



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



September 28, 2007

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...in the fall

We are currently working with the Old Town Merchants on decorations for the coming holiday season. If you happen to see random, out-of-season decorations on trees and light posts along Myrtle (after all, it is *still* only September), it's because we are trying out new materials and concepts. Feel free to let us know what you think!

Another Short City Council Meeting

There are two basic items of business on the City Council's October 2 agenda. The first is a recommended Award of Contract to Cornerstone Concrete & Construction in the amount of \$72,708 for the construction of bus shelters at two existing stops – at Huntington & Shamrock (in front of Church's Fried Chicken) and at Huntington & Mayflower (in front of Mimi's Café).

The second item represents another step forward for the Library Construction Project. Item AR-2 is the recommended Award of Contract to Beltmann Group in the amount of \$120,000 for the relocation of the Public Library's collection and equipment to the Mary Wilcox Youth Center for the 14-month construction period set to begin in December. This bid covers both the initial move to the Youth Center and move back to the Library upon completion of construction.

Also, it should be noted that a small portion of the Library's collection will need to be stored (either at the Community Center or in City Hall), as the Youth Center is not large enough to house everything. Staff's original estimate of the move, temporary flooring at the Youth Center, storage, and the move back was \$150,000. Between Beltmann's bid and the cost of the temporary flooring (to protect the gymnasium floor at the Youth Center), we are at \$134,900.

In related Library news, this week – after months of up and down flurries in the bond market – our bond underwriter finally priced the Library bonds. The wait was worth it, however, as we will now net \$16.05 million. Great job by the entire work group!

Economic Development Update...sort of

In the next several weeks, we will have definitive news about both the CompUSA site and the Rosedale site in terms of potential retail tenants. The 25,000-square-foot CompUSA site will come into focus first, most likely with a single user to co-anchor the center with Office Depot. The Rosedale site has more variables and will likely be decided by who goes – or rather, who doesn't go – into the CompUSA site. We will keep you posted.

No place like home for Fire Station No.1

Station No.1 is now open for business, ahead of schedule and on-budget. Although there are a few last punch-list items remaining, the contractor has done a great job. Indeed, the Public Works

Department's Facilities Section has done an outstanding job, as has our Management Information Systems Division and the Fire Department's transition team. If you get the chance, stop by and get the dime tour. Once all of the work is complete and accepted by the Council, we will have an open house and re-dedication of the building.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Historic Preservation Meeting Recap. On September 26, the Commission reviewed the following Historic Landmarks/Mills Act Contract:

- Historic Landmark/Mills Act Contract-HL 112/MA-106, 419 W. Lime- Daniel and Susan McClure, applicants for a Folk Victorian home built in 1887. The Commission forwarded a recommendation of approval to the City Council at its October 16 meeting.
- Historic Landmark/Mills Act Contract – HL114/MA-108, 214-216 North Encinitas, Frank and Tammy Guarino, applicants for a California Bungalow duplex. A Tifal Brothers built in 1913. The Commission forwarded a recommendation of approval to the City Council at its October 16 meeting.
- Historic Landmark/Mills Act Contract –HL118/MA-112, 344 Melrose, Walter, Carol and Helen Milner, applicants for a Tudor Revival style home built in 1929. The Commission forwarded a recommendation of approval to the City Council at its October 16 meeting.

Under New Business, the Commission discussed the following applications:

- Advisory Review – 419 West Lime Avenue for a construction of a 3-car garage. Concurred with submitted plans, advised applicant that Certificate of Appropriateness would be next step for approval of project.
- Advisory Review – 405-409 S. Myrtle Avenue for changes to the façade. The Commission reviewed proposed colors to the building and felt that they needed to be more consistent with Art Deco design and formed a subcommittee to work with the applicant.
- Advisory Review – 240 West Hillcrest Boulevard for addition of a rear porch. Concurred with submitted plans, advised applicant that Certificate of Appropriateness would be next step for approval of project.

Filming

The ABC television series October Road filmed on Thursday, September 27, at various locations: 601 E. Lemon Avenue, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Bradoaks Elementary School, 3 – 8 p.m., the rear of Sam's Deli, 3 p.m. – midnight and in front of the vacant storefront at 519 S. Myrtle, 8 p.m. – midnight.

On Friday, September 28, filming will be of Christmas scenes, including Christmas decorations and simulated snow at 243 N. Encinitas, the 100 block of W. Lime and the west side of the 400 block of S. Myrtle. The scenes in the downtown will require a street closure in the 100 block of W. Lime and will be filmed overnight between midnight and 7 a.m. These are the same scenes that were scheduled to be filmed last week but were cancelled due to the rain on Friday night.

