



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



February 9, 2007

Myrtle Is Completed...For the Most Part

As of Friday afternoon, major concrete construction on Myrtle was completed. We opened the 300 and 400 blocks at noon (the new crosswalks needed to cure for 24 hours), and more importantly we shouldn't have to close Myrtle again for this project. That said, you may (or may not) have noticed three small areas along the Myrtle Avenue sidewalks where cracks in the new concrete have appeared. This is due, for the most part, to not saw-cutting the new concrete soon enough. Thus the contractor, on his own dime, is required to go back and replace these sections. Still, none of this work should require the closure of Myrtle.

Now, we can turn to the remaining side-street crosswalks – Olive, west of Myrtle; Lemon, west of Myrtle; Lime west of Myrtle; and Palm, both sides of Myrtle. Again, none of this work should necessitate the closure of Myrtle, and all of the affected merchants and business owners have been notified. Basically, Monday and Tuesday will be spent demolishing the existing crosswalks. Tuesday and Wednesday will be spent forming and the pour should occur on Thursday. Thus, by February 15 the major concrete construction will be finished. The balance of February will be spent on repairs, clean-up, landscaping, finishing the electrical system and completing the installation of the new street lights.

If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to contact Director of Public Works David Fike or Deputy City Manager Tito Haes.

February 6th City Council Meeting Re-cap

The February 6 City Council meeting was fairly straightforward agenda, filled with interesting items.

Following Oral Communications, during which the Council was asked about the current controversy concerning Congressman Gary Miler, the Mayor asked me to give an overview of the history surrounding this event, the City's position and the factual evidence on this matter that exists in the public record. I won't rehash it all here, but please feel free to refer back to last week's Report, or the August 18 2006 Report for greater detail.

Under Councilmember reports, Mr. Adams asked Public Works Director Dave Fike to address some of the questions regarding the new handicapped access ramps in Old Town – specifically the bumps and the bright yellow color. The size of the domes on the ramps are governed by federal standards and are there to help the blind know where they are standing when walking down the street. The bright yellow or "Safety Yellow" (the official name) color is one of a short list of approved colors. Yellow was chosen based on its universal association with "caution." It also is bright enough to help sight impaired individuals, as well as motorists, focused in the pedestrian-oriented district.

Ms. Lutz discussed a recent event held by the City of Sierra Madre to mark that community's 100th anniversary, and noted that soon Monrovia would need to focus on its own 125th anniversary.

Mr. Garcia asked staff to return with a comprehensive lobbying strategy for the Station Square project that could be matched against the various funding sources that were approved by State voters in the recent November election (infrastructure bonds, etc.). Mr. Kirby offered to augment Mr. Garcia's effort with the League of Cities in any way he could.

Lastly, Mayor Hammond discussed the recent Ad Hoc Parking Committee meeting and his recent participation in an event held by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The major thrust of the session was environmental preservation. The Mayor briefly discussed some of the programs he had learned of and directed staff to compile a comprehensive environmental policy strategy that would focus on all aspects of "being green."

As for Administrative Reports, it seemed as though just about every item on the agenda was somehow tied directly back to the Council.

The Council approved AR-1, which concerned the selling of advertising and sponsorship space on City transit vehicles, was approved, although by a rare 3-2 vote. Mr. Adams felt that the staff report did not contain enough specificity or analysis regarding anticipated revenues from the sale of advertising space. Mr. Kirby felt that advertising on the vehicles, in general, could lead the City along a slippery slope with respect to the content of the advertisements. The Mayor asked that the matter be brought back in six months with a more detailed overview of the revenues versus expenditures, as well as a discussion on any concerns relating to content.

AR-2, the mid-year budget review was received and filed. The City is financially solid and secure.

AR-3 concerned the provision of "bear-proof" trash containers for Monrovia customers who live in the foothills. Our franchised waste hauler, Athens Services, deserves a great deal of credit for taking this idea and incorporating it into its menu of services for Monrovia. The Council approved the necessary franchise agreement amendment 5-0.

