



Photo: Blend of the old and the new in Morro Bay Harbor

December 16, 2017

Happy Saturday from Morro Bay's City Manager, Scott Collins. It's been another great week in the best City on the Central Coast!

The more time I spend here, the more I learn how well served the community is by the City's staff. The City team is committed to excellence and it shows every day. With that in mind, I would like to recognize several star employees who have reached important milestone years of service this year.

Thank you to Dana Swanson, City Clerk; Damaris Hanson, Environmental Programs Manager; and Public Works Director, Rob Livick, who all reached 10 years of service. Thank you to Todd Gailey, Fire Captain; Mark Martin, Police Corporal; and Walter Roza, Consolidated Maintenance Worker III for 15 years of service to Morro Bay. And, thank you to Stephen Doerr, the City's IT Technician, who has served the community for 20 years! Congratulations to each of you!

Speaking of great employees, I would like to recognize the work of new Finance Director, Jennifer Callaway, and her team for discovering, and making public, an error in the City's Fiscal Year 2017/18 Budget, related to the City's sewer fund. You can learn more about that work and the City's commitment to transparency [here](#).

In this update you will learn how to keep your home safe during the holidays, catch up on the Fire Department's assistance on the Ventura, CA "Thomas Fire," get acquainted with the City's maintenance team, learn about code enforcement efforts and read a special message from Santa, among many other important updates. Thank you for taking the time to read through the update.

As always, I encourage community members to reach out to me to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns. My direct phone number is 805-772-6206, and my email address is scollins@morrobayca.gov.

Police

Officers respond to call of stolen property: Morro Bay Police received a call about an individual who was seen following a FedEx delivery truck on December 13, 2017, and was believed to have taken a package from a residence on that date. Thanks to good investigative work, the suspect was arrested for possession of stolen property and booked into the San Luis Obispo County jail. The Morro Bay Police Department would like to remind all residents that during holiday time to be aware of any packages that may be delivered to your home. See the infographic below for more holiday safety tips:



Holiday Tips to Prevent Delivery Theft

1. Schedule your delivery for when you are available. USPS, FedEx, and UPS will work with you to schedule the delivery of your packages for a time when someone is home.
2. Use signature confirmation. This requires the package be signed for ensuring it is delivered into your hands and not left at your door while you are not home.
3. Ship and pick up at your local post office. USPS, FedEx, and UPS all offer service to hold packages at their facilities allowing you to decide when to pick it up.
4. Provide delivery instructions. Thieves are usually opportunists and want to get in and out of a location quickly. Having a package left out of sight can prevent it from being stolen because a thief may not take the time to search for the package.
5. Have packages delivered to your workplace, if allowed by your employer. UPS, FedEx, and USPS will deliver to businesses during business hours.
6. Consider an alternate destination. Have a package delivered to a nearby family member or a neighbor who is home during the day. Someone you know and trust who is willing to accept your package and prevent it from sitting on your porch.
7. Keep a camera pointed at your front porch. Security cameras allow you to see if there are packages waiting for you. If a package is stolen, security camera footage can aid the police in catching the thief.

What to do if a Package is Stolen

1. Check around your house. Sometimes the delivery driver will leave a package in a less obvious location in an attempt to prevent your packages from being stolen.
2. Report the theft to your local police department.
3. Contact the company you ordered from. Some companies may be willing to replace the stolen items.



CITY OF MORRO BAY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
850 Morro Bay Boulevard
Morro Bay, CA 93442
805-772-6225
UPS 800-742-5877
Fed Ex 866-477-7529 (ground)
800-463-3339 (Express)
USPS 800-275-8777

Caroling with a Cop a Dashing through the Snow good time: Morro Bay Police participated on December 11-13th in the annual Caroling Cops event. It was a great community turnout! For those who didn't get serenaded by Morro Bay Police staff, here are some photos of the fun.



