

City Manager's Update

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Can you believe that 2016 is here already? I hope that you enjoyed the recently completed holiday season and are ready for this fantastic New Year!

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

If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl... but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

AVAILABLE CITY RESOURCES GIVEN THE PENDING RAIN THIS WEEK

Given the pending rain event we are expecting to experience in Monrovia this week, the City has been taking proactive measures to provide the community with resources. An overview of those resources is outlined below, and a one-page flyer containing that information has also been attached for your review and reference.

- The City has gravel bags available for residents at the following locations:
 - 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 Stations on Saturday and Sunday
 - Please note... residents may request up to 25 bags per resident, however, special circumstances may allow for the distribution of additional bags

- Gravel 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)

A flyer outlining the above information is also provided below:

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Storm and Sandbag Information

- **Gravel (sand) bags are available to residents at the following locations:**
 - Public Services Corporate Yard – 600 S. Mountain Avenue
 - Monday – Thursday – 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
 - Monrovia Community Center – 119 W. Palm Avenue
 - Monday – Thursday – 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.
 - Friday – 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
 - Monrovia City Hall – 415 S. Ivy Avenue
 - Friday – 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
 - Monrovia Fire Station 101 – 141 E. Lemon Avenue
 - Saturday and Sunday
 - **Bag distribution is limited to 25 per resident.**

- **Gravel is located in bins at the following locations:**
 - 900 Block of Crescent (between Madison and El Nido) – Filled on 1/4
 - Recreation Park (near Barney Glen Baseball Field Parking Lot) – Filled on 1/4
 - 352 Hill Street (North East Corner of Hill and Prospect) – To Be Filled 1/5
 - Residents need to bring: Shovels, Gloves, Eye Protection

- **Sandbag Saturday Event**
 - Saturday, January 9, 2016, 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. (noon)
 - Recreation Park, Baseball Field Parking Lot
 - Off of Olive Avenue, Next to Skate Park
 - Residents to bring: Shovel, Gloves, Goggles, and vehicle to haul filled bags

- **El Nino Preparedness Community Meetings**
 - **Tuesday, January 5 at 6:00 p.m.**
 - Library Community Room – 321 S. Myrtle Avenue
 - **Thursday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m.**
 - Library Community Room – 321 S. Myrtle Avenue

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

We wanted to let everyone know that 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

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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

There are multiple moving parts regarding the overall 4th Dimension / Community Center project, and we will continue to provide updates as they arise.

4TH DIMENSION NIGHTCLUB CLOSES AMID CHANGES TO THEIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Last week, the City learned that the entity which owns the 4th Dimension Nightclub (326 South Myrtle Avenue) had an internal ownership group adjustment and replaced several members of their Board of Directors. In conjunction with that change, the newly constituted Board of Directors made the decision to shut down the operations of the 4th Dimension nightclub effective immediately. Given that decision, the 4th Dimension closed last week, prior to the New Year.

SCHOOL DISTRICT MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON REPAIRS TO MONROVIA HIGH SCHOOL

As you may recall, on Monday, November 30, 2015, an arson fire caused significant damage to Monrovia High School. Since that time, the Monrovia Unified School District has been working to coordinate the overall process associated with repairing the damaged facility. The Monrovia Unified School Board coordinated an in-depth study session review at a Special Meeting held on December 20, 2015. At that meeting, architects, repair contractors, and a team of other experts were assembled to review the process currently unfolding. A video of that meeting, which provides additional information related to the overall issue, can be accessed online at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu_Ychvlb1k

MONROVIA RENEWAL MONTHLY STANDING UTILITY AND STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION MEETINGS ESTABLISHED

As part of the overall Monrovia Renewal project, we have been working to coordinate with a variety of different entities, including utilities and neighboring jurisdictions, regarding the planned capital improvements throughout our community. As part of that process, we wanted to share that the City has established standing monthly coordination meetings for the overall initiative, where the different parties can meet in a forum for the City to transmit updated project information as well as discuss stakeholder concerns. Moving forward, we plan on presenting an overall project update to the City Council and community in the first quarter of 2016.

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MONROVIA SENIOR CLUBS ELECT 2016 BOARDS

Congratulations are in order for the new board members for our two senior clubs here in Monrovia! The New Horizon Club and Gad-A-Bouts Club have selected the following individuals to serve as their representatives for 2016:

▪ **New Horizon Club Board Members**

- Janet Alvarez, President
- Maggie Vincell, Vice President
- Phil Cannon, Second Vice President
- Marie Anderson, Recording Secretary
- Amelia Odell, Corresponding Secretary
- Ann Kaplan, Treasurer
- Helen Cattell, Assistant Treasurer
- Lee Graham, Sergeant at Arms
- Shirley Meade, Auditor

▪ **Gad-A-Bouts Club Board Members**

- Irma Robles, President
- Ronnie Lewis, Vice President
- Tina Ansley, Treasurer
- Debbie Lilley, Secretary

The entire new board members for both the New Horizon's Club and the Gad-A-About Club will be recognized at their respective January 5, 2016 and January 6, 2016, club installation events. The new boards will lead their respective senior clubs to establish a creative and fun environment for senior socialization throughout this year. Weekly senior club meetings are held on Tuesday (New Horizon Club) and Wednesday (Gad-A-Bouts Club), from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Community Center, and activities include volunteer experiences, health updates, catered lunches, and entertainment.

KINETIC IRIS ART SCULPTURE INSTALLED AT CITY HALL!

Last week, staff had a chance to work on completing a puzzle that resulted in the installation of the kinetic iris art sculpture at City Hall! Gonzalo Valenzuela and Esau Ramos from our Street Team carefully pieced together the components of the purple iris sculpture before installing it at the southwest corner of City Hall. As you may know, the iris holds special significance for our community. As Monrovia's official flower, there are tributes to irises throughout the community, such as the Iris Room at the Community Center (which holds small gatherings and workshops), and the annual Iris Award presented by the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce to an individual who has gone above and beyond volunteering in the community.

To ensure that the new kinetic iris art sculpture is properly emphasized, the attached picture shows Shawn Cantine from the City's Facilities Team installing the lights that will shine on the new art piece. In addition, the iris plants that were formerly located in the front planter adjacent to the entrance of City Hall – and which have been nurtured and cared for by Council Member Shevlin – have been transplanted to the new planter surrounding the kinetic iris sculpture to add to the locations natural beauty. In the coming weeks, there will be a few small adjustments to the area, however, many thanks to our City forces for the terrific job that was done in retrofitting the landscaping at City Hall!

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GINGERBREAD MASTERPIECES RESULT FROM THE LIBRARY'S GINGERBREAD HOUSE PROGRAM

The Gingerbread House program was held at the Library on Saturday, December 19, 2015. 210 people showed up ready to make their own masterpieces of gingerbread, and it was great fun watching all of the creative families work together to build their dream homes out of graham crackers, frosting, and candy! As the attached photos illustrate, the final results of the program were certainly delicious!



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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 working to facilitate 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

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>



City of Monrovia El Niño Community Meetings

Topics

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

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

Additionally, the City will be hosting a Sandbag Saturday event – see below for more information. We hope to see you at one of the El Niño Preparedness workshops that have been coordinated!

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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 provide residents with assistance with filling sandbags, provide demonstrations on how to properly build sandbag debris walls, and provide additional information regarding how best to prepare for the El Niño storms. Additional information regarding the event can be found online at:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/fire/page/sandbag-saturday>

We look forward to seeing everyone at this event!

POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

The most recent Police Department semi-weekly neighborhood watch report for the period December 21 – 27, 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>

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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