



Photo credit: Danna Joy Images

December 26, 2018

Happy Holidays, Morro Bay!

The entire City team wishes you and your friends and family a joyous holiday season and happy New Year! We have much to celebrate from 2018, and lots of lessons learned, that we can apply moving forward into 2019. Thank you to our staff and the many City and community volunteers for all you do to improve our quality of life; let's make 2019 our best year yet!

In this update, you will learn how to provide input on an upcoming Downtown tree lighting program, get information on how our departments are collaborating to keep us safe during hazardous emergencies, see how our efforts to improve the annual budget presentation have paid off, and mark your calendars for a winter full of fun activities in Recreation as well as special events, including the upcoming world famous [Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival](#).

Have a wonderful week! Feel free to share your thoughts with me by email at scollins@morrobayca.gov or phone at 805-772-6206.

Thanks!

Scott Collins
City Manager

Public Works

Downtown Tree Trimming; and Tree Lighting Program – Seeking Your Input!

Consolidated Maintenance worked with a local vendor to trim 44 trees in the Downtown area over the past couple weeks. The trimming is important routine maintenance on the trees, and also serves another important purpose: tree lighting preparation. The City will be lighting street trees on 4 blocks of Downtown in the coming months with decorative lighting, to help make Downtown an even more welcoming destination for residents and visitors. The City would like your input on two lighting options...the first is traditional café, or bistro, lighting. The second option are large spheres. Each option provides a slightly different look and feel. The City will be taking input on the options through the remainder of 2018, before making a decision and implementing the program. You can view the options below or see them in person before the New Year, by touring the southwest and northwest corners of Morro Bay Blvd. and Napa Ave. Please submit your thoughts to the City Manager, Scott Collins, via email: scollins@morrobayca.gov.



Left: Café Lighting

Right: Lighted Spheres

Consolidated maintenance has been very busy the past month, see below for a list of accomplishments.

1) Streets:

-Installed new high visibility street signs at Hill/Bayview, Hill/Sunset, Main/Avalon, Main/San Joaquin, Alder/San Joaquin, Main/Java, Nevis/Tide, Avalon/Greenwood with new pole.

- Replaced stop sign at Main/Yerba Buena due to graffiti.
 - Removed 2-hour parking sign and relocated the crosswalk sign in its place on the 800 blk. of MB Blvd.
 - Installed new neutral wire from street pull box to power pedestal. Rewired main panel to accommodate new GFCI breakers. Replaced every outlet along Main St.
 - Filled several potholes around town with Cold Mix Asphalt.
- 2) Trees:
- Added support poles, horizontal and rubber band supports to several juvenile trees.
 - Cut up and hauled several fallen limbs and a few fallen trees.
 - Trimmed several trees out of the ROW.
- 3) Storm Drains:
- Excavated and removed old failed storm drain pipe at 1200 blk. of the Embarcadero. Installed 91' of new 15" diameter drain pipe and tied into DI. Backfill, compact and grout ends.
- 4) Boardwalk:
- Replaced approx. 28 board feet of broken Trex boards on walkway.
- 5) Tidelands:
- Repaired broken toilet push button assembly.
 - Installed new water shut off valve and rebuilt flush valve assembly in women's RR.
 - Power snake shower and floor drains to unclog water backup.
- 6) Coleman:
- Hauled in and installed 30 tons of red rock material into the parking lot and graded.
- 7) Surf St.:
- Removed old wooden staircase, grade slope, plant grass seed, top with hay and jute.
- 8) Corp Yard:
- Installed new Park Maintenance shop door, hardware and security deadbolt.
- 9) MBCC:
- Replaced bad electrical ballasts in Senior Center office.
 - Repaired large widow latch mechanism, aligned and lubed.
 - Re-attached torn fabric on operable wall with contact cement.
- 10) MBFD:
- Diagnosed and replaced failed capacitor in heat exchanger on boiler system.
 - Replaced ribbon cable and 2 battery packs in keypad entry locks.
- 11) MBPD:
- Painted wall, door and jambs in police chief's office.
- 12) Vets Hall: -Replaced hand towel dispenser.



Tree trimming work in preparation for tree lighting

Police

Caroling with a Cop

The Morro Bay Police Department staff and volunteers participated in the annual Caroling with a Cop event a couple weeks ago. The City trolley carried carolers across the entire City, bringing joy to kids, and doggies, of all ages! It was a wonderful time and excellent way to spread holiday cheer to our friends and neighbors. Special thanks to the Morro Bay Neighborhood Watch Association and Police Staff and volunteers, and Santa himself for putting on this super fun community event!



