



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



November 30, 2007

Library Groundbreaking December 5th

Please come out and join us on Wednesday afternoon at 4 p.m. in Library Park for the official groundbreaking for Monrovia's new Public Library. This project has been a long time coming, and we expect many folks to come and witness this historic occasion. The construction fencing around the entire perimeter of Library Park will go up within days of this event (most likely Friday the 7th), and the demolition of the existing library building will commence by mid-December. Again, the Morton Bay Fig and Camphor trees will be protected and monitored by City arborists. Lastly, the relocation of the Public Library collection to the Mary Wilcox Youth Center is proceeding on schedule, and will be re-opened at that location by December 17.

December 4th City Council Meeting Preview

The December 4th City Council Meeting features several interesting and important issues.

Under Presentations and Proclamations, we have the recognition of Pearl Harbor survivors Anthony George Mark and Paul Perrault; the recognition of the young artists featured on the Monrovia Recycles Calendar; and the introduction of newly-hired Senior Code Enforcement Officer R.D. Gonzalez, Management Trainee Leonor Sanchez-Smallwood, Police Officer Sarah Bushmeyer and Police Services Representative Maria Torres.

We have several public hearings. Three of them are fairly basic – PH-1 is the scheduled adoption of the 2007 California and International Fire Codes and PH-3 and PH-4 are local historic landmark designations and Mills Act contracts for 153 Highland Place and 248 West Scenic Drive, respectively.

PH-2, however, is more complex. This item encompasses the proposed amendment to the 700 South Myrtle Avenue Specific Plan. You may recall that Barratt American has twice applied for and received zoning approval for a mixed-use development at the old Neff Instruments property (700 South Myrtle Avenue). Since the time of their last approval for a 147 unit project (incorporating retail and commercial spaces on the ground floor Myrtle Avenue frontage), Barratt has contemplated selling the project to the Urban Housing Group (UHG). Sensing a turn in the for-sale attached housing market, UHG would convert the project from for-sale to for-lease luxury apartment units. The proposed number of units would be increased from 147 to 163, with a 404-car parking garage. The exterior of the development would look the same architecturally, except that the development would return to the "wrap" concept that was originally envisioned for the site by Barratt (whereby the parking garage is camouflaged by the housing units wrapped around it).

Another significant change in the proposed project is that under the original concept, Barratt agreed to make specific street improvements on both sides of Myrtle Avenue so that hardscape on the 700 block would match the rest of Old Town, north of Olive Avenue. Instead, staff negotiated with UHG and has secured a commitment that, in lieu of constructing the hardscape improvements on the westside of Myrtle, UHG will build additional parking spaces within the parking structure which will be

available to the public. The value of these additional parking spaces is far in excess of the value of the westside hardscape improvements. UHG will still be liable for the eastside improvements, as well as a portion of a traffic signal (shared with the developers of the Colorado Commons development) at Myrtle and Chestnut Avenues.

Staff is recommending approval of all four items.

Under Administrative Reports, there are three items for consideration. AR-1 is the proposed annual rate adjustment for Athens Services' commercial/industrial waste collection franchise in Old Town. Rates in Old Town continue to be well below market, service is good and customers are happy. Staff is recommending approval.

Item AR-2 is a progress report to the Council regarding the proposed General Plan update. As has been reported here many times over the last several months, and indeed the past year, the City's General Plan – in particular, the Myrtle Avenue Corridor from Old Town to the freeway; the proposed Station Square area; and West Huntington Drive – is currently under review. Staff will report on the type and number of comments submitted on the Draft EIR, Land Use and Circulation Elements. This item is only for Receive and File by the Council, however, as it will formally come before them for consideration in January 2008. This is simply another public review of all of the work and study going into this analysis.

Lastly, item AR-3 is the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Monrovia and the Monrovia Firefighters' Association. As of the writing of this report, the Association has not yet met and voted on City's offer. Pending their collective consideration, this matter may be considered or pulled on Tuesday night. Staff is recommending Council approval.

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

Gangs, Graffiti and Good Police Work

Over the weekend of November 17 and 18, Monrovia endured several gang-related shootings. While no one was critically injured, the volume of the incidents was newsworthy and was reported in the local press. Despite the quiet and peaceful summer we enjoyed (versus the turbulent summer of 2006), it would seem that local gang activity is creeping upward again. It is also noticeable in the increase in graffiti around town. While the graffiti is removed within 24 hours by the City's contractor (if you are aware of any graffiti that has not been abated, please contact us), and the Police have already made key arrests of some prolific taggers, we continue to work the anti-gang cases.

What this means is that the Monrovia Police Department will allocate more time and resources to anti-gang enforcement, patrol and, especially, community policing. Neighbors are one of our best sources of information regarding gang-related criminal activity – after all, no responsible citizen *wants* to live among the violence, blight and danger that invariably follow gang members and gang activity. Usually, when we see this type of increase in activity, it is indicative of a gang member coming back into the area (either moving back home or getting out prison or jail) and trying to reestablish their clique. Whether on parole, probation or even on general release, these individuals are usually recidivists, for whom it is only a matter of time before they end up back behind bars. Thanks to concerned neighbors and very dedicated police officers, we have a great deal of information regarding the shootings in particular, and who is back on the block and causing trouble in general.