The Monrovia Reads and Plays program was AR-4, and as detailed in last week's Report, is a great community-focused program that will help marry literacy, physical activity, health and wellness in neighborhood's that need ongoing community investment. Please feel free to contact the Community Services Department for more information on this program. The Council approved the program 5-0.

The last major item on the agenda was AR-5, an amendment to the existing architectural services agreement with library architects, Gonzalez Goodale, for the completion of schematic drawings for the proposed new building. The Council approved the amendment 5-0, with the caveat that the contract be let on a time-and-material basis – just in case the library ballot measure is not approved by the voters.

As always if you have any questions about any item on the agenda please feel free to contact me directly.

Articles Attached

- **OPINION: Incumbents Good for Future of Monrovia.**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Update

We are five months into our Monrovia Area Partnership Area 1 project and we continue to push forward with our most comprehensive neighborhood revitalization effort to date. Community Development staff, along with Police and Community Services personnel, recently completed "Block Walks" within MAP Area 1 and met with individual residents to discuss neighborhood conditions, home rehabilitation needs, crime problems and community service opportunities. The response has been tremendous.

During these "Block Walks", staff talked to more than 90 residents who were outspoken about community issues and neighborhood concerns. We forged many relationships with key individuals to ensure the promotion of and participation in MAP services. Our statistics to date are equally compelling:

- 34 Map Grant Rehabilitation Applications received
- 28 Approved MAP Grant applications
- 32 Additional applications mailed out based on requests from door to door contacts alone
- 73 "Points of Contact" established with residents willing to work with the City for neighborhood revitalization.
- 4 Code education (Co-ed) classes (2-Spanish speaking 2-English speaking) held with 33 participants.
- 3 MAP Grant projects in progress
- 3 Completed MAP Projects.

Here are some comments from participants of our three completed projects:

- Rey from Evergreen Avenue – (Exterior Paint replaced/repainted fence.) "I am thankful to the City and the MAP program. I think it is wonderful that the residents can get this kind of help from the City. Monrovia is a very special City."
- Rosemary from Sherman Avenue - (Trees trimmed and new energy-efficient windows installed, garage door replacement.) "The work done on my project was beautiful and I am so happy with it. I've had neighbors from Fig walk over to my house to see the work. I've even seen another neighbor from up the street writing down the phone numbers from the sign in my front yard because he admired the work that was done."
- Rosie from Cherry Avenue - (Replacement of a heater previously red-tagged by the Gas Company.) "Words cannot express my appreciation to the City of Monrovia for implementing such a wonderful program as the Monrovia Area Partnership Grant Program. This program was a Godsend as I was able to get my heater repaired - especially considering the nights that we recently had when the temperature dipped down in to the 30s. I also was able to get my roof repaired, my fence replaced and automatic sprinkler system fixed. These are things that I could never have done on my income".

"I am a 79-year-old senior who lives alone and survives on a small fixed income. About two years ago, the Southern California Gas Company deemed my heater unsafe due to a venting problem. I received estimates to repair my heater that were well above what I could afford, so I had to use a space heater to heat my home. Needless to say that heater could not properly heat my home and I didn't leave it on at night due to safety concerns. I just wrapped up in warm clothing and a lot of blankets until the weather warmed up.

"When I became aware of the MAP Program, I applied hoping that the repair of my heater might be covered. To my delight it was. It even had a thermostat that I can adjust and it keeps me warm all day. The roof, fence, and sprinklers were an added bonus that I appreciate and I take

pride that my property's appearance now. It adds to the value of the neighborhood. Again, I thank the City of Monrovia, their personnel and the LA Works' employees who did a great job at my property".

Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission Meeting is cancelled for February as there are no applications received.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

Community Services Commission Meeting

The following agenda items will be reviewed by the Community Services Commission at the February 13, 2007 Regular Meeting;

- AR-1 Community Center Annual Revenue and Fee Survey. Review existing rental fees for the Community Center. Consider implementing new rental fees for the Senior Game Room, Event Staff Recovery Fee, an hourly rate for the East, West and Kay Dalton Room during non-prime time hours, and an equipment rental fee for use of the podium.
- AR-2 Monrovia Historical Museum Annual Revenue and Fee Survey. Review existing rental fees for the Historical Museum and consider implementing an *Event Staff Recovery Fee*.
- AR-3 Canyon Park Fees and Revenue. Review existing rental fees for Canyon Park Cabin/Conference Center and Fireman's Flat. Consider implementing fee increases for Priority I & II daytime and overnight rental of the Cabin/Conference Center and Fireman's Flat.
- AR-4 Increase Special Event Sponsor Fees. Review program sponsorships and consider increasing sponsor fees for Summer Concerts, Halloween and Spring Egg Hunt special events.

RECREATION DIVISION

Community Center and Youth Center Closure. The Monrovia Community Center and Mary Wilcox Youth Center will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of the Presidents Day holiday.

Joey & Maria's Italian Wedding – Last chance to purchase tickets. Buy your tickets for the Monday, February 26 11 matinee production of "Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding" at the Monrovia Community Center! Tickets for the event are \$50 per person. The performance is an audience interactive comedy and includes a tri-tip roast reception luncheon and wedding cake. The 2½ hour performance is hosted by the Monrovia Golden Age senior club will be held at the Monrovia Community Center, 119 W. Palm Avenue. Portions of ticket sales proceeds will be donated to the Monrovia Public Library. For more information or to purchase tickets by phone, call (626) 256-8246 or (909) 839-0416.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 70 emergency calls from 0800 hours January 31 to 0800 hours February 7. Significant incidents include:

Smoke in a Structure. On Friday evening, firefighters responded to the 500 block of Terrado on a report of smoke inside the home. Residents at the location had started a fire inside the fireplace without opening the fireplace flue. Firefighters used exhaust fans to remove the smoke.

Smoke in a Structure. On Saturday evening, firefighters responded to the 100 block of Highland on a report of smoke inside the home. Firefighters found a small fire inside a heater located in the basement. The fire was quickly extinguished and the smoke was removed from the home.

Trash Fire. On Sunday afternoon, firefighters responded to a reported trash fire to the back of a home in the 300 block of Palm. Upon arrival, neighbors had extinguished the fire using a garden hose and prevented any damage to the structure.

Structure Fire. On Monday afternoon, firefighters responded to the 100 block of Foothill in Arcadia on a report of a fire inside the business. Firefighters found the business full of smoke and investigated to find the source. A leak from a commercial refrigeration unit on the second floor had begun to leak and filled the building. The leak was stopped and exhaust fans were used to clear the building.

TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

This week, all personnel attended commuter bus/fuel emergencies training. The training was held at the Foothill Transit bus facility on Myrtle Avenue. The need for training was identified by recent incidents involving commuter buses in and around the City of Monrovia. The Monrovia Fire Department acted as the sponsoring agency for this class. The Pasadena Fire Department, Arcadia Fire Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department were all in attendance.

The training focused on the safe procedures for dealing with alternative fuel and diesel fuel vehicles. The most important aspects of this class provided information on the Compressed Natural Gas vehicles, forced entry and passenger evacuation procedures. Special thanks to Firefighter Mike Bailey, Engineer Chris Mellinger and Captain Ron Pelham (Truck 101, B-Shift) for spearheading this training opportunity. Firefighter Bailey volunteered to organize the training and offer it to surrounding agencies. This program proved to be extremely helpful and informative.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

The six winners of the Fire Prevention Week contest have been identified. This contest was for fourth grade students who returned their home inspection assignments. The prize is a ride to school in the fire truck. Students are picked up in the morning before school and are met with an assembly or reception organized by the school principal

