The Car Week interactive Daily Tracker pinpoints events and potential traffic trouble spots.

Daily Tracker Helps Locals, Tourists Navigate Car Week

The Resource Management Agency’s Permit Center may not have Ferraris in the parking lot, but it sure plays a big role in Car Week.

Car Week celebrates the automobile at events throughout the county. Many of those events need permits, which is why the Center is at the heart of this massive event. Staff worked months in advance processing the permit applications needed for much of the fun and fundraising. But what maybe the
The most visible event assist is the online, interactive Car Week Daily Tracker.

“It identifies what day the events are happening and how many events there are,” explains Permit Center Manager Freda Escobar. “There is also a GIS mapping layer to pinpoint where events occur.”

The Center kicked off the tracker last year but upgraded the project this year, breaking out events by day and making it easier to see where events are located and where traffic could be a problem. That is a huge boon for those who want to get to or get around major events. Also new this year, the page has a link to the County Road Report page and RMA Public Works is limiting road construction during the event.

Escobar credits Permit Center staff Elizabeth Gonzales, Domi Hernandez, Kayla Johnson and RMA Building Inspection Manager Joshua Bowling for ensuring all applications were processed, inspections scheduled and completed. Also a huge thank you to ITD’s GIS Analyst III Darryl Tyler for getting the tracker up and running and Dina Northcutt, RMA Management Analyst, who partnered with Darryl on the project and keeps the calendar up to date.

Is it working? Numbers say yes! Car Week kicked off Friday August 9th and by Thursday, August 15th the page had more than 6,500 views. It was promoted on the County home page and on local TV, print and radio news.

“We focused on building and maintaining internal and external communications with all regulatory departments and the public. We’ll continue to grow - we start to prepare for next year as soon as this year is over.”
Battle of the Badges Plays for Special Olympics

It was an ‘arresting’ rivalry on the courts for a good cause. Local law enforcement met last month for a Battle of the Badges to benefit Special Olympics.

On the scoreboard: Monterey County Probation and Sheriff’s Office taking on Salinas and Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Departments for a fundraising basketball tournament.

Probation took on Carmel in the first game and the Sheriff faced Salinas, both games before a great crowd at CSUMB’s Otter Stadium. Probation won its game and Salinas overcame the Sheriff’s team, which sets up a championship game between the two winning teams.

Probation Chief Marcia Parsons says her department’s team is ready for a final matchup, looking forward to playing again on behalf of Special Olympics.

“This team is awesome and made up of some of the most competitive employees in the Department,” she says. “They are amazing athletes; almost as amazing as the children, youth, and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities who participate in the Special Olympics. Our lives are enriched through supporting them.”

These agencies are big supporters of Special Olympics, taking part in the annual Torch Run. This tournament raised more than $1,300.00 in ticket sales, concession sales by Salinas Police Explorers also raised money.
CSS Follows the Money, Makes Major Recovery for Local Family

In past newsletters, you have heard about Child Support Services way of celebrating major support collections for local families - support officers who make collections over $5,000 can ‘Ring a Bell’ to mark the success.

If you do the math, Child Support Officer Martha Becerra could have run that bell more than 22 times to celebrate of the department’s most recent major single collection.

Child Support Officers work diligently with custodial parents who are owed back child support. It is hard work either tracking down or convincing the parent in arrears to pay up.

This latest collection saga started like many others, a custodial parent contacted Officer Becerra in May of 2018 to let her know the noncustodial parent had sold his deceased mother’s home.

One of the many enforcement tools available to the Child Support Program is the Financial Institution Data Match and Bank Levy process. California Family Code 17522.5 allows the department to issue a levy and intercept the bank funds of a noncustodial parent who arrears exceed $100.00. Martha issued bank levies and one month later, CSS received a total of $21,779 from the bank for the family.

But the story doesn’t end there.

Fast forward to October of 2018 and another bank account belonging to this same noncustodial parent came to Becerra’s attention; a bank levy was issued for this second bank account.

You can try to hide your assets, but it didn’t work this time and this levy delivered a big collection. The amount: $91,145 for a total of $112,924 for the family.

The Ring the Bell incentive program was the brainchild of Child Support Officer Kelam Bayard. Since its inception six years ago, the Child Support Program has collected $4,310,205.