On Monday, October 1, they will film at 519 S. Myrtle, 7 – 11 a.m., Sam's Deli, 7 a.m. – noon, 243 N. Enciniitas, 10 a.m. -6 p.m. and 231 N. Myrtle from 3 – 11 p.m. They will be using the interior and exterior of these locations and may require pedestrian and traffic control.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

RECREATION DIVISION

A Pirate Adventure for Seniors. On Wednesday, October 17 seniors and baby-boomers can set sail for an afternoon at Pirate's Dinner Adventure Show in Buena Park. Guests will be entertained with an astonishing display of special effects, aerial artistry, swashbuckling swordplay and a dynamic duel. Guests will watch a classic story of good verses evil unfold while enjoying a meal typically reserved for a Captain. The \$47.50 per person fee includes: Transportation, driver tip, appetizers, lunch, beverages and interactive show. The ship sails at 11:45 a.m., so don't be late! Reservations are being accepted at the Monrovia Community Center. For further information call (626) 256-8246.

Fall Contract Classes. The Department of Community Services is currently accepting registration for the Fall 2007 session of Contract Classes. The classes are designed to provide individuals of all ages with a variety of fitness, dance, self improvement and educational experiences. Classes are offered six days a week from 8 a.m. 9 p.m. and include, but are not limited to Tap and Ballet, Jazz, Yoga, Pilates, Line Dancing, Hiking, Tennis, Dog Obedience, Meditation, Sign Language, Square Dancing, Scrapbooking and much more. For additional information please contact the Community Center at 626.256.8246.

LIBRARY DIVISION

Children's Programs Resume. *Pajama-mania* resumes for the fall on Monday night, October 8 at 7 p.m. *Best Books* began on September 25 and will run through November 13. For students in 3rd through 6th grades, this program takes participants on a spectacular journey through an exciting book. An enthusiastic librarian will read selections from favorite children's books on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.

New Program. Tuesday, October 9, starting at 10:15 a.m., the Youth Services new *Baby Storytime* begins and runs through November 13. This six-week infant lap-sit program for babies 6 to 24 months and their caregivers will stimulate babies' senses with books and music.

Free Computer Classes for the Public. *Computer for Beginners* will be held from 10:30 a.m. – noon on Saturday, October 13 and *Microsoft Word Basics* will be held from 1:30 – 3 p.m. that day. On Monday, October 15 *Internet Basics* will be held from 10:30 a.m. – noon and *Email Basics* will be held from 1:30 – 3 p.m. The *Computer for Beginners* class does not require any computer experience, however knowledge of mouse and keyboard is required for the other classes. Call Adult Reference, 626-256-8274, to be placed on the class list and confirm times (space is limited).

Save the Date. The Friends of the Monrovia Public Library will hold its Fall Used Book Sale on Friday, October 5 from 7 – 9 p.m. (for members of the Friends only); Saturday, October 6 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 7 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. for the general public. Two Bucks-a-Bag sale will take place from 2 – 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 7.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 52 emergency calls from 0800 hours September 20, to 0800 hours September 25, 2007.

TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The training division has been in a holding pattern for the past few weeks. The focus of the Department has primarily been on the tear-down and moving operations, and getting back into the Lemon Avenue station. Next week, our focus will switch back to probationary firefighter training and 12-month probationary testing.

USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) continues to be a training priority. Next month one member will attend a 40-hour USAR Medical Specialist course, and two members will attend a 40-hour Confined Space Rescue Operational course. These training specialties help our members meet strict local and federal rescue standards and prepare our firefighters for emergencies within the City of Monrovia.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Rough inspection and hydrostatic testing of Building 4 of the Colorado Commons was conducted. Sprinkler heads over the forced air unit were omitted. Otherwise, they passed rough inspection. Also, at the Colorado Commons, underground pipe flushing, which is to ensure piping is free of debris obstructing water delivery for the sprinkler system, was conducted for Building 2 at the Colorado Commons project.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

On September 24, the Monrovia Firefighters and the Monrovia Firefighters Association joined together and assisted in a fundraiser at the Chili's Restaurant located on Huntington Drive. The fundraiser benefited the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and combined with other communities and events around the country. Monrovia Fire Department personnel helped serve food, take orders, escorted people to their seats and assisted throughout the day, helping in any way possible.

