



# From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



March 7, 2008

## ***Monrovia POA calls its shot***

On Friday afternoon the Monrovia Police Officer's Association (MPOA) initiated a mass phone bank operation, sending a recorded message to Monrovia residents generally decrying the lack of resources allocated to the Monrovia Police Department, and suggesting that MPD does not have enough officers to do the job asked of them.

The call was misleading; its message of fear was short-sighted and irresponsible; and most certainly, incorrect.

Aside from the confusion over who was calling and why (some folks thought it was Chief Roger Johnson calling to ask for money for his department), the call features many pieces information that are, at best, disputed facts and worst, outright misrepresentations. This issue of "resources" is actually about wages and benefits for members of the MPOA. Monrovia PD has enough cars, and guns, and Kevlar – just not enough pay, apparently.

Below are the facts that will set the record straight.

The MPOA contract expired on June 30, 2007. Since then, the City has attempted to negotiate an extension of the MOU until June 30, 2008. Negotiations broke down as the MPOA stalled, apparently waiting for the City of Arcadia to settle with its officers' association. A new MPOA Board was seated in December of 2007 and negotiations were re-started.

The new round of meetings lasted a couple of months. The MPOA began and ended with a contract demand of a 23.5% increase in compensation over three and one-half years. As part of the good faith negotiating process, the City increased its proposal – ultimately offering 16.5% over three and one-half years. This offer featured guaranteed salary increases in each year, an enhanced retiree medical program, and an employee reinvestment program that recognized and rewarded employees' longevity with the organization.

The City has compensated Monrovia Officers and Sergeants at 5% above the average of survey cities since July 2005. The demand that the City jump 23.5% was an absolute budget-buster; and considering that the MPOA maintains that its members are the lowest paid among the survey cities, these two statements have to be reconciled.

According to the MPOA, although you will not see this on their website or literature, their members are "underpaid" because Monrovia pays too much money for their 3%@50 retirement program. How does this all work?

According to the MPOA, they want their members' salary, medical benefit and POST pay (Police Officer Standard & Training) to merely be equal to the average of the survey cities. To be sure, the City does take these three factors into consideration when determining compensation – along with the cost of the PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) pension program. When you compute the

value of these four factors (along with the other smaller items listed in the survey), the Monrovia Officers and Sergeants are indeed 5% above the survey average. Also, Monrovia's salaries are well above the survey average; however, because of the high cost of the PERS pension, the medical and POST amounts are less than in some other cities.

Does the City's PERS contribution make that big a difference? In a word, "YES".

The City's PERS contribution is made up of two components – the employee portion (9% of actual salary) and employer portion (32.799% of actual salary). In Monrovia, as in many cities, the employer pays both amounts. Thus, for every \$1 paid in salary – regardless of whether it is regular time or bonus pay (over-time is excluded) – the City also pays 42 cents to PERS.

Why is PERS so expensive? The pension plan for Monrovia police personnel is referred to as "3%@50". This means that a Monrovia police officer can retire at age 50 with as much as 90% of his or her single-highest year's salary until they are deceased. As an example, the formula for a 51 year old officer who retires after 28 years of service works out:

$$3\% \times 28 = 84\% \text{ of SHY (single highest year salary)}$$

Or, if that officer started his/her career earlier or worked two more years, it would be:

$$3\% \times 30 = 90\% \text{ SHY (single highest year salary)}$$

Why is Monrovia's rate relatively higher than some agencies? There are a few reasons. First, Monrovia PD has experienced a number of Industrial Disability Retirements (IDR's). This occurs when a safety employee retires due to an inability to perform the duties of his or her position due to a work-related injury or illness. Like accidents increasing your auto insurance premium, IDR's increase the City's rate. Second, the City also offers employees a PERS enhancement that helps provide funds for retirees' medical benefits (referred to "EPMC", or Employer Paid Member Contribution). This adds about 2% to the rate. Third, folks are living longer and drawing more money out of the pension fund. Lastly, when the stock market fell in 2003, PERS' investment portfolio took a major hit and they were forced to double the rates to cities and other agencies. This has led to a number of other related impacts, like unfunded pension obligations and the need for agencies to sell bonds to meet obligations.

