



Photo: Thomas Fire, Strike team 1472A, 2nd Rotation with MBFD Captain Talmadge, Engineer Brady, Firefighter Sensensbach and Firefighter Lohnes.

January 6, 2018

Happy New Year! I don't know about you, but I love the new year time because it's the best opportunity to reflect upon how I can be better as an individual, and set goals or resolutions to make those desired improvements a reality. And, for the City, it's a great time to think about our goals and where we want to go as a community.

City Council established high-level goals for the City that reflect the needs of our community and each year they hone in on the City objectives/initiatives that will help us achieve those goals. City staff is then charged with implementing the programs, projects and policies that will bring about the desired improvements.

City Council will be reviewing the objectives for 2018 in January and February, and then work with City staff to create a work plan to meet those objectives for the year. We

encourage you to engage in that conversation, to ensure the direction we are headed reflects what is most important to the members of our community. I have a feeling 2018 is going to be a great year for the Morro Bay community!

In this update, among other important information, you will learn about the community pool opening date (as well as pool programming on offer), catch a glimpse of critical new equipment we received for the Utilities Division of Public Works, and see how the Morro Bay Police Department keeps the community safe.

Please reach out to me to share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns. I learn so much from conversations with community members. My direct phone number is 805-772-6206, and my email address is scollins@morrobayca.gov

Police

Community Kudos for our Police Officers

On New Year's Day Officers Jeremy Painter and Officer Will Marvos responded to a call that resulted in the arrest of an extremely belligerent and uncooperative vandalism suspect that was defacing property. A Morro Bay resident witnessed the officers' interaction with the suspect. He took the time to commend the officers for their professionalism as they responded to this incident on the corner of Olive Street and Morro Avenue. The resident noted that the officers treated the angry and abusive suspect with respect, compassion and professionalism despite his antagonistic behavior. The citizen remarked that it was a tough way for the officers to start their New Year with an angry young man yelling in their faces. He contacted Chief Allen to personally commend Officers Painter and Marvos for being amazing professionals!

"How the Grinches Almost Stole Christmas"

On 12-26-2017, Morro Bay Police Officer Will Marvos conducted a traffic enforcement stop for a vehicle code violation on Kennedy Way near Quintana Road. The driver, Stephen Michael Maier, was detained and arrested for driving under the influence of drugs. The passenger, Kyle Michael Turner, was arrested for possession of illegal drugs.

An outstanding subsequent investigation by Officer Marvos, Officer Painter and Morro Bay Detectives Martin and Stuart revealed that the suspects were in possession of multiple items of stolen property, including several stolen pieces of mail located inside their vehicle. Another package located inside the suspects' vehicle was stolen from a residence after it was delivered.

The investigation revealed that the suspects committed numerous vehicle thefts where jewelry, checkbooks, credit cards, clothing, boxing gear and other items were stolen. Officers have identified ten separate victims of theft thus far. Their stolen items found inside the suspect's vehicle were stolen from the surrounding communities of Los Osos, Cayucos, and Atascadero. Morro Bay Police Department is working with these police agencies on this investigation to identify additional victims. It is believed that there are likely additional victims of unreported crimes based on additional stolen property not yet claimed. Several happy theft victims were contacted and responded to the Morro Bay Police Station to recover their stolen property.

Suspect Stephen Maier and Suspect Kyle Turner were arrested for possession of stolen property, stolen mail, possession of illegal drugs, DUI (Maier), and under the influence of drugs (Turner). Both were booked into the San Luis Obispo County Jail.

The Morro Bay Police Department would like to remind community members to lock their vehicles and do not leave items of value inside of vehicles. Please also be aware that thefts of packages from online sources will continue to increase with the popularity of online shopping. You can find additional safety tips on the [Morro Bay Police Department Facebook page](#).

Fire

Thomas Fire Update

Currently the Thomas Fire is 281,893 acres in size at 92% containment. There are 1,063 structures destroyed and 280 damaged. Sadly, the Thomas Fire caused one civilian fatality and one firefighter fatality; a CalFire Fire Engineer from San Diego. At its peak, we had 8,500 firefighters working from multiple states and the federal government. The Morro Bay Fire department sent and rotated 11 different personnel including the Fire Chief for an 18-day period in December. All Morro Bay crews returned home two days before Christmas.

