

City Manager's Update

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

I hope that this email finds you all doing great and enjoying a tremendous week!

In an effort to provide an update of important news and notes from this last 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 update – I can be reached via email at ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us!

Please have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best regards,
Oliver

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.
-Aristotle

MAJOR WARNER BROTHERS MOVIE PRODUCTION FEATURING WILL FERRELL AND AMY POEHLER SET TO BE FILMED IN MONROVIA

In a bit of exciting entertainment news, we learned last week that Warner Brothers is planning to shoot a major motion picture here in Monrovia on October 5 – 7, 2015. The movie, which is titled, "The House," will feature Will Ferrell and Amy Poehler, and will be filmed on North Steadman Place, North Highland Place, in Old Town Monrovia at the Peach Café, and at the 400 and 500 blocks of South Myrtle Avenue. In the movie, Will Ferrell and Amy Poehler will portray parents who lose the money intended to pay for their daughter's college tuition, and in a desperate effort to recoup those funds, they open an underground casino in their house.

Advanced preparatory work on the residences on Stedman Place and Highland Place will begin on October 2, 2015, with actual filming activities scheduled for October 5, 2015. Filming activities will then move to Old Town on October 6, 2015, and will last through October 7, 2015. There will be intermittent traffic impacts during the filming days, and we have been notified that there will be film production vehicles that will be parked on East Palm Avenue, South Ivy Avenue and Primrose Avenue during this time period. Also, the filming crew will be utilizing parking at the Colorado Commons parking lot during the shoot.

While there will be some inconveniences during the filming, the overall activity will generate positive economic activity for our local Monrovia merchants, and will prominently feature our Old Town. Also, in an effort to minimize any local impacts, FilmLA will also be sending 3 liaisons to work with our local businesses to ensure that things move smoothly during the filming.

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THREE INTERESTING CASES HANDLED WITH EXCELLENCE BY OUR DETECTIVES BUREAU

Last week, I was briefed about three interesting cases that our Detectives Bureau handled superbly, and I wanted to share details related to each of those cases.

▪ Burglaries, Vehicle Theft, and Receiving Stolen Property

On September 9, 2015, at 0805 hours, Monrovia officers were dispatched to the 100 block of Norumbega Drive regarding a subject asleep in a vehicle with the engine running. Upon arrival the officers and found a male adult who they recognized from prior contacts hunched over in a vehicle that matched the description of a vehicle used in a recent theft of tools. They woke the subject who exited and dropped drug paraphernalia. They detained the subject and discovered his vehicle was loaded with what appeared to be stolen tools. Officer recognized some of the items in the vehicle matched the description of the tools taken from the theft. The subject was arrested for being under the influence and suspicion of grand theft. The vehicle was towed to the station. During the booking process a card for a local storage location was located in the subject's wallet.

Detectives were notified of the arrest and wrote search warrants for the subject's vehicle, home and storage locker. While serving the search warrant at the residence, a victim from a commercial burglary in Irwindale arrived at the residence claiming the suspect in our case may be the same suspect who broke into his business and stole his Snap-on tool box loaded with tools valued over \$30,000.00. Detectives took his information and continued with the search. During the search of the location numerous empty tools bags were recovered and loose tools. The tools described from the Irwindale case were not recovered at the location.

The storage locker turned out to belong to a different person, so that search was not conducted. Later, a photograph of the suspect we had in custody was shown to the storage facilities manager who identified the suspect as having a different storage locker under a different name. A revised search warrant was obtained, signed and served. The storage locker was filled from floor to ceiling with miscellaneous tools. Along the east wall, detectives noticed a large black Snap-on tool box which was locked. Detectives contacted the victim from the Irwindale case and he brought a key to the tool box, which unlocked it, and in one of the drawers there were receipts in the victim's name for the purchase of the tools, and tool box.

