

# City Manager's Update

Tuesday, September 22, 2015

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 regards,  
Oliver

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## **QUOTE FOR THE WEEK**

*I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor.*  
-Henry David Thoreau

## **FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING PROPOSITION 218 PUBLIC HEARING / MONROVIA RENEWAL PROJECT SPARSELY ATTENDED**

On Saturday, September 19, staff hosted the first of two community meetings regarding our upcoming Proposition 218 public hearing on October 6, 2015. The meeting turned out to be an intimate affair, with two individuals coming to the meeting specifically for information regarding the Monrovia Renewal Project and the upcoming Proposition 218 Public Hearing. Two additional individuals sat in on the meeting for a bit as they were waiting for the Library to open. The presentation was well received by those in attendance, and moving forward, we have a second community meeting scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, September 29, 2015, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers, 415 S. Ivy Avenue, Monrovia.

## **SERVICES FOR LIZ LEAVENS AND KRIS MARACONDA FINALIZED**

As you have likely heard by now, services for Liz Leavens and Kris Mariconda were recently finalized, with details on the services are outlined below.

### Liz Leavens

A Mass of Remembrance will be held for Liz at Immaculate Conception Church, 726 S. Shamrock Ave, Monrovia, on Saturday, November 28, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. The date was set to allow family members to attend together.

### Kris Mariconda

Given Kris' long time affiliation with the Monrovia Historic Museum (the west wing is named after her late husband Don), there will be a Celebration of Life open house at the Monrovia Historical Museum (742 E. Lemon Avenue) on Sunday, October 11, 2015, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made to either the Monrovia Historical Museum ([www.monroviahistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.monroviahistoricalmuseum.org)) or Monrovia Reads (P.O. Box 1033, Monrovia, CA 91017).

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## **GOLD LINE DEDICATION PLAQUE AND FORMER MAYOR BOB BARTLETT**

Last week, staff was approached by Ralph Walker regarding the plaque that the Gold Line Construction Authority installed at Monrovia's Gold Line Station. Mr. Walker indicated that in his opinion, former Mayor Bob Bartlett should have had his name included on the Foothill Gold Line dedication stone. By way of background, we wanted to provide some additional information regarding the situation. The names of the former Monrovia City Council members that were listed on the dedication stone were identified based on service to the Foothill Gold Line Extension Construction Authority (FGLCA) as either a member of the FGLCA Board of Directors or as a member of the FGLCA Joint Powers Authority. This was a deliberate decision made in concert with Gold Line and Metro staff given that the dedication event was to celebrate the completion of the construction of the Monrovia Station, which was undertaken by the FGLCA. It is also important to note that the FGLCA was formed in 2003, which is two years after former Mayor Bartlett left office.

Moving forward, the City's intention has always been to honor significant contributors to Gold Line, including former Mayor Bartlett, when we dedicate Station Square Park, which is the City funded and initiated project to compliment the Gold Line. Furthermore, we have been working on development of a "Walk of Fame" exhibit to honor significant Monrovians down in the Station Square area. Details related to who will be honored have yet to be worked out as we are still around 8 weeks away from substantial completion of the overall Station Square project. However, as we get closer to completion, we will be developing an overall dedication / ribbon cutting event, and we will be certain to keep everyone informed as to our progress moving forward. In the meantime, please feel free to let me know if you should have any questions regarding this particular matter.

## **NEW HGTV REALITY SHOW CALLED VINTAGE FLIP TO FEATURE A MONROVIA HOME**

We are very excited to be able to share that a new HGTV reality show called *Vintage Flip* started production on an episode last week that will feature a home here in Monrovia. The television series features a couple who finds, buys, restores, and markets vintage homes. From HGTV's website, an overview of the show includes:

*Jessie and Tina Rodriguez are living the American dream, taking their passion for vintage homes and turning them into successful flips. In each episode of Vintage Flip, this creative couple will find, buy, restore, and market a vintage home. You never know what might be hiding behind hundred year-old walls!*

