



# From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



February 1, 2008

## ***Gang Crackdown Continues***

Please refer to the City's website [www.cityofmonrovia.org](http://www.cityofmonrovia.org) for up-to-date information regarding police and community efforts to combat gangs in our town

On Friday night, Monrovia Police – in conjunction with a number of other local and regional police agencies – raided 44 locations across the East San Gabriel Valley, making seven arrests and confiscating three firearms and drugs. Additionally, Monrovia police officers, as well as officers from neighboring police agencies, continue to heavily patrol major streets and thoroughfares as a strategy of “locking down” specific neighborhoods and locations where gang members live and hang out. This mutual aid program – similar to the accumulation of resources that fire departments use in addressing a significant incident – has ensured that Monrovia has all the manpower needed to effectively abate gang activity. Additionally, the detectives and investigators continue to progress in the collection and processing of key evidence that has been gathered. This unprecedented level of the collaboration will not doubt create a new standard for local law enforcement.

On Saturday, all City departments worked with a number of community partners and sponsors to present the MAP Program Kick-off. You may recall that MAP, or the Monrovia Area Partnership, is the program that the City Council introduced in September 2006. At that time, we had just gone through a gang-activity-riddled summer and felt that there had to be a better way – that by partnering with the most directly-impacted neighborhoods in meaningful ways, we could change residents' expectations about the quality of life in their neighborhoods and also change cyclical up-tick in gang activity. The MAP program focused on a specific, target area bounded by Myrtle Avenue to Shamrock, and Huntington Drive to the southern City limits. MAP's efforts emphasize collaboration with law enforcement, enhanced code enforcement and code education for residents; grants for home rehabilitation; job opportunities and volunteerism; and bringing recreation and library services to neighborhoods that have historically lacked such amenities. The result has been outstanding, as attested to by the unmistakably quiet summer of 2007.

Today, however, we find the MAP program and its principles under assault. The gang violence of these past four weeks has sought to cripple the progress of our MAP neighborhoods. Yet, as we saw in a well-attended meeting this past Wednesday of our Points of Contact (local residents who participate in MAP), residents have vested themselves in MAP and are unbending to gangs and gang violence. They have come to understand, expect and demand that the City make good on its promise to stand side-by-side with them through these tough times. And for this, I truly believe that our community will be stronger once this crisis has passed.

Saturday's kick off of MAP's second year and its expansion north into the neighborhoods between Huntington Drive and Colorado Boulevard, was a truly impressive event, with nearly 500 people coming to Julian Fisher Park on a sunny afternoon to celebrate their neighborhood and send a message of peace to those who would do violence.

All this week there will be community meetings and ecumenical services to keep Monrovia informed and to provide the community with a way to grieve and heal. Our policing efforts will continue unabated until we have stamped out this scourge. And we will continue building our neighborhoods and looking for new and better ways of improving both our safety and the quality of our lives for many more years to come.

### **City Council Meeting Preview**

This Tuesday's meeting should prove to be a very good meeting. Consent Item CC-5 is a sign that the Colorado Commons project is coming to a close. This item approves reverting the current one-way streets (Colorado and Lemon) back to two-way streets. As you will recall, we added additional on-street parking along Colorado and Lemon while making them one-way streets during the construction period. Since we are finishing up the public improvements and Colorado Commons is wrapping up, it's time to go back to two-way traffic on Colorado and Lemon. If you haven't taken a look at the project, please check it out.

There are three items under the MRA portion of the meeting. The first, MRA AR-1, is a loan for Café Merengue. The Agency is investing in the Old Town and this business in particular to ensure we get a high quality business in the District. The next two items, MRA AR-2 and AR-3, are important steps toward moving our Station Square forward. This is the acquisition of three separate properties within Phase I.

