

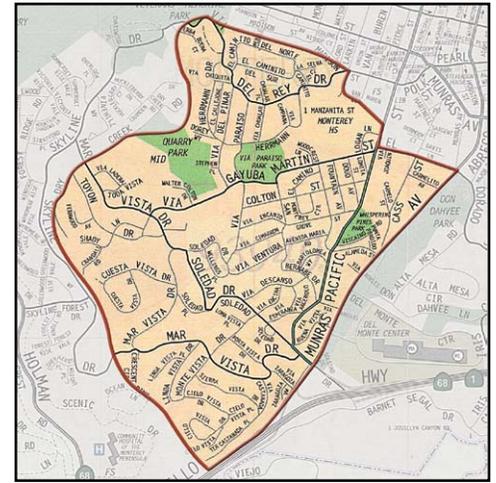
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The Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association (MVNA) is one of fifteen City of Monterey neighborhood associations that represent the residents of Monterey.

MVNA Boundaries include Monte Vista, Monte Regio, Peters Gate, Toyon Heights and Woodbridge Acres.

Our goal is to preserve the quality and character of our neighborhood areas. Our services include review and comment on selected city programs, proposed ordinances, and building designs. We provide assistance to members in resolving neighborhood concerns.



MONTEREY VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Message from the MVNA President:



*CERT volunteer Pat Venza holds onto her helmet in a wind gust while directing traffic after a tree fell into wires at Cedar and Pine Streets in Pacific Grove on Thursday December 11, 2014.
David Royal - Monterey Herald*

After being vice president of the Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association for the past five years I decided it was my time to step up and give Hans Jannasch a break from the presidency. Hans has been our great neighborhood leader for many years and thankfully is staying on the MVNA board as membership coordinator and president emeritus.

We are all fortunate to have gained new members this year who took positions as board members and will bring new ideas and experiences. There are many ways to do things and we are open to new ideas.

We need to hear from all of the residents of the Monterey Vista neighborhood about ways to make neighborhood better and count on you to bring issues to the board's attention.

MVNA plans to conduct periodic surveys throughout the year. We are the only neighborhood association in Monterey (that I know of) that surveys its residents so that we can approach the City Council and Commissions with the authority and knowledge of how our residents stand on an issue. We ask that you please complete and submit those surveys when you receive them and in return promise not to conduct them more than four times a year.

We also invite all of you to attend MVNA board meetings; they are held at the Monterey Library on the 1st Monday of every month (except for July and December unless necessary) from 6:15 to 7:30pm. In addition to agenda items time is allotted for resident comments.

If you have any neighborhood concerns the MVNA is here to help. Feel free to contact me any time. We all look forward to a great year ahead!

Pat Venza , President of MVNA 831-375-8416 mvneighborhood@gmail.com

Hans Jannasch
(Past President, Membership and NIP Alternate):

Like many folks, I became involved in our neighborhood association when an issue arose that directly affected our neighbors and the quality of life in our neighborhood. That was the 2003-2009 lawsuit regarding public access to Parcel B connecting Quarry and Veterans Parks that many of us enjoy on a daily basis (montereyartists.com/righttohike). Observing how residents can effectively work together to improve our neighborhood clearly demonstrates the importance of getting to know, looking out for, and helping each other as neighbors.

Neighborhood associations, like MVNA, are important tools for keeping our neighborhoods vibrant, active and connected. The Board of MVNA strives to get residents to know each other and keep informed by hosting our Annual MVNA BBQ/Picnic every September at Via Paraiso Park, the Candidates Forum prior to elections, and periodic other meetings highlighting current topics (e.g., the city budget, wharf leases, the new conference center and, of course, water). We also have subcommittees that study various local issues more in depth. Current interests include the impact of Cellular Antennas and the Undergrounding of Utilities in our neighborhoods.

We are lucky to live in a city where over \$3M per year from our tourist-generated dollars are made available to neighborhoods for capital improvement projects through a unique Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). Projects include neighborhood sidewalks, traffic calming, better drainage, park facilities, as well as library and sports center improvements. Jean Rasch is our current NIP representative, with Bruce Zanetta and me being alternates. Anyone can submit projects, which are reviewed annually beginning every February (monterey.org/Residents/Neighborhoods/Neighborhood-Improvement-Program).

