



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



January 12, 2007

Myrtle Avenue Renovation Nears Final Phase

This week, construction crews finished all of the major concrete construction work north of Palm Avenue, all the way up to Foothill Boulevard. As previously reported, nearly all of the intense concrete work is completed south of Lemon Avenue as well (all that remains are the two north/south crosswalks across Colorado Boulevard). Also this week, nearly all of the standard concrete was poured on the west side of the 400 block. Early next week, the stamped concrete on this block will be poured.

What all of this means is that by January 18 (barring any extended inclement weather) we will be underway with the final phase of this project – the east side of the 300 and 400 blocks, and the crosswalk areas contained therein. At this point we are several days ahead of schedule, having lost a little time to the seasonal slowdown that always seem to occur during the weeks before and after Christmas. Still, we are definitely on track to meet our February 28 completion date.

September 2006 – when we began this project – seems so long ago, and residents and businesses alike have been very patient with all of this work. Indeed, today I received a complaint from a resident who got frustrated by the closure of the southbound lane of traffic on the 400 block of South Myrtle Avenue. I explained that this project has been made exponentially more complex by our attempt to balance the interests of all the affected stakeholders.

To be sure, the easiest, most expeditious and most direct alternative for motorists and local residents would have been to simply shut down Myrtle Avenue entirely for the length of time necessary to complete the work. This of course was unpalatable to Old Town merchants and business owners. And, from the merchants' and employers' perspectives, the best alternative would have been to do the work entirely at night. Yet this would have drawn the ire of the local residents because of the noise and disruption, as well as made the project nearly 40% more expensive. The point is, we have to seek *balance* among all of the respective interests and still have the crews work efficiently.

I completely understand that folks want this work finished as soon as possible. Believe me – *no one wants to get finished sooner than I do*. But, this work is important and needs to be done right and proper, on time and on budget. And it will be.

As for Colorado Commons, this week some of the footings for the parking structure were poured. The footings were big enough for a grown man to walk through like a maze. It really is quite a sight to behold. The SL Construction crews continue to make good progress with project's superstructure, and on the 500 block of South Myrtle Avenue, they are already building out the sales office.

As always, if you have any questions about these projects, please feel free to contact me directly.

January 16 City Council Meeting Preview

The January 16 agenda will likely make for a fairly long meeting. We will begin the meeting with a Salute to Service program that recognizes the sacrifices of local families whose loved ones are serving in the armed services. We follow that program with recognition of some very special Monrovia residents who coordinated the Make a Difference Day event last fall, as well as the senior citizens who help lead the New Horizons and Gad-a-Bouts' senior clubs.

We'll have two public hearings. The first is the annual program allocation for the Monrovia Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); the second concerns the appeal of a recent Planning Commission decision on the construction of a single-family residence on El Nido Avenue.

The \$388,000 CDBG program is funded through the federal Department of Housing & Urban Development. In Monrovia, this important source of funding mostly goes toward the City's neighborhood preservation programs and home rehabilitation grants. As a community with a population with less than 50,000, Monrovia's CDBG program must participate under the umbrella of the LA County Community Development Commission. With limited spending flexibility, and, in as much as the federal government has continued to whittle away at funding for CDBG, staff is recommending that the 2007-08 allocation essentially mirror the programs stipulated in the prior fiscal year.

PH-2 is the Appeal of Planning Commission Resolution No. 2007-01 approving Hillside Development Permit HDP2006-02 to construct a two-story, 2,693- square-foot single-family residence at 314 El Nido Avenue. With no disrespect to either the applicant or the appellants' extensive involvement with this project, I will summarize this matter as follows:

The property at 314 El Nido is a legal lot of record, having been created vis-à-vis a property subdivision in 1991. This property is indicative of a number of so-called "remnant hillside lots" scattered across Monrovia's northerly neighborhoods. These remnant lots are generally located in already developed neighborhoods, but heretofore have not been developed for some geographical, geological, hydrological or other such complex reason. In essence, the cost to make these lots ready for development exceeded the ultimate value of the homes that could be constructed upon them. However, the rise in Monrovia property values, coupled with the scarcity of undeveloped hillside land in town, has contributed to the adjustment of this equation. It now makes economic sense for the owners of some of these remnant lots to develop their property.

