

City Manager's Update

Hello everyone!

I hope you all enjoyed a tremendous weekend and have had a great start to the week!

In an effort to provide an update of important news and notes from this past week, the following update 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 report – I can be reached via email at ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us!

Best regards,
Oliver

Drought Tolerant Landscaping Contest is One of Several Ideas Being Developed by Our Water Conservation Team

Based on the Governor's recent order mandating water use restrictions, staff has put together an internal team led by Tina Cherry, our Community Services Director. The group is currently putting together a plan to help articulate ways that Monrovia residents can implement additional water conservation efforts. Some of the ideas that have been developed include the following:

- Water Efficient Landscaping Contest
- Xeriscape Demonstration Gardens
- Access to "Cash for Grass" Programs
- Rain Barrel Rebate Programs
- Soil Moisture Sensor Rebate Programs
- Water Conservation Marketing Plan

Staff will be formalizing these concepts into an overall plan for review during the next few weeks. In the meantime, I also wanted to emphasize what a great job Monrovia residents are doing in conserving water here in our community. In California, the per capita water usage per day is 196 gallons. In Monrovia, for all of calendar year 2014, we utilized 174.18 gallons per capita per day, which is 12.5% less than the Statewide average.

Furthermore, based on our actual water usage rates here in Monrovia since we instituted our Phase 1 water conservation measures back in September 2014, if current trends hold for remainder of calendar year 2015, we are projecting a per capita usage rate of 152.24 gallons of water use per day. That would mean that Monrovia residents use 28.7% less water per capita per day than the average Californian!

Historic Preservation / Neighborhood Compatibility Survey Update

During the past several weeks, staff has been engaged in executing our Historic Preservation / Neighborhood Compatibility outreach program. To date, we have had meetings with individual members of the Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission, held a discussion with real estate agents / developers / brokers, and met with our MAP Leaders. We are currently finalizing our plans for an upcoming discussion next week with MOHPG (which is set to take place on April 16, 2015), and in the coming weeks, we will have additional outreach meetings at both the 6th Annual MAP Neighborhood Conference, as well as general outreach meetings with the public.

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In the midst of gathering feedback via meetings, we have also continued to receive an outstanding response to the online survey that has been published regarding this issue. To date, over 375 individuals have completed the survey, which is linked on our City website and can be accessed directly at the following address:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/monrovianeighborhoods>

Many thanks to our outstanding Community Development Team for their efforts in putting this overall program together!

Gold Line Construction Authority Set to Hold a Grand Opening Ceremony for the Maintenance and Operations Yard on Saturday, May 23, 2015

Last week, the City was notified by Metro Gold Line Construction Authority that they plan on holding a grand opening ceremony for the maintenance and operations yard on Saturday, May 23, 2015. The overall dedication event is tentatively scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and last through 1 p.m. on May 23, 2015, and we will be sure to pass along additional information regarding the event as they become available.

Fire Alarm Testing

This week, our Public Works team will be testing and certifying all fire detection & alarm systems in every City facility as part of our annual testing process. The tests have been scheduled to minimize disruption to work schedules and to provide minimal impacts for any members of the public who may be patronizing a City facility. With those thoughts in mind, the alarm testing schedule that has been developed is as follows:

- Monday, April 13, 2015 – Testing Starts at 8 a.m.
 - Corporate Yard
 - Fire Station 101
 - Fire Station 102
 - Police Station
 - Historic Museum

- Tuesday, April 14, 2015 – Testing Starts at 5 a.m.
 - City Hall & City Hall Annex
 - Community Center
 - Library (only if previous two facilities are done by 8:30 a.m.)
 - Canyon Park (all buildings)

- Wednesday, April 15, 2015 – Testing Starts at 8 a.m.
 - Youth Center/KGEM
 - Boys & Girls Club
 - Any buildings not completed Monday or Tuesday

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Tree Removal at City Hall Completed

If you've driven by City Hall on Lemon Avenue during the past few days, you may have noticed that the sycamore tree located on the north side of the street just west of Ivy Avenue has been removed. That particular tree had been causing major infrastructure damage in the area, including impacts to the sidewalk / curb, electrical conduits, light poles, and drainage in the City Hall parking lot. Now that the tree has been removed, staff is coordinating sidewalk, curb face, drainage, and electrical repairs, all of which will be complete within the next few weeks.

Water Service Interruption at Santa Fe Middle School This Past Thursday, April 9, 2015 Was Resolved

Last Thursday, April 9, 2015, our Public Works Utility Team came in early at around 3:00 a.m. to finish work on water lines on Duarte Avenue near Station Square. As the work was being done, an unmarked and unknown water line was ruptured, which caused a water service interruption for Santa Fe Middle School. Working quickly and with great dedication and smarts, our team was able to restore water to a portion of the school very quickly, and ultimately, all of the final work and repairs were completed by the end of the day.

Susan Hirsch Selected as One of Congress Woman Judy Chu's Women of Distinction

This week, the City was notified that Susan Hirsch has been chosen as one of Congress Woman Judy Chu's Women of Distinction for 2015. Congress Woman Chu has coordinated a ceremony that will recognize Ms. Hirsch and 13 other ladies who were selected by Congress Woman Chu to receive the award within the 27th Congressional District. The Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., with official program starting promptly at 11:00 a.m. The event will be held at the San Marino Center, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino, CA 91108. Light refreshments will be served in the morning and a boxed lunch will be served after the event.

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Requests That Congress Woman Chu Coordinates a Meeting with the National Monument Administrator

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) this past week, at the request of the SGVCOG Governing Board, wrote a letter to Congress Woman Chu asking for a meeting between the Foothill cities and the National Forest Service Administrator of the National Monument. According to the Interim Executive Director of the SGVCOG, if the meeting is accepted, the next step would be to get each of the 12 cities and the county to either name their delegate, or simply request the COG Representative for each city attend the meeting with Congress Woman Chu.

710 North Extension Public Hearings Set by Metro

Metro has been working during the past week to publicize public hearings that they have coordinated to discuss options related to the extension of the 710 North Freeway. Upcoming public hearings that have been scheduled include the following:

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- Tuesday, April 14, 2015 – 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. – Map Viewing
 - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. – Public Hearing
 - Pasadena Convention Center Ballroom
 - 300 East Green Street, Pasadena, 91101

- Wednesday, May 6, 2015 – 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. – Map Viewing
 - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. – Public Hearing
 - La Canada High School Auditorium – Building B
 - 4463 Oak Grove drive, La Canada, 91011

- Thursday, May 7, 2015 – 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. – Map Viewing
 - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. – Public Hearing
 - Los Angeles Christian Presbyterian Church, Multi-Purpose Room
 - 2241 N. Eastern Avenue, Los Angeles, 90032

Metro will be reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Report related to the 710 North Freeway Extension and the five alternatives to address traffic congestion in and beyond the West San Gabriel Valley and East / Northeast Los Angeles. Additional information regarding this overall regional project can be accessed by visiting the following website: www.metro.net/sr710study.

Arbor Day Event Set for April 23, 2015 at 4 p.m. at Rotary Park

The City is coordinating an Arbor Day event to take place on April 23, 2015, at 4 p.m. at Rotary Park. Please see flyer for more details.

That's it for this update, I hope you have a tremendous remainder of the week!

Best regards,
Oliver

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City Manager

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