Our fire crews experienced fire behavior and weather never seen on the California coast while performing their structure defense and fire line perimeter control. Our Fire Chief worked at the Incident Command Post in Ventura assisting the Command Staff with evacuation and repopulation planning. A lot of lessons have been learned with a tremendous amount of success in rescues, evacuations, repopulation, firefighting tactics and strategy. Our fire crews received great evaluations on their performance and their experience they have gained is invaluable. A local, State, and Presidential Emergency was declared assisting the State and the Federal government funding to reimburse our City for our expenses. We are hoping for full containment of the Thomas Fire early next week.



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training starting January 16th at the Harbor Street Fire Station

The Morro Bay Fire Department, the San Luis Obispo County Fire Chief's Association and the Sheriff's Advisory Council are working together to teach you how to help yourself and your neighbors when a largescale disaster strikes. The concept of the 20-hour CERT training is to provide a basic level of expertise in such areas of disaster preparedness, search and rescue

procedures, terrorism, disaster medicine, firefighting, and many other related skills. Besides learning to help yourself, CERT training teaches you how to form into effective neighborhood teams, if you so choose, that can greatly assist your neighborhood in overcoming the emergency. In doing so, this training can provide individuals with a sense of self-reliance with a bonus of neighbors helping neighbors, no matter how overwhelmed the emergency services system might be. Fire Chief Steven Knuckles states, "The reason for you to enroll in the CERT training program is to gain the decision making, organizational, and practical skills you can offer immediate and effective assistance to your family members and neighbors. The recent Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara County is great example of trained CERT members being effectively used to help their neighbors in many ways."

Classes start the week of January 16th at the Morro Bay Fire Department, 715 Harbor Street, and are held in the evenings. Since space is limited and sign-ups are on a first come, first served basis, it's important to sign up now. To register, or if you would like further information, please call the Morro Bay Fire Department at 805-772-6242.



Annual Knox Box 2017 service program is 100% completed

You may have seen some of our Seasonal Firefighters around town maintaining Knox Boxes for our businesses and retail shops. Our Firefighters are lubing the locks and making sure the keys are current.

Knox Boxes provides Morro Bay Fire Department with immediate access into secure buildings, campuses, residences and commercial properties when it matters most. Removing barriers to entry reduces injuries to responders and minimizes property damage. This program has been

created to ensure the Knox Boxes are in proper use with the correct keys for the business and private residences. If you have any questions about Knox Boxes or if you are considering getting a Knox Box for your building, give us a call at the Fire Station and ask for our Fire Marshal, 805-772-6242.

Showtime Series Filming in Morro Bay

The Affair (Showtime Series) is going to be filming on our beach near Morro Rock and on the Embarcadero during the week of January 11th. Showtime has requested a Fire Department Pyrotechnic Special Effects Permit through our California State Fire Code for a scene on the beach.

The Fire Marshal provides guidance to the filming industry on safety policies and regulations. The Fire Marshal also provides approval and may require fire safety personnel for productions on city properties. Special effects, indoor filming, large crews, projectile pyrotechnics and filming or in fire-sensitive areas are examples of activities that may warrant, a fire safety officer.

Public Works

Consolidated Maintenance

Huge improvements to public restroom floors is almost wrapped up. These photos show a before and after of one of the locations. This epoxy treatment has been applied previously at Tidelands, the Rock restrooms, Lila Keiser, City Park, and Bayshore. The most recent applications were at Front Street restroom, Centennial, and Monte Young. The new surfaces are impregnable to staining and odors, are slip resistant, and easier to clean.



Several inches of sand were added around the play structures at both Tidelands and Cloisters, bringing the depth up to a level compliant with current safety standards. Staff worked with California Conservation Corp. members to accomplish this day long task.



Utilities Division

On Thursday the City took delivery of a new sewer cleaning / vacuum truck. This truck is used for emergency response as well as routine cleaning of the sewer system. It employs new technologies, such as multi angle cameras, and advanced breaking that increases safety and situational awareness while operating on the narrow and steep streets of Morro Bay. This equipment will replace an aging unit that utilized two diesel engines that no longer meet stringent air board requirements.



