

City Manager's Update

April 29, 2015

Hello everyone!

Happy Wednesday, I hope that this email finds you doing great! For your reference, please enjoy the following collection of City news and notes from the past week. And also, please feel free to let me know if you have any questions regarding the update items – I can be reached via email at ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us.

Have an amazing rest of the week!

Best regards,
Oliver

PROPOSED RENAMING OF COMMUNITY SERVICES / PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

As you may recall, when the operations of the Community Services Department and Public Works Department were merged, a small group of staff from each division of the combined operations began meeting to gather ideas and develop concepts for naming the newly constituted department.

After much discussion with colleagues in each division, the committee has developed the following department name recommendation – ***Department of Public Services***. The committee felt that since all divisions of the new department work with the public and serve the public, the proposed name accurately reflected the purpose every work unit housed in the newly comprised operation. If a water main breaks... or if someone is looking for a recreation class... or if someone has a concern with a sidewalk... or if a resident needs help with literacy services... or if a tree is about to fall down... or if someone wants to rent a space at the park... it is believed Public Services will be intuitive enough for a person to know to look to this department for that service need.

WATER CONSERVATION THINK TANK TEAM WORKING ON A RESPONSE TO THE STATE'S CONSERVATION ORDER

Representative from the Public Services Department, the City Manager's Office, and the Administrative Services Department met this past week to further develop Monrovia's plan to respond to the State's mandatory water use restriction order. As you may recall, based on the preliminary proposed regulatory framework developed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Monrovia is required to reduce our water consumption by 28% below 2013 usage levels. This compilation of talented City staff, dubbed the ***Water Conservation Think Tank***, divided the work into four separate subcommittees, including Education / Outreach, Data / Analysis, Changing Operations, and Rates / Enforcement. We are now looking at how all of these issues will impact our various customer categories (Residential, Commercial, Industrial, and Municipal), and the committee is now meeting weekly to develop a comprehensive plan that will be shared with the City Council on May 19, 2015. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

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TEMPORARY DRIVE-WAY DEBRIS WALL INSTALLATION

This past week, Charlie's Fence Company began the installation of 20 temporary drive-way debris walls along Highland Place. The system was designed to allow residents to place the walls during a heavy rain event to prevent mud and debris from entering their private property. This mitigation measure was approved by City Council in response to the excessive mud and debris clean up back in December 2014, and we will be certain to keep everyone apprised of our progress as the project moves forward.

TREE TRIMMING IN OLD TOWN

The regular trimming of the trees in Old Town is set to take place on Saturday, May 2, 2015. The date has been coordinated with the Old Town merchants, and the large sycamore tree that is blocking the clock tower at 316 South Myrtle Avenue will be removed at this time. A smaller, slow growing multi-trunk lavender crape myrtle tree will be planted in its place. They are slow growing, low maintenance, and will add some color to that area during the late spring through the summer.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY / HISTORIC PRESERVATION UPDATE

As you may be aware, the City has been coordinating an overall neighborhood compatibility and historic preservation outreach program in advance of our work to update existing City codes and regulations. To date, we have published a survey regarding the issues at hand and have had directed focus group meetings with real estate / development representatives, MAP leaders, and with MOHPG. In addition, our crack Planning Team has met with of the Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission to solicit their feedback regarding the issues at hand.

Moving forward, we are coordinating details related to hosting a general public outreach meeting that will take place during either the second or third week of May 2015. At the conclusion of that meeting, we are planning to hold a study session with the City Council to present our findings in June / July 2015. Following that overview meeting, staff is planning to host a joint meeting between the City Council, Planning Commission, and Historic Preservation Commission in July / August 2015 to review our next steps in the process.

We have obtained terrific feedback from the community regarding the complex issues related to neighborhood compatibility and historic preservation, and our outstanding team in the Community Development Department has handled all of the different issues related to this topic with aplomb! Many thanks to all involved in this process!

CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT ASSISTING MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING MAYFLOWER ELEMENTARY

During the past few weeks, the Monrovia Unified School District (MUSD) has been addressing parental concerns regarding safety at Mayflower Elementary School. Working in partnership and at the request of

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MUSD, City representatives from the Police Department have been assessing the school site, and we participated in a school district organized Mayflower Elementary School Safety Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. We will continue to do all that we can to assist MUSD with this process, and we will be sure to keep you informed of any developments that occur with this initiative.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION BOARD TO CONSIDER MONROVIA LEGACY PROJECT PROPOSAL

This week, the Monrovia Library Foundation Board will be considering the Monrovia Legacy Project, which involves working with City Historian Steve Baker on developing the definitive "History of Monrovia." The overall project will involve archiving all of the historical documents and materials that Mr. Baker has accumulated over the years about Monrovia, digitizing all of those materials into an electronic format, documenting all of the findings in a series of books and video documentaries, and developing a plan to share the information that will be compiled. If the project is successful, there have also been initial discussions about establishing a home for the newly archived materials at the Library. We will be sure to keep the City Council informed about this project as it develops.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS AT PLYMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Staff met with Plymouth Elementary school officials on Friday, April 17, 2015 to discuss the possibility of bringing the After School Sports program to their campus. On Wednesday, April 22, 2015, staff visited Plymouth Elementary in the morning to pass out fliers and promote the program. Later that afternoon, staff was on-site to do more recruiting. Based on the response to date, we are happy to share that a modified program will be implemented immediately at the school, with practices starting this past Monday, April 27, 2015! Given that the sports programs have already started this year, Plymouth Elementary will not be competing in the games this season due to the late start. However, the school will be invited to attend the awards ceremony on May 28, 2015, where they will be introduced as our newest addition to the program, and next year, the After School Sports league will need to take into consideration the Plymouth Elementary Dragons! Many thanks to our Public Services Department staff and representatives from the Monrovia Unified School District for collaborating to bring this program to fruition for our kids at Plymouth Elementary!

FOOTHILL GOLD LINE TRAIN TESTING SCHEDULES TO BE MODIFIED IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS TRAFFIC CONGESTION ISSUES

Last week, after the Gold Line moved their train testing schedules to a swing shift, several residents complained about the traffic impacts in Monrovia. Mayor Pro Tem Shevlin passed those concerns along to representatives from the Gold Line Construction Authority, who have responded by implementing several new schedule and mitigation measures that are designed to alleviate testing processes during rush hour traffic. While there will still be some traffic impacts, the most time consuming tests will be coordinated to take place during the day, and not during rush hour, in an effort to minimize disruptions for travelers.

PARTNERSHIP BEING FORMED WITH MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT WORKABILITY PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS SPECIAL NEEDS

During the past few weeks, representatives from our Public Services Department have been coordinating with Evan Robb at the Monrovia Unified School District (MUSD) regarding the City's participation in their

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WorkAbility Program for special needs individuals. The WorkAbility Program is a nationally recognized school-to-work program that provides comprehensive pre-employment training, employment placement and follow-up for high school students in special education who are making the transition from school to work.

This great partnership opportunity was introduced to City staff via Council Member Blackburn, and the discussions that have ensued have been very productive, positive, and encouraging. Based on our work with MUSD to date, staff has proposed three separate work assignments for WorkAbility Program participants at the City. Those assignments include opportunities at the Monrovia Community Center, at Canyon Park, and as part of the Monrovia Sunshine Company. We have forwarded an overview of each of the work assignments to MUSD WorkAbility Program representatives, and we do anticipate being able to launch this program at the City in the near future. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this program!

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEDICAL RESPONSE CONSIDERED OUTSTANDING

During the past few years, the County of Los Angeles Emergency Medical Services Agency has been closely monitoring medical calls related to ST Elevated Myocardial Infarction (STEMI). This past week, our Fire Department had a STEMI call for service which demonstrated what an outstanding job our crews do in delivering vital life-saving services. A 54 year-old male with no history of cardiac problems began experiencing chest pains. Firefighter / Paramedic Phipps and Firefighter / Paramedic Parker responded to the call and recognized quickly that this was a STEMI case that required transporting the patient to a cardiac catheter lab as soon as possible. Our team was able to assess, treat, and transport the patient to the hospital within 20 minutes from the time that we were dispatched, and the patient's medical procedure was completed within 63 minutes of the time of dispatch.

