

# City Manager's Update

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Hello Monroviaans!

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](mailto:ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us)!

And of course... all the best to you and yours as we continue moving this week!

Best regards,  
Oliver

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## **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*Creation is embarrassing. For every new good idea you have, there are a hundred, ten thousand foolish ones, which you naturally do not care to display.*

– Isaac Asimov

## **4<sup>TH</sup> DIMENSION / COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT UPDATE – ESCROW CANCELLED BY THE HALE CORPORATION, PROJECT UPDATE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 19, 2016**

On Thursday, January 7, 2016, staff presented our overall analysis of the proposed 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension / Community Center project for City Council review in a Study Session format. In an effort to properly assess the overall proposed project, staff hosted eleven public outreach meetings and coordinated numerous project development assessments during the past few months. Based on the feedback received, the major project concerns that were identified include the following issues:

- Parking / traffic considerations
- Neighborhood compatibility / historic preservation concerns
- Design considerations
- Project economics
- Additional project considerations (deal structure, 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension ownership considerations)

The presentation that was used to guide the overall Study Session discussion can be accessed online at the following address:

[http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/economic\\_development/page/2328/community\\_center\\_project\\_-\\_city\\_council\\_study\\_session\\_presentation\\_january\\_7\\_2016.pdf](http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/economic_development/page/2328/community_center_project_-_city_council_study_session_presentation_january_7_2016.pdf)

As the presentation illustrates, staff believed that it would be possible to effectively mitigate parking / traffic considerations, as well as Community Center design considerations. However, we did not feel that it would be possible to effectively resolve all of the issues identified regarding neighborhood compatibility / historic

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preservation considerations and the overall economics of the project. Furthermore, the current ownership transition at the 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension added a level of uncertainty which complicated the overall initiative.

Based on the assessment conducted, the City Council provided staff with feedback which indicated that the proposed project, while worthy of consideration, would require the City to make compromises that could not be adequately resolved.

Subsequent to the Study Session meeting, staff interfaced with representatives from the Hale Corporation and shared the results of the meeting. After discussing the matter further, the Hale Corporation shared with the City that they would cancel escrow on their proposed purchase of the 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension facility. That cancellation effectively ends the proposed 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension / Community Center initiative.

Moving forward, at our City Council meeting on January 19, 2016, staff will be presenting an overview of the matter, however, it is important to note that no formal City Council action will be necessary to effectuate the cancelation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension / Community Center project. We will, however, be assessing ways to implement City Council direction that resulted from the overall analysis of the proposed project, including ways to improve the overall Community Center at its current location and how we might coordinate an overall parking assessment for all of Old Town.

## **HISTORIC SANTA FE DEPOT REHABILITATION EFFORTS UNDERWAY, REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST TO GOLD LINE CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY ACCEPTED**

We wanted to let everyone know that the efforts to rehabilitate the Historic Santa Fe Depot are underway. Last week, staff had an initial meeting with representatives from Daylight Limited, LLC, including their architects, contractors, and the development team, to discuss next steps in the overall rehabilitation process. An updated project schedule is being developed, and we are also planning to review with the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) later this month the establishment of a HPC Historic Depot Rehabilitation Committee to interface with the development team during our renovation efforts. Moving forward, we will be certain to keep everyone apprised of our progress.

## **METRO WILL BE RUNNING GOLD LINE TRAINS THIS WEEK EVERY DAY FROM 6:00 P.M. – 6:00 A.M.**

Just a quick note to let everyone know that Metro has informed us of their plans to run trains on the Foothill Gold Line every day this week from 6:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m., Monday through Friday. In addition, Metro also shared that they plan on running the trains 24-hours per day next weekend (January 16-17, 2016).

