



Pictured from left to right: Councilmember Zara Landrum, Councilmember Laurel Barton, Mayor Carla Wixom, Councilmember Cyndee Edwards and Councilmember Jen Ford.

City Manager's Update

December 15, 2022

When new Morro Bay Mayor Carla Wixom and new City Councilmembers Zara Landrum and Cyndee Edwards were sworn into office on December 13, 2022, joining current members Laurel Barton and Jen Ford, they formed Morro Bay's first all-female Council! It was quite an exciting and historic evening.

The new City Council will kick off the City goals process in January. The goals process is an important opportunity for the community to share their thoughts, desires, hopes, aspirations, and concerns about the City. This process helps ensure the direction of the City aligns with the community. We hope you all will participate in one form or another. We anticipate hosting a community survey and forums, in addition to soliciting input from advisory boards and commissions through their meetings early next year. More information will be made available to the public in January.

In the meantime, we wish the community Happy Holidays! Also, happy retirement to outgoing Police Chief Jody Cox, Harbor Director Eric Endersby and HR Analyst Laurie Goforth!

Sincerely – Scott Collins, City Manager

Employee Spotlight

CITY OF MORRO BAY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Angelica Jepsen, Recreation Supervisor

Department: Recreation Services

Years Employed at City: 19 years

Ideal Place: Somewhere sunny and 75!

Best Part of Job: My mini utopia. I hire great humans to inspire little humans to become amazing humans in the world.

Describe Your Work: Party Planner for Morro Bay!

Fun Fact: I can go a whole year without repeating an outfit...some may call it a shopping addiction.

COVID-19

The Federal government has restarted their program for free COVID-19 tests by mail. Visit <https://www.covid.gov/tests> to sign up and receive four free COVID tests per household via U.S. Mail.

Remember to [get tested](#) if you have upper respiratory symptoms, such as sniffles or sneezing, or if you think you may have been exposed. If you test positive, please isolate following the [CDC guidelines](#). Thank you for doing your part to stay safe and healthy!

Police

Police Chief Jody Cox Retirement

Chief Cox began his career at Tulare County Sheriff's Department in April 1988 as a Deputy. In May 1990, he moved to the Tulare Police Department where he worked as an Officer until October 1995 when went back to the Sheriff's Department. During his time with Tulare Sheriff's Department, he worked in the Ag Crimes Detective Unit, SWAT, Homicide Sergeant, and many other roles and responsibilities.



On December 30, 2022 we will send him off to retirement where he will create masterpieces in his woodshop, hop on his Harley and go where the wind takes him and most importantly be Full Time husband and grandpa. We thank you Chief Cox for 35 years of "Representing Well"!

An update on the Police Chief transition process will be shared with the community soon.

Morro Bay Police Explorers "Represent Well" During Police Explorer Competition

On Saturday, the Morro Bay Police Department Explorer Post #43 competed in the Central Coast Explorer Competition. Our explorers have trained over the past several months preparing for the competition. We are proud of their hard work and what they have accomplished. Congratulations to our explorers for achieving 1st Place in Crime Scene Investigation, 4th Place in Crisis Negotiation, 5th Place in Medical Aid, and 5th Place in Vehicle Search. Congratulations to our explorers and their advisors on their success and representing well.



Thanksgiving Meal Deliveries

Morro Bay Police Department Officers and Volunteers participated in delivering and handing out Thanksgiving meals to those ready to enjoy a home cooked thanksgiving meal. Four officers and six MBPD volunteers joined the Morro Bay Lions Club and delivered hundreds of meals to Morro Bay residents on Thanksgiving Day.