The MPOA has also raised the issue that if salaries are not raised, we will be plagued by mass vacancies in officer positions. Today, only 4 of the 52 budgeted sworn/officer positions in the Monrovia PD are empty. Not the 12 or 14 or any other number offered by the MPOA (they are counting positions that were cut in 2004 and also the positions of employees who may retire in the future, but who are still actively employed by the City). Now, we do expect to have retirements in the coming year(s) and as always, there is the possibility of losing officers to other agencies – just as there is the possibility of adding officers from other agencies and the assurance that we will continue to recruit new officers out of the Police Academy.

It's worth noting that over the last four years, we have fired and released from probation more officers than we have lost to other agencies. There is definitely an ebb and flow to the hiring process. The fact is, we don't have trouble getting applicants for police jobs; but every agency struggles to get recruits through the exhaustive and necessary background process. And lowering our standards surely is not an option.

Please rest assured that, even when the Monrovia Police Department was down several more positions than we are today, and a number of officers were off-duty with injuries, and others had been let go, the Monrovia Police Department maintained a full complement of officers in the field – all patrol

beats and shifts, and all major assignments were filled. Also, do not be misled that the current multi-agency effort (whereby officers from other agencies are providing saturation patrols) is anything but a mutual aid endeavor. If we had a wildfire, for example, the Monrovia Fire Department would call in resources from all over the State, let alone the Valley. It is the same principle with the gang flare-up that we witnessed earlier this year. Chief Johnson saw an opportunity for innovation in the way we perform policing activities in a tense situation. No doubt his actions will become the standard for all small cities experiencing similar problems in the future.

Make no mistake, safety is a key function of local government. But public safety – although a very close second – must take second place to Fiscal Responsibility. How can you provide public safety when you are bankrupt? It is uncanny timing that the MPOA has chosen this moment – with a background of the City of Vallejo staving off Chapter 9 because of public safety employment costs, Pacific Grove grappling with major budget shortfalls, the City of San Diego studying the roll-back of retirement benefits, the State of California purloining local government funds to balance its own books, and the national economy hovering around Recession – to pursue this struggle. It makes absolutely no sound business sense to pay out more than you take in. And if the MPOA is unwilling to accept a 16.5% package amid significant declining economic indicators – as folks are losing their homes and their jobs – I can only hope that the men and women who comprise the MPOA's rank and file reconsider the position of their Association. We have some outstanding men and women keeping us safe, but they are getting some very bad advice; and scaring folks with a recorded message, flyers and websites is irresponsible and unfair to the people who ultimately pay our salary and benefits.

If you would like to discuss the matter more thoroughly, please feel free to contact me directly.

### **MAP Area II Meeting Recap**

On Thursday night, we held a follow-up meeting with our Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Points-of-Contact. The initial meeting was held on January 30<sup>th</sup>, amid much concern and fear over gang violence. I am pleased and proud to report that this meeting – five weeks later – was just as well attended and equally upbeat. In addition to providing updates and answers to specific issues that were raised in the first meeting (cul-de-sacs at strategic locations in certain neighborhoods; MPD policies regarding traffic stops; overnight parking restrictions; for example), we were also able to provide an update as to the level of gang activity in town.

Chief Johnson highlighted the number of arrests made, the general disposition of individual investigations, and talked about the collaboration of the MPD with the neighboring police agencies that are helping provide saturation patrols in Monrovia. The critical ingredient for success, however, is the collaboration of police with the community. The Chief invited folks to call him with information, questions, complaints and compliments – he wants to hear from everyone about the state of their neighborhood. His remarks were met with applause, as were Mayor Hammond's; and there appeared to be a strong theme of support for all of the City's efforts.

To this end, the meeting also featured presentations from all of the City departments regarding volunteer opportunities and programs to keep residents involved and interested in the wellbeing of their streets. From "Neighborhood on Patrol", to the Fire Department's CERT program, to neighborhood canvassing, to youth mentoring – there are many opportunities to ensure that this current spirit of activism does not atrophy and die away. If you have questions about any of these programs, please contact either Dan McConnell or Alexis Newell in the Neighborhood Preservation Division.

