



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



October 5, 2007

Monrovia Loses a Great Friend of the Community

On Wednesday morning, longtime resident Jules Sandford passed away at his home. Jules was a successful businessman and community benefactor, along with his wife Betty, for many years. An insightful and skilled negotiator/thinker/peacemaker, Jules' advice and counsel were sought out both professionally, as a founding member of the local law firm Patten Faith & Sandford, as well as personally, as a longtime civic leader. Content to stay behind the scenes, Jules' impact can nonetheless be felt all of over this town. I always looked forward to speaking with Jules, an urbane and witty man, whether it be about business or politics or sports. He could always be counted upon to have a considered, if friendly, opinion on any range of matters. Although I wish I'd known him better, I was honored to have known him at all.

This has been a rough patch for Monrovia. In 2007 alone, we have lost friends and leaders Dr. Rich Brandeis, Dr. Bob Haugh, Nick Pokrajac and now Jules. These men leave a legacy of community leadership and civic pride – much to be remembered and much to be emulated. We will miss them all.

New Flags and Banners

By Monday, we should have replaced all of the American flags along Huntington Drive and Myrtle Avenue. With the recent weather extremes – super hot to cold and rainy – some of these flags look like holdovers from the War of 1812. We do endeavor to keep all of our flags in the best condition, as a reflection of the commitment our community has to the men and women who serve our country in the armed forces. Also, we are in the process of exchanging weather-beaten Blue Star banners with new banners, and taking down the banners for those servicemen and women who have returned home. If you know of someone whose banner is still hanging but has returned home, please contact the Department of Community Services.

City Council Meeting Recap

The brevity of Tuesday night's City Council meeting might have been a world-record, but don't get used to it! With a number of substantial items coming up later in October, November and December, you'd better renew the prescription on your reading glasses.

As for the October 2 meeting, however, the only two business items on the agenda dealt with the award of a contract for the construction of bus stop benches/shelters and the award of another contract for moving services related to the relocation of the Monrovia Public Library. The Council awarded both contracts unanimously.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

October 10, 2007 Planning Commission Meeting Preview

- This item is being continued to the October 23, 2007 Special Planning Commission Meeting. Amendment to the 700 S. Myrtle Avenue Specific Plan, Tentative Tract Map No. 063146, Conditional Use Permit CUP 2005-22, Urban Housing Partners, applicants. This application is an amendment to the 700 South Myrtle Avenue Specific Plan to allow a modification of the originally approved mixed-use project at the corner of Myrtle and Olive Avenues. The request also requires an amendment to Conditional Use Permit CUP2005-22 and Tentative Tract No. 063146. A one-year extension the Tentative Tract Map is also requested.
- Conditional Use Permit CUP2007-16, 315 S. Primrose Avenue, Paul Talbot, applicant. This is a request to convert a residential duplex to an office use. Six parking spaces will be provided at the rear of the lot in the RH (Residential High Density) Zone.

C.O.R.E. (Community Officers Resource Exchange) Update. On Thursday, September 27, 2007, the second CORE Meeting was held at the Community Services Center with our City Manager, Scott Ochoa, kicking off the event. As you may recall, CORE was developed to allow a greater networking opportunity and quality training to those municipal officers and administrative staff charged with health & safety, public safety and neighborhood improvement programs.

Our training focused on the City of Ontario's approach to their homeless population and the Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) program. The presentations were well received by the 53 attendees representing 20 different agencies. Also, in attendance was Taffany Lim, Community-Oriented Policing Program and Strategies (COPPS) Training Coordinator for Cal State LA. Taffany was very impressed with the MAP Program and has asked that Staff provide the presentation at an upcoming COPPS class. Past topics have included Graffiti Abatement Strategies. For the December 2007 Quarterly Meeting, 80% of the attendees requested training on shopping cart abatement programs.

Alice Campos, Senior Code Enforcement Officer Retires! After 17 years with the City of Monrovia, Alice is ready to call it permanent vacation time and retire. Her retirement becomes official on October 7. Alice has a total of 38 years in public service and formerly worked for the City of Monterey Park. Alice has put together an impressive list of accomplishments including her work on the Community Activist Policing Team, Monrovia Providers, LA County Hoarding Task Force and the Neighborhood Strategy Team. We will all miss Alice! Congratulations on a job well done.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

Community Services Commission Meeting. The following items are on the October 9 Commission Agenda;

- 2007-2008 Annual Security Guard Contract Renewal. Review of security guard contract with United Security, Inc. (from November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2007) including new hourly rates for the 2007-08 contract year.
- 2007 Canyon Park Biodiversity Evaluation. Review the Second Annual Biodiversity Fair, including attendance totals and financial impact.
- 2006-2007 Contract Class Enrollment and Revenue Report. To provide Community Services Commission with a comprehensive overview of the Contract Classes for fiscal year 2006-2007.
- SwimAmerica Aquatics Annual Report. Present the SwimAmerica Aquatics Annual Report including conditions of the contract, participation and financial information.

