



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



February 16, 2007

The Concrete is Dry!!!

As anticipated, on Thursday afternoon Myrtle Avenue and each of the east-west side streets in Old Town were opened up to through-traffic. Thus, the major concrete work in Old Town is finished! Although our contractor has a small handful of repairs to make, none of this work should require a closure of the streets. On a related note, you may have noticed the removal of the street median island on the 800 block of south Myrtle. While this work did not require a street closure, it did attract some attention. Basically, we are removing the median to facilitate the future southerly expansion of the downtown district back to its original boundary, just north of Huntington Drive. With the Red Car Junction/Barratt Homes groundbreaking at the old Neff Instruments site just weeks away, it was important to get this work done now while we had the construction crews already in place. The repaving of the street in the 800 block should be completed by Saturday, February 17.

Although the major and disruptive concrete work is now finished, we still have quite a punch-list of items to complete. Perhaps the two most significant items are the completion of the landscaping and the electrical system. Our contractor tells us that both tasks should be finished within the next two weeks. Thus, by the March 2nd "Grand Re-opening" of Myrtle Avenue, the major goals of this project will have been accomplished.

In other related news, the Colorado Commons project is going gangbusters. The builders are racing against the clock to pour the first deck of the parking structure by the end of March. Once this milestone is achieved, the construction will pick up even more speed. With any luck, they might even be finished with major construction by Christmas 2007!

If you have any questions about any of these projects please feel free to give us a call.

February 20 City Council Meeting Preview

The February 20 City Council Meeting agenda will be fairly light, though interesting.

Item PH -1 is the annual public hearing regarding the declaration of the list of properties determined by the County of Los Angeles to require weed and rubbish abatement.

Item AR-1 is the consideration of an amendment to the City's existing contract with EDAW, Inc. in the amount of \$143,145. EDAW is the consulting firm hired by the City last year to compile and create the Station Square, Myrtle Avenue Corridor and West Huntington Drive Land Use Plan. Basically, this plan will serve as blueprint for the future development of these areas. The contract amendment is necessitated by the City's desire to expand the scope of the traffic circulation study and also expand the public outreach component of the process. The cost incurred by the City would be incorporated into a fee schedule that is charged back to developers. Staff is recommending approval.

Item AR-2 is the overview of the comprehensive state lobbying strategy requested by the Council at its last meeting. Essentially, staff (in working with our advocacy firm Gonsalves & Sons) has further identified specific resources at the State level that could help pay for any number of community amenities that would be created as part of a future City development. This would include additional affordable housing, new urban park spaces and public plazas, and other public amenities. Staff is recommending approval.

Item AR-3 is the consideration of the purchase of three new para-transit vehicles from A-Z Bus Sales in the amount of \$170,040. This is the routine and scheduled replacement of a portion of the City's dial-a-ride fleet. Of note, these new vehicles will feature a metal body that, like the four vehicles purchased last year, will allow the recently approved advertising and sponsorship program to utilize these buses as well. Staff is recommending approval.

As always, if you have any question on this agenda please feel free to contact me directly.

Ad Hoc Parking Committee Hits the Road

As the Mayor had reported at the last City Council Meeting, the Ad Hoc Parking Committee made up of Monrovia residents met to identify key parking issues in various Monrovia neighborhoods. At this point, the Committee will commence a series of meetings at different locations around town to try and maximize community input into this issue. Be on the lookout for meeting agendas indicating when the Committee will be at a location near you.

Articles Attached

- **System Speeds Internet Traffic Flow.** Monrovia's Hi-Tech start-ups in the news again!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

FILMING

A USC student will be filming scenes for a film project named "The Curse of Wally's Tears." It will be filmed at 317 Heather Heights on Friday, February 16.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Stan's Monrovia Bicycles, 880 S. Myrtle Avenue, will be having an Open House for a well-known bicycle frame builder Dario Pegrotti on Monday, March 5, 2007. Mr. Pegrotti will be signing posters inside the store from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Comp USA, 745 W. Huntington Drive, will be holding another parking lot event on Sunday, March 11, from noon to 6 p.m. The event will utilize approximately 16 parking spaces and will include a 20' x 20' inflatable dome and an 18' x 10' product trailer. The purpose of the event is to educate consumers on technology and the Sony products that are offered at Comp USA.

