

City Manager's Update

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

Hello all, and happy Tuesday!

It's hard to believe that Christmas is in ONLY 3 days! I do sincerely hope that you and your family are enjoying a terrific holiday season!

In an effort to provide an update of important news and notes from this last week, the following report has been prepared. As always, please feel free to let me know if you have a question about any of the items contained in this update – I can be reached via email at ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us!

Please have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best regards,
Oliver

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Someone once told me growth and comfort do not coexist. And I think it's a really good thing to remember.
– Ginni Rometty, CEO of IBM

4TH DIMENSION / COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT UPDATE, SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 7, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M.

Last week, staff continued our outreach efforts soliciting additional input and information regarding the viability of the proposed 4th Dimension / Community Center project. We had a meeting with the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, and received valuable insights regarding certain components related to the overall project.

Moving forward, we have established **January 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., at the Library Community Room**, as the date / time / location for the Special Study Session to consider the overall proposed project. The Library Community Room was selected as the location for the meeting due to the fact that the City Council Chambers will be under renovation at that point in time.

At that study session meeting, we will be able to more clearly articulate all of the different project elements associated with the 4th Dimension / Community Center initiative, including:

- A synopsis of the feedback we have received regarding the proposed project
- An overview of the proposed parking / traffic solutions for the project
- An assessment of the economic considerations associated with the deal

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- The mechanisms and agreements through which the project will be considered
- An updated project timeline

After that Special Study Session, the City Council will be formally considering the overall project at our January 19, 2016, meeting. There are multiple moving parts regarding the overall 4th Dimension / Community Center project, and we will continue to provide updates as arise.

METRO GOLD LINE TRAIN TESTING BEGAN ON DECEMBER 18

On December 19-20, 2015, Metro started running trains during the daytime hours between the Sierra Madre Villa in Pasadena and the APU / Citrus College Stations in Azusa, as they continue to test the new Kinkisharyo 3010 train vehicles. To date, Metro has been running trains in the late afternoon / evening hours since taking possession of the extension on September 24, 2015. With the change last weekend, trains will be running throughout the day and night, from Sunday through Thursday.

Metro has also informed us that starting mid to late-January 2016, they will begin Pre-Revenue Operations. Pre-Revenue Operations is the final phase of work before passenger service begins, and during this period, trains operate on their future schedule. This means that Metro will begin running Foothill Gold Line trains at 12-minute headways during the morning and afternoon peak periods, and less often during the off-peak periods.

Through all of this, Metro will continue to place Ambassadors at the different at-grade crossings to educate the community on how to stay safe. Furthermore, Metro has informed the City that they will continue to have Ambassadors along the corridor for several months after passenger service begins.

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Train Testing Update

Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension trains have begun testing. Bulletins will be issued to keep you informed of the dates, times and frequency of movement through the community.

Testing schedules are dynamic and updates will be sent accordingly. If you are posting to your website or other distribution, please note the date and time of issuance to ensure it is the most recent.

Current Testing Schedule

What: Train Testing

When: Beginning December 18, 2015

Where: Along the 11.5 Foothill Alignment from Sierra Madre Station to APU/Citrus Station

Time: Every 20 minutes
*Interval times are subject to change

What to Expect

- > The train's audible devices may be used during testing activities.
- > As testing proceeds along the alignment, supplemental notices will be issued.

DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For More Information

- > Go to www.metro.net/projects/foothill-extension/

Safety Tips

- > Please obey all warning signs and traffic signals when crossing the tracks.
- > Always look both ways before crossing any street.
- > Never walk on railroad tracks.
- > Watch for trains from both directions.
- > Use the crosswalks. Do not jaywalk across the tracks.



Issued December 14, 2015

BICYCLE MASTER PLAN BEING DEVELOPED, AND YOUR FEEDBACK IS REQUESTED!

As you may recall, the City is currently working with Alta Planning on the development of an overall Citywide Bicycle Master Plan. One of the steps in the overall planning process is to gather meaningful data from the community regarding the overall plan. We are currently coordinating the development of a public workshop which we anticipate will be held in February 2016. We have created an online survey that we hope you will take a few minutes to complete. The survey can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MonroviaBikePlan>

Many thanks for your help in developing the best bicycle master plan possible for Monrovia!

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS – REV WINERY, SOW HOUSE ENTERTAINMENT, AND ORCHARD SUPPLY HARDWARE

Last week, the Development Review Committee (DRC) considered a few notable items that we wanted to share. First, the DRC considered an application from REV Winery / REV Brewing Company requesting to open a manufacturing facility, along with a tasting room, at the Hamby Park facility located adjacent to the Station Square Transit Village. The DRC forwarded their recommendation of approval to the Planning Commission, which will hear the item in early 2016.

