



Posted on Sun, Jul. 06, 2003



## Public art brightens Marina

The growing city focuses on adding both culture and housing

By VICTORIA MANLEY

[vmanley@montereyherald.com](mailto:vmanley@montereyherald.com)

Hundreds of new homes, shiny public sculptures, a new farmers' market and a fast-growing college community are taking the city of Marina to a new level.

The coastal city has turned up a notch its efforts to update its appearance with a parade of dolphin sculptures created by local artists. The first batch of sculptures -- about 5 feet tall, fiberglass and painted in brilliant blues, silver and gold -- portraying the dolphin were unveiled in January 2003 to a group of enthusiastic community leaders and artists.

Modeled after the famous "cow parades" in Zurich, Switzerland and Chicago, "Dolphins on Parade," was the brainchild of Charles Fischer, owner of the Monterey Sculpture Center.

"I thought it would be wonderful to bring art to the public, in more than just one place," Fischer said Sunday. "Art is a wonderful thing in communities. It is nothing to be afraid of; it is something to embrace."

The Marina Arts Council, a newly formed nonprofit organization, coordinates the sculpture program and organizers hope to have 50 of the sculptures erected throughout the city. The sculptures must be placed either in front of a business or in public areas, and no logos or other commercial slogans may be painted on them.

City Councilman Bruce Delgado said the dolphins could bring a new face to his city over time.

"Cities around here aren't usually thinking about art," Delgado said. He said his city "was a dead zone" before the dolphin sculptures were introduced.

"Imagine what this city could look like, 30 years from now, with all these sculptures."

By then, the city will also have grown by more than 3,000 new houses. The proposed Cypress Marina Heights on the city's portion of former Fort Ord would bring 1,050 units of different types, an 18-acre park and a school.

There are also plans to build more than 2,000 more houses as part of several other proposed projects, including the Cypress Knolls senior complex, the North & West University Villages near the quickly expanding CSU-Monterey Bay, and low-cost housing at Preston Park near Reservation Road.

Another library for the city, a golf course at Marina Municipal Airport and an equestrian center are also in the works.

The city is already home to one of the more popular and festive events on the Monterey Peninsula, the

International Festival of Winds, a kite-flying extravaganza for kite lovers of all ages.

Perhaps one of the city's more lively events sprouted in June. Everyone's Harvest, a certified farmers' market held Sundays at Marina Transit Station, has so far proven to be a success.

Everyone's Harvest creators Iris Diana Peppard and Sarah Van Der Stad, both CSUMB students, said they expect word to spread and that more will turn out.

"What I'm hearing a lot of is, 'This is the best thing that happened to Marina,'" Van Der Stad said. "They were waiting for something like this."

---

*Marina: 93933 Marina adjoins the former Fort Ord Army base and serves many students of nearby CSU-Monterey Bay.*

*Incorporated: 1975*

*Population: 21,000*

*Median Home Price, 2002: \$369,000*

*Visitor Information: Chamber of Commerce, 384-6155, [www.marinachamber.com](http://www.marinachamber.com)*

*Mayor: Ila Mettee-McCutchon, 884-1278*

*Regular Meetings: City Council, first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 211 Hillcrest Ave.*

*Planning Commission, second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.*

*Website: [www.ci.marina.ca.us](http://www.ci.marina.ca.us)*

*Major issues: Urban growth, open space, redevelopment*

---

*Victoria Manley can be reached at 646-4478.*