The search warrant was served on the vehicle which also contained numerous tools. Some of the tools in the vehicle were tools taken from several cases over the past week in Monrovia. To date, 5 cases have been identified which include cases from Monrovia, Glendora and San Diego. The investigation is continuing and detectives will be contacting other agencies in an attempt to locate additional victims.

▪ Elderly Scams

Over the past year there have been several cases where elderly citizens have been approached by a male subject claiming there was something wrong with their vehicle. The subject would state that he could repair the vehicle on the spot. He would often not give the victim time to respond and would do the repair anyways and charge the victim. He would often charge anywhere from \$500.00-\$8,000.00 and would be rather intimidating at times so the victims unwillingly paid the amounts. The suspect description was similar in many cases, but no suspect was identified. This type of situation was occurring in several local cities. LASO had a case in Temple City where deputies managed to obtain a DNA sample from the steering wheel of a vehicle which returned with a hit. This suspect had been featured in "America's Most Wanted" for similar crimes throughout the country. Detective Oberon handled the investigation on the Monrovia cases and was able to identify the same suspect in 5 of our cases. Detective Oberon presented the case to the District Attorney's Office and was able to obtain a filing in each of our cases and get a 1 million dollar warrant for the suspect.

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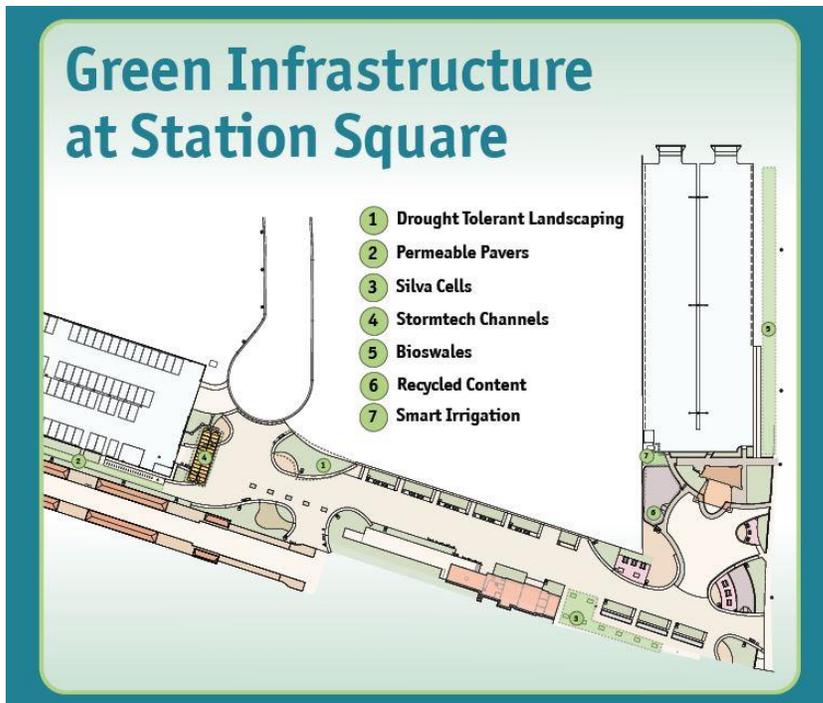
▪ Embezzlement Case

Detective Chad Harvey received an embezzlement case from a company who reported the crime back in October of 2011. An employee had embezzled money from them. Once the investigation was occurring, it was discovered that the employee had been embezzling money for several years. The employee actually paid for kids to go to college, get a car, remodel a kitchen, go on vacations, and pay for bills. This information was obtained by conducting 20 search warrants on accounts belonging to the employee. The loss was determined to be in excess of approximately \$950,000.00. After a year of investigating the case, it was taken to the Major Fraud Division at the District Attorney's Office in LA where charges were finally filed against the suspect in September 2015.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ABOUNDS AT STATION SQUARE

As we continue to make progress towards completion of the Station Square on-site infrastructure and park project adjacent to the Gold Line Station here in Monrovia, we wanted to share that the project includes quite a variety of green infrastructure to promote environmental stewardship. In addition to traditional environmentally friendly project components, such as drought tolerant landscaping, utilization of recycled content, and smart irrigation systems, the City also obtained a variety of grant funds to install cutting edge green infrastructure technology within the Station Square project.

