

City Manager's Update

Thursday, August 27, 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!

Please have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best,

Oliver

MONROVIANS CONTINUING TO CONSERVE WATER DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 2015, REDUCING OVERALL USAGE BY 23.5%!

During this extended drought that we are all dealing with here in California, Monrovia residents have stepped up to the plate to do their part to conserve water. As you may recall, based on the water conservation goals that have been established by the State, the City is comparing our current monthly water usage rates with the same corresponding monthly period in 2013.

During the past several months, our community has continued to step-up to the challenge of using less water. In May 2015, Monrovia residents utilized 20.25% less water than when compared with May 2013. That trend continued in June 2015, when Monrovia residents utilized 34.5% less water when compared against June 2013.

We just recently were able to compile our July 2015 water usage numbers, and again, Monrovia residents have been doing their part. **In total, for the month of July 2015, our community used 23.5% less water than when compared with July 2013!**

For tips on how to use water wisely and upcoming water conservation events, please visit the City's website at:

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

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WATER CONSERVATION OUTREACH EFFORTS AT THE CITY REORGANIZED FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

This past week, as part of our water conservation efforts, we worked to redistribute responsibilities within our Park Maintenance operation after assigning a member of our team as our key Customer Service Outreach Coordinator. With this new structure, staff is now able to more quickly and efficiently follow-up each week with every water complaint / concern that is reported to the City, while also expanding our capacity to provide residents and businesses with customizable water conservation related tips and suggestions. Moving forward, our goal is to provide outstanding support in addressing water related complaints and issues, and the newly instituted reorganized operation has certainly enhanced our ability to respond.

APARTMENT FIRE AT 550 WEST FOOTHILL BOULEVARD EXTINGUISHED THIS LAST WEEK, WITH THREE DOGS BEING RESCUED BY MONROVIA FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

On Thursday, August 20, 2015, fire department personnel from Monrovia, Arcadia, and Pasadena responded to a reported structure fire at 550 West Foothill Boulevard. Battalion 10 (Chief Dover from Monrovia Fire) reported smoke showing from two blocks out, and initial fire attack units found a two story four-unit apartment complex with heavy smoke and fire coming from the first floor of Unit B.

The fire was contained to the front bedroom where it started, but fire and smoke damage was found throughout the first floor and smoke damage throughout the second floor of unit B, as well as minor smoke damage in unit C. No occupants were home, but three dogs were rescued by firefighters, two of which were unresponsive and not breathing. Fire and police personnel, as well as the department nurse educator began to resuscitate the animals with special airway devices for pets, and within 15 minutes all animals were awake, alert, and walking around on scene... a true save by our personnel, as can be seen in the attached pictures below. In addition to our Monrovia Fire Personnel, special thanks go to Sergeant Patty Newton & Sergeant Glen Coleman, as well as our Nurse Educator Christine Norton, for assisting with resuscitation efforts that led to the reunion of the pets and their owners. To ensure the dogs were medically cleared, Pasadena Humane Society was called to the scene for follow-up care.

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The cause of the fire is under investigation and the City's Building Division has been called out to assess the damage to the unit, which most likely will be red-tagged. Edison was also on scene to restore power to the units, which was disconnected for safety purposes during the fire fight, while the Red Cross was called to assist with housing of the two apartment residents. And finally, the two occupants were provided a Monrovia Fire Department Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergencies (SAVE) \$100 gift card to help with initial costs of post-fire recovery.

PROPOSITION 218 NOTICES HAVE BEEN MAILED!

Last week, the City mailed out two sets of notices for the proposed rate adjustments for our water service charge as well as our sewer service charge. It is important to note that some customers were sent multiple notices depending on the number of water meter accounts established under their name, and depending on the number of sewer connections established for each individual customer. For those individuals that have multiple water and / or sewer accounts, a separate individual notice was sent for each account on file in order to ensure that every customer has the appropriate number of ballots that can be filled out and returned to the City Clerk's Office if they wish to protest the proposed rate adjustments.

Each water service notice and sewer service notice includes details related to the Proposition 218 Public Hearing, the reasons for the rate adjustments, and information regarding how customers can participate in

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the process. In addition, the notices outline that the overall proposed sewer and water rates include a provision that provides for a senior rate discount and economic hardship rate discount.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact our Public Services Department at (626) 932-5575. In addition, information regarding the current Proposition 218 Hearing process can be found on the City's website at www.cityofmonrovia.org.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND MONROVIA OLD TOWN ADVISORY BOARD RECRUITMENTS HAVE BEEN INITIATED

Last week, staff initiated the recruitments for the vacancy that currently exists on the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and for the vacancy that exists on the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board (MOTAB). Based on our existing policies, applicants interested in serving on either the HPC or MOTAB must submit a completed application to the City Clerk's Office by Friday, September 4, 2015. Based on this schedule, it is anticipated that interviews will be conducted the week of September 8-10, 2015, with the formal appointment currently scheduled to occur at our September 15, 2015 City Council meeting.

