



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



January 29, 2007

Old Town Improvements Head into Home Stretch

Borrowing from Mayor Hammond's State of the City analogy that "to get a rainbow you first must have rain," I'm happy to report that the "rain" of disruption is very nearly over and we've got a "rainbow" of improvements already breaking through.

The work that has been going on along Myrtle Avenue in Old Town for the past four months is now nearly finished, on schedule and on budget, and the project will be over by the end of February with new sidewalks, new curbs and gutters, new crosswalks, new landscaping and irrigation, new street and tree lights and significantly more electrical service in place along all six blocks of Old Town's main street – barring, of course, any major storms that might slow things down. But the weather has cooperated so far and we have every reason to think that our luck is going to hold for the next four or five weeks. That means we'll see an end to the project by February 28, so we're planning a celebratory ceremony on the street the evening of March 2, coinciding with the opening of the Family Festival's 16th season. Should be quite a night. We'll have more details as the date approaches.

Station Square Entitlement Process is Moving Right Along

With the Old Town improvements nearly done and the Colorado Commons mixed-use development well underway, attention will soon be shifting back to the proposed Station Square residential, office and hotel development in the southern part of town. That huge project is moving steadily toward entitlement and we should see the pace of activity speed up considerably as spring approaches.

Our Redevelopment Agency has already acquired 6.5 acres and is in active negotiations for a significant portion of the remaining area west of Myrtle Avenue. When complete, the new transit-oriented neighborhood will cover 80 acres between Duarte Road and the 210 Freeway, stretching both east and west of Myrtle. An early phase of the project – a temporary 205-space park-and-ride lot on Myrtle between Pomona Avenue and Duarte Road – was completed in December and will ultimately be replaced by a multi-level parking structure in anticipation of the Gold Line light rail system's arrival here in a few years.

The Master Environment Impact Report (EIR) adoption process is set to begin next week. Following months of exhaustive public comment and review, I hope that we can complete the EIR in the late summer and place it on a Council agenda for further discussion and adoption in September. Pending all of the input and debate on the EIR, its ultimate adoption would establish zoning and development standards that could facilitate construction of a transit village project as early as late this fall. That's optimistic, but not unrealistic. But again, before that happens, we will be offering ample opportunity for public input – both as part of the EIR study and in hearings before the Planning Commission and Council. The first opportunity for formal public involvement will come in April when the community will be invited to comment on the design process, giving interested residents, business people, and property owners an opportunity to critique specific development concepts.

These are exciting days, and there will be a lot more of them before we're through.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Building Division Update:

The holiday season was reflected in this month's construction activity. A total of 36 permits were issued for a total valuation of \$677,131, by far the lowest in permits issued and valuation in the last two years. 25 of the 36 permits issued were for additions and alterations to residential structures and 11 for commercial construction.

The total construction valuation of \$15,928,942 is 32% less than last year's year-to-date. Although this number is low at this time, the Division anticipates issuing permits totaling approximately \$9 million dollars in valuation in the next two months. The Colorado Commons permit along with the other permits will bring the valuation to approximately \$30 million, an all time high.

Monthly fees collected were \$19,756 bringing the total to \$333,746 year-to-date. Building permits issued were 947, down 6%, compared to last year. A total of 4,457 field inspections were done which is an increase of 32% as compared to last year. The Division has scanned a total of 4,563 documents related to permits and construction plans as well as addresses.

The Building Division is currently plan-checking the proposed commercial development of Vege USA on Myrtle and Huntington, a twenty (20) unit PUD development on the 400 block of Monrovista, thirteen (13) unit PUD development on the 300 block of Genoa, four (4) unit PUD development on the 200 block of Foothill and Myrtle, a four (4) unit PUD development at the 700 block of Montana.

Update on the Colorado Commons:

The Division continues to make foundation/footing inspections on a daily basis. The more noticeable construction at this time is the construction of the perimeter walls. It won't be long before you start seeing the podium parking structure.

