

# City Manager's Update

Wednesday, June 17, 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)!

-Oliver

## **COMMISSION / BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FINALIZED**

Last week, after conducting an interview and assessment process, the City Council formalized City Commission and Board appointments. Many thanks to our new (and existing) Commissioners and Board Members for their volunteer efforts in helping to make Monrovia great! An overview of the new Commissioners and Board Members appointed is as follows:

### **Planning Commission**

- Reappoint Bill Beebe
- Appoint Robert Parry

### **Historic Preservation Commission**

- Reappoint Marianne Lee
- Appoint Mark Houston
- Appoint Nancy Burke

### **Community Services Commission**

- Reappoint Tom Dittmar
- Reappoint Nancy Matthews
- Appoint Susan Hirsch

### **Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board**

- Reappoint Diane Balsamo
- Reappoint Brian Germany

## **SERVICES HELD FOR HELEN KELLER BAKER, MOTHER OF CITY TREASURER / HISTORIAN STEVE BAKER**

Just a quick note to let everyone know that services for Helen Keller Baker, mother of City Treasurer and City Historian Steve Baker, were held on Sunday, June 14, 2015, at 1 p.m. at St. Luke's, located at 122 South California Avenue here in Monrovia. The Baker family has requested that any memorials be forwarded to Children's Hospital in care of the Monrovia Guild at Post Office Box 1495, Monrovia, CA 91017. Mr. Baker shared that his mother was a patient at Children's Hospital in 1917, which formed the basis for how they established the institution where memorials in Helen Baker's honor should be sent.

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## **FRIDAY NIGHT SUMMER TEEN EVENT COORDINATION CONTINUING**

As you may recall, staff has of lately been working with the YMCA on developing the overall program for our Friday Night Summer Teen Event. An initial group meeting to help coordinate our volunteer efforts for the program took place on Monday, June 15, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Based on the work that has been done to date, our current plan is to start the actual Friday Night Summer Teen program on Friday, July 10, 2015, with the weekly event continuing through August 21, 2015.

Originally, the Friday Night Teen Program (Square One) started as a grass roots initiative, and over the years, the program transformed to meet the changing needs of our community. During the past several years, the YMCA has stepped in to help and take the lead on coordinating the program, and their partnership and continued commitment to Monrovia's youth is recognized and appreciated. As the City has worked to coordinate the event this year, we have focused on continuing the program as one that provides teens with a safe place to go on Friday evenings to create community connections. We have been engaged in discussions with LA PartyWorks to provide activities for the youth, and in addition, the Santa Anita Family YMCA has again committed to being a partner in the event.

## **SUPERINTENDENT THOROSSIAN'S HUSBAND PASSES AWAY**

As you may have heard by now, Monrovia Unified School District Superintendent Kathy Thorossian's husband, Rafik Thorossian, passed away suddenly on the evening of June 9, 2015. During Superintendent Thorossian's absence, Assistant Superintendent Darvin Jackson and Assistant Superintendent Sue Kaiser will be supporting the needs of the Monrovia Unified School District.

## **BATTALION CHIEF COVERAGE FOR SIERRA MADRE NOW UNDERWAY**

Effective June 1, 2015, the Monrovia Fire Department began providing Battalion Chief response services at the scene of fires and significant emergencies for the City of Sierra Madre. Per the terms of our service agreement, Sierra Madre reimburses Monrovia for the cost of providing Chief Officer level staff to command the operations of emergency incidents. Prior to implementation of this agreement, Sierra Madre would respond to incidents with the Fire Chief or volunteer personnel. In searching for a more effective way of staffing and managing emergency response situations, Sierra Madre officials worked with our Fire Department to develop this new and unique service delivery arrangement.

Since the formalization of this new public safety process, all three of Monrovia's Chief Officers have met with fire department staff in Sierra Madre to exchange information relating to field operations, the incident command system, and the expectations for safe and effective fire ground operations. In addition, Sierra Madre personnel will soon be using the Monrovia fire training tower, which is a regional asset that will allow Monrovia staff to monitor the training, methods, and techniques of Sierra Madre personnel. It is also worth noting that since implementation of the agreement, Monrovia staff has responded to several incidents in Sierra Madre and the arrangement has to this point in time proven to be an effective partnership.

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## **MEETING WITH MOVE MONROVIA TO COORDINATE CITYWIDE BIKE PLAN HELD LAST WEEK**

Last week, staff met with representatives of Move Monrovia to discuss the next steps in the development of an overall bike master plan for the City. As you may recall, as part of our recommended base Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget, staff recommended allocating funds towards the development of an overall program geared towards creating engineered plans for bicycle connector routes throughout the City. We shared with Move Monrovia that we would be coordinating an additional review of each base CIP project on July 7, 2015, and pending City Council review of the proposed program, we would be looking to partner with their organization to develop an overall bike plan for Monrovia. Also, following that meeting, Move Monrovia shared with the City their proposal for bike connector routes through the community.

## **LIBRARY PARK PLAYGROUND PLAY SURFACE REPAIRS COMPLETED LAST WEEK**

Just a quick FYI that the Library Park Playground was closed last Wednesday and Thursday to facilitate repairs to the flooring surface at the facility. The repairs were successfully completed with the guidance and expertise of our Parks Team, and the maintenance efforts have certainly helped to ensure a refreshed and revitalized playground for the community.

## **316 SOUTH MYRTLE FENCING ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED WITH PROPERTY OWNER**

Last week, staff engaged the owners of 316 South Myrtle Avenue to discuss the next steps in their overall project. As part of the meeting, staff requested that the property owner remove the debris, fence, and other construction materials out of the public right-of-way. We will continue to monitor this situation and the progress being made at the construction site moving forward, and will engage the processes necessary to effectuate the clean-up of the site.