We should never make allowances for or excuses for gang activity in our community. Regardless of whether the activity is localized in one neighborhood, or one group of people, or one family, gangs and the violence and crime they create are a burden to everyone who lives and works in this community.

Holiday Parade Ready to Kick-off

Please scroll down to the Community Services section of this Report to read more about the annual Old Town Holiday Parade, scheduled for Thursday, December 6. The Parade will step off at 7 p.m. sharp, but will be preceded by the annual Christmas tree lighting in Library Park at 6 p.m. Be sure to come out for an outstanding community event and a lot of fun for the whole family.

Update on Habitat for Humanity Project

The Redevelopment Agency has completed the demolition of the structure at 1214 Sherman. This site, along with the Agency-owned lot at 1218 Sherman, will be the home of a four-unit Habitat for Humanity development. Before the project can commence, Habitat needs to raise \$533,000 to fund the construction. To date they have raised \$181,000. Of this sum, \$100,000 was from a single donor. If you can think of anyone who may be interested in participating in this project, please encourage them to do what they can. While labor and materials are helpful, their primary need at this point is cash and funding resources.

Habitat has also begun the process of selecting the new homeowners. They look for families who have close ties to the community and who have the potential to make a positive contribution to the neighborhood. They also prefer families with children, so the house is fully utilized. If you know of any special families that might be interested, please have them contact Redevelopment Agency staffer Lauren Vasquez at (626) 303-6606.

Circuit City Coming to Monrovia

Last summer, Monrovia's CompUSA store was one of 15 stores closed in a cost-cutting measure by the corporation. Shortly afterwards, Circuit City expressed interest in assuming the leases for all of the CompUSA sites that they felt had strong reuse potential. The Redevelopment Agency closely monitored the efforts to re-tenant the property, and was surprised to learn in September that the Monrovia site was rejected by Circuit City. As we believe this is an excellent site, Agency staff initiated direct contact with Circuit City headquarters, located in Richmond, Virginia. As a result of our lobbying efforts, the selection committee reversed its initial rejection of the site, and has just signed a five-year lease with three five-year options. In speaking with their real estate representative about the change of heart, he indicated that in addition to being persuaded that it was a good site, Circuit City's corporate office was also significantly influenced by Monrovia's demonstrated track record of minimal red tape in securing necessary entitlements. In contrast, he cited negative past experiences they have had in the City of Los Angeles and other LA County locations.

It is difficult to overstate the positive impact this national tenant will have on the City. One only needs to look at the significant financial investment Duarte had to make to secure a Best Buy for their town to understand the direct and indirect value such a tenant brings to a community. Circuit City is a high profile anchor tenant at our most visible point of entry, and they bring a significant number of good jobs. Finally, they bring approximately \$175,000 in annual sales tax to the City's General Fund. Not only will this shore up the hit we absorbed by CompUSA's departure, but also adds value to the bottom line.

Kudos to Redevelopment Division Manager Kevin O'Brien and his team for helping make this happen!

Articles Attached

- **Federal Gold Line Funds Expected.** Everyone continues to see the need and positive impacts associated with the Gold Line – it's convincing LA that life goes on east of Old Pasadena that is the hard part.
- **OPINION: Share the Gold Line Dream.** On the one hand, I totally agree with the premise of this editorial. Yet on the other hand, aren't we all already paying the Prop C ¼-cent sales tax for transit? Didn't we already vote for the bond indebtedness for new transit projects? Before the San Gabriel Valley digs any deeper into its own pockets, I truly believe that LA needs to recognize that SGV is an important part of LA's interests, LA's economy, LA's workforce, and thus, LA's livelihood.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Building Division

Construction activity for the month of October was good in terms of valuation (\$7,471,464) and fees collected. The high valuation was attributed to a 20 unit PUD at the S/E corner of Monrovista and California, a new single family dwelling at the 500 block of Valmont and a new commercial building (Vege USA) at the S/W corner of Myrtle and Central. The remainder was for additions and alterations. Comparing the total valuation year-to-date of \$12,236,511 to last year's \$9,519,425, we get an increase of 28.54%. As a result of this high activity, the Division collected a total of \$81,429 in permit fees, an increase of 57.49% compared to last year at the same time. The total fees collected year-to-date is \$276,010.

The Division also issued 178 permits, which brings the total year to date to 939. Compared to last year's total of 647, this shows an increase of 45.13%. The inspection division made a total of 1,645 inspections including mechanical, electrical and plumbing, which brings the total year-to-date to 3,181, compared to last year's 3,119, a modest increase of 2%.

