



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



June 22, 2007

Bradbury Brush Fire

On Saturday June 16, 2007 at 11:48 Engine 101 and Squad 101 were training on progressive hose lays in Recreation Park (A progressive hose lay is a hose evolution designed to extend hose lines into the brush in an effort to pinch or prevent lateral fire extension). They were in full brush turnouts for the drill. They observed smoke in the area of East Monrovia/Duarte area. Monrovia Engine 101 and Squad 101 started responding over to the area anticipating it was a possible brush fire. When they arrived at the gates of Bradbury Estates they were dispatched with Los Angeles County Fire (LACOFD) on a brush fire located at 442 Deodar Lane in Bradbury. Within less than a minute from dispatch they were first on scene. They observed a 1 acre brush fire in heavy vegetation burning up hill. E101 conducted fire attack anchored and confined the fire, including the coordination of directing water drops with LACOFD Fire helicopters.

When this was taking place Monrovia Battalion 10 called a first alarm brush assignment and assigned Norumbega Structure Protection Group. Battalion 105 from Arcadia Fire Department was assigned as Protection Group Supervisor. This protection group was comprised of five engines, one water tender and brush patrol. All units were staged on Shamrock and Foothill. Monrovia Battalion 10 assigned Engine 102 to locate a vantage point and report the fire conditions from Norumbega. Engine 102 reported that the fire was approximate $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from 1000 block of Norumbega. Shortly thereafter the LACOFD Incident Commander assigned hand crews to the incident for mop up. All units were released and a fire patrol was maintained for the remainder of the afternoon.

The fire was started by a gardening crew. They were using a gas powered weed trimmer with a metal blade to clear brush. This type of operation is not recommended as sparks will often result when the blade comes in contact with rocks and debris. Fire personnel were able to prevent property loss as the surrounding homes had defensible space as a result of brush clearance. This example reinforces the importance of mitigating hazardous vegetation in the hillsides.

This fire had tremendous potential, but thanks to the quick work of Monrovia Fire personnel a significant fire was avoided. The quick response combined with the foresight to seek out the location prior to dispatch (drove towards the smoke prior to dispatch) enabled an accelerated quick attack and prevented this incident from spreading into our City. Engine 101 crew consisted of, Captain Dewey, Engineer Libra, Firefighter Kaliman and Squad 101, Firefighter Paramedic Lambert and Firefighter Paramedic Phipps.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Planning Division Update

COG (Council of Governments) Strategic Planning Meeting. On Saturday June 9, Planning Division Manager Steve Sizemore attended the San Gabriel Valley Council of Government's Strategic Planning Retreat held in the City of Arcadia. The purpose of the retreat was to build consensus on a series of goals and objectives that could be accomplished in a 6 month to 9 month period. The cities will work towards a common goal for transportation funding, financial stability of the COG, stabilization of emergency room treatment centers in the Valley and legislative initiatives. The Council of Government staff will be working on the document and it will be reviewed by the Governing body in the next few months.

Development Review Committee of June 20. Following is a recap of the meeting:

- Signage was approved at 509 West Foothill Blvd. for Safety CPR
- Signage was approved for 417 East Huntington Drive for DMS Facilities Services
- Approval of addition to front and south side of single family house at 244 North Encinitas Avenue
- Recommendation of approval for Conditional Use Permit for a proposed 4 unit PUD at 1214 and 1218 Sherman Avenue for Habitat for Humanity
- Recommendation of approval for Conditional Use Permit for a façade change and addition of 7,500 square feet to an existing 13,000 square foot building at 831 East Huntington Drive. The façade change will significantly change the image of this building to an office use.