Those interested in finding out more information regarding this matter are encouraged to visit the City's website at the following web address:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/bc/page/boards-and-commissions-recruitment>

On that web page, individuals will find a link to the board / commissioner application, along with additional general information on the City's boards and commissions. Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions regarding this particular matter.

MONROVIA FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN GOLD LINE TRAINING EXERCISE

A few weeks ago, the City issued the Foothill Gold Line their official certificate of occupancy for the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Campus located in our community. Since then, Monrovia Fire Department staff has been working closely with Metro and Gold Line representatives to gain a better understanding of the fire and life safety issues related to rail alignment and the M & O Campus operations. To date, our Fire Department personnel has participated in M&O Campus walk-throughs, table top exercises, and full-scale functional exercises to prepare for fires, train derailments, and other potential emergencies that may occur once the Gold Line extension is opened.

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More recently, this last week, the Monrovia Fire Department and Monrovia Police Department, along with the Arcadia Fire Department and the LA County Sherriff's Department, participated in a joint full-scale functional exercise that simulated a fire on a train located within the maintenance building with people trapped inside. Units responded to during the drill as if the situation were a real incident, setting up the incident command system, and taking those all necessary steps to rescue the trapped victims and to extinguish the fire.

These types of exercises are vital as they provide an opportunity for our local City personnel to become more familiar with the M&O Campus design, including the locations of fire hydrants, sprinkler connections, and other hazards within the facility (i.e., train routes within the yard, electrical hazards, hazardous materials storage units, etc.). In addition, our Fire Department crews were able to gain a better understanding of the fire and life safety systems built into the structure, such as the location of fire annunciator panels, blue light stations (specially designed features that when activated shut down power to the entire M&O Campus), and the special on-site water tank system.

CALIFORNIA FIRE UPDATES

As I am sure everyone is aware, the current fire season is in full-swing here in California. There are currently three major brush fires burning Los Angeles County, including the following:

- **Cabin Fire:** The Cabin Fire is burning three miles North Rincon-Red Box Road off Highway 39 within the Angeles National Forest. As of Saturday, August 22, it has burned 1,723 acres and is 84 percent contained. 10 fire fighters have sustained minor injuries, mainly heat related. 687 personnel remain on scene fighting this fire and Highway 39 remains closed from bottom of Sierra Madre to intersection Highway 2. Monrovia's Water Tender was assigned to this incident for a 24-hour period and returned to the City last week.
- **Lincoln Fire:** The Lincoln Fire started last week in the City of Montebello, has burned 374 acres, and is 80 percent contained. The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LaCoFD) remains in Unified Command with Montebello Fire Department. According to the Incident Commander full containment of this fire was expected this week, assuming that weather and wind conditions remain favorable. During the height of the fire, the 60 Freeway was shut down and several Edison power poles burned, causing energized wires to the ground. In addition, an LA County Fire Department Helicopter, used for water drops, had to make an emergency hard landing at the Rose Hills Cemetery in Whittier, injuring three on board and causing major damage to the aircraft. It should be noted, that the "Super Scoopers" were used to drop water on the fire, after going into service for the season earlier in the week.

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- **Warm Fire:** The Warm Fire located in the Saugus area has burned 300 acres and is 50 percent contained. Six structures have burned, including Los Angeles County Public Health Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center that has been unoccupied for two years. Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation reported that Lake Castaic remains closed. Two firefighters sustained minor injuries, and the fire is burning in Angeles National Forest territory. CHP still has Lake Hughes Road between Castaic and Elizabeth Lake closed. All other road closures remain in effect. 170 personnel remain on scene fighting this fire.

In addition to these local fires in LA County, there are 16 large fires currently burning within the California, and in addition, there are currently over 90 large wildland fires burning in the Western United States (California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana).

Given all of these current fire events, the National Interagency Fire Agency (NIFA) out of Boise, Idaho, has raised the National Preparedness Level to 5, the highest level within the system. This means geographic areas in the Western United States are experiencing major incidents which have the potential to exhaust all agency fire resources. Based on current deployments, around eighty percent (80%) of Type 1 and Type 2 Incident Management Teams and crews in the Western United States are committed, as well as the majority of other National Resources.

It is interesting to note also that due to the number of large brush fires and the need for additional resources, NIFA has requested assistance from the Department of Defense, with 400 Army soldiers set to soon join the fire fight here in the Western United States.

