



# From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



December 8, 2006

## ***Measure L to Appear on March 2007 Ballot***

The big headline of the December 5 City Council meeting was that the Council voted unanimously to pursue a special parcel tax of \$62 per single-family residential parcel on the March 2007 ballot for Monrovia voters to consider. The proposed tax assessment varies for apartments, commercial & industrial property and vacant land, based on property type (for specific assessment levels for these types of property, please visit the City's website at [www.cityofmonrovia.org](http://www.cityofmonrovia.org)). This property assessment will support a tax-exempt bond issue of approximately \$15.5 million that would be used to design, construct and outfit a new 28,000-square-foot Monrovia Public Library. This project has been a long time in the making and represents the diligent work of the Library Board and staff, the Community Services Department, and of course, the City Council.

At the meeting, the City Council studied a historical perspective as to how the project has changed over the last 10 years; examined the progression of the floor plan, work program and exterior elevations; received and filed the findings of the recently completed telephone survey; and finally, debated and discussed the merits of putting the matter before the voters in March 2007.

Based on the attractiveness and consensus support of the proposed library's exterior elevations and the 71% approval rating that the telephone survey indicated, the Council decided unanimously to put the issue before the voters. I am attaching a Pasadena Star News article and a Monrovia Weekly article that appeared on Thursday morning, which outline the discussions by the Council. I am very pleased with the effort that the Library Board and staff have demonstrated to this point, and I look forward to the aggressive campaign that the "Yes on Measure L Committee" will put forward in the coming months.

If you would like more information about the Library project, please feel free to visit the City's website and click on the icon for the Library Renovation Project. There you will find "information only" on this item as the City cannot advocate for the project one way or another. If you have any other questions about the discussion that the Council had, please feel free to give me a call.

### **December 5 City Council Meeting Recap**

The December 5 meeting was one of the longer sessions that we have had in a few months, and not just because of the extended presentation and discussion on the library. In addition to that momentous decision, the Council also took on some fairly meaty items that generated a good deal of discussion. Specifically, we had a number of public hearings, the first two of which dealt with the Redevelopment Agency's investment in the Monrovista Avenue neighborhood, which is located in the southeast corner of the city; and secondly, an extensive discussion regarding the City's Historic Preservation Program.

Public Hearings 1 and 2 were, respectively, the General Plan Amendment to allow the zoning entitlements for Envision Development's proposed project at California and Duarte Road, and the

tentative tract map for this project. The Council considered the specific zoning regulations that were approved by the Planning Commission, that reviewed and approved this project at its last meeting. You may recall that this project was originally considered by the City Council (acting as the Redevelopment Agency Board) several months ago when the development agreement was first granted to the Envision group. While the entitlement package contains a great deal more specificity than the development agreement (which really focused on the development concept), the Council had a great deal of familiarity with this affordable housing project.

It should be pointed out that the project has changed somewhat since the original concept was submitted. The originally proposed development contemplated a 28-unit attached condominium complex with tuck-under parking. After meeting with residents and neighbors in the surrounding area, the project was reduced from 28 condo units to 20 detached units in order to alleviate the development pressure on the existing residents. As part of the Redevelopment Agency's investment, four of these units will be made available to affordable-income homebuyers. The exterior elevations of the project are an obvious and overwhelmingly positive improvement to this neighborhood, especially considering what had been there before — an old junkyard. This project, taken together with the 14-home planned unit development currently being constructed further down Monrovista Avenue by Bourne Construction, will truly anchor this neighborhood for generations to come. Lastly, these two projects fully demonstrate the Council's willingness to spread investment and opportunity to all Monrovia neighborhoods.

Still, this particular neighborhood has many challenges and, during the public hearing, the project was not without some level of debate. Two residents from the Monrovista/Hurstview Avenue neighborhood attended the hearing and asked the Council to consider three issues that they have consistently brought up at each stage of the Envision and Bourne development project entitlement hearings. First, these two residents pointed out that drainage at California & Hurstview Avenues is a problem and should be fixed. This intersection floods fairly easily during heavy rains. Second, they stated that Monrovista Avenue, which features a cul-de-sac at the east end of the street, should be opened at both ends. And lastly, they felt that instead of more housing (or at least in addition to more housing) in this neighborhood, the City should create a park for local residents to use.

As Mayor Hammond and the rest of the City Council pointed out during the public hearing, these are all valid and important issues. And, in an ideal setting, all three of these issues could and would be addressed posthaste. Yet, in reality, a number of important factors make these issues much more complex. As stated above, these requests have been brought forward at every step both the Bourne and the Envision projects. Thus, they have received ample consideration. And in the end, geography, jurisdiction and economics essentially preclude any easy fix.