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting of June 27. Below is a recap of the June 27 meeting:

- Update on status of 311 West Foothill Boulevard – Aztec Hotel
- Advisory Review – 805 South Shamrock Avenue – review of exterior for use as a veterinary care facility. Saving this building has been a challenge and the proposed use and renovation will significantly improve this original Route 66 building.
- Advisory Review – 226 West Colorado Boulevard - review rebuild of L-shaped porch on a Potential Historic Landmark.
- Advisory Review – 264 North Ivy Avenue – determination of historic significance

San Gabriel Valley Planners Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- The draft Final Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers are out and the good news is that Monrovia truly received their "fair share". Monrovia can easily accommodate these 567 additional housing units over the next five years.
- The County of Los Angeles has been added as the newest member of the TAC. The members will represent the unincorporated areas to the south of Monrovia and other unincorporated areas in the San Gabriel Valley.
- Housing Elements are still due June 20, 2008. There is discussion in the legislature to extend that date.
- On the long range front, the next Metro Call will be in 2009. Monrovia will be starting to look at multi-jurisdictional projects which will have the highest probability of being approved such as Transit Village and Gold Line related projects, expansion of the regional bike path, Duarte Road improvements and similar regional projects.

Metro Fare Increase. Last budget in anticipation of the Metro bus fare increases, the City Council approved appropriation of approximately \$16,000 to subsidize and keep affordable for Monrovia residents the Metro bus fares. The Metro fare increases go in to effect on July 1. Any questions can be directed to Craig Jimenez, Principal Planner. The passes are sold at the Community Center and the City of Monrovia will subsidize them as follows:

	EZ Pass Sr/Disabled	Regular Sr/Disabled	College Vocational
Current Face Value	29	12	30
(Subsidy)	-14	-5	0
Discounted Price	15	7	30
New Face Value (7/2007)	35	14	36
(Subsidy)	-18	-6	-5
Discounted Price	17	8	31
Increase in Face Value	17.1%	14.3%	16.7%
Increase in Discount Price	12%	13%	3%

Neighborhood & Business Services Division Update

The Neighborhood & Business Services Division is one of three divisions located in the Department of Community Development. It's comprised of three sections: **Business Services** (Business Licenses, Commercial Code Enforcement, Film, Special Events and Yard Sale Permits); **Code Enforcement Services** (All residential Code Enforcement, Inoperable Vehicle Abatement, Reporting of Shopping Cart and Junk & Debris for Removal from the Public Right-of-Way); and **Neighborhood Services** (Housing Grants, and M.A.P., C.P.R. and C.o.E.d. programs). The *Monrovia Area Partnership* (MAP) is a brand new program designed to combat blight and crime through community partnerships, and increasing citizen activism & volunteerism. The *Community Pride and Resources Program* (CPR) is at-risk owner/family referrals from code enforcement staff to the Neighborhood Services Section for appropriate assistance through existing regional resources. *The Code Education Program* (CoEd) assists neighborhood improvement efforts by "blanketing" areas identified with substantial code violations and/or blight patterns with code education flyers.

Business Services

During the month of May 2007, the following activities were generated:

Filming Permit Issued: 1; Special Event Permits: 6; Yard Sale Permits: 119;

Code Enforcement Services

During the month of May 2007, Neighborhood Preservation Division staff:

Conducted 1,199 inspections (including commercial property inspections); Opened 147 code cases; Closed/Cleared 104 cases (Includes commercial code enforcement); Referred 7 Cases to the City Prosecutor's Office due to non-compliance; Abated 13 inoperable vehicles (repaired, removed or stored properly); Caused the removal of 527 shopping carts; and 332 pieces of discarded items (i.e., appliances, furniture, auto parts and trash and debris) from the public right-of-way; Conducted 7

informal code education meetings/hearings with property owners.