Fire

Smoke in the air: The Fire department is closely monitoring the Public Health Department and the Air Pollution Control District to assess air quality in the Morro Bay area. This will help to identify any potential health impacts from the Thomas Fire and to inform the community about safeguarding individual health. The N-95 masks will be distributed to areas of the county experiencing air that is unhealthy as measured by the Air Pollution Control District. The N-95 masks require a tight seal to be effective and as a result, the available adult sized masks will provide only limited protection for most children. N-95 masks when fitted properly provide some protection from the fine particles in smoke. Ordinary dust masks and surgical masks do not provide this protection. Morro Bay fire department will be a distribution location for the N-95 masks with the assistance of the CERT volunteers, a fire department program that trains community members to prepare for emergency situations.

Season of Hope: Now in its sixth year, Morro Bay Fire and its community partners collect non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys for families in need on the Central Coast. This year's Season of Hope campaign was a huge success in Morro Bay. Numerous unwrapped toys

were delivered to the SLO county social services (aka North Pole) for distribution last week. Thank you, Morro Bay, for making a difference for our neighbors in need.



Thomas Fire in Ventura and Santa Barbara County: As of Friday, December 15, the Thomas Fire is the 4th largest in history in our State. Currently the Thomas Fire is 252,250 acres in size with 730 residences destroyed. The fire behavior and weather are unprecedented with the relative humidity lowest in record especially for the month of December. Sadly, a firefighter lost his life yesterday near the City of Fillmore with the aggressive fire behavior in that area. Under our Mayor's direction, the Fire Department's flags were lowered to half-staff on Friday to honor Cal Fire Engineer Cory Iverson and his young family. We are keeping Cory, his family, and his coworkers in our thoughts.

Our Engine 5391 with a crew of four is still on the working in Santa Barbara County providing structure defense and fire line holding. Prior to working above the community of Montecito, our local Strike Team provided structure defense near the City of Fillmore and Ventura. They are on day 11 of the incident and are hopefully being released later this week. Our Fire Chief has returned from his assignment on the California Incident Management Team #4.



Emergency Operation Center Training for our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):

This week, our CERT members were introduced to our EOC and Emergency Plan as part of their annual training at our Community Center on Kennedy Way. Our CERT members were introduced to the Incident Command System (ICS) and their roles during an activation of our Emergency Plan to include situational awareness for the Plans section and assisting numerous positions within our EOC. We are blessed to have a group of citizens that have the skills to assist our citywide response for significant events in our community. If anyone has interest to attend our next training in January, give us a call at the Fire Station, 805-772-6242.

Community Development

The second December biweekly update for the Community Development Department includes activity reports for Planning, Building and Code enforcement, open recruitments in the Department, and a status update on the ongoing General Plan/Local Coastal Program/Zoning Code update.

Recent Permit Activity

October 2017:

- Permit applications received: 73 (11-Planning & 62-Building)
- Permits Issued: 68 (4-Planning & 64-Building)

November 2017:

- Permit applications received: 60 (13-Planning & 47-Building)
- Permits Issued: 47 (4-Planning & 43 building)

Recent Code Enforcement Activity

October 2017:

- 24 complaints received
- 19 complaints resolved

November 2017:

- 35 complaints received
- 20 complaints resolved

Total opens cases to date: 25

Recruitments

The Community Development Department is currently recruiting for a Building Inspector/Plans Examiner, Contract Planner and Planning Intern.

See City “Employment Opportunities” page for more information: <https://www.morrobay.ca.us/832/Employment-Opportunities>

General Plan/Local Coastal Program/Zoning Code Update

The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) is scheduled to review a draft Lateral Access Poster and components of the Zoning Code update at their December 21, 2017 meeting.

Zoning Code update review items include: Draft Interpretation Provisions, District Development Standards, General Site Regulations, and Definitions. The December 21, 2017 GPAC meeting will be held at the Veteran’s Memorial Building from 4pm to 6pm.

