



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



October 19, 2007

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Historic Preservation Meeting. On October 24, the Commission will review the following Historic Landmarks/Mills Act Contract:

- Historic Landmark HL-115/MA-109-354 North Magnolia, Michael Kane and Janie Gallandat-Kane, applicants for an Eclectic bungalow
- Historic Landmark HL-116/MA-110-217 East Greystone Avenue- Steven R. Purves, applicant for a Swiss Chalet Craftsman
- Historic Landmark HL-117 Mills Act Contract MA-111, 257 Melrose Avenue, Steven Purves, applicant for a one-story Craftsman residence.

Filming

ABC is back filming an establishing shot for October Road at 243 N. Encinitas Avenue on Saturday, October 20 between 4 and 11 p.m. They will have minimal personnel and equipment.

They will also be filming in the downtown area on Thursday, October 25 from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. They will film characters walking and talking on the sidewalk on the south side of Lime between Myrtle and 110 E. Lime; they will be shooting interior and exterior at Scoops, 120 E. Lemon and in the alley behind 608 S. Myrtle.

Special Event

Steven Gholar/Bahai Faith will be hosting a Halloween Block Party in the 100 Block of East Cypress on Saturday, October 27 from noon to 6 p.m. They will have pumpkin carving, face painting, apple bobbing, snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy, etc. for the children in attendance.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

RECREATION DIVISION

Monrovia Skate Park Lights. The Skate Park in Recreation Park is experiencing technical difficulties with the automatic timers on the lights. The Community Services staff will manually activate the timers on a daily basis to ensure programming will not be interrupted. Community Services and Public Works are working to resolve this issue and hope to have the automatic system operational by October 23. Until then, the lights will be manually activated to turn on at 5:45 p.m. and off at 9 p.m. Any questions should be directed to Frank Tullo, Recreation Coordinator at 626.256.8246.

Monrovia Skate Park and Youth Center Graffiti. On Wednesday October 17 staff discovered graffiti at the Skate Park and Youth Center. The graffiti occurred sometime after 9 p.m. on the 16th and 8 a.m.

on the 17th. City staff notified the Police Department who documented the incident. The City graffiti removal contractor was also notified and scheduled the removal of the vandalism.

Halloween Home Decorating. On October 15, Community Services Commissioners, residents and Youth Commissioners judged the Annual Halloween Home Decorating Contest. Twenty homes participated and awards were given in nine categories. Program winners were announced by Community Services Vice Chair, Paul Larsen and were recognized by the Mayor and City Council at the October 16 Council meeting. Winners received a gift basket and a yard sign. KGEM will air a Halloween Home Decorating video through the month of October. Maps of the winners and all decorated homes are available at City Hall, the Community Center and the Monrovia Public Library and on the City of Monrovia's website.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

FALL FESTIVAL AWARD	233 East Walnut Ave, Apt. A
CREEP SHOW AWARD	822 Bonita Street
TOMBSTONE AWARD	180 Melrose Avenue
CASPER AWARD	401 West Colorado Boulevard
MOST SPOOKY	734 East Foothill Boulevard
MOST CREATIVE	312 West Lemon Avenue
THEME AWARD	236 West Walnut Avenue
GREAT PUMPKIN AWARD	244 North Ivy Avenue
BEST OF HALLOWEEN	706 Ocean View Avenue

LIBRARY DIVISION

Library Seeking AmeriCorps Volunteers. The Monrovia Public Library is looking for two self-motivated people committed to community service to become AmeriCorps members. This is an especially good opportunity for college students or people in their 20s who want to gain experience in education or nonprofit administration, or retired people who want to make a positive difference in their community. AmeriCorps members work 20 hours per week, with a flexible schedule, helping fight functional illiteracy by tutoring adults and children, recruiting volunteers, publicizing literacy issues, and developing mobile library programs. AmeriCorps members receive a small living stipend and an educational award.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 44 emergency calls from 0800 hours October 11, to 0800 hours on October 17. Significant incidents include:

Utility Line in the street. On Saturday afternoon, firefighters responded to a reported power line down at Palm and Violet. Upon arrival, the firefighters found phone and cable lines in the street that appeared to have been detached from the pole by a truck driving by. Apparently, the cables were sagging low enough for a truck to hit them. As you can imagine, this can also be quite a hazard for our fire apparatus in addition to such obstacles as low hanging tree limbs. These are just a couple of the hazards firefighters have to watch out for while responding on calls.