You may have noticed the shipping container with a roof just above Monte Vista Elementary School. This is our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) box where a team of trained residents organize and keep emergency supplies for our neighborhood in case of larger-scale events. Our current CERT representative is Lisa Alameda (montereycert.org)

I encourage you to be a good neighbor and get involved in your neighborhood association. It is one way to stay connected and be a part of the issues relevant to your neighborhood community. Feel free to come to any of our Board Meetings the first Monday of most months at our Public Library or contact any board member (montereyvistaneighborhood.org).

Respectfully,
Hans Jannasch



Rainbow over Monterey Vista - Photo by Hans Jannasch, October 2018



A reminder as winter rains begin...

Please keep neighborhood waterways free of yard waste and other debris.

Winter rains have begun, and while we all hope for a good accumulation this season MVNA would like to remind you that some preparation is necessary if your property backs up to Hartnell Gulch or any of the other gulches in the neighborhood, like Via Del Rey, Toyon or Via Descanso. If yard waste, like branches or grass, have been discarded into these gulches they will wash down stream when the rain starts. The result is that the grates and pipes that carry the water under streets and property get clogged. In more than one case this has resulted in many thousands of dollars worth of property damage to homes in our area.

What may seem like a good idea, letting these yard wastes decompose in the gulches, can have devastating effects for your neighbors down stream. MVNA urges you remove as much of these branches and yard wastes as possible before the winter rain begins.

This request also applies the drainage ditches in front of many of the homes in the Monterey Vista area. We'd like to think that the City is responsible for

this, but with a street maintenance team with fewer than 10 members it isn't practical to assume the City will be able to keep all these ditches clear. If they aren't kept clear, storm water overflows onto surrounding properties and can also cause significant damage to our streets. Accomplishing this winter prep work now is the right thing to do for our neighborhood! Thank you for your cooperation.

Stay informed! Be involved!

Join the Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association!

Yearly dues are only \$10 per household.

Print and fill out the form below.

Make your check payable to MVNA & mail to:

MVNA 532 Herrmann Dr. Monterey, CA 93940

Name _____

new member returning member

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Please include Yearly Dues: \$10.00 per household.

You can also join and pay dues online by visiting

<http://www.montereyvistaneighborhood.org/join>

Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association board meetings are held monthly, usually the first Monday of each month (except for July and December unless needed), at the Monterey Library community room from 6:15 to 7:45pm. You are welcome to attend, or to suggest agenda items to share your concerns. Please contact a board member for more information.

MVNA Officers & Directors	
Pat Venza (President)	375-8416
Susan Nine (Vice President)	373-4334
Lois Hansen (Secretary)	373-7886
Charles Martin (Treasurer)	373-0649
Arthur Simons (Outreach/Website)	373-1378
Jean Rasch (NIP Representative)	625-3200
Hans Jannasch (Membership/Past President/NIP Alt)	373-0872
Bruce Zanetta (NIP Alt)	647-1997
Michele Altman	214-2545
Ray Meyers	375-3045
Mike Pekin	372-9121

The move to underground utilities

The ever-increasing citizen drum roll to underground utility poles and wires in the City of Monterey escalated with the 2017 convergence of municipal, state, and federal events.

Locally, Extenet, under subcontract with Verizon, submitted 13 applications for small cell antenna towers in the residential Monterey Vista Neighborhood, a first for the City. State wide, cities burned up in another convergence, this of climate change, the five year drought, tinder-dry trees, and heavily laden power lines. Federally, we witnessed a very pro business administration presuming to dictate communication law federally in a dramatic overreach into state responsibility, e.g., attempts to force federal net neutrality and FCC dictates to states as to small cell antenna tower regulation. The answer to these forces is to underground our utilities over time, but to PLAN to do so immediately, before the new FCC regulations are accepted as law and prevent our self-defense.



The answer to these forces is to underground our utilities over time, but to PLAN to do so immediately, before the new FCC regulations are accepted as law and prevent our self-defense.