The GPAC agenda can be found at the following link: <https://www.morrobay.ca.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/4454>

Wastewater/Water: This week plant staff replaced failing trickling filter distribution arms at the wastewater treatment plant. Each of these arms weighed over 1000 lbs. Through extensive planning, the project was completed safely and efficiently.



Maintenance:

Next week Consolidated Maintenance staff will be epoxy-coating the floors of various City Maintained public restrooms. The epoxy coating will allow for easier clean-up and a more sanitary environment. Restrooms include Tidelands, Centennial and Monte Young. Porta Potties will be used at the Tidelands restrooms during the operation, otherwise the public will be directed to the next nearest public restroom.

See below for a rundown of what the maintenance staff has been working on in recent weeks:

- 1) Streets: Grind/zip out AC and large tree root to repair lifted area at 2511 Juniper. Base, compact and patch with (1.5) tons of HMA.
- 2) Streets: (2.5) tons of HMA skin patches; (3) areas on Hill St., Juniper between addresses 2465-2495.
- 3) Streets: (4) tons of HMA berm and gutter repairs; 30' at 585 Fresno, 60' on 465 Fresno, Fresno between addresses 520-540, 100' at 907 Anchor.

- 4) Streets: fill several potholes around town with CMA.
- 5) Sidewalks: Grind sidewalk lift on corner of Rennel/Main St.
- 6) Storm Drains: Cleaned last 10% of priority primary drains and completed cleaning all other secondary drains. Recorded collected debris on Arc-GIS program.
- 7) Signs: Remove, mount and relocate posts and signs at Centennial and 714 Embarcadero parking lot.
- 8) Trees: Cut and haul large fallen Cedar limb on bike path near rear of Dynegy.
- 9) Trees: Trim and top all trees next to Centennial staircase.
- 10) Parks: Assembled new posts and mounts for large memorial plaque next to MB Blvd. pocket park.
- 11) Parks: Replaced vandalized door handle/latch at Tidelands and broken door handle at City Park.
- 12) Tidelands: Installed T-posts/orange fence for street to park barrier during Winter Fest.
- 13) Tidelands: Repaired pirate ship ladder by welding new metal plate and mounting with new bolt pattern.
- 14) Del Mar: Adjust and gauge test both new irrigation pressure regulators, check all stations for coverage.
- 15) Del Mar: Re-stripe N. parking lot and rebar mount all wheel stops.
- 16) Vets Hall: Power snake and clear mainline clog through ADA RR.
- 17) Vets Hall: Installed new 1 GPM aerators in (3) kitchen faucets to improve water conservation.
- 18) MB Community Center (MBCC): Replaced electrical ballasts and bulbs in burned out fixtures inside building.
- 19) MBCC: Installed and bolted down (2) large rail sections in front patio of Senior Center.
- 20) MBCC: Cleaned all sensors and lubed mechanical motor rod that operates Senior auto door.
- 21) Harbor: Power snake and clear mainline sand clog from clean out.

Top Short-Term Projects:

- 1) Streets: Mow weeds off side of road on Little Morro Cr. Rd. and Quintana from La Loma to SB Blvd.
- 2) Streets: Raise monuments flush with new overlay treatments.
- 3) Sidewalks: Concrete fill (2) voids in sidewalk in front of Lemos and (1) on corner of Quintana/Main.
- 4) Sidewalks: Cut and remove bad sidewalk panels around town. Form, pour and finish new panels.
- 5) Cloisters: ESH fence repairs and remove the top wire portion.
- 6) City Park: Install LED light fixture outside RR wall.

7) Del Mar: Rebuild Restrooms, install all new plumbing, electrical and fixtures.

Top Long-Term Projects:

- 1) Streets: Re-stripe crosswalks in down town area.
- 2) Streets: Locate and paint ADA on street parking areas, install poles and signs.
- 3) Cloisters: Dig holes in parkway tree wells and plant trees.
- 4) Rock RR: Install all new toilets, urinals, carriers and plumbing.
- 5) Rock RR: Fill potholes in asphalt entrance area with HMA.
- 6) North Point: Top soil and plant wild flower mix at designated areas.