Here in Monrovia, the couple recently purchased a 1920s Spanish Revival cottage and are now beginning the process of restoration. The entire process will be captured on film for an upcoming series, and last week, City staff participated in the filming of two segments. The first segment was shot at the Planning Division counter in City Hall with a discussion about the permitting process and the current demolition moratorium. The second segment was shot in the field at the project site, which allowed staff to provide guidance on the restoration process. I am pleased to report that two of our City staff members, including Craig Jimenez, Planning Manager, and Ili Lobaco, Associate Planner, will be featured as stars of the episode, as they both did a marvelous job of working with the team from HGTV!

As we move ahead, filming will continue sporadically once the project moves into the construction phase. And while a date has not yet been set for the airing of the episode, we will keep everyone updated as to the status of the show!

## **HUNTINGTON PLAZA (SPROUTS / WALGREENS SHOPPING CENTER) PARKING LOT ISSUE UPDATE**

Representatives of Huntington Plaza Shopping Center (the shopping center anchored by Sprouts Farmers Market and Walgreens) engaged in an unpermitted asphalt replacement project to reconstruct their parking lot. While the contractors engaged in the work were initially issued a stop work notice, City staff engaged in a proactive effort to assist the property owners so that they could quickly complete the work so as not to negatively impact the businesses in the center. Our City

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building staff met with the paving contractor and their survey team on site to do a field inspection of the proposed work, and we engaged in a concurrent process to review their plans and specifications to ensure proper drainage of the new parking lot. This outstanding effort by our team was not only instrumental in limiting the downtime at the shopping center, but it also illustrated the type of service that we want all of our customers here at the City to experience.

## **THE MONROVIA LEGACY PROJECT IS OFF AND RUNNING, AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

On September 15, 2015, the City Council approved the initiation of the *Monrovia Legacy Project*, which is an important initiative aimed at developing a comprehensive compilation of materials to preserve the history of Monrovia. The overall project is being led by three longtime Monrovia residents with deep roots in the community, including Steve Baker, City Historian; Sandy Burud, Ph.D.; and Louise Robertson, Ed.D. Together, the group has developed a program that has three overarching goals.

The first goal of the project is to scan, digitize, inventory, and catalog historical documents (pictures, papers, etc.) to develop a comprehensive online repository of Monrovia's history. Next, the overall *Monrovia Legacy Project* will develop books, videos, written histories, and educational content to share the information that has been documented. Finally, the project team leading the initiative will be working to distribute the materials that have been inventoried and created via the development of a new website. It is also important to note that all of the work products produced from *Monrovia Legacy Project* will be stored at the Monrovia Public Library for public access and use.

The historical documents and materials that the group will first seek to catalogue and preserve is the collection owned by City Historian Steve Baker and the materials that are in the possession of the Monrovia Historical Society. Moving forward though, one of the key aspects of the project that is being pursued to ensure that we capture the definitive history of Monrovia is an open invitation to all members of the community to participate in the *Monrovia Legacy Project*. The project team leading the initiative has issued an open invitation to all Monrovia residents to...

- Contribute stories, photographs, records and ideas about aspects of Monrovia's history
- Spread the word about the *Monrovia Legacy Project*!

If you have content you would like to share, or ideas that you want to contribute towards the project, please feel free to contact either Sandy Burud ([sandy.burud@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.burud@gmail.com) / Phone: (626) 256-3423) or Tina Cherry (Tina Cherry: [tcherry@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:tcherry@ci.monrovia.ca.us) / Phone: (626) 256-8226) for additional information.

## **MAP YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OFF TO A GREAT START**

The City's MAP Youth Leadership Academy kicked off on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 with a class of 20 youth that ranged in age from 11 to 18. During the next eight months, the youth will be exposed to a variety of workshops & events to guide and encourage all of the participants to grow into community leaders. The MAP Youth Leadership Program is designed specifically to help youth learn, develop, and grow so that they in turn can take active roles in contributing positively to help their community.