Under Administrative Reports, AR-3 is a great sign for our Library Building. This is the award of contracts to the Bid Group #2 contractors. Bid Group #2 included the structural steel, plumbing, steel windows, and concrete. The engineer's estimate was approximately \$4.4M and the total of all four contracts came in at \$3.64M. This is a great sign for our construction project. The reason our bids came in so low was the slow down in housing and other construction helps us. Many contractors are hungry out there. So hungry to keep active that they are willing to bid projects at their cost or even at a loss. They do that to keep their employees and their machinery working rather than layoff or lose employees. So far, we have been able to build the Library building below budget and include the "betterments" such as the steel windows. We'll keep our fingers crossed that this trend continues as we bid the remaining two bid groups.

### **Articles Attached**

- **Police Arrest Shooter in Monrovia.**
- **Anti-gang task force created in Monrovia.**
- **Event at Monrovia Park Follows 7 Arrests by Police.**

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Building Division Update. The construction valuation at the midyear point has reached \$15,627,491. This is up close to \$300,000 or 2% from last year. Considering the economy, that's not bad. So far, permits for 21 housing units and 2 commercial buildings have been issued. Total fees are also up 18.69% (\$392,945 compared to \$336,757 last year).

The Division has issued a total of 1,193 permits (building, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) and increase of 26%. The bulk of the permits issued have been for additions, remodels, and commercial tenant improvements. This has resulted in a total of 4,323 inspections. Although this is a 3% decrease from last year, our inspectors continue to be very busy, especially since there has been a

vacancy in one of the two inspector positions since November. The Division is currently operating with one Senior Building Inspector and utilizing part time inspectors on an as needed basis which has been able to keep the inspections moving along and meeting our customers' high expectations of the Building Division.

The paper trail keeps on growing. To date, over 10,000 documents have been scanned. Last year, 8,848 documents were scanned, which include construction plans, structural calculations, and building addresses.

Updates:

Colorado Commons. Four of the five buildings have been given meter releases to begin testing of the appliances and allow the Building Division to make the final inspections. It's been approximately 16 months since the project started. From a parking lot to grading to a brand new three story residential complex, this development has added to the beautification of the downtown Myrtle Avenue (see pictures below).



As the Colorado Commons was being built, other projects were also on the way and now completed such as the Villas project, a 13-unit PUD on the 300 block of Genoa (below).



The 14 new PUD's in two developments on the 400 block of Monrovista (below).



## New Project Update:

As we begin to final some of the now old permits, new projects are now underway such as the 20-unit PUD at the south east corner of Duarte Rd and California. Stay tune for future updates!!! (below).



## **COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS**

### RECREATION DIVISION

Red Hat Society Chapter Opens in Monrovia. Pull out your red hats and purple outfits. The Red Hat Society is meeting at the Monrovia Community Center on Wednesday, February 6th at 10:30 a.m. There is only one rule in the Red Hat Society – You must be ready to have fun! Men are also included and are encouraged to wear red caps to be part of the fun! Regular meetings will be held on the first and last Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. For additional information call Monrovia Community Services at (626) 256-8246.

Senior Tour to Westminster Gardens. Westminster Gardens Retirement Community has opened its doors to Monrovia Seniors for a tour and luncheon on Thursday, February 21. Westminster's unique and beautifully landscaped gardens are a sight to be seen. Learn about the history, background and the values of life at Westminster Gardens. Seating is limited and tickets must be purchased in advance! Call Monrovia Community Services at (626) 256-8246 for further information.

Westminster Gardens Luncheon Tour  
Thursday, February 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
\$3.00 per person  
Departing from the Monrovia Community Center. 119 W. Palm Avenue

Protect Man's Best Friend. Monrovia's Leash Laws are in place for the safety of dogs and people. On January 26 an unfortunate incident occurred between two retrievers that were off leash at the Canyon Park waterfall. Patrons of the park are reminded to obey the leash laws which are posted in the park and reinforced by staff and park patrol volunteers.

## LIBRARY DIVISION

Computer Classes Are Back. Adult Services Staff is presenting a series of free computer classes beginning February and continuing through May. The classes will be held at the Library's temporary facility in the Adult Technology Center. Sign up at the Adult Reference Desk by calling 626-256-8274. February classes are: *Beginner 1* on Wednesday, February 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; *Email 1* on Wednesday, February, 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; *Beginner 2* on Wednesday, February 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and *Email 2* on Wednesday, February 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Space is limited. The Adult Technology Center will be available to the public on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. after class sessions.