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In addition the DRC also considered an application for live entertainment submitted by the new restaurant in Old Town called, Sow House (located at 402-404 South Myrtle Avenue, previously home to Cafe Opera). Sow House emphasizes local, fresh, and organic ingredients, and will be requesting that the Planning Commission allow them to have live music on a permanent basis.

Finally, the DRC also heard an item from Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH), which is gearing up to open their Monrovia location at 725 West Huntington Drive (located next to PetsMart). OSH was back before DRC this past week to ask for the allowance of seasonal display items in front of their store. This request was approved by the DRC, and OSH is moving full speed ahead to open their new store soon.

NEW DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANT INSTALLATION AT CITY HALL COMPLETE!

During the past week, the transformation of the landscaping at City Hall continued, as our City Parks team finished installing the new plant life at City Hall, where we now have over 20 drought-tolerant plant species on display. Additionally, our team has begun installing the Iris Kinetic Art piece, funded by the Art in Public Places Committee, which will be located in the courtyard at the north-west corner of Ivy Avenue and Lemon Avenue.

This week, our team will begin work to mount four new benches to the concrete pads that were recently poured so that City Hall visitors and passersby looking for a place to rest can enjoy some shade under the trees. Our crews are on track for completing the project by the end of the year, and I know that all of us are anxious to see how the project looks upon completion!



SAVE THE DATE – STATE OF THE CITY SET FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Mark your calendars! The annual State of the City event is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 8, 2016. It will be held at the Krikorian Premiere Theater, located at 410 South Myrtle Avenue in Old Town, with the event starting at 7:00 p.m.

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The State of the City event this year will be informative and unique. The City Council will provide Monrovia residents with an update on significant and key accomplishments from the past year while also providing an overview of what to expect for Monrovia in 2016. We hope to see you there!

CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE ON MYRTLE AVENUE!

If you have not yet made plans for New Year's Eve, look no farther! Make plans to join the community on Myrtle Avenue in Old Town on December 31, 2015, starting at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate New Year's Eve on Myrtle! The event is presented by the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board and the Old Town Merchants, and festivities includes a **free** kids play area, a live band featuring Night Owl, a beer and wine garden, and the amazing ambience that you won't find anywhere else in the world except in Old Town Monrovia! Merchants and restaurants will also be open that evening, so make plans to welcome in 2016 by spending time right here at home in Monrovia!

MONROVIA AREA PARTNERSHIP "CARE FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR" OUTREACH INITIATIVE A SUCCESS

On Saturday, December 12, 2015, the Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) coordinated landscape beautification efforts with our MAP Neighborhood Leaders and volunteers. The goal of the program was to improve the landscaping at the homes of two senior citizens. The Care for Your Neighbor program provided drought-tolerant plants and mulch for low maintenance yards, and this wonderful program was developed as an idea from the MAP Leaders who had a desire to help their fellow residents and volunteer more in the community.

Thanks to local sponsors, including the Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley, MAP Neighborhood Leaders, and our resident expert in leaf blowing... one Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Spicer... this project was successful and the senior homeowners had their yards transformed! Many thanks to all of our volunteers who came out and worked hard to roto-till the yards, lay a heavy duty weed barrier, plant beautiful drought tolerant plants, spread mulch... and make a difference in improving our Monrovia!

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BOB BARTLETT MEMORIAL COMMITTEE RECAP

On Monday, December 14, 2015, the Bob Bartlett Memorial Committee (Committee) met to continue discussions and deliberations regarding development of a proper tribute for the City's former mayor. An overview of the meeting includes:

- The Committee welcomed Enda Teller to our team and she gave the group some background on the intricacies of tiled mosaic art.
- The Committee reviewed preliminary budget examples for the initiative and it was determined that the mosaic mural would be a feasible project from a cost perspective.
- The Committee discussed various options for the size of the art, and while the size will be determined by the location of the mosaic, it was discussed that something in the range of 3ft x 5ft would likely be appropriate.
- The Committee took a tour of the Station Square area and identified several locations to consider for the placement of the art.

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Moving forward, staff will be following up on additional direction provided by the Committee.

CLIFTON MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDED \$100,000 SCIENCE LAB GRANT!