Monrovia Transit. The Monrovia Community Development staff continues its community outreach program aimed at improving the Monrovia Transit service.

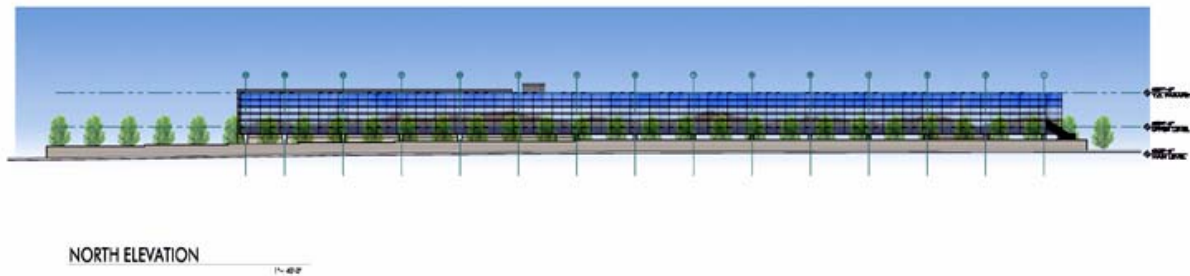
On November 27, Alfredo Enriquez, Planning Technician, met with the New Horizon Club and fielded concerns regarding the Dial-A-Ride service. Club members asked about offering more legroom between the seats, improving communication on pick-up locations and clarifying pick-up times between dispatch and riders. There were several members of the Club who expressed overall satisfaction with the Transit service. The meeting ended on a positive note, and Alfredo offered further assistance by leaving his business cards to facilitate answering future questions that may arise.

Community Development and Community Services will continue to expand its outreach efforts by meeting with different groups on a monthly basis.

Development Review Committee Recap. Below is a recap of the DRC meeting of November 28:

- A minor exception to allow a condenser unit to encroach in to the required side yard at 1020 Orange Avenue was approved between the attached garages of the subject site and the adjacent site.
- Signage was approved for the Chevron Station at 854 East Huntington Drive.

- The DRC recommended approval to the Planning Commission of two, two-story homes at 414 Royal Oaks Drive to replace the demolition of a single home.
- A new front porch was approved for 411 East Greystone Avenue which will significantly improve the façade of a single-family home.
- The DRC recommended approval to the Planning Commission of a single story office building over surface parking at 935 East Huntington Drive with conditions to architecturally improve the front entry area. This will substantially improve a site that has been predominantly vacant for several decades. Angelo Burger’s building was recently demolished on a portion of the site.



935 HUNTINGTON DRIVE
 MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA
CONTINENTAL DEVELOPMENT
 182 SOUTH LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 302
 MONROVIA, CA 91731

McKenty Malak
 ARCHITECTS
 212 East Highland Blvd., Suite 102
 Pasadena, California 91101-2242
 Tel: (626) 796-2242 Fax: (626) 796-2242

HUNTINGTON ELEVATION
 1/11/07
 800MM
EL-01

SCHEME SP-11

Access Services. Access Services is the designated Consolidated Transportation Services Agency for Los Angeles County. Los Angeles County has a population of 9.8 million and covers 4,061 square miles. Access Services is a next day, shared-ride and curb-to-curb service. Reservations are accepted between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. every day. Trips may be booked for any time during the next calendar day, and the pick-up time is subject to negotiation – up to an hour before or after the requested pick up time. The current fare is \$1.80 for trips under 20 miles and \$2.70 for 20 mile and longer trips.

For predictable and recurring trips, such as for work, dialysis treatment or school, standing order service is available. This option allows advanced routing of these trips and can be more cost effective. It also reduces the volume of calls to reservation centers. Service is provided with 592 dedicated vehicles, including vans, minivans and sedans (550 of which are owned by Access Services) and operated by six contractors. In addition, 816 pre-certified taxicabs are used to supplement the dedicated vehicles.

What does this mean for Monrovia? Access Services provided 12,146 trips in and out in Fiscal Year 2006-07. Monrovia has 287 eligible riders – individuals who have been registered by Access Services as not being capable to ride fixed route transit.

Additionally, Access Services provides rides for residents of other cities to access Monrovia businesses and services. For example, Movement Unlimited on Lemon Avenue provides services for rehabilitation and exercise to disabled persons and Access Services plays a large role in transporting these individuals.

If you'd like more information on Access Services please call (213) 270-6000 or go to the website at www.asila.org.

Historic Preservation Commission Recap—November 28. The Historic Preservation Commission had an unusually heavy agenda at its meeting on November 28. The evening began with a presentation by Linda Dempsey from the Monrovia Unified School District, who provided the Commission with an update on the renovations planned for Monrovia High School. The public hearing portion of the meeting included three items.

