



COUNTY OF MONTEREY  
**CAO Weekly Report**

## In This Edition:

- > Toro Park assessment underway
- > Cyber safety trainer shares expertise
- > Halloween 2016

## SPECIALREPORT



*Toro Park at sunset. The park is quiet these days, open only to bikers and hikers until renovation work is complete.*

## County Notes

- > The Office of Emergency Services has rolled out a new text alert system. Get emergency or community alerts from the County and your local city. Text MoCoOES to 888777.

## Toro Park Assessment Underway

**There has been a lot of traffic at Toro Park since mid-July, but not from its usual visitors. The county park served a crucial role as a fire camp for Soberanes firefighters. But now it's time to get the park ready for county residents once again.**

When the Soberanes Fire broke out on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cal Fire crews headed towards Monterey County, but they needed a place to set up fire base camp.



*Infrastructure repair, such as broken road 'shoulders' are needed at the park.*

That location was Toro Park, which has served firefighters in the past, most recently the Tassajara Fire last year. Parks and Contracts and Purchasing officials worked so quickly that by the time heavy equipment was entering the park, negotiations on the contract between Cal Fire and the County to use the park were nearly complete.

The park closed on Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup> to all users as thousands of fire crews and support staff set up shop. Now, more than three months later, the fire crews have gone and RMA-Public Works is conducting an assessment of the park to determine what repair work is needed to make the popular park ready for the public again. Early estimates are that needed repair work may cost up to \$1 million.

“We were able to open Toro Park for hikers and bikers about a week ago, but the picnic and activity areas may not be ready for months yet,” explains Camerino Sanchez, Parks Department Management Specialist. “The assessment is important because it will outline needed work and help us determine what repairs would be considered routine maintenance and what are associated with the fire camp.”

The contract for using the park protects the County, Cal Fire and US Forest Service as it sets out responsibilities for all parties, the areas of use and what type of inevitable damage for which each party would be liable.

Fire agencies did clean up before leaving the park, but some repairs can only be performed by county crews. Rehabilitation of the sport and picnic areas for instance requires reseeding acres of land.

Toro Park averages 130,000-140,000 visitors each year. The County and its residents were pleased to support firefighter’s efforts this past summer, but are also looking forward to enjoying the park once again.



## County Security Chief Takes Cyber Training Online and On the Road

When Dan Kern talks cyber security awareness, it’s educational, informative and often very funny. His trainings are memorable by design - he wants us all to remember how to keep

county data and information safe. Turns out, other folks in the cyber security world have figured out what a great trainer he is too.



*Kern's fun graphics which pop up during training sessions help employees remember important security safeguards.*

Kern is the County's Chief Security Officer. His hacking demonstrations have been part of his security awareness training for several years – something he pioneered here.

"I began by showing a few users how attacks work," says Kern explaining how hacking demos became a training tool. "It made them realize how easy these attacks can be, how vulnerable they are and they began protecting themselves more seriously."

Word gets around. Kern is regularly in demand by organizations as a speaker, he recently provided the keynote for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's annual security conference.

Kern was able to bring his training to an international level when he was invited to

speak at a national security event, the SANS Institute's "Securing the Human" Summit in San Francisco. His topic was "Seeing is Believing: Making the Cyber Hype Real with Hacking Demos."

Dan demonstrated to security awareness professionals from around the world how he uses real-world hacking demonstrations here in Monterey County to help employees cultivate a more engaged and equipped end-user community to protect themselves and county data.

Kern says all groups and organizations have common problems when it comes to cyber security.

"Weak credentials seem to be the most common mistake," he says. "Using a longer passphrase, a different password on all of your sites, a password manager so you don't have to memorize all of them, and enabling two-step verification wherever you can (which makes your password alone useless to an attacker) is my most common advice."

Dan's security awareness presentations are available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/w6fdo) and are so popular they are used by many organizations from all over the world as part of their security awareness training.

# Halloween Fun Around the County

A lot of things go ‘bump in the night’ on All Hallows Eve. You could bump into scary creatures and creative costumes around county offices too.

County staff members showed their creative sides with costumes ‘ripped from the headlines,’ from scary movies or even nursery rhymes. Thanks to Social Services, Health, Clerk of the Board, Treasurer-Tax Collector, RMA and the Auditor’s Office for sharing their Halloween snapshots.



The Clerk of the Board's Office held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual Halloween costume contest. Congratulations to all!



Most Original:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place -Tourist/Dead Lady – David Jacob and Joy Willett, Treasurer-Tax Collector & Assessor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place -Copy Cat – Ginger Ramirez, Human Resources
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Unicorn – Vanessa Kor, Human Resources

Best Group:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Politically Incorrect Barbies – Margarita Arista, Human Resources and Claudia Link, District 2
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Addams Family – Treasurer Tax Collector
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Super Heroes – Auditor-Controller

Scariest:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Bane – Auditor's office

Funniest:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Wayne & Garth – Maria Papurello, Auditor-Controller and Nairi Davis, Human Resources
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Three Blind Mice & the Cat - Treasury Division



What are you Supposed to be?

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Uncle Fester – Maria Gomes –Tax-Collector-Treasurer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Pocahontas – Sydney Asercion– Ag Commissioner
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Hippie –Kimberly Jones – Ag Commissioner



From Department of Social Services' costume contest:

