

# City Manager's Update

*Tuesday, August 11, 2015*

Hello everyone!

I hope that this email finds you all doing well and enjoying a terrific week!

In an effort to provide an update of important news and notes from this past 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 report – I can be reached via email at [ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us)!

Please have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best,  
Oliver

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## **FRIDAY NIGHT FAMILY STREET FAIR OPERATOR**

Last week, after several hours of testimony and deliberation, the City Council prudently directed that staff continue working collaboratively with LA PartyWorks to make improvements to the management of the overall Friday Night Family Street Fair event during the next six weeks. Subsequent to the City Council meeting, staff has been assessing a variety of different options moving forward, and we have, in cooperation with representatives from LA PartyWorks, already started working together to develop improvements to the Friday Night Family Street Fair for all event stakeholders. It is anticipated that additional mechanisms and ideas will be ready for review in the near future.

## **WATER CONSERVATION OUTREACH EFFORTS ARE IN FULL SWING!**

Since the City adopted Monrovia's current Phase IV Water Regulations on July 21, 2015, staff has been out in the community sharing water conservation information with our residents. Stop by and visit our water conservation booth at the Friday Night Family Street Fair, or visit with City staff every Sunday at the Summer Concerts in the Park series!

In addition, the City's water conservation information on the web has been updated, and water saving tips and information on upcoming events can be found at the following on-line address:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/publicworks/page/monrovia-conserves-community-effort>

Some of the exciting water conservation presentations that the City has scheduled include the following:

- Tuesday, August 11, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in Monrovia's City Council Chambers at the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board (MOTAB) meeting
- Tuesday, August 25, 2015, at 12:00 p.m. at the Monrovia during the Monrovia Rotary meeting
- Saturday, August 29, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room at the Monrovia Area Partnership meeting

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Additionally, residents can request their own individual water use information to compare their current usage rates with their usage levels back in 2013 (which is the comparison timeframe mandated by the State of California). Many residents have commented that they were surprised at how much their efforts have made in our overall water use savings. If you would like to find out your water usage information, please do the following:

- If a customer would like to see how they are currently doing compared to their 2013 base year usage, they may email a request to [MyWaterUse@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:MyWaterUse@ci.monrovia.ca.us) or call the Water Conservation Hotline at **(626) 932-5573**.
  - Customers should provide the following information when requesting water usage data:
    - Name
    - Email address (preferred) or phone number
    - Customer address
    - Customer number and account number found at the top of your water bill
  - Once a request is received, staff will respond within 1-2 weeks with a water usage report and percent savings level.

Many thanks once again for all that our community is doing to lead the way in conserving water!

## **STATION SQUARE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE AND ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE**

During the past several weeks, the City's Station Square project has been progressing, with several new and highly visible components of the project currently being installed. The new "Monrovia" sign by the 210 Freeway, the bandshell and new landscaping are all combining to help revitalize the Station Square area.

As the work has continued, staff has been highly engaged in monitoring and managing the work being performed. In addition to coordinating the work of the contractors involved in the project, staff has also implemented a variety of different processes to ensure that the City's current design / construction management firm, IBI Group, stays within budgeted amounts. Those efforts have resulted in IBI Group scaling back some of the work being performed by their subcontractors during this past month, and simultaneously, the City recently executed a new agreement directly with Civiltex Engineering, Inc., to continue with construction management efforts related to the Station Square project.

This active management and monitoring has created an overall situation whereby we tentatively expect the Station Square Project to be completed within the next 8-12 weeks, and with the overall initiative to be completed under-budget. For the City to be in this current positive position has been a result in no small part of the work that our Public Services Department and our contract City Engineer have engaged in during the past several months.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSIONER KAREN BULLIS RESIGNS**

Last week, the City received notification from Karen Bullis that she will be resigning her seat on the Historic Preservation Commission due to a work relocation commitment. The City does appreciate all of the work that Commissioner Bullis has provided over the years. We are currently making plans to conduct a recruitment to fill the vacancy and will have additional details related to that effort available within the next two weeks.

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## **MONROVIA PUBLIC LIBRARY WINS 2015 READERS CHOICE AWARDS**

Each year, Beacon Media surveys their readers to pick San Gabriel Valley's best businesses, places and service providers. We are proud to announce that the Monrovia Public Library received the 2015 Readers' Choice Silver Award for "Family Favorite Library," while Library Park received the 2015 Readers' Choice Silver Award for "Family Favorite Park."

## **CONTRACTOR SIGN UP FOR INFORMAL BID PROCESS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

In May 2015, the City adopted updated and streamlined purchasing regulations for public works related projects pursuant to the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission Procedures. Under these new guidelines, the City is now able to utilize less formal bidding processes for public works contracts that are valued at less than \$175,000.

This last week, staff completed the development of a more streamlined on-line registration form for those contractors interested in participating in the informal bid process for City construction related work. That on-line form can be found on the City website at the following location:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/publicworks/webform/contractor-registration>

Great work by our Public Works Division team for getting the overall process established, and many thanks also to the IT Division for getting the online form developed!