Shown below is a green infrastructure highlights map, which outlines the location of some of the environmentally sustainable project components in the Station Square Project. An overview of some of that technology includes the following:



▪ **Permeable Pavers:** Permeable pavers are one of the most environmentally friendly paving solutions that are available. In addition to being decorative and attractive, permeable pavers have proven benefits such as reduced installation costs, increased water quality, decreased storm water runoff, and helps prevent soil erosion and flooding.

▪ **Silva Cells:** Silva Cells are a modular building block for containing healthy soil beneath paving to help grow trees and manage the rate, quality and volume of stormwater runoff. Typically, urban tree growth is stunted by limited access to soil and poor soil quality. Buckling sidewalks from roots are also hazardous and a major cost to repair. Silva Cells overcome these challenges by providing unlimited soil volumes without compromising above ground surface area. Silva Cells also integrate trees and soil with stormwater management, utilizing the

proven capacity of soils to act as an underground bioretention system. By combining on-site stormwater management with expanded rooting volumes for healthy tree growth, Silva Cells create an ability to restore ecological function within developed areas.

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- **Bioswales:** Bioswales are landscape elements designed to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water. They consist of a swaled drainage course with gently sloped sides that are filled with vegetation, compost and/or riprap.
- **Stormtech Channels:** Stormtech channel systems function as stormwater detention, retention, and first flush storage environmental solutions. Stormtech chambers can be configured into beds or trenches of various sizes or shapes, and can be designed easily and efficiently around utilities, natural or man-made structures and any other limiting boundaries.

There certainly is a lot to look forward to at Station Square!

MONROVIA RENEWAL AND PROPOSITION 218 WATER / SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 29TH

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 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 tonight! Details related to the event include:

- **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!

MAYFLOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND RIBBON CUTTING ON 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 was held on Monday, September 28, 2015 to celebrate the new playground. The event took place on the campus of Mayflower Elementary School (210 North Mayflower Avenue).



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 drop icon, a blue pipe, and several green gears. The City of Monrovia logo is in the top right corner.

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**Congresswoman
Judy Chu**



Service Academy Day

Meet with representatives from the Service Academies. Students, parents, guidance counselors, and school officials are all welcome to attend.

Saturday October 3, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
(Registration at 9:30 a.m.)

Glendora Public Library
Bidwell Forum
140 S. Glendora Ave.
Glendora, CA 91741

Please RSVP via email to RSVP.ChuEvents@mail.house.gov
or by calling the Pasadena District Office at 626-304-0110

MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY DAY EVENT HOSTED BY CONGRESS MEMBER CHU SET FOR OCTOBER 3, 2015

Congress Member Judy Chu has announced that she is holding her annual Service Academy Day on Saturday, October 3, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. in the Bidwell Forum at the Glendora Public Library (see flyer below). This event is for high school students and their parents who are interested in attending one of the Military Service Academies, such as West Point, the Air Force Academy, or the Naval Academy. The Military Service Academies are among the highest ranked educational institutions in the world, and representatives from each of the five Academies will be at the event to provide information on what they offer to students in terms of academics, life experiences and career opportunities. Questions regarding the event can be directed to Enrique Robles, Office of Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-27), at (626) 304-0110.



LAB LAUNCH MONROVIA SET TO HOST LUNCH & LEARN EVENT ON OCTOBER 9, 2015

Lab Launch Monrovia will be hosting a "Lunch & Learn" event on Friday, October 9, 2015, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. at their offices (605 East Huntington Drive). Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to bring their lunch to the Lab Launch Monrovia offices that day to hear Tom Ruginis of HappiLabs.org speak about how to most efficiently operate a lab. The discussion will feature tips for managing supply costs and supplier relations, as HappiLabs works to provide affordable services to reduce costs and increase efficiency for academic and biotech labs. For additional information, please feel free to visit the Lab Launch Monrovia website, at <http://lablaunch.org/>.