This is significant due to the performance metric that has been developed by the County of Los Angeles Emergency Medical Services Agency. The early goal established by the County was to have the medical procedure for STEMI patients completed within 90 minutes of dispatch. In Monrovia, however, we are finding that we routinely beat that 90 minute threshold, as our data indicates that STEMI patients locally are routinely having their medical procedures completed within 70 minutes of dispatch. Another example of the great work being done on a routine basis by our Fire Department personnel.

MONROVIA DAY EVENTS

During the past several weeks, the City has been working with the various entities that are coordinating events related to Monrovia Days festivities scheduled for May 14-17, 2015. A flyer and banner that pulls together all of the activities being coordinated by Monrovia Old Town representatives, Centre Stage, and the Whistling Diva has been developed and we will be reviewing this information with all of the parties involved in the upcoming week. Moving forward, we are working hard to ensure that everything is coordinated as seamlessly as possible. We will be certain to keep everyone informed as to the progress being made.

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FOUNTAIN TO THE FALLS RUN/WALK – REGISTRATION FILLING UP FAST!

Registration for *5th Annual Fountain to the Falls* race began February 20, 2015, and to date, we have 192 participants registered! The overall event, which includes a fitness expo, is scheduled to open at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, 2015. The overall race, which is a 7 mile out-and-back race, from the Library Park Fountain to the Canyon Park Waterfall, has been developed in cooperation with the Santa Anita Family YMCA. Medals will be awarded to the best time for male and female participants who finish in first place, second place, and third place in each of the age categories. Please note, the race is limited to 325 participants and advance registration is required as no race day registration will be accepted. The \$35 entry fee includes a participation ribbon and a t-shirt and registration is accepted on-line at www.cityofmonrovia.org. Interested participants can register through May 6, 2015, or until we hit the maximum participant threshold of 325 people. For additional information, please contact the Department of Community Services at (626) 256-8246.

BUS BENCHES ON DUARTE AVENUE

Just a quick note to let you know the three bus benches along Duarte Avenue which had been removed as a part of the Station Square construction process have now been reinstalled and are available for use by our transit customers!

SGV ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP RELEASES 2015 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY ECONOMIC FORECAST AND REGIONAL OVERVIEW REPORT

This week, the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership released their 2015 Economic Forecast and Regional Overview Report that was prepared by the Kyser Center for Economic Research. Here are a few interesting highlights from the report:

- The San Gabriel Valley added over 11,000 jobs in 2014
- Leisure & Hospitality, Health Services and Business and Professional Services added most of the new jobs
- In 2014, 1,898 permits were issued for new housing units in the SGV; outpacing the pre-recession numbers
- Industrial vacancy rates dropped steadily in 2014 ending the year at 2.6 percent - the lowest in the Southern California region
- Total taxable sales in the SGV incorporated cities reached \$21.2 billion and is expected to climb to its pre-recession peak by 2016

MONROVIA CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY

On Wednesday, April 23, 2015, the City hosted an Arbor Day Event at Rotary Park. Approximately 40 community members joined the Youth Commission and the Teen Advisory Board in celebrating the City's 28th year as designation of being a Tree City USA. Three trees were planted in memory of distinguished Rotarians, including two Ginkgo Trees and one Oak Tree. In addition a new picnic table will be installed at Rotary Park in the coming weeks.

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LAW DAY @ YOUR LIBRARY

The Library is hosting a law workshop on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the Library Community Room. Representatives from local law firms will assist the public with their questions about immigration, employment, personal injury, real estate planning and criminal law. For questions, please call the Library at (626) 256-8274 and ask for the Adult Reference Desk.

BUTTERFLY PROJECT EXPANDS TO THE LIBRARY

The Library is the proud parent of a butterfly garden habitat kit. Canyon Park and the Monrovia Schools Foundation have partnered to provide resources and tours for second grade students in support of California's science core curriculum, including the distribution of butterfly garden habitat kits. The Library's butterfly habitat is in the process of transforming from caterpillars to chrysalises. The butterfly life cycle habitat can be viewed in the Youth Services area behind the Reference Desk until the butterflies are released into the wild. For questions, please call the Library at (626) 256-8274 and ask for the Youth Reference Desk.

