

Marina on cusp of growth

Housing developments and the city's first high school are among many changes

By **VICTOR CALDERON**
The Salinas Californian

With plenty of residential and business development on the horizon, the future in the coastal city of Marina looks brighter than ever, city leaders say.

The city turned 30 years old in November and is bouncing back from the 1994 closure of the U.S. Army's Fort Ord base. With four large housing developments planned on former base land, Marina is preparing to add thousands of new residents during the next two decades. Now Monterey County's fifth-largest city, it will eventually become the second-largest, after Salinas.

Situated in an attractive location between the Salinas Valley and the Monterey Peninsula and north of California State University, Monterey Bay, the city has the land and water to support development, said Marina Mayor Ila Mettee-McCutchon.

"We were once a soldiers' town, a bedroom community, but now we're coming into our own," Mettee-McCutchon said.

The residential developments — University Village, Marina Heights, Cypress Knolls and Marina Station — are expected to provide about 4,300 residential units and accommodate about 10,000 new residents.

The new developments also will provide at least 1 million square feet of retail and commercial space, 1,000 hotel rooms and a golf resort as well as open space and parks.

A new \$8 million library, paid for by bonds approved by Marina voters in November 2002, will be built in

AT A GLANCE

n **INCORPORATED:** 1975.

n **POPULATION:** 25,101

n **INFORMATION:** 384-9155,
www.marinachamber.com.

n **MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor Ila Mettee-McCutchon; mayor pro tem Dave McCall; Councilman Gary Wilmot; Councilman Ken Gray and Councilman E. Michael Morrison.

n **REGULAR MEETINGS:** City Council meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month at City Hall, 211 Hillcrest Ave. Planning Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at City Hall.

n **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:**

City Hall: 884-1278; city attorney: 373-8733; Planning: 884-1220; Recreation & Community Service: 884-1253; Public Safety: 884-1220; Public Works: 884-1212.

n **ONLINE:** www.ci.marina.ca.us.

n **ISSUES:** Fort Ord reuse, housing and land use.

Locke Paddon Park, with construction expected to take place this year. The new facility will replace the current library, located in a shopping center on Reservation Road.

The city's Public Safety Department will move away from its long-time joint police and fire department to separate agencies.

Marina High School, the city's first public high school, is expected to open in August at a temporary site on Rendova Road on the former Fort Ord.

Construction on a permanent high school campus will begin within five years, the mayor said.

Annual festivals include the International Flavors of Marina food, wine and beer tasting event, held in February, and the Festival of the Winds, which will be held May 13 and 14 this year.



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A crew from Exploration & Wells WDC works March 29 on the site of University Village on the former Fort Ord.



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Site work is done March 29 for the University Village housing development.