New Assignments and a Retirement

It is with a mixture of joy and sadness that we announce the upcoming retirement of long-time Morro Bay Police Officer Flores. We are very happy for him, as he prepares to retire after 35 years of law enforcement service, but sad to see Officer Flores go.

Senior Officer Greg Gruich is transferring to Detectives and Officer Gene Stuart has been assigned as Senior Officer. We wish them continued success in the Morro Bay Police Department as they take on these new roles!

Harbor

Harbor Patrol is Busy

It has been a very busy month for the Harbor Patrol recently. Patrol participated in an oil spill response training with Port San Luis Harbor Patrol in early December. Coast Guard, California Fish and Wildlife and Harbor Patrol boats from both agencies worked together to lay out absorbent boom in the water and discussed techniques for best practice to protect our coastline. This training is important not only to ensure our environmental first responders are fully up on the latest equipment and techniques, but also to ensure our responders from across different agencies and jurisdictions work smoothly together.

Annual Lighted Boat Parade

The Lighted Boat Parade was measured as a success by event organizers and the Harbor Department despite the date change from December 1st to the 8th. It was a well-attended and beautiful night.



Large Swells Create Hazards

We have had our biggest swell/surf in several years hit our coast this last week, and the large swells have lasted for several weeks. The harbor entrance was deemed hazardous (which basically means it is impassible) for five days straight at one point. Luckily there were no boating related mishaps during that time. As the large swells continue and our biggest tides of the year are occurring, we caution all beach goers to use good judgement. Previously dry areas have the potential to be overcome by waves, AND NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON THE OCEAN!



Derelict Boat Removal

The Harbor Department receives grant funding from the State of California Division of Boating and Waterways to remove derelict boats from the water. Last week, seven boats were destroyed at the launch ramp through this funding to the tune of about \$14,000.





Partnership Continues Reducing our Hazardous Fuels from Black Hill



In partnership with the California State Parks and the Air Pollution Control District, Morro Bay's Hazard Fuel Reduction on Black Hill has continued through this week. Crews are conducting prescribed burning of piles of diseased, dead and downed Monterey pines in the Black Hill area of Morro Bay State Park.

This burn project is part of the Hazard Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Program for vegetation management, fuel load reduction and structure protection to numerous residences and businesses in Morro Bay. Monterey pines are experiencing major die-offs due to pine pitch canker disease and prolonged years of drought. Burn pile operations will be conducted to maintain defensible space on areas adjacent to

neighborhoods and park facilities per Morro Bay Fire Department permit conditions. This treatment will greatly reduce dead, downed and diseased fuels in the wildland-urban interface, decrease potential for wildfires, enhance the health of the native plant communities, encourage increased species composition, restore essential nutrients to the soil, and aid in the control of pine pitch canker. Burning will not occur if a burn ban is in effect or if the weather or brush conditions are not conducive to burning.

This partnership with State, County and Morro Bay are a great example how we work together making our community safer from catastrophic fires and enhance the health of our local park and forest.



San Luis Obispo Regional Hazardous Materials Team trains at Morro Bay's Waste Water Treatment Plant

Our local Haz-Mat Team trained at our wastewater treatment plant this week. A simulated rescue was created in the headworks of the plant below ground. The team had to identify the environmental hazard plus develop the rescue system to extricate the patient from below. As part of our local Haz-Mat Team, California Men's Colony personnel are part of the decon-team that is vital in the patient, rescuer, and equipment cleanup during an event.



All cities and incorporated areas in our county participate in a Joint Powers Agreement providing funding, training, and personnel to our countywide team. Engineer Paramedic Michael Hoese is a qualified Hazardous Material Technician through California Specialized Training Institute and participates on the team for Morro Bay and Fire Chief Steve Knuckles is a member of Regional Hazardous Materials Board of Directors. Engineer Paramedic Micah Szopinski is scheduled to complete his Hazardous Materials training in 2019 allowing him to become a new member of the team.

Finance

Your finance staff is busy preparing for 2019 but with the end of 2018 rapidly approaching we took a moment to reflect back on the current year – we had a full year and most notably filled our last two vacancies as we welcomed two new staff members to our finance family, both Tracy and Carly joined our team as permanent, full-time employees in 2018. As a team, the finance department has meshed together seamlessly, and I couldn't be prouder of the team and the work we have accomplished. We all believe in having an attitude of gratitude and wanted to share one thing that we appreciate about working for the City with the Council and Community:

Chere: Kids Club, **Carly:** The amazing staff; **Chloe:** The cohesiveness of our department and being able to do good work and be productive while having fun; **Valerie:** How we all work so well together as a team; **Tracy:** the organizational culture that is growing; **Sandy:** flexibility; **Jen:** the small city atmosphere where the employees really become family, you get to know everyone by name and their families as well all while getting to know the community members and residents by name, being able to engage with residents one-on-one and get involved in the activities of the community.