- Historic Landmark and Mills Act Contract—153 Highland Place. This English Revival house was built for William A. Chess, who was prominent in Monrovia's early years, serving two terms as City Treasurer (1894-99) and was on the Park and Library Commissions. The Commission unanimously recommended approval of the application to the City Council.
- Historic Landmark and Mills Act Contract—248 West Scenic Drive. Due to the Depression, not many houses were built in the 1930s in Monrovia or elsewhere. Those that were generally were simpler versions of those built during more prosperous times. This simplified version of a Colonial Revival was built in 1936 for Dr. Robert Crusan. Dr. Crusan was one of Monrovia's most prominent physicians and was also involved in several civic organizations. The Commission also unanimously recommended approval of this application to the City Council. Both landmark applications are scheduled for the December 4 City Council meeting.
- Certificate of Appropriateness—150 North Magnolia. As required by the Historic Preservation Ordinance, all exterior changes to structures on designated properties must be reviewed and approved by the Commission. This request involved the renovation of a second unit in the rear of the property. Even though this building was determined to be "non-contributing" to the historic nature of the property, the Commission reviews all exterior changes to ensure that it does not negatively impact the overall historic character. The proposed changes were approved.

The Commission also had several items under New Business, including the review of time extensions on the completion of Mills Act Contract conditions (approved) and a design review for an addition to a potential landmark at 379 North Encinitas Avenue (item continued).

Of note, the Commission looked at two proposals for buildings in Old Town. The architect for a proposed addition to the back of the building at 525 South Myrtle Avenue (The Myrtle Building) presented three concepts to the Commission for its comments. The preliminary review process has proven to be a great forum to build consensus regarding design issues by getting the Commission involved at the onset and to discuss various design options and potential concerns. As in this case, the architect left with clear direction from the Commission, which in turn should result in a streamlined design review.

The other proposal reviewed was for 601 South Myrtle Avenue. As almost everyone is aware, this building has sat vacant for years. In efforts to stimulate the improvement of this very important corner, the property was purchased by the Monrovia Redevelopment Agency. Dahl Architects was retained to design the remodel of the building and presented their proposal at the meeting. The Commission responded enthusiastically to the proposed remodel which resulted in a unanimous approval of the design.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Monrovia Public Library. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Monrovia Public Library is scheduled for December 5, at 4 p.m. in Library Park at 321 S. Myrtle Avenue. Come join the Monrovia City Council and the Monrovia Library Board as they officially break ground for the new library. Beginning December 7, the entire park will be fenced in preparation for the construction of the new 28,000 sq. ft. library.

Library Move. Most of the Monrovia Public Library's furniture and collections have been moved to the Mary Wilcox Youth Center. A large portion of the adult book collection, as well as all of the children's non-fiction books, have been unpacked and shelved at the temporary location. Library staff is busy working with the movers on shelving and furniture placement, fine tuning the placement of the collections on the shelves and unpacking hundreds of boxes of office items. The Library should be completely moved out of the Myrtle Avenue location by Friday, with the movers' work continuing at the Wilcox Center into next week.

Although the outside parking lot book drop has been removed, books may still be returned to the inside book drop at the Myrtle Avenue Library. As soon as the outside book drop is installed at the Wilcox Center, patrons may return materials there. The library will reopen to the public at its temporary location on Monday, December 17.

Annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Parade

Join the Monrovia City Council and the Department of Community Services for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and "Holidays Around the World" Parade scheduled for Thursday, December 6. The tree lighting ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. at the corner of Myrtle and Palm Avenues followed by the Parade at 7 p.m. The parade route begins at Myrtle and Chestnut, proceeding north, and concludes on Myrtle and Palm Avenues. There are 100 entries this year and the entire community is invited to come enjoy all the holiday festivities!

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 64 emergency calls from 0800 hours November 21 to 0800 hours November 28. Significant incidents include:

Structure Fire. On Tuesday morning, firefighters responded to a reported structure fire in the 600 block of West Olive. Upon arrival, the home was well involved in fire. The resident of the home awoke to the smell of smoke and was able to escape without injury. Firefighters extinguished the flames and began an investigation into the cause. The fire was determined to have started in the basement heating unit.

Oven Fire. On Friday morning, firefighters responded to the 200 block of Heliotrope on a reported oven fire. A small fire had started when the homeowner turned the broiler on without removing plastic cooking utensils stored inside. Firefighters quickly extinguish the flames and removed smoke from the home. Fire damage was confined to the oven.

Brush Fire. Early Saturday morning, firefighters responded to the brush fire in the Corral Canyon area of Malibu. Firefighters received an immediate assignment to protect five homes on Corral Canyon road. Upon arrival, one of the five homes was fully involved in fire. Firefighters extinguished the flames and began to extend hose lines to protect the remaining structures. The remaining four homes were not damaged.