Mayor Hammond also voiced the need to work together and communicate. It is easy for mistrust and fear to creep back into our mindset, and this dialogue underscored the issue of diversity in our neighborhoods and the best, most positive ways to build respect and trust among neighbors. For

example, the sensitive issue of language came up – “people should speak English only!” But as folks talked about personal experiences they’ve had, the hard-line melted away and the group discussed ways of keeping English fluency as an overall goal, balanced by the need to meet people where they are in order to effectively incorporate them into neighborhood solutions. As the Mayor summarized, “We all might be different, but we all want the same things – for ourselves and our children.”

The focus on children yielded an important discussion point – Monrovia has many services for youth. From the Boys & Girls Club, to the Y, to school activities, to the Skate Park and Youth Center – it seems the issue isn’t more programs; it’s attracting more youth at an earlier age, and keeping them engaged until they can at least get through middle school. I am sure that there are mountains of studies somewhere to back this up, but the folks at the meeting – and many of the meetings I have attended over the last ten weeks – saw youth sports programs as perhaps the most effective way of combating the problem of gangs. Teams can fulfill the sense of belonging that gangs offer; sports teach about winning and losing; especially for boys, sports allow for the exercise of aggressiveness within a controlled environment; through sportsmanship, sports teach about respect for others – especially people on other teams. Obviously, we have great organizations like MYBL and AYSO that offer baseball and soccer programs, respectively. However, there is a gap in services during large parts of the year. Additionally, cost per child is an issue to be considered.

About ten years ago, with the advent of the MUSD’s Village After-School program, the City of Monrovia refocused its Recreation Services. Mighty-mite tee-ball, flag football, cheerleading, and other traditional sports programs were dropped and resources were redirected to teen-oriented programs. As we have seen, however, teens are perhaps the most difficult age group to program services for because, by their very nature (if memory serves) you don’t want to be where “they” want you to be. They’d rather be hanging out with friends, etc. And if this is done safely and respectfully, I doubt that any non-L7 (if they still use that term) adult would mind. But maybe, the re-offering of a youth sports component could help capture the focus of young people earlier and help keep them on the right track. Again, this would be only a complementary answer because there is no single solution. Community Services staff is currently investigating this option (amid the mountains of studies), and we should have a report back to the City Council directly.

### **Controversy at Planning Commission**

At the February Planning Commission meeting, the Commission voted 4-3 against the staff recommendation to allow beer and wine sales at Jay’s Shell, located on West Huntington Drive at Monterey Avenue. The staff recommendation was based on the facts that the off-site sale of beer and wine has not proven to be detrimental to neighbors at other locations, that there was not an unreasonable over-concentration of liquor licenses in the surrounding area, and that it would not change the overall character of the business itself. Indeed, most gas station mini-mart’s feature the sale of beer and wine. Still, residents from the adjoining neighborhood mobilized and testified to the Planning Commission that allowing the beer and wine sales posed significant risks and represented the renegeing of a promise made to the neighborhood by the gas station operator.

The Commission voted against the application. However, the “Findings of Denial” were not located in the agenda packet. Thus, the item must come back to the Commission at their March 12 meeting so that they can make the findings to support the denial.

Here is where the controversy comes in – some of the local residents viewed this procedural step as a second bite at the apple for the applicant. And while the applicant – as well as the residents – may speak to this issue on the March 12 agenda, it would be highly unusual for the individual commissioners to change their votes. City staff has been in contact with the local residents who have been most vocal, however, one or two still do not understand the nuance of having to go back to the Commission. At this point, the applicant (Jay’s Shell), will most likely appeal the Commission’s

decision to the City Council – making a feverish lobbying effort to the Planning Commission quite unlikely.

If you have any questions about any of this, please feel free to contact Community Development Director Alice Griselle.

### **City Council Meeting Recap**

As anticipated, the March 4 City Council meeting was very short. The brief agenda did contain, however, some very key and timely items.