In January 2002, anticipating the rise in property value and the potential for these lots to be developed, the City Council enacted the Hillside Development Permit (HDP) program. The HDP program put a number of conditions on the proposed reasonable development of hillside properties. And although 314 El Nido was originally exempted from the HDP requirements (it had been "grandfathered" under the previous requirements), it ultimately became subject to the new rules when construction failed to commence by December 2002. The applicant then re-submitted a new application in 2003, but it was withdrawn in early 2004 because of unresolved geological issues.

In March 2006, the application – featuring a redesigned house and revised grading plan – was resubmitted. Local residents on El Nido still opposed the project on a variety of grounds ranging from access to construction impacts to aesthetics and, especially, geological/seismological issues. The applicant has made several concessions on the access and design; and although there is still not consensus between the parties on many if any issues, the biggest sticking point concerns the geological/seismological issues. An exhaustive discussion and review of the onsite geological condition has been undertaken for this project. As detailed in the staff report, three geological studies and several advice letters have been submitted regarding this site. Ultimately, it was determined that the Raymond Hills Fault does not run beneath this property.

On December 13, after two meetings and about seven hour's worth of testimony, the Planning Commission approved the project based on the recommendation of staff. On December 20, local residents from El Nido appealed this decision to the City Council. The appellants' December 20 letter details the grounds for the appeal. The staff report for next Tuesday's Council meeting addresses these points one by one. The Council must now weigh all of this testimony and make a decision based upon objective standards of the HDP program versus the proposed project.

No doubt this will be a difficult decision, whichever way the Council decides. This issue pits neighbors' wants and desires against a private individual's right to reasonably develop his property. This decision will require a dispassionate and analytical view of this often emotional issue.

Also on Tuesday's agenda, under the Redevelopment Agency, we have the authorization to purchase real property 1214 Sherman Way, for the amount of \$490,000. Pending Council approval, this property (located in the heart of MAP Area No. 1) will be used in conjunction with adjacent Agency-owned property to create homeownership opportunities for several low to moderate-income households. This project will no doubt have a significant impact on a neighborhood that is very much in need of new investment.

Under Reports of City Council Members, there are several items. The Mayor will provide a brief overview of the State of the City address, update the community on the status of the resident Ad Hoc Parking Committee, and make an appointment to the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board (MOTAB) to fill a currently empty seat. Councilman Adams will discuss a significant grant that was recently received by the Fire Department that will allow us to purchase much needed new radio equipment.

We have three Administrative Reports. The first is the award of a \$137,120 contract to J. Colon Coating, Inc. for the steel tank interior coating for the City's Water Reservoir No. 2. The second report is a very interesting opportunity to make our water meter reading operation much more efficient. The purchase of a \$78,660 Automatic Meter Reading System from Master Meter Company will eventually allow a City customer service representative to drive down a given street (versus walking) and read each water meter along the way using digital radio equipment. Obviously, this would allow work that used to be done in a matter of several hours to be done, literally, in a matter of several minutes. Lastly, item AR-3 is the consideration of an advertising/sponsorship program on City-owned vehicles. Previously, the City Council had inquired about the revenue generating capability of advertisements on City transit vehicles. Staff is recommending an option for this endeavor that addresses the Council's stated goals.

As always, if you have any questions out anything on the agenda, please feel free to contact me directly.

State of the City a Major Success

If you were unable to attend the annual State of the City event this past Tuesday, I would encourage you watch it when it airs on KGEM. More than 150 Monrovia residents listened intently as Mayor Hammond described the City's successes, challenges and opportunities in 2006 and also looked ahead to 2007. The theme of his address was that Monrovia's success or failure will hinge upon our collective ability to manage the inevitable tides of change. From public safety to economic development to quality of life services, the City of Monrovia must continue to not only deliver the best possible service, but do so in a fiscally responsible and effective way. Here's to a great 2007!