The MAP Youth Leadership Academy seminars are held on the first Wednesday of every month (September 2, October 7, November 4, January 6, February 3, March 2, and April 13) from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. The first session hosted on September 2, 2015 was led by Ed Nichols, an instructor from Legendary Leadership Academy, who provided the youth participants with an overview of the qualities of a leader, and inspiration to lead in their various roles in the community. The next class,

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scheduled for October 7, 2015, will be a walking tour of the City, led by Community Development Director Steve Sizemore and Planning Division Manager (and future Community Development Director) Craig Jimenez.

Please keep in mind that there is still time to sign up as a participant in the MAP Youth Leadership Academy. If you are interested, please feel free to contact Ariel Tolefree-Williams at (626) 932-5563, or via email at [atolefree@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:atolefree@ci.monrovia.ca.us)!

## **MAP ADULT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY UNDERWAY TOO!**

The City's MAP Adult Leadership Academy is also off to a great start, with the first meeting for our current class having taken place on Thursday, September 10, 2015. The program this year has 16 registered participants who are working to join our growing number active Neighborhood Leaders. For the next 7 weeks, attendees will have the opportunity to partner to facilitate open lines of communication while also building trust to find creative solutions to enhance Monrovia.

The Adult Leadership Academy meets each Thursday through October 22, 2015, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. For additional information, please feel free to contact Ariel Tolefree-Williams at (626) 932-5563, or via email at [atolefree@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:atolefree@ci.monrovia.ca.us)!

## **MONROVIA FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL DISPATCHED AS STRIKE TEAMS TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

This last week, Monrovia Fire Department personnel was dispatched as part of two strike teams to assist Northern California with fighting two massive brush fires. Among those dispatched include:

- OES Engine 341 staffed by Captain Rapp, Engineer McDaniel, Firefighter/Paramedic Spencer & Firefighter/Paramedic Board were dispatched to the Butte Incident outside Murphyville, CA conducting structure defense work
- Engine 101 staffed by Captain Rooks, Engineer Arellano, Firefighter Cabiles & Firefighter Kaliman were dispatched to the Butte Incident outside Murphyville, CA conducting structure defense work

Many thanks to our team for their dedicated commitment to assisting with the efforts to contain the Butte Incident, which to date has burned 70,760 acres and has destroyed 365 residences, 261 outbuildings, and damaged 26 structures. Our teams from Monrovia are working to protect the additional 6,400 structures that are threatened by the fire.

## **HOMEWORK TUTORING HELP AT THE LIBRARY**

The Monrovia Public Library is partnering with Pro-Active Tutoring (PAT) on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the school year. PAT brings college age tutors and Monrovia High School honor students together to provide free tutoring in math, language arts, and reading for students in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Tutoring services through PAT are also available at several Monrovia school sites and the Monrovia Public Library is their newest location. Interested patrons can come during the scheduled times and begin their homework as tutors circulate throughout the room providing assistance on an as needed basis. We hope to see you there!

## **NEW HOLIDAY DECORATIONS SET TO BE PURCHASED FOR OLD TOWN**

Can you believe it... the holiday season is just around the corner! In preparation for the coming holidays, the City, in partnership with the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board (MOTAB), has coordinated the acquisition of new holiday

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decorations for Old Town. Among the new items that have been ordered include the illuminated spheres that are placed on the 86 trees along Myrtle Avenue and new garland for placement on Myrtle Avenue at Foothill Boulevard. Moving forward, staff is also currently working to acquire new lights to replace the existing light strands on the trees throughout Old Town.

## **CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF PARTICIPATED IN AN EL NINO PREPAREDNESS WEBINAR LAST WEEK**

City Fire Department personnel participated in a Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management program regarding preparing for the pending El Nino weather event. During the discussion, our team reviewed with representatives from throughout Los Angeles County preventative measures that should be taken, and also involved a discussion about high fire risk areas in advance of the Santa Ana Wind Period.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STUDY SESSION SET FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 TO ADDRESS HISTORIC PRESERVATION / NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY WORK PLAN**

During the past several months, the City has been engaged in an extensive initiative aimed at addressing historic preservation and neighborhood compatibility related issues in Monrovia. These efforts have included engaging the public in a broad based outreach effort to solicit feedback from the community on a variety of important development related issues. The result was a substantial amount of feedback which provided essential information in identifying issues, potential policy changes, and alternatives.