## **STATION SQUARE PARK DEDICATION SET FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016, AT 11:00 A.M.**

Mark your calendars! The City is excited to share that a celebration event dedicating Station Square Park (1601 South Myrtle Avenue) has been scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 23, 2016. The event is scheduled to begin with the Park Dedication at 11:00 a.m., and will continue until 2:00 p.m. with festivities that include live entertainment, arts & crafts for children, a Canyon Park critter display, giveaways, refreshments, and much more for the entire family! In addition to the City dedication event, LA Metro will also be on hand to distribute important information regarding train safety and other Gold Line related

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materials. Please see the attached event invitation for additional information, and please make plans to be part of this momentous occasion celebrating the opening of Monrovia's newest park!



MONROVIA  
STATION SQUARE

MONROVIA CITY COUNCIL  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

Station Square  
**PARK DEDICATION**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23  
11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
1601 SOUTH MYRTLE AVENUE MONROVIA, CA 91016

**Event Highlights**  
11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

12:00 - 2:00 P.M.  
CONCERT • CRAFTS • GAMES • COMMUNITY INFORMATION

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE MONROVIA COMMUNITY CENTER AT 626.256.8246  
IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, THE EVENT WILL BE RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 6 FROM 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

## **MONROVIA ENDURES RECENT RAIN EVENT**

Monrovia was busy last week making preparation for three back-to-back-to-back storm events we experienced. The City is happy to report that overall, our community was able to withstand the storms with minimal impact. All of the advance preparation and work that our residents and our staff coordinated during the dry season certainly contributed to this success.

For example, k-rails and the temporary drive way barriers were effective in keeping the mud and debris in the street and off of private property. The catch basins that the City cleaned in 2015 were also able to capture much of the new run off we experienced from the recent storms. Also, removal of accumulated mud last year from canyon areas off of Crescent Drive and Highland Place helped minimized the amount of debris in the streets.

However, there is more rain to come and more work to do. The City has sandbags available for all residents and businesses at the following locations:

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- Public Services Corporate Yard (600 S. Mountain Avenue, from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday)
- Community Center (119 W Palm Ave from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; and 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Friday)
- Monrovia Fire Station 101 (141 East Lemon Avenue) and Fire Station 102 (2055 South Myrtle Avenue)
- *Please note... residents may request up to 25 bags per resident, however, special circumstances may allow for the distribution of additional bags.*

Gravel collection is available on a self-service basis (residents need to bring a shovel, safety goggles, and gloves) for resident use in a containers located at the following places:

- 900 Block of Crescent (between Madison and El Nido)
- 352 Hill Street (North-East corner of Hill Street and Prospect Avenue)
- Recreation Park (near Barney Glen Baseball Field Parking Lot)
- *Please note... City staff will be on-call and available to help with filling gravel bags for residents in need of assistance. Please call (626) 932-5575 for additional information.*

We also wanted to share that a few City facilities did experience some damage as a result to the rain. The Community Center had 5 separate roof leaks, the Historic Museum (which is currently undergoing a roof replacement) had one leak, the Mary Wilcox Youth Center had two leaks and Fire Station 102 had two leaks. Moving forward, the City is now coordinating clean-up efforts throughout the community. If you notice mud and debris in the streets, or if you have any questions / concerns, please feel free to contact the Monrovia Public Services Department at (626) 932-5575.

## **BICYCLE MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE WORKSHOP SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

On Wednesday, February 3, 2016, the City will be hosting a Community Open House Workshop to discuss our Bicycle Master Plan. The workshop will be hosted at the Monrovia Community Center (119 West Palm Avenue) and the meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. However, there will also be a pre-workshop bicycle ride, and for those interested in participating, meet at 5:00 p.m. at the bicycle rack in Library Park. Please see the flyer below for additional information.

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**MONROVIA BICYCLE MASTER PLAN**



**Community Open House Workshop**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016  
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Monrovia Community Center**  
119 W. Palm Avenue | Monrovia, CA 91016

The City of Monrovia is working on a Bicycle Master Plan to make riding a bicycle safer and more enjoyable, and we want to hear from you!