Traffic Collision. On Monday evening, firefighters responded to a traffic collision at Huntington Drive and Highway Esplanade. The patient was a 21-year-old female who was treated for injuries to her extremities from the air bag that deployed. She was transported to Arcadia Methodist Hospital.

Traffic Collision. On Thursday afternoon, firefighters responded to a traffic collision at California and Duarte. The patient was a 22-year-old female complaining of injury to her knees after colliding with

another vehicle. Her injuries were minor enough that she did not require transport to the hospital but was advised to visit her own physician.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme was "Practice Your Escape Plan." Paramedic B.J. Scott and Paramedic David Phillips delivered this message to Fourth Graders in our public and private schools. Since this message is not limited to the young, they also spoke to the seniors residing in the city's assisted-living facilities. Fire can spread rapidly through a home; sometimes in as little as two minutes, so a well-practiced escape plan that everyone in the family is familiar with may make the difference in getting out in time. Last year, the nation's structure fires totaled 526,000. Of that, 412,500 were residential fires (78.7% of all structure fires). Of the residential fires, 304,500 occurred in one- and two-family dwellings (58.1%). So, the message is clear: "Practice Your Escape Plan."

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Thursday October 25, the Fire Department will be hosting another community forum in the City hall Council Chambers related to State regulations of commercial hood/duct fire protection systems in restaurants and assisted living facilities. A representative from the State Fire Marshal's office will be on hand to discuss the changes to UL 300 and will be available to answer questions related to new requirements, installation and maintenance of these specialized systems. All business owners in town who have a UL 300 system were sent an invitation and the Chamber of Commerce was advised. Anyone interested in receiving more information can call (626) 256-8110 or attend the meeting on Thursday, October 25 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The disaster preparedness community forum was a big success and thanks go out to Mayor Rob Hammond for his introductory remarks, Jim Goltz from the State Office of Emergency Services for his computer model depicting a 6.5 magnitude earthquake on the Raymond fault and Captain Brad Dover for his efforts towards educating the community on disaster preparedness and his outstanding work towards Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. This community forum was geared towards the national efforts Disaster Preparedness during the month of October and to better educate out community on actions they can take to be prepared in the event of a disaster. For those needing additional information please visit the web site www.ready.gov.

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 567 calls for service resulting in 119 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Robbery. On October 13 at approximately 10:03 p.m., three male suspects approached a car at Magnolia and Genoa, brandished three handguns and robbed the driver of \$400 and a portable DVD player. The circumstances of the case are suspicious. During the investigation, the officer was able to gain the identity of one of the suspects. Officers went to the area of Sherman and Cherry, where the suspect is known to frequent, and they observed the suspect and another unidentified male at the location. Upon seeing the officers, both subjects ran westbound through backyards. Containment was established by Monrovia police officers, Arcadia units and a Glendora police canine unit. During a yard-to-yard search, a gun which matched the description of a gun used in the robbery was recovered in the 500 block of East Los Angeles. The suspects were not located. Investigation Continuing.

Disturbance / Mutual Aid. On October 13, while the search for the robbery suspect was underway, dispatch received a disturbance call at a bar in the 300 block of South Myrtle. Sierra Madre officers responded to assist Monrovia handling numerous disturbing subjects in front of the bar. While at the location, the Sierra Madre officers attempted to break up a fight and became outnumbered by a crowd. They put out a call for assistance. Monrovia and Arcadia officers immediately responded to the bar. Upon arrival, the crowd was dispersed without further incident. A Sierra Madre officer sustained a small contusion to his upper lip from being elbowed during the fight. Sierra Madre arrested the suspect for battery on a peace officer and transported him to Sierra Madre Police Department for booking.