No one is asking that all poles and wires be undergrounded tomorrow. What we are asking is for the City to use common sense. Meaning, if a street is scheduled to be totally remade (“restructured”, the engineers call it), we underground utilities at that time. We are calling this approach “Below as We Go”. This approach stretches our dollars as best we can. We can extend our dollars with PG& E Rule 20A undergrounding funds as well. Tangential neighbors and streets can accelerate their undergrounding as desired with assessment districts. Or wait for their restructure date. Some restructuring of course will not happen for years, even decades. But at least we would have started. Residential areas have been last to be favored with undergrounding and it’s time to change that.

Continued on page 7

WEATHER.
Rain and warmer tonight; tomorrow,
rain, colder in afternoon.
Temperature for twenty-four hours
ended 2:00 p.m. today: Highest, 56, at 3:30
p.m.; yesterday: lowest, 31, at 4:15 a.m.;
today's
Full report on page 23.

Closing New York Stocks, Page 27.

Neighborhood News

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the use for publication of all news dispatches
received by it or any information credited to this
paper and also the local news published herein.
All rights of publication of special
dispatches herein are also reserved.

Yesterday's Net Circulation, 100,885

MONTEREY VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP)



NIP is a program unique to Monterey! Residents are allotted a percentage of the hotel room tax to spend in our neighborhoods. For the past few years this percentage has amounted to about \$4 million each year. Anyone can submit a suggestion for a capital improvement project to be considered by NIP; The forms are available online at monterey.org/Residents/Neighborhoods/Neighborhood-Improvement-Program. Submissions can be made throughout the year, but cutoff is in mid-February of each year for that NIP season. Projects are reviewed and voted on in March and April. If you have an idea, but want to talk about it first, contact Jean Rasch, MVNA NIP Representative.

Annual MVNA picnic was held Sept. 29

Some people join MVNA just for the annual picnic! It is getting bigger every year. It is so nice to meet up with others from the neighborhood that we seldom see or new residents that we can welcome. Of course the food is the highlight of the day. It never fails to be delicious thanks to our great chef, Arthur Simons at the BBQ along with other helpers like Bruce Zanetta and Bill Clancy. Such a great variety of sausages, tri tip, chicken, potatoes, salad, grilled veggies, garlic bread and desserts. No wonder it is a special day for the MVNA. Watch for it next year. You don't want to miss it!



Measure J passed

Measure J passed with over 55% of votes cast. Now the feasibility study for public take-over of our water system and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District will be asking us through public hearings and surveys "how do you define feasible"? Your participation in these meetings and surveys is going to be important to help the members of the water board decide whether to move forward with the buyout of Cal Am. You need to be part of the process!

Measure S wins approval from Monterey voters

This ballot measure keeps the 1% City sales tax in place for another 8 years in order to complete the repair of the City of Monterey streets. This includes street resurfacing, in some cases restructuring of streets, draining and ADA requirements. If money is available from other sources we are hoping that when a street is restructured conduit for undergrounding utilities will be placed as well. That is not part of Measure S, but City Council has asked staff to recommend which streets are most eligible for this work.



The Neighborhood That Moved a Mountain

By Bruce Zanetta

Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association Board Member

Okay it wasn't exactly a mountain our neighborhood moved, but it certainly may have been its equivalent. The "neighborhood" was Monterey Vista, and the "mountain" was a big player in the powerful telecommunications industry, armed with the blessing and backing of the federal administration - clearly David and Goliath to the 12th power. (See *Residential Cell Towers – The Science Behind the Concern?* on page 7 of this newsletter)

The story goes like this: A friendly FCC (Federal Communication Commission) would load the field by handicapping the local municipality, while the telecom company would find a sleepy little neighborhood in a small city with a small staff - a perfect scenario to run their grand neighborhood cell tower-grid-experiment. Indeed, the City of Monterey was caught twelve steps behind, and the neighborhood looked to be ripe for the taking. An easy win ... or so they thought.