Wonderland Reading Night at Canyon Early Learning Center. Canyon Early Learning Center hosted their second parent and child reading night on Thursday, January 24 at 6 p.m. Special guest Annette Simpson, Youth Services Librarian II, was on hand again as featured entertainment. Annette read various stories about winter, including an all-time audience favorite, *The Snowy Day* by Jack Ezra Keats. In addition to reading aloud, Annette led children in several creative play activities. She stayed after the reading night ended to talk with parents about the library's temporary location and to invite them to visit the library. Her advertising paid off as at least one parent and child stopped by the library the next day to check out books and visit the new location.

Yo-Ho-Ho-Ho a Pirate's Life for Me. Two library-sponsored pirate-themed programs were popular for kids and parents last week. Annette Simpson, Youth Services Librarian II, dressed the part for "Life of a Pirate" on Saturday, January 19 at the SAF YMCA. The afternoon was buccaneer-filled and included stories, songs, and jokes about Davy Jones & Company. Children created their own pirate hats adorned with jewels, skull and bones, treasure chest, and fancy feather to take home. A game called "Island Walk" was also played in which children were able to win chocolate gold coins and jeweled necklaces.

Captain Marcus and his amazing performing parrots appeared Thursday, January 24 at the Monrovia Community Center. In a show perfect for both kids and parents, Captain Marcus came dressed in full pirate regalia and explained all about a pirate's life of old. In between tidbits about pirates his six parrots and macaws performed amazing feats on a makeshift ship's rigging and crow's nest. They occasionally spoke to the audience as well.

## **FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Personnel responded to **84** emergency calls from 0800 hours January 23, to 0800 hours January 30. Significant incidents include:

Multiple Victim Shooting. On Saturday, January 26 at approximately 9 p.m., firefighters responded to an incident in the area of Peck and Jefferies to find two victims suffering from gunshot wounds. Firefighters began treating the most critical patient and were assisted by Los Angeles County Firefighters who treated the second patient. Firefighters treated and transported the critical victim to Arcadia Methodist, who unfortunately did not survive despite firefighters' efforts.

Traffic Accident With Overturned Vehicle. On Wednesday morning, firefighters responded to a reported vehicle accident on the eastbound 210 Freeway at Huntington. The driver of the car lost control of the vehicle resulting in the car overturning and rolling off the side of the freeway. The four occupants in the car were able to climb out of the vehicle with only minor injuries.

## FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Final inspections of the sprinkler and fire alarm systems have been completed at the Colorado Commons.

There have been many questions from residents regarding the need for installing sprinkler systems in their homes:

Properly installed and maintained automatic fire sprinkler systems help save lives. Because fire sprinkler systems react so quickly, they can dramatically reduce the heat, flames and smoke produced in a fire. Fire sprinklers have been around for more than a century, protecting commercial and industrial properties and public buildings, such as hotels and hospitals and high-rises. What most people don't realize is that the same lifesaving technology that protects these buildings is also available for homes, where 80 percent of all fire deaths occur.

### **Facts & figures:**

- When sprinklers are present, the chances of dying in a fire are reduced by one-half to three-fourths and the average property loss per fire is cut by one-half to two-thirds, compared to fires where sprinklers are not present.
- Sprinklers typically reduce the chances of dying in a home fire by one half to two thirds in any kind of property where they are used. Together with smoke alarms, sprinklers cut the risk of dying in a home fire 82 percent, relative to having neither.
- NFPA has no record of a fire killing more than two people in a completely sprinklered public assembly, educational, institutional or residential building where the system was working properly.
- Sprinklers are highly reliable. When present in the fire area, they operate in all but 7% of fires large enough to activate the system. Human error was a factor in almost all of the failures. The system was shut-off in almost two-thirds of the failures.
- Only one or two sprinkler heads were activated in 81% of the fires with wet pipe sprinkler systems operating and in 56% of the fires with dry pipe systems operating.
- In August 2005, NFPA 101®, Life Safety Code®, NFPA 5000®, Building Construction and Safety Code®, and NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code™ were updated to require sprinklers in all new one- and two-family dwellings.

