

# City Manager's Update

Wednesday, July 1, 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 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](mailto:ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us)!

## **HISTORIC DEPOT RFP ISSUANCE PENDING**

During the past several months, staff has been working to develop an overall plan for addressing the adaptive reuse of the Historic Depot. A key component of that plan has centered on the possibility of selling the facility to a developer / user, with the condition that the new owner revitalize and restore the facility in a manner consistent with the City's vision for the Station Square area. To help make the economics of the project work, the City does have restricted funding that must be used this calendar year that are applicable towards upgrading the Historic Depot facility. We have spoken with a number of development and restaurant interests regarding the site, and we do believe that the overall facility would best integrate into the Station Square area as a restaurant use of some sort. To that end, we have been working to develop an overall RFP packet, which includes preliminary architectural concept designs. We plan on finalizing the overall RFP within the next 2-3 weeks, and we will of course keep everyone informed as to our progress on this project moving forward.

## **CANYON PARK AND HILLSIDE WILDERNESS PRESERVE AREAS SET TO BE CLOSED JULY 3-5, 2015**

After a thorough review of the potential fire dangers during the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, Canyon Park and the Hillside Wilderness Preserve will be closed on July 3-5, 2015. Among the issues that have been identified by our Fire Department as reasons for the weekend closure include typical 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities, expected high temperatures, low humidity, and the fires that are burning in the region.

## **LIBRARY SET TO BE CLOSED BETWEEN JULY 2-5, 2015**

Just a quick note to let everyone know that in preparation for and clean-up of the City's annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Concert and Fireworks Show, the Library will be closed between July 2-5, 2015. Normal operations at the Library will resume on Monday, July 6, 2015.

## **STATION SQUARE PAVING UPDATE**

The road paving portion of the overall Station Square Project was initiated this past week. Our construction crews worked around the clock in an effort to keep the project on schedule, and there were a few residents who raised concerns regarding the night-time paving work and the noise associated with the construction activity. The Monrovia Police Department and our Public Services Department worked together to ensure that all impacted residents were provided with relocation options until the night-time construction work was completed, and many thanks to everyone for their patience with the City given the traffic, residential, and business impacts that have resulted from our Station Square Project!

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## MT. SIERRA COLLEGE UPDATE

Last week, representatives from Mt. Sierra College met with City staff and informed us of their operational plans. After considering a variety of potential locations, it appears that Mt. Sierra College is now looking to lease around +/- 25,000 square feet of space in the Monrovia Technology Campus, located at the south-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Royal Oaks Drive. Based on our discussions with Mt. Sierra representatives, they are hoping to sign a lease to occupy the new facility in the near future, and if all goes according to plan, they hope to move into the new facility by the end of this current calendar year. We will continue to monitor this situation moving forward.

## IMPROVEMENT TO PARKS

The Public Works Division within our Public Services Department continues to initiate and complete a variety of project aimed at improving our neighborhoods, parks, and public facilities. Project highlights from last week's activities include the following:

- We had a pine tree fall behind the nature center at Canyon Park. The fallen tree is not interfering with access to the waterfall trail, however it is a hazard that needed to be addressed. The impacted area was taped-off to caution patrons in the surrounding area and West Coast Arborist will be by this week with the chipper to clear the debris by breaking down the branches and logs.



- A couple weeks ago, we reported on the new picnic tables that were installed at Recreation Park. It does appear that the new benches are a hit as we received the following letter from the owner of Market Grill:

*My name is Tracy Ramirez and my husband and I not only live in this awesome town, but we also own The Market Grill here in town, just across from Rec Park. We just wanted to take a moment and send a HUGE heartfelt thank you for the beautiful new benches you placed under the trees on the west side of the park, directly across from our restaurant. We greatly appreciate the care and attention your facilities people give our beautiful park. It makes a huge difference for the families and community members that enjoy the park so much. And it's a nice place to enjoy our food under those gorgeous shady trees. Please know that your efforts and hard work are appreciated by the whole City and your friends here at our restaurant.*

*With Warm Regards,  
Tracy Ramirez, the Market Grill*

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## **UPDATE REGARDING THE "MYSTERY HOLE" ON FOOTHILL BOULEVARD**

Last week, the Public Works Team within our Public Services Department visited the "Mystery Hole" located at 135 West Foothill Boulevard. The inspection revealed that underneath the hole is a large a/c unit that is utilized by the business (Dr. Domotor's Animal House Veterinary Hospital) located just to the north of where the hole was discovered. It also appears that the underground area is accessible from inside the basement of the business itself. Our team has placed a large steel plate on top of the hole and we will also continue to maintain the sidewalk detour currently in place until a permanent fix can be developed. Our team does have a meeting set next week with the owner of building to determine our next steps in fixing the "Mystery Hole" on Foothill!