GREEN BUILDING

Chon Cervantes, Building Official, continues to be closely involved in the Los Angeles Green Building Council Chapter. On April 12, there will be a one-day Conference and Expo in Downey on developing and implementing municipal green building programs. Chon and his colleagues will be presenting several topics including: Marketing the Benefits of Green Build Programs for New Developments, Sustainable Public Buildings, and the Importance of Developing Green Build Guidelines.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

Library Board Meeting. The following agenda items will be reviewed by the Library Board at the February 22, 2007 Regular Meeting;

AR-1 Update Adult Services Programming. This report provides an update on the changes in Adult Services Programming from January 2006 to the present.

Pajamamania: The *"Fairies' Tea Party"* was held on Monday, February 5, at 7 pm. Librarian I, Pamela Brownlee was the mover and shaker of this particular program. With some help from other librarians, Pam turned the Alvord Room into a fairy never-never land. Pam dressed as a fairy for the event and many children came in fairy costumes. Stories about fairies were read and fairy tea cakes were served as well as other little finger foods. Over 140 people showed up for this event.

Monrovia Idol: Tuesday night, the Library's Youth Services Department, under the direction of Librarian II Denise Neujahr, held its first *"Monrovia Idol Contest"* for children. Limited to acts of up to four people, 18 groups performed to the delight of an audience of 200 at the Community Center. While most of the acts were singers or singing groups, the talent included dancers, a comedian, and a piano player. In fact, the 1st Place winner was a Folklorico dance group dancing *"Arancate"*. The troupe members, ages 12-15, were Segrid Lovato, Andrea Alvarado, Yesenia Martinez, and Veronica Martinez. The 2nd Place winner was 8th-grader Nicollette Harris who sang *"Power of Love"* by Celine Dion. The 3rd place winners were 13-years-old twin sisters, Tori & Troi Irons, singing and playing the guitar of *"For a Second"*, their own original song. Amid the camera flashes and army of video cameras, the program was a sensational success and is expected to be requested as an annual event.

Great Adventurers: For students in 2nd – 5th grades, this seven-week series features short stories, crafts, imagination stretchers, and library-related games. This program teaches children how to use the Library and includes an author study. The series runs from February 21 – April 4 and meets on Wednesdays from 3:15 p.m. – 4 p.m.

After School Special: February's After School Special is *"Rhythm Around the World"*. Marcus Miller Drums will take the audience around the world in 45 minutes using a variety of drums and drumming! This program will be held at the Library Park Bandshell on Thursday, February 22 at 3:45 p.m. Rain will move the program to the Community Center.

Program for Adults: This month's interactive travel program in Adult Services is *"Pack Your Bags for China"*. The display includes books about the country; a handout on where and how to find recipes from the country; and a challenge handout with instructions and a kit on how to make Chinese lanterns.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 68 emergency calls from 0800 hours February 7 to 0800 hours February 14.

TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

This week, the Fire Training Staff met to begin writing Company Performance Standards and streamline fire ground operational responses. The intent of these evolutions is to standardize response evolutions in order to identify the areas that training guidelines would be beneficial. For the past several months, the training staff has been assessing our current training policies and methods.

Through that process we have established a more clear direction to focus on, and have a better understanding of our strengths and challenges.

In addition, we have completed a week of coordinated training with the Arcadia Fire Department. Coincidentally, the Arcadia Fire Department spent several shifts utilizing our training tower at Fire Station 102, for their annual Company Performance Evolution testing. The two departments spend a great deal of time training together and sharing resources. We appreciate the ability to rely on surrounding departments, and the feeling is mutual, I'm sure!

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Deputy Fire Marshal Robin is attending the annual CUPA Hazardous Materials Conference. This conference outlines the new laws and regulations associated with the management of the program.