Filming:

Route 7 Productions will be shooting still photography for "White House Black Market" on Tuesday, January 29, 2007 at Dogwood's Market Place, 245 W. Foothill Boulevard, and a private home at 217 N. Alta Vista Avenue. They will be filming between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Special Event:

Comp USA, 745 W. Huntington Drive will be holding a parking lot event on Monday, January 29, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Tuesday, January 30, from 7 a.m. – 10 a.m. The event will utilize approximately 8 parking spaces and will include a 20' x 20' tent, a DJ, food, and live demonstrations with Microsoft Vista experts. The purpose of the event is to promote the Windows Vista launch that goes on sale on January 29, at 10 p.m. There will be a live radio remote at the location on Tuesday, January 30, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Myrtle Avenue Park and Ride Lot:

The Park and Ride Lot on Myrtle Avenue is being used for overnight parking of vehicles that are not being used for carpooling. There have been complaints by others who are using the lot. Ideas such as permit parking and no overnight parking have been suggested. These ideas are not the solution because some vanpool vehicles have been parking at the lot overnight and also some passenger cars are parked overnight as the carpool participants are working the graveyard shifts. The parking permit process is problematic as there is no way to verify whether an individual is carpooling or not.

The Police Department has come up with a workable solution that will include enforcement of the 72 hour ordinance that is used to tow abandoned cars on the street. Public Works is researching to

determine if the Park and Ride Lot is covered by the ordinance and if not a municipal code amendment will be brought forward to include this lot. The parking lot will also be signed; "Van and Carpool Vehicle Parking Only", and hopefully this will discourage non-carpoolers. At this time, the game plan is to sign the lot and enforce the 72 hour ordinance, and reevaluate the situation in a few months.

Historic Preservation Commission:

There was no lull at the beginning of this year for the Historic Preservation Commission. They had a full agenda for the meeting of January 24 with issues running the gamut of their purview. The Commission rendered the following decisions:

- Denial of historic landmark designation and a Mills Act Contract for the property at 121 May Avenue. This item was continued from their last meeting to allow the property owners additional time to do further research on the property to see if it was associated with any notable Monroviens. The applicants did not provide any additional information. While the house is a nicely restored California Bungalow, the Commission determined that it could not be designated solely on architecture.
- Recommendation of approval of landmark designation and Mills Act Contract for the property at 136 North Ivy Avenue. This will be set for the March 20, 2007 City Council meeting.
- Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the modification of a chimney at 163 Melrose Avenue.
- Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of windows at 313 Wildrose Avenue.
- Determination of non-significance for properties located at 414 Royal Oaks Drive, and 115 South Madison Avenue.
- Approval of minor façade change at 630 South Myrtle Avenue.
- Approval of a time extension to complete a condition of the Mills Act Contract for the property at 224 North Encinitas Avenue.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

LIBRARY DIVISION

Patrons Loved Fancy Nancy Program. Library patrons responded enthusiastically to the "*Fancy Nancy Spectacular Soiree*" held on Monday night. Youth Services Librarian I Rebecca Diaz, with the assistance of Pam Brownlee, created a Parisian setting in the Alvord Room complete with the Eiffel Tower, fine dining accoutrements and everything needed to learn etiquette like Fancy Nancy. While instructional, the program was different and fun. Dressed in their finest, staff and 70 participants enjoyed celebrating the book *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'Conner and Robin Preiss Glasser.

Teen Scene. Anime Café will be presented on Wednesday, January 31, 3:45 p.m., in the Alvord Room. Sharpen your pencils and learn how to draw Anime and Manga characters! The program offers step-by-step instructions on how to draw a few of the characters from this popular form of Japanese art.

RECREATION DIVISION

Eagle Scout Restores Riparian Habitat. On Saturday January 20 a portion of Canyon Park's stream was revitalized thanks to Eagle Scout Candidate, Nick Corry. Nick organized 15 fellow scouts to remove three large stands of Fig trees, including the root systems. These invasive non-native trees can potentially take over natural vegetation which is vital to the animals living in the Canyon. Non-native plants are a constant challenge but thanks to these concerned young people another piece of Canyon Park has been restored.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 79 emergency calls from 0800 hours January 17 to 0800 hours January 24. Significant incidents included:

Flooded Condition: On Tuesday, January 23 at 10:15 a.m., a rescue assignment was dispatched for a flooded condition with a person electrocuted. First arriving units shut power down to the house, and found out the resident received a shock while trying to move a computer off the flooded floor. The resident was unharmed, and firefighters began salvage and water removal. In all, several hundred gallons of water were removed from the residence. The cause of the leak was a sheared valve on a water heater.

Training and Emergency Preparedness:

This week several members of the Fire Department are attending ICS-300 in Glendale. The class is hosted by the Glendale Fire Department Training Division. The class focuses on intermediate and advanced Incident Command System protocols, and offers our members an opportunity to fine tune emergency command & control skills.

