

City Manager's Update

Tuesday, November 3, 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

The secret to my success is that I bit off more than I could chew and chewed as fast as I could.
-Paul Hogan (a.k.a., Crocodile Dundee)

4TH DIMENSION / COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT UPDATE

At our City Council meeting tonight (November 3, 2015), the City Council will consider approval of an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) with Dick Hale of the Hale Corporation (Hale) regarding a potential project that involves both the 4th Dimension facility on Myrtle Avenue and our current Community Center facility on Palm Avenue. In advance of the deliberation with the City Council, I wanted to provide some additional information regarding the overall context of the proposal.

Currently, Hale has the 4th Dimension facility in escrow. For those of you that have been inside the 4th Dimension facility, you know that it is a large two-story structure that houses over 27,000+ square feet of space. For all practical purposes, the building is too large to fill with traditional restaurant / retail uses, as we typically would want to see on Myrtle Avenue.

Simultaneous to that challenge, the City's current Community Center is in need of significant maintenance and repairs, and based on the latest assessment conducted by our team, repair costs are estimated to be around \$550,000. At this point, we have not yet identified a funding source to address the deferred maintenance at the Community Center.

Given the dual challenges faced at the 4th Dimension facility and at our current Community Center, the City has been in discussions with Hale to see if it might be possible to solve the problems that exist at both sites through a creative partnership involving the following components:

- The street facing portion of the 4th Dimension facility (totaling around an estimated +/- 5,000 square feet) would be repurposed and subdivided into restaurant / retail spaces.
- The remaining +/- 22,000 square feet of the 4th Dimension building would be subdivided and rebuilt into a brand new Community Center.

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- The City would purchase the new subdivided Community Center at the 4th Dimension facility from Hale.
- The funding to acquire the new Community Center at the 4th Dimension facility from Hale would come from selling to Hale our current Community Center property.
- The current Community Center property would then be transitioned into a residential housing site, which would be built out by Hale.

There are certainly advantages to this overall deal framework, which include the following:

- The development of a brand new Community Center which, based on preliminary estimates, could be acquired without costing the City any money.
 - The newly proposed Community Center at the 4th Dimension facility would be larger than our current Community Center and could be built with additional new amenities for the community.
- The development of additional housing in Old Town, which is a key component of our current economic development strategy.
- The repurposing of the 4th Dimension facility into a revitalized business location.

There are, of course, several challenges to this proposal that must be addressed, chief among them the issue of parking. However, our preliminary assessment seems to indicate that it could be possible to sufficiently mitigate the identified problems.

In order to provide both the City and Hale with the time and assurances needed to properly assess and analyze all elements of this overall proposal, staff will be recommending that the City Council approve an ENA with Hale at our meeting on November 3, 2015. The proposed ENA will provide a period of time through January 22, 2016, to further assess the project and determine whether or not a deal makes sense. Of particular note, the proposed ENA will also require that the Hale Corporation pay for a study to determine the potential parking / pedestrian impacts associated with overall project.

There are obviously multiple moving parts regarding this project, and in the coming weeks and months, the City plans on hosting a variety of outreach meetings with all impacted parties, including the senior groups that currently utilize the Community Center, the Old Town Merchants, the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board, the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning Commission, the residents that live near the proposed project locations, and the general public.

NEW SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON REPRESENTATIVE

Just a quick note to let everyone know that Monrovia was recently assigned a new Southern California Edison (SCE) Government Affairs Representative. As part of a larger restructuring of the SCE Governmental Affairs operation, the City's newly assigned Government Affairs Representatives will be responsible for managing a larger portfolio of cities than in the past, but will also have greater support in dealing with issues proactively. Our new SCE Government Affairs Representative is:

Salvadore Ramirez
626-320-9845
salvador.ramirez@sce.com

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Based on discussions that staff has had with Mr. Ramirez, he is tentatively scheduled to attend one of our December City Council meetings to introduce himself and the initiatives that SCE has planned here in the City of Monrovia.