### **About automatic fire sprinklers**

Contrary to what many Americans think, we are not at greatest risk from fire in hotels or other public places; it is at home, where most of us feel the safest, that we are actually at highest risk of fire. Hotels, in fact, are among the places that are safest from fire, and that is due in large part to the fire protection technology required for them. That technology typically includes automatic fire sprinklers.

### **How do they work?**

In a home fire sprinkler system, a network of piping filled with water under pressure is installed behind the walls and ceilings, and individual sprinklers are placed along the piping to protect the areas beneath them. Because the water is always in the piping, the fire sprinkler system is always "on call". If fire breaks out, the air temperature above the fire rises and the sprinkler activates when the air temperature gets high enough. The sprinkler sprays water forcefully over the flames, extinguishing them completely in most cases, or at least controlling the heat and limiting the development of toxic smoke until the fire department arrives. Only the sprinkler(s) nearest the fire activate. Smoke will not activate sprinklers.

Sprinklers are so effective because they react so quickly. They reduce the risk of death or injury from a fire because they dramatically reduce the heat, flames and smoke produced, allowing people the time to evacuate the home. Home fire sprinkler systems release approximately 10-25 gallons of water

per minute. In a home without sprinklers, a fire is likely to grow to dangerous levels by the time the fire department is able to arrive.

In less time than it typically takes the fire department to arrive on the scene, sprinklers contain and even extinguish a home fire. That not only reduces property damage, it saves lives.

### **How are they installed?**

Sprinklers are installed by specially trained contractors who follow [NFPA codes and standards](#) and other local requirements. The best time to install sprinklers is when you are building a new home or remodeling an existing home. Nationally, installing sprinklers adds between 1 and 1.5% to the total cost of construction. Installing sprinklers during remodeling, known as "retrofitting", generally costs more and the cost depends on the existing structure. Many insurance companies offer a range of discounts for homeowners with sprinkler systems, making comparison shopping essential.

As is evidence by recent fire calls in Monrovia, a fire sprinkler system, which is properly maintained **and turned on**, saves lives and property.

## **ON THE POLICE BLOTTER**

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 546 calls for service resulting in 112 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Driving Under the Influence / Traffic Collision. On January 24 at 6:36 p.m., officers responded to Foothill and Mayflower regarding a traffic collision. On their arrival, they determined one vehicle had rear ended another vehicle that was stopped for the red signal. The driver causing the collision was found to be driving under the influence and was arrested.

Mountain Lion Incident. On January 24 in the evening, an officer reported seeing a mountain lion in the 700 block of Ridgeside. He put his spot light on the cat and saw it go into the wash. The cat was estimated to weigh approximately 100 pounds.

Foothill Special Enforcement Team Search Warrant Service. On January 29 at 6:30 p.m., Monrovia's Special Enforcement Team officers and Los Angeles Sheriff's deputies went to the 1200 block of South Sherman to serve a search warrant. Evidence linking two suspects to an attempted murder case was found, and the suspects were arrested.

Homicide. On January 29 at 7:51 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 500 block of Almond regarding shots heard. After searching the area, officers found a victim of a shooting in the rear yard of a residence. The victim was pronounced dead at Huntington Memorial Hospital. The victim was followed by possible suspects in a car and was shot while he was exiting his vehicle. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is leading the investigation with Monrovia Police detectives.



## **ADMINISTRATION:**

Recreational Basketball League. Members from Public Works and Information Systems have created a basketball team called "CITY WORKS" that play on Sunday nights at the Monrovia YMCA. Christian Cabrales and Edgar Sarabia represent Engineering, Michael Monte and Gerry Acosta

represent Parks, and Damion Patrick represent Information Services. The league is 8 weeks long. Anyone interested contact any team member.