Harbor Department

Coast Guard Building Proposal: On December 11, the Harbor Director received a call from the Coast Guard's engineering unit in Oakland, expressing their continued interest in working with the City to build an additional ~2,500 square foot building to serve their current station's needs. As one may recall, the Coast Guard prefers to utilize the current Harbor office site location for their new building, but without sufficient funds to build a new Harbor office, the City has been unable to commit to that proposal. The Coast Guard will be coming to Morro Bay on January 9, 2018, to renew discussions on options.

Dredge Contractor's Equipment: On the evening of December 12, the Corps of Engineer's dredge contractor Ahtna Design-Build removed their equipment and fencing in the Rock Parking lot that was being used as their lay yard during the project. They also removed their crane parked near Tidelands Park. Unfortunately, Ahtna still has ~3,000 feet of dredge pipe partially buried and stuck on the sandspit in the surf zone. A portion of this pipe is near the high tide line, but Ahtna will need the negative low tides of the end of December to enable their equipment to better dig out the rest to remove it. Most of the pipe is on the State Park side of the sandspit property lines, so Ahtna has been working with the Corps, State and City on the plan to remove the pipe. Equipment will likely be barged to the sandspit inside the harbor, and the pipe dragged north up the beach and launched into the harbor for removal in the Target Rock area. This plan is under the environmental oversight of the Corps, US Fish and Wildlife, and State Parks.

Visiting Mega-Yacht: On December 12 & 13, the 125' Danish-build mega-yacht Butterfly stayed at Tidelands dock, in on a West coast tour. Butterfly is owned by Google founder Larry Page, although Mr. Page was not aboard. The vessel reportedly cruises in the 30-knot range, with a top speed of 47 knots (54 MPH). She sports a total of 3,440 horsepower with twin powerplants in a carbon fiber hull to obtain that performance.

Weekend Weather and Swell: It is looking like more “normal” winter ocean conditions over the weekend with 10-12 foot swells and northwest winds of 15-25 knots forecast. Be careful out there if venturing into the surf, and never turn your back on the ocean if out viewing the crashing surf or on the beach.

Morro Bay Maritime Museum: The Morro Bay Maritime Museum continues to take shape in the Front Street and Triangle parking lot areas at the north end of the Embarcadero. The walls are all up and the roof on, with both interior and exterior work making good progress. Come pay the volunteer construction crew a visit and check it out.



Tourism

From Santa via the Tourism office.

Ho ho to all folks, at good Morro bay!

Thank you so much for letting us stay!

Twelve days off fun, thanks for the sun!

We don't want to leave you, especially today.

I'll miss boats and cruises,

and snow with my bruises!

Ho Ho for the snow,

T'was such a fine show.

Paddles and tall ships,

Caroling cops,
trees that were lighted in so many shops.
Gingerbread houses, and crawling for fun. We had the best time, events one by one.
Ho ho says Santa!,
now we must go.
To our home in the north,
back to our snow.
Toys and your goodies await to be played,
I've collected your lists,
and will get each toy made!
Xboxes, dolls, so many more,
you see, Santa's busy with each little chore.
We love Morro Bay, especially our house! Will you save it for next year?
I especially liked the fire for my cold spouse!
Morro Bay Winter,
Oh what 'fest,
see you next year,
can I be your guest?
Goodbye for now,
as we pack up and leave,
to bring you what's special,
You'll love Christmas Eve.
I am off on a very big ship
that will help me to fly right back to my slip.
so turn toward the sky and wave Santa Bye Bye!



Thank you again for taking time to read this and previous updates. We hope you find it useful and encourage you to share your thoughts about how to improve this communication moving forward.

As this is will be the last update before the New Year, we wish each and everyone of you happy holidays! May the holidays be a time of joy, reflection and peace for you and yours.

Sincerely,

Scott Collins
City Manager