Under Mayor Hammond's report, we discussed the State of California's current budget debacle – \$16.6 billion. All indications are that the State will “borrow” at least \$507,000 from Monrovia in the coming fiscal year. Ironically, this entire amount being eyed by Sacramento is law enforcement funding (COPS, Prop 172, booking fees). Yet because of law enforcement's high priority in Monrovia, the City will backfill this loss to the Police Department by making additional cuts in other program areas.

That said, I do believe that the final amount will be more. Under Prop 1A, which was approved by voters in the last election, the State can borrow money from local governments twice in ten years. Thus, considering the size of the State's deficit and also that there are essentially only two bullets in their budget “gun”, I doubt that Sacramento will waste one of them for the paltry (relative to their budget deficit) amount of a half-million dollars. Moreover, it is only March and the Governor and the State's Legislative Analyst's Office are in agreement on taking local funds...this tells me that by the time the May Revise (the Governor's revision of his next fiscal year's budget) is published our “loan” will be significantly higher.

Under the Redevelopment Agency, the City Council authorized the purchase of two more industrial condominiums in the Hamby Park complex to be incorporated into the Station Square project. At least one of our employees has asked me how come we are continuing to assemble property for redevelopment if we are not granting raises to non-safety employees. The answer is two-fold: first, the money being used to purchase property is comprised of redevelopment bond proceeds and not ongoing revenue like, for example, sales or property tax revenue – you cannot (or at least you shouldn't) pay ongoing costs (like salaries) with one-time monies; and second, the City's redevelopment and economic development programs are investments in future revenue streams that will pay for new programs and services in the future – if we stop investing, we will soon find ourselves up the proverbial creek and will have thrown away the paddle along the way.

Lastly, the Council approved the re-roofing of the Monrovia Historical Museum. This project is part of the multi-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that the Council approved a couple of years ago. The Council believes strongly in maintaining infrastructure and buildings. Like doing preventative maintenance on a car, we can either do regular and budgeted upgrades to our fixed assets over time; or we can defer maintenance for far too long and pay significantly more money years from now. The recent and expensive rehabilitation of Fire Station No.1 is evidence of the latter philosophy. The next, and perhaps last for a while, project to be undertaken is the re-roofing of the Police Station. This estimated \$700,000 project will commence in the late summer/early fall. After that, we will need to build up the CIP fund again to tackle projects ranging from additional work at the Community Center to upgrades at the Canyon Park facilities to a new HVAC system at City Hall.

As always, if you have any question on any item that was on the agenda, please feel free to contact me.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

2010 Census Underway. During the past week, the staff has completed the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). LUCA is the decennial census partnership program that allows local governments to review and update the Census Bureau's Address List. This is an important step towards compiling the 2010 Census as it uses local knowledge to update the Census Bureau's Address List. The data that will be taken from the Census will be used in a number of important ways, from apportioning Congressional seats to appropriation of Federal funds to state, tribal, and local governments.

Community Development Intern Kevin Kerbabian did great job on the lion's share of the work on LUCA. Kevin was a graduate of this past summer's YES program.

### March 5, 2008 Development Review Committee Meeting Recap.

- Approved an addition to a single family home with a minor exception for combined side yard setbacks at 236 East Cherry Avenue.
- Approved an exterior remodel and second story addition to a single family home at 224 May Avenue
- Approved the exterior remodel and second story addition to a single family home at 140 North Sunset.
- Approved the exterior remodel and second story addition to a single family home at 826 Oakdale Avenue

### Filming.

- 20TH Century Fox TV will be filming a portion of the TV series "Shark" in the 100 block of East Colorado Blvd. on Sunday, March 9, from 6 a.m. – 12 noon. They will be filming characters walking and talking along the sidewalk on the south side of the street between 118 and 140 E. Colorado Blvd.
- ABC Studios will be filming a portion of a pilot for a new TV series "Saint of Circumstance" on Wednesday, March 12, from 6 a.m. – 1 p.m. They will be filming characters in dialogue in the interior of Super A Market, 935 W. Duarte Road.

Special Event. Paint N' Play 2, 418 S. Myrtle Avenue will be hosting a Girl Scout Cookie Promotional event at and in front of the store on Friday, March 7 and Friday March 21, 2008 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Members of the local Girl Scout Troop will set up two tables on the sidewalk in front of the location for a cookie decorating contest. Also, there will be a decorated VW "Cookie Car" parked directly in front of the location.