Caroling Cops and Santa Clause visit Morro Bay

Santa and the Morro Bay Police Department spread some holiday cheer. Monday, December 5th, through Wednesday, December 7th, Caroling Cops made their way through the streets of Morro Bay to hand out stuffed toys to the kids, candy canes for all, and treats to Santa's four-legged friends. Santa's sleigh was a Ford Bronco decorated with lights and garland. This event is enjoyed by all including the officers and their families who join the caroling in police cars and volunteer vehicles. MBPD is honored to continue this 34-year tradition, traveling every street in Morro Bay to spread a little joy and say hello to our community one city street at a time. Thank you to all of those who came out to say hello. We will see you next year!



**Morro Bay
Police Recruit Graduates Allan Hancock Police Academy**

On December 7th, Morro Bay Police Recruit Dakota LaDow graduated from the Allan Hancock Police Academy after six months of intensive training. This is the first police recruit the City has sponsored in the academy. Chief Cox and other staff from the department attended the graduation ceremony in Lompoc. Congratulations Officer LaDow!



Chief Cox Swears in New Police Employees

On December 12th, Chief Cox had the pleasure of swearing in three new employees of the Morro Bay Police Department. Community Service Officer Miguel Salgado, Police Officer Dakota LaDow, and Lateral Police Officer Grant Hasselbach, took their oath in front of family, friends, City staff and Councilmembers in a ceremony at the Morro Bay Community Center. We are excited to welcome Miguel, Dakota, and Grant to the city and MBPD family.



Fire

Fire Chief Update

The Fire Department responded to 155 incidents from November 1st through November 30th. Of those November incidents we responded to:

- 1 Fire
- 0 Explosion/overpressure/ Overheat (no fire)
- 101 EMS incidents
- 4 Hazardous Condition
- 21 Service Calls/ PSA
- 15 Good Intent/ Cancelled
- 13 False Alarms
- 0 Special Incident/Other



Community Outreach

The Fire Department is hosting the annual Season of Hope toy and food drive now through December 16th. We are collecting non-perishable food items, as well as new unwrapped toys. There are collection bins in the front lobby of the fire station. The toys will be distributed by Operation Santa Clause, and the food will be distributed by the San Luis Obispo Food Bank. Please consider donating a new unwrapped toy or food to benefit local community members.