FIRE PREVENTION

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries with Thanksgiving being the peak day. Between 1999 and 2002, there were 114,000 reported home fires, resulting in an annual 290 deaths and 4,380 injuries. To have a happy and safe holiday season, please follow these tips from NFPA:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- If you must leave the home for even a short period of time, turn off the stove or oven.
- If you are simmering, baking, boiling or roasting food, check it regularly and remain in the home while food is cooking. Use a timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.
- Stay alert. Don't cook if you are sleepy, have been drinking alcohol or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy.
- Keep things that burn – pot holders, oven mitts, paper or plastic - off your stovetop.
- Don't store things that can burn in an oven, microwave or toaster oven.
- Clean food and grease off burners, stovetops and ovens.
- Wear clothing with sleeves that are short, close fitting or tightly rolled up.
- Keep kids away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove.
- Use the stove's back burners whenever possible, and turn pot handles inward to reduce the risk that pots with hot contents will be knocked over.
- Never hold a small child while cooking.

TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The training division is hosting three days of RIC (Rapid Intervention Crew) training this week (November 28, 29 & 30). The classes are being conducted in our newly remodeled training room facility at Fire Station 101. The classes are being taught by members of the Monrovia Fire Department and Arcadia Fire Department. These classes were originally taught several months ago and offered to every fire department in the Verdugo response area. The classes being hosted this week in Monrovia are giving additional personnel who missed the training an opportunity to receive the make-up training sessions. Firefighter Mike Bailey is primarily responsible for organizing and scheduling this week's event. On Wednesday, November 28, we had several members from the Arcadia Fire Department, Monrovia Fire Department and the US Department of Forestry (E112). Captain Dave Hutchinson (ARCFD) and Captain Tom Devlin (ARCFD) are assisting as instructors.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Holiday Season Safety Reminder: What's a holiday party or even the traditional Christmas morning scene itself without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household, as those of more than 33 million other American homes, includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion – "keep the tree watered." That's good advice and not just to create a fragrant indoor winter wonderland atmosphere. Christmas trees account for 200 fires annually, resulting in six deaths, 25 injuries and more than \$6 million in property damage. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem – dry and neglected trees can be. In addition to keeping your Christmas tree well watered, these tips can be helpful:

- All Christmas lights should be UL approved
- You should limit the number of stringed lights to no more than three and they should be plugged into a surge protection outlet
- Never allow an open flame (candles, decorations, etc.) to be near a tree and never leave the open flame unattended

The Monrovia Fire Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 487 calls for service resulting in 113 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Driving Under the Influence. On November 21 at 9:11 p.m., a citizen called to report a subject driving erratically in the area of Shamrock and Royal Oaks. Officers patrolling near the area responded and spotted the vehicle westbound on Royal Oaks at a high rate of speed. The vehicle went south on California and was stopped by the officers. The driver was found to be driving under the influence and was arrested for DUI.

Outside Warrants / Drunk in Public. On November 22 at 2:48 a.m., officers stopped a vehicle in the 3300 block of South Peck because two occupants in the back seat did not have their seat belts on. The male subject in the back seat was found to have three warrants for his arrest, and he was in possession of marijuana. The warrants indicated extradition in California. He was arrested and later taken to county jail. His female friend was found to be drunk in public and was also arrested.

Hit and Run / Driving Under the Influence. On November 22 at 2:56 a.m., we received a call reporting a traffic collision possibly on Foothill and Mauna Loa. An officer responded and advised there was a collision between a vehicle and a parked car, and the driver had fled the location northbound on foot. He checked the area for the driver and observed a possible suspect trying to get into a house. The officer detained the suspect and he was identified as the driver. The driver was found to be driving under the influence and was arrested for DUI and delaying a police officer.

Suspicious Subjects / Burglary Arrest. On November 22 at 10:30 a.m., officers went to the 1800 block of South Alta Vista regarding two suspicious subjects. When officers arrived, they observed a male subject walking a bicycle to a garage at the rear of a property. The suspect appeared to be trying to conceal the bicycle in the garage. The officers contacted the suspect, and through investigation, they identified a second suspect who had dropped his backpack and fled the scene when he saw the patrol cars. The suspects did not know the property owner and did not have his permission to be on his property or in his garage. The backpack contained approximately 15 pounds of copper wire, a gas torch, and some additional burglary tools. The first suspect was arrested at the scene and a wanted person alert was put out for the second suspect.

Driving Under the Influence / Assault on a Peace Officer. On November 23 at approximately 2:30 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on Primrose, just north of Walnut. The officer determined the driver was driving under the influence and arrested the driver. The passenger was released and left the scene. As the officer was processing the vehicle, someone began throwing rocks at him from an unknown direction.

As assisting units arrived to investigate, the rocks were still being thrown. The officers observed a possible suspect with a ladder to the rear of a residence. As they confronted the suspect, he fled on foot. As the officers approached the suspect, he took an aggressive stance, struggling with the officers and resisting arrest. The suspect was sprayed with pepper spray and was then taken into custody without further incident. At that time, the officers identified the suspect as the passenger from the DUI incident, and he was arrested for assault on a peace officer.