Planning Commission Review. On March 12, 2008 the Planning Commission will conduct its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The following items will be reviewed:

- Conditional Use Permit CUP2008- 704 Montana Street - An application requesting approval of plans to construct a 1,500 square foot, 2-story unit behind an existing single-family residence in the RM3500 zone.
- Review Findings for Amended CUP88-52/CUP2008-01 - 705 West Huntington Drive – Jay's Shell Station - At its regularly scheduled Planning Commission in February, the Commission voted to deny the request to sell Beer at Jay's Shell Station. Findings of denial have been prepared and the Commission will be reviewing the findings.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS**

Community Services Commission Meeting. The following items are on the March 11<sup>th</sup> Commission agenda:

- 2006-07 Urban Park Revenue and Fee Survey Report. To provide Community Services Commission with the annual revenue and fee structure report for rental of Library Park, Recreation Park and Julian Fisher Park.
- 2008 SwimAmerica Monrovia Contract Renewal. To renew the SwimAmerica Aquatics annual contract to operate the summer aquatics program from June 1, 2008 to September 1, 2008.

Monrovia Reads and Plays. February was an enjoyable and busy month for the Monrovia Reads and Plays Program. Most of the program participants and their parents attended both the MAP Area 2 Kick-off event on February 2 at Julian Fisher Park and the Resident Peace Rally at Recreation Park on February 9. The Monrovia Reads and Plays participants got in the spirit by making peace signs for the Resident Rally. There was a birthday celebrated on February 8 for one of the Sherman participants. Food and games were provided for all in attendance. Santa Anita Family Services visited the Sherman site on Monday, February 25 and offered advice on how to effectively communicate with adults during uncomfortable situations such as neighborhood violence. Attendance was steady at 15 to 20 youth daily with a few new enrollees for Ivy Avenue program. Monrovia Reads and Plays remained open for Lincoln's Birthday on February 11, but was closed for Presidents Day on February 18.

Afternoon Card Game Bonanza. Tune up your card playing skills at the Monrovia Community Center! Join novice Poker, Blackjack and Bridge players or sit in with the newbie learning group. Whatever your playing skills are, you will be sure to have fun! Special thank you to 3M Unitek employee's, who are attending this special event as part of their community outreach efforts. For information and reservations call (626) 256-8246.

Date: Thursday, March 20  
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$2.00, includes: Lunch  
Monrovia Community Center  
119 W. Palm Avenue

Canyon Park Staff Honing Skills. On March 1, Canyon Staff attended an informational workshop on proper protocol regarding the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Canyon Park's mission is to preserve the area through proper educational and recreational opportunities. The meeting helped staff better understand the inter-workings of how this regulatory system is protecting natural resources.

Adult Computer Classes Update. Free computer classes have resumed at the temporary library. The classes are aimed at adults who need the most basic skills with computers, an emphasis not addressed by other venues. There are four different classes: *Computer for Beginners*; *Introduction to the Internet*; *Setting up and Using a Free Email Account*; and *Introduction to Microsoft Word*. Classes are held on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. in the Adult Technology Center.

The response has been enthusiastic, averaging 14 to 16 people per class. Geared to those who cannot keep up with the pace in most introductory computer classes, the classes are designed to teach the user that computers are nothing to fear, to learn how to use technology for the students' specific needs and most importantly, to have fun while learning. Students tell us that they attend the library's classes because they have been overwhelmed by other agencies' classes, as students they

lack the minimum required skills. Others come because they have been encouraged by younger family members. Whatever the reason, they are an appreciative and enthusiastic bunch.

Funding Literacy Services. Staff visited the Flintridge Foundation in Pasadena last week to look for grants for Literacy Services and Monrovia Reads and Plays. Flintridge helps nonprofits and community service organizations increase their capacity, including providing information about grants. Staff found several possible grants and Literacy Services staff hopes to apply for several of these this year, resulting in sustainable funding for library literacy programs and Monrovia Reads and Plays.

## **FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Personnel responded to 57 emergency calls from 0800 hours February 27 to 0800 hours March 5.