Training

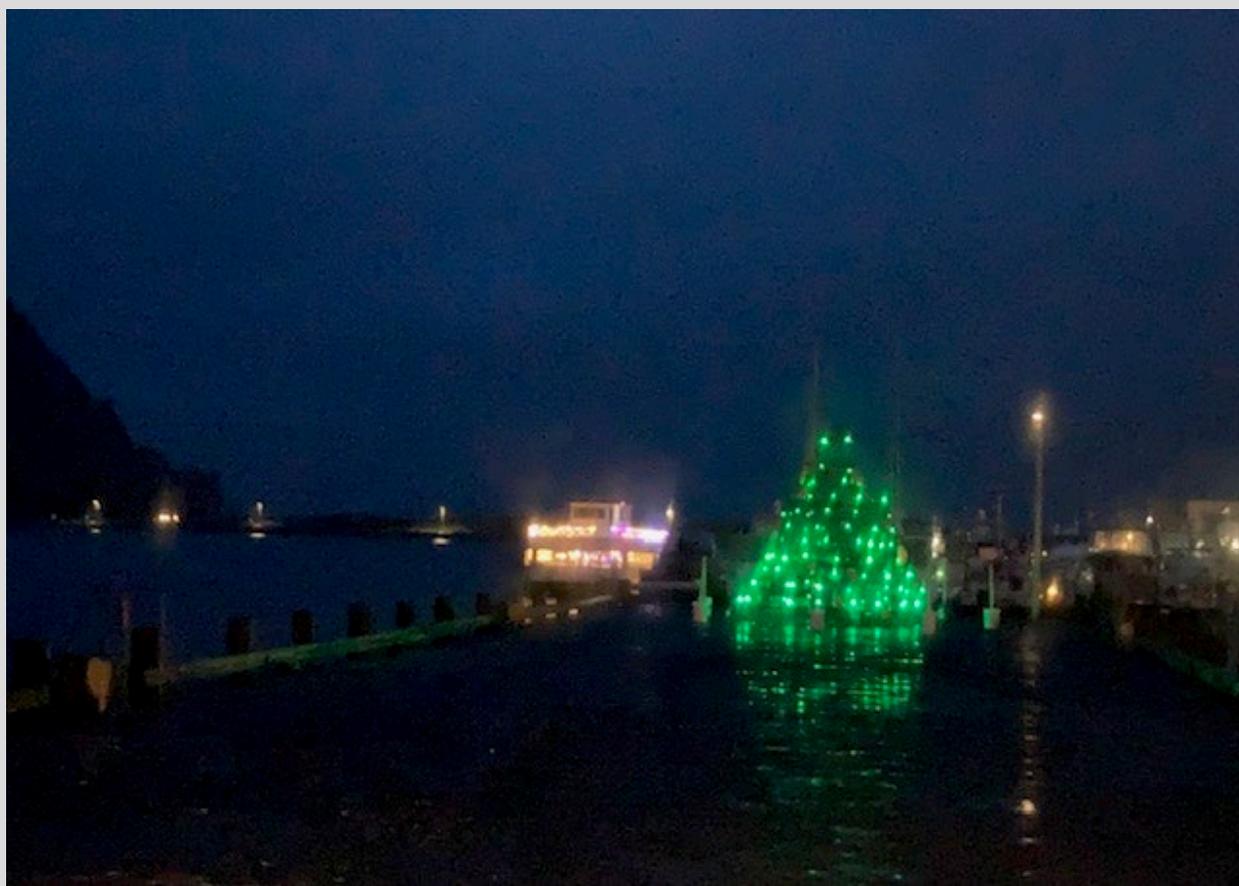
The Fire Department has been very active in training through the last month. Members recently attended a presentation from Porterville Fire Department about lessons learned from a fatal fire at the Porterville library that cost the lives of a Firefighter and Fire Captain from their department. Casey Robertshaw passed his acting engineer promotional exam and Kevin Hames completed his Paramedic field internship and will be graduating from the Cuesta College Paramedic program on Friday, December 16th. Congratulations to both Firefighters as they complete major milestones in their probationary process.



Harbor

As the winter season has begun, the Harbor Department is faced with several challenges on the waterfront. The wind and rain can make for rough boating conditions. The day after Thanksgiving turned out to be a day of large swells, with full crowds in town, strong rip currents and sunshine. Summer Lifeguards were called back to work the beach and Harbor Patrol stood by the Harbor Entrance for some swells that posed hazardous conditions.

The Crab Pot Christmas Tree was put up by Harbor Patrol just in time before the first big rains, but the lighted boat parade was initially postponed a week and then sadly cancelled due to inclement weather. We are grateful for the rain and look forward to the boat parade in 2023!



Derelict Boats

Harbor Patrol Officers met with the Marine Safety Detachment crew of the Coast Guard out of Santa Barbara to survey Morro Bay Harbor for vessels that pose a 'threat to pollute.' Vessels that were identified will receive a letter from the Coast Guard warning them of the liability they have. Harbor Patrol will keep a close eye on these particular boats as well as the rest of the harbor especially throughout the stormy weather. Some boats will be able to be removed from the harbor with grant funding from the Division of Boating and Waterways. This is an ongoing

process that takes a large effort from Harbor staff. All boat owners are reminded to continually check their tie up lines, clear excess gear off the decks and monitor their boats for any leaks.



Reuters Floating Wind USA 2022

On November 8-9, 2022, Harbor Director Endersby attended and participated in a speaker's panel for Reuter's Floating Wind USA 2022 conference in San Francisco. This conference was attended by a who's who of senior executives from developers, government, ports, operators, and their respective supply chains to explore the full floating wind power generation potential that the U.S. has to offer by the end of this decade. Director Endersby sat on a panel titled, "Developing California's First Offshore Wind Farms," and answered questions with other panelists regarding port infrastructure, impacts on communities and what those communities are doing to prepare for offshore wind power generation, and the challenges and opportunities that offshore wind will present to regions and communities. Representatives from all the major wind farm developers were present, and the conference was a great networking opportunity for Morro Bay and other regional representatives.