Chili's Restaurant donated the entire proceeds from the day's event, more than \$1,200, to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The event was a tremendous success and helped to raise a great deal of awareness and possibility for people of all ages. We hope this event will assist in bringing hope and possibility to individuals in need

Monrovia Firefighters would like to thank all the City staff and City employees who attended and for helping to make a positive contribution to such a worthy cause!

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

This is the first week back in the renovated fire station with Operations, Administration and Fire Prevention providing all services out of the new station. Although much work is still required related to unloading boxes, transferring files, and general tasks associated with the move, the building itself is in great condition providing an extremely effective work environment. Much thanks and appreciation is given to GB Construction for a fine renovation project, Public Works staff (Dave Fike, Dan Iwata, Ron Bow, Tim Blackburn and Julie Hegvold) for coordinating the project and Information Technology staff (Mitch Cochran and Damion Patrick) for their outstanding effort in getting the phones and computers working within a very short time frame.

The first class of Monrovia's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) held the first of three eight-hour sessions as they work towards gaining invaluable training and experience relative to disaster preparedness. A total of 22 participants were given complete supply kits and taught light search and rescue, disaster scene triage and Incident Command System (ICS) processes as they build their training towards completion of the program. We are experiencing a high volume of interest in the program and classes as filling up fast, so if you are interested in becoming a member of the Monrovia CERT program please call the hotline at (626) 256-8144, email us at cert@ci.monrovia.ca.us or visit the City web-site and click on CERT.

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 569 calls for service resulting in 126 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Assault with a Deadly Weapon. On September 22 at approximately 1:30 a.m., a male subject ran into the lobby of Monrovia Police Department and reported that he was approached by several male subjects in the parking lot across from the station and cut with a blade on his right thumb. The victim said he had just left a bar on Myrtle and was going to his car. Paramedics responded to treat the victim's wound. As this was occurring, the victim pointed to a blue van across the street circling the parking lot and identified it as the suspect vehicle. Officers immediately stopped the vehicle and detained the driver. During the field show-up, the victim said the driver of the van was not the suspect. Investigation Continuing.

Robbery. On September 22 at 7:58 p.m., a male and female couple was walking and was approached by a male subject in the area of Magnolia and Colorado. The suspect exhibited a black semi-automatic handgun and demanded money from the two victims. The suspect took a wallet and a purse and was last seen on foot going north on Magnolia from Colorado. Both victims went back to their residences before calling police. A detailed search for the suspect was conducted, but met with negative results. Investigation continuing.

Commercial Burglary. On September 23 at 6:36 a.m., officers responded to a commercial burglary alarm in the 1900 block of South Myrtle. When the officers arrived, they saw the front glass door was broken. Officers checked the inside for possible suspects, but none were found. It appears the suspect smashed out the front door window and removed a computer and camera from the front office and fled.

Criminal Threats Arrest. On September 23 at 3:15 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 100 block of North May to keep the peace while the mother of the residence was evicting her adult son. After the officers left the location, the adult son called the station and requested a supervisor assist him in retrieving some of his belongings from the residence. A supervisor responded to assist. While the sergeant was assisting the adult son to retrieve his belongings, the son verbally threatened to kill his mother. The adult son is an active gang member with a history of violence. The sergeant arrested the son for criminal threats against the mother.

Shooting at an Inhabited Dwelling. On September 23 at 8:48 p.m., a resident in the 100 Block of Fig reported two male subjects in their late 20s to early 30s fired at a residence in the neighborhood. The subjects then fled the area in a small white pickup truck, north through an alley out of sight. There were three people inside the house at the time, but no one was hit. Investigation continuing.

Suspicious Subject / Under the Influence of Narcotics. On September 23 at 8:39 p.m., officers responded to a call for help from an elderly female residing in the 200 block of Madeline. The woman reported a male subject was standing in her driveway yelling for her to come out of the house. She did not know the male subject or why he was calling her out. When officers arrived, they found a 17-year-old male subject sitting on the front lawn at the residence, yelling that people were trying to get

him. Officers conducted field tests on the juvenile and determined he was under the influence of methamphetamine. He admitted to using the drug for the last two days straight. He was arrested and transported to a hospital.

Possession of Cocaine for Sale / Parole Hold. On September 24 at 7:35 p.m., officers responded to a residence in the 400 block of South Heliotrope. The resident reported she was contacted by a male subject looking for a package that he said was delivered to her address by accident. The package was addressed to her residence, but she did not know the name of the addressee or sender. The officer took possession of the envelope and opened it. It was found to contain two nylon pouches. One of the pouches contained about 350 grams of a white powdery substance, which was later determined to be powder cocaine. The subject claiming the package was arrested. He is on active parole and a parole hold was obtained. His vehicle was stored and a small amount of marijuana was found in it.