Based on the feedback received during the public outreach phase of the overall study, the City Council adopted a Policy Direction Statement to guide the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and City staff in developing policies and regulations to address issues raised by the community regarding neighborhood compatibility and historic preservation.

As the overall assessment moves forward to the actual policy development phase, a Historic Preservation Commission study session has been scheduled to allow commission members and staff an opportunity to discuss the development and prioritization of work to be initiated during this next year. **That meeting has been scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 23 at 5:30 p.m. Monrovia City Hall in the City Council Chambers.**

Additional information regarding this matter can be found on the City's website at:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/communitydevelopment/webform/monrovia-neighborhood-study>

## **MONROVIA RENEWAL AND PROPOSITION 218 WATER / SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT COMMUNITY MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>**

As you may recall, the City is currently in the midst of coordinating a Proposition 218 Hearing, which is scheduled to take place on October 6, 2015. At that hearing, the City will consider proposed adjustments to our water and sewer rate structures that have been developed to address our current deferred maintenance related issues associated with our water system and sewer system. In addition, the City has developed a comprehensive multi-year capital improvement program called *Monrovia Renewal*, which seeks to repair our road infrastructure, sidewalk / curb / gutter infrastructure, water infrastructure, and sewer infrastructure over the course of the next 3-5 years.

In an effort to provide additional background related to the *Monrovia Renewal* capital improvement initiative, along with detailed information regarding the proposed water and sewer rate adjustments, the City has coordinated two community

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meetings, the first of which took place on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the Library Community Room. The next community meeting has been coordinated to take place on the following date / time:

- Tuesday, September 29, 2015, from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers (415 S. Ivy Avenue)

We hope that you will join as at the meeting!



**Community Meetings on Proposed Rate Adjustments**

The City of Monrovia will be holding two community meetings to share information on the proposed water and sewer rate adjustments, and how these rates are tied to *Monrovia Renewal*, a major infrastructure project.

Come hear more details from City staff and ask questions about the proposed rate adjustments and *Monrovia Renewal* prior to the Public Hearing on October 6, 2015.

**Meeting Dates**

- Saturday, September 19, 2015  
10:00 - 11:30 AM  
Library Community Room  
321 S. Myrtle Avenue
- Tuesday, September 29, 2015  
7:00 - 8:30 PM  
City Hall Council Chambers  
415 S. Ivy Avenue

The poster features a blue water pipe graphic at the top left, a water drop, and the City of Monrovia logo. It also includes several green gears and a blue pipe graphic at the bottom right.

## **52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CELEBRATE THE ARTS SHOW SET TO TAKE PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 26 – 27, 2015 IN LIBRARY PARK**

The Monrovia Association of Fine Arts (MAFA) has been hard at work to coordinate the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Celebrate the Arts” Show, and Monrovia’s first ever ChalkFest, which will take place on September 26 and 27, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day in Library Park. An event kick-off ceremony is also scheduled to take place on September 26, 2015, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

At the “Celebrate the Arts” show, nearly 50 area fine artists and 10 chalk artists will display and demonstrate their mastery, and a dozen live musical and dance acts will perform in the afternoons. This year, the show will include many firsts, including:

- The first ChalkFest for Monrovia
- The first kids chalk activities and coloring contest
- The first appearance by students from Mt. Sierra College (11 fine artists and 2 chalk artists)
- The first live glass blowing demonstration
- The first appearance by 18 artists new to MAFA

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In addition, students from Monrovia High School and Canyon High School will be on hand to display and demonstrate their ceramics and urban art work. A Silent Auction has also been coordinated to feature the work of participating artists, with all proceeds generated from the auction going to support arts education for kids and teens in Monrovia. And as an added feature, food trucks will be on hand throughout the event.

