MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 12, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
      County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of July 12th, 2010

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer to the Board of Supervisors.

This Week’s Topics: Assessment Notification Letters are coming from the Assessor’s Office, Whooping Cough Vaccinations Offered, and New Wheels for the Libraries.

Assessor

On July 15, the Monterey County Assessor’s Office will mail 115,000 assessment notification letters, providing property owners the opportunity to review their property’s taxable value before the 2010-2011 property tax bill is mailed in October.

Newly released figures from a review of property assessments in Monterey County have resulted in lowered assessments on 36,000 properties. These reductions, the results of a ‘decline in value review” conducted by the assessor’s office, will be reflected in the bills issued this coming October. Proposition 8, passed by California voters in November 1978, requires the Assessor to temporarily reduce assessed values when the market value of a property falls below the current assessed value.

Property owners who did not receive a reduction in their assessment and believe that the market value of their property, as of January 1, 2010, is less than the value shown in the notification letter, are encouraged to consider filing a formal assessment appeal by the September 15th
The Prop 13 value is typically the property’s acquisition value plus inflation factors for intervening years. The lower of these two values is the value used for property tax and saves the County substantial resources. Last year a once they understood the basis for their assessment. Monterey County is one of only twelve California counties that notify all taxpayers of their assessed value several months before the tax bill is mailed.

As a result of the declining real estate market the local Assessment Roll declined in the County of Monterey to $49 billion, a 4.25% decline in assessed values.

The Assessor’s office also reminds residents that there is no charge for applying for a property reduction review.

**Health**

The Health Department is encouraging all individuals, especially those in close contact with young children, to get vaccinated against whooping cough (pertussis). The Department is working with birthing hospitals to ensure new parents get vaccinated to protect their infants.

Local medical providers have reported 26 cases of whooping cough among Monterey County residents this year. This is over five times the rate of pertussis reports received at the same time last year. The increase in statewide pertussis activity has resulted in a declaration of an epidemic of whooping cough in California. Since January, five infants, all less than three months of age, have died in California.

Free or low cost vaccinations are available at walk-in clinics Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 11:00 am and 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the following locations:

- Alisal Health Center, 559 East Alisal St, Salinas
- Seaside Family Health Center, 1150 Freemont Blvd, Seaside

For more information about pertussis, please go to the California Department of Public Health [http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx)

Pertussis (whooping cough) is highly contagious and one of the most commonly occurring vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States.

- People with pertussis usually spread the disease by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others, who then breathe in the pertussis bacteria.
- Many infants who get pertussis are infected by older siblings, parents or other caregivers who might not even know they have the disease.
- Childhood immunization and infection with whooping cough do not provide lifetime immunity.
Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) has received a USDA Community Facilities grant of $105,000 to be used towards the purchase of a new bookmobile. MCFL currently operates 3 bookmobiles, 2 of which are full-sized bookmobiles that take traditional library services to County residents who do not have a library close to them. Both of these bookmobiles are aging and are constantly in need of expensive repairs.

The grant will replace the bookmobile that operates out of King City. It is expected to carry approximately 5,000 books, DVDs and other materials. It will also be equipped with 4 computers, three of which will be for public use. Each computer will include a cellular card and telecommunication line for Internet access.

Some of the areas to be served include agricultural migrant labor camps, a rural school with no school library, and ranchers and their employees/families within a 100 mile radius of the King City branch library.

The grant provides 35% of the cost of a new fully equipped bookmobile. MCFL has received a pledge for the remaining $195,000 from a private donor.

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