ENGINEERING:

Library Construction - Bid Package No.1: Staff worked with the Architect and Construction manager to facilitate the completion of the Library construction documents providing plan review, construction comments, tree preservation mitigation requirements and grading requirements to demolish the existing building and prepare the site for the new structure.

Approved Grading Plans:

- 303 Elfwood - single family residence
- 783 Norumbega - single family residence
- 1402 S. California - mixed use development

Public Works Inspections:

- Colorado Commons: On site drainage/underground conduits.
- Duarte Road between 5th and Encino - AT&T cabinet and electrical panel installations, underground conduit inspections
- 435 Monrovia: Driveway
- 22 Hidden Valley, Pool and retaining walls

Construction Documents:

- Colorado Commons Street Improvements - preparation for street improvements
- City Yard Site Improvements - Plan revisions to reduce costs of fencing
- Aerial Photo Drawings for Norumbega Trail
- Street Layouts for Station Square

OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:

Old Town Monrovia Car Show. On Saturday, September 29, 2007, Environmental Services staff will participate in the Old Town Monrovia Car Show and provided information on used oil and filter recycling, distributed flyers on how to “green” your car and provided promotional items to promote used oil and filter recycling.

Illicit Discharge: 600 block of West Lemon Avenue.

Ornamental Christmas Light Bulbs. Facilities staff organized the installation of the large ornamental Christmas bulb lights on two Myrtle Avenue pine trees this past week in preparation of the holiday, giving the merchants time to review the new ornaments.

Corporate Yard Update. Despite the heavy rain during the weekend, termite fumigation was a success. The Corporate Yard and fuel island was reopened on Tuesday, September 25 as scheduled.

Temporary Fire Station. On Friday, September 21, Facilities staff disconnected the electrical power, removed all electrical conduit and the temporary pole at the temporary Fire Station site in preparation for the removal of the trailers. The disassembling of the Butler Building that was used to house the Fire Department Equipment is scheduled to start on Monday, October 1.

Removal of City Trees. One Chinese Elm on the 300 block of North Encinitas and one Ash tree on the 800 block of East Palm were weakened by the heavy rains and gusty winds and removed this week. The trees will be replaced once the stumps are removed.

Vandalism at Grand Avenue Park. A total of 14 irrigation heads had to be replaced at Grand Avenue Park due to vandalism.

Graffiti Removal. Parks staff removed 125 square feet of graffiti at Recreation Park and the Skate Park, near the Mary Wilcox Youth Center.

STREETS:

Traffic Signs:

- Replaced left turn pocket sign and post in center median at Central and Mountain.
- Installed Neighborhood watch sign at Granite and Hillcrest.

Miscellaneous:

- Cleaned drains on Diamond and Alamitas
- Work continues on dirt removal from the Mountain Ave. Reservoir site.
- Dirt and Asphalt removal continues per excavation operations.
- The building of the concrete block retaining walls continues this week.
- Installation of Electrical and Communication conduit at the City Corporate Yard were installed.

UTILITIES:

Customer Service

- 2,771 water meters were read and recorded
- 40 work orders were completed
- 170 water shut-off notices were distributed
- 1 water meter was replaced
- 5 water services were reactivated

Water Production

Water consumption is 55.5 millions gallons, a decrease of approximately 16% compared to last week's water usage.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 17 water system samplings
- 3 water treatment facility samplings

Staff participated in an online seminar to keep up with the latest technology concerning water facilities security measures.

Utility Maintenance

- 1-2" water service was repaired
- 14 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 14,000 feet of sewer mains were cleaned
- 1-4" water meter was replaced
- 1 water meter box was replaced

Utility maintenance personnel have assisted in the construction operation of the new Corporate Yard; installed irrigation line for the new Fire Station #1; abandoned water and sewer service at the temporary Fire Station at Olive Avenue; and repaired the water service line at the Community Center.

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Sat., Sept. 29, 9 to 3 p.m.	Old Town Car Show, Myrtle Avenue
Tues., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Thurs., Oct. 4, 6:00 p.m.	Monrovia Reads Spaghetti Western; Historical Museum
Sat., Oct. 6-7, 9 to 5 p.m.	Monrovia Arts Festival; Library Park
Tues., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Thurs., Oct. 18, time TBA	2007 Business Showcase; Doubletree Hotel, 924 W. Huntington
Tues., Nov. 6, 6:00 p.m.	City Council Study Session
Tues., Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Thurs., Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m.	Holiday Parade; Myrtle Avenue