Seems the neighborhood was not so sleepy after all. The neighbors organized; they crash-coursed a complicated subject; they armed themselves to the teeth with wits and smarts and everything from signs and fliers to full scale models. They did their own studies and caught errors that ultimately busted the telecom spin.



Monterey Planning Commission
Special Meeting, March 15, 2018

I can testify personally that I have been in many city and county chambers on many issues, for many years, and never have I seen such a group show up and fill a chamber with a singular purpose, speaking one unified voice. I witnessed how a team member would cast forth a new and valuable idea - you could see it catch on and ripple through the highly perceptive neighborhood group, gaining in momentum and strength as it went. This uprising and protest was a moment of people-power to behold, to cherish and to remember.

As the FCC further assists industry by offering even more free passes around city hall, we can see that, though we won the battle,

there is likely a longer war to wage. Our neighborhood and our City are preparing for a next round. But I find the most confidence in the enduring spirit of our neighborhood. Turns out this is not just a onetime action by our neighborhood. It has legs and it is walking. Our neighborhood has grown and continues to grow in an overall positive direction from this experience.

We have seen a large increase in volunteers. We have discovered the talents and expertise within our neighborhood - new subcommittees, study groups, focus meetings and etc. have and are being formed and populated by members of our neighborhood. Volunteers are working with the City on ordinance changes, fire threat reduction, undergrounding utilities, net neutrality and much more. All of it coming out of one moment in the history of the Monterey Vista Neighborhood.

See what you did, little telecom – you went and woke the BEAST



Good Neighbor Stories...

A little over a year ago one of our neighbors was hit by a car only a few blocks from his home and seriously injured. A woman passing by saw him on the ground and stopped to help. While waiting for the ambulance to arrive, she kept him talking and found

out his phone number and the name of his wife. Before the injured man became unconscious the woman made a call and passed the message on in the perfect way. She said "My name is Molly. Your husband is okay, but was in an accident. If you get down here in the next few minutes you can ride in the ambulance with him".

During her husband's recovery from his extensive injuries his wife tried without success to find out who this angel was who was able to pass on the message so perfectly. They finally connected almost a year later at the MVNA picnic. This wife was so grateful to meet this "Angel" who also lives in our neighborhood and to be able to thank her in person.

Do you know of any more "good neighbor" stories that should be told? Please share with all of us for our next newsletter by emailing them to mvneighborhood@gmail.com.

Monterey real estate - Third quarter 2018

Provided by Michele Altman Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association Board Member Sotheby's International Realty

Monterey CA continues to be a wonderful place to live! The overall condition of the Real Estate market was in positive territory in 2018 up to this 3rd Quarter.

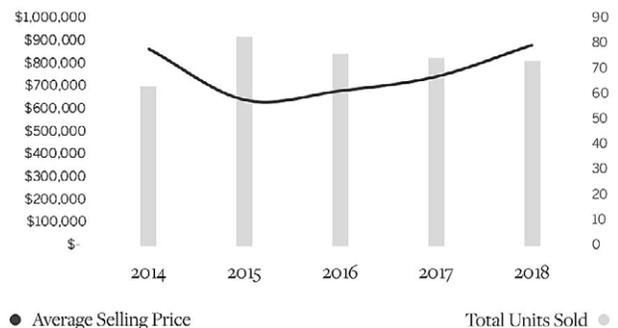
Homes list price compared to 2017 were up 22%. Average List price was \$933,540. Average sales price was \$880,148. up 19% compared with 2017. Average days on market 50. Most homes sold 6% under asking price.

Stay tuned for the last Quarterly report at the end of this year.



