Election Day is Around the Corner – Are You Ready?

The November Election is just a few days away. Election workers suggest that all voters verify their registration status, view the local Monterey County Voter Guide online, and check out assigned polling place locations by visiting the Election website at www.MontereyCountyElections.us

Last week was the close of the voter rolls. With all qualified registration cards entered to-date, there are 127,091 eligible registered voters for the November 8th Election. For your information, this is not a county-wide election.

The seven-day deadline to request to receive a vote by mail ballot has passed, but eligible voters can obtain a ballot in person by coming to the Elections office during regular business hours Monday through Friday and up until 8:00 p.m. - the close of polls - on Election Day. The special early voting touch screen voting machine is also available at the Elections office through Friday, November 4th.

To date, the Department has issued approximately 86,000 ballots and received just over 14,000 voted returns, reflecting about 16% of the ballots have been voted and returned so far.

Last week, the Department issued a press release and posted a message on its Facebook and Twitter pages informing residents about the potential for their ballot to arrive late due to a delay in the United States Postal Service (USPS) system due to a recent closure. Normally, the Elections Department encourages voters to return their voted ballot no later than the
Thursday prior to the Election. The recent change initiated by the USPS has switched mail processing from Salinas to San Jose and the Department has noticed a delay in receiving mail. For that reason, the Department is encouraging all voters to mail their ballots sooner, or take advantage of the secure Vote by Mail ballot drop locations at city halls, the County Government Center, and our Department in Salinas. Voters have been provided a list of drop locations available through next week and polling places that will be open on Election Day. This information is also posted on the Department’s website under the tab **Upcoming Elections > November 8, 2011 > Ballot Drop-Off Locations.** The current list of polling places can be found directly above the link for the Ballot Drop-Off Locations. As a precaution, the Department will be at the San Jose Post Office on Election Night to gather all voted returns.

Remember – voted ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8th!

Visit the department’s website, under “Election Results” to see a general election results reporting schedule. The first results, reflecting votes cast by mail, is scheduled to be released at approximately 8:15 p.m., or as soon as it’s confirmed there are no more voters who are still completing their ballot at any polling place in the county.

Poll worker training classes ended this week but “Practice Makes Perfect” sessions are still being offered for any poll worker who would like one more opportunity to go over instructions and ask questions before Election Day. In total, there were 25 clerk and six inspector classes held in October, training over 550 people to assist voters on Election Day!

Follow the Department on Facebook by searching for “Monterey County Elections” and on Twitter at “MontereyVote!” Links for both sites can be found on the Department’s home page. The Department also includes the last five updates to Twitter under “Latest News and Postings.”

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**Monterey County Libraries are Looking for a Few Good… Tutors!**

Got words? Become a tutor in the “*Read with Monterey County Free Libraries*” program and give someone a life-changing gift.

Tutor training will be offered twice during the month of November:
- One full-day session on Saturday, November 5th from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Castroville Branch.
- Two consecutive evening sessions, from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Seaside Branch on Wednesday, November 9th and Thursday, November 10th.
Did you know that approximately one in four adults in Monterey County is functionally illiterate? Lack of literacy skills is a major barrier to success in most types of jobs and can affect the ability of people to contribute to and participate in their community.

“Read with Monterey County Free Libraries” is the Libraries’ literacy program that provides one-on-one tutoring, and currently has 70 volunteer tutors working with 75 learners at various locations throughout the county. There are another 70 people enrolled in the program waiting to be matched with a tutor, so you can see we need your help! Learners’ goals include getting better jobs, helping their children with homework, getting a GED, and being able to communicate with doctors, teachers, and others. Find out more about this program, including what both tutors and learners have to say at http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/library/ALP/index.html.

For more information or to register for the training, please call Lara at (831) 883-7597 or email at loestl@co.monterey.ca.us.

Overlay Update from Carmel Valley Road Project

The Public Works Department of the Resource Management Agency is pleased to report that the overlaying and re-striping of Carmel Valley Road from Dorris Drive to Rancho Fiesta Road which began on October 17th is on schedule.

Crews are working nights to prevent severe traffic problems on this busy roadway, but want to remind motorists that periodic lane closures and delays of up to 20 to 30 minutes can be expected between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., which are the working hours of this project.

Motorists who use Carmel Valley Road...
Valley Road in the evenings may want to seek an alternate route such as Laureles Grade Road during the construction period. This project is expected to be completed by the end of December 2011, weather permitting.

The cost estimate of the Carmel Valley Road Overlay project is $1,503,459. The project is fully funded by Proposition 1B. Granite Construction Company in Watsonville was awarded the construction contract.