Training

Harbor Patrol Officers Stein and Jacobs attended a 2-day class in Costa Mesa and completed the Yanmar Factory Authorized Dealer Training for 4LV/8LV diesel engines, control systems and diagnostic training. The Harbor Patrol boats are mostly serviced and maintained by our own staff. This is valuable for successful day to day operations and a cost benefit for the Department.

Harbor Director Eric Endersby's Pending Retirement

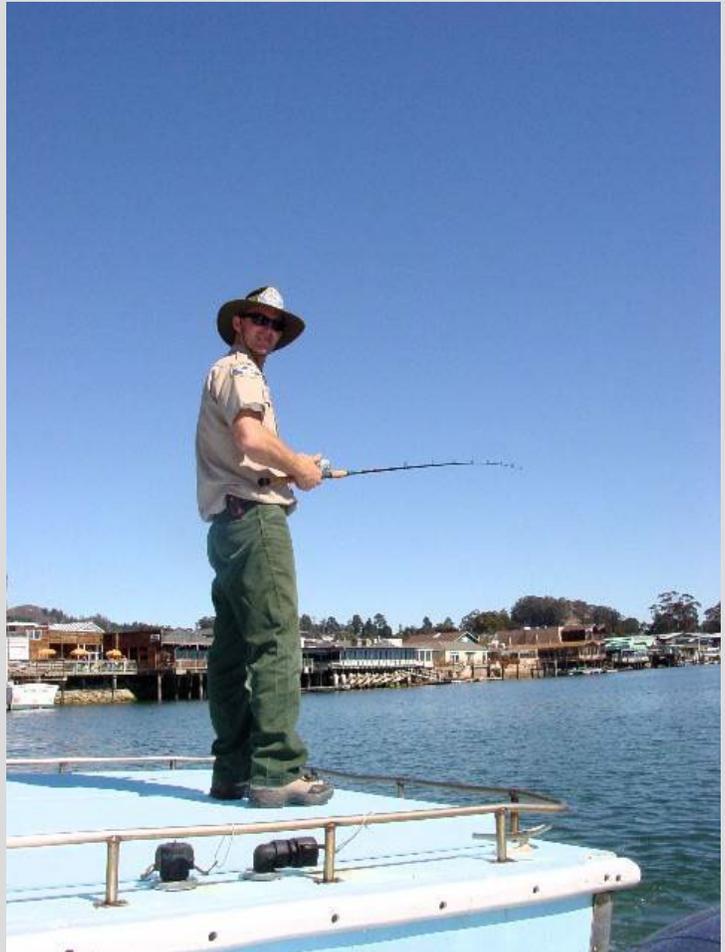
As Harbor Director Endersby's last scheduled day of work before retiring after a nearly 30-year career with the Morro Bay Harbor Department nears, he had these things to say:

It is with both exhilaration and terror as my last day of work for the Harbor Department, December 23, looms; definitely a strange mix of feelings. From my first days as a Reserve Harbor Patrol Officer in early 1993, to becoming the Chief Harbor Patrol Officer in 1996, and finally to being appointed the Harbor Director in 2012, those 30 years will stand as some of the most rewarding of my life. I am humbled that the community put its trust in me all those years, and in return, I can only hope that I leave things in better shape than I found them. I would be remiss if I didn't thank those in the department who went before me; Dick Rodgers, Jim Kroll, Ray Fry, Tom Kellerman, Rick Algert, Polly Curtis, and Sue Lichtenbaum, God rest her soul.