All told, this is turning out to be the active fire season that the experts predicted, so we will remain vigilant here in Monrovia, as we continue to prepare for public safety. To date, Monrovia has sent out two strike teams to assist with the fire activity here in California, including the following:

- **Strike Team 1800A**, which includes Chief Fabrizio as the strike team leader as well as Captain Patrick, Engineer Mellinger, Firefighter / Paramedic Spencer, and Firefighter / Paramedic Kyle returned to Monrovia last week after a 16-day deployment to the Mad River Fire in Northern California. During the deployment, Monrovia personnel assisted in structure defensive, fire line construction, firing operations (a tactic where unburned fuel is intentionally burned to stop the spread of the fire), and many other actions in support of public safety. Great work by our team!
- **Strike Team 1205A**, which included Captain Bailey, Engineer Clemens, Firefighter Eden and Firefighter Ramirez recently returned from an 8-day deployment to the Rocky Fire in the Clear Lake area of Northern California. This crew was active in direct firefighting, structure defense, firing operations, and many other actions in support of public safety. Another example of great work by our team!

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NEW YEAR'S EVE ON MYRTLE 2015

Last week, the committee coordinating the 2015 New Year's Eve on Myrtle event met and made additional progress on developing the overall event. Currently, the group is more than half-way towards meeting their fundraising goal of \$21,375, and coordination of the event is currently scheduled to begin on New Year's Eve, with the closing of Myrtle Avenue from Olive to Lemon beginning at 10 a.m. The Committee is also preparing street closure notifications which will be distributed throughout Old Town in the coming month.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB TEEN PROGRAM CELEBRATION EVENT SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 28, 2015

The Boys & Girls Club will be hosting a Teen Program celebration event on Friday, August 28, 2015, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at the Mary Wilcox Youth Center (843 East Olive Avenue). The event will commemorate the completion of significant renovations to the Mary Wilcox Youth Center to facilitate the overall Teen Program that has been developed. The entire community is invited to come out to tour the facility and learn more about the programs that are available for the teens. Additional information regarding the event can be found at the Boys & Girls Club website at <http://foothillsbgc.org>.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER HOLDEN OFFERS STATE ASSEMBLY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This past week, Assembly Member Holden announced that his office is now accepting applications for the California State Assembly Internship Program for the 2015/16 School Year. For more information go to www.asmdc.org/holden or contact Assembly Member Holden's Office at (626) 351-1917.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES GOING SOCIAL...MEDIA THAT IS!

Last week, our Community Development Department got our Art in Public Places rolling into the social media world, as we have established an Instagram account, set-up @artinmonrovia. We have also posted an invitation for the community to join in on our art in public places fun, with additional information being available online at <http://cdoverthecounter.blogspot.com/>.

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SWING REPAIR AT LIBRARY PARK, SLIDE REPAIR AT LUCINDA GARCIA PARK

Last week, our Parks Maintenance team upgraded the swings at Library Park, which were hanging too low to the ground. Our staff reviewed the specifications and raised the swings to the proper height.

In addition, we received a report that a slide at Lucinda Garcia Park had been damaged, and our Park Maintenance team conducted the preliminary repairs on the slide last week. The final repairs will be completed early this week.

LIBRARY SUPPORTS SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA

Every two weeks, Library Staff brought the Summer Reading Club to the Summer Extravaganza children at Recreation Park. Recreation Leaders emphasized the importance of reading throughout the week and encouraged children to write book reports. Staff was inspired by the dedication of the 154 participants submitting 389 book reports. Children were given 10 tickets each to purchase snacks, games, and books at the end-of-the-summer event. One booth included 155 books donated by Monrovia Reads. The book booth was the most popular with children, emptying the booth well before the end of the event. Library and Recreation staff did a phenomenal job promoting reading to help children avoid the summer slide.

PARKS CREW COMPLETE PICNIC TABLE PROJECT



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The Picnic Table Replacement Program strikes again, as the attached photo shows! This time four new picnic tables were installed at Julian Fisher Park. This completes the project with seven brand new picnic tables installed for everyone to enjoy their summer picnics, parties, and more!

2015 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES

The City of Monrovia continues its free Summer Concert Series this Sunday, August 30, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Library Park, featuring Latin / Salsa Music from, "Yari More Latin Band." The concert is sponsored by the Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley.

Feel free to bring the entire family to the Rotary Club Bandshell in Library Park every Sunday evening this summer for 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:

- 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 STATION DEDICATION EVENTS SCHEDULED

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:

- 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

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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.

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 regards,

Oliver

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