Animal Problem. On October 14 at 11:49 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the 300 block of East Foothill regarding an injured cat on the front porch of a residence. When the officer arrived, he saw the injured animal was a bobcat. The bobcat acted aggressive when officers tried to approach it. Monrovia Animal Control was called in to handle the incident, as Fish and Game could not respond, and determined the bobcat was ill. The animal was tranquilized and confined until Fish and Game could be consulted.

Grand Theft Auto / Embezzlement / Resisting and Delaying a Peace Officer. On October 16 at 6:15 p.m., officers responded to the 400 block of South Violet regarding a suspicious vehicle. On their arrival, a DMV check of the vehicle's license plate indicated the vehicle was reported stolen from a rental car business. Officers found property belonging to a subject in the vehicle and located the subject in the area. When approached by the officers, the subject refused to obey the instructions given by the officers and resisted the officers' attempts to detain her. She was detained and arrested by officers. She admitted to having rented the vehicle for two days, but decided to keep it six additional days because she claimed the rental company was taking money from her bank account. The woman complained of pain and was transported to a hospital. She was found to be suicidal and in need of psychiatric treatment. She was subsequently admitted to a hospital for mental evaluation.

Juveniles Drunk in Public. On October 16 at 11:57 p.m., an officer responded to a business in the 100 block of West Foothill regarding three female juveniles who had been drinking and were being disruptive. On arrival, the officers observed three females sitting on a table, and each had an open bottle of beer. The officer contacted the subjects and observed signs of intoxication from two of the juveniles. The officer found that the beer was sold to the juveniles by the manager, who claimed it was busy and she made a mistake when checking the ID. The two juveniles claimed the manager did not check their ID prior to buying the beer. The two juveniles were found to be intoxicated and were arrested for drunk in public. A verified complaint was filed against the manager for selling an alcoholic beverage to a minor.

Disorderly Conduct. On October 16 at 1:55 p.m., officers were dispatched to a department store in the 500 block of West Huntington regarding a male subject who had used his cell phone camera to photograph two females while they were shopping in the store. Officers arrived, questioned the male, and discovered he had been taking photographs of females. The photographs appeared to have been taken from a low angle. The officers were able to get victim statements and arrested the subject without incident. The subject was later released on a citation and the investigation is continuing.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon / Vehicle Burglary. On October 17 at 11:50 a.m., a subject parked her vehicle in front of a business in the 700 block of East Huntington. The subject's boyfriend happened to be driving by the location and saw a male subject looking into the vehicle. The boyfriend turned his vehicle around, and by the time he arrived at the vehicle, the rear window was shattered. There was a gray BMW with paper plates parked in front of the victim's vehicle with a female subject in the passenger seat. The boyfriend placed his vehicle in front of the suspect's vehicle to block it. The suspect entered the vehicle and began to ram his vehicle into the other vehicle several times and managed to maneuver his vehicle around and escape. The boyfriend chased the suspect, but lost sight of him. The investigation is continuing.

Burglary. On October 17 at 6:46 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a business in the 100 block of West Foothill regarding a female being detained for theft. On arrival, store employees told the officer the female had stolen from the business before but was not caught. Through investigation, the officer determined the suspect entered the store with the intent to shoplift, and she was arrested for burglary and taken into custody.

Fight / Drunk in Public. On October 18 at approximately 1:23 hours, an officer reported a fight in progress at a bar in the 300 block of South Myrtle. Officers responded and had to use OC to stop three male subjects from fighting. The fight was broken up and the three male subjects and one female subject were arrested for being drunk in public. They were later released.