Neighborhood Services Section

For the Month of May 2007, Section Staff provided the following Information:

* **M.A.P.** Applicants: 40; Applications Processed: 28; Projects Started: 15;

Projects Completed: 8; Emergency Grants: 2; MAP CoEd Training Recipients 56

* *MAP numbers are running totals to accurately depict this community partnership program.*

C.P.R. Cases in Progress: 5 C.P.R. Case Opened: 1; C.P.R. Cases Closed: 5

CDBG HandyWorker Grants: Available 7 Applicants: 7; Applications Processed: 6; Projects Started: 7; Projects Completed: 6

NPA (Neighborhood Pride Award) Recipients recognized 0

CoEd Projects (YTD): 2; Total Houses/Businesses Reached: 81
Compliance %: N/A

Community Officers Resource Exchange (CORE) Kick Off. This is a pilot program mentioned in the 5 year strategic plan. The Community Officers Resource Exchange (CORE) provides regional training on cutting edge programs designed to decrease blight, crime, increase community activism and develop neighborhood improvement strategies. We'll be inviting local COPPS units, code enforcement, fire and other appropriate staff from the San Gabriel Valley and neighboring areas to participate and share noteworthy programs. CORE will foster regional responses to criminal activity including gangs, graffiti, and blight and will include prevention/intervention programs.

On June 28, 2007, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Monrovia will begin hosting the quarterly meetings at the Community Center. Our first guest speakers will be Fernando Tarin, Public Safety Manager of the City of Santa Fe Springs and Jim Eckart, Law Offices of Dapeer, Rosenblit and Litvak. The topic will be graffiti abatement strategies including graffiti software tracking systems and the legal aspects of successful prosecution. There have been several positive articles in the local newspapers documenting Santa Fe Springs successful efforts in eradicating graffiti, targeting offenders and using the latest technology to track violators. As you know, the Law firm of Dapeer, Rosenblit and Litvak represents the City of Monrovia and approximately (50) cities as city prosecutor and has developed an expertise in graffiti abatement codes, strategies and court case preparation.

MAP CoEd Training Class. While Schools, Colleges and Universities hold commencement ceremonies during June the MAP program held a graduation ceremony of its own. The MAP Code Education (CoEd) program is a vital component of the neighborhood revitalization plan and a crucial part of participation in MAP grants.

This past Monday MAP staff presented the seventh CoEd class held since the MAP kickoff on September 30, 2006. We have held bi-lingual classes in Spanish and English and now have over 40 graduates. The Code Education class consists of presentations about the most common code violations that occur in our neighborhoods. The training culminates in a portion called "You be the Code Enforcement Officer", where participants identify code violations on several sample properties. The responses from the class indicate that they have paid close attention to the presentation. The "students" quickly point out the violations. It is the goal of this class to educate our residents on city codes and their purpose in the hope that they will become aware of these regulations and adhere to them and also share this information with their neighbors.



May 2007: Code Education Class Graduates

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING June 28, 2007

- Library Transition: This report explains the plans for Monrovia Library's move to the Mary Wilcox Youth Center.
- Library Construction Committee Update:
- This verbal report provides the current information regarding the work of the Library Construction Committee.

Summer Extravaganza: Come Join the Fun. The Summer Extravaganza program begins Monday, June 25 and runs through Friday, August 17th. Summer Extravaganza is held in Recreation Park, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Summer Extravaganza is offered by the City of Monrovia, Department of Community Services and is a collaborative effort of the Youth and Family Network, which is comprised of the Monrovia Department of Community Services, Monrovia Unified School District, Santa Anita Family YMCA, Boys & Girls Club of the Foothills and Foothill Unity Center. Children will have the opportunity to build self-esteem, play active and passive games, participate in cultural diversity programs, exercise, nutrition education and build new and lasting friendships. Summer Extravaganza offers a variety of daily activities for youth ages 6-16. Activities include sports, crafts, excursions, swimming, movies and much more.

To register, visit the following locations:

- Mary Wilcox Youth Center
843 E. Olive Avenue
626.256.8240
Monday – Friday 3 to- 6 p.m.
- Monrovia Community Center
119 West Palm Avenue
626.256.8246
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For additional information please contact the Monrovia Community Center at 626.256.8246.

2007 Concerts in the Park. On June 17, a perfect Father's Day evening, 875 participants enjoyed the Country sounds of the DooWah Riders. Plaques of appreciation were presented to the concert sponsors John & Katie Watson of Swing-n-Country, Ewing & Beland and Monrovia Rotary Club. For pre-concert entertainment, line dancing was provided by John & Katie Watson and their students. Kings Ranch Market, Scratch Bakery and Wing Stop were available to satisfy the refreshment needs of the concert participants.

