

The Friday Letter: March 4, 2016

Highway 68 Roundabout Weekly Update:

We encourage people to visit the website listed below to learn more about the project and to keep up with developments. The City of Monterey will review the contract award and final construction schedule on April 19, 2016. Construction commencement is currently estimated on May 16, 2016. The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) will continue their outreach and education with communities on construction preparation and progress. Commander Tomasi and Public Works Superintendent Rob Culver sit on the project's interagency task force, and will attend the next monthly meeting on March 10, 2016. TAMC is also holding an emergency responders 'table top' exercise on March 14, 2016. Carmel will have representatives from our emergency responders attending this meeting. TAMC will present the project to the Carmel Foundation on March 16, 2016. For more information on upcoming meetings and construction information please log in to:

<http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/highway-projects/highway-68-roundabout/>

Police Officer Ricardo Mendoza Recognition:

Each year the Monterey County Police Officers Association holds a dinner to honor officers who have been selected by their respective agencies as "Officers of the Year." Carmel Police Officer Ricardo Mendoza is being honored at the March 12, 2016 dinner for his actions confronting a Jewelry thief who was exiting a business late one evening armed with a crow bar and a bag of stolen property. In a second incident months later, Officer Mendoza chased down a distraught male walking downtown late at night carrying a baseball bat. The subject was wearing a hooded sweatshirt and ran from Officer Mendoza. A foot chase through the downtown ensued where the subject elected to run down a dead end alley. Mendoza stopped short of chasing the subject into the alley and was able to verbally convince the subject to come out and surrender. Officer Mendoza used communication skills learned in the Monterey County's Critical Incident Training course, which all of our officers attend, to end a short standoff with the subject who had taken an aggressive stance and refused to drop the bat. Officer Mendoza was a unanimous decision by his peers as the Police Officer of the year for our Police Department. In a year when numerous area police agencies were involved in highly scrutinized use of force situations, Officer Mendoza and Carmel Police Department's recognition sets an excellent example for policing and de-escalating situations which could have had very dissimilar results.

Centennial Bell:

On Tuesday March 8, 2016 at 11:00 am, City staff will remove the bell from the WWI Memorial on Ocean Avenue and placing it the Local History Room of the Park Brank Library for safekeeping. The bell will be on display for public viewing. Staff will be working with the American Legion and members of the WW1 Memorial bell project to safeguard the removal process.

Public Works/Forestry:

On Friday March 4, 2016, Assistant City Forester Matt Feisthamel and Public Works Director Rob Mullane met with Hallie Mitchell Dow and Michelle Comeau of the Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club to discuss the maintenance and upkeep of the Ridder Garden in front of City Hall. New plantings are planned for the garden over the next few weeks, and a plan for enhanced maintenance of this important community amenity was developed.

Administration:

City staff welcomed newly-appointed City Administrator Chip Rerig to City Hall. Rerig spent much of his first week meeting with staff and members of the residential and business community, and left City Hall every day with a broad smile on his face.