RECREATION DIVISION

Sixth Annual "Putting the GOLD back in The Golden Years" Senior Program. Seniors representing the three Community Service senior clubs will participate in the Monrovia Providers Group "Be a Savvy Senior" seminar on October 11. The informational seminar will be held at the Monrovia Community Center from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will highlight scams targeting senior citizens. The Monrovia Police Department and Monrovia Provider members have developed a film that will educate seniors on what they should do if approached by strangers and solicitors at home, on the phone or by mail. This free program includes lunch, raffle prizes, entertainment and important information. For more information and reservations, call (626) 256-8287.

LIBRARY DIVISION

Library Closed on Saturday. The Monrovia Library will be closed on Saturday, October 6 for the Art Festival; however, the Friends of the Library will be holding its three-day used book sale in the Alvord Room. The sale days and hours are: Friday, October 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. (for members of the Friends only); Saturday, October 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the general public. Two Bucks-a-Bag sale will take place from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 7.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 80 emergency calls from 0800 hours September 26, to 0800 hours October 3, 2007. Significant incidents include:

Dumpster Fire. On Friday at 2030 hours, Engine 101 responded to a dumpster fire in Old Town. When firefighters arrived they found a dumpster with the contents fully engulfed in fire. Police officers had acted quickly and moved the dumpster away from a business prior to Engine 101's arrival. One juvenile was arrested for arson after bystanders witnessed him throw burning matches into the dumpster. The juvenile ran from the scene and was apprehended after a short foot pursuit.

TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The first CERT class will be graduating Saturday after 20 hours of intense training. The students were trained in first aid, disaster preparedness, search and rescue, fire suppression, incident command and terrorism. The last two weeks have been a combination of lecture and hands-on training. Before graduating on Saturday, students will put all the pieces of the puzzle together in a coordinated response to a simulated disaster.

Captain Dover met with personnel from Wooley Parsons that recently took occupancy of 605 E. Huntington Drive. There are 250 employees working at the location and they wanted assistance with the development of a disaster plan. Captain Dover presented a comprehensive plan to a group of employees that will have pre-designated responsibilities during a disaster. The next step will be for fire department personnel to stand by during a disaster drill and provide feedback.

The Department met with the Gold Hills Homeowners Association this week. They discussed how they could work together to accomplish the common goal of fire clearance and defensible space. This was the first meeting and we are looking forward to continuing the partnership.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Fire Prevention Week is October 7 through 13. The theme this year is "Practice Your Escape Plan." Fireman B.J. Scott and his team will be out at the schools this week giving this message to our city's

Fourth Graders. As in years past, the students will draw escape plan posters. The youth whose poster is judged to be the best in the district is given a ride to school in the fire engine.

Colorado Commons Project: Weld inspection for garage sprinkler piping was conducted this week. Flushing of underground piping for Buildings One and Four was done. Hydrostatic testing and rough inspection of Building Four was conducted.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The Fire Department is excited to participate and partner with the non-profit group Monrovia Reads and the Monrovia School District in this year's Read Across Monrovia event. Firefighters will be reading to students in local elementary schools and answering questions related to the Fire Department and fire safety. It is a great way to talk with the young students, explain the importance of fire safety and advocate for education and the importance of reading.

Additionally, the Department continues to move back to the renovated fire station, with the kitchen cabinetry installed this week and the training center furniture scheduled for delivery. As we continue to unpack boxes and file papers, the Fire Station is beginning to take shape and is looking very nice. The Fire Department would encourage everyone to stop by for a visit and tour as we look for a grand re-opening celebration date in early November.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO BATTALION CHIEF SCOTT HABERLE

Scott – I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for coming to the Gold Hills Homeowner's Association meeting last week. We all found what you had to share very valuable and helpful. I look forward to learning of your efforts regarding our concerns with the hillsides. Thanks again and I look forward to the next time we talk.

Regards,

- Bob -

*Robert E. McKenna
Hidden Valley Road
Monrovia, CA 91016*

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 595 calls for service resulting in 132 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Critical Missing. On September 27 at 2:40 p.m., a critical missing person was reported from Mayflower Elementary School. A six-year-old girl was reported missing at the end of school. As the officers were being deployed to start a search, the child was located by her father. The child had gotten on the wrong bus.