Get ready to rock out at next weeks concert on June 24 which features the 80's & Rock sound of the UnderCover Girls. All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in Library Park.

For more information please contact the Department of Community Services at 626.256.8246

Magical Summer Barbeque. On June 19, over 55 Monrovia Canyon Park Volunteers came together for their traditional year end celebration culminating all the hard work of the volunteers including outdoor education tours, trail maintenance, and nature programs. The volunteers gave almost 10,000 hours of service to the park. A well deserved and magical time of kicking back and enjoying the summer twilight was shared by all at this celebratory barbeque.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 81 emergency calls from 0800 hours June 13, to 0800 hours June 20. Significant incidents include:

Rollover Travel Trailer on the Freeway. On Friday, June 15, at 11:06 a.m., Fire and rescue units responded to a traffic collision on the eastbound 210 Freeway at Huntington Dr. Upon arrival, personnel found that a pickup truck pulling a 28' travel trailer, along with a Harley Davidson motorcycle in the truck bed, jackknifed and spun around onto its side. Fortunately, the 2 occupants of the vehicle had minor injuries thanks to the use of seatbelts. Traffic was stalled for several hours after the incident to clear up the mess.

Brush Fire in Bradbury. On Saturday, June 16, at 11:48 a.m., Fire units, while performing brush fire training activities, observed and responded to smoke in the north end of town. Upon arrival, personnel found a two acre brush fire off of Deodar Lane in Bradbury. Monrovia personnel were first on scene and, along with a helicopter water drop, confined the fire to the two acres. Personnel are commended on their quick work of containing the fire and preventing its spread into the Monrovia city limits.

Woman Down In the Street on Myrtle Ave. On Tuesday, June 19, at 7:37 p.m., concerned citizens rang Station 2's doorbell to advise personnel of a woman lying in the street at Myrtle Ave. and Taylor Ave. Upon arrival, personnel found a 31-year-old woman that had jumped out of a moving vehicle in an attempted suicide. She suffered several broken bones and possible internal injuries. Personnel treated and transported the patient to the Trauma Center at Huntington Memorial Hospital. As of this writing, patient's status is unknown.

TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

This week is the International Association of Fire Chief's and International Association of Fallen Firefighter's "Firefighter Stand Down for Safety" week. Fire Departments around the globe are encouraged to "Stand Down" during a portion of each day, and focus their attention on Firefighter Safety principles.

The purpose of the Safety Stand Down is to reduce deaths and injuries by calling attention to safety practices and improving them. Stand downs have been used by the military for years to correct issues that have been identified as a problem.

Members of the Monrovia Fire Department are taking time throughout the work day to focus on various issues related to firefighter safety. The tragic incident in Charleston, South Carolina illustrates the dangers of our profession. Therefore, the safety of our personnel cannot be over emphasized. The MFD has chosen to host three consecutive days of training in order to fully emphasize the importance of Personal Protective Equipment, Wellness & Fitness, Emergency Vehicle Driver Safety, and Incident Risk Assessment.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

The Fire Prevention Bureau is hosting a State Regulations class with the State Fire Marshal. This three day class is being held at the Canyon Park Cabin. There are 35 students enrolled, and they range from area Fire Inspectors to Fire Marshals. Deputy Fire Marshal Robin organized and is facilitating the class as the department liaison

The Bureau attended the Southern California Area Fire Marshals meeting this week. This meeting focused on building standards for construction within the fire zone. The City's Building Official also attended the meeting to coordinate the adoption with the Fire Department. The new codes associated are scheduled to be released in January of 2008.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

It is with sorrow and sadness that we have to discuss yet another tragic event that has occurred within the fire service. On Monday evening a fire broke out in the Sofa Superstore warehouse and showroom located in Charleston, South Carolina. The fire began at about 6:15 p.m. and quickly grew in size and intensity. Firefighters were able to rescue at least one employee, pulling him out through a hole in the wall, but the flames spread quickly, seeming to leap invisibly from place to place, according to witness accounts. While firefighting efforts were taking place, the roof of the building collapsed, killing nine of Charleston's bravest. This was the worst disaster, excluding the events of 9-11, in over 30 years, and reminds us all of the dangers of the job.