Residential Burglary. On October 18 at 2:24 a.m., an officer went to the 1400 block of Monterey regarding a break-in. On arrival, the female victim told the officer her vehicle had been stolen in Arcadia earlier in the evening, and her house keys were in the vehicle when it was stolen. The victim went home and discovered her house had been burglarized. Investigation continuing.



ENGINEERING:

Colorado Commons Street Improvements: The plans and specifications are complete and out to bid. The project scope of work for the streets are:

Colorado Boulevard from Myrtle to Primrose

- New curb/gutter and sidewalk along project frontage
- Curb/gutter and sidewalk repairs on both sides of Colorado
- Curb extensions at the parking structure entrance and the intersection of Colorado and Primrose
- New single globe street lights on both sides with 5 globe lights at the alley, parking structure entrance and at Primrose
- Parkway trees on both sides with irrigation.
- Landscaping and irrigation at the curb extensions.

Lemon Avenue from Myrtle to Primrose

- New curb/gutter and sidewalk along project frontage
- Curb/gutter and sidewalk repairs on both sides of Lemon
- Curb extensions at the intersection of Lemon and Primrose
- New single globe street lights on both sides with 5 globe lights at the alley, and at Primrose
- Parkway trees on both sides with irrigation unless trees exist on private property.
- Landscaping and irrigation at the curb extensions.

North/South and East/West Alleys

- New concrete and brick pavements
- New single globe street lights
- Landscape pots

Grading Plan Check Projects

- 714 Norumbega, Review of geotechnical report for home renovation and drainage easements

Approved Grading Plans:

- California/Monrovia/Duarte - 20 Planned Unit Development Project,

Public Works Inspections:

- Colorado Commons: Alley retaining wall foundations.
- Duarte Road between 5th and Encino - AT&T cabinet and electrical panel installations, underground conduit inspections
- 825 W. Duarte Road, Preparation of project punch list
- 1825 10th Avenue, Preparation of project punch list
- 22 Hidden Valley, Pool and retaining walls
- 1402 S. California, Erosion control measures for site demolition activities.
- California/Monrovia/Duarte, Grading operations have begun
- 1419/1425 S. Myrtle, Grading operations have begun

Construction Documents:

- Colorado Commons Street Improvements - Documents completed and project out to bid
- Chantry Flats Road Repair - Professional service agreements mailed to consultant for design services

OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:

Free Composting Workshop. Environmental Services hosted a *Free Composting Workshop* on Saturday, October 20 presented by Smart Gardening describing the proper tools and techniques to efficiently reuse grass clippings and leaves. Event attendees were also able to purchase composting bins at the event.

Free Household Hazardous Waste/E-Waste Event. On Saturday October 27, Los Angeles County will host a free household hazardous waste/e-waste (HHW/E) event at the East Los Angeles College Stadium Parking Lot (Bleakwood Avenue and Floral Drive, Monterey Park). 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 Station #1 and #2 and the Police Station.

Huntington & Myrtle Traffic Signal. The traffic signal system at the intersection of Huntington and Myrtle has been fitted with an Uninterruptible Power System (UPS) that will keep the signals from going dark when a power failure occurs. This is the first UPS to be provided at any signaled intersection in Monrovia except for freeway crossings, which are maintained by CalTrans.

A big thanks goes to the Clary Corporation, a local Monrovia business, that donated the UPS unit to the City. They are one of the leading manufacturers for signal back up systems in the United States.

Tree Planting. South Peck Road and El Norte residents received notices of a tree planting activity for Make a Difference Day, Saturday, October 27. The Street Division provided assistance by repairing uplifted sidewalks along South Peck Road. Park Staff will prepare the tree planting sites, by auguring holes to make the work a little easier for the volunteers next week.

STREETS:

Miscellaneous:

- Crews prepared the City Yard parking lot for paving
- Parts and materials are being move back to the streets section at the City Yard from the temporary location on Mayflower.
- Removal and replacement of sidewalk on Peck Road south of Camino Real.