## **NEW BOOK MURAL PUBLIC ART BEING COMMISSIONED FOR INSTALLATION AT THE LIBRARY**

Last week, the City Council approved the installation of a new public art piece in the Monrovia Public Library. The project, which involves the development of a "book mural" by noted local artist Mike Stilkey, will be placed in a vacant alcove adjacent to the youth area of the Library. The overall project was spearheaded by Annette Simpson from the Library and Diane Delmatoff from our Community Development Department, and was recommended for installation by the City's Art in Public Places Committee. We are excited to be able to commission such a neat project at the Library.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT A SUCCESS**

On Tuesday, August 4, 2015, the Monrovia Police Department hosted a very successful National Night Out event. National Night Out is a celebration of the Neighborhood Watch Program and programs are held across the country on the first Tuesday of August each year. For our event in Monrovia, 314 citizens came out to Library Park to share a meal with our Police Officers and Police Department staff from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the evening. It was a casual event, with Police Officers in their civilian attire spending the two hours in conversation with our citizens and answering any questions they had about the Monrovia Police Department or law enforcement in general.

Given all that has transpired of late throughout the country that has negatively affected the perspective and trust of law enforcement, our National Night Out event served as an opportunity for our residents to meet the outstanding men and women who have been tasked with serving the City of Monrovia. It was definitely a productive evening of conversation and sharing information.

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In addition to Police Department personnel, representatives from our City code enforcement, Public Services Department, and Fire Department also participated and shared information about City resources, including our award winning MAP program. Also of note, the Monrovia Police Officers' Association provided ice cream for everyone who attended.

Moving ahead, the City is committed to finding additional opportunities where our City personnel can engage with our community in positive ways to build trust in their Police Department.

## **TEEN ADVISORY BOARD PROGRAMS IN JULY**

During the month of July the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) hosted 5 programs for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders, including the following:

- July 7, 2015, TAB hosted a Sherlock Holmes Party. Twenty teens watched the first episode of the BBC television series while enjoying Earl Grey tea.
- July 9, 2015, TAB hosted a Disney movie night showing the Hercules animated movie to 33 teens.
- July 14, 2015, TAB presented the Bleach Pen Tee Shirt program. Teens became fashionistas and created designs on shirts using bleach pens and stencils.
- July 23, 2015, TAB hosted a Live Angry Birds event. Teens used boxes to engineer forts throughout the Library. Similar to the game, participants used balls, slingshots and their bodies to knock down forts and used the remains of their spoils to create the largest fort of all.
- July 30, 2015, TAB hosted an Underground Teen Café modeled after a coffeehouse open mic night. Participants showcased their talents playing the guitar, keyboard and flute while drinking coffee concoctions.

## **SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA WEEK 6**

The Summer Extravaganza Program just completed its sixth week. On Tuesday, August 4, 2015, all age groups visited the Monrovia Police Department for a tour of the facility. On Friday, August 7, 2015, the 11-16 year-old age group enjoyed their final trip to Canyon Park for a hike and educational tour. The eight week program offers active and passive games, arts and crafts, reading with the Monrovia Public Library, and educational and fun excursions. The End of Summer Celebration will be on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and will be coordinated in a carnival-like setting with several game booths, prizes, music, and food.

## **2015 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES**

The City of Monrovia continues its free Summer Concert Series this coming Sunday at 7:00 p.m. in Library Park, featuring mariachi music performed by the "Mariachi Divas". The concert is sponsored by Assemblymember Chris Holden and Carmen Martinez of Keller Williams Reality..

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Feel free to bring the entire family to the Rotary Club Bandshell in Library Park for an evening of free musical entertainment from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Don't forget your lawn chair or blanket, and then sit back, relax, and enjoy the variety of music each Sunday evening through September 6, 2015.

Looking forward, the schedule for the remainder of the summer includes the following:

- August 23 – Pickleback Shine - Today's Country Music
- August 30 – Yari More Latin Band - Latin / Salsa Music
- September 6 – The Basix -Top 40 / Disco Music

All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Rotary Bandshell at Library Park – looking forward to seeing everyone there! And if you have any questions, please contact the Public Services Department at (626) 256-8246.

## **GOLD LINE ANNOUNCES STATION DEDICATIONS**

During the next several weeks, the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority will be holding dedication ceremonies for each station along the Phase II route, per the following schedule:

- Duarte/City of Hope Station Dedication: Saturday, August 15, 2015 - 10:00 AM
- Arcadia Station Dedication: Saturday, August 22, 2015 - 10:00 AM
- Irwindale Station Dedication: Friday, August 28, 2015 – 5:00 PM
- **Monrovia Station Dedication: Saturday, September 12, 2015 – 10:00 AM**
- Azusa Downtown & APU/Citrus College Station Dedication: Saturday, September 19, 2015 – 10:00 AM

Please note – **Monrovia's Station Dedication** event is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015, at 10 a.m.

Also, as we move forward, the actual new Gold Line services are scheduled to begin operating in the Spring of 2016.

## **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 for your review, and focuses on FAA and surface transportation policy as well as the GOP primary debate from last week. To view this week's update please go to:

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

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## **POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT**

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

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

Best,  
Oliver

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**OLIVER CHI**  
City Manager

City of Monrovia  
415 South Ivy Avenue  
Monrovia, CA 91016  
Office: (626) 932-5501