Looking at the geographical issue, Monrovista and the north-side of Hurstview Avenue are the only two residentially-zoned streets in the entire southeast part of Monrovia (in the area south of the freeway and east of Myrtle Avenue; all other "residential" areas are actually zoned Planned Development or "PD"). They are an island of single family homes and duplexes surrounded by a cemetery to the west, industrial buildings and the Gold Line right-of-way to the north, and newer industrial buildings to the east. To the south (on the south side of Hurstview), is the Los Angeles County unincorporated area, which is not a part of either the City of Monrovia or Duarte. Historically, the County unincorporated areas are left lagging behind in terms of public services and infrastructure as compared to neighborhoods that exist within incorporated city limits. As you might guess, the City of Monrovia has no jurisdiction in this unincorporated area.

With respect to the storm water run-off issue, the County unincorporated area (which stretches from the south-side of Hurstview Avenue all the way down to Live Oak Avenue in a jagged configuration) has little in the way of an effective storm drain system. Aside from basic curbs and gutters, the nearest storm drain catch basin is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile down California Avenue in the County area.

Thus, when excess storm water runs off of Monrovia and Hurstview (as well as any of the County streets to the south) the water tends to pool along California Avenue. In other words, without a catch basin in the immediate vicinity, the water can only flow southbound down the curb and gutter; and because the water has no where else to go, it simply backs up until it ultimately can make its way down California, into the catch basin there, and into to the Sawpit Flood Control channel.

Hence, the dilemma - even if the City of Monrovia constructed a storm drain catch basin at Hurstview and California, there is nowhere for the storm drain to flow unless the County is willing to pay to build out their portion of the system to connect it to the storm drain catch basin on lower California Avenue. Thus far, the County has been reluctant to commit to this due to lack of funds.

Perhaps, the real and long-term answer to the issue, as Councilman Adams offered at the meeting, is for the County residents to petition the Board of Supervisors to assess themselves to construct the storm drain system. The County's precarious financial condition is a real and legitimate concern, and thus the residents have a greater likelihood of seeing this work completed if they opt to rely only on themselves. Naturally, the City of Monrovia would consider accepting the assessment (as a standard public works project) on behalf of its residents.

With respect to the cul-de-sac issue, I can only reflect upon past history in this neighborhood. For years, this particular neighborhood was notorious for gang and drug activity as cars would drive through the neighborhood buying or selling drugs, and/or causing violence. About 10 years ago, the City constructed a temporary barricade at the end of Monrovia Avenue to reduce the traffic on the street. By stopping the flow of traffic and inhibiting drive-throughs (and drive-bys), we were able to help stabilize the neighborhood. The ensuing progress has culminated with this multi-million dollar investment of new housing into the area.

The obvious question here is, "Will Monrovia Avenue be able to handle all of the new cars and trips associated with the new projects through one ingress and egress at California Avenue?" With 34 new units coming into this street, there is some understandable concern by the residents about traffic congestion. However, there are two things to consider. First, traffic studies have been conducted to examine this very issue and the indication from the objective data is that the one ingress and egress is sufficient. Second, the prudent course of action is to leave the cul-de-sac in place until such time that the projects are constructed and new buyers have taken root in the neighborhood, and then re-evaluate the original baseline traffic studies to measure the level of activity (cars, trips, etc.). Otherwise, by eliminating the cul-de-sac too soon, we might be inviting back the festering problems of gang activity and drugs, only to spend the money a second time to reconstruct the cul-de-sac.

As for the creation of a public park in this neighborhood, quite frankly, there simply is not enough money to locate, buy, clear and establish a park on Monrovia. Because this neighborhood is a small island unto itself, this would represent an inequitable allocation of resources with respect to the rest of the community. Instead, what the City has focused on is a more substantial investment as part of the proposed Station Square development that will surround the existing Gold Line right-of-way. With a significant amount of parks and open space planned as part of this larger development, I think we can accomplish everyone's goals of creating a safe, usable park space that we can all be proud of, and do so in the most cost-effective manner possible.

On the other hand, if residents are reluctant to cross Duarte Road for whatever reason (traffic, etc.), there are currently open space opportunities in the immediate vicinity. The County's Pamela Park as well as Duarte Unified School District's Maxwell School (ironically enough, it is located within Monrovia city limits) are within walking distance along surface streets. We all pay the County assessment for its parks, and thus all LA County residents - including Monrovians - are fully entitled to use such facilities. Yet, if it is a City-owned neighborhood park that these residents desire, the best bet is the Station Square project.