City Wins Award for Budget

The City was notified on Thursday, December 20, 2018 that we have been awarded a Certificate of Excellence Award for our Fiscal Year 2018-19 Operating Budget, from California Society of Municipal Finance Officers association. The California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) is a state organization of governmental financial employees. To receive the award budgets must meet identified criteria determined to meet best practices in budgeting. For example, the budget must contain a transmittal letter that is easy to read, highlights major changes in the budget, identifies organizational priorities and their funding sources, financial summaries including schedules of revenues and expenditures by fund and department, schedule of fund balance, description of the department and programs, listing of number of employees, consistent formatting, effective use of graphs, charts and graphics, detail on accomplishments, performance measures and current year goals. Finally, the budget must display exceptional format clarity and presentation effectiveness. As a result of submitting the City's budget for consideration, we will receive feedback and comments from the reviewers that we can use to continue to enhance and improve our City's budget document. It is the collaborative effort of the City Budget Team, which includes staff from every department, the

City's department directors and managers, the Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee and the Finance team, and City Council were able to complete the FY 2018/19 budget makeover and be honored with this award. We thank everyone who helped contribute to this budget and look forward to continually enhancing the City's budget document in future years. Three members of the Finance Department will be attending the CSMFO conference in January and will receive the award on behalf of the City at that time, however CSMFO did send a snapshot of our award in advance.



Recreation Services

Recreation Classes

Along with our regular plethora of classes offered for youth and adults, we have added something new: Dance Fusion for kids ages 5-14.

Special Events

On November 30, 2018 we held our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at City Park. The festivities began at 3:30 pm and included a dance performance from Desert Coast Performance Group, musical performances from the Children of MB Kids' Club and MBHS Chamber Choir,

pinatas, hot apple cider, homemade tamales, cookies and a visit from Santa Claus as well as the lighting of the City Park tree!



December 15th was our first Breakfast with Santa at the Morro Bay Community Center. This event included a pancake breakfast cooked by the Lions Club and served by volunteers from MBSI, crafts and face painting by Kids' Club staff, and of course a visit from Santa. Thank you to all our volunteers and participants for making this a wonderful event.



Breakfast with Santa

2018



Facilities

December 1st, MBCC hosted The Women's Annual Holiday Potluck which was a success. Approximately 175 meals were served -- way to go ladies!

December 15th Jolly ol' St. Nick came down to the Community Center and had breakfast with our community!

December 19th the Vet's Hall hosted the 39+ Dance group's annual Christmas party. It was so nice to see so many active seniors get dressed up and on the dance floor to show off their moves. This is an ongoing event so come down on Wednesdays and please visit our website for more information.

The Morro Bay Community Center will be closed for scheduled maintenance from December

22nd, 2018 to January 6th, 2018. The Senior Center hours will be 10:00am to 3:00pm during the Community Center Closure.

January 11th MBCC will be hosting the Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner. Thank you Chamber for all that you do!

Bird lovers will be flocking to Morro Bay for the annual Winter Bird Festival on January 17th – January 21st. This event takes place simultaneously at multiple City Facilities and we are looking forward to another successful year.

Seniors

As the holiday season heats up, the activities at the Senior Center begin to slow down. Many of our participants are parents and grandparents and use this time to travel to see their families. All Cuesta Emeritus classes have finished and will resume in January. We have added three new classes for the winter semester with the newest being a Fall Prevention Class which is very popular with our older locals. The new year brings great expectations as well as good intentioned resolutions and to help keep those “2019 improvements” we are rolling out our second annual 55+ Health and Wellness Faire on Saturday, January 26th from 9:00 AM to Noon. The event will showcase more than 40 exhibitors, most of them local and connected to the health or wellness industry. Nutritious food samples will be available as well as assessments, demonstrations and presentations!



Seniors showing off the Christmas Wreaths each of them made at the Dec. 14 Workshop put on for MBAA...55+ by local florist Lora, owner of Harbor Floral.