### **FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION**

An article titled "Playing with Fire" in Thursday, February 28, 2008 edition of the Pasadena Star-News indicates that many states are considering a ban of novelty lighters. These lighters are made to look like toys, similar to the toys children get with a "happy meal" from McDonald's. Therein lies the danger; it looks like a toy and therefore, is attractive to children. Last year, the death of two children in Arkansas was blamed on the use/misuse of a novelty lighter in the shape of a motorcycle. Presently, there are no local ordinances forbidding the sales of these novelty lighters, but some states, including California, are considering a ban on sales and distribution of these lighters. Until then, please be mindful of the potential danger to children.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

The Monrovia Fire Department is proud to welcome the newest member to the team, Firefighter/Paramedic Greg Dellenbach.

Greg has been a Paramedic for four years and has previous experience as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Greg received his Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from the California State University, Dominguez Hills and has extensive business experience having worked his way up the ladder into a mid-management position for Chanel.

He has been happily married to his wife Shelby for 14 years and they have two boys, Noah age 9 and Mathew age 11. Greg and his family currently reside in Manhattan Beach, where he has lived for the last thirty years. Greg feels this is a great opportunity for him to do the job he has always dreamed of doing. He is excited about his new career and would like to thank the City of Monrovia and Chief Donovan for the opportunity to serve this great city.

Last month the Officers of the department (Fire Chief, Battalion Chiefs & Captains) completed a two-day leadership training program called "Leadership Boot Camp." Part of the training included each participant completing a personal leadership philosophy (PLP), sharing the PLP with direct reports and beginning a formal coaching process. This week was the first week of official coaching sessions between supervisors and their direct reports in an effort to improve communication, enhance superior/subordinate expectations, and begin a long-term process of giving critical feedback with appropriate actions to take for improvement to each employee in the organization. This coaching process will be reinforced with formal employee development classes that are slated to start at the end of the month. Topics included in the employee development classes include the Incident Management System (ICS), Writing Performance Evaluations, Budget, Records Management, and

advanced usage of the Outlook Express Email System to name a few. These classes will be taught over the next four or five months with subsequent and ongoing classes thereafter.

## **ON THE POLICE BLOTTER**

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 569 calls for service resulting in 116 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Outside Assist. On February 29 at 5:26 p.m., the United States Postal Inspectors served a search warrant at a residence in the 800 block of West Walnut for evidence of mail and credit card fraud. The suspect that lives at the residence was already in custody for fraud. During an interview, she had told investigators she had additional stolen mail at her residence.

Driving Under the Influence. On March 1, officers stopped a suspected drunk driver in the area of Duarte and Mountain. The vehicle had dealer paper plates. Further investigation revealed the vehicle was stolen and the driver was found to be driving under the influence. The suspect was taken into custody without incident.

Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale / Transportation for Sale. On March 1 at about 7:25 p.m., an employee from a business in the 1600 block of South Mountain called to report a white truck driving around their parking lot, stopping, and contacting a subject. The caller saw what appeared to be a drug transaction. He also reported that he saw the male occupant conceal a dark colored object under the left rear wheel well of the vehicle. Officers responded and detained the male and female occupants in the truck and a third subject that was standing outside the truck.

The male occupant was found to be on active parole for transportation for sale. An officer contacted the reporting party and had him point out the location of the concealed object. The officer reached under the truck and located a black box which contained two baggies with a large quantity of methamphetamine in each bag. All three subjects were arrested.

Petty Theft. On March 4 at 3:20 p.m., two juveniles stole alcohol from a business in the 100 block of West Foothill and fled the scene. The minors were apprehended by officers in front of the post office. The stolen property was recovered and the minors were released to their parents on citation.

Forgery / Passing a Fictitious Check. On March 4 at 10:06 a.m., an elderly female subject reported an employee had stolen checks from her, forged them, and cashed them for various amounts. The investigating officer found the suspect had written her phone number on the bottom of one of the checks when she had cashed it. He called the suspect and convinced her to come into the police station to discuss the matter. The suspect admitted to taking and cashing the checks. She was arrested on several felony charges.