If you recall, Clifton Middle School was one of the semifinalists in the Northrop Grumman Foundation's Fab School Labs contest several weeks ago, and the entire community turned out on Facebook to help the Monrovia Unified School District in their efforts to win a grant of up to \$100,000 for a school lab makeover to promote science, technology, engineering, and math education!

Once again... Monrovia came through! We heard the news late this past week that Clifton Middle School has been selected as one of five nationwide winners in the Fab School Labs contest! The attached press release from the Monrovia Unified School District contains additional information, however, it appears that Clifton was selected after a final review conducted by the Fab School Labs team to assess each school's desired dream lab. Congratulations to Clifton Middle School, the Monrovia Unified School District, and the entire community on this amazing achievement!

WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE

We wanted to share that as a community, Monrovia continues to do a tremendous job of conserving water! For the month of November 2015, our cumulative water consumption was reduced by 22% as compared to the same time period in 2013. While we did not hit our ultimate goal of saving 28% when compared with 2013 water usage levels, conservation is much more difficult during the winter months, and as a City, we are excited that the trend of saving water in Monrovia has continued.

In an effort to promote continued conservation, the City is looking to celebrate those who are going the extra mile! So please let us know if you or someone you know has removed turf to make way for more drought tolerant and native plants. The City has developed a water conservation lawn sign program that recognizes and celebrates those members of the community who go that extra mile to conserve. Keep up the great work Monrovia!

2016 MONROVIA NEIGHBOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

The Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) is looking for your recommendation of a neighbor who makes everyone feel welcome, goes above and beyond to help their fellow neighbor, and constantly helps to make the neighborhood a better place to live. Please note that any individual nominated must be a Monrovia resident, and incomplete forms cannot be considered. To submit your nomination, please use our online submittal form, which can be found by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/communitydevelopment/webform/map-neighborhood-conference>

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For more information, please feel free to email the Monrovia Area Partnership at map@ci.monrovia.ca.us. All nominations will be kept confidential, and the deadline for nominations is Wednesday, March 23, 2016. Nominate a neighbor today!

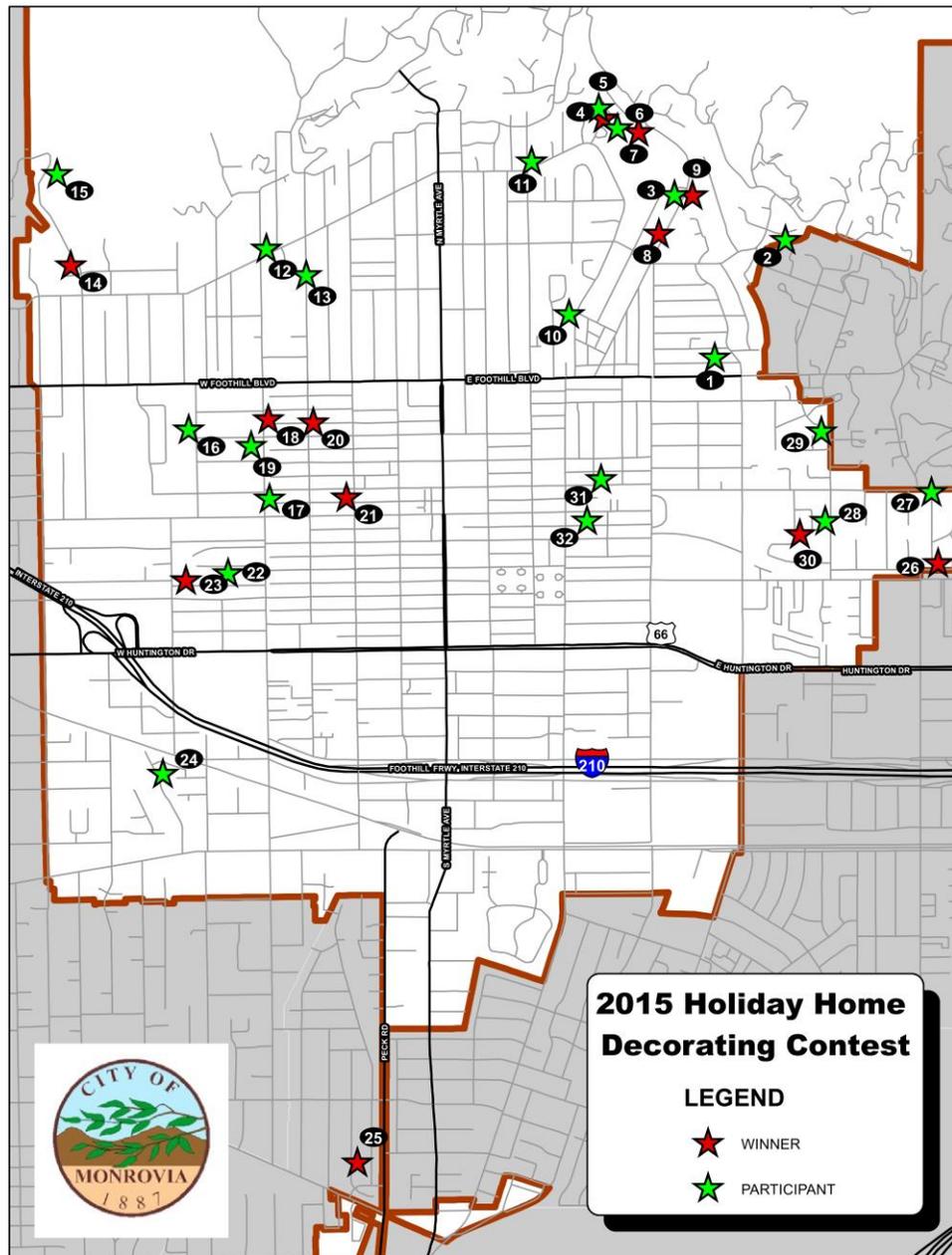
2015 HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED, SELF-GUIDED TOUR MAPS DEVELOPED FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE AWARD WINNING DECORATIONS

