

City Manager's Update

Wednesday, September 2, 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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR STEVE SIZEMORE IS RETIRING THIS YEAR, CRAIG JIMENEZ TO STEP IN AS NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

I wanted to share with you all some bittersweet news regarding a key member of our Department Head team. Our Community Development Director, Steve Sizemore, has shared with me that he plans to retire at the end of this calendar year. While I am delighted for him and his family, I am also simultaneously sad for our organization as we will be losing a tremendous individual who has served Monrovia with great distinction.

Steve originally started with the City back on March 25, 2002, and since that time, he has played an instrumental role in leading just about every key development project that has occurred here in Monrovia. The Gold Line. Station Square. The Parks at Station Square. Paragon. Colorado Commons. These completed projects have Steve's fingerprints all over them, and he has without a doubt left Monrovia so much better off than when he first joined the organization.

Since Steve first informed me about his decision to retire, I have spent quite a bit of time deliberating the best way in which to fill the Community Development Director position upon his retirement. Based on a host of factors, I am so excited to also be able to share with everyone that I intend to name Craig Jimenez, our current Planning Manager, as our next Community Development Director.

In addition to being an exceedingly brilliant planning professional, Craig has an approach to leadership that I believe aligns with our key organizational values. I have observed Craig in a number of situations where he has put the good of the organization ahead of his own personal ambitions, and he constantly is striving to find a better way of doing things.

I hope you will all join with me in congratulating Steve as he gets ready to begin this next phase of his life in retirement!

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MONROVIA RENEWAL AND PROPOSITION 218 WATER / SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT COMMUNITY MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 19TH AND SEPTEMBER 29TH

As you may recall, the City is currently in the midst of coordinating a Proposition 218 Hearing on October 6, 2015, to consider proposed adjustments to our water and sewer rate structures that have been developed to address our current deferred maintenance related issues connected to 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, which are set for the following dates / times:

- Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Library Community Room (321 S. Myrtle Avenue)
- Tuesday, September 29, 2015, from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers (415 S. Ivy Avenue)

HISTORIC DEPOT REHABILITATION AND ADAPTIVE REUSE RFP SET TO ISSUE THIS WEEK

Just a quick note to let everyone know that we plan on issuing the RFP for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Historic Depot this week. Based on our current internal planning schedule at the City, we anticipate completing the overall review process and recommending a selected development partner for City Council consideration in late October / early November.

SIDEWALK REPAIR TO FIX THE "MYSTERY HOLE" AT 135 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2015

As you may recall, a "mystery hole" appeared in the sidewalk in front of the building located at 135 Foothill Boulevard around a month ago. After further inspections and review, it was determined that the sidewalk collapsed due to a large underground air conditioning vault at the location. During the past several weeks, City staff has been working with the property owner to develop a permanent fix for the problem, which will involve relocating the air conditioning unit, building a new underground block wall, filling / compacting the hole, and then performing the sidewalk repairs. We recently completed the engineering design work, and we are tentatively planning on implementing the permanent fix for the location during the week of September 7, 2015.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY / HISTORIC PRESERVATION UPDATE

During the past few weeks, staff has been working to formalize the work plan that will implement the overall policy direction established by the City Council on our neighborhood compatibility and historic preservation efforts. An overview of concepts have been identified for additional adjustment and our efforts to implement the identified policy

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adjustments will begin at the Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission meetings scheduled in September (Planning Commission on September 9, and Historic Preservation Commission on September 23). There, staff will outline the range of potential policy adjustments and begin working with the commissioners to develop the actual zoning code and planning guideline updates. The overall plan has been thoughtfully developed and executed by our Community Development Department staff, and we are looking forward to the continued coordination of this process as we move forward.

WATER CONSERVATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Last week, City staff attended the Rotary Club Meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, where they presented information on water conservation as part of the 45-day Educational Period that began on July 21, 2015, when the Phase IV Water Conservation mandatory regulations were adopted. As a reminder, the 45-day Educational Period ends next Friday, September 4, 2015, and beginning on the following day, the six-step enforcement plan will take effect.

The six-step Enforcement Plan includes:

- o First violation results in a door hanger containing water conservation information.
- o Second violation results in phone or in-person Staff contact providing conservation information.
- o Third violation results in a formal written notice containing information on the fines that may be issued if additional violations occur.
- o Fourth violation may result in a \$100 fine.
- o Fifth violation may result in a \$200 fine.
- o Sixth or more violations may result in a \$300 fine.

It is important to note that although the formal Educational Period will be ending, the City will continue to emphasize outreach and education with the goal of conserving water and complying with State mandates, rather than issuing fines.

Furthermore, as you may recall, the City recently compiled our July 2015 water usage numbers, and again, Monrovia residents have been doing their part. **In total, for the month of July 2015, our community used 23.5% less water than when compared with July 2013!**

For additional tips on how to use water wisely and upcoming water conservation events, please visit the City's website at:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/publicworks/page/monrovia-conserves-community-effort>.