## **ENGINEERING:**

Resident Engineer Academy. Our Senior Engineer, Jed Rizk, attended a 4-day CalTrans Resident Engineer Academy in Burbank. The topic discussed how the Academy utilizes present and current regulations pertaining to cities uses of CalTrans and Federal funds for projects.

Colorado Commons Street Improvements. Paving and striping are completed. The streets are operating as 2-way traffic except for closing lanes for construction activities. Landscaping and trees are being planted this week. The new street lights are scheduled to be fully operational by early next week.

Rule 20A, Underground Utility District Mountain and Royal Oaks. All of the trenching for the new conduit is completed. The project is being scheduled for trench paving which will include a 1 foot over-grind on both sides of the trench next week. Once the paving is complete, Edison crews will schedule the installation/pulling of wire and begin the work to install the replacement underground facilities from the overhead poles.

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
- 911 Royal Oaks
- California/Monrovia/Duarte Project
- 202 E. Foothill
- 208 Terrace View
- 1419 S. Myrtle
- 335 Genoa, Final punch list created
- 724 E. Huntington – finalized
- 202 E. Cypress - finalized

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

Arbor Day. On Wednesday, March 5, our Environmental Services staff hosted a booth at the Annual Arbor Day festivities and handed out free reusable “Monrovia Recycles” shopping tote bags that included guides for recycling, household hazardous waste disposal and bulky item pick-ups.

Two Crape Myrtle trees were donated by our Parks staff and assisted planting the trees.

Outdoor Education. Staff participated in Canyon Park’s Outdoor Ed by providing an interactive environmental presentation to Monrovia fifth graders. The presentation focused on storm water pollution prevention, used oil recycling, and the three R’s - Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle.

Recreation Park Vandalism. Once again, Recreation Park required extra attention this week to remove graffiti from the restrooms, gazebo, tennis courts and Skate Park. Our Parks and Utilities staff also cleaned several major stoppages created by vandals who flushed plastic shopping bags in the restrooms toilets.

Historical Museum Irrigation Leak. Staff quickly responded to a two-inch irrigation mainline break at the base of an Oak tree near the Historical Museum this week, the repair took approximately one hour.

**STREETS:**

Traffic Signs:

Graffiti was removed from 17 traffic signs.

100 Blocks of West Colorado and West Lemon. With the return of two way streets on the 100 block of West Colorado and the 100 block of West Lemon, Streets Division crews removed the one-way traffic signs, and replaced the stop signs at the northeast corner of Colorado and Primrose and at the

southeast corner of Lemon and Primrose. A new public parking sign was also installed at 131 W. Colorado.

Miscellaneous:

- Concrete rehabilitation: 700 block of Norumbega Dr. and 300 block of N. Magnolia Avenue.
- Excavation operations at 2655 S. Myrtle Ave.
- Weed eradication in the public right of way along Central Ave. from Shamrock to California.
- Debris was removed from the alley west of California between Central and Fig Avenues.

**UTILITIES:**

Customer Service

- 99 meters were read and recorded
- 58 utilities work orders were completed
- 1 service request was completed
- 175 shut-off notices were distributed
- 5 backflow devices were tested
- 16 water meters were replaced
- 14 water services were reactivated

Water Production

Water consumption is 34 millions gallons, an increase of approximately 5% compared to last week's reported water usage.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 17 water system samplings
- 6 water treatment facility samplings

Utility Maintenance

- 1 - 1" new water service was installed
- 1-1" water meter was replaced
- 2 leaking water main valves were repaired
- 2 blow off valves were flushed
- 19 fire hydrants were inspected and flushed
- 1 fire hydrant was upgraded
- 63 water main system valves were inspected and operated
- 12 underground service alert's were completed
- 11,735 feet of sewer mains were cleaned
- 800 feet of sewer mains were video inspected

Have a great weekend!

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**FOR YOUR CALENDARS:**

<b>Sat., March 15, 11 to 1 p.m.</b>	<b>MAP 2 Block Party, 400-600 Almond &amp; Maple</b>
<b>Tues., March 18, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Tues., April 1, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Tues., April 15, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Thurs., May 1, 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Annual Volunteer Luncheon, Community Center</b>