The Firewise Fuel Reduction Grant proposal for the chipper program and the Firewise Goat Assisted Fuel Reduction Grant proposal were completed on Monday, January 29. They will be submitted to the Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse for consideration by Federal Agencies. The request for the chipper program was increased to \$75,000. The goat fuel reduction program was also increased. It was increased from \$50,000 to \$65,000. Special thanks to Captain Patrick and Deputy Fire Marshal Robin for preparing the request.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

This has been a busy week for the Fire Administration as we continue to work toward improving our business practices within the department. In an effort to prepare for the upcoming budget process, all Captains, Battalion Chiefs and the Fire Chief have been busy preparing the objectives for the Fiscal Year 07-09 Budget and have been working with finance to build additional line item accounts to better track expenditures. We are nearly complete with the performance objectives for each of the six divisions within the Fire Department, which will include key performance indicators for each objective established to track efficiency, effectiveness and performance.

This Thursday, the Fire Chief will be attending the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association "Fire Chief's Only" meeting to discuss such items as continued regional training efforts, the 2007 Homeland

Security Grant process and a regional Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) project that will outfit every firefighter within the County with identical equipment. Monrovia will continue to pursue grant funding and this meeting is an excellent opportunity to weigh-in on the direction that the LA County Fire Chiefs will take in the coming months, relative to grant allocations.

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 473 calls for service resulting in 146 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Robbery. On February 1 at 9:45 p.m., a robbery occurred at a business located in the 900 block of West Foothill. The two suspects were described as males wearing black hooded sweat shirts and something covering their face. The suspects entered the store and told the employees and customers to get on the floor. They took money from a cash drawer at the registers, left out the front doors, and fled the scene. Investigation continuing.

Indecent Exposure. On February 2 at 8:34 a.m., an adult female was walking on Hillcrest near Patterson. While she was walking to her residence, she walked up behind a white parked car. When she neared the vehicle, she noticed that a male subject wearing a hooded jacket was exposing himself while on his cell phone. The victim yelled at the suspect and he immediately started his vehicle and drove off out of sight. The female walked home and called police. An area search was made by units, but the suspect was not located. The investigation is continuing.

Probation Compliance Searches in Monrovia, Duarte, and the County Area. On February 6, the Los Angeles County Probation DISARM Unit, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Deputies, the Multi-Agency Response Team (MART), and Monrovia's Special Enforcement Team conducted probation compliance contacts in Monrovia, Duarte, and the County area. During the searches, one male subject was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a large capacity ammunition magazine, and a probation hold. A second female subject was cited for probation violations. One baggie of methamphetamine, a methamphetamine smoking pipe, a loaded high capacity magazine for a rifle, empty baggies, and weight scales were confiscated from one location, and a bottle of prescription medication, possibly generic Soma, was confiscated from another.

Burglary. On February 7 at 6:11 p.m., an officer responded to a business in the 1600 block of South Mountain regarding two subjects being detained for shoplifting. After investigation, it was determined the subjects, a male and a female, had been inside the business. The female made a purchase, and they both exited. The male subject claims he found a receipt for paint. They reentered the store and selected a paint bucket similar to the one on the receipt. They exited the store again without paying for the paint and were detained by loss prevention. The male suspect admitted he was going to return the paint with the receipt he found for cash.

Felony Warrants. On February 7 at 8:22 p.m., an officer saw a silver Honda Civic and ran the license plate number. He recognized the listed registered owner as a person who had outstanding felony warrants for narcotics. A computer check revealed the subject had five different warrants for his arrest. The subject stopped at a local fast food restaurant and was arrested and taken into custody.

Grand Theft Auto. On February 7 at 9:57 p.m., an officer was flagged down in front of a business in the 500 block of West Huntington by a female subject. She told the officer she had parked her vehicle and locked it. She shopped for about 40 minutes, and when she returned to where she had parked her vehicle, it was gone. Investigation continuing.