And Finally, Remembering Dr. King's Dream

Monday marks the anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King. Despite the madness and wickedness present in the world today, I still have an unwavering hope and belief that our country offers the entire world the best opportunity to realize the dream that the day will come when people will be judged solely by the content of their character.

Articles Attached

- **Mayor Lays Out City's Future.**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION DIVISION UPDATE

Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Program Update.

MAP continues to proceed at a quick pace. To date, 109 applications have been handed out to residents. Thirty applications have been received by Neighborhood Services Section Staff. Twenty-seven of the applicants met the program guidelines and were approved. Fourteen residents have undergone the required code education workshops, which have been presented in English and Spanish. Two MAP projects have been started.

One project, now completed, allows an elderly disabled long-term Monrovia resident to live safely and comfortably in her home. Recently, the old heating system broke down and was red-tagged as unsafe. A new permitted heating system was installed allowing adequate heating. The second project replaces a deteriorated leaking roof preventing further water damage to the house. Eleven (11) projects are pending start-up awaiting contractor's availability.

As you will recall, LA Works was awarded the contract to complete the rehabilitation projects. They continue to do a great job for us. However, based on current program demands, it will be necessary to seek additional home rehabilitation specialists to complete the MAP Area #1 projects within the MAP Program time frames. Currently, Dan Mc Connell, Housing Coordinator, is searching for a qualified home improvement specialist.

Also, Neighborhood Preservation Division and MPD CAP staff are conducting door-to-door contacts with MAP Area #1 residents to discuss crime/blight patterns, neighborhood activism and to identify community resources. Although, time consuming, the door-to-door campaign strengthens a bond of trust, increases communication and helps to identify specific concerns of our MAP neighborhoods. It will take approximately four to six weeks to complete the MAP Area #1 meetings.

Update on the Colorado Commons Project

The building permits were issued on December 10 for the parking structure and the superstructure (residential). A partial inspection has been done for the parking foundation footings on the north and south sides of the structure. The construction of the project has begun. Construction plans were submitted for plan check review for a 20-unit, PUD development on the 400 block of Monrovista and a two-story, 3800 sq. ft. office building on the 400 block of W. Maple.

Planning Commission Recap

The Planning Commission reviewed an application for a variance at its January 10 meeting. The property located at 132 East Scenic Drive is a ranch style house with two bedrooms, one bathroom, and was built in 1947. The homes in this neighborhood offer a variety of single and two story homes, with a very eclectic mix of architectural styles that is typical of many Monrovia neighborhoods. The property is irregular in shape with no rear yard setback line. When the zoning code is applied to the

property, it is very difficult to develop anything. The proposed variance would allow the development of this lot to be similar to what is allowed for other properties in the RL Zone. The proposed addition will blend with the neighborhood. The adjacent property owner attended the meeting and supported the application. Following the public hearing, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the variance.



COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

The Monrovia Public Library, Community Center and Mary Wilcox Youth Center will be closed Monday January 15, 2007, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

LIBRARY DIVISION

Computer Class at Library: Classes are scheduled on Mondays and Saturdays throughout the month. For information and reservations, call 626.256.8259.

Best Books Program. Youth Services' Best Books Program for students in 3rd through 6th Grade began Tuesday, January 9, 3:30 p.m., and will continue on Tuesdays until February 27. Senior Librarian of Youth Services Shawn Thrasher is reading chapters from *The Horse and His Boy*, Book 3 from C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia Series. Students are invited to bring their own copies of the book to follow along. Refreshments provided.

Saturday Special: The 2007 Saturday Specials kick off with ***"Tales in a Ten Gallon Hat"*** on January 20 at 11 .a.m. and again at 2 p.m. Saddle up your horse and ride over to the Library as we enjoy the Wild West through stories, songs, and more!