TAYLOR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AND THE MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCE AUDITION DATES FOR THE MUSICAL "HAIRSPRAY"

Calling all actors / actresses / performers! The Taylor Performing Arts Center and the Monrovia Unified School District want you to audition for a role in the upcoming musical production of "Hairspray!" This show will be the 6th professional production for the Monrovia community, and those interested in performing are encouraged to participate in the audition on October 12, 2015, and October 13, 2015. Additional information is included in the flyer below.

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"Hairspray" will open on Friday, December 4, 2015, at 8:00 p.m., and there will only be four performances of this smash hit! Other performance dates will be on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. Make sure to mark your calendars for the show!

The Taylor Performing Arts Center and Monrovia Unified School District are pleased to announce

AUDITIONS

for



Audition Dates: Monday, October 12, 2015
Principals (Sign-in, 6:30 p.m.; Auditions, 7:00 to 10:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, October 13, 2015
Singers who dance and dancers who sing (Sign-in, 6:30 p.m.; Auditions, 7:00 to 10:30 p.m.)

Thursday October 15, 2015
Callbacks by invitation only; 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Location: The Taylor Performing Arts Center
845 W. Colorado Boulevard
Monrovia, CA 91016

Audition Information:

Principal Audition: Please prepare 16-32 bars of a song from a musical (stage or film) that shows your range. Be sure to bring sheet music with you in the appropriate key. An accompanist will be provided (NO CDs, please). Be prepared to dance.

Music Audition: Prepare 16-32 bars of a song from a musical (stage or film) that shows your range. Be sure to bring sheet music with you in the appropriate key. An accompanist will be provided (NO CDs, please).

Dance Audition: Wear movement friendly clothing. A dance combination will be taught at the audition. You DO NOT need to prepare a dance routine of your own.

Please bring a resume and headshot with you.
Small stipends will be available for principal roles.

*****The role of Edna Turnblad has been pre-cast.**

Performance Dates: December 4, 5, and 6, 2015

For additional information on the open auditions, please e-mail Julia Clegg at jclegg@monrovia-schools.net

THANK YOU AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE AUDITIONS!

ASSEMBLY MEMBER HOLDEN SET TO HOST TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSION ON OCTOBER 15, 2015



You're invited to join
Assemblymember Chris Holden

Select Committee on Regional Transportation and
Interconnectivity Solutions Oversight Hearing

"Moving Goods, Moving People"

Thursday, October 15, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Richard Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals
125 South Grand Ave. Pasadena, CA 91105

Free parking in Lot across the street and street parking available



**Join us for a discussion to address timely
transportation issues for the region and the state**

Confirmed Speakers:

Art Leahy, CEO SCRRA/MetroLink
Carrie Bowen, District 7 Director, Caltrans
Mark Christoffels, CEO, ACE
Habib Balian, CEO, Foothill Gold Line
Ray Wolfe, Executive Director, SANBAG
Hasan Ikhrata, Executive Director, SCAG
Will Kempton, Executive Director, CTC
Bryan Pennington, Engineering & Construction, LA Metro
Raffi Hamparian, Federal Affairs Director, LA Metro
Dr. Matt Miyasato, Deputy Executive Officer, SCAQMD

This hearing is free and open to the public.

Assembly Member Holden has announced that he will be hosting a discussion with the select committee on Regional Transportation and Interconnectivity Solutions on Thursday, October 15, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Richard Chambers US Court of Appeals, 125 South Grand Avenue, Pasadena, 91105. See additional event information below.

POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

The most recent Police Department semi-weekly neighborhood watch report for the period September 21 – 23, 2015, has been uploaded to our website at the link below for your review and reference.

<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

OLIVER CHI
City Manager

City of Monrovia
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Monrovia, CA 91016
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