THE PUBLIC WORKS SCOOP

ADMINISTRATION:

The Director of Public works met with representatives from Canning Hunger and Care for the Children to discuss painting of residential curb addresses within the City. The two organizations have obtained City business licenses to paint house numbers on the curb face in front of the resident home. Curb address painting will be available to residents for a donation of \$10.00.

ENGINEERING:

Myrtle Avenue Streetscape Project Update: Work is continuing in the 300 and 400 blocks with the completion of sidewalks and crosswalks. The east/west crosswalks at Myrtle and Lemon will be reopened on Friday, February 9.

Beginning February 12, Lemon, Lime and Palm at Myrtle Avenue will be closed to construct the north/south crosswalks and will re-open to traffic on February 15 or 16; this will complete the major concrete removal and repairs. Installation of street lights, irrigation and landscaping, striping and signage will follow.

Colorado Commons Update: The construction of the block walls for the parking structure continue to move upward. 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 inside the structure. With the walls completed to the first deck level, underground piping and conduits will be installed prior to installation of the basement floor slab.

539 Cloverleaf – Update: Staff is preparing the permits for the installation of erosion control measures and brush clearance at this site and staff will be monitoring the work daily to ensure compliance with the approved plans.

Indemnification Law and AB 573 Seminar: Engineering staff attended a seminar regarding the Legislature's passage of AB 573 and the impacts on indemnification clauses in city contracts and agreements. The law applies to cities and other agencies, which a city can no longer require an indemnity promise any broader than the promise that requires the design professional to indemnify for its own negligence, recklessness or willful misconduct. Staff will be working with our City Attorney to address several different issues.

OPERATIONS – Environmental Services – Facilities – Parks:

Bear Barrels Approved by City Council: At its February 6 meeting, the City Council approved the Bear Resistant Barrel Pilot Project. The City, in partnership with Athens Services, has initiated a Bear-resistant trash barrel program. Public Works Staff worked closely with Athens Services to develop a convenient and beneficial program for those wishing to reduce trash can break-ins from bears.

The program will provide residents with one black 95-gallon BearSaver brand Bear-Resistant barrel in lieu of the traditional trash barrel. Prior to barrel delivery, enrollees will be required to sign a 36-month program participation contract with Athens Services for 36 monthly payments of \$4.59/month/barrel. The above rate will be in addition to the customer's monthly service rate. For further program details, or to request program enrollment, please contact Environmental Services at (626) 932-5553 or 5556.

Mayflower School Visit: Last month, a group of 100 third grade students visited Monrovia City Hall. Our Environmental Services staff gave a presentation about the daily operations of the Public Works

Department. The students learned about street and sidewalk repair, maintenance of parkway trees and water quality and water conservation. Streets staff demonstrated the workings of a tractor that crushes asphalt and concrete. Following the presentation and demonstration, the students asked several interesting questions. It was exciting and educational for the students, teachers and our staff.

Corporate Yard and Fire Station #1 Projects Update: Asbestos removal from the Corporate Yard is now complete. The demolition of the interior walls at the Yard was completed last week and the asbestos removal continues at Fire Station #1 to be completed next week.

Grand Ave Park - Vandalism: At Grand Avenue Park, there were a number of sprinkler heads broken—we suspect it was done by vandalism. Grand Avenue Park is not on our CalSense Irrigation system which would have recognized the drastic change in water flow and shut down the system. Grand Avenue Park is on the top of the Parks list for a CalSense Irrigation system.

Recreation Park - Stadium Lights: Facilities Staff is currently replacing stadium lights at Recreation Park in preparation for the Monrovia Youth Baseball League opening season to start in early March.

Street of the Month: Park staff has selected Ivy Avenue as its *Street of the Month*. Staff will be focusing their attention on making sure water sprouts and excessive weed growth are removed from the City parkway.