The engine companies began their inspection program this week. Companies are inspecting businesses within 45 days of a business license renewal.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

This week is an exciting week in that three of our personnel are attending Telestaff training. This is the first step towards implementing the automated staffing software that was purchased to streamline hiring practices, reduce staff time and produce administrative reports in which to track and trend staffing. Next week the three firefighters will be performing in-house training and then a month of testing. Within the next six weeks we should be up and running with the program and seeing the benefit of automated staffing first-hand.

The Department was also busy putting final touches on the five-year strategic plan and finalizing the Departmental objectives for the next two-year budget. This work (the Departmental objectives) is a little ahead of time, because the Fire Department will be spending more time this year with the Administrative Services Department, streamlining budget practices, creating additional line item accounts for enhanced accountability and teaching all Captains and Battalion Chiefs the new Munis budget system. All of these activities are geared towards improving the business practices of the Monrovia Fire Department.

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 463 calls for service resulting in 136 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Lewd and Lascivious Act. On February 9 at approximately 10:09 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the 400 block of North Grand Avenue. A caller reported a male subject was seen in the bushes exposing himself while watching several female adults. When the victims discovered the suspect, he ran to his vehicle and drove away. Responding officers arrived and conducted an area search, but the suspect was not located. The description of the suspect and vehicle matched that of a suspect from a similar crime reported one week prior. Officers investigated the incident, and working with the Special Enforcement Team, they were able to identify a possible suspect. All of the victims were able to positively identify the suspect through a photo line-up. This case will be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for filing.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon. On February 9 at 11:20 p.m., officers responded to the 200 block of East Los Angeles regarding a shots fired call. A woman had been shot three times through a steel security screen door. Her husband was hit with something on his heel, but the investigation could not

determine what hit him. The female had answered a knock on the door. When she looked through the heavy metal security screen, she saw a male subject walking away from the door. As she was closing the interior door, several shots were fired hitting her three times. The female was transported to the hospital for treatment of her injuries, which are not considered life threatening. Investigation continuing.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon. On February 10 at 10:46 p.m., a male victim walked from his house in the 800 block of West Walnut and was entering his vehicle parked at the curb. He heard the sound of someone running behind him. He was pushed from behind. When he turned around and was facing the suspect, he felt pain to his stomach which caused him to fall down. He did not hear any shots fired, but later discovered he had been shot once in the stomach. The victim was taken to the hospital by friends. The victim had been shot one time at contact range in the abdomen. The injury is not life threatening and the victim is expected to survive.

Driving Under the Influence. On February 11 at 9:51 p.m., a motorist reported he was following a possible drunk driver who went through two solid red lights at 40 miles per hour. He followed the vehicle to the 300 block of East Palm and saw a female exit the driver's seat and she went inside her home. Officers responded and made contact with the female after speaking with the witness. The female was extremely intoxicated and refused to cooperate with field sobriety tests. She was arrested. On arrival at the station, the subject was unresponsive, but breathing. The paramedics were called and she was transported to the hospital.

Outside Assist – Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. On February 12 at 1:46 p.m., the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department reported a drive-by shooting had occurred at Mountain and El Sur in their jurisdiction. One male victim had been shot. The suspect vehicle was found parked in the nearby county area of Monrovia. The Sheriff's Department requested Monrovia police assistance with traffic control while a command post was set up. One suspect was observed exiting the residence and was taken into custody. The second was ordered out of the residence, but did not respond. The deputies searched the residence with their canine, but the second suspect had fled. Investigation continuing.

Child Molestation. On February 12 at 10:01 p.m., an officer responded to a residence regarding possible child molestation. On arrival, he met with the mother of a 10 year old boy. The mother told the officer that the father of one of her child's friends had bathed her child while he was at the friend's house, and the father had touched the child inappropriately. The boy was taken to the hospital for a sexual assault examination. The investigation is continuing.

Felon with a Gun / Carrying a Loaded Firearm / Carrying a Concealed Firearm / Parole Hold / Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance. On February 12, officers responded to the area of Canyon and Hillcrest on a reported suspicious subject. An officer stopped a subject in the area of Hillcrest and Grand that matched the description given by the reporting resident. The subject was found to be in possession of a loaded flare gun and was under the influence of a controlled substance. He had no reason or purpose to be in the area. He was arrested and taken into custody for the above listed charges.

