Health Department Oil and Filter Recycling Efforts See Success

The Environmental Health Bureau of the Monterey County Health Department is reporting another successful used oil and filter recycling event. On Saturday, August 20th in Seaside at O’Reilly Auto Parts, 45 new filters were given out to those who brought in their used filters and oil for proper recycling.

Held every few months in various parts of the county, these recycling events reduce the problem of inappropriate disposal of car oil and filters by ‘do-it-yourselfers’ who may not know what to do with used oil and filters after a change. Environmental Health staff members are also working hard to get the word out about curbside collection of used oil and filters. Did you know that Monterey County residents can contact their garbage and recycling hauler and ask for a free oil collection container?

To recycle used oil and filters at the curb after an oil change, safely transfer the oil into the provided container and place the used filter in the attached bag. Place the container along with the oil filter bag at the curb the morning of your garbage and recycling collection day. Your hauler will pick it up for free and a replacement container and bag will be left for your next oil change!
Elections Says the November Ballot is Taking Shape

The November local election is just under 2 ½ months away and the Elections Department is busy designing the voter’s ballot, communicating with vendors about upcoming supplies, calling poll workers and confirming polling places that will be available this fall.

The extended candidate nomination period closed on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 (some local offices received a five-day filing extension when one or more eligible incumbents had not filed nomination papers by the 88-day deadline, which was August 12th).

A total of 21 cities, schools, and special districts are going to ballot, with 37 different elective offices and four local ballot measures:

- Measure S: City of Del Rey Oaks Transaction and Use Tax
- Measure T: Bradley Union School District 55% School Bond
- Measure U: City of Pacific Grove Amendment to City’s Municipal Code (relates to motel size)
- Measure V: Pacific Grove Unified School District Special Tax

At first glance, there will be approximately 130,000 eligible voters and 38 different ballot types at the November election.

The deadline for a 300-word primary ballot argument in favor of or against the above four local measures was Friday, August 19th; authors who have submitted primary arguments will have until Monday, August 29th to submit their 250-word rebuttal to the opposing primary argument.

Visit the Department’s website to find the current list of candidates, including offices that will not have to go to election due to sufficient or insufficient candidates.

General: Last week, the Registrar of Voters and the department’s Lead Poll Worker Trainer and current Election Day Field Inspector, Kevin Hanstick, were invited to join Supervisor Jane Parker on the “Your Town” program, which is broadcast on both AM radio and AMP TV. The Registrar covered the coming changes to California’s primary elections systems, redistricting efforts and the department’s role, and general information about the department’s role in reviewing petitions such as the recent county referendum; and Mr. Hanstick discussed poll worker training, duties, and Election Day experiences.
The County’s Digi-Walk Gets New Virtual Locations

Digi-Walk is underway this month, and a new partnership is offering some new virtual destinations for walkers!

So far more than 400 employees have pledged to walk over 90,000 miles in the next 10 weeks!

Monterey County’s Employee Wellness Program, the Health Promotion Partnership and the Parks Department have partnered for this year’s Digi-Walk to add the county’s beautiful parks and recreation areas as places walkers can “virtually” visit as part of the program.

There are nine Monterey County Parks throughout the county. These parks offer camping, hiking, biking, picnicking, riding, events, museums, fishing, water sports, group areas, sports fields, wildlife viewing, a safe environment and more. Each of these parks is a destination that can be selected as part of the Digi-Walk challenge.

As an added incentive this year, the Parks Department is also providing a complimentary Parks Day Use Pass to the first employee that reaches each “virtual” park destination.

Digi-Walk is a 10-week walking program that encourages Monterey County employees to add physical activity to their lives by picking a virtual destination to walk to as a goal. Those reaching their goal receive an incentive prize for completion of the program.