Average Selling Price | Total Units Sold

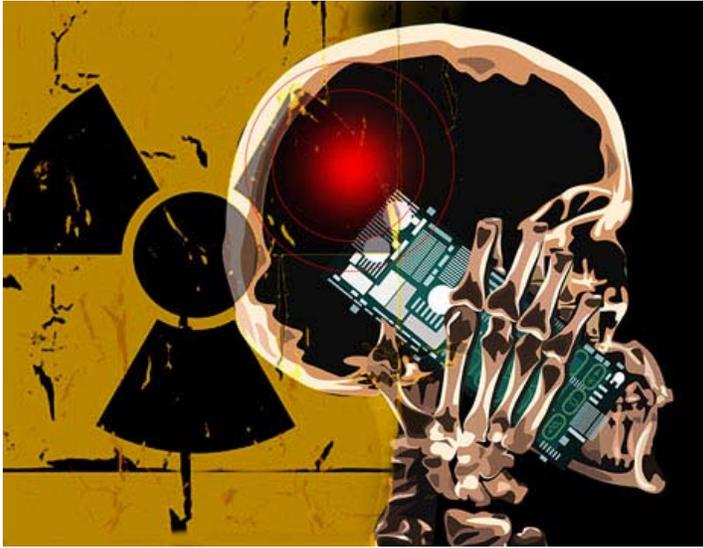
Q3 [2018 v 2017] Change	Average List Price	Average Selling Price	{ALP vs ASP} Discount Ratio	Median Selling Price	Total Units Sold	Average Days on Market
2018	\$933,540	\$880,148	-6%	\$810,000	73	50
2017	\$768,167	\$740,994	-4%	\$680,000	74	34
2016	\$706,536	\$678,299	-4%	\$658,250	76	37
2015	\$670,076	\$638,306	-5%	\$625,000	83	46
2014	\$901,636	\$862,797	-4%	\$635,000	63	69



Residential Cell Towers – The Science Behind the Concern?

By Ray Meyers

Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association Board Member



The Monterey Vista neighborhood recently withstood a barrage of 13 applications from Verizon Wireless to install so-called “small cell” antennas on utility poles and street lights in close proximity to their homes. Thanks to a heroic effort by many of its residents, this beautifully forested area was spared a negative esthetic impact on the community. But, what about health issues? Can science provide insight regarding the presence of possible health concerns?

Science is good at discovering patterns and phenomena (laws) in the natural world, and predicting outcomes using these laws of nature. Science rarely produces the absolute certainty many of us seek. Rather, scientific studies express their theories in degrees of probability, and the observed results are from a hypothesized mechanism, rather than random chance. Conclusions in scientific studies always leave some degree of uncertainty for a good reason - to allow new data, methods and interpretations to be factored

in that may help better explain observations and increase the confidence in the explanations. Without doubt, science is currently our best method for explaining the natural world. Put in perspective, Bertrand Russell, mathematician/philosopher said, “When one admits that nothing is certain one must, I think, also add that some things are more nearly certain than others”.

Frequently, politicians or businesses are motivated by profit or power, and will state that the science is on their side, when under closer scrutiny, it is not. History is replete with examples- tobacco, lead, asbestos, numerous pesticides, and global climate change, have all been said to be either safe or even portrayed as hoaxes from those who have a financial incentive to muddy the water of the established science and support their self-interests.

Read the full text of this article at MVNA’s website:

<http://www.montereyvistaneighborhood.org/residential-cell-towers-the-science-behind-the-concern>

Undergrounding utilities (continued from page 3)

City leadership has been slow to respond to the need to underground, despite great cries and hues from many of us who see that the FCC dictates to advance 5G technology may soon move faster than our efforts to protect our neighborhoods from increasing, and increasingly dangerous, pole and wire blight.

The advantages of undergrounding are many. Undergrounding utilities would decrease the interest in the telecommunications industry in hanging proprietary small cell antennas on utility poles, company after company. Elimination of poles and pole blight on poles would make our city more beautiful. More scenic views from our homes and businesses would increase the value of our property and attract more tourists and visitors. Less stress on poles and fewer wires would reduce the risk of fire, such as was experienced from downed utility wires in the Brush Creek blaze and the Sullivan Way blaze in Santa Rosa last fall. The health of our citizens who are sensitive to high radio frequency would be increased.

City leadership can take us even further, into underground fiber optic cable, the fastest internet service available, and ideally City ownership of such service such as Chattanooga has done. A move to City wide fiber optic cable would attract young, cutting edge businesses and professionals, bringing vibrancy to Monterey and increasing our competitive edge. Let’s start!

Jean Rasch