Felony Vandalism On February 13 at 12:58 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the high school regarding two students detained for vandalism. During the investigation, it was learned that one of the school employees noticed some recent graffiti on the school walls and was able to tie it to two students. After interviewing the students, they confessed to putting the graffiti on the school walls and both suspects were arrested for felony vandalism.

Grand Theft Auto. On February 14 at 3:17 a.m., a resident in the 200 block of Acacia called to report seeing a person's shadow peering over the wall into his backyard. Officers responded and saw a male run northbound on Acacia to eastbound Oaks and out of sight. A containment was set up with assistance from Sierra Madre and Arcadia Police Departments. A search was conducted, and the suspect was found hiding in the area where he was last seen. He was detained without incident. The suspect had stolen a motorcycle from the resident by pushing it down his driveway to the street. He

abandoned it when the officers arrived, and then tried to evade them. He was arrested and booked for grand theft auto.

THE PUBLIC WORKS SCOOP

ENGINEERING:

Myrtle Avenue Streetscape Project Update: This week will be the last of the crosswalk replacement in Old Town. The side streets, Lemon, Lime and Palm at Myrtle Avenue will reopen to traffic Thursday, February 15 in the late afternoon. Installation of street lights, irrigation and landscaping, striping and signage will continue for a few more weeks and the project should be wrapped up by the first week in March.

Colorado Commons Update: The interior structural column and water proofing of the exterior block walls for the parking garage should be completed this week; the exterior walls will be backfilled with dirt from the large pile inside the project area. 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 Project – Update: Permits were issued to the property owner for brush clearance and erosion control measures at the site. Work is scheduled to begin, Friday February 16.

999 Wildrose Project – Update: Paving is complete and striping is scheduled for Friday, February 16.

Rubberized Asphalt Grant Training: Public Works Department received a \$150,000.00 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to help fund our 06/07 Street Resurfacing Project scheduled to begin in April 2007. The grant required our staff to receive formal training on February 14 regarding the use, placement and benefits of RAC, rubberized asphalt concrete material. In the past, we have allowed contractors to use RAC. The total number of tires recycled into RAC will be quantified and provided to the Waste Management Board.

Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority – Update: Engineering staff received a CD for the Final EIR (Environmental Impact Report) for the Gold Line Phase II Extension - Pasadena to Azusa Alternative. The Authority Board will meet on February 28 in Arcadia to consider certification of the Final EIR document. Staff will complete a final review to confirm City concerns were addressed.

OPERATIONS – Environmental Services – Facilities – Parks:

Outdoor Education at Canyon Park: Environmental Services Staff made presentations on February 6th and 8th regarding storm water pollution prevention to over 140 5th grade students from Mayflower Elementary School. At the end of the presentation, students participated in a quiz which they did very well at.

STREETS:

Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program:

- 163 N. Myrtle, 139 N. Mayflower, 924 S. Primrose

Graffiti Removal from Traffic Signs:

- Southwest corner Evergreen and California

- Southeast corner Grand and Prospect
- All four corners of Alta Vista and Linwood
- Northeast corner Lime and Alta Vista
- Southwest corner Magnolia and Linwood
- 1541 S. California
- Southwest Corner Chestnut and Ivy
- Northwest corner Olive and Fifth
- Northeast corner Maple and Mayflower
- Southeast & Northwest corners Montana and Monterey
- 1400 Block Alasitas
- Southwest corner Genoa and Magnolia
- Southeast and Northeast corner Olive and Monterey
- California and Duarte in center median
- 1300 S. block Magnolia

Traffic Sign Installation/Replacement:

- Colorado and Myrtle – Replaced 4 delineators at the northwest corner
- Colorado and Primrose – Replaced 2 delineators at the northeast corner
- Mayflower and Railroad Crossing – Replaced sign post with “Keep Right” sign and multi reflector sign.
- Myrtle and Duarte Rd. – Re-attached multi reflector to sign post.

