

City Manager's Update

Wednesday, July 8, 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

NEW TRASH SERVICE RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015

New solid waste and recycling rates for trash services provided by Athens went into effect on July 1, 2015. The updated service costs, which reflect a 4% increase plus a consumer price index (CPI) adjustment, will be as follows:

Trash Service Type	Monthly Service Cost	Quarterly Invoice Cost (July-August-September)	Senior Rates (10% Discount for Monrovia Residents 65 Years of Age or Older)
90 Gallon Barrel	\$ 23.80	\$ 71.40	\$ 64.11
60 Gallon Barrel	\$ 19.67	\$ 59.01	\$ 52.95
30 Gallon Barrel	\$ 16.71	\$ 50.13	\$ 45.12

The cost increase is attributable to the closure of the Puente Hills Landfill in October 2013 and the need to now transport trash collected in Monrovia to landfills located a further distance away in San Bernardino County. Residents are also encouraged to review their Athens invoices to ensure that bills reflect the correct service cost rates. Residential trash rates are posted on the City's website at:

www.cityofmonrovia.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public_works/page/763/residential_rates_2015-16.pdf

Questions regarding trash or recyclables collection can be directed to Athens Services at (888) 336-6100. Furthermore, the City provides comprehensive information regarding ways to reduce your solid waste bill by cutting back the amount of trash you throw away. For those services, please feel free to contact the Public Works Division of the Public Services Department at (626) 932-5575.

MULTI-AGENCY FIRE PREPARATION AND BRUSH DRILLS HELD IN MONROVIA

Given the higher than normal temperatures and the uptick in brush fires in Southern California, the Monrovia Fire Department and the Arcadia Fire Department have been conducting joint drills in the very high fire hazard zones in both communities. This past week, we scheduled morning and afternoon training sessions in Monrovia in the Ruby Canyon area (Briarcliff Road, Ridgeside Drive, Willowbrook Circle & Laurel Lane) and in the Madison Fire burn area (Madison Avenue, Highland Place, Lotone Street and Cloverleaf Drive), which provided crews an opportunity to locate water supplies and pre-determine structure defense strategies for the properties that may be impacted should we experience a fire event. The drills were intended to allow fire crews and supervisors to scout the

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areas, identify potential hazards, conduct structural defense assessments, and make appropriate fire attack decisions in a non-emergency setting. This training also provides personnel in both communities a good understanding of the unique hazards that occur in the high fire hazard zones, especially given the amount of unburned fuels and the location of homes along steep terrain.

The joint departmental drills allowed both agencies to review equipment and engage in tool familiarization processes, as well as an opportunity to discuss initial attack strategies should a fire start in either City. Given the strong working relationship that we have with Arcadia, along with the automatic aid agreements that call for resources from each agency to help the neighbor, the joint training sessions provided an excellent opportunity to pre-plan for both communities, providing exceptional fire and life safety service.

Also of note, the Monrovia Fire Department is now nearing completion of our annual brush inspection process and once again, thanks to the exceptional work of our residents, we have near full compliance in clearing shrubs and vegetation, as well as trimming trees, in our highest fire threat locations. The idea of protecting structures from the house outward is becoming the best practice for withstanding a brush fire and the clearance of brush around the home is one of the keys to success. More information on the *Ready, Set, Go!* brush fire protection program adopted here in Monrovia go to <http://wildlandfirersg.org>.

THE FRIDAY NIGHT FAMILY STREET FAIR CONTINUES OPERATIONS IN MONROVIA

On Friday, July 3, 2015, LA PartyWorks, Inc., coordinated their first Friday Night Family Street Fair event in Old Town Monrovia. The overall event went well, as the new operators implemented several updates to the overall Street Fair event, including a new show layout, refreshed signage, a revamped kids play zone, several new vendor options, and a BMX demonstration show. There were some minor operational issues that we will need to adjust moving forward, however, the overall Street Fair event seemed to be well received and well managed, and judging from the response we received last night Monrovia does seem poised to continue operating the premier weekly Street Fair event in all of Southern California!