Special Children's Event. Children are cordially invited to a ***"Fancy Nancy Spectacular Soiree"*** on Monday, January 22, 7 p.m., in the Alvord Room. Join us for an enchanted evening to celebrate the book *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'Conner and Robin Preiss Glasser. Accessorize with your most glamorous finery to celebrate the inner Fancy Nancy in you! For ages 4 and older. For reservations, call 626.256.8274 or email rdiaz@ci.monrovia.ca.us.

RECREATION DIVISION

Senior New Year Legends Ball. The 5th Annual Senior New Years Dance was held on Thursday, January 4, at the Monrovia Community Center. Senior club members and friends enjoyed a luncheon served by 20 volunteer Community Services Youth Commissioners. Club members: Chester Zisk, Billie Gage, Louie Zunino, Lillias Coombs, Wesley Goshorn, Alma Hall, Doris Hinrich and Verlin Aten received special recognition for their continued support of seniors in the community. The impacts these seniors have made on the lives of the senior community range from visiting shut-in's to supporting the Monrovia Volunteer Center. The event ended as the seniors danced to the tunes of Jordan's Big Band and toasted the New Year with a glass of cider!

Thank You Los Angeles Opera. The Los Angeles Opera has notified the Department of Community Services that they have been selected to receive forty free opera tickets for the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion performance of "The Merry Widow". The tickets for the Wednesday, April 25, performance will be distributed to seniors on a first come first serve basis. This is an example of how Community Services staff continually search for free program opportunities for seniors. Thank you to the Los Angeles Opera, for your generous donation!

Youth Commission "State of City" Assignment. On January 9, the Monrovia Youth Commission assisted the Chamber of Commerce with the annual State of the City Address from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Krikorian Premiere Theatre. Twelve Commissioners volunteered at the event and greeted guests, ushered attendees to the presentation and distributed the 2006 Annual City Report. The Youth Commission was very excited when Mayor Hammond and Community Services Commission Chair and incoming Chamber of Commerce President Becky Shevlin acknowledged their efforts for the community.

New Self-Guided Nature Trail. Thanks to the Monrovia Canyon Park volunteers and the funding from the REI Grant there is a new interpretative trail located between Canyon Park's middle parking level and the Nature Center. This 20 minute self-guided nature trail leads visitors through ecosystems with diverse plants and animals. Throughout the 17 stops, visitors are encouraged to listen to the sounds of the canyon, feel the textures of tree bark, observe the light and shadows filtering down through the trees, and to remain still enough to capture glimpses of animals. This new educational opportunity meets the Park's mission to "enlighten visitors to the beauty, uniqueness, and respect that should be shown to our natural resources."

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 90 emergency calls from 0800 hours January 3 to 0800 hours January 10. Significant incidents include:

Rubbish Fire. On Wednesday afternoon, firefighters responded to a report of smoke coming from the rear yard of a home in the 100 block of Montana. The resident at the location was burning trash and wood in a small metal barrel in the back yard. The fire was quickly extinguished and the resident was advised it was illegal to burn trash.

Power Lines Down. On Friday, firefighters responded to several reports of wires down caused by strong winds. Lines were cut and secured and Southern California Edison was notified to respond and make the needed repairs to restore power.

OPERATIONS

The final items needed for moving in at the temporary Fire Station site are set to be completed over the next week. On January 18, we will be making the move into the temporary station and hope to have everything moved out of the main fire station by the end of the month.

TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Members of the training division are working on Multi Company Training that highlights multi-passenger bus incidents. This class will be coordinated with Foothill Transit and will include the surrounding fire agencies. Department members will train on how to mitigate the hazards of alternative fuel sources that are commonplace in today's public transportation.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

It has been increasingly apparent that the residents in the high-fire zone are having to deal with high surcharges from the California Fair Plan resulting from inspections conducted by subcontractors on behalf of ISO. Because of the misinformation provided in these inspection reports, fire inspectors in Monrovia and neighboring jurisdictions have had to deal with irate homeowners and have been requested to be present on re-inspections.

