DATE: August 1, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of August 1, 2011

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week’s Topics: Child Support Services makes a difference in the lives of nearly 20,000 local children, the clock is ticking for nominations for the upcoming general election and the county’s new bookmobile hits the road in a big way!

Child Support Services
Monterey County’s Department of Child Support Services (CSS) will mark August as Child Support Awareness Month with efforts to reach out into the community to remind all residents that child support is crucial to the financial security and well-being of 19,697 local children. The theme of this year’s Child Support Awareness Month is “Child Support – You Won’t Find a Better Investment.”

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors passed a proclamation declaring August 2011 as Child Support Awareness Month. The awareness effort which coincides with the proclamation focuses on the importance and difficulties in supporting children. Meeting a child’s financial needs can be a daunting task for a single parent or a combined family, and in our current economic situation, more and more families are coming to rely on child support payments.

Come and say hello to fellow county staff from Child Support Services who will be on hand at El Día del Trabajador (The Day of the Worker), August 28th at Patriot Park in
Greenfield. CSS wants the community to know its staff is dedicated to making a difference in children’s lives.

Child Support Services provides crucial services to children and families by establishing paternity, obtaining court orders for support and health insurance, locating parents and assets, and enforcing those orders. Applications for services are available by calling 1-866-901-3212 or visit our website at www.co.monterey.ca.us/mcdcss.

Elections
November 8, 2011 Consolidated School and Special District General Election: The candidate nomination period for the coming November General Election for members representing various schools and special districts in the County will close on Friday, August 12th. There are 28 local school and 16 special districts with offices scheduled for the ballot. A list of candidates who have obtained and/or filed nomination papers is updated each evening and can be found on the Department’s website under the tab “Upcoming Elections” by viewing the candidate information for the November 8th election.

General Office: Last week, the Registrar of Voters was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Citizen’s League for Progress held at the Via Del Monte Senior Center in Seaside. The meeting lasted about two hours and information was provided on topics surrounding the November 2011 and June 2012 elections, the new Top Two Primary system, federal grant funds and future voting systems, the State budget and mandate suspension (SB 87), pending legislation, and Redistricting. The Registrar spent about 30 minutes answering questions about topics on the agenda in addition to general questions about registration and voting. Voter registration forms and poll worker applications were also left with interested attendees.

The Registrar also held a meeting with the Department’s Observer Panel. Topics covered included reviewing design ideas for the local county voter information pamphlet gathered from counties in attendance at the 103rd Annual Conference of the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials (CACEO), as well as brainstorming an idea for increasing youth interest and involvement in the 2012 Presidential Election cycle. More to come on that topic!

In addition to training at the Annual Conference two weeks ago, last week staff attended a key training session in San Francisco for election officials who use the central voter registration management system, Data Information Management System (DIMS), offered through the system vendor Elections Systems and Software. These important sessions covered new updates and added features which allow the Department to comply with state and federal mandates, as well as new report generating tools for producing statistics and reports utilized throughout the election cycle.
Libraries
Monterey County Free Libraries launched its new bookmobile this past Saturday, July 30th. The bookmobile is a 32-foot “Bluebird” vehicle that will carry approximately 3,000 books, DVDs and audio books, as it delivers library services around south Monterey County. The bookmobile is also equipped with four computers: one for staff to check in and out materials and provide reference services, and three for the public to use. All the computers have full internet capacity. The bookmobile is decorated with art by local artist Cindy Davis, and features images representing all of Monterey County.

In a county the size of Monterey, this bookmobile needed two parties, so the vehicle ‘launch’ started at Marina with Supervisor Jane Parker on hand to wave-off the bookmobile on a ‘whistle stop’ tour to south Monterey County, which will be its permanent home.

The bookmobile made stops at Spreckels, Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield and finally King City, where Supervisor Simon Salinas welcomed the vehicle and participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Both Supervisors Parker and Salinas spoke about the important role libraries play in building the future of children and maintaining the quality of life in Monterey County. Assembly Member Luis Alejo (D-28th District) also joined the launch party in King City and took time to meet with staff.

The new bookmobile was purchased through funding from the USDA/American Recovery and Reinvestment Act monies, and the very generous support of well-known children’s author, Beverly Cleary.