I would be equally remiss if I didn't thank the most hardworking, dedicated, skilled, efficient, and caring harbor team on the coast that together we have built over those 30 years; Becka Kelly, Lori Stilts, Dana Stein, Jeremiah Jacobs, and Marcos Green. And like the Academy Awards, I cannot possibly mention without missing some all the part-time staff, past and present, who have contributed and will continue to contribute to the success of this unique team, in addition to all the City staff, from the top on down, I have worked with over three decades.

Thank you all; it has been my honor to work with you serving this community.

But alas, it is time to say good-bye, thank my team, and step aside while they move into the future together with new leadership. I will miss you all, but hope to see you around, and until then, I'm gone fishin'.



The City is currently in the process of reviewing applicants for the Harbor Director position, and will provide an update to the community soon.

Public Works

Maintenance Division

'Tis the season for Maintenance staff to prepare for the holidays. Some of the preparations included changing out banners along Morro Bay Boulevard and the Embarcadero.

Maintenance staff also placed holiday trees at different locations in the City.



Lastly, Maintenance Staff was instrumental in setting up the Christmas House at the Centennial Park.



Engineering Division

The Engineering Division is now implementing of several large capital projects. One that is going to construction soon is for pavement work on various arterial and collector streets. The City has contracted with Papich Construction Company of Arroyo Grande, CA to perform the \$1.3 million Pavement Management Project. Approximately 120,000 square feet of failed pavement will be replaced, mainly in the wheel paths, on arterial and collector streets covering about 4 centerline miles of streets including:

- South Bay Boulevard (Quintana to City Limits south of Quarry Trail Parking Area)
- Main Street (State Route 41 to Piney Way)
- Pacific Street (Piney Way to Embarcadero)
- Harbor Street (Morro Bay Boulevard to Embarcadero)
- Beach Street (Main Street to Embarcadero)
- Coral Avenue (Indigo Circle to Emerald Circle)
- San Jacinto at Main Street Intersection

The work includes removal (“digout”) of failed, localized pavement areas and replacement with asphalt materials in roadways. The scope of this project is not to “repave” the entire road from edge to edge; only remove and replace structurally failed areas of asphalt. The work will also include traffic control, sweeping, removal and reinstallation of traffic striping and pavement markings, and public notifications where street parking and access to driveways are impacted. A surface seal will be placed over the roadway on a future project later this fiscal year. Work was scheduled to start in November but has been delayed to mid- to late-December due to other project commitments of the contractor and recent rain events.

Admin and Programs Division

The holiday season is upon us, and Morro Bay Transit will be operating its normal schedule of Monday through Friday from 6:25 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. except for December 26 when there will be no service that day. If you need to purchase an RTA or Regional bus pass this month, please be aware City offices will be closed December 23, 2022 through January 2, 2023 so please make arrangements to purchase your pass before then. And keep in mind, you can always buy your pass online from the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and they will your pass to you, or you can use their Token Transit app to purchase and keep your pass on your cell phone. To purchase RTA or Regional passes online, or get information about downloading the Token Transit app, visit the RTA website at <http://www.slorta.org/passes/purchase-passes/>.



WRF - Water Resources Center

The wastewater treatment process at the Water Resources Center (WRC) is in operation after a challenging startup in mid-October, and the City and Filanc Black & Veatch (FBV) continue to work together on getting the process up and running for long-term operation. The WRC has been producing treated effluent that meets or exceeds regulatory requirements, and FBV has been preparing the advanced water treatment process for commissioning and testing. Resolution of WRC construction “punchlist” items is on-going as part of normal project closeout activities and final acceptance in advance of the February 2023 State regulatory order deadline. The City’s operations staff drained the existing WWTP and it has been taken out of service.