Injury Traffic Collision. On September 27 at 3:04 p.m., an elderly couple was involved in a car accident at a supermarket parking lot in the 300 block of West Huntington. The male driver pushed the accelerator instead of the brake. The vehicle struck an unoccupied parked vehicle. The female passenger suffered several broken bones and the male received severe neck trauma.

Mental Evaluation. On September 27 at 6:25 p.m., an officer responded to the 900 block of South Myrtle regarding a mentally ill subject, but the subject had fled the location prior to the officer's arrival.

Approximately one half hour later, the subject was reported to be walking on the 210 Freeway, westbound. The subject was located by an officer and was straddling the bridge rail of the 210 Freeway over Monterey. When contacted by the officer, the subject threatened to jump from the bridge. As the subject attempted to jump, the officer grabbed the subject and was able to pull the subject from the rail. At that moment, a second officer arrived and assisted in taking the subject into custody. The subject was taken to a hospital for mental evaluation.

Arson. On September 28 at approximately 8:10 p.m., two officers observed a male juvenile directly across from Fire Station One, near a trash dumpster. The male juvenile walked away from the dumpster, which immediately became engulfed in flames. The male began running from the scene and both officers gave chase. The officers caught the suspect, who spontaneously admitted to lighting the fire. Monrovia Fire Department was called and responded to extinguish the fire. The suspect was arrested.

Outside Agency Assist. On September 28 at approximately 3 a.m., the California Highway Patrol requested assistance with traffic control on the 210 Freeway, eastbound, between Santa Anita and Huntington due to a solo traffic collision where the driver was ejected and expired on scene. Monrovia officers assisted until sufficient CHP units arrived.

Possession of a Controlled Substance / Felony Parole Violation. On September 29 at 7:05 a.m., an officer responded to the 200 block of Melrose to assist a parole officer with a resistive parolee. The parolee had failed to test during the week, and the parole officer had gone to the Melrose address to secure a urine sample. An argument ensued and the parole agent telephoned Monrovia Police Department for assistance. An assisting officer found heroin, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia inside the parolee's vehicle. The parolee was arrested.

Report of Shots Fired. On September 29 at 4 p.m., officers were dispatched to the north alley in the 400 block of West Palm regarding a shots fired call. The victim said that he was on his front porch when he heard a shot. He went into the alley to investigate. He saw smoke and three male subjects running westbound in the alley. The victim chased after the suspects and one of the suspects turned and fired a gun at the victim. The victim stopped chasing the suspects and they fled through a yard. Investigation continuing.

Commercial Burglary. On September 30 at 2:44 a.m., Monrovia Police Department was notified by a business that they had two suspects under video surveillance in their yard in the 1400 block of South California. Police units arrived and established a perimeter of the location. One suspect was immediately contacted and apprehended in his vehicle at the location. Another suspect was reportedly hiding on the property. Monrovia Police Department and neighboring agency units conducted a detailed search of the location, but did not locate the second suspect. A large amount of copper wire was recovered. Investigation continuing.

Animal Control Incident. On September 30, dispatch received a call of two vicious German Shepherd dogs chasing a resident in the 200 block of West Cypress. Officers responded and were able to contain the dogs in a yard. Animal Control was called to the scene and secured both animals with no injuries sustained. The dogs' owner(s) could not be found.

Grand Theft Auto. On September 30, dispatch received a 9-1-1 call from a victim stating his black Ford Explorer was just stolen from the parking lot of a business in the 600 block of West Huntington. The victim reported that he left the vehicle running in the parking lot while he went into a fastfood restaurant to pick up some food. The victim did not see the suspect take the vehicle and could not tell the dispatcher in which direction the vehicle left.

Take Over Armed Robbery. On September 2 at approximately 7:25 a.m., officers responded to a business on a robbery in progress call. An adult male entered the store at opening time wearing a hooded sweatshirt and a ski mask. He produced a handgun and herded 10 individuals inside. The suspect took money from the safe and fled in an older maroon Toyota pickup truck. This suspect may

be responsible for similar robberies in the Pasadena area. Monrovia Police Department detectives also responded. Investigation continuing.



ADMINISTRATION:

Public Works City Hall Location is Moving: Effective Monday, October 15, the Public Works Administration Offices will be relocating to 600 South Mountain Avenue. If you require services for Engineering, Parks, Facilities, Environmental Services or Waste Management please visit us at our new location. All our phone numbers remain the same. We look forward to serving you in our new home.