## **THE CITY AND THE MONROVIA AREA PARTNERSHIP (MAP) FREE MOVIE NIGHT PROGRAM KICKED OFF LAST WEEKEND WITH THE SHOWING OF ANNIE**

The Summer Movie Series, offered by the City and the MAP program, began this past Saturday, June 27, 2015, with a showing of the movie *Annie* in the courtyard of the Monrovia Historical Museum. There are two other movies that will be shown this summer, including:

- Saturday July, 11, 2015 – *Maleficent* (Rotary Park, showing begins at around 8 p.m.)
- Saturday, August 8, 2015 – *Big Hero 6* (Grand Avenue Park, showing begins at around 8 p.m.)

Don't forget to bring your chair to the next two movie events; we're looking forward to seeing everyone in the park on July 11, 2015 and August 8, 2015!



## **HOUSEHOLD AND ELECTRONIC HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT**

The City of Monrovia hosted the LA County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Electronic Waste Collection Event on May 30, 2015 at Monrovia High School. We had a good turnout this year, with 1,010 households participating. In total, the event collected 400 gallons of used motor oil, 100 gallons of antifreeze, and 4,403 gallons of paint. A total of 49,989 pounds (32,209 pounds HHW and 17,780 pounds of electronic waste) was collected! If anyone missed the event, Arcadia & Sierra Madre are hosting an additional HHW and E-Waste Collection event that is scheduled to occur on August 15, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information and a list of future events, feel free to visit the website, [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com)

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## **MUD BARRIER WALLS ON HIGHLAND PLACE**

Over the past several weeks, our very own Park Rangers have been busy working on a solution for the Highland Place residents who experienced challenges with their mud barrier walls. The pipe holes that were set in the ground for installing the barrier walls were filling-up with dirt and debris, making it difficult to re-install the walls. Our Park Ranger team constructed plugs that are now being used to keep dirt and debris out of the pipe holes, thereby allowing easy installation of the barrier walls when needed in the future. Many thanks to our team and the residents living on Highland Place for their diligence and preparation!

## **CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED FOR THE GOLD LINE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS CAMPUS**

Last week, the Fire Department issued a final certificate of occupancy (COO) to the Gold Line for the new Maintenance and Operation Yard.

## **GOLDLINE TECHNOLOGY CORRIDOR VIDEO PRODUCED BY SAMUELSON FETTER**

One of the City's key development partners, Samuelson Fetter, recently produced a video as part of their overall marketing package to highlight the Monrovia Technology Campus (south-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Royal Oaks Drive). The video highlights the technology corridor that exists along the path of the Gold Line, and can be viewed via the following website link:

- <https://vimeo.com/131014248>

## **STATION SQUARE LIGHT POLE BANNER DESIGNS BEING FINALIZED**

In an effort to provide you with a preview of what's to come, below are renderings of the street light and pedestrian light banner designs for the Station Square project area.



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## **LIBRARY ADULT PROGRAMS**

On June 24, 2015 the Monrovia Library hosted the program *Foods That Heal*. Monrovia business owner Chris Tucker talked about the healing powers of foods and the importance of buying organic when possible. He provided food samples that included raw key lime pie, guacamole, healthy bean chili, and several samples of healthy snacks. The foods he talked about may help with diabetes, high blood pressure, and asthma, to name a few. The 24 guests in attendance enjoyed the delicious samples and Chris' talk.

## **SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA PROGRAM – WEEK 1**

The first week of Summer Extravaganza took place June 22-26, 2015. The 6-7 year old age group went on an educational hike in Canyon Park on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, and again on Friday, June 26, 2015. The other age groups are scheduled to go to Canyon Park throughout the summer. The eight week program will offer active and passive games, arts / crafts, reading with the Monrovia Public Library, and fun educational excursions. Program hours are 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Currently the program is at maximum capacity, although those interested in being placed on a waiting list for the program are encouraged to contact the Community Services Division of our Public Services Department at 626-256-8246!

## **METRO SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS NOTICE RECEIVED**

Last week, we received a notice from Metro regarding their pending service adjustments, which are scheduled to begin this week. There are no major service adjustments proposed, and around 100 minor schedule adjustments that will be implemented to improve connections and on-time performance, reduce over-crowding, simplify service, reduce duplication, and improve coordination between Metro Bus, Rail, and Municipal and regional Operators.

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

<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

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