WRF - Conveyance

The new pipelines and pump stations are fully in service and pumping wastewater to the WRC and conveying treated effluent to the City’s existing ocean outfall. Anvil, the City’s contractor for WRC related conveyance work, is now working on project closeout activities, including grading and paving activities at the pump station sites and along the bike path. Major pavement and concrete restoration work along the entire pipeline alignment will begin in mid-December, and the City is anticipating the restoration work to be completed in the first quarter of 2023. The bike path will be reopened by or before the end of January.

WRF - Recycled Water Facilities

Injection Well No. 1 construction and well development activities are complete, and the City started the Extended Injection Test on 12/6/22. The Extended Injection Test, which is anticipated to run for approximately 30 days, will allow the hydrogeologists to enhance the computer model of the groundwater basin, confirm injection rates, improve estimates of travel time in the basin and inform the design of the full-scale injection system. The Advanced Treatment Processes (i.e., Reverse Osmosis, Ultraviolet Disinfection/Advanced Oxidation) at the Water Resources Center are operational and are currently undergoing commissioning and start-up activities.



ADVISORY BODY RECRUITMENT

Volunteers Needed

Be a part of local government and become a board member. Make a difference!



Advisory Board Vacancies

- Citizen Oversight/Citizens Finance Committee
- Harbor Advisory Board
 - Waterfront Leaseholder
 - Recreational Boating
 - Alternate Member to MBCFO
- Planning Commission
- Public Works Advisory Board
- Recreation and Parks Commission
- Visit SLO County Board of Directors



TENTATIVE INTERVIEWS

Interviews are tentatively scheduled on January 10, 2023. Applicants should be present at the interview to be considered by the City Council.

APPLY TODAY

RECRUITMENT PERIOD:

Nov. 21 - Dec. 30, 2022 by 5 PM

CONTACT US

 (805) 772-6568



cityclerk@morrobayca.gov

More Information

www.morrobayca.gov/advisorybody 

Administration

Facilities

Morro Bay Community Center and Parks are open and ready for reservations! Our parks and facilities continue to be bustling with classes, activities, and other reservations such as birthday parties, celebrations, and the like. We have many Holiday Festivities such as Santa's House, Grinch Meet and Greet and Food Drives. Also, Recreation Services is working with the Lions Club to help feed those who are in most need on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Events

Recreation Services kicked off the Holiday Season with our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting and Breakfast with Santa last weekend. Both events had a large local participation, and lots of smiles and happy children. Breakfast with Santa sold 165 tickets this year!





Seniors

November was another busy month at the Senior Center. We had our biggest attendance yet at Bingo on the 4th as bingo fans continue to support the monthly games at the Community Center. The Rovers treated everyone to one of the most popular trips of the year as they toured the Bay at sunset on the Chablis. We were able to get SLO Legal Aid to come and give a presentation on Wills and Trusts which our group is extremely interested in staying educated about. On the 29th the San Luis Obispo City Director of Senior Services came by to speak with us about our activities. They are working to help build their program and wanted to examine other local senior centers. Many of our members spent their holiday volunteering with the Lions Club to help with the Thanksgiving dinner.





Community Classes

Classes will continue until December 23rd and then will take a Winter Break and resume on January 2nd.

Aquatics

The Morro Bay Aquatic Center Fall programming is in full swing. We are excited to be able to provide a positive safe environment to learn and improve swim skills, get exercise, and work on rehabilitation. This fall the aquatic staff is providing group swim lessons on Sundays to participants. Lap Swim is offered Monday through Friday and Sundays. Aquatic staff is also here for your Triathlon or Iron Man needs – why just survive your swim when your swim can thrive?! Master's swim is a great place to get coach led work outs as well as stroke advice from our knowledgeable coaches. If you need some one-on-one time, we also offer private adult lessons.

Sports

The Estero Bay Youth Soccer League Soccer Season wrapped up with the final games for the under six and under 8 division on November 5. The Under 10, Under 12, and Under 14 teams all played in their end of season tournaments on an end of the season tournament on November 12. Morro Bay Recreation Services hosted the Under 10 Girls Division, 7 teams participated in the tournament held at Lila Keiser. The Under 12 Boys division tournament fielded 6 teams, all teams competed at Morro Elementary. The single elimination tournaments gave players a chance to compete in a win or go home style tournament, and in the end, the winners were crowned champions.