Pedestrian in Roadway / Public Intoxication / Resisting and Delaying a Peace Officer. On November 25 at 12:16 a.m., an officer was driving westbound in the 100 block of West Palm when a male subject stepped out in front of officer's patrol unit. The officer stopped his vehicle and got out to detain the subject. The subject was intoxicated and became verbally confrontational with the officer and began reaching into his pockets. He ignored orders from the officer and attempted to walk away.

Assisting officers arrived and helped handcuff the suspect, who was physically resisting arrest. The suspect was taken to the police station and booked.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon. On November 25 at 12:29 a.m., dispatch received calls of a fight in front of a bar in the 300 block of South Myrtle involving bats. As units arrived, witnesses said the suspect vehicle fled eastbound. An officer located the vehicle going southbound on Mountain. A high-risk stop was conducted and two suspects were detained. Further investigation revealed the two suspects had beaten a male victim with his own personal pool cue as a result of an argument inside the bar location. Positive identification was made of the suspects, and both suspects were arrested and taken into custody.

Domestic Violence. On November 25 at 7:58 a.m., a male and female couple entered the police lobby arguing. Officers interviewed both subjects and determined they had battered each other during an argument at their residence. The female subject complained of pain to her neck and requested paramedics, who responded to the lobby. The subject was treated in the lobby and released by paramedics. Both subjects were arrested for domestic violence.

Grand Theft Shoplifting. On November 25 at 3:42 p.m., two female suspects entered a business in the 500 block of West Huntington. The suspects selected and concealed five hundred dollars worth of clothing. Store security called police and asked for officers to wait outside the store for the suspects to exit. Officers arrested the suspects as they left the store and they were taken into custody.

Armed Robbery. November 25 at 7 p.m., dispatch received a call reporting a robbery that had just occurred in the parking lot of a business on Mountain Avenue. A female victim was robbed of her purse by a male suspect with a knife. The suspect fled in a pickup truck with another male suspect who was driving. The victim's purse was recovered an hour later in El Monte by Los Angeles Sheriff's deputies, who returned the purse to the victim. The suspect vehicle was also located in El Monte, and as the car was being towed, the male suspect came out of his apartment in the area. He was contacted by Monrovia officers who had been watching the vehicle. The suspect admitted to the crime and was arrested and taken into custody without incident. The second suspect is still outstanding.

Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance / Man with a Gun. November 25 at 11 p.m., dispatch received an anonymous call reporting a man with a gun to the rear of a residence in the 400 block of Monrovia. Officers went to the rear of the location and saw a male subject run down the side of the residence. The subject was detained. Investigation shows that the subject was living in the garage with the resident's permission. The suspect was determined to be under the influence of a controlled substance. Entry to the garage was granted by the female homeowner, who also said she did not want the subject living in her garage anymore. A gun was located in the living space of the subject. The suspect was arrested and booked without incident.

Fire Assist / Wanted Person Arrested. On November 26 at 7:31 a.m., the Monrovia Fire Department was dispatched to a medical call in the 1400 block of Encino regarding a knife laceration. The subject accidentally cut himself while stripping copper wire. Two police officers responded to the call and discovered the victim was wanted by the Police Department for receiving stolen property. He was transported to the hospital for treatment and then taken into custody.

Domestic Violence. On November 26 at 11:23 p.m., an officer contacted a 17-year-old female in the lobby. She stated her 18-year-old boyfriend and father of her four-month-old baby picked her up and threw her over a fence causing her to break a bone in her right arm. The boyfriend then forced her into his vehicle against her will and drove her around for several hours. He eventually dropped her off at her work, where co-workers called paramedics. She later went to a hospital for treatment, but left before she was seen. This is when she came to the Police Department to report the incident. An arrest warrant has been completed.

Resisting and Delaying a Peace Officer / Challenging to Fight / Possession of Marijuana. On November 27 at 10:01 p.m., an officer stopped a motorist for failing to stop for a stop sign at Mountain

and Foothill. When the officer contacted the driver, the driver was visibly angry and disputed the violation. The driver became increasingly angry and would not follow the officer's instructions and challenged the officer to fight. The driver was arrested and booked on the listed charges.

Residential Burglary. On November 28 at 6:37 p.m., officers went to the 400 block of Patterson regarding a burglary report. The victim left her residence at 7:30 a.m. and returned at about 6:30 p.m. She thought her back door had been broken open, but the officers determined the entry point was an open bedroom window. The suspect took miscellaneous cash and jewelry. The exit point was the back door.

Residential Burglary. On November 28 at 11:48 p.m., officers went to the 400 block of Patterson regarding a burglary report. The victim reported the house broken into at about 11:30 a.m. The entry point was an open window. The suspect took cash from the location. This house is two houses away from a location that was also burglarized.



ENGINEERING:

Approved Grading Plans:

- 831 Huntington Drive, Ready for permits.