As the Monrovia Firefighters have been participating in the annual "Stand Down" for safety sessions this week, we have been talking of the actions that occurred in Charleston, the events that lead to the deaths of five U.S. Forest Firefighters during the Esperanza fire last year and we have been reminding our staff of the importance of safety. It is the hopes of the Monrovia Fire Department that folks locally will join us in holding the thoughts and prayers for the family members, friends and fellow firefighters of the nine Charleston firefighters that lost their lives protecting their community. Those brave firefighters that paid the ultimate sacrifice are listed below:

Capt. Louis Mulkey, 34; Capt. William Hutchinson, 48; Capt. Mike Benke, 49; Engineer Mark Kelsey, 40; Engineer Bradford Baity, 37; Assistant Engineer Michael French, 27; Firefighter James Drayton, 56; Firefighter Brandon Thompson, 27; and Firefighter Melvin Champaign, 46.

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 586 calls for service resulting in 128 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Vandalism. On June 14 at 8:12 a.m., the Monrovia School District reported that the "M" on the hillside off of Highland had been painted blue. An officer responded to the location to investigate. He found the paint was still wet and he located several items that were left behind. The officer was able to lift a fairly decent latent print that may lead to the suspect's identity. The Duarte sub-station and Duarte High School officials were notified. Investigation continuing.

Embezzlement. On June 15 at 4:52 p.m., officers responded to a business in the 500 block of West Huntington regarding an employee being detained by store security. When the officers arrived and spoke to security personnel, they were told that the employee was taking blank gift cards, issuing them a value amount, using them to buy merchandise, and then returning the merchandise for cash to herself. The employee was arrested and booked.

Outside Assist. On June 16 at 11:47 a.m., Monrovia dispatch received several 9-1-1 calls reporting a fire in the hills north of Buena Vista. Two of our officers responded to the area in an attempt to find the source. The fire was located in the hills within the Bradbury enclave. Verdugo Dispatch had fire personnel from various departments respond. Fortunately, there was little wind and the fire was knocked down quickly.

Deer Problem. On June 16, dispatch received a call from a resident in the 100 block of Hidden Valley reporting there was a deer in her driveway. On arrival, officers determined the hind legs of the deer were paralyzed, it was not able to stand up, and it was bleeding from the mouth. The reporting party is a veterinarian. Animal Control responded and agreed that the deer needed to be euthanized. Animal Control transported the deer to their facility.

Shots Heard / Assault with a Deadly Weapon. On June 15, officers responded to the area of Ivy and Cherry regarding shots heard at approximately 8:00 p.m. The officers conducted an investigation, but no witnesses or evidence of a shooting was found.

On June 16, a male subject from Pasadena reported to the Monrovia Police Department that he and a friend were driving home from a friend's house when a green Chevrolet pickup pulled up next to them. The driver of the pickup, a male suspect with a shaved head, pointed a gun at them and fired 3 to 5 times, striking the drivers door. When asked why he did not report the incident until 24 hours later, he said he decided to report it for insurance purposes only. He did not bring his car to the Police Department at the time of the report. He said he left it at his residence in Pasadena. Investigation continuing.



ENGINEERING:

Development Projects - Tract Map Approvals: The following project tract maps are being presented to the City Council for acceptance on July 3 as part of the development process.

- Tract Map No. 66713, Re-subdivision of property located at 333 Genoa Street by Foothill Pacific Homes. The project constructed an 8 unit, single family homes/planned unit development.
- Tract Map No. 67349, Re-subdivision of property located at 713 Montana by Foothill Pacific Homes. The project constructed a 4 unit, single family homes/planned unit development.