STREETS:

Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program:

- 173 N. Magnolia

Graffiti Removal from Traffic Signs:

- Northwest corner Alta Vista /Maple
- Northeast corner Olive / Fifth
- 900 W. Block Colorado
- 300 S. Block Canyon
- 100 W. Block Colorado
- Skate Park
- Southwest and southeast corner Lemon and California
- Southeast, southwest, and northwest corners Lime and Jasmine
- Northeast corner Cypress and Alta Vista
- Northeast corner Central and Magnolia
- Walker and Duarte Rd.

Traffic Sign Installation and/or Replacement:

- Arrow sign at Central and California

Miscellaneous:

- Completed 36 Work Orders consisting of trip hazards and potholes

UTILITIES:

Customer Service:

- Staff read and recorded 477 water meters
- Completed 59 work orders
- Replaced 13 water meters
- Reactivated 9 water services
- Distributed 100 shut-off notices
- Sent out 25 backflow notices

Water Production: Water consumption is 39.8 millions gallons a decrease of approximately 9.5% compared to last weeks water usage.

Utility Maintenance:

- 6 residential water services were upgraded from galvanized to copper.
- 56 water main system valves were inspected and operated.
- 22 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed.
- 13,700 feet of sewer mains were cleaned.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS – UPDATE

Upper Cloverleaf Road Improvement, C-2988

Start of Construction	November 6, 2006
Construction Completion Date	November 30, 2006

Forebay #2 - Steel Tank Coating, C-2982

Award of Contract	January 16, 2007
Date of Contract	February 6, 2007
Estimated Start of Construction	March 5, 2007
Estimated Completion Date	May 14, 2007

2006/07 Water Main Replacement C-2980

Award of Contract	December 19, 2006
Date of Contract	January 16, 2007
Estimated Start of Construction	March 5, 2007
Estimated Completion Date	May 28, 2007

2006/07 Sewer Main Replacement C-2981

Bid Opening Date	March 28, 2007
Award of Contract	April 17, 2007
Estimated Start of Construction	May 22, 2007

VOC Water Treatment Plant – C2973

Construction started:	October 2, 2006
Estimated completion:	April 2007

Automatic Meter Reading System

Council Approval to Purchase:	January 16, 2007
System Training:	February 26-27, 2007
Installation of AMR Meters:	April 2007
Parallel Meter Reading:	May 2007
Fully Automated Reading:	September 2007

Corporate Yard Off-site Improvements at Well Field

Plans and Specifications	Completed
Estimated Start of Construction	March 2007
Estimated Completion	June 2007

Recreation Park Improvements (Rest Room & Picnic Shelter Construction)

Restroom Construction Completion:	December 5, 2006
Shelter Construction Completion:	December 5, 2006

Barney Glen Field Restroom Repair Project

Renovation of restroom, new announcer booth, new roof, new electrical meter installation

Construction start date: June 5, 2006
Estimated Completion: February 28, 2007

Fire Station 1 Renovation

City Council Approval: December 5, 2006
Start Construction: January 2, 2007
Estimated Completion: August 2007

Corporate Yard Renovation Project

City Council Approval: December 5, 2006
Start Construction: January 22, 2007
Estimated Completion: October 12, 2007

Community Center Tile Floor

Bid Document: February 23, 2007
Open Bids: March 21, 2007
City Council Approval: April 3, 2007
Start Construction: April 16, 2007
Estimated Completion: May 4, 2007

Historical Museum Roof and Interior

Bid Document: February 23, 2007
Advertise Project: February 25, 2007 and March 4, 2007
Open Bids: March 21, 2007
City Council Award: April 3, 2007
Start Construction: May 21, 2007
Estimated Completion: June 29, 2007

Old Town Myrtle Avenue Improvement – Olive Ave. to Foothill Blvd.

Construction Start: September 13, 2006.
Concrete improvements, sidewalks and crosswalks are scheduled to be completed February 19, 2007.
Landscaping, irrigation and street lights estimated completion by March 2007.