- How can we improve bicycling conditions in the City so you can safely and comfortably ride to school, work, and shopping?
- What improvements would you like to see to popular cycling routes?
- How can we make better connections to regional destinations, such as neighboring cities and the San Gabriel River Trail?

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**Pre-Workshop Bicycle Ride**

- Meet at 5:00 pm at the bicycle rack in Library Park across from the Community Center.
- Ride departs at 5:15 pm and will return by 5:50 pm.
- Slow, easy ride. Families welcome!
- Helmets required for anyone under 18 years old.

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*For more information, contact Sean Sullivan, Management Analyst, at [ssullivan@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:ssullivan@ci.monrovia.ca.us) or 626-932-5522.*

Please take the short Bicycle Plan Survey at:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/MonroviaBikePlan](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MonroviaBikePlan)

## **PARK MASTER PLAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT MEETING BEING COORDINATED TO TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 30, 2016, AND FEBRUARY 6, 2016**

The City of Monrovia would like to invite community members to attend the Monrovia and Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment meeting. We have scheduled two workshops, which will be held on:

- Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Library Community Room (321 S. Myrtle Avenue)
- Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Fire Station 102 (2055 S. Myrtle Avenue)

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The City has recently completed an inventory of existing parks, recreation facilities, and open space, including an assessment of what kind of shape those facilities are in. The next step in the assessment process involves hearing from the community regarding what you would like to see in our parks. A few of the topics that will be discussed at the workshops include:

- The current state of our park and recreation facilities, and open space areas
- Which parks are in need of repair or expansion?
- What type of recreation is most needed?
- Where do we need new parks or recreation facilities?

Working together, the City hopes to create a list of park priorities for our Monrovia. Please note... a continental breakfast will be provided at both meetings, so please make plans to participate! For more information, please contact the Monrovia Public Services Department at (626) 256-8246.

## **CANYON PARK RECOGNIZES BOB DOLLINS AS THE 2015 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, WHILE TOD BARRY AND BONNY HIDAS RECEIVE SPIRIT AWARDS**

Canyon Park / Hillside Wilderness Preserve recently hosted their Annual Volunteer Recognition dinner. The festivities provided time for the volunteers to catch up and honor one another for a job well done. This year Canyon Park recognized volunteers who contributed 100 and 200+ hours of service throughout the year. Spirit Awards were given to Tod Barry and Bonny Hidas for their great humility and loyalty to our park system. Also, Bob Dollins was recognized as our 2015 Volunteer of the Year. Bob has contributed countless hours to our park system and community, and during 2015, he provided customer service at our entrance gate, emergency help to our foothill residents, special events assistance, and acted as a docent for community tours. Thank you and congratulations to Tod, Bonny, and Bob!

## **HEALTHY MONROVIA SERIES PROGRAM TO BE OFFERED AT THE LIBRARY**

The Monrovia Public Library, in partnership with ChapCare, will be hosting a monthly *Healthy Monrovia* series. The six session series covers a wide range of topics and offers helpful tips and trends on how to improve and maintain overall health at any age. The program will be offered over the course of six weeks on the second Wednesday of each month, per the following schedule:

- January 13, 2016: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Preventative Care
- February 10, 2106: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Stress Management
- March 9, 2016: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Healthy Living
- April 13, 2016: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Women's Health
- May 11, 2016: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Fall Prevention and Hydration

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- June 8, 2016: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Hypertension, Cholesterol, and Diabetes

We hope to see you there!

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES GEARS UP FOR WINTER YOUTH SPORTS**

The City's Winter Youth Sports Program is off to a strong start with youth in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades signed up to play basketball and participate in cheerleading. The first week of games / cheering occurred on Wednesday, January 6, 2016. Practices are held at each of the elementary schools with games being played at the Mary Wilcox Youth Center. For program information, please call the Monrovia Community Center at (626) 256-8246.