On Monday, December 14, 2015, Community Services Commissioners, Youth Commissioners, and Monrovia residents toured 32 beautifully decorated Monrovia homes. After much deliberation, 12 award winning homes were selected in a variety of categories. The winners were announced at the December 15, 2015 City Council meeting, and each award recipient will receive a yard sign to display during the holiday season (with bragging rights bestowed for a whole year)! As an overview, the winners are:

- Best Still Display – 309 North Madison Avenue
- Best Outdoor Display – 541 Valmont Drive
- Best Window Display – 208 South Mayflower Avenue
- Most Effective Use Of Lighting – 380 Norumbega Drive
- Best Decorated Outdoor Tree – 308 West Lemon Avenue
- Best Neighborhood Effort – Valmont Drive & Place
- Snowman Award – 632 Terrado Drive
- Children's Choice Award – 333 Norumbega Drive
- Santa's Workshop Award – 639 Parker Avenue
- Holiday Spirit Award – 550 South Park Rose Avenue
- Judges Award – 2500 Block of Rochelle Avenue

For those that would like to see each of the contestants who participated and the award winning homes in person, the City has developed self-guided tour maps, a copy of which is attached to this email for your reference. Maps are also available at the Monrovia Community Center, Monrovia City Hall, Monrovia Public Library, and on the Monrovia website at www.cityofmonrovia.org.

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2016 WATER CONSERVATION CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE

Each year, the City coordinates a water conservation calendar art contest open to all fifth grade students in Monrovia. This year, the 13 winners of the 2016 Water Conservation Calendar Art Contest were recognized at the City Council meeting on December 15, 2015. We received over 115 entries from fifth grade students from all five elementary schools in Monrovia, and the 13 chosen winners received a certificate, had their pictures taken, and autographed copies of their artwork!

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Calendars are now available at the Library, City Hall, Public Works, and the Community Center, so make plans to pick your calendar up today! Also, as an added bonus all 115 entries that were received will be on display for the month of January 2016 in the Youth Room at the Monrovia Public Library.

TEEN BOOKTALKS PROGRAM NOW UNDERWAY

The Teen Booktalks program is now underway! City librarians are visiting Santa Fe Middle School and Clifton Middle School this month and next, speaking to every middle schooler during their English class. Teens will hear about new books to read during the winter break, fun programs to attend at the Library, and be encouraged to join the Teen Advisory Board to volunteer to create programs and services for the youth community in Monrovia. Our City librarians will be speaking to around 1,440 Monrovia teens through the Teen Booktalks program.

HOLIDAY SOUNDS AT THE LIBRARY A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

The Monrovia Library hosted the 5th annual *Holiday Sounds* program on Saturday, December 12, 2016. The program this year featured three different performers. First, a father / son duo played classical guitar, while we also had two student harpists who have been instructed by a Monrovia resident. Finally, we had a performance from the Cal State Northridge Sterling Flute Choir, made up of over 20 members playing different types of flutes. The program was held in the lobby of the Library for guests of all ages to enjoy, and was certainly a musical success!