Traffic Signal Installation – Royal Oaks & Bradbury

Contract awarded: September 5, 2006
Contractor ordering poles and equipment; estimated 120 days to receive equipment
Start of Construction: February 2007

Depot Building Rehabilitation

Design Development Documents, 90% Completion Submittal Received
Documents being forwarded to building for plan check and working on submittal to Caltrans/State Office of Historical Preservation

Transit Center – Park and Ride Lot

Construction Started: August 7, 2006
Construction Completed: January 2007

2005/06 – 2006/07 Street Rehabilitation Project

Plan Specifications & Estimate: 100% Complete
Project Out to Bid: February 2007

Award of Contract: March 2007
Estimated Start of Construction: April 2007

2005/06 – 2006/07 Slurry Seal Project

Plan Specifications & Estimate: 100% Complete
Project Out to Bid: February 2007
Award of Contract: March 2007
Estimated Start of Construction: April 2007

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Thurs., Feb 15, 5:30 p.m.	Chamber Mixer, Area 51
Fri., Feb. 16, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	YMCA Youth & Government Model Legislature & Court, Sacramento
<i>Monday, February 19</i>	<i>President's Day, City Hall Closed</i>
Tues., Feb 20, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Thurs., March 1, 8 a.m.	Monrovia Reads "Read Across Monrovia", Monrovia classrooms
Fri., March 2, 5:00 p.m.	Myrtle Avenue Grand Re-Opening Celebration
Tues., March 20, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting

CMO ATTACHMENTS:

Incumbents good for future of Monrovia

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In Monrovia, a vote for the same is a vote for positive changes.

This city has championed progress for the past 30 years, as one successful redevelopment project after another have boosted sales tax revenues and buttressed sagging commercial districts. Economic development meant bringing in high-tech firms: Sun Microsystems, a recent example, arrived with high-caliber jobs. Huntington Drive, Royal Oak Avenue and Mountain Avenue have been transformed into employment corridors whose office and industrial space compete with those in Pasadena and Los Angeles.

Downtown's Myrtle Avenue has become a vibrant mix of restaurants, shops and a movie theater complex. This area of quality redevelopment was aptly described by veteran Councilman Tom Adams as "the emotional heartbeat of the community." Currently receiving a \$3.1 million face-lift in new sidewalks and landscaping, its pulse is strong.

Recently, the well-run city and smoothly functioning City Council has turned its focus on courting mixed-use projects into downtown, including some marked "affordable." Already, we're told, there are waiting lists to buy.

Plans for Station Square on south Myrtle will include commercial and residential built around the future Gold Line light-rail station. Adams correctly summed up the progress when he told our editorial board: "Monrovia has become a wonderful place to live. It is a model people want to copy."

We support Tom Adams in what he called his bid for a fourth and last term. He is a bulwark, an anchor of integrity who has weathered a sea of change and some storms. Adams' best attribute is his ability to listen to the people. Aside from any personal feelings on new taxes, he supported allowing residents to decide. Thanks to the council, they get to vote on Measure L, a \$62-per-year parcel tax that will raise about \$16 million for a new city library in Library Park.

The measure also appears on the March 6 ballot.

Mary Ann Lutz, running for her second term, also gets our endorsement. Lutz said she was able to vote for a 2-percent cutback early in her tenure, only to see the city's budget rebound. She agreed with the City Council directive to put away money for capital improvement projects. "We are budgeting and saving to make that happen."

Part of those reserves are funding a \$1.5 million revamp of the downtown fire station.

One challenger, Tony Alexandrovich, said he is running as a resident opposed to higher taxes. Another challenger, Mario Duron, wants to see a liaison position created for city residents.

Residents should know that Lutz is a strong proponent of Measure L and said the successful passage will bring Monrovia "into a new millennium." She also touted the move for opening City Hall for 55 hours a week, Monday through Friday.

Finally, the clear choice for mayor is incumbent Rob Hammond, who faces perennial challenger Stephen Grollnek. Hammond remains the articulate leader of this

Gem City and has established himself as a figure for regional influence in mass transit issues. Hammond, Adams and Lutz are solid, experienced leaders who should be returned to office.