

City Manager's Update

Tuesday, December 29, 2015

I hope that this email finds you all doing great today! With Christmas right behind us and the New Year right around the corner, I sincerely hope that you and your family have enjoyed a tremendous holiday season.

In an effort to provide an update of important news and notes from this last week, the following holiday-abridged 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!

And of course... all the best to you and yours as we get ready for a wonderful week!

Best regards,
Oliver

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Fall seven times, stand up eight.

– Stephen Bush

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

On **January 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., at the Library Community Room**, there will be a Special Study Session for the City Council 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
- 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.

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CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT TERRORIST RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Given the recent terrorist attack that occurred in San Bernardino, we felt it was important to outline how our local Police Department here in Monrovia is equipped to respond to terrorist situations here locally. The following overview provides some details related to resources, tactics, and techniques that we currently have in place for responding to a terrorist incident.

- Monrovia has two terrorism liaison officers (TLO) who have specialized training. One has a Master's Degree in Homeland Security studies, and both TLO's have received specialized training from the Federal Government Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC) here in Los Angeles County. They are our direct contacts for any intelligence the federal government agencies may have specific to Monrovia and Los Angeles County. They also have direct contact to share intelligence regarding any suspicious activity our officers observe. Our TLO's also have contacts at the regional FBI office.
- We have a regional tactical response team called FSET. This regional team provides Monrovia with highly trained operators (think of FSET as our own SWAT Team) to respond to events. This team is a resource most other cities our size in the State do not have, since the vast majority of agencies rely on county services to respond. Through mutual aid, Monrovia can also call on Los Angeles County Special Enforcement Bureau, in addition to FSET.
- Our City police patrol staff are trained annually in the most current tactical response methods to respond to active shooter events as well as other terrorist type incidents. Furthermore, Monrovia's priority one call response time to emergency calls for service is approximately 1 ½ minutes.
- Our Community Policing bureau is active in our community working to resolve problems. This bureau is a resource of intelligence information from our citizens who may see suspicious activity in their neighborhoods or around their businesses.
- We have relationships with the leaders of both mosques in Monrovia and our law enforcement personnel meet with their representatives regularly. We provide extra patrol to both of the mosques to try to deter any criminal hate crimes at those locations.

SANDBAG SATURDAY EVENT SET FOR JANUARY 9, 2016 AT RECREATION PARK

In further preparation for El Niño, the City is planning on hosting a Sandbag Saturday event, scheduled for Saturday, January 9, 2016. The event will be held at Recreation Park, and will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. At the event, City staff will assist residents with filling sandbags, provide demonstrations on how to properly build sandbag debris walls, and educate on additional ways to best to prepare for the El Nino storms. We do look forward to seeing everyone at this event!

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Sandbag Saturday - El Niño Preparation

Date: Saturday, January 9, 2016
Time: 10:00 a.m. to NOON
Location: Recreation Park (baseball field parking lot near the skate park), 620 S. Shamrock, Monrovia



WHAT TO BRING:

1. Shovel
2. Gloves
3. Goggles or other protective eye gear
4. Equipment (and a large vehicle!) to be able to transport the sandbags back to your residence.

Staff and volunteers will be available to assist you with filling bags

Fill your sandbags! City of Monrovia staff and volunteers will be there to educate you on proper sandbag placement and resources to help you prepare for El Niño. A one-time event, so come by!

For more information call: (266) 932-5550

HISTORIC MUSEUM ROOF REPAIR UPDATE

Just a quick note to share that the roof repairs at the Historic Museum are progressing on schedule. Of particular note, we shared previously that there were areas on the roof where we were concerned about termite infestations. In a bit of good news, after assessing the situation, it appears that the problem was localized and does not impact the entire building. We have performed termite treatment on two areas of concern and the repair work is moving forward without any additional delay.

We also wanted to share that in the two areas of the roof at the Historic Museum which were treated for termites, the roofing contractor forgot to cover the exposed areas after their work. Given the recent rain, that oversight did cause some water to drip into the interior of the building. Fortunately, the City's roofing contractor took full responsibility for the oversight, apologized profusely for the mistake, and will be repairing all water damage that occurred on the interior of the building at no cost to the City. Moving forward, the roof repair work should be complete within the next few weeks and we will be sure to keep everyone informed as to our progress.