Graffiti Removal:

- 344 Linwood
- 155 N. Myrtle

Miscellaneous:

- Cleaned walls of the freeway overpasses at Huntington Dr., Monterey, Mayflower, Myrtle and California.
- Cleaned concrete spill at Duarte Rd. and Myrtle Ave.
- Cleaned mud from roadway on Kruse St. due to Cal-American Water Company water main break on 2/14/2007
- Responded to 14 work orders.

Traffic Painting Operations:

- Re-striped yellow center lines in 100 block of east Maple
- Re-striped center lines at Linwood / Primrose and Linwood / Magnolia
- Installed new parking stalls and re-striped stalls in the 100 block of east Maple.
- Painted red curb and green curb at the northeast corner of Maple and Primrose.

UTILITIES:

Customer Service:

- Staff read and recorded 3,013 water meters
- Completed 47 work orders
- Replaced 8 water meters
- Reactivated 12 water services
- Distributed 95 shut-off notices
- Sent out 25 backflow notices

Water Production: Water consumption is 43.8 millions gallons, an increase of approximately 10% compared to last week's water usage. This figure, however, is about our average water consumption at this time of the year.

Utility Maintenance:

- 5 residential water services were upgraded from galvanized to copper.
- 85 water main system valves were inspected and operated
- 24 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed.
- 12,300 feet of sewer mains were cleaned.
- 100 feet of sewer main were video inspected.

Live Oak Cemetery Water Leak: The Utilities Division was called out to help resolve a water leak in the Live Oak Cemetery on February 13. After assessing the situation, it was determined to be a California American Water Company water main rupture. The leak resulted in significant property damage inside the cemetery.

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

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| 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, 4:00 p.m. | Colorado Commons Sales Office Grand Opening, 505-A Myrtle |
| 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:

System speeds Internet traffic flow

By Rodney Tanaka Staff Writer

San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Article Launched: 02/15/2007 07:38:48 PM PST

MONROVIA - The video screen shows a choppy-looking streaming movie trailer that skips and stops. Then, another connection is made and the streaming video plays crisply and clearly.

This, in simplified terms, demonstrates the technology offered by Monrovia startup FastSoft Inc., a method of speeding up Internet transfers up to 32 times in field tests.

Imagine an Internet connection operating like a hose with water running through it, said Dan Henderson, vice president of product and market development for FastSoft.

"This takes out all the air bubbles so you're getting a lot more water through," he said of the company's FastTCP technology. Ninety percent of Internet traffic runs through the Transmission Control Protocol, or TCP, Henderson said.

But TCP was developed for the Internet 20 or 30 years ago, he said. It is always adjusting the rate information is being sent. If it experiences a problem, it might cut the transmission rate in half, he said. "This group developed FastTCP, which squeezes out inefficiencies," he said. "This transmits in the most optimal fashion."

FastTCP is powering FastSoft's Aria 1000 network, which is in beta testing and will be commercially available by early April, he said.

Initially the technology will not be for the home user, but will help the communications industry, manufacturing industry and other larger applications, Henderson said.

Speeding up file transfers does not require new hardware or software on the receiving end, so a company can use Aria 1000 and improve speeds on their end without also requiring the same equipment at their field offices or clients' offices, he said. The technology also does not slow down other Internet traffic, Henderson said.

The technology was developed with research undertaken by company founders Steven Low and Cheng Jim at Caltech's Networking Laboratory.

FastTCP was a component of a record-breaking entry at the SuperComputing 2006 Bandwidth Challenge.

"FastTCP's ability to adapt to a variety of working conditions, and reach equilibrium in the presence of competing data flows, is the key to efficient network usage over long distances, over an impressive range of network speeds," Caltech professor Harvey Newman, who led the team that set network throughput records at the SuperComputing conferences, said in a written statement.

"There really is a sense that this a revolutionary technology that will set the standard for Internet acceleration," Henderson said.

For more information, call FastSoft Inc. at (626) 357-7012.

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