FRIDAY NIGHT SUMMER TEEN SCENE PROGRAM READY TO KICK-OFF NEXT FRIDAY, JULY 10

The City of Monrovia, in partnership with the City of Duarte and local businesses and community members, are excited to announce the start of our annual Friday Night Summer Teen Scene Program. The Teen Scene program, which is for teenagers aged 11-18, will be held in front of Library Park on Friday, July 10, 2015, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., and will continue every Friday night through August 21, 2015. Planned activities at the Teen Scene program include:

- Teen Friendly Food
- Awesome Art Activities
- Rockin' Live Bands
- DJ & Dancing
- Games, games and more games
- Inflatable couches to hang out with friends

A vertical poster for the 'Summer Scene for Teens' program. The top section is green with the text 'SUMMER SCENE FOR TEENS' in white. Below that is a yellow section with the text 'Friday Nights, July 10—August 21', '7:00-9:30 p.m.', 'Library Park, Monrovia', and 'Teens 11-18'. The bottom section is green with the text 'Food', 'Community Connection', 'ART', 'Leadership', 'DJ', and 'GAMES'. At the very bottom, it says 'Offered in partnership with interested community members, businesses, and services providers in the Monrovia / Duarte Communities'.

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- Teen leadership programming

EMERGENCY TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT FIRE STATION 102 IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING REPAIRED

The traffic signal on Myrtle Avenue at Fire Station 102 has experienced an intermittent problem for the last three weeks. The signal is designed to rest in green for North and Southbound traffic until the Fire Department activates it prior to leaving the station on an emergency call. The current intermittent problem is causing the signal to randomly revert to a flashing red for Northbound and Southbound traffic for extended periods of time. Given that the problem is occurring intermittently, it has been difficult to identify the cause and make a permanent correction. Staff and outside contractors have responded to the intersection multiple times and have been able to put the system back into normal operation each time. Observation, testing and replacement of suspect parts has not yet corrected the situation. Staff will in the short term continue to monitor the situation and make repairs as necessary, and we will concurrently continue to work on fixing the overall problem.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS MADE THIS PAST WEEK

The Public Works Division of the Public Services Department continues to engage in projects aimed at improving our neighborhoods, parks, and facilities. Key highlights from this past week include the following:

- The Canyon Park trail crew, Ranger Reserves, and our YES Intern, Sherkia Ewing, installed the long awaited bench at the end of our overlook trail in Canyon Park. The original bench was taken out for various maintenance issue earlier this year. With the help of Richard Paez and Sharon Gallant, Canyon Park was able to acquire an improved, stronger, and more easily maintainable bench made from recycled plastic.



CITY AND MAP SPONSORED MOVIE NIGHTS CONTINUE ON JULY 11TH AT ROTARY PARK

The City of Monrovia and Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) is hosting a free Summer Movie Series for the community. Our next movie night event is scheduled to take place on July 11, 2015 starting at 8 p.m. at Rotary Park! For more information regarding the Summer Movie Series, please contact the Monrovia Community Center at (626) 256-8246. The schedule for the remainder of the summer is as follows:

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

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CERT BBQ RECOGNITION EVENT HELD

Last Sunday, eight of the City's CERT volunteers worked with fire department personnel for nearly three hours to organize the CERT supply cabinets located at Fire Station 102. Once all of the material was sorted, our CERT members cleaned, labeled, organized, repacked, and restocked all of the needed supplies. Following all of the hard work, the CERT volunteers were treated to a "firehouse" BBQ, compliments of our crack firefighter who doubled as the grill master. At dinner, the CERT members articulated their continued support for Monrovia and their willingness to respond to all community related requests, be it the 4th of July spectacular, or large scale emergencies. In fact, three of our CERT members – Suzi Dobson, Mark Harvis and Bruce Eckstrom – recently attended specialized training at the National Fire Academy located in Emmetsburg, Maryland, and are now certified CERT train-the-trainers!

US FOREST SERVICE NOW SOLICITING PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

As you may recall, the San Gabriel Mountains were designated as a National Monument by President Obama in October 2014. As part of that decree, the US Forest Service is now accepting public comments regarding the pending San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan. From now through July 27, 2015, those with comments regarding the development of a management plan for the San Gabriel Mountains can go on-line to register their opinions by visiting the following website:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=46964>

SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA WEEK 2

The Summer Extravaganza Program just completed its second week of activities. All age groups visited the El Monte Aquatic Center on Thursday, July 2, 2015, for a day of swimming and fun. The eight week program offers active and passive games, arts and crafts, reading with the Monrovia Public Library, and educational excursions. Program hours are 12:00 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Currently the program is at maximum capacity, however, those interested in participating can join a waiting list for entry in the program by contacting the Community Services Division of our Public Services Department at (626) 256-8246.

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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City Manager

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