HILLSIDE BASIN DIRT REMOVAL EFFORTS INITIATED LAST WEEK

Last week, staff continued to assist with dirt removal from areas impacted by the Madison Fire along Highland Place and Crescent Drive. In particular, City crews assisted with the removal of dirt from a property located on Highland Place just south of Scenic Drive, and also assisted with removing debris from a property located on Crescent Drive between Madison Avenue and Avocado Place. Both areas had basins that were filled with mud / debris and were in

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danger of overflowing onto City streets and impacting private properties should the City experience a rain event. Furthermore, given the predicted El Nino storms this coming winter, staff has been proactive in working to identify locations that have a high probability of mud / debris discharge, and coordinating processes to remove as much of the material in advance as possible. If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to let me know.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND MONROVIA OLD TOWN ADVISORY BOARD RECRUITMENTS UNDERWAY

Just a reminder that recruitments are currently underway for the vacancies that currently exist on the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board (MOTAB). Based on our existing policies, applicants interested in serving on either the HPC or MOTAB must submit a completed application to the City Clerk's Office by Friday, September 4, 2015. Based on this schedule, it is anticipated that interviews will be conducted the week of September 8-10, 2015, with the formal appointment currently scheduled to occur at our September 15, 2015 City Council meeting.

Those interested in finding out more information regarding this matter are encouraged to visit the City's website at the following web address:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/bc/page/boards-and-commissions-recruitment>

On that web page, individuals will find a link to the board / commissioner application, along with additional general information on the City's boards and commissions.

CANYON PARK GETS A HELPING HAND FROM A FUTURE EAGLE SCOUT

Eagle Scout candidate Austin Che from Troop 349 completed his Eagle Scout project in Canyon Park. Austin served as Project Manager for his scout team and under his leadership, the scouts created new steps that lead to an educational site that benefits the Monrovia Unified School District elementary students. As the attached photos illustrate, the upgraded entrance to the site is just off the Canyon Park Waterfall trail. The new steps will enable students to enter and exit the area with greater ease. Many thanks to Austin and Troop 349 for their efforts to improve our Canyon Park!

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THE PARKS CREW IS PREPARING FOR FALL

Last week, our Park Maintenance team coordinated tree trimming activities on East Cypress Avenue and on East Maple Avenue between California Avenue and Shamrock Avenue. The work included weed abatement activities and also trash removal, and as the attached photo shows, we're making progress getting ready for fall!



In addition to tree trimming activities, our Parks team is making preparations for a mulching project at Recreation Park for implementation during this year's *Make a Difference Day* on October 24, 2015. The mulching project will enhance the entrance areas near the tennis courts and the Mary Wilcox Youth Center, and should be a welcome improvement for all who utilize Recreation Park.

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FALL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM REGISTRATION BEGINS

The Department of Public Services Fall Youth Sports program is currently accepting registrations. On-line registration is available on the City website at www.cityofmonrovia.org. The fall program offers flag football and cheerleading to 4th and 5th grade boys and girls of Bradoaks, Mayflower, Monroe, Plymouth and Wild Rose Elementary Schools. Plymouth Elementary School is a new addition to this year's program and they're looking forward to the season ahead. The youth sports program is designed to teach boys and girls fundamental sports skills, teamwork, sportsmanship and character building. The program fee is \$35 per participant with a maximum participation of 25 per team.

2015 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES

The City of Monrovia will conclude its free Summer Concert Series this Sunday, September 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Library Park, featuring Top 40 and disco music from, "Basix."

Feel free to bring the entire family to the Rotary Club Bandshell in Library Park on Sunday evening for free musical entertainment from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Don't forget your lawn chair or blanket, and then sit back, relax, and enjoy the music! If you have any questions, please contact the Public Services Department at (626) 256-8246.

MONROVIA GOLD LINE STATION DEDICATION EVENT SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2015 AT 10 A.M.

Monrovia's Gold Line Station Dedication event is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015, at 10 a.m. According to Gold Line representatives, we have confirmed that Congress Member Grace Napolitano and Congress Member Judy Chu will be in attendance, along with State Senator Carol Liu, State Assembly Majority Floor Leader Chris Holden, along with various other Foothill Gold Line and Metro Board Member. Also of note, Minister Terrence Brown will be providing the invocation, and the Monrovia High School Band, along with Boy Scouts from Troop 141, will be presenting the colors at the start of the event.

In addition, during the next several weeks, the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority will be holding other dedication ceremonies for each station along the Phase II route, per the following schedule:

- ▯ **Monrovia Station Dedication: Saturday, September 12, 2015 – 10:00 AM**
- ▯ Azusa Downtown & APU/Citrus College Station Dedication: Saturday, September 19, 2015 – 10:00 AM

Also, as we move forward, the actual new Gold Line services are scheduled to begin operating in the Spring of 2016.

POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/police/page/semi-weekly-report>

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That's it for this update, I do hope you have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best,
Oliver

OLIVER CHI
City Manager

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