Aquatics Programs

On December 2nd, we hosted a Swim with Santa family recreational swim and toy/food drive for the Seasons of Hope. Santa was decked out in his Hawaiian shirt and shorts as he visited with boys and girls at the pool. Thank you to all who attended and donated toys (in exchange for a free swim) and food (for a \$1 off pool entry) at the event. We had two barrels of toys and food donated at the event and continued to collect items throughout the week.



Our pool schedule remains at M-F 5:30 am to 8:00 am and 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and Sundays 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. We will be closed the following days: December 23, 24, 25, 26 and 31. On January 1 we will be open from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Sports

On December 2nd, we hosted a youth basketball clinic with the LA Clippers. Olden Polynice and 2 coaches from their youth development programs came to Morro Bay to teach our children dribbling, passing, shooting and the correct way to complete a jump shot to avoid getting called for travelling. 120 children registered in our youth basketball program attended this free clinic. Olden also wowed the children with an over the back half court shot at the end of the clinic.

Youth Basketball games will begin on January 11 and will continue through March 2. We are in need of 2 coaches. If you are interested in being a hero in the life of a child, please let us know at Recreation Services.



Girls Softball registration will begin on January 7. We changed the league name this year to be the same as all our other leagues—Estero Bay Girls Softball. Our parent board is out and about seeking sponsors to help defray some of our costs. Our league is open to girls ages 4 to 16. Also new this year will be a 6 & under division. Games are played with San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Templeton and Paso Robles leagues. Opening day will be March 9 at Lila Keiser Park.



Save the date! July 20, 2019 will be the 50th Annual Brian Waterbury Memorial Rock to Pier Run and 8th Annual Half Marathon. We are part of the California Half and Full Marathon Series and the Trail Runner Magazine Trophy Series. Look for registration to open in May.



Morro Bay Junior Lifeguard program update: This year, in an effort to avoid Spring Break confusion, registration will start on March 25 at 8:30 am. Summer 2019 dates will be as follows: June 10-21, Junior Waterman (formerly JG 2.0); June 24-July 12, Session 1; and July 22-August 9, Session 2. Pool Junior Guards schedule will be determined and advertised in March.



Youth Services

- Youth Services:
 - The children of Kids' Club had the opportunity to perform and the annual Holiday Tree Light Celebration this year. They practiced and handmade all their props at Kids' Club prior to their big performance.



Tourism

Our love of the ocean and sustainable fishing is showing through by our growing collection of crab pot trees in Morro Bay!



Harbor Dept Supervisor, Becca Kelly Setting up the Embarcadero Tree.

Three years ago the Morro Bay Harbor Department and the French Family started this great tradition of building a tree out of crab pots. The entire tree of commercial pots is supplied by one of our local fishing families The French's. This was the catalyst to start our crab pot tree collection that is growing every year. This story just published on national media outlets with the direction of the Tourism department.

In 2017, we found a crabbing community back in Beauford, North Carolina that takes their used crab pots that are no longer viable for fishing and they turn them into these fantastic little crab pot trees. Last year we had a total of 13 trees scattered throughout downtown and on the Embarcadero. This year we were able to grow that number to 30 with the help of local business owners and residents purchasing their own crab pot trees to light up our town. Each tree is handmade and is adorned with colored lights of your choosing. The trees fold flat with the lights intact for easy storage during the off-season.

Community Development

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2018



Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

Nov. 6, 2018: 2920 Juniper: 1-year time extension on CDP. Action: Approved

2575 Greenwood: Approval of PC Revised Resolution No. 31-18 denying an appeal of an Admin. approval of an accessory dwelling unit.

Nov. 20, 2018 PC cont. 125

Hatteras: 316 sq.ft. addition to a home and 194 sq.ft. addition to the garage.

Action: approved

Plan Morro Bay: Review of the General Plan/Local Coastal Program

Action: Reviewed and continued

Planning Permits Received

- Use Permit = 3
- Coastal Dev. Permits = 3
- Parking exceptions = 4
- Sign Permit = 1

Fees collected = \$6,019

Code Enforcement Activity

- 17 cases initiated

2930 Cedar: 323 sq.ft. addition to an existing single family residence.

Action: Approved

1127 Las Tunas: New 473 sq.ft. accessory dwelling unit and 34 sq.ft. addition to the existing home.

Action: Approved

Plan Morro Bay: Review of Zoning Code update.

Action: Completed Review

November 20, 2018

3400 Toro Lane: new 1,386 sq.ft. home and 600 sq.ft. accessory dwelling unit.

Action: Approved

- 23 cases resolved
- 28 total pending cases

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 34
- Valuation = \$2,239,760
- Fees Received = \$77,960
- # of Inspections = 91
- New Permits = 12