Secondly, two members of the Department are preparing to participate in an Emergency Search Specialist course, hosted by Area C, funded through an Urban Search & Rescue grant. This 40-hour course will be administered in Orange County. The course will certify our members and give them the ability to respond with our USAR Task Force, anywhere in the United States, and potentially throughout the world. The department wishes good luck and thanks to Captain Ryan Phillips and Firefighter/Paramedic John Rivas. Both members have volunteered for this difficult and physically demanding course. This is just another example of Monrovia Firefighters going the "Extra Mile" for the benefit of our community.

Fire Prevention and New Construction:

The fire prevention work group submitted a grant application for the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This grant was offered through Homeland Security Funds. Special thanks to FF/PM Struckus, FF/PM Scott, FF/PM Buccola, FF/PM Morton and Captain Patrick for all their work and commitment to this critical plan.

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 516 calls for service resulting in 116 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Sexual Assault. On January 19 at 2:10 a.m., a male victim was taken to a local park on the promise of a place to spend the night. The victim was directed down some stairs. At the bottom of the stairs the victim was sexually assaulted by the larger male suspect. The victim was able to break free and fled to a nearby residence where he knocked on a door for help. The victim met the suspect earlier in the week at a park in Duarte. The investigation is continuing.

Stolen Vehicle Recovered. On January 20 at 11:08 a.m., while an officer was on patrol he received a LOJACK hit on a stolen vehicle in the area of Huntington and the 210 Freeway. Officers searched and located the vehicle in the 400 block of Fig Place. No suspect was found in the area. The vehicle was recovered along with evidence from inside and the vehicle was returned to the owner.

Attempt Murder / Shooting at an Inhabited Dwelling. On January 20 at 7:20 p.m., officers were sent to the 100 block of East Central regarding a drive-by shooting. The officers arrived at the location within seconds. The reporting party said the suspect vehicle was a gold Chevy Tahoe or Suburban. Investigation continuing.

Vehicle Burglary. On January 21 at 8:47 a.m., an officer was dispatched to a vehicle burglary to a rear carport in the 200 block of West Palm. The victim had parked and locked his vehicle in the carport. The victim left some property on the passenger seat in plain view. The suspect smashed the passenger side window and removed the property from the seat and fled the area.

Domestic Violence. On January 21 at 9:46 a.m., an officer assisted a female in the Police Department lobby that claimed she was hit in the face by her husband during an argument. The incident occurred at the victim's residence in the 400 block of Los Angeles Street. The husband was still at the residence with the children. Officers went to the residence and contacted the husband. He was arrested for domestic violence.

Vehicle Burglary. On January 21 at 2:30 p.m., an officer investigated a vehicle burglary in the 500 block of Ranchito. The victim had parked and locked his vehicle in front of his residence. When he returned to the vehicle, the driver side window was smashed and property was missing from the vehicle.

Robbery. On January 21 at 6:40 p.m., a male suspect robbed a fast food restaurant in the 300 block of West Huntington. Officers investigated the robbery and learned that the suspect demanded money in two burger bags, and then fled the scene in a white Ford Explorer that was driven by a second suspect. Local jurisdictions were notified. Investigation continuing.

Grand Theft Auto. On January 25 at 1:40 a.m., a resident in the 100 block of North Lincoln reported being awakened by the sound of his vehicle alarm. He went out and interrupted three male suspects who were attempting to steal his car. The suspects fled in a silver colored vehicle, possibly a Mitsubishi Lancer. Investigation continuing.

Special Enforcement Team Problem Location. The Monrovia Special Enforcement Team has been working problems at a local apartment complex. Information was received on problem apartments inside the complex. The Special Enforcement Team saw one of the problem subjects mentioned standing in front of the complex. The subject is currently on parole and had a warrant for his arrest. He was arrested for the misdemeanor warrant. The Team also observed two subjects leaving the apartment complex. They were stopped for a vehicle code violation and the driver was found to be unlicensed. The driver was cited for not having a license and the passenger identified. The subjects have been part of the problem at this location.

Warrant Arrest/ Probation Search. The Special Enforcement Team received information that a subject living in the 1900 block of South Peck was wanted by Law Enforcement. A computer check revealed a "No Bail" warrant for drug sales. The Team set up surveillance and saw the subject through an open window at his apartment. With assistance from patrol, contact was made and the suspect was arrested for the warrant. A probation search of the apartment was conducted and drug paraphernalia was found.