On December 22, 2006, Battalion Chief Haberle was present at the appointed time for a re-inspection by an ISO representative at 1091 Briarcliff Road. The homeowner has lived in the home for approximately 30 years and had landscaped the hillside with fire resistive plants to ensure that his home was safe and that he would not have a surcharge assessed by the California Fair Plan. He had not had a surcharge for the past 30 years and suddenly was hit with a \$2,000 surcharge because the inspector stated that the roof on the neighbor's home was wood shake—which it was not. A re-inspection was performed and the previous report was found to be in error. This homeowner was fortunate that the Fire Department was able to step in before having to pay the surcharge. Others have not been as fortunate

This is an example of what fire departments have had to deal with, related to providing enhanced customer service for our homeowners. Monrovia Fire Prevention has been asked to be part of a committee consisting of other Verdugo city fire departments, L.A. County Fire, the State Fire Marshal's office and possibly, the California Fair Plan. The goal is to come up with consistent requirements, training and inspections for all agencies involved. In the meantime, the Monrovia Fire Department will continue to advocate on the behalf of our homeowners in the high-fire zone to prevent these egregious surcharges.

If you have questions regarding a surcharge on your California Fair Plan Insurance bill, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (626) 256-8110.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

This week has been busy with final preparation for the move to the temporary fire station, continued preparation for the strategic plan and forecasting for the next fiscal budget cycle.

As indicated earlier, the move to our temporary facility is planned for January 18. Final work of transferring phones, establishing emergency communication, preparing lockers and living quarters and enhancing the kitchen facility to accommodate the six firefighters that will be stationed there are well under way. We have completed all preparatory work, getting sub-contractors lined up to complete all necessary final work, and the station furnishings should be moved over to 138 E. Olive on the night of January 17 and 18.

Even though the move is taking up a lot of time and energy, the Fire Department is pushing hard to complete our formal five-year strategic plan. On Monday, a final meeting was held at the Canyon Park Cabin with the Chief, Battalion Chiefs and Captain John Rooks to determine priorities and costs associated with anticipated future needs. The Fire Department has identified five strategic priorities with 24 action items related to community growth and Fire Department impact. We are excited to present our plan and indicate the direction of the department from 2007-2012.

Finally, work has begun on preparing for the next budget cycle. Captains and Battalion Chiefs with budget responsibility were directed to provide information relative to their staff assignment, budget requests and justifications of any increases in line item requests. This information will become helpful as the Fire Department prepares for the next budget cycle, but also in preparation of new accountability that will be developed within each section of the budget. Those having budget responsibility will be given autonomy and control over their budget needs, but will also be held accountable for staying within their budget target once the budget is ratified. This is strictly an internal Fire Department accountability process that will take place, but one that is both reasonable and necessary given the need for fiscal responsibility.

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 508 calls for service resulting in 113 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Vehicle Burglary. On January 5 at 10:15 a.m., an officer responded to the 400 block of East Lemon regarding a vehicle burglary. The victim reported his vehicle broken into during the night. The rear passenger window was broken out, and the stereo, a tool box and two bottles of cologne were taken. Investigation continuing.

Vandalism. On January 5 at 1:06 p.m., a citizen reported vandalism in progress in the 700 block of Anita. The caller reported she could smell the odor of paint and hear the spraying of cans coming from the tracks. Officers responded and observed two subjects. The suspects fled, jumping fences to try and get out of the area. One juvenile was located in a yard in the 1600 block of Pilgrim. This juvenile was taken into custody and booked on several charges. He was released to his father.

Having taken the initiative to report this graffiti, the reporting party greatly assisted the Police Department in apprehending the person responsible. The reporting party was awarded \$100 cash for reporting the graffiti. This marks the first reward to a reporting party for the Monrovia Police Department's new Stop Graffiti Program.

Vehicle Burglary. On January 5 at 1:53 p.m., an officer responded to the 500 block of East Walnut regarding a vehicle burglary. The victim told the officer his vehicle had been broken into during the night. The loss is unknown at this time. Investigation continuing.