CHRISTMAS DAY WATER MAIN BOOSTER PIPE BREAK FIXED WITH EXCELLENCE BY OUR PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION STAFF

We wanted to share some news regarding tremendous work by our Public Works Division staff on Christmas Day. A little before 9:00 a.m. on December 25, 2015, we experienced a water main booster pipe break on Ridgeside Drive. The main break occurred on the 700 block of Ridgeside Drive (on Ridgeside Drive near the intersection of Canyon Boulevard / Ridgeside Drive), and City crews responded and we were on scene by around 9:30 a.m. to assess the situation.

Initially, the water main pipe break resulted in around 40 residential properties on Briarcliff Road, Ridgeside Drive, and Oakglade Drive having no water service. Our team expertly assessed the situation and we walked door-to-door to notify all residents of the situation.

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After adjusting several water valve controls, we were able to isolate the segment of the water main that was damaged. Then, by around 11:00 a.m., we were able to restore water service to nearly all impacted residential properties on a temporary basis.

The water main that ruptured was an 8" pipe that connects the Ridgeside Reservoir with the Emerson Reservoir, and according to our records, that particular pipe was first installed in 1946 (which makes it a pipe that is nearly 70 years old!). It was important that we had to get the pipe repaired as soon as possible, because without that pipe functioning, the Emerson Reservoir would have run out of water within a day. And if the Emerson Reservoir ran out of water, a large segment of the community would be left without water service.

Our City crews worked through the Christmas Day to isolate the ruptured portion of the pipe and worked to complete the needed repairs. This work was finally wrapped up and finished around 10:00 p.m. that evening! The following photos illustrate some of the work that our team engaged in throughout the day.



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We wanted to thank the members of our team who gave up Christmas Day with their families to respond to this overall incident with excellence! Those individuals are:

- John Dunicliff
- Andy Koutsoutis
- Jerry Acosta
- Alonzo Alatorre
- Steve Hardman
- Michael Troncoso

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- Scott Hallimore
- James Tellez
- Paul Zampello

Many thanks to these members of our team for their dedication and service to the community!

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 and rainy season!

In addition to the Sandbag Saturday event on Saturday, January 9, 2016 the City has scheduled community workshops 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

A flyer publicizing the events has been attached below for your review / reference. Furthermore, the City has 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!



Topics

- El Niño Overview
- City of Monrovia Preparations
- Resident/Business Preparations
- Communications



City of Monrovia El Niño Community Meetings

Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Library Community Room

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2016 *(In conjunction with Senator Carol Liu's Office)*
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Library Community Room

The City of Monrovia will be hosting community meetings to help residents and businesses prepare for El Niño. The community meetings will also teach residents more about what the City is doing to prepare for inclement weather and those actions that will be taken to assist residents and business owners.

For additional information, please visit www.cityofmonrovia.org

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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!



5th Annual
**New Year's Eve
on Myrtle**
Presented by the
Monrovia Old Town Merchants

Sponsored by 



A street
celebration
with friends



*Beer & Wine Garden - Sponsored by Nicola Speranta
21 & Over only - no children allowed

*Midnight Toast & Ball Raising - Sponsored by Rudy's Mexican Food

*Live Band - "Night Owl" - Sponsored by Monrovia Tech Support & Diane Balsamo Gonzalez (Prime Lending NMLS#482962)

*Family Friendly Area: Tables & Chairs, Free Games with YMCA,
Free Rides Sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Monrovia

7:00 pm to Midnight - On Myrtle Ave.
Kid's Area Open 6 - 9 pm 

Come Early & Enjoy Beautiful, Historic Old Town
Myrtle Ave. exit from the 210 Fwy. Parking is always FREE

For additional information contact Pam Fitzpatrick: (626) 862-4297
www.cityofmonrovia.org www.OldTownMonroviaCA.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE FROM TURCH AND ASSOCIATES

The latest update from our federal lobbying firm of Turch and Associates has been uploaded to our website at the link below for your review and focuses on a federal legislative outlook for 2016, guns, and the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act.

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/citymanagersoffice/page/washington-dc-legislative-updates>

POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

The most recent Police Department semi-weekly neighborhood watch report for the period December 17 – 20, 2015 has been uploaded to our website at the link below for your review and reference.

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

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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

OLIVER CHI
City Manager

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