UTILITIES:

Customer Service

- 2,495 water meters were read and recorded
- 42 work orders were completed
- 17 water services were reactivated
- 2 water meter lids were replaced

Water Production

- Water consumption is 51.6 millions gallons, a decrease of approximately 10% compared to last week's water usage.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 17 water system samplings
- 3 water treatment facility samplings

Water Fest 2007 was held at the Arcadia County Park on Saturday October 13, 2007. This water conservation awareness event was sponsored by the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and supported by the City of Monrovia and other neighboring cities.

Utility Maintenance

- 80 water main system valves were inspected and operated
- 19 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 1,200 feet of sewer mains were cleaned
- 300 feet of sewer mains were video inspected

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!

Articles Attached

- **OPINION: Put Light Rail on Fast Track.**
- **OPINION: Gold Line to airport - idea has wings**

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Sat. Oct. 27, 8 -3 p.m.	"Make a Difference Day"
Sat. Oct. 27, 2 to 7 p.m.	2nd Annual "Girl Power" Conference, Community Center
Mon. Nov. 5, TBA	All Commission Dinner, TBA
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, 6:00 p.m.

Tree Lighting Ceremony, Library Park

Thurs., Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Parade; Myrtle Avenue

CMO ATTACHMENTS:

Put light rail on fast track

WE don't need a poll to tell us that a light rail train ending at Ontario Airport rather than Montclair makes way more sense. Southern Californians are mobile within our region - and they like to travel outside it as well.

If passengers could get to a regional airport without battling the always-jammed freeways or the always-annoying LAX they'd do it in a flash.

But, no, we in the San Gabriel Valley don't need a Los Angeles mayor to tell us the same thing.

In the power-mongering world of California's mass-transit agencies, decisions often get made based on politicians' clout and ego more than from a commuting need or a business necessity.

In Southern California we boast a light-rail line (the Green Line from Norwalk to Redondo Beach) that stops short of LAX because politicians didn't want to burn the taxi union. Amazingly, it was designed that way. Just like LAX was designed with only one entrance and one exit.

But let's check, just for the heck of it. OK, it's as we expected. Almost 98 percent of our readers said "yes" to extending the L.A.-to-Pasadena Gold Line Foothill Extension out to Ontario and its increasingly popular regional airport.

And L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa? He's now on board with the idea of building the Gold Line Foothill Extension as long as it goes clear out to Ontario Airport. See, Ontario is an airport run by the Los Angeles Department of Airports, the same folks who run LAX. And Villaraigosa must make good on promises made to neighbors around LAX not to expand traffic and noise. Since Ontario is ready and willing for expansion, he's betting on Ontario expanding and taking more flights, not LAX.

Bravo, mayor! It's something we have been advocating for 10 years. We mean the Gold Line extension through the foothill cities and the regionalizing of air travel throughout Southern California. Yup, the Gold Line was always meant to go to San Bernardino County. The L.A.-to-Pasadena line was just the first phase.

To Villaraigosa's credit, he's one of the first mayors of the City of Angels to recognize the need for more airports. With 16 million people and counting, Southern California will need Palmdale to grow as well.

Now Villaraigosa is pushing a study to see if the extension of the Gold Line to Ontario Airport is feasible. We can answer that one. Yes. Just ask the 2 million people who live in the San Gabriel Valley, or the millions who live in the high desert and the entire Inland Empire if they would rather use Ontario Airport than LAX, flights and fares being equal? The answer is yes, poll or no poll.

Of course, getting people to fly out of Ontario has been a tough sell when the bigger cousin, LAX, has more flights and more bargain fares. That must change if Ontario is to grow.

Still, even without Ontario as a stop, the Gold Line Foothill Extension is a no-brainer. It has to happen. It's been approved. Its route is cleared to Montclair. Has the L.A. mayor driven the Foothill (210) Freeway lately? The westbound lanes get jammed from Glendora to Pasadena around 6 a.m., and gridlocked eastbound around 2:30 p.m. every weekday. Nowadays Saturdays and Sundays are far worse than they used to be because of river, desert and mountain vacationers plus commuters, now that the 210 reaches the I-15.