Public Works Inspections:

- 911 Royal Oaks – Sidewalk & Driveway, repairs have been completed
- California, Monrovia & Duarte, footings and pads to be poured 11/28/07
- Huntington Drive / Shamrock Bus Shelters – inspect framing
- 1111 Orange – Final inspection
- 202 E. Foothill – Sidewalk Demo & Replacement
- 803 Norumbega – 3rd plan check for correction

Construction Documents:

- Colorado Commons preconstruction meeting.

OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:

Monrovia Calendar Contest. Staff made the final design edits to the Monrovia Recycles 2008 Calendar featuring artwork from Monrovia's Fifth Grade students. The contest winners will be recognized at the December 4 City Council meeting. Calendars will be available to the public in mid December.

Holiday Waste Prevention Guide. Holiday waste prevention guides are now available at City Hall and Public Works counters. The guide offers helpful reuse and recycling ideas and "green" gift purchasing for the holiday season.

Computerized Maintenance Management System. Facilities staff is currently implementing a new Computerized Maintenance Management System Program to streamline and process work orders more efficiently.

Intersection Electrical Pedestal Replacement. The electrical pedestal serving the intersection of Huntington Dr. at Shamrock Avenue was replaced last week due to ongoing blackouts to the signals and street sign. The intersection is now operating normally.

Traffic Signal Pole Replacements. Traffic signal poles were replaced last week due to traffic accidents at the intersections of Foothill Blvd. at Fifth Ave. and Duarte Rd. at Mayflower Ave. The intersections are now fully operational.

Old Town Holiday Decorations. Old Town received a toy soldier and snowman this week on Myrtle Avenue. The toy soldier is in the center median just below Foothill, and the snowman is at the northeast corner of Myrtle and Lemon. Wreaths are also being added around City Hall and the Police Station.

Damaged Tree. A large tree limb from a Chinese Elm had fallen in the 300 block of north Myrtle last Friday blocking the entire street. The tree had to be removed due to extensive damage that was caused by the limb tearing away from the trunk of the tree.

Parkway Street of the Month. Street of the Month for December will be Myrtle Avenue from Scenic to Duarte Road. Parks Staff will be raising trees, cleaning tree wells, eliminating sucker growth and tidying up the City's parkways and easements.

Graffiti Removal. Graffiti continues to be on the rise as our Graffiti Removal Contractor received 59 calls and removed 288 tags during Thanksgiving Week.

STREETS:

Traffic Signs:

- Graffiti removal from traffic signs in the 500 block of Diamond Street,
- The 500 north and 100 south blocks of California Avenue, California and Lemon
- Paint new red curbing at 1611 S. Mayflower Avenue

Miscellaneous:

- Sidewalk Repair: 363 Heather Heights Court, 363 N. Magnolia Avenue, 166 Acacia Avenue
- Repaired concrete curbing at 426 & 433 Highland Place, 523 W. Walnut
- Patched potholes at Valle Vista & Sierra Vista, 400 Block of West Colorado, Norumbega & Elfwood Drives.

UTILITIES:

Customer Service

- 2,421 water meters were read and recorded
- 38 work orders were completed
- 155 Shut-off notices were distributed
- 8 water services were reactivated

Water Production

- Water consumption is 46.2 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
- 6 water treatment facility samplings

Utility Maintenance

- 3 water services were repaired
- 17 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 18,000 feet of sewer mains were cleaned

Utility maintenance crews assisted in the demolition and removal of the concrete wall and asphalt pavement at the Public Works Corporate Yard; replaced electrical pullboxes and cleaned drains at the Youth Center parking lot; removed the deposit box at the library and relocated the box at the Youth Center parking lot.

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Tues., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Weds., Dec. 5, 4 p.m.	Monrovia Library Groundbreaking
Thurs., Dec. 6, 6 p.m.	Tree Lighting Ceremony, Library Park
Thurs., Dec. 6, 7 p.m.	Holiday Parade; Myrtle Avenue
Tues., December 18, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
<i>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25</i>	<i>CHRISTMAS DAY, CITY HALL CLOSED</i>
<i>TUESDAY, JANUARY 1</i>	<i>NEW YEARS DAY, CITY HALL CLOSED</i>
<i>TUESDAY, JANUARY 1</i>	<i>CITY COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLED</i>

CMO ATTACHMENTS:

Federal Gold Line funds expected

By Fred Ortega, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 11/27/2007 11:10:24 PM PST

PASADENA - Congress members said Tuesday they expect to secure about \$320 million in federal funding for the first phase of the Gold Line extension - as long as state and local officials can come up with the remaining \$80 million.

Speaking at his office, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena, said there was a "good chance" that language guaranteeing an 80 percent commitment would make it into the final version of a federal transportation bill. A representative for Rep. David Dreier, R-San Dimas, also was optimistic about the federal funding.

"(Dreier) is very confident about a federal match," said Alisa Do, Dreier's spokeswoman, who was joined by representatives from half a dozen other state and federal lawmakers at the summit, as well as mayors from the various cities along the proposed 24-mile, light-rail route from Pasadena to Montclair.