- Tract Map No. 61477, Re-subdivision of property located at 818 Alta Street by Alexander Chen/Mie-Nu Chou Chon. The project converted 4 existing apartment/townhomes into 4 condominium units. Construction is complete.
- Tract No. 54345, Re-subdivision of property located at 616-620 West Palm Avenue by Philip Hoang and Carlos Delgado and Giuliana Torelli Living Trust. The project constructed a 4 unit, single family homes/planned unit development.

Corporate Yard Renovation: Staff is completing the site improvement construction plans to coincide with the completion of the building improvements to relocate all of Public Works at the Corporate Yard. The plans include; decorative fencing on Mountain, landscaping and irrigation similar to the Youth Center across Mountain, parking lot improvements, security improvements.

OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:

Tree Planting Grant. The City of Monrovia is a grant recipient for the "The Great Clean Air Tree Planting Project" sponsored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). We will receive 150 various 15 gallon street trees to be planted on South Peck Road and West El Norte. The planting will take place on Saturday, October 27, 2007, and will be part of the "Make a Difference Day" festivities. Staff is working with the Volunteer City as a co-sponsor.

Realtor Signs. Parks staff picked up 16 realtor signs last weekend that were placed within a City right-of-way.

STREETS:

Driveway Approach Rehabilitation:
504 Mesa Circle

Concrete Rehabilitation:
Curb repair at 707 Oceanview Ave.

Graffiti Removal:
32 traffic signs
876 Oakglade curb.
Freeway overpass walls on Monterey Ave

Traffic Sign and/or Painting Installation/Replacement:

- Painted School Bus Zones at Santa Fe Middle School, Monrovia High School, Clifton Middle School, Monroe, Wildrose and Braddoaks Elementary Schools.
- Install Neighborhood Watch Sign at 214 E. Evergreen
- Paint 65 Ft. of red curb on the northwest corner of Magnolia and Duarte Rd.
- 611 E. Foothill Blvd. remove bus bench and eliminate 50 ft of red curb.

Miscellaneous:

- Excavation work on the south side of the Mountain Ave. water reservoir.
- Weed abatement along Evergreen from Myrtle to Shamrock
- Remove trash from roadway in the 700 block of west Foothill Blvd.

UTILITIES:

Customer Service

- 2,947 water meters were read and recorded
- 55 work orders were completed

- 7 water meters were replaced
- 1 water meter lid was replaced
- 9 backflow preventer were tested
- 3 water services were reactivated

Water Production

Water consumption is 64.2 millions gallons, an increase of approximately 7% compared to last week's water usage.

The following weekly water samplings were collected by staff per the requirements of the Department of Health Services:

- 17 water system samplings
- 3 water treatment facility samplings

Utility Maintenance

- 1-1" residential water service was installed
- 1-1" service leak repaired
- 1-8" water main system valve was replaced at Sombrero Road/Lemon Avenue
- 40 water main system valves were inspected and operated
- 11 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 12,900 feet of sewer main were cleaned

2006 -2007 Sewer Main Replacement Project Update: The sewer line construction at Colorado Boulevard and Primrose Avenue will begin on July 23, 2007. Construction is anticipated to be completed in approximately 2 weeks. The second phase of the 2006-2007 Sewer Main Replacement Project is located at Canyon Boulevard between Foothill Boulevard and Greystone Avenue. Construction will begin upon the completion of the sewer line at Colorado and Primrose. Affected residents and business owners will receive advance notice prior to construction.

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

**Sun., June 24, 6:30 p.m. Family Concert Series "UnderCover Girls",
Library Park**

Tues., July 3, 7:30 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

**Sun., July 1, 6:30 p.m. Family Concert Series "The Answer", Library
Park**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY, CITY HALL CLOSED

Tues., July 17, 7:30 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Tues., Aug. 7, 7:30 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

TUESDAY, AUGUST, 21 7:30 P.M. CITY COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLED