

City Manager's Update

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

I hope that this email finds you all doing great and enjoying a tremendous week!

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 FOR THE WEEK

In all this horror there's something positive that people are coming together in a sense of unity and peace.
- Jean Jullien, French artist that created the "Symbol of Peace for Paris"



Vive la France...

CITY HALL LANDSCAPE PROJECT HAS BEGUN!

As part of our Fiscal Year 2015-17 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget, the City allocated funds to replace the turf-based landscaping located around City Hall with drought tolerant landscaping, including the liberal use of native plantings. The landscaping design, which includes the addition of a kinetic sculpture of an iris located at the southeast corner of City Hall, were recently completed, and starting this week, City crews will begin the removal of all ornamental turf, invasive plantings, and a few trees located around City Hall. During the ensuing several weeks, the updated landscaping palette (see the graphic rendering below) will be installed by our team.

City Manager's Update



4TH DIMENSION / COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT UPDATE, GENERAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING SET FOR NOVEMBER 23RD AND DECEMBER 5TH

Last week, City staff began initiating outreach efforts to solicit additional input and information regarding the viability of the proposed 4th Dimension / Community Center project. We discussed the proposed project with the Historic Preservation Commission, the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board (MOTAB), the Community Services Commission, and the Planning Commission, and received good feedback and insights to consider. The presentation about the project which was used to guide our discussion with the Planning Commission (a similar presentation was provided to the Historic Preservation Commission, MOTAB, and the Community Services Commission) has been uploaded to our website (see the link below) for your reference and use.

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/economicdevelopment/page/community-center-4th-dimension-project>

Moving forward, we have additional outreach meetings scheduled these next several weeks, which include the following:

- Senior Club
 - Wednesday, November 18, 2015 - 10:30 a.m.
- Special Meeting of the Library Board, Library Foundation, and Friends of the Library
 - Wednesday, November 18, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.
- General Community Meeting
 - Monday, November 23, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. (Library Community Room)
- Community Meeting / Partner with MAP-ed Meeting
 - Saturday, December 5, 2015 - 10:00 a.m. (Library Community Room)
- QUOTA Club
 - Wednesday, December 2, 2015 - 12:00 p.m.

City Manager's Update

Please note the confirmation of two General Community Meetings, which have been scheduled for November 23, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, December 5, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. A flyer which we are using to publicize the meetings has also been included to this email as an attachment for your reference and use.

BOB BARTLETT MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

On Tuesday, November 10, 2015, the Bob Bartlett Memorial Committee, chaired by Mayor Pro Tem Larry Spicer, met to discuss how the City can best commemorate and honor former Monrovia Mayor Bob Bartlett.

An overview of the decisions made at the meeting includes the following:

- Move forward with commissioning a mural / tiled mosaic to memorialize Bob Bartlett in the Station Square area.
- Staff will research the matter to determine a general budget for the initiative, and will also research potential locations for the artwork in Station Square.
- Once those tasks are complete, we will coordinate a follow-up meeting for the committee, which will include a site tour of Station Square to get a better sense of the location for the artwork.
 - It is anticipated that the follow-up meeting for the committee will take place in December 2015 / January 2016.
- Staff will also work with the MAP Leaders on developing a placard / entry-way monument sign on Royal Oaks Drive (in coordination with a City-wide placard / entry-way monument sign program being proposed by the MAP Leaders) to demonstrate the street on which Bob Bartlett lived while growing up in Monrovia.

We will be certain to keep everyone apprised of any new developments regarding this particular matter as they come.

UPDATE REGARDING THE SEWER SMELL ON THE EAST SIDE OF TOWN

Last week, we had several complaints regarding a foul odor in the area located east of the Sawpit Wash, south of Foothill Boulevard, and north of Orange Avenue. Upon receiving the complaints, City staff went to investigate the situation, and we opened up every manhole in the area to investigate. Our staff report that the odor was not a sewer-based smell, but rather, identified the odor as more akin to a dead and decomposing animal.

Given the odors that were present, City forces initiated a process whereby our sewer crews jetted and cleaned each of the sewers in the area in an effort to alleviate the smell. As we engaged in that work, we also hypothesized that the odor could be coming from storm drain catch basins located in the area. Given that the catch basins are the responsibility of Los Angeles County; our staff contacted the appropriate LA County representatives to investigate. Upon investigation, LA County representatives shared that they did not find the source of any odors in the storm drain catch basins.

With all of the sewer line cleaning and investigative work that was done last week, we have not yet been able to determine the cause of the odor. Residents have reported that the smell is stronger in the evening and early morning hours, and staff has put together a small internal working group to come up with additional measures we can implement to try and mitigate the foul odors. Our next course of action is to actually jet and clean the storm water catch basins, as we received approvals from LA County representatives to engage in that maintenance work last week. Moving ahead, we will continue to assess

City Manager's Update

and monitor the overall situation, and will be sure to share any news regarding the situation as additional information becomes available. Also, many thanks to our team in the Public Works Division for their response to this particular concern!

PECK AVENUE / DUARTE ROAD SIGNAL HAS GONE LIVE AND WILL STAY FLASHING RED UNTIL NOVEMBER 23, 2015

The new traffic signal at intersection of Peck Road and Duarte Road went live last week! At this point in time, the City will maintain the new traffic signal in a "flashing red" mode in order to draw attention to the new traffic control device. We plan on maintaining the traffic signal in "flashing red" mode until Monday, November 23, 2015, which was selected due to the pending Thanksgiving Holiday Break for Santa Fe Middle School. By transitioning to a fully-functional traffic signal during the week of November 23, 2015, it will then allow one week of practice for commuters to adjust to the new traffic control device before the school traffic begins again the following week.

CITY PARTNERING WITH MUSD ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT WORKABILITY PROGRAM

The City's Community Services Division is partnering with the Monrovia Unified School District's WorkAbility I & Transition Partnership Program (TPP), which is designed to transition students to adult work life. This program is funded by the State and provides pre-employment skills, job placement, and work-site training. Students can receive up to 100 hours per semester of actual work experience during their 11th and 12th grade school years.

To date, there are several employers who have agreed to participate in the program, including the City, CVS, Dollar Tree, Boys & Girls Club, K-GEM, Santa Anita YMCA, Smart & Final, and Walgreens. From the City's perspective, we are currently screening potential applicants in an effort to match up existing City needs with the skills and abilities of the program participants.

7TH ANNUAL SANTA ANITA FAMILY YMCA GALA SET FOR NOVEMBER 21ST

Just a quick note to remind everyone that the 7th Annual Santa Anita Family YMCA Gala is set to occur this Saturday, November 21, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Anita Race Track (285 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia). The event will involve a night of spirited giving themed after the Roaring Twenties, and will feature games, dinner, awards, and a live auction and raffle. For more information, please call (626) 359-9244.

HOLIDAY PARADE AND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015

Can you believe that the holiday season is right around the corner?!?! To help celebrate this special time of the year, the City has scheduled the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Parade to take place on Thursday, December 3, 2015! The evening is set to begin at 6:00 p.m. with the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in Library Park (321 South Myrtle Avenue). Make plans to come out that evening and see the new festive holiday decorations that the City has planned for this very special event!

Following the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, the City's Holiday Parade will begin at 7:00 p.m. The parade theme for this year is "*Bright Lights, Holiday Delights*," and the program that has been put together for the evening will certainly feature those concepts. The parade will travel north on Myrtle Avenue from Chestnut Avenue to Palm Avenue, and will be led by this year's Holiday Parade Grand Marshal... Monrovia resident Chuck Keen, who has dedicated his life to support our local veterans and military service personnel!

City Manager's Update

Many thanks to our Monrovia Old Town merchants who are sponsoring the parade and to our dedicated Community Services Division staff for their efforts in coordinating what will surely be a fantastic event!

HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING CONTEST

It's back!!! The very popular annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest, sponsored by the City of Monrovia, is right around the corner! Residents are encouraged to decorate their homes as we get ready for the Holiday Season! Applications for the Holiday Home Decorating Contest are now available, and can be obtained at the Monrovia Community Center (119 West Palm Avenue) or on the City's website at www.cityofmonrovia.org. The contest judging will take place on Monday, December 14, 2015, and award winners will be recognized during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at City Hall in Council Chambers.

The 12 categories that will be judged include:

- Best Still Display
- Best Outdoor Display
- Best Decorated Outdoor Tree
- Best Window Display
- Holiday Spirit Award
- Most Effective Use of Lighting a house
- Toyland Award
- Children's Choice Award
- Best Neighborhood Effort
- Snowman Award
- Judges Award
- Tim McKeehan "Best of Season" Award

For additional information, please contact the Department of Public Services at (626) 256-8246. We can't wait to see the decorations this year!

THE TAYLOR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER WILL PRESENT "HAIRSPRAY" FOR FOUR PERFORMANCES ONLY BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 4, 2015

From December 4 – 6, 2015, the Taylor Performing Arts Center will be presenting the Tony Award winning musical, Hairspray. There will only be four performances of the hit Broadway musical, which stars Monrovia resident (and Bradoaks Elementary School parent) Mitch Riley, who will play the lead role of Edna Turnblad.

A flyer highlighting the production has been included as an attachment to this email for your reference. Additional information, including ticket purchases, can be found online at: <http://www.lktaylorperformingarts.com/>

COMMUNITY FEUD LITERACY FUNDRAISER BY THE MONROVIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION A SUCCESS

The Monrovia Public Library Foundation coordinated a terrific fundraiser for literacy on Sunday, November 8, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Monrovia Public Library. The 2015 *Team Up! Dream Up! Annual Literacy Fundraiser* rose over \$32,000! A host of volunteers, sponsors, community members, and City representatives turned out to support the event, and in addition to the game show fun, the Library's Teen Advisory Board members and volunteer tutors shared the Library's literacy programs impacts on readers of all ages. It truly was a successful community event!

City Manager's Update

YOUTH SPORTS AWARDS CEREMONY RECOGNIZES ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR SCHOLAR ATHLETES, BASKETBALL & CHEER PROGRAM REGISTRATION BEGINS TODAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

The City of Monrovia's Youth Sports Awards Ceremony took place on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at the Monrovia Community Center. The ceremony acknowledged league winners, runner-ups, participants, scholar athletes, Rookies of the Year, Most Valuable Participants, Coaches of the Year, and Sportsmanship winners. The Key Note Speaker at the Youth Sports Awards Ceremony was Mr. Greg Bolinger, Director of Kare Youth League, who spoke about teamwork, sportsmanship, and character building.

After all of the dust settled, the final standings for the flag football season were as follows:

Football	
1 st Place	Bradoaks
2 nd Place	Monroe
3 rd Place	Boys and Girls Club
4 th Place	Mayflower
5 th Place	Plymouth
6 th Place	Wild Rose
Sportsmanship	Plymouth
Cheer	
1 st Place	Mayflower
2 nd Place	Bradoaks
3 rd Place	Plymouth
4 th Place	Monroe
5 th Place	Wild Rose
6 th Place	Boys and Girls Club
Sportsmanship	Mayflower

Up next for the youth sports program is Basketball and Cheerleading. Registration is now available online at www.cityofmonrovia.org. For more information on the Youth Sports program please contact the Public Services Department at (626) 256.8246.

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION IN LIBRARY PARK

The City of Monrovia's Annual Veterans Day celebration was held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. in Library Park. The event honored all of our local men and women who have served our country in the armed forces. The event featured a discussion Captain Ammon Van Orden of the United States Army, and was incredibly well coordinated by the Allied Veterans Council of the Upper San Gabriel Valley.

POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

The most recent Police Department semi-weekly neighborhood watch report for the period November 9 – 11, 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 395 service events, resulting in 59 total investigations.

City Manager's Update

<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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