I believe that the two residents were still dissatisfied with the hard truth of the impracticality of their requests. There are solutions, to be sure. But they are complex and they will evolve over time. At the end of the public hearing, Mayor Hammond offered, and we will most definitely follow up with, a neighborhood meeting to listen to all of the issues and try our best to earnestly explain why these are simply not clear-cut, easily resolved items. In the end, I think Councilman Tom Adams had perhaps the most pragmatic solution, albeit not necessarily the easiest; and that is for the residents of the unincorporated island to petition to be incorporated into the City of Monrovia. Quite frankly, and with no disrespect to the County of Los Angeles, Monrovia affords its citizens a higher level of service in practically every program area of municipal government – from public safety to community services to community development. As the old saying goes, “you get what you pay for.”

Naturally, if you have any questions about either of these two projects, please feel free to give me a call.

With respect to the Historic Preservation Public Hearing, the Council proudly discussed the number of residents coming forward to petition for historic landmark designation and Mills Act contracts. Indeed, it appears that the Wild Rose neighborhood will soon become its own local “Historic District,” given the number of impressive Craftsman homes that line the street.

Because the Mills Act program affords property tax benefits to owners of historic homes (that qualify for landmark designation), our Historic Preservation Program is not without its costs. In essence, we bleed off property tax revenues that would otherwise flow to the City’s General Fund in order to allow the owners of historic homes to renovate the property for the betterment of the entire community. The Council demonstrated its breadth of knowledge on this matter in considering future financial impacts associated with our Historic Preservation Program. It just goes to show that balancing priorities comes with hard choices.

The other items on the agenda were generally positive and uplifting, ranging from a requested study to expand hours of operation here at City Hall (which will be forthcoming early next year); and two Police Department programs – one aimed at eliminating the blight of graffiti and another to purchase a T3 personal mobility vehicle for officers working in the Old Town District. Essentially, the T3 is similar to a Segway personal mobility vehicle that will allow officers to interact more readily with local residents, shoppers and visitors to Monrovia. This is a very solid investment in positive public relations by the Department.

As always, if you have any questions about anything on the Agenda, please feel free to give me a call.

### **Old Town Construction Marches On**

The Old Town Streetscape Project is entering the second week of Phase IV, the east side of the 100 and 200 blocks of South Myrtle Avenue. As of this week, we have formed and poured all of the curb and gutter for this segment and beginning next week we will be forming and pouring sections of the new sidewalk, primarily in the middle of the 200 block. I anticipate that by the end of next week we will be forming up the corners at Foothill and Myrtle and Palm and Myrtle; and by the week of the 18<sup>th</sup>, we should be pouring all of the remaining sidewalk areas. If we can maintain the current momentum and pace, we will conclude this phase of the project by December 22.

The pace of construction at Colorado Commons is also moving along smoothly. As reported last week, we are nearing the end of the excavation phase of the project and I anticipate only a few days more of major dirt removal from the site. I can empathize with surrounding residents who may have been bothered by the dust from all the digging, yet please rest assured that on-site superintendents are doing their dead-level best to keep the site wet in order to keep the dust down. Primarily, the

problem we seem to have is that at the end of the afternoon, as the Santa Ana winds kick up. It moves some of the drier dirt around, but I am pleased to have a very conscientious builder in Snyder Langston; and they are doing everything within their power to make this part of the project as least inconvenient as possible.

If you have any questions about either of these two projects, please feel free to contact me directly.

### **Articles Attached**

- **Monrovia to Vote on Library Tax.**
- **Plans for Library Move Forward.**

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

#### **Planning Commission Meeting – December 13, 2006**

The Commission will hear the following items:

- A Hillside Development Permit continued from the November 15 meeting for construction of a two-story, 2,693-square-foot single-family residence with an attached two-car garage in the RE zone. Access will be taken from a common driveway easement that currently provides access to an adjacent easterly lot improved with a single-family residence.
- A time extension for 1128 South Myrtle Avenue for an addition to the Monrovia Animal Hospital.

**Business Services.** During the month of October, the following activities were generated:

- Filming Permits Issued 3
- Special Event Permit: 4
- Yard Sale Permits: 67
- Revenue Generated: \$52,837.94.