## **ENGINEERING:**

Library Project - Demolition and Grading. The demolition of the old library building has been completed. Our Engineering staff met with the grading contractor on Thursday to review the next phase of the project and the scheduling. Staff will be coordinating with the grading contractor and the City's Geotechnical Engineer doing the grading operations for the new library foundation. In addition, staff is preparing documentation for "LEED" certification points regarding stormwater management for the building and the project site.

Colorado Commons Street Improvements. Staff is working with our contractor and the Colorado Commons developer to coordinate the street improvements in and around the project area. Curbs and gutters have been poured on Colorado and Lemon, and the sidewalks will follow.

Rule 20A, Underground Utility District Mountain and Royal Oaks. Work is continuing with trenching and conduit installation on Mountain Avenue; then southerly crossing Huntington and ending. The trenching is just south of Royal Oaks and heading to Huntington Drive.

Primrose Avenue Traffic Concerns. In order to get an accurate count of vehicle traffic and speed profiles, traffic counters will be placed on Primrose, Stedman and Magnolia as part of the traffic analysis which will be incorporated into a report that will be completed in approximately 2 weeks. Meanwhile, plans for new signs and pavement markers to help improve the traffic concerns on Primrose from Foothill to Hillcrest, are scheduled for installation next week.

### Public Works Inspections:

- Colorado Commons Street Improvements; Curb, gutter, sidewalks, irrigation for street trees, street light locations, utility vault adjustments are continuing.
- Bus Shelter Construction, rain delayed, tile work and stucco being rescheduled.
- 911 Royal Oaks, Curb, Handicap Access ramp construction at Mountain and Royal Oaks pending
- California/Monrovia/Duarte, Building pads are formed, 2<sup>nd</sup> story framing 85% complete. Edison pole removal is 3-4 weeks away. Staff is monitoring for storm water compliance.
- 202 E. Foothill, Final punch list created, 4 of the 6 units have been finalized by Public Works.
- 208 Terrace View, Retaining wall construction, walls being grouted
- 1419 S. Myrtle, West and north concrete walls are standing. The east and south walls are being formed and poured on the slab. East and south walls to be erected after required concrete cure time has elapsed. Sewer lateral televised for potential re-use upon review of video tape inspection.

## **OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:**

California Product Stewardship Council Membership. The City of Monrovia has become the newest member of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC). The CPSC is:

“an organization of local governments from throughout California who aim to shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.”

The support of the CPSC's actions follows several of the goals adopted in the Monrovia Environmental Accords, and will help the City reduce our overall waste and the use of hazardous and non-renewable products.

Outdoor Education. Our Environmental staff participated and supports Canyon Park's Outdoor Education Program by providing an environmental presentation to two fifth grade classes from

Mayflower Elementary. The interactive presentation focused on storm water pollution prevention, used oil recycling, and the Three R's - Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle.

Free Household Hazardous Waste/E-waste Collection Event. On Saturday, February 9, 2008, Los Angeles County will host a free household hazardous/e-waste (HHW/E) collection event at the Claremont Corporate Yard (1616 Monte Vista Avenue, Claremont). The event accepts household hazardous waste and electronic waste items including: batteries, fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, fertilizers, household cleaners, paint, old computers, televisions, game systems and other items. For additional information log onto [www.888cleanLA.com](http://www.888cleanLA.com).

Old Town Lighting. The removal of 16 five-globe lamp posts from the Old Town area will begin on Monday, February 4 and will be installed the Colorado Commons project area. Single-globe lamps will replace the five-globe lamps on Myrtle Avenue. Also in conjunction with the project, an additional 36 five-globe lamp posts will be removed on Myrtle Avenue and replaced with single-globes. This lighting work requires the use of a large crane that will require us to block off one lane of traffic on one side of the street at a time. The removal project is schedule for Mondays and Wednesdays, February 4<sup>th</sup> through February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Street Lights. Facilities Staff is working with SCE to determine the power relay problem that is causing the street lights to fail from Evergreen and California east to Shamrock and south to Duarte.

