road.

“Apollo 11 inspired not just the nation but the world,” says Carmel Valley Branch Manager Eddy Hamelin. “As we get ready to return to the moon, let’s get inspired again to do great things.”

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Hamelin and his staff have an amazing event planned. Some of the activities include:

- Storytime from Space
- A classic lunar lander game
- Coloring and activity pages for kids
- An historical gallery with images and models
- An outer space ‘selfie station’
- NASA-themed Makerspace Fair with six stations
- Historical videos
- Outer space trivia games for all ages

Plus, Hamelin is tantalizing us, announcing an unveiling of a special surprise for library patrons.

You may not know that Monterey County has a very strong connection to this historic event. The Jamesburg Earth Station in Cachaugua made it possible for the world to see the moonwalk, providing transmissions for all the Apollo Program missions including the now famous video of Neil Armstrong’s first step on the moon and his iconic words. The Earth Station is still there, and there are rumors it may be put into service again. You can read about the history of the station here.