County Holiday Happenings

Tis the time of year for goodwill. With that spirit in mind, employees around the county are giving back to those in the community they serve.

Throughout the county, departments and offices are filled with bins to collect toys, clothes and food for those in need; toys are especially important so that children, no matter the circumstance, can feel special this time of year.

It is also time to have a little fun. See what your co-workers are doing to celebrate this season.
The Clerk of the Board’s annual Potluck and Ugly Sweater is always a fun time and this year didn’t disappoint. The event kicks off with a potluck then contestants strut their ‘ugly’ wear for all to see, with celebrity judges selecting the best - err, worst - sweater.

After the awards, everyone got a little ‘Santa’ time to make sure those holiday wishes are set.

CAO, Human Resources and County Counsel combined to make the holiday’s happier for local foster children through the Gift Inc. program. Dozens of gifts were gathered, chosen especially for these youngsters.

At Contracts and Purchasing, Operation Give Back bins are filling up thanks to staff, vendors and the public – all for needy children in our community.
Information Technology

Operation Give Back is also in full swing at Information Technology, which is collecting a lot of toys! ITD is also collecting items for the Monterey County Food Bank as well as the Gift, Inc program. No shortage of goodwill and giving here!

Health Department: Animal Services

Monterey County Animal Services is both giving and receiving this season.

The County shelter is teaming up with the City of Salinas shelter for a low-cost adoption program at both locations to get pets out of the shelters and into safe and loving homes this holiday. Adoption fees are being defrayed thanks to a grant from Friends of Community Animal Services – adoptions cost just $25 till the end of the year.

The shelter is hoping to receive some much-needed items such as puppy and kitten food and sturdy beds to make animals more comfortable. Please contact Animal Services for their specific needs if you’d like to help.
It’s a real joy when former residents come for a visit. One former resident, Onyx, and her fur-ever family did just that recently, bringing in a car load of donations for the shelter. We want all dogs to be as happy as Onyx!

You can read all about Onyx and her happy ending on the Animal Services Facebook page.

The Sheriff’s Office has seen an ‘arresting’ number of donations this holiday season, all items they are happy to have ‘in custody’ to share with those in need.

The Sheriff’s Office is participating in the Salvation Army Operation Give Back Toy Drive by gathering donations of new and unwrapped jackets, shoes and toys. And these items got quite an escort – the SWAT Team delivered the toys to the PAL Armory in Salinas.

For some holiday fun, the department will hold its own Annual Employee Holiday Party/Ugly Sweater/ Potluck. This event will also kick off the department’s annual Teddy Bear Drive, gathering teddy bears and other comfort toys for deputies and others to have on hand for youngsters experiencing traumatic events.
Assessor & Treasurer-Tax Collector

These two departments got together to make sure foster children in our community have some holiday cheer.

Staff participated in the Gift, Inc. program. This program allows employees to select ornaments with the name of a child or youth and their holiday wish – then make sure that wish comes true with brightly-wrapped gifts just for them.

District Attorney

The staff at the District Attorney’s Office should be prosecuted for their poor fashion sense for this display of ugly Christmas sweaters. Fortunately, it was the office Ugly Sweater Contest, so they all were ‘acquitted,’ and a few were winners! Staff votes determined the winners, who received a trophy and basket of goodies.
Monterey County’s District 1 Office has been busy getting into the holiday spirit.

The month kicked off with a holiday tree lighting event. District staff got to play the elves, decorating the beautiful tree it provided to grace the lobby of the Administration Building. The event was the backdrop for the Clerk of the Board’s Ugly Sweater Contest and all those who attended enjoyed holiday cookies and a visit with Santa.

Then the Office opened its doors for a holiday open house event, asking those invited to donate toys and blankets for those in our community.

Music and delicious food added to the festive mood.
The Agricultural Commissioner’s Office gathered for a group photo after its holiday lunch.

A Taqueria truck made for some great eats, while staff brought sides and desserts to share. There was also a fun white elephant gift exchange.

The District 2 Office is opening its doors for a Holiday Open House and collecting new, unwrapped toys for children in need. Contact the District Office if you’d like to donate - some toys have already been donated and are waiting for just the right child this year.
This time of year, staff has been busy collecting for those in need as well as enjoying some holiday department cheer.

Employees have been collecting for the Monterey County Food Bank and had had to get additional bins for donations.

It was also time for the department’s annual Holiday Luncheon organized by the DCSS Hospitality Committee. This year’s event featured tasty tacos with staff bringing desserts to share. There were also holiday drawings and lots of fun for all.

This department sure loves its holiday decorating, giving the office space a festive feel.