Energy Action Plan. Operations Staff met with SCE and Intergy Corp representatives regarding the Model City Program. The energy audit for City Facilities is almost complete, and they will begin reviewing street lights, traffic signals including upcoming projects such as: Police Station roof replacement/HVAC project, Old Town lighting, Historic Museum roof repair and the City Fleet. When the audits are completed, the Energy Action Plan will coincide with the City Strategic Plan and will become a living document, constantly adjusting to the City's needs. The Energy Action Plan is to be completed prior to the end of the current fiscal year and will be presented to the City Council at the Green Team's Annual Review.

Traffic Signals. Weather conditions caused power surges at the intersections of Duarte Rd and Myrtle Ave and Foothill Blvd and Ivy Ave. SCE restored power; the traffic signals were reset and returned to normal operation.

Historic Museum. The Historic Museum experienced major roof leaks during the weekend storms, as well as the failure of a hot water heater. Facilities Staff has been busy remedying the situation and a new tankless hot water heater was installed.

Library Construction Project. Viewing ports were cut into the green mesh windscreens along the perimeter fence at Library Park so visitors can see the new Library Facility under construction. The viewing ports are concentrated on Myrtle, Lime and Palm Avenues and were cut at various viewing heights for children and adults to enjoy!

Huntington Dr & 210 Freeway. Our Parks Staff met with David Volz, Landscape Architect, regarding the development of landscape design renderings for landscape improvements at the Cal Trans property, located at Huntington Drive and the 210 Freeway. Staff hopes to interest and partner with businesses to beautify the area. David Volz was one of the principle architects for the winning design of the Canyon Park Project.

## **STREETS:**

### Traffic Signs:

- Relocated the Downtown Trolley stop from the southwest corner of Olive and Mountain to 555 S. Mountain Ave.

- Installed sign post and time-specified No-Parking signs at 445, 457, 458 Monrovista, and the northeast corner of Monrovista and California.
- Replaced faded No-Parking signs at the following locations:
  - Across from 212, 216 and 232 E. Chestnut
  - Across from 207 and 241 E. Walnut
  - 800 block of S. Canyon
- Installed new and missing street sweeping signs and post at the following locations:
  - 151, 163, 164, 184, 207, 224, 227 and 251 May Ave.
  - Shamrock north of Lemon on the east side of the street
  - 420 S. Shamrock
  - Southwest corner of Shamrock and Olive
  - 726 S. Shamrock

Graffiti Removal:

- 42 traffic signs.
- Fire hydrant at 742 E. Lemon
- Concrete and asphalt pavement surfaces at Julian D. Fisher Park
- 300 block of Almond Ave

Miscellaneous:

- Cleared debris from city roadways and sidewalks generated by this week's rain storms.
- Custom concrete construction operations for the front entrance customer parking lot at the City Yard.
- Potholes were filled at the following locations:
  - California from Duarte Rd. to Hurstview
  - Magnolia and Scenic
  - Kruse St. and Myrtle Ave.
  - 1830 S. Mayflower
- Eliminated trip hazards from the following locations:
  - 147, 206, 213, 226, 227, 252, 253, 257, 261, 231, 235, 256, 260 Fig St.
  - 255, 261, 278 E. Cherry Ave

**UTILITIES:**

Customer Service

- 2,338 water meters were read and recorded
- 44 utilities work orders were completed
- 15 water meters were replaced
- 18 backflow notices were sent out

Water Production

Water consumption is 33.3 millions gallons, a decrease of approximately 7% compared to last week's reported water usage.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 17 water system samplings
- 6 water treatment facility samplings

The recent storm has brought in more needed rain; as of Thursday January 24, our staff recorded 6.43" of rain with a total of 14.02" for the year.

Utility Maintenance

- 1 - 1" water services were installed
- 1-2" water service repaired
- 38 Fire Hydrants were inspected and flushed out
- 10 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 108 water main system valves were inspected and operated
- 17,198 feet of sewer mains were cleaned
- 400 feet of sewer mains video inspected

Have a great weekend!