## **SAVE THE DATE – 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MAP NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016**

Just a quick note to let everyone know that the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual MAP Neighborhood Conference has been scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Please see the attached flyer for additional information, and be sure to mark your calendars for what will certainly be a terrific event!



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## **MONROVIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SET TO HOST THEIR ANNUAL AWARDS GALA ON JANUARY 29, 2016**

The Monrovia Chamber of Commerce invites the community to attend their premier Awards Gala & Membership Dinner, which is scheduled to take place on Friday, January 29, 2016, at the Courtyard Marriott (700 West Huntington Drive). The event, which is themed, "An Evening with the Stars," will have a social hour beginning at 6:00 p.m., with dinner being served at 7:00 p.m. At the event, the recipients of the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards will be recognized, including:

- The Iris Award, Janet Wall
- The Monroe Award, BMW Monrovia
- The Dick Lord Award, Alfredo Mejia (CIBA Real Estate)
- Military Service and Stewardship Award, Hector Elizalde



*Janet Wall*



*Sean Amozani*



*Alfredo Mejia*



*Hector Elizalde*

To register for the event, please visit the following website:

<http://www.monroviacc.com.sampleorg.com/events/details/monrovia-chamber-an-evening-with-the-stars-awards-gala-membership-dinner-994>

## **FINAL EL NIÑO PREPAREDNESS EVENTS SET TO BE HOSTED BY THE CITY ON JANUARY 21, 2016**

Last week, the City hosted the second of three El Niño preparedness informational meetings on January 5, 2016. There were around 30 residents in attendance at the workshop, and representatives from a variety of City departments, including the Fire Department and the Public Services Department, were on hand to discuss a variety of topics related to our current storm season.

We hope that those interested will take the time to participate in the final El Niño preparedness informational meeting, which is scheduled to take place on 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:

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

15-6897-draft3



**SENATOR CAROL LIU**  
cordially invites you to attend an

## **EL NIÑO COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, January 21, 2016 • 6 – 8 pm**  
Monrovia Library • Community Room  
321 South Myrtle Avenue • Monrovia, CA

- ↑ **DISCUSS** the current drought in California
- ↑ **LEARN** more about anticipated El Niño weather
- ↑ **FIND OUT** what California is doing to prepare
- ↑ **HEAR** from representatives of the Monrovia Fire Dept., Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, and the National Weather Service

For more information or to RSVP, contact Armine Sargsyan at 818.409.0400 or at [ARMINE.SARGSYAN@SEN.CA.GOV](mailto:ARMINE.SARGSYAN@SEN.CA.GOV).

PRINTING AND/OR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS FLYER, OTHER THAN BY EMAIL, IS PROHIBITED

## **RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INCENTIVE PILOT PROGRAM OFFERED BY SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has established a residential Electric Vehicle (EV) charging incentive pilot program to offset Level 2 (240v) EV charger hardware costs. This program will be available to residents of Monrovia.

The program will provide an incentive to buy-down the cost of residential chargers, which typically range from \$400 – \$800. The program will be implemented on a first come, first served basis, and will provide up to \$250 towards the cost of hardware for Level 2 residential chargers. An additional incentive of up to \$250 will be available for low-income residents. Please visit Residential EV Charging Incentive Pilot Program page for more information at:

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<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/programs/community/community-detail?title=ev-charging-incentive>

## **SCAG ASSESSES THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY IN THE REGION**

This past week, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the Southern California Leadership Council coordinated a workshop to provide an insightful look at the state of the SCAG region's economy. The event highlighted opportunities for growth and provided updates on the region's most important industry sectors. For more information on the details provided at the event, please visit the following link:

<http://economy.scag.ca.gov/Pages/EconomicSummit/EconomicSummit.aspx>

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT**

The most recent Police Department semi-weekly neighborhood watch report for the period January 4 – 6, 2016 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 375 service events, resulting in 60 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

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