ENGINEERING:

Library Construction - Bid Package No.1: Staff worked with the Architect and Construction manager in reviewing the bid specifications for the building demolition and site grading.

General Plan/Circulation Element: Staff is reviewing the revised draft documents in preparation for the public review of the documents. The review was completed on October 4.

Bus Shelter Construction: Staff is working with the Planning Division and Project Management for the bus shelter construction project, coordinating the pre-construction meeting and project schedule.

Grading Plan Check Projects

- 1402 S. California - Mixed Use Project, first plan check completed
- California/Monrovia/Duarte - 20 Planned Unit Development Project, Final Plan Check Corrections Returned
- 335 Hill Street - Room Addition

Approved Grading Plans:

- 1419 S. Myrtle - New commercial project

Completed and Finaled Projects:

- 616-620 W. Palm - 4-unit Planned Unit Development

Public Works Inspections:

- Colorado Commons: On site drainage/underground conduits. Alley trash enclosures, preliminary alley grading for low retaining walls.
- Duarte Road between 5th and Encino - AT&T cabinet and electrical panel installations, underground conduit inspections
- 825 W. Duarte Road, Street resurfacing of utility trenches
- 1825 10th Avenue, Street resurfacing of utility trenches
- 22 Hidden Valley, Pool and retaining walls
- 1402 S. California, Erosion control measures for site demolition activities.

Construction Documents:

- Colorado Commons Street Improvements - preparation for street improvements
- Draft Street Layouts for Station Square

OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:

Free Household Hazardous Waste/E-Waste Event. On Saturday October 13, Los Angeles County will host a free household hazardous waste/e-waste (HHW/E) event at the City of Hope's Parking Lot,

2144 Buena Vista in Duarte. The event accepts household hazardous waste and e-waste items including batteries, fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, fertilizers, household cleaners, paint, old computers, televisions, game systems and other items.

For additional information, log onto www.888cleanLA.com, scroll down to *Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collections Events*. Informational fliers are also available at the City Hall front lobby, the Public Works front counter, Fire Stations 1 and 2 and the Police Station.

Business Customers Electricity Outlook. Facilities staff attended the Business Customers Electricity Outlook presented by Southern California Edison (SCE) in Irwindale this past week. The Outlook Class covered 2008 SCE plans of action and intended pricing for the calendar year and California's Electrical Power Five-Year Projected Forecast.

New Memorial Bench. Old Town's Myrtle Avenue received a new Memorial Bench in front of Boxx Jewelers dedicated in memory of Sam Silverman who was the owner of Boxx Jewelers.

Parks' Street of the Month. South Peck Road was named Parks' Street of the Month. Staff will be removing weeds in the parkways and tree wells as well as sucker growth on trees. This area will be receiving 100 new parkway trees, which volunteers and staff will be planting on Make a Difference Day on October 27.

STREETS:

Miscellaneous:

- Work continues on dirt removal from the Mountain Avenue Reservoir site.
- Dirt and asphalt removal continues per excavation operations.
- The building of the concrete block retaining walls continues this week.
- Electrical and communication conduit were installed at the City Corporate Yard.

UTILITIES:

Water Fest 2007, Saturday, October 13: The City of Monrovia's Utilities Division invites you and your family to join us at Arcadia County Park, 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue, to celebrate Water Fest 2007, sponsored by the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVWD) and supported by our neighboring cities. Learn how you can help conserve water, our most precious natural resource; other highlights will include, free food & entertainment, the Mobile Tide Pool Cruiser exhibit, free raffle prizes such as high efficiency clothes washer. See the solar-powered boats built by local school students and the Southern California Edison Mobile Education Unit, and if you wish, join the "5K Healthy Parks Youth Walks" from 8-10 a.m.

For additional information contact the USGVWD at 626-443-2297 or visit their website at www.usgvwd.org

Customer Service

- 581 water meters were read and recorded
- 89 work orders were completed
- 190 water shut-off notices were distributed
- 12 water services were reactivated

Water Production

- Water consumption is 51.6 millions gallons, a decrease of approximately 7% compared to last week's water usage.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 17 water system samplings
- 3 water treatment facility samplings

Staff attended a water conservation workshop conducted by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to help organize a water conservation program. Staff also attended a leadership training seminar with other City agencies in El Monte.

Utility Maintenance

- 2-1" water services were installed
- 14 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 200 feet of sewer mains were video inspected
- 1 fire hydrant was replaced at 208 Terrace View Drive

Utility maintenance personnel continue to assist in the construction of the parking lot for the new Corporate Yard at Mountain Avenue.

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

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
Tues., Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Thurs., Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m.	Holiday Parade; Myrtle Avenue