Adult Softball is headed into the playoffs and season finale in December. We had some good holiday cheer on the field, with Santa Clause joining in on some softball fun!



Basketball in Estero Bay is just getting started, with teams starting practice at the end of November. We have over 270 players, and 37 teams in total. This year we added first graders to the league and divided up division by 2 grades. We are excited to be back in the gyms for games and practices for the 22-23 season!

Youth Services

Kids' Club

Holiday Hangouts – Thanksgiving Break 2022 was a success. The kids had a blast and are looking forward to Winter Break. We want to thank the Youth Sports team for coming out and hosting the 2nd annual Turkey Bowl, this year's bowl ended in a tie.



Kids' Club will be closed from December 22nd – January 6th for Winter Break. Youth Services will host Holiday Hangouts during that time. Registration is open, sign up Today.

Youth Services will be hosting our December Kids' Night Out on Friday December 9th. Kids are invited to our Christmas Pajama Party for dinner, games, and lots of fun while the parents take the night off!



Morro Bay
Recreation Services
Presents

HOLIDAY HANGOUT

December 2022 January 2023
22nd & 23rd 2nd-6th
27th -30th

Elf Workshops:
Thursday 12/22
Friday 12/23

**Winter
Wonderland:**
Tuesday 12/27
Wednesday 12/28
Thursday 12/29
Friday 12/30

Once Upon a Time:
Monday Jan 2nd
Tuesday Jan 3rd
Wednesday Jan 4th
Thursday Jan 5th
Friday Jan 6th



5 DAYS - \$175
4 DAYS - \$150
3 DAYS - \$115
2 DAYS - \$85
1 DAY - \$50

Register @At MB Rec Office,
Kids' Club, or online.
by Dec. 16th

COME JOIN THE FUN!
When: December 22nd & 23rd, 27th-30th
January 2nd- 6th
7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Who: Children 4-12 years old
Where: KIDS' CLUB
@ 501 Sequoia St # 25



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ANGELICA AT (805)772-6279

Morro Bay Recreation Services Presents:

Kids' Night Out

CHRISTMAS JAMMIE PARTY

Get that holiday shopping done and leave the kids with us!

12.09.22 5pm-8pm
Preregister by Dec. 8th Community Center
1001 Kennedy Way

Ages: 3-12
Fee: \$20 per child
walk-in \$30
Pizza Crafts Games
Quality child care by
our awesome Kids'
Club Staff!

Scan here to Register and
Search "Kids' Night Out"



Wear your favorite christmas pajamas!

MORRO BAY RECREATION SERVICES
1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, CA 93442 - (805)772-6278
www.morrobayca.gov www.facebook.com/CityofMorroBay

Community Development



News:

1. Work on 833 Embarcadero (HarborWalk Plaza) continues and it looks like the project will have fantastic bay views along the harbor side of the project.

2. On November 22, 2022, the City Council adopted both the City's comprehensive zoning code update and the 2022 California Building Code including local amendments. The new 2022 Building Code will take effect on January 1, 2023.

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

November 1, 2022: Cancelled

November 15, 2022: 101 Fig; relocation of little red house and construction a new 1,676 sq.ft. single family house plus garage. Action: approved (item has been appealed to City Council).

Planning Permits

- Coastal Dev. Permit = 5
- Sign Permit = 1
- Use Permits = 2
- Min/Maj Mods = 2

Total Permits = 10

Fees collected = \$36,292

Code Enforcement Activity

New Cases: 7
Open: 6
Closed: 1
In Process: 14

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 26
- Valuation = \$481,526
- Fees Received = \$26,324
- # of Inspections = 209
- New Permits = 8