2015 MONROVIA OLDER AMERICAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Tom and Aynn Freeman received the 2015 Monrovia Older American of the Year Award during the Senior Spring Recognition Luncheon, held on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Community Center. Aynn and Tom are active members of MOROCKS, Monrovia Garden Club, Monrovia Historic Preservation Group, Gad-A-Bouts Senior Club and Monrovia Reads. For over 30 years, once a month, they have sponsored, decorated and cooked a luncheon for a group of individuals with Multiple Sclerosis. Aynn also spends time each week calling Bingo at the Gables Senior Living Complex and has brought many interesting garden and storytelling sessions to local schools and senior groups. Aynn and Tom Freeman truly represent our community, as well as the 2015 Older Americans of the Year. The Monrovia City Council will proclaim May as Older American Month, at the Tuesday, May 19, 2015 City Council meeting and will recognize Tom and Aynn for their volunteer contributions to the City of Monrovia. Congratulations to two great Monroviaans that represent our community so very well!

GOLD LINE CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY OPERATIONS CAMPUS GRAND OPENING CEREMONY SET FOR 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM ON SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2015

Just a reminder... the Gold Line Construction Authority will be hosting a dedication ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Maintenance and Operations Campus on May 23, 2015, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars – we're looking forward to seeing everyone at the event!

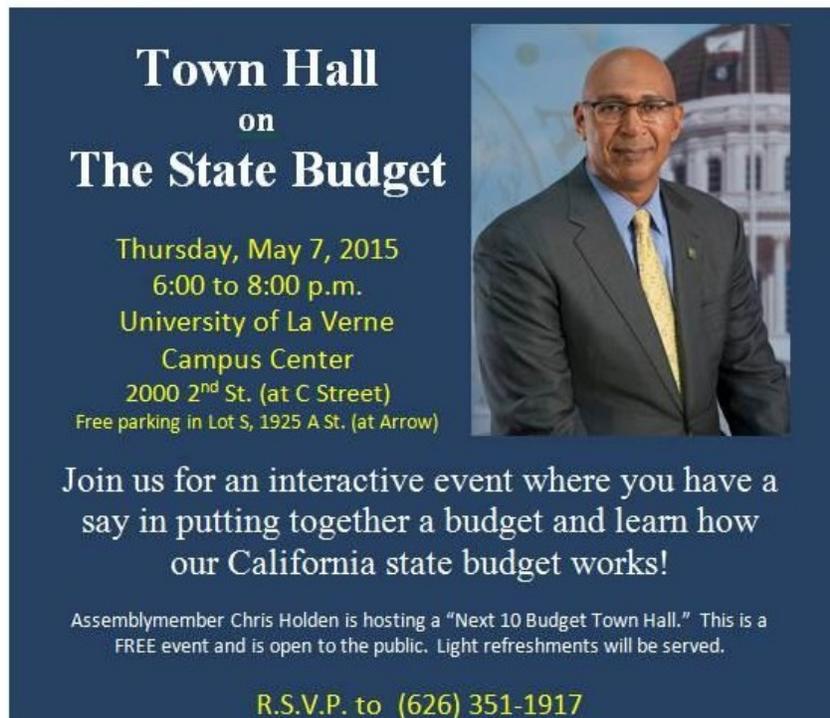
CONGRESS WOMAN GRACE NAPOLITANO SET TO HOST A CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST ON MAY 27, 2015

Congress Woman Grace Napolitano will be hosting a Congressional Prayer Breakfast event on May 27, 2015, at the Pacific Palms Hotel in the City of Industry. We will be sure to provide additional information regarding the event as details become available.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER CHRIS HOLDEN SET TO HOST A TOWN HALL MEETING ON THE STATE BUDGET – MAY 7, 2015 FROM 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

Assembly Member Holden notified the City this week that his office plans on hosting a town hall meeting on the State Budget on May 7, 2015 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the University of La Verne.



Town Hall
on
The State Budget

Thursday, May 7, 2015
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
University of La Verne
Campus Center
2000 2nd St. (at C Street)
Free parking in Lot S, 1925 A St. (at Arrow)



Join us for an interactive event where you have a say in putting together a budget and learn how our California state budget works!

Assemblymember Chris Holden is hosting a "Next 10 Budget Town Hall." This is a FREE event and is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

R.S.V.P. to (626) 351-1917

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

Best,
Oliver

OLIVER CHI
City Manager

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