MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 20, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman  
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of September 20, 2010

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week’s Topics: The Health Department takes its clean hands message on the road, a state grant allows the Parks Department to make a spectacular buy and more poll workers are needed for this fall’s elections.

Health
The Monterey County Health Department and the Clean Hands Coalition are aiming to make sure people around the county know that clean hands really save lives.

Clean Hands Week is this week, September 19 – 25th and as Monterey County’s Health Officer Dr. Hugh Stallworth reminds us, hand washing is the easiest most cost effective way we can protect the health of our community.

The statistics are bleak; there are 52 million cases of the common cold each year in the United States, and more than 250 types of food borne illnesses. Ten to 20 percent of Americans are infected with the flu virus each year. Many of these illnesses could be prevented by frequent hand washing.

Hand washing is important for food safety, disease prevention and personal health. Wash your hands; before you eat and after you use the bathroom, before, during and after preparing food.

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<th>Hand Washing Trivia</th>
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<td>o Up to half of all men and a quarter of women fail to wash their hands after they use the bathroom.</td>
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<td>o Right Handed people tend to wash their left hand more thoroughly than their right, and visa versa.</td>
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<td>o We have between 2 and 10 million bacteria between our finger tip and elbow.</td>
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<td>o Damp hands spread 1,000 times more germs than dry hands.</td>
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<td>o The number of germs on your fingertips doubles after you use the toilet.</td>
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<td>o Germs can stay alive on hands for up to three hours.</td>
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<td>o Millions of germs hide under watches and bracelets, and there could be as many as eight germs under your ring as there are people in Europe!</td>
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Source: Idaho Southern District Health Department
after handling animals or animal waste, after playing sports, after changing diapers, and anytime your hands are dirty. Use soap and water, scrub, rinse for 20 seconds and dry.

This week, the Health Department Hand Washing Team will be visiting Prunedale Elementary, Loma Vista Elementary and Laurelwood Elementary to instruct children the correct way to wash their hands and to recognize children who participated in the “Stay Healthy” poster contest. There will also be members of the Hand Washing Team teaching people how to wash their hands at the farmers markets on Tuesday at the Salinas WIC office and on Wednesday at the Natividad Medical Center.

Parks

Event News - Cherry’s Jubilee celebrated their annual event at the Laguna Seca Recreation Area September 11th and 12th – attendance is
Cherry’s Jubilee is a Motor Sports Festival that includes Passport to Oldtown Salinas, a Show ‘n Shine throughout the Peninsula, a Cruise in downtown Monterey, a Poker Run throughout the County, and entertainment on Cannery Row in addition to the main event at Laguna Seca.
Displays at the Laguna Seca Recreation Area included classic cars, special interest cars, sports cars, and work-show trucks. Vehicles were judged and awards were made in numerous categories. Other activities at Laguna Seca included parade laps on the world-famous track, food and merchandise vendors, a pancake breakfast, oldies music and children’s activities.

Land Acquisition Grant Approved - The Monterey County Parks Department was awarded an approximately $2.2 million grant on August 26th from the state Wildlife Conservation Board at a hearing held in the State Capitol Building in Sacramento. The grant will cover 100% of the purchase from the Big Sur Land Trust of 624 acres of Marks Ranch, a historic ranch next to Toro Park that will be used to expand the park's backcountry trail network.

The land includes oak woodland, native grassland, and seasonal wetlands as well as a critical wildlife corridor that connects the Ventana Wilderness with Fort Ord habitats. When opened as a county park, the site has the potential to become a destination point for hikers with its panoramic view of the City of Salinas, the Valley, and the Monterey Bay coastline.
The near 4-year partnership formed between County Parks and the Big Sur Land Trust toward realizing this park transfer, and hopefully additional Marks Ranch transfers in the future, will open to the public land that once served as an egg-producing ranch serving Fort Ord during two World Wars as well as 100 years of cattle grazing. The county had hoped to receive the land acquisition grant two years ago, but the state froze the bonds for this purpose during the economic downturn until last month’s release of funds.

The County Parks Department will be exploring future active and passive public uses of Marks Ranch to augment adjoining uses of the very popular Toro County Park. The native flora and fauna found on the property’s backcountry will be preserved as an extension of the Toro Park backcountry habitats for future generations to enjoy.

Libraries
The Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) partnered with the Monterey County Fair this year in a special effort to support and raise reading awareness in the County. The theme of this year’s Fair (September 1-6, 2010) was “The Fair is in the Air”.

The theme built on the inspired inventions created by Chippie, the hero of Chippie de Munk: The Great Inventor, a children’s book authored and illustrated by beloved local artist, Jo Mora. Chippie made visits to several MCFL branches to participate in storytimes.

As part of this collaboration, the Fair offered free admission till 3:00 p.m. on September 1st to anyone who brought a book for donation to MCFL. Borders bookstore in Sand City was another partner in this project and advertised it in the store, encouraging members of the public to purchase items for donation to MCFL. As a result of this three-way partnership, over 500 books were received through the Fair, and Borders donated an additional 1,200 books to MCFL. All donations will be divided up and processed so that each of the 17 branches and 3 bookmobiles of the Monterey County Free Libraries will receive new children’s books. Thank you to everyone who participated in this fun and very successful project!

Elections
November 2, 2010 Consolidated General Election: The election is just 6 weeks away. According to the State’s calendar, the mailing period for the State Voter Guide begins on September 23 and runs through October 12. The local Monterey County Voter Guide is mailed in conjunction with the vote by mail ballot period, commencing on October 4.
Write-In Candidates - The period for qualifying as a write-in candidate is now in progress. The deadline for any person wishing to turn in paperwork for becoming a qualified write-in is Tuesday, October 19. Did you know that election officials cannot count votes for write-in candidates unless they have met the legal qualifications? They must file a Declaration of Write-In Candidacy along with other papers, and some may also have to file nomination signatures. So, even if you and thousands of other voters write-in Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck, neither can be declared a winner unless the Disney characters actually file official paperwork!

Vote by Mail - Monterey County’s military and overseas Special Absentee Voters were sent their official ballot materials on Saturday, September 19, meeting both the MOVE Act and US Postal Services mailing deadline, at 45-days prior to the Election. The County will continue to provide these Special Absentee Voters the option of faxing their voted ballot back to the office if they do not receive it in time to vote and return it by mail. The Department expects the fax machine to be in high use and has purchased a second machine to accept roll-over fax transmissions when the first machine is busy. Also last week, the County’s federal voters were mailed their ballot containing only two contests – US Senator and US Representative in Congress, District 17. Citizens residing outside of the United States indefinitely are still eligible to vote for federal offices.

Poll Worker Recruitment - The Department would like to thank all of the County Employees who have signed up to participate this coming November. As of Friday (9/18) the Department has received 60 applications to serve at the polls through the County Election Official Program – this is just under 50% of the recruitment goal of one County employee per location. Our historical goal is to place a minimum of 5 Election Officers at each of the voting precincts, with additional Officers placed in areas showing a traditionally high polling place turn-out. If you are still interested and have not yet submitted your application, there is still time to sign up! Classes begin in mid-October.

Outreach - Friday, September 17th was “Constitution and Citizenship Day” and celebration of the historical signing of the US Constitution. The Department was on hand at Hartnell College to participate in the celebration and collected 18 registration forms and 8 applications for new poll workers. Also on Friday, the Department met with representatives of the Library at the County Jail to prepare for registration and voting for eligible inmates who wish to participate in the coming Election.

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