NEW BANNER POLES ON MYRTLE AVENUE

Last week, City contractors began working on Myrtle Avenue just south of Foothill Boulevard to install new banner poles at the northern entrance of Old Town. During the windstorms of 2011, the banner poles were damaged and since then, we have been unable to locate banners at the location. The work that was completed last week by our contractors involved pouring a new concrete footing that will require a few weeks to cure. Moving forward, the new banner poles should be ready for use by November 18, 2015.

Once the new banner poles are installed, the first display that will be put in place is holiday garland to celebrate the holiday season in Old Town! And after the holiday festivities, the new banner poles will be open and available for community groups to promote upcoming events throughout town.

PARTIAL CLOSURE OF MYRTLE AVENUE SET FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015, TO INSTALL A NEW AIR CONDITIONING UNIT AT 407 SOUTH MYRTLE AVENUE

The City issued an encroachment permit to allow the property owner at 407 South Myrtle Avenue to shut down the northbound traffic lane on Myrtle Avenue for a few hours this morning, Tuesday, November 3, 2015, to install a new air conditioning unit. The existing air conditioning units on the building are in need of replacement and there is not enough room in the alley behind the building to maneuver the crane needed to complete the work. Based on the plans submitted to the City, construction is scheduled to begin at 6:00 a.m., and the road closure is estimated to last around 2.5 hours.

SANTA FE CROSSING GUARD SOLUTION BEING DEVELOPED WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Staff had additional discussions last week with representatives from the Monrovia Unified School District regarding the crossing guard situation at Santa Fe Middle School. We are making progress towards finding a permanent solution to locating a crossing guard at Santa Fe Middle School, even after the new traffic signal at Duarte Road / Peck Avenue goes live. We will be sure to keep everyone apprised of any progress made moving forward regarding this matter.

SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY WILL CULMINATE WITH A GRADUATION CEREMONY TONIGHT, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015

This fall, the Neighborhood Services Division of our Community Development Department hosted the City's 8th Annual Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Adult Leadership Academy. During the course of the seven week program, each MAP Leadership Academy participant devoted several hours every week to seminars and workshops that were designed to give each participant a better understanding of Monrovia and how our local government actually works. Ultimately, the MAP Leadership Academy provides participants with a foundation of knowledge to more effectively engage in the community.

We are happy to report that based on the successful completion of this year's MAP Leadership Academy, the City will be welcoming 14 more members to the MAP Family! To celebrate the accomplishments of the 14 individuals who completed the program, we will be hosting a graduation ceremony tonight, Tuesday, November 3, 2015, to introduce our new leaders to the City Council and the community!

Moving forward, after completing the MAP Leadership Academy, each graduate becomes part of an ever-growing network of community leaders. We call these graduates our MAP Neighborhood Leaders and they are invited to participate in our

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quarterly MAP training sessions, are eligible for assistance with neighborhood meetings & events and are notified of leadership and volunteer opportunities that become available in the community. These MAP Leadership Academy graduates really become part of a team that serves to continue to build up our great community!

Many thanks to Alfredo Enriquez and Ariel Tolefree-Williams for their efforts in coordinating the overall MAP Leadership Academy!

COME OUT AND WATCH THE MONROVIA POLICE DEPARTMENT VS. THE MONROVIA FIRE DEPARTMENT... IN A FRIENDLY WINNER TAKE ALL VOLLEYBALL FUNDRAISER MATCH ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015!

Have you ever wondered who might win if we matched up the police department against the fire department? Well... on Thursday, November 5, 2015, you won't have to wonder anymore, as our very own Police Department and Fire Department square off in a volleyball fundraiser match to raise money for the Monrovia High School Girls' Volleyball Team! The event will take place at the Monrovia High School Event Center, with doors opening at 5:40 p.m. Tickets will cost \$5.00 at the door.

After the "friendly" volleyball match, for those who are hungry, an international food tasting event will be held, with tickets costing \$15.00 at the door for entrance.

25TH ANNUAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY EVENT A SUCCESS



On October 24, 2015, the City celebrated the 25th Annual Make a Difference Day (MADD) event, which brings together hundreds of volunteers to provide services throughout the community. MADD is hosted by the Volunteer Center of the San Gabriel Valley, and their leadership and support was the key to what can only be described as a wildly successful community event!