Environmental studies and preliminary design work have already been completed for the project, which could reach the border of Azusa and Glendora by 2011. But officials need about \$400 million to build that first phase of the line.

That means state and local agencies have to come up with about \$80 million if they want to start the project on schedule by the end of next year.

"I feel confident the (Federal Transit Administration) will help us, but they won't simply accept our word - they want money on the table," said Schiff, who was joined via teleconference by Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Santa Fe Springs, during the meeting. They promised to present a letter to federal transportation officials touting the bipartisan show of support for the project by local officials.

The meeting also included strategy sessions to determine where the local funding would come from, Schiff said. The focus of the strategy sessions was the roughly \$3.6 billion in mass-transit funding provided by Proposition 1B, the transportation bond approved by voters last year.

"Pursuing that bond money is the chief avenue we are considering," said Rob Charles, chief of staff for Assemblyman Ed Hernandez, D-West Covina. "There is of course the option of direct appropriation, though that is less likely given the current state budget crunch."

Any Gold Line funding from the Proposition 1B bond would have to first be approved by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Charles said.

Based on allocation formulas determined by the state Legislature, the MTA should receive about \$1 billion of the \$3.6 billion in Proposition 1B money available for mass transit, said John Fasana, a Duarte councilman and MTA board member.

"Metro will probably program about \$160 million of that money this week, but none of that will be for the Gold Line," said Fasana. "Frankly, many board members including (Los Angeles) Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa are very frustrated that they haven't programmed any of that money for new projects."

That is because much of the funding is being used to backfill about \$300 million MTA lost earlier this year, when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger shifted more than \$1 billion away from the state transportation budget.

"Our hope is that going forward we will be able to get at least some of that money for the Gold Line," said Fasana, who did not rule out the floating of bonds by local municipalities to make up the difference. "We are going to have to decide as cities what we are willing to do at the local level," Fasana said.

All of the local officials present Tuesday pledged their support for the project. "We are very excited," said Montclair Mayor Paul Eaton. "Almost daily, people in my city call us and ask when they are going to be able to ride the light rail."

Monrovia Mayor Rob Hammond said his residents have already been dealing with increased congestion since the connection of the 210 Freeway to the 15 Freeway opened.

"We have to give our residents alternatives (to driving)," Hammond said. "If we don't do something now, the problems are only going to get worse."

fred.ortega@sgvn.com (626) 962-8811, Ext. 2306

OPINION:

Share the Gold Line dream

Article Launched: 11/28/2007 08:49:28 PM PST

SHOULD foothill cities in the San Gabriel Valley, from Pasadena in the west to Montclair in the east, expect to have to pitch in money of their own to see the Gold Line light-rail extension completed?

They should if they want to see the thing built.

It's the cold reality. The federal government is simply in no position to fund the tracks and the trains on its own. It's spending our tax dollars elsewhere - like in Iraq. And, to borrow a fine line from GOP presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee, it's spending them like Sen. John Edwards in a beauty shop.

But, really, it's only appropriate that local city halls help fund the mass-transit line that will help out local residents in their transportation needs.

Painful, but appropriate.

Once built, the full Gold Line would be a boon to more than the cities through which it runs, of course. Residents of other cities and areas will flock, it is to be hoped, to an alternative to virtually perpetual gridlock on the new, "improved" Foothill (210) Freeway, which is worse than ever now that its own extension east has opened.

And our other areas in eastern Los Angeles County may have an opportunity to pitch in on their own. Word is that another Gold Line extension - the confusingly double-named line now being built from Union Station near downtown Los Angeles to unincorporated East L.A. - may in the future head toward Whittier. It's a natural way for the line to go as our region ploddingly moves toward becoming a metropolitan area with medium-range transit options that, unlike bus lines, are impervious to slowdowns on roadways already packed with cars and trucks.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena, knows a thing or two about getting Gold Line options moving again. It's largely thanks to his financial maneuvering when in the state Legislature that we have the relatively short stretch of Gold Line - from Los Angeles to its current east Pasadena terminus - that we have in the first place.

So we congratulate the congressman on hosting the meeting this week that brought together every mayor along the extension route, as well as a representative from the office of Rep. David Dreier, R-La Verne, to discuss the funding realities.

Many questions remain. Would the cities have to float individual bonds to pay for their share? How would the cost be apportioned? How would it be apportioned differently for Pasadena, which is already covered, at least so far as the line from east to west and south goes? (Clearly Pasadena residents would also use the line to go to the eastern San Gabriel Valley - but we would guess not nearly so much as for heading downtown.)

The good news is that these tough questions are now being tackled. But if the federal government, as Schiff and Dreier believe, can come up with \$320 million toward the first phase of the extension, east from Pasadena to Azusa, then local cities can somehow come up with \$80 million as their share.

It's either that, or lose the Gold Line dream for now.