Robbery / Attempt Kidnap. On January 6 at 6:22 a.m., an officer went to the 500 block of West Huntington to contact a victim of assault. The victim told the officer she was walking west on Huntington approaching Ivy when an older, burgundy Toyota Corolla passed by her. The vehicle slowed down as the driver turned to look at her. The vehicle made a u-turn and doubled back. The vehicle pulled along side of her again, and the driver asked her to get inside. The victim did not comply, and the driver of the vehicle stopped and exited the vehicle. The driver grabbed the victim in an attempt to put her in the vehicle. The victim struggled free and fell to the ground. The suspect took the victim's purse and fled in his vehicle. Investigation continuing.

Assault / Assault with a Deadly Weapon. January 6 at 11:09 a.m., officers responded to a business in the 1600 block of South Mountain regarding an elderly male subject who was struck by a vehicle. The victim told officers he was struck in the face by a male subject and he fell to the ground. The suspect then got into his vehicle and intentionally struck the victim with the front end, causing the victim to land on the hood. The vehicle traveled about eight feet and the victim fell off the vehicle. The suspect fled in the vehicle, but the victim was able to write down the license plate number. The victim was transported to Arcadia Methodist Hospital.

An area search for the vehicle was conducted, and the vehicle was located in a parking lot at Mount Olive and Huntington. A DMV check indicated the vehicle was registered to a female in Pasadena. Two officers went to the registered owners address in an attempt to locate the suspect. They contacted the registered owner, but she was extremely uncooperative and was ultimately arrested for delaying and obstructing an officer. The suspect was contacted by phone, and an officer convinced him to come into the station where he was arrested for assault and assault with a deadly weapon.

Assault / Obstructing and Delaying an Officer. On January 6 at 3:51 p.m., officers responded to the 400 block of West Foothill regarding an assault witnessed by Monrovia Fire Department personnel. The suspect had fled on foot. Officers arrived and located the suspect in the 300 block of Linwood. The suspect was extremely uncooperative and would not comply with officers' commands, but was eventually taken into custody. The victim placed the suspect under private person's arrest, and the suspect was arrested for battery and obstructing and delaying an officer.

Bicyclist versus Vehicle Traffic Collision. On January 6 at 4:34 p.m., an officer went to the 900 block of West Walnut regarding a traffic accident. An 11-year-old boy was riding his bicycle westbound on Walnut on the sidewalk. He then rode off the sidewalk and into the street. A parked vehicle was blocking the view of a driver heading westbound Walnut and he did not see the bicyclist ride into the street and struck him. The bicyclist was not wearing a helmet, but sustained only a minor cut on his left arm.

Attempt Commercial Burglary. On January 9 at 12:58 a.m., officers responded to the 400 block of East Duarte Road regarding an alarm call at a business. On arrival, the officers heard someone to the rear of the location who possibly jumped over the rear wall toward Monrovia and fled. Officers went to the rear of the location to check the area, but the suspect was not located. They found an open door to the business. The suspect used metal cutters to cut through the wire mesh on the door and gained access to the door locks. The alarm was triggered and officers were dispatched. Investigation continuing.

Armed Robbery. On January 10 at 2:26 p.m., Monrovia Police Department received a call of a robbery that just occurred at a business in the 400 block of East Duarte Road. Two male suspects wearing dark clothing and black ski masks entered the business and each produced a silver handgun. Both suspects pointed their guns at the clerk. One stayed in front of the counter while the other went around. One suspect demanded money. The clerk complied, and the two suspects ran out of the store eastbound on Duarte Road out of sight. Investigation continuing.

Burglary. On January 10 at 6:48 p.m., a female victim called to report her home had been broken into. Officers arrived at the residence in the 400 block of Pearl Avenue and the victim told them she arrived home, went inside, and quickly realized items were missing. A search of the house revealed that someone had broken out a window in the back of the house to make entry. Miscellaneous items were taken. Investigation continuing.