Burglary Suspect Follow Up. Patrol personnel arrested a suspect in a residential burglary. Detectives investigated the case and tied the suspect to several other residential burglaries in the City of Monrovia. Most of the stolen property was recovered and returned to the victims.

THE PUBLIC WORKS **SCOOP**



ENGINEERING:

Myrtle Avenue Streetscape Project Update: Work is continuing on east side of the 300 and 400 blocks. Curb and gutters have been installed in the 300 block and are being prepared for in the 400 block. Installation of the underground conduits has begun in the 400 block with the 300 block to follow next week. Traffic signal relocations will be finalized after the sidewalks are poured. Planters in the 100 and 200 blocks are being landscaped and are nearly complete. Next week, we will be grading in preparation of sidewalks.

Colorado Commons Update: Concrete trucks will be continuing their procession as the parking structure block walls are constructed. Next, will be the interior structural column supports and water proofing of the exterior block walls. Once the waterproofing is complete, the walls will be backfilled with dirt from the large pile on Lemon.

Wildrose Street Improvements Update: The concrete improvements and base paving are complete, and the final asphalt cap is scheduled for next week. The street is currently re-opened for all traffic.

OPERATIONS – Environmental Services – Facilities – Parks:

Household Hazardous Waste Information Exchange. On January 24, 2007, staff attended a very informative workshop regarding Southern California Household Hazardous Waste Information Exchange (SC HHWIE) at the Rose Bowl. Presentations on a wide range of topics included The City of Pasadena's Urban Accords/Green Building/LEEDS/Green Energy programs, the City of West Hollywood's NPDES/leaking cars program, trueCycle's e-waste collection events and the City of Pasadena's recycling programs at the Rose Bowl. Legislative updates from the Department of Toxics Control and California Integrated Waste Management Board were also provided.

Illegal Roll-off. Environmental Services Staff responded to an illegal roll-off complaint at a residential address and requested immediate removal. Staff continues to educate our residents that Athens Services is the only authorized hauler in the residential franchise area.

Fire Station #1 Renovation. Mobilization and demolition are on schedule and ready to begin on January 29th. This week, Fire Department staff completed their move out of the station and into their temporary location at Olive and Ivy.

STREETS:

Sidewalk Rehabilitations:

- 239, 243 and 245 E. Lime Ave. sidewalk curb and gutter were replaced.

Graffiti Removal / Cleaning – Traffic Signs:

- Fano/Mayflower Southwest Corner
- Fano/Alamitas – Northeast Corner
- Diamond/Alamitas Northeast Corner
- Diamond/Mayflower Southeast Corner
- Palm/Ivy Northeast Corner
- Palm/Canyon Southwest Corner
- 300 block S. Canyon

- Canyon/Colorado Northwest Corner
- Mayflower/Lime, Southeast, Southwest and Northeast Corners
- Canyon/Colorado Southeast Corner
- Evergreen/Shamrock Northwest Corner
- Peck/Duarte Northeast Corner
- 1726 S. Magnolia
- 420 Monrovia
- Fifth/Olive

Traffic Sign Installation:

- Crosswalks with arrow 100 block South Myrtle Ave.
- Temporary Handicap space was installed during construction at 415 S. Myrtle Ave.
- Route 66 and new post in 900 block W. Huntington Dr.
- Loading Zone on the west side of the 500 block of S. Myrtle

Traffic Painting:

- 40 feet of red curb at 147 E. Olive
- 105 feet of red curb at 137 E. Olive Ave.
- 200 feet of red curb at 138 E. Olive Ave.

UTILITIES:

Customer Service:

- Staff read and recorded 2,040 water meters
- Completed 31 work orders
- Replaced 12 water meters
- Reactivated 15 water services

Water Production: Water consumption is 41.7 millions gallons; a 4% decrease compared to last week's reported water usage.

Utility Maintenance:

- Water main line repair at 758 W. Foothill Blvd.
- Water main line repair at 1037 Norumbega Road.
- A total of 11 new residential water services were installed.
- Water service upgraded to copper pipe at 746 Mountain View.
- 53 water main system valves were inspected and operated
- 16 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed.
- 15,632 feet of sewer mains were cleaned.

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

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
Thurs., Feb 15, 5:30 p.m.	Chamber Mixer, Area 51
<i>Monday, February 19</i>	<i>President's Day, City Hall Closed</i>
Tues., Feb 20, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Fri., March 2, 5:00 p.m.	Myrtle Avenue Grand Re-Opening Celebration, in front of Krikorian Theatre