

The Carmel Pine Cone

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Rental registry getting lukewarm response

By MARY SCHLEY

DESPITE THREATS of fines and potential misdemeanor charges, and with the deadline fast approaching, owners of rentals in the City of Monterey are avoiding its mandatory registry in droves. While officials estimate some 7,500 residential properties are rented or leased in the city, just 300 owners have provided their information so far, according to city manager Hans Uslar, and most of those filed for exemptions.

Number of units, rent paid and whether the tenant is on assistance

A law passed by the Monterey City Council last year took effect Jan. 1 and requires all owners of residential rentals to register their properties or file for

exemptions by March 1.

Landlords must share extensive information about their units. In addition to contact information, including that of property managers, owners must provide the street addresses or APNs of their rentals, the years they were built, how many units there are, and the number of bedrooms, bathrooms and square footage each rental contains.

Occupancy status and the reasons for vacancy must be given, too, along with the amount and date of monthly rent and whether the total includes utilities or fees. Landlords

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CITY OFFERING BAD POLICE STATION TOUR

By MARY SCHLEY

SO PEOPLE can see for themselves the litany of problems and unsafe conditions in the police station — including several issues that a consultant and city officials say should be addressed immediately — a tour of Carmel P.D. will be offered next month, acting assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson said Friday. Then they’ll be invited to explore Salinas P.D.’s new station, for the sake of comparison.

Renovating out of the question

The tours are being offered in response to community input gathered by Mayor Dave Potter, councilman Jeff Baron and other public officials during community meetings following the city council’s initial direction last month to research the possibility of relocating the police station to the Vista Lobos property a block away. Building a larger station of 15,900 to 18,500 square feet elsewhere would better accommodate the needs of modern policing, while renovating the old station is out of the question, according to the city, since its electrical, HVAC, plumbing and other infrastructure are failing, myriad other problems exist, and the department has outgrown it. The consultant

P.G. chief remains on ‘work from home’ status

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE Police Chief Cathy Madalone is still working from home about six months after she suffered an undisclosed work-related injury.

Madalone, 55, told The Pine Cone last October that she was injured on the job and was given a special accommodation to work from home based on “physician recommendations and city policy.” At that time, Madalone, who lives in Monterey, wouldn’t say when she started working remotely or what the injury entailed, nor would she answer other questions about the incident. She called the work arrangement “temporary.”

A reporter followed up with Madalone this week, asking when she planned to go back to the office, if she feels she’s just as effective as a police chief working from home

Woman’s rescue was an arduous, two-day project



PHOTO/MCSO SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

Rescuers carry an injured hiker across the Big Sur River to a helicopter that flew the woman to a local medical center. The team hiked 6 miles to reach her.

Rough weather, rugged terrain

By CHRIS COUNTS

A WOMAN who was injured along the Pine Ridge Trail in Big Sur Feb. 16 was brought to safety by a rescue team that hiked about 6 miles up the Big Sur River gorge to reach her and deliver her to a waiting helicopter. But due to darkness and rough weather, everybody had to spend the night in the woods.

Rescuers included members of the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue Team, the U.S. Army Reserve and Big Sur Fire.

After receiving a call that the woman was in

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has roughly estimated the costs of a new station at \$19 million to \$22 million.

“We had a couple of community meetings with the ad hoc committee,” Swanson said in the city’s Friday video Feb. 16, and “we heard everybody loud and clear” that the city should “slow down a little.”

Members of the public asked for tours of the police station, just to see how bad it really is, and Potter contacted Salinas Mayor Kimbley Craig to arrange a tour of her city’s “brand new, state-of-the-art building,” Swanson said.

The Salinas Police Services Headquarters was

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County updates plan to protect Scenic Road

Revised EIR on flood prevention

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE LONG-AWAITED update of the environmental impact report for a major flood and erosion control project to protect homes along the Carmel River Lagoon and the sandy bluffs that support Scenic Road has been released, and people have until March 20 to comment on it.

The update comes eight years after the original EIR for the lagoon/Scenic Road project was circulated for public review. When the first study was published in 2016, there was an outcry over a plan to install an “ecosystem protection barrier” along the north edge of the lagoon to protect homes from flooding. As a result, the county began a lengthy effort to revise the report and incorporate “additional studies and environmental analyses on project alternatives.”

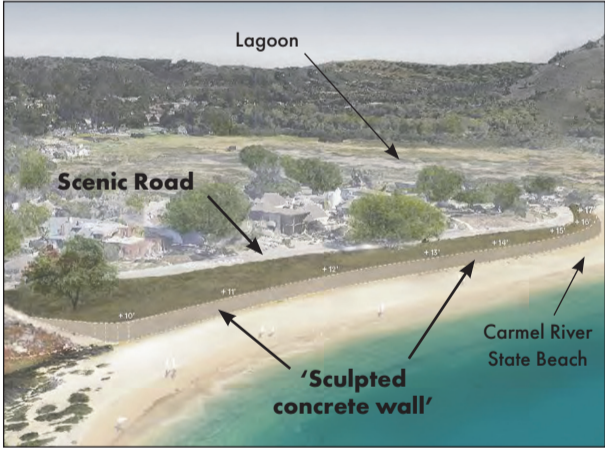
“Changes from those studies are included in this new document,” according to the county.

As its long-winded name suggests, the Carmel Lagoon Ecosystem Protective Barrier, Scenic Road Protection Structure and Interim Sandbar Management Plan Project has many goals.

‘Garden wall’

The first part of the project involves protecting homes along the northern edge of the Carmel River Lagoon. Houses along Monte Verde, Camino Real and River Park Place have flooded in the past — some as recently as two years ago. While the EIR includes the ecosystem protection barrier as an alternative, it notes that California State Parks doesn’t support putting the barrier

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GRAPHIC/MONTEREY COUNTY, CARMEL PINE CONE

A rendering shows what a proposed seawall protecting Scenic Road would look like when sand isn’t covering it.

Recycled water project on track, agency says

By KELLY NIX

THE EXPANSION of a successful wastewater treatment project that officials say will supply the Monterey Peninsula with all the H2O it needs for the next three decades remains on schedule and without any significant technical snags.

The Pure Water Monterey project by sewer agency Monterey One Water has supplied wastewater treated to drinking level standards since early 2020. But the agency is in the process of an expansion so the facility can produce about 40 percent more water.

When completed in about 10 months, the plant will be able to produce 5,750 acre-feet of potable water for the Peninsula, allowing new construction on lots of record, extra bathrooms, toilets, sinks, etc., at existing homes, and the addition of some of the new housing required by state mandates. Water district and city and county officials

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