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**FOR YOUR CALENDARS:**

<b>Sat., Feb. 2, 11 to 2 p.m.</b>	<b>MAP Kickoff Party, Julian Fisher Park</b>
<b>Sat., Feb. 2, 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Boys &amp; Girls "For Love of Youth" Dinner &amp; Auction, Doubletree Hotel</b>
<b>Mon., Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Santa Fe Parents Forum, Santa Fe Middle School</b>
<b>Tues., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b><i>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18</i></b>	<b><i>PRESIDENT'S DAY, CITY HALL CLOSED</i></b>
<b>Tues., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Tues., March 4, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Tues., March 18, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>

## **CMO ATTACHMENTS:**

### **Police arrest shooter in Monrovia**

By Molly R. Okeon, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 01/29/2008 05:10:48 PM PST

MONROVIA - Authorities today arrested a 19-year-old Latino man in connection with a Jan. 12 racially motivated shooting that left a black teen paralyzed, officials said.

Jimmy Santana of Duarte was booked on suspicion of attempted murder and is being held on \$500,000 bail.

The victim, a 16-year-old Monrovia High School student, was in front of a church in the 2000 block of Peck Road in unincorporated Monrovia. The victim was hit in the abdomen and buttocks, said Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Detective Scott Schulze, who withheld the boy's name to protect him from retaliation.

The victim lost his kidney and spleen in the shooting and is paralyzed, sheriff's Sgt. Richard Westin said. He is still in the hospital, Schulze said Tuesday.

Sheriff's investigators served a search warrant at Santana's residence around 5:30 a.m. today and arrested him shortly thereafter, Schulze said.

[molly.okeon@sgvn.com](mailto:molly.okeon@sgvn.com) (626) 578-6300, Ext. 4496

### **Anti-gang task force created in Monrovia**

From staff reports

Article Launched: 01/30/2008 03:02:32 PM PST

MONROVIA - Within the next 24 hours, residents can expect to see a marked increase in black-and-white patrol cars - part of a new anti-gang task force being launched by sheriff's officials and Monrovia police, authorities announced today.

Calling the level of resources and cooperation being marshalled for the area "unprecedented," 13-year sheriffs' Temple City Station Capt. Richard Shaw said the new task force will pull in officials from the two law-enforcement agencies, along with state probation and parole officers.

"We also have been assigned a hard-core gang prosecutor" to work with the new task force in prosecuting gang suspects, Shaw said.

The special enforcement effort will include several components, the most visible of which likely will be "saturation patrols" of deputies and Monrovia police through the city and unincorporated Monrovia and Duarte, he said.

"We'll have a saturation patrol components, where black and whites will be patrolling those areas in mass during the hours when our intelligence tells us that the vast majority of these crimes have occurred," he said.

The task force will also receive extra resources from the sheriff's Homicide Bureau and will have an intelligence component to provide its members with information gleaned at the street level, he said. "We've worked closely with Monrovia for a number of years, but this task force, with this number of personnel and resources, is unprecedented" said Shaw. "I have never seen anything quite like this."

Meeting eases some fears

## Event at Monrovia park follows 7 arrests by police

By Molly R. Okeon, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 02/02/2008 10:57:42 PM PST

MONROVIA - Community members burdened by the surge in gang violence found some comfort Saturday in arrests made the night before. However, many are still concerned for the future of their city.

Nearly 500 people gathered Saturday afternoon at Julian Fisher Park for an event organized by the Monrovia Area Partnership. The partnership is a year-old program in which city staff and officials work to fight blight and crime in low-income neighborhoods by providing assistance with everything from home improvement to grants for repairs.

During the event, city and police officials spoke proudly of seven arrests - six men and one woman - made Friday night. The arrests came during a nearly six-hour raid of 44 known gang locations in east San Gabriel Valley that involved 14 law enforcement agencies.

The searches turned up three guns and other evidence that Monrovia police Chief Roger Johnson said may help investigators determine who was behind the shootings, though he would not be specific about what kind of evidence was found.

But the central focus was on prayer at Saturday's gathering. People of all racial and ethnic backgrounds put their arms around each other's shoulders and bowed their heads in reverence as religious leaders spoke.