The City, along with volunteers from the California Conservation Corp (CCC), spent the day planting nearly eighty (80) trees throughout the City. The trees, which were acquired through a grant provided by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, were installed to replace the trees that were damaged or destroyed by the windstorm in 2011. Since new trees require frequent maintenance until their root system is established, the CCC will continue to monitor and maintain the trees in the months to come.

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Many thanks to everyone who participated in the MADD event... the entire community is so appreciative of your willingness to make a difference here in Monrovia!

MAP TEAM MAKES A DIFFERENCE... ON MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!



Another quick note regarding the 25th Annual Make a Difference Day (MADD) event that was held on October 24, 2015. Our current Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Leadership Team not only participated in the MADD program, but they truly did make a difference!

Each year, the MAP Leadership Team always partners with the Volunteer Center of the San Gabriel Valley to work on a special project. This year, the MAP Leadership Team was lucky enough to work on two

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neighboring properties on Fig Avenue. One of the properties belonged to former Monrovia Mayor Bob Bartlett, and the other home belongs to MAP Leader Betty Thomas.

MAP partnered closely with our Public Works Division in the week leading up to Make a Difference Day to properly clear the Bartlett property, which included the removal of trees, the trimming of hedges, and the clearing of weeds. Then, on Make a Difference Day, our MAP Leaders and other volunteers came together to mulch the yard and the planters at the home. In addition, at Ms. Thomas' property, volunteers worked hard to pull up planters full of ivy that were first planted in 1967! In total, eleven bags of weeds and trash were removed, much to Ms. Thomas' delight! As the attached before and after pictures illustrate, the MAP Leaders did a terrific job making a difference... on Make a Difference Day!

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.

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!

MONROVIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION SET TO HOST "COMMUNITY FEUD" FUNDRAISER ON NOVEMBER 8, 2015

The Monrovia Public Library Foundation (MPLF) is getting ready to host their annual fundraiser, "Team Up! Dream Up! for Literacy!" On Sunday, November 8, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., the MPLF will be hosting the game-show themed event called, Community Feud! Based on the game show, "Family Feud," the event will allow teams to compete in trying to figure out the top answers to questions posed to fellow Monrovians.

For those that would like to participate, all you have to do is assemble a team of co-workers, friends or family members. Teams can consist of up to 10 members. Alternatively, those that prefer to watch the fun can reserve their seats and/or become a sponsor of the event.

Visit the Library Circulation Desk or the MPLF website (<http://www.monrovalibraryfoundation.org/tickets-sponsorship/>) for additional information or to sign-up to participate. Survey says... it's going to be a ton of fun!

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

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the Holiday Home Decorating Contest will be available beginning Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 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!

CANYON PARK GETS A VISIT FROM AN OLD FRIEND

Recently, former Parks Supervisor George Hills visited Canyon Park. Mr. Hills was the guest speaker at our monthly Canyon Park Volunteer Meeting, and he spoke about times in the park before asphalt roads and thousands of weekend visitors. His true love of nature was shared as he told story after story of his challenges and triumphs. It was a privilege to hear Mr. Hills speak, passing on stories of Canyon Park for future generations to come.

COOKBOOK BUYERS' CLUB

Have you ever wondered how the Monrovia Public Library selects cookbooks for display at the Library? Well, by participating in the Monrovia Library Cookbook Buyers' Club, you have the chance to make the decision! This month's cookbook option is, "Straight Up Tasty," by Adam Richman, and we need your help to decide whether or not we should purchase the book!

To participate, all you have to do is join the Monrovia Public Library Cookbook Buyers' Club and share your comments on the featured cookbooks. You can pick-up a Participant Packet online at http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/library/page/1651/richman_cookbook_packet.pdf or at the Library's Customer Service Desk. The Participant Packet includes five recipes, and anyone who wants to get involved can submit comments regarding the recipes either at the library, or by posting comments online on our Facebook (Monrovia Public Library), Twitter (@mplgr8events), or via Instagram (#mplcooks). All comments must be made by November 30, 2015, and everyone who participates will have the chance to win a proof copy of the actual cookbook!