The longer the Gold Line goes, the more appealing it gets to commuters, students, business travelers and vacationers. But what the California mass transit planners fail to recognize is this auto alternative must be convenient. The light-rail line must go fast and it must not be overly expensive. If it goes slower than a car trip and costs more than the gasoline saved, it will be under-used.

Still, starting with some convenient mass transit at an airport terminal would be a big lure. It's time Southern California's politicians, especially those from L.A. on the MTA board, start realizing that. All they have to do is fly to San Francisco and ride the new BART train extension beneath SFO airport to Union Station or the Embarcadero.

If they can do it, why can't we?

Gold Line to airport - idea has wings

Our view: Villaraigosa's support is important to a project that makes great sense for the region.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's endorsement of studying extension of the Gold Line all the way to Ontario's airport provides a major boost for the project.

That's because, up until now, L.A.'s powerful mayor has favored urban projects, like the so-called "Subway to the Sea," over the eastern extension of the Gold Line. Because the transportation funding pot is only so large, Villaraigosa's support for new rail lines on L.A.'s Westside has painted him as almost a de facto opponent of the Gold Line.

But the recent push to extend the Gold Line all the way to LA/Ontario International Airport has captured the mayor's attention because it fits with his goal of regionalizing Southern California's air services and relieving traffic congestion - or at least keeping it from getting worse - around LAX.

Villaraigosa gave his blessing to a planned \$500,000 examination of the possibility of moving the planned eastern terminus of the light rail line from Montclair to L.A./ONT.

If any part of that study is supposed to determine whether it's a good idea to have the Gold Line end at the airport instead of at Montclair's rail and bus center, we can save them some money:

It is absolutely a good idea.

Connecting trains and airports is eminently sensible, particularly in traffic-clogged Southern California. It's maddening that Metro's Green Line stops short of LAX, for example, instead of smoothly transporting rail riders to the airport. In contrast, the Bay Area's BART rail system connects to the airports in San Francisco and Oakland.

Consider a resident of Pasadena or Azusa 10 years or so from now - when the Gold Line extension might be finished - who wants or needs to take a flight. If the trains roll right to LA/ONT, that would be an easy airport to reach. But if the Gold Line stops in Montclair, requiring a transfer via bus (or a couple of buses) to reach the airport, it might not be the way to go.

Or imagine a traveler in that future flying into LA/ONT, riding the Gold Line from the airport to Montclair and transferring to a Metrolink train that runs to downtown L.A. It only makes sense for the whole region to have that kind of connectivity.

Another mayor, Ontario's Paul Leon, sees it. "It gives you a destination at both ends: `I'm heading to Los Angeles' or `I'm heading to the airport in Ontario," he said in an aviation summit at LA/ONT in March.

The extension study will take 12 to 16 months and will include government representatives from Ontario, Upland and Rancho Cucamonga. It will involve public meetings to determine possible routes the line would take to the airport.

Villaraigosa's support gives the Gold Line project more leverage, said Habib Balian, CEO of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority.

And it's going to need it. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is going to have to approve about \$8 million a year for the Gold Line's operating expenses in order to give the project a chance at necessary federal funding, said John Fasana, a Duarte councilman and MTA board member.

At the federal level, the extension has strong backing from Reps. David Dreier, R-San Dimas, and Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena.

We'd like to see the whole MTA board join Mayor Villaraigosa in backing the Gold Line extension to LA/ONT. It only makes sense for the whole region.



Announcement Event and Kick off for the
Strategic Planning Study
Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension to
LA / Ontario International Airport

Wednesday, October 24, 2007
9:30 am to 11:00 am
LA / Ontario International Airport
Terminal Building 1 Main Lobby

*For more information, additional invitation or
directions to the event*

Contact/RSVP to lmanning@foothillextension.org or call 626-305-7026