The "Celebrate the Arts" show is truly a joint community event. In addition to the wonderful volunteers at MAFA, the overall program is supported by the City, the Volunteer Center, the Arcadia Association of Realtors, Advantage Ford, Blick Art Supply, ChapCare, Chicago Title, Ward Auto Service, Donna Baker – Realtor, Hugo Torres – Realtor, and Brian Huffman Photography.

We are certainly looking forward to seeing everyone at the event! Also, please feel free to visit the MAFA website (<http://www.monroviafinearts.org/>) for additional information regarding the event.



## **TIRE RECYCLING EVENT**

Monrovia residents are encouraged to bring their used tires to the free Waste Tire Collection event. Tires will be accepted and recycled free of charge. Don't miss the opportunity to remove those old tires in your yard, garage or community.

The next free event will take place in Glendora, and event details include:

Saturday, September 26, 2015

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Citrus College, Parking Lot S9 (Corner of Barranca Avenue and Foothill Boulevard)

## **MYRTLE MEDIANS MAINTENANCE WORK ENGAGED LAST WEEK**

The medians on Myrtle Avenue at the southern entrance to Old Town received a little tender-loving-care (TLC!) from our Park Maintenance Team last week. The spruced up medians go well with our new Water Conservation Banner at the entrance to Old Town, as the attached photo illustrates!

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## **YOUTH SPORTS FLAG FOOTBALL SEASON UNDERWAY**

The City of Monrovia's Youth Sports program Flag Football season began with games on Wednesday, September 16, 2015. The first game of the day featured the Wild Rose Bears and the Bradoaks Bobcats facing off. Bradoaks took an early 14-0 lead and never looked back eventually winning the game 26-14.

The second game was played between the Monroe Lions and the Mayflower Mariners. Monroe displayed team effort both on offense and defense and beat Mayflower, 25-0.

The third and final game of the day was between the newest team in the league, the Plymouth Dragons, and the Shamrock Falcons represented by the Boys and Girls Club. The game was a low scoring affair with the Shamrock Flacons just getting by with a 6-0 victory.

The cheer teams from each school performed at halftime and supported their respective teams, and we are so excited for this season!

## **MAYFLOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND RIBBON CUTTING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 2015**

As you may recall, Mayflower Elementary School was recently able to secure a grant to build a new playground on their campus. A ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the new playground has been scheduled to take place on Monday, September 28, 2015, at 8:15 a.m. The event will take place on the campus of Mayflower Elementary School (210 North Mayflower Avenue), and we hope to see everyone there!

## **MONROVIA PUBLIC LIBRARY IS CELEBRATING "BATMAN DAY" ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015**

Did you know that Batman Day is right around the corner? To celebrate the occasion, on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, the Monrovia Public Library will be hosting a Batman Day celebration. The public is welcome... so head towards the Bat Signal at 321 South Myrtle Avenue and join in the festivities!

- All day, patrons can stop by in costume to take their picture in front of the Batman backdrop in the Youth area.
  - Post your pictures online! Be sure to use either the hashtag [#MPLBatmanDay](#) or the hashtag [#MyMonrovia](#)

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- Make Batman masks and Batman origami in the Adult and Youth areas of the Library

That day, our dedicated team at the Library is also going to be dressed up as Superheroes for day! If you have any questions about this fun event, please feel free to contact the Library at (626) 256-8275.



## **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 the potential for a government shutdown, FAA reauthorization, the Iran nuclear deal, and the Pope's visit to D.C. next week. Follow the link below to review this update.

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

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

The most recent Police Department semi-weekly neighborhood watch report for the period September 14 – 16, 2015, has been uploaded to our website for your review and reference. During the past seven (7) day period, the Police Department has handled 406 service events, resulting in 76 investigations. Follow the link below to review the Semi- Weekly 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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