Recreation

Senior Services

Our liaison to the MB Seniors Inc. (MBSCI), Brady Lock, has been busy assisting with programming for our senior population. The month of December saw an outing to Cambria to enjoy the Cambria Lights and a meal at the Cambria Pines Lodge. The January excursion is set for an afternoon at the Melodrama in Oceano. Relatively new to our seniors are the free Emeritus classes offered by Cuesta College in conjunction with MBSCI. January marks the start of a new semester with such classes as History, Mythology, Watercolors, Acrylic Painting, Art History, Culinary Arts, and Restorative Yoga. Also in January, MBSCI will host a “55+ Health and Wellness Faire” highlighting health screenings, exercise demonstrations, vendors, and fun activities. Join us for this free event in the MB Community Center January 20, 9AM – noon.

Youth Services

Our Teen Center has seen a change in supervision now headed out by our new staffer, Sydney Bliss. A recent general cleaning and makeover took place in November along with a fun filled Halloween Party in October. December will bring a holiday party as well as another clean-up day. Look for our Teen Action Committee around town assisting the various community organizations with projects, marketing, clean-ups, as well as weekly assistance with keeping our Lila Keiser Park tidy.

Our Kids Club program staff and participants have been busy this holiday season with holiday events such as the Halloween Trick or Treat event, Holiday Tree Lighting, and the Morro Bay Winterfest.



Sports

After a busy soccer season, our Sports Division is now in the throes of youth basketball – assessing skills, forming teams, finding coaches and staff, and scheduling facilities for this popular program that caters to over 300 kids residing in the Estero Bay. We are still looking for volunteer coaches and paid referees!

Community Pool

The Morro Bay High School Aquatic Center is ready to open for community use, with Recreation Services set to launch programming on January 9th. As the school and school district fine tune their safety plans and operational issues, Recreation Staff is developing programs, operating systems, and most importantly hiring aquatics staff. Look for lap swim, Masters Swimming, and aqua aerobics for the first quarter of 2018. Then, we will slowly build on programming leading up to swim lessons in the summer.

Morro Bay High School Aquatic Center, 235 Atascadero Rd, Morro Bay

Winter Aquatics Programs

STARTING JANUARY 9, 2018

Lap Swimming

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 5:30 am - 8:30 am

Monday through Friday 11:15 am - 1:30 pm

\$4 drop-in or \$36 for 10 passes



Masters Swimming

Coached swimming by Ryan Mammarella

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 5:45 - 6:45 am

\$5 drop-in or \$45 for 10 passes



With Jenny

Tuesday & Thursday 7:15 am - 8:15 am

\$7 drop-in or \$60 for 10 passes



WATER AEROBICS COMING SOON!



MORRO BAY RECREATION SERVICES

1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, CA 93442 ~ (805)772-6278

City website: www.morrobayca.gov • Sports website: www.league lineup.com/mb sports

Tourism

Kite Festival 2018

We are very excited to announce that our event planner from Winterfest has agreed to be involved in the Morro Bay Kite Festival. Watch for more Festival announcements in the next 30 days.

United Airlines leads with Winter Bird Festival story

Morro Bay and the community mainstay Winter Bird Festival received great exposure on United Airlines flights. This will help drive travelers from SLO County airport to Morro Bay this amazing event! <https://hub.united.com/united-5-mlk-weekend-getaways-2520520532.html>

United Hub Travel News About us Connect We're listening 



San Luis Obispo, California

This largest town on the central California coast is a fine midwinter destination whether you favor seabirds or syrahs. January is prime time for admiring the hundreds of bird species that migrate on the Pacific Flyway. A favorite Flyway stopover of theirs (and birders) is the charming beach town of Morro Bay, just 13 miles west of "SLO" (as locals call it). The [Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival](#) (Jan. 12-15) hosts 130 events that turns birding into a group activity. [SLO County](#) is also home to wine regions that are rated among the best in North America, with more than 200 wineries in the county's Paso Robles and Edna Valley regions. Many keep their tasting rooms open through the winter.

Thank you 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.

Happy New Year to you!

Sincerely,

Scott Collins
City Manager