Traffic Accident / Outside Assist. On January 10 at 6:48 p.m., police received a report of a collision in the general area of Myrtle and the 210 Freeway. An officer entered the freeway and located the collision near Myrtle. He found a solo vehicle collision with the female driver unconscious, but breathing. Paramedics and California Highway Patrol were summoned. The CHP handled the collision. The vehicle had struck the center median.

Animal Problem. On January 11 at 12:29 a.m., officers were driving up Sky Way Drive and saw a deer near a hole in a chain link fence. It appeared as if the deer was trying to stand up, but could not, and kept dropping to the ground. The deer had cuts about the face which indicated it may have tried to go through the chain link fence. The deer was severely injured, could not move, and was obviously in grave condition. Fish and Game and Animal Control were not able to respond to assist. Officers euthanized the deer at the scene to avoid any further suffering.



ENGINEERING:

Myrtle Avenue Streetscape Project Update. Decorative crosswalks have been poured on Myrtle Avenue at Palm and Foothill. Sidewalks will be poured on the west side of the 400 block of Myrtle on January 11 and 12; decorative sidewalks will also be poured at the corners and crosswalks next week. Wiring and installation of the new street lights is currently taking place and will be completed in a few days; at that time, all street lights in the downtown area will be operational.

Colorado Commons Update. The grading operations for the foundations are completed and will be filled with concrete over the next few days. There will be several concrete trucks in and out of the site as the project is being constructed. Minor grading operations will continue as footing material is removed. This material will be re-used for backfill against the soon-to-be completed retaining walls.

Wildrose Street Improvements. Wildrose Avenue between Parkrose and Oakleaf will be closed to through traffic for street improvements beginning on Monday, January 15 and completion on the 19th. The new construction will be installing "rolled curb, new cross gutter, pavement grinding an asphalt overlay. Traffic will be detoured onto Parkrose and Oakleaf until the work is completed. Affected residents will be allowed access.

OPERATIONS – Environmental Services – Facilities – Parks:

Fire Station #1 Update: On Tuesday, January 9, Facilities Staff met with the representatives from G.B. Construction, Inc and H.C. Olsen Construction Co., Inc. These two companies are the primary contractors for the Fire Station #1 Renovation and the Corporate Yard Building.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with all the involved parties, review plans, and to make sure the contractor's contract documents, insurances and bonds are in place. Insurance documents and bonds must be approved before any construction can start.

Illicit Discharge on North Canyon Boulevard: Environmental Services Staff responded to a report of a vehicle leaking fluid at the 400 block of Canyon. When staff arrived at the scene, a wrecked vehicle was found to be leaking transmission fluid. Staff asked the owner to clean up the transmission fluid. The owner responded positively to the request and proceeded to clean up the spill.

Gusty High Winds throughout Monrovia: On Friday, January 5, Public Works field staff responded to more than 30 tree-related calls due to high wind gusts. Several parkway trees were reported down; fortunately no property damage was reported. Public Works crews were busy conducting clean-up of debris throughout the day. TruGreen, our Street Tree Trimming Contractor, assisted staff with the tree requests.



Special thanks to the Public Works administrative staff for their prompt response and organization that helped streamline the numerous calls received during the windstorm.

The high winds also created an increase in the volume of trash and debris, causing delays of trash pickup. Staff is working with Athens Services to ensure that residents continue to receive refuse collection in a timely manner.

Residents are being reminded to place palm fronds in their black trash barrels and if there is not enough room, bundle them and set them next to the trash barrel on trash collection day (if there is a large quantity, please call Athens prior to trash collection day for a free bulky item pick-up). Tree branches may be placed in green waste containers, but longer branches must be tied into bundles no more than 3 feet in length. Bundles and containers should weigh no more than 50 pounds each.

STREETS:

Concrete Rehabilitation Operations:

- 620 E Colorado Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk repairs.