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MYSTERY NIGHT DINNER SPONSORED BY THE TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

The Teen Advisory Board planned and facilitated Mystery Night at the Monrovia Public Library on Friday, October 23, 2015. Teens in grades 6 through 12 were invited to attend a Victorian London themed dinner party. During the party, a royal lady was murdered, and luckily her twin was able to help solve the mystery. Dinner guests found clues throughout the Library and completed challenges such as breaking balloons and playing dodgeball for extra points. By the end of the night, it was discovered that the royal lady was killed off by the hungry journalist looking for a good story. Twenty-one teens participated in this spooky mystery, and it was a spectacularly fun event.

LIBRARIES TRANSFORM CAMPAIGN

Last week, the American Library Association kicked off a public awareness campaign called, "Libraries Transform," in support of library operations. The campaign is meant to illustrate that libraries are not obsolete, nor simply nice to have, but rather, are essential because...

As part of the campaign, the American Library Association and the Monrovia Public Library are looking for your stories as to why the library is essential. Is it... **because**, libraries provide internet access to the more than a quarter of U.S. households that don't have a computer with an internet connection... **because** students can't afford scholarly journals on a ramen noodle budget... or **because** employers want candidates who know the difference between a web search and research?

The Monrovia Public Library invites everyone to share their "**because**" story of how a library has transformed their lives! Feel free to share on Facebook @monroviapubliclibrary, on Twitter @mplgr8events and on Instagram #librariestransform #monroviapubliclibrary.

YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM – SEMI-FINAL ROUND PLAYOFFS

The City of Monrovia Youth Sports Program had its semi-final round of football playoffs on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. The first game of the day featured the #4 seeded Bradoaks Bobcats versus the #2 seeded Mayflower Mariners. Bradoaks played a great offensive and defensive game to beat Mayflower by a score of 26 – 6.

The second playoff game was played between the #6 seeded Plymouth Dragons and the #1 seeded Monroe Lions. Monroe scored early and often, never looking back and defeating Plymouth by a score of 27 – 0. Also of importance, all cheer teams performed at halftime of each game in support of their schools.

Moving forward, the Monroe Lions and the Bradoaks Bobcats will face off in the championship game on Wednesday, November 4, 2015. The final cheerleading competition will also be held on November 4, 2015 and all winners will be announced at the Youth Sports Awards Ceremony, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday, November 12, 2015.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER HOLDEN SPONSORING THE UNSUNG HERO PROGRAM

Last week, Assembly Member Holden issued a notice that in celebration of Black History Month, which will take place in February 2016, he will be honoring an Unsung Hero from the Civil Rights Era, whose service and work have made a positive impact in the 41st Assembly District. If you know of someone who lives or works within the boundaries of the 41st Assembly District, you can nominate the individual to be recognized and honored in Sacramento in the California State Assembly Chambers. The nomination deadline is December 11, 2015, and the attached flyer provides additional information regarding the overall initiative.

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Invites Nominations for
UNsung HERO
2016



In celebration of Black History Month in February 2016, Assemblymember Chris Holden, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus, will be honoring an Unsung Hero from the Civil Rights Era, whose service & work have made a positive impact in the 41st Assembly District

NOMINATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 11, 2015

- The ceremony will be held on February 8, 2016 in Sacramento and the selected individual will be recognized by Assemblymember Holden at the California Assembly Chamber.
- Open to all individuals who live or work in the 41st Assembly District: La Verne, Monrovia, South Pasadena, Upland, Claremont, Pasadena, Altadena, Rancho Cucamonga, Sierra Madre, or San Dimas.
- Submit completed nomination form by deadline.
- No self-nominations.
- For more info contact Gerald Phillips at Gerald.Phillips@asm.ca.gov or call 626-851-1917
- Applications available on line at www.asmdc.org/holden

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 the budget / debt deal, the new House Speaker, the Export / Import Bank, and the Transportation Authorization Bill.

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

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POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

The most recent Police Department semi-weekly neighborhood watch report for the period October 26 – 28, 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 398 service events, resulting in 77 total investigations.

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

That's it for this update, I do hope you have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best regards,
Oliver

OLIVER CHI
City Manager

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