"Let's take what the enemy meant for evil and let God turn it into a blessing," said senior pastor John Mastrogiovanni of Jesus Is Lord Christian Center in Monrovia. Mastrogiovanni is also president of the Monrovia/Arcadia Ministerial Association.

He spoke of turning gang members away from their troubled lives and steering them onto the right path, saying he has seen it done many times through his church. "There's not a gang member that wants to take a bullet and not a gang member who wants to pull the trigger, either," Mastrogiovanni said.

Willie Lee Jr., who lost his 19-year-old son Brandon in a shooting Tuesday night, called the event "uplifting." "It lifted my spirits, it hit me in the heart," said Lee, 43, of Duarte. "I just want this violence to stop," he said. He called the gathering "a start."

"I'm looking forward to the next one and the next one and the next one," said Lee, who lost his other son, Willie Lee III, 9, in a Pasadena house fire in 2001.

Monrovia Mayor Rob Hammond encouraged everyone at the gathering to stand or sit close together and meet their neighbors.

He praised the actions of Willie Lee Jr. and Jeanette Chavez, whose 16-year-old daughter Samantha Salas was shot to death outside her father's Monrovia apartment complex on Jan. 26. Salas' funeral took place Saturday morning.

"Mr. Lee didn't call for revenge, he called for peace," Hammond said, his comments followed by applause from the audience. "Mrs. Chavez didn't call for revenge, she called for peace."

Monrovia police patrol cars and sport utility vehicles could be seen driving by the park throughout the event, as part of a increased patrols meant to ensure gang members are unable to get in and out of the city without being recognized by law enforcement.

Hammond noted there would be a community rally at 11 a.m. Saturday at Recreation Park, 620 S. Shamrock Ave.

Thick, gray clouds didn't stop nearly 500 people from attending Saturday's event, which included food, games, face painting and booths from city services and local businesses.

After the speakers' presentations, Johnson spoke one-on-one with community members to answer questions about Friday night's raids and arrests.

"I think this sends a clear message to gang members: We're going to find you, we're going to take you to jail and, when we can't, we'll be watching you," he said.

The suspects arrested in the raids Friday night were taken into custody on a range of charges, from parole and probation violations to resisting arrest to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Police seized three firearms, some methamphetamine and marijuana, two stolen vehicles and other evidence.

The raids took place in Monrovia, Duarte and nearby unincorporated county areas, as well as in Azusa, Baldwin Park and Upland, Johnson said.

The suspects arrested were:

Domingo Cabral, 25, of Duarte for parole violation.

Raymond Carmona, 32, of Pomona for parole violation and arrest warrants.

David Davila, 25, of Pomona for parole violation and arrest warrants.

Jack Higgins, 39, of West Covina for an arrest warrant.

Avora Mahlke, 29, a female from Covina, for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and probation violation.

Fernando Monroy, 28, of Duarte for an arrest warrant.

Wilson Torres, 23, of La Puente for parole violation and resisting arrest and interfering with an officer.

All of the suspects were being held without bail except for Higgins, whose bail was set at \$10,000.

But still, a few community members were displeased with the Monrovia Police Department, saying the gangs have long been a problem that local officers haven't handled well.

Resident Carmen Morgan said after a shooting about a year and a half ago, she and others called the police department, warning them about the trend of gang-related activity and tagging in their neighborhoods. "Throughout this time, the police response has been to minimize, to minimize, to minimize," said Morgan, who attended Saturday's event. "They said this was just a little gang turf association, nothing beyond that."

Morgan said she believes the department is more invested in public relations now than solving the problems at hand. "It just doesn't feel to me like the Monrovia Police Department has a hold on this," she added.

Johnson spoke about plans for the newly formed Monrovia-Duarte Gang Task Force, including having California Highway Patrol officers do traffic saturation in Monrovia and the unincorporated county areas nearby.

"It controls corridors of traffic and makes it so gang members can't drive into our neighborhoods and do their dirty deeds," he said.

[molly.okeon@sgvn.com](mailto:molly.okeon@sgvn.com) (626) 578-6300, Ext. 4496