**Code Enforcement Services.** During the month of October, Neighborhood Preservation Division staff:

- Conducted 627 inspections
- Opened 168 code cases
- Closed/Cleared 93 cases (Includes commercial code enforcement)
- Referred 0 cases to the City Prosecutor's Office due to non-compliance
- Abated 8 inoperable vehicles (repaired, removed or stored properly)
- Caused the removal of 435 shopping carts; and 351 pieces of discarded items (i.e., appliances, furniture, auto parts and trash and debris) from the public right-of-way
- Conducted 10 informal code education meetings/hearing with property owners.

**Neighborhood Services Section.** For the Month of October, Section Staff provided the following Information:

- M.A.P. Applicants: 19; Applications Processed: 11; Projects Started: 0;
- Projects Completed: 0; Emergency Grants: 1
- C.P.R. Cases in Progress: 3; C.P.R. Cases Opened: 3; C.P.R. Cases Closed: 13
- HandyWorker Applicants: 15; Applications Processed: 3; Projects Started: 2
- Projects Completed: 2

Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Update. The MAP Program requires applicants to get involved in their neighborhood via community activism and volunteerism. Participation in this program includes the Code Education component, through which applicants receive training on health, safety and general welfare municipal code issues. On December 5, four applicants attended the training given by Neighborhood Preservation Division staff and the Community Activist Policing Unit. Training included the relationship between crime and blight relationship), neighborhood activism, code enforcement programs and community activist policing.

It's interesting to note that two of the four applicants are previous Neighborhood Pride awardees who'll continue to take the lead in abating neighborhood blight through needed repairs and chain link fence replacement. Participants were given the chance to be the code enforcement officer and "call out" code violations observed in the visual presentation. The applicants really enjoyed this portion of the training. Staff gave MAP update information and all parties enjoyed the community improvement discussion.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2006**

The following items are on the Commission Agenda for December;

- Recognition of Vacancies and Appointment of Directors of the Wilderness Preserve Foundation
- Monrovia Reads and Plays Mobile Literacy and Recreation Program

### **LIBRARY DIVISION**

Children's Holiday Library Program. The holiday season kicks off at the Library on December 9 with the Saturday Special "*Sugar Plum Stories*" at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m.

Teen Fun. On Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m., the Library's Youth Services Department hosts "*Sweet Holiday*" for teens in middle and high school. Whip up a chocolate gift for a special friend. All materials will be provided. Call 626.256.8275 to reserve a space.

Authors & Others. On Monday, December 11 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., professional writer and sightseer Jodi Jill will talk about her adventures. She has written four books on free tours and visits including guidebooks to Southern California and Colorado. She will let you in on trade secrets for free stuff. Her story about fighting for personal literacy, then becoming an author, is truly uplifting.

Scrabble Night. Relax playing Scrabble at the Library on Tuesday, December 12 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. For ages 13 and up.

Literacy Dinner. The Library's adult literacy tutors and learners were treated to a holiday dinner Tuesday night. More than 80 tutors and learners came together to celebrate the year's progress, share each other's company and recognize individual achievements.

### **RECREATION DIVISION**

Eagle Scout Flexes Muscles. Eagle Scout Candidate Ryan Bignell, coordinated park maintenance improvements at Canyon Park on Saturday, Dec 2. More than 20 Scouts rolled up their sleeves and flexed their muscles to create a stone stairway down to the stream so local students participating in the outdoor education program could learn about the canyon's aquatic ecosystem. The Scouts also

created a retaining wall near the Fireman's Flat picnic area and they reset a stone walkway in front of the Nature Center. Many thanks go out to Ryan and his crew.

Monrovia Holiday Tree Lighting & Coloring Contest. On Thursday, December 7, Mayor Rob Hammond and City Council members officially lit the Monrovia Holiday Tree, located on Myrtle Avenue. The winner of the 2006 Tree Lighting Coloring Contest, Max Lee, assisted with the count down and tree lighting. Special coloring contest prizes were awarded to Asaph Zamora and Najja Christopher, for their Best Use of Color. Winners of the Most Original drawings were Marion Casas and Miguel G. Mesina. The Most Creative prizes were awarded to Pedro Almaraz and Ian Norman. Community Services Commissioners Gloria Crudgington, Paul Larsen and Kim Herney found it challenging to pick coloring contest winners from the 320 drawings received.

The Seniors are on Santa's List of Good Boys and Girls! The Senior's 3 Club Special Event will be held at the Monrovia Community Center on Thursday, December 14. The holiday-themed program will begin at 11 a.m. and includes a catered lunch, musical entertainment by the San Dimas Singers and a special visit from Santa. Tickets are \$7 per person and may be purchased in advance at the Monrovia Community Center. For additional information or to make a reservation, call (626) 256-8246.