## **NEW POSTERS BEING INSTALLED THROUGHOUT OLD TOWN MONROVIA REGARDING MONROVIA FRIDAY NIGHT FAMILY STREET FAIR**

Just a note quick note to let you know that LA PartyWorks, Inc., will be working with the downtown merchants to display new posters that articulate the continuation of the Monrovia Friday Night Family Street Fair on July 3, 2015.



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## **SIDEWALK CPR PROGRAM A SUCCESS**

A Sidewalk CPR Program was held last Thursday in front of the Library. Monrovia Firefighters were on hand to show a video on how to perform the American Heart Association's hands-only CPR process, and to demonstrate proper body position and techniques to ensure adequate circulation in a person who has suffered a heart attack. Residents were also given an opportunity to practice their hands-only CPR skill on a manikin with advice from our Firefighters on the proper techniques to use. In total, 19 local residents participated in this life-saving training and now know the appropriate steps for saving a life, which includes calling 911 and pushing hard and fast in the center of the chest to the beat of the song, "Staying

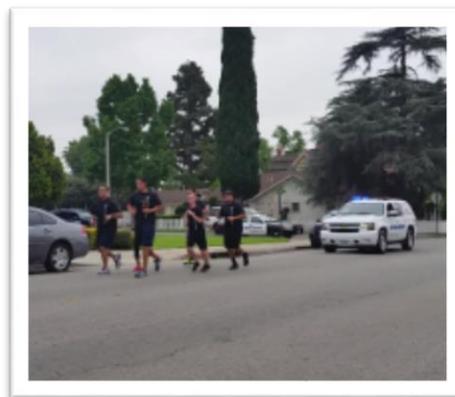
Alive Please see the video on the following link for more information on how the process works!

[http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/CPRAndECC/HandsOnlyCPR/Hands-Only-CPR\\_UCM\\_440559\\_SubHomePage.jsp](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/CPRAndECC/HandsOnlyCPR/Hands-Only-CPR_UCM_440559_SubHomePage.jsp)

## **MONROVIA POLICE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN THE TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

On June 11, 2015, representatives from the Monrovia Police Department participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Monrovia law enforcement personnel received the torch from the El Monte Police Department at the intersection of Peck and Live Oak at approximately 9:50 a.m. The team then ran north to City Hall, and eventually passed the torch on to Arcadia Police Department personnel in front of the Red Lobster on Huntington Drive. Many thanks to the Monrovia Police Department Torch Run for Special Olympics team and representing our City so well! The participants included the following personnel:

- Detective Mike Garcia
- Officer Taylor Anaya
- Officer Yolanda Juarez
- Officer Jose Pacheco
- Officer Brent McClure
- Police Recruit Juan Huerta



## **DRAFTING BINS OBTAINED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Given the drought conditions facing the State and the importance of water conservation, the Monrovia Fire Department recently procured a custom-built drafting bin. The drafting bin is the latest addition to our four-story fire training tower, which is now complete and operational, and allows for pumping evolutions to be performed without water run-off. This new device will literally save thousands of gallons of water during each evolution. Engine Company pumping operations is a critical skill that allows for adequate water pressures to be delivered to the end of a hose-line, where firefighters use various techniques

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to extinguish fires. Prior to purchasing the drafting bin, these pumping exercises would take place and the excess water would run off the training grounds into the sewer system. Keeping in mind that a typical pumping operation can use between 150 and 1500 gallons of water per minute, and last are long as 30 minutes or more, the amount of water that was lost is significant.



In keeping with the standard of excellence associated with the Monrovia Fire Department operations, the procurement of the drafting bin will certainly help to enhance our overall fire safety and water conservation efforts. With the drafting bin, hose lines are connected to the inlet of the device and water is circulated back into the fire engines water tank, making a continuous loop with no water loss. Our Firefighters will now still be able to practice the various pumping operations that are needed from a fire protection standpoint, only now, instead of losing thousands of gallons of water to run-off, we will experience only nominal water loss moving forward.

## **GIGGLE FIBER NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS**

Last week, Giggle Fiber sent out a notice to their customers informing them that due to the construction of the new Station Square project in Monrovia, they would be required to relocate one of their main fiber optic lines underground. Given this capital improvement project, it will be necessary to cut and splice the fiber line, which will result in data and phone service interruptions. The work is scheduled to take place during the late night / early morning hours over a three night period, with Monrovia being impacted early on Tuesday, June 16, 2015. The remainder of the system will be impacted on Thursday, June 18, 2015.

## **YMCA GRADUATION BANQUET SET FOR JUNE 18, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M. AT 1307 SOUTH MYRTLE AVENUE**

Just a quick note to let everyone know that the Santa Anita YMCA will be hosting a graduation banquet to celebrate the accomplishments and successes of young people associated with their program. The event is set to take place on June 18, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., at 1307 South Myrtle Avenue, Monrovia.

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## **SGV ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SGV AWARDS GALA SET FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2015**

The San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership has begun to advertise for their 12<sup>th</sup> Annual San Gabriel Valley Awards Gala, which is scheduled to take place on September 12, 2015, at Rose Hills Memorial Park (3888 Workman Mill Road, Whittier) at 6:30 p.m.

## **METRO STATE ROUTE 710 NORTH PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR JUNE 20, 2015**

Metro has announced that a public hearing on the proposed State Route 710 North is scheduled for the East Los Angeles area on June 20, 2015, at D.W. Griffith Middle School, 4765 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles. For more information, please go to <http://www.metro.net/projects/sr-710-conversations/overview/>

## **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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OLIVER CHI  
City Manager

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