Women won the right to vote on August 26, 1920, when the 19th Amendment was ratified. Since 1971, the President of the United States has annually proclaimed August 26th as Women’s Equality Day, commemorating that milestone.

The County Equal Opportunity Office, in collaboration with the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, worked together to commemorate Women’s Equality Day this year. On August 25, 2015, with women community leaders, executives and supporters looking on, the Board of Supervisors presented a resolution marking the day and the 95th Anniversary of the victory of the Women’s Suffrage Movement.

The text of the resolution says, in part that “women…have marked their influence in their respective professions with significant contributions as elected officials, administrators, attorneys, doctors, nurses, educators, mothers, and in the fields
of technology, agriculture, business, science, health, social services, law enforcement, military, and in many other fields.”

After the presentation, those in attendance gathered for a small reception in the Government Center lobby. Among those in attendance were:

Edith Johnsen, Former County Supervisor
Maria Orozco, Mayor of Gonzales
Libby Downey, Monterey City Council
Helen Rucker, Community Leader/member, NAACP
Nancy Deering, Retired Undersheriff
Lynn Diebold, Retired Director of Emergency Communications/911
Kay Kirkland, Equal Opportunity Advisory Commission
Yolanda Cervantes, Chair - Commission on the Status of Women
Molly Evans, Commission on the Status of Women
Renee Hammonds, Commission on the Status of Women
Sarah Guzman, Commission on the Status of Women
Mary Zeeb, Treasurer-Tax Collector
Jayanti Addleman, Library Director
Jody Holtzworth, Interim Child Support Services Director

“While we celebrate 95 years of progress in advancing women’s rights, despite historic changes in laws and attitudes, gender inequities still exit,” says Irma Ramirez-Bough. “There is still work to be done. The Board of Supervisors and the Equal Opportunity Office are committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination and supporting equal opportunity, equal pay, and equal treatment for all in Monterey County.”
How Much Do You Know About Oil Recycling?

While the trend towards recycling a wide variety of items is gaining steam, did you know that used oil recycling programs haven’t always been active or popular? In fact, reusing oil once meant using it as an herbicide in the backyard or to keep equipment rust free.

“I’ve heard of folks using used oil to paint their chicken coup to deter mites and other pests,” says Gabby Carbajal, Health Department Environmental Health Specialist. “Would you eat an egg from a hen covered in oil? Used oil contains many highly toxic heavy metals and compounds only suitable for use on machinery.”

Since 2005, Monterey County has used funding from CalRecycle (formerly California Integrated Waste Management Board) to grow its used oil program to encompass residential, agricultural and marine-generated used oil.

“From land to sea, keeping used oil in its place and out of our precious water is our goal” says Carbajal. “We work on educating the public about easy recycling options for used oil and filters and support the centers and haulers who provide the infrastructure that make these programs work.”

The money for the program comes from oil manufacturers. The program pays for the recycling of used oil filters; oil picked up curbside through garbage haulers and at marinas. It also provides useful tools to ensure a convenient way to properly dispose of used oil and oil filters such as used oil containers and filter bags, oil rags, wrenches, and funnels.

The Health Department’s Environmental Health Bureau holds filter exchange events to help spread the word about how easy it is to recycle oil filters and it appears to be working. Since 2005, do-it-yourselfers have collectively recycled 779,096 gallons of oil and 162,736 filters in Monterey County.

Rock the Park Rocked!

The first Employee Giving Campaign get together, the Rock the Park event at Toro on Saturday August 23rd was a big success! It was a full day of great music, softball and camaraderie. Highlights from the event can be seen here, many more photos are posted on the Employee Giving website.
Softball and Jailbirds and Federations – Oh My!

County charities share information about good works.

Monty the mascot goes free!

Lew Bauman waits for a ‘bail out.’

Batter up! The softball tournament organized by the Probation Department drew a big crowd and raised additional monies for county charities.
Rock the Park was the perfect end to the first week of the giving campaign. The event earned more than $1,500 and a good time was had by all. Special thanks to Probation Chief Marcia Parsons who handily captured ‘violators’ at the event including CAO Lew Bauman and Library mascot Monty, both of whom had to be ‘bailed out of jail’ for their very charitable crimes!

For those who watched the amazing softball tournament, the winners were:

1) Public Works
2) Behavioral Health
3) RMA

Be sure to check the event listings on the Employee Giving webpage for all the fun activities coming up this week, as well as to complete your fillable giving form. Let’s keep the fun and giving rolling!