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD MOVIE MANIA EVENT HELD DECEMBER 11, 2015

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) planned a holiday extravaganza, complete with a White Elephant gift exchange and movie night, on Friday, December 11, 2015. TAB voted to watch *Elf* and eat spaghetti made with pop tarts, skittles, cookies, and maple syrup! Those who were less adventurous had spaghetti with marinara sauce. Teens also enjoyed hot chocolate and oranges, while decorating the room with paper snowflakes. Twenty five teens participated in the event, which certainly helped get everyone in the mood for the holidays.

HISTORY OF TAMALES

Sandra Romero, hosted the Monrovia Public Library program entitled, "History of Tamales," on December 9, 2015. The happy and hungry audience heard from Ms. Romero (affectionately known as *Mama*), who brought delicious samples of tamales for everyone to enjoy while also providing the history of tamales. Ms. Romero demonstrated how to make a tamale, shared special ingredients and spoke about techniques regarding the art of tamale making.

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By way of background, Ms. Romero was instrumental in bringing the MacArthur Park neighborhood together by providing a community kitchen for aspiring food vendors, which changed the neighborhood and reduced crime. She shared her inspiring story through a documentary called, "Mama", and which can be seen on YouTube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9bhD6pUcgE>.

EL NIÑO PREPAREDNESS EVENTS SET TO BE HOSTED BY THE CITY ON, JANUARY 5 AND JANUARY 21

We have all heard about the pending El Niño season that is just around the corner. In an effort to help Monrovia residents prepare for the pending storm events, the City has coordinated a series of community preparedness workshops to help residents get ready for what promises to be a wet rainy season!

The City's Fire Department and Public Services Department will be hosting the events, which are scheduled to take place on the following dates / times:

- Tuesday, January 5, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room
- Thursday, January 21, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room

The City has also established an El Niño Preparedness webpage, which can be accessed at:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/fire/page/el-ni%C3%B1o-preparedness>

We hope to see you at one of the El Niño Preparedness workshops that have been coordinated!

ASSEMBLY MEMBER HOLDEN SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR VETERAN OF THE YEAR, NOMINATIONS DUE MARCH 24, 2016

Assembly Member Holden is seeking nominations to honor the 41st Assembly District's 2016 Veteran of the Year. The program has been developed to honor a Veteran from the 41st District whose community service and work have made a positive impact. The 41st Assembly District includes Altadena, Claremont, La Verne, Monrovia, Pasadena, San Dimas, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, Upland, and portions of Mt. Baldy and Rancho Cucamonga.

In order to qualify, the Veteran must reside or perform community service within the 41st Assembly District. The Veteran may be nominated by a resident or representative from a school, private and non-profit organization, municipality, chamber of commerce, and/or any other organization within the 41st Assembly District (no self-nominations please). One Veteran will be selected and recognized in Sacramento at a recognition ceremony in June 2016.

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Please think about a Veteran who is positively contributing to the community. Then, complete and submit an nomination form before March 24, 2016. For more information, contact Matthew Lyons at Matthew.Lyons@asm.ca.gov or (909) 624-7876.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER HOLDEN SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, NOMINATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Assembly Member Holden is seeking nominations to honor the 41st Assembly District 2016 Small Business of the Year. The San Gabriel Valley has over 69,000 small and medium sized businesses, and the program is seeking nominations for the great businesses within the 41st Assembly District, which includes Altadena, Claremont, La Verne, Monrovia, Pasadena, San Dimas, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, Upland, and portions of Mt. Baldy and Rancho Cucamonga.

Small businesses are doing great things for our economy and communities and submitting a nomination is a great way to share their contributions and successes. In order to qualify, the business must have a physical location within the 41st Assembly District, have been in business for at least two years, and meet the SBA Small Business Size Standards.

A business may be nominated by any business owner or resident and / or municipal and chamber of commerce staff within the 41st Assembly District (no self-nominations please). One small business will be selected and recognized in Sacramento at the California Small Business Association Luncheon. Please think about a small business owner who is a leader that is positively contributing to the community. Then, complete and submit a nomination form before February 18, 2016. For more information, contact Matthew Lyons at Matthew.Lyons@asm.ca.gov or (909) 624-7876.

POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

The most recent Police Department semi-weekly neighborhood watch report for the period December 14 – 16, 2015 has been uploaded to our website at the link below for your review and reference. During the past seven-day period, the Monrovia Police Department handled 378 service events, resulting in 70 total investigations.

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/police/page/semi-weekly-report>

That's it for this update, thanks so much for taking the time to read this report and I do hope you have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best regards,
Oliver

City Manager's Update

OLIVER CHI
City Manager

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