### **FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Personnel responded to 70 emergency calls from 0800 hours November 30 to 0800 hours December 6. Significant incidents include:

Natural Gas Leak. On Tuesday, December 5 firefighters responded to the 600 block of west Lemon on a gas leak. When firefighters arrived they found construction workers had broken a natural gas line while trenching for utilities. Firefighters evacuated the workers from the area and contacted the Gas Company.

Brush Fire Deployment to Ventura County. On Sunday, December 3, at approximately 1 p.m., personnel assigned to OES Engine 228 were dispatched on a strike team assignment to the Shekell brush fire incident in the Moorpark area of Ventura County. Upon arrival the strike team was assigned to the northwest flank of the fire in a rural section of Fillmore. Their assignment that evening was to prevent the fire from crossing over Highway 23 in order to prevent spread onto the thousands of acres of citrus groves. The strike team did an excellent job in stopping the fire at Highway 23. With the winds dying down and fire containment, the strike team was released on Tuesday morning and personnel were home at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Water Tender 101 was assigned to the Shekell Fire as a single resource on Monday, December 4. Now that the fire is in its mop-up phase, hand crews with water supplies are being used to accomplish this task. As of this writing, Water Tender 101 is still assigned to the incident.

Motorcycle Down. On Tuesday evening, December 5, paramedics with the assistance of our truck company responded to a motorcycle down in the carpool lane. The rider of the motorcycle had gone down after a car pulled in front of him in the carpool lane. The paramedics treated the rider for neck, back and shoulder pain and transported him to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for further treatment.

### **OPERATIONS**

Three mobile housing units that Fire Department personnel will use as a temporary station were set-up on Friday. Water and sewer hook-ups have been completed and work on electrical power

connections will begin soon. Garage doors for the steel building that will house department apparatus will be completed on December 12.

On Wednesday, the Department of Health Services conducted a site visit to inventory new medical equipment that was placed on Engine 101. The purpose of the visit was to upgrade the Engine Company's status to a Paramedic Assessment Engine. Personnel will now be able to provide a higher level of medical care to the public prior to the arrival of the paramedics.

### FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

The Prevention Bureau received a call from a concerned healthcare provider about an elderly couple. She reported that the 93 and 94-year-old couple were attempting to change the battery in their smoke detector. She found one of them on a ladder attempting to reach the detector located on a 10-foot ceiling. The prevention bureau called Truck 101 led by Captain Phillips. They went to the residence and replaced the smoke detector. Captain Phillips noticed the detector had burn and related heat damage marks on it. When he inquired about the damage, she replied that they lit a match to test the operability of the detector. The Truck Company showed them how, by using a broom handle, to test it without active combustion. Thanks to T101 for your quick response and follow up.

The fire prevention work group met this week to further develop the 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Susan Immer and Mitch Cochran attended the meeting and provided valuable insight on incorporating Canyon Park and GIS technology into the grant proposals. This year, the Department has chosen to concentrate its efforts on the Wildland Interface, including programs that will enhance the department's fire protection efforts.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The Department continues to work toward completing two major projects – the fire station relocation and the strategic plan development. Both projects are moving along and expected to be completed in the upcoming weeks, which will be a nice accomplishment for the department.

This week was exciting as we finally saw what our new home will look like having had the Butler Building completed and three trailers delivered and set-up on site. One single-wide trailer will be used for the administration and prevention offices, one single-wide trailer will be used as the firefighter's kitchen, office and break-room and a double-wide trailer will house the firefighter's office and general quarters. Next week we should complete installation of the roll-up doors on the butler building, thereby completing our apparatus room, have electricity hooked up and have all other utilities completed. We will then only need to have communication and dispatching equipment installed and move our belongings to the new station.

The strategic plan development is nearing completion and will give a sense of direction for the next five years for the Fire Department. All three shifts went through extensive meetings, department heads were surveyed and the business community was questioned (a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce was held) to get as many stakeholders as possible involved in our plan. The results of the surveys and meetings have been incorporated into the plan with the goal of meeting the needs of all of our constituents as we strive to enhance the services provided. Collectively we have identified five strategic priorities with several action items associated with each of the five strategic priorities that will identify the Fire Department potential for the next five years. We certainly look forward to continuing this process and submitting our strategic plan in the very near future.

## **ON THE POLICE BLOTTER**

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 477 calls for service resulting in 138 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Suspicious Circumstances / Outside Assist. On November 30 at 10:39 a.m., dispatch received a Cell Watch emergency call. The caller reported he was westbound on the 210 Freeway from the 605 