Miscellaneous:

- The rehabilitation to the hillside along the Canyon Park entrance road has been completed. The chain link fence will be reinstalled by the City's fencing contractor next week.
- Clean-up operations from the recent winds continued through the week. The crews coordinated efforts in conjunction with the street sweeping routes and time schedules.
- Retrieved a resident's cell phone from storm drain catch basin at Palm and Myrtle.

Graffiti Removal:

Graffiti was removed from the following Stop Sign locations:

Montana and Primrose
Primrose and Central
Magnolia and Walnut
Linwood and Magnolia
Walnut and Mayflower
Tenth and Duarte Rd.

Graffiti removed from traffic signal pole at Foothill and Mayflower

UTILITIES:

Customer Service

- Staff read and recorded 2,465 water meters
- Completed 54 work orders
- Delivered 175 shut-off notices
- Sent 33 backflow notices
- Reactivated 11 water services

Water Production. Water consumption is 42.7 millions gallons, an increase of about 6% compared to last week's reported water usage.

Utility Maintenance

Water Service: The galvanized water service leak at 331 N. Ivy was upgraded to copper.

Water Main Maintenance: Two inoperative water system valves were replaced at 850 Oakdale Road and 180 W. Foothill Boulevard. All of the residents were notified in advance and the water main was shut down for one hour. Sixty valves throughout the service area were also inspected and operated.

Sewer Main Line Maintenance: Sewer crew cleaned 13,000 feet of sewer main and 26 underground service alert tickets were completed.

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

<i>Monday, January 15</i>	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day, City Hall Closed</i>
Tues., Jan. 16, 7:00 p.m.	Salute to Service
Tues., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Fri., Jan 19, 5:30 p.m.	Chamber Installation, Iris Award Dinner, Four Points Hotel
Fri., Feb., 3, 5:30 p.m.	Boys & Girls Club Annual For Love of Youth Dinner, Monrovia Historical Museum
Tues., Feb 6, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting

CMO ATTACHMENTS:

Mayor lays out city's future

By Emanuel Parker Staff Writer
Pasadena Star-News

MONROVIA - Change is inevitable, and for a city to succeed it must manage change.

That's precisely what Monrovia is doing, Mayor Rob Hammond said Tuesday night in his State of the City address at the Krikorian Premiere Theatres.

"The City of Monrovia begins 2007 fiscally sound, with a balanced budget and adequate revenues and reserves," he said.

"We're very satisfied with the direction the city is going in," Hammond said following his speech, which was interrupted several times by applause from many of the 150 in attendance. Hammond praised colleagues, the police and fire departments, the school board and the city's 200 employees for Monrovia's success.

"Judging from the enthusiasm in the room ... it's reassuring as the mayor, as the council, to get that positive feedback from the people in the community, and it reassures you are going in the right direction," he said.

When dealing with change, a community must anticipate, prepare for and shape it, Hammond said. Monrovia failed to do that during the 1960s, he said, "and the town almost died."

He contrasted that with last year, when construction in Monrovia reached an all-time high of \$37.5 million, compared to \$25 million in 2005.

Old Town Monrovia is getting new sidewalks, curbs and gutters, landscaping, irrigation and electrical service, Hammond said.

And unlike 30 years ago - the last time those services were upgraded - the work will be done without closing Myrtle Avenue, which received \$3.1 million in improvements that will be completed in March.

Forty-eight new homes are scheduled to be built along Duarte Road in south Monrovia, Hammond said. And the city's largest-ever project - Station Square, an 80-acre, mixed-use, transit-oriented development - will be built in the next few years between the Foothill (210) Freeway and Duarte Road.

Included in Hammond's mostly upbeat address, however, was a report of increased gang activity last summer.

"Our police department developed a plan for increased gang enforcement and acted quickly and effectively," he said. "They'll continue to monitor and control that potential problem throughout this year, too."

Hammond ended his speech by urging residents to support a measure to build a new library.

"I can tell you that if Monrovia says `yes' to Measure L on March 6, we will begin construction of a new 28,000-square-foot library ... in Library Park ... before this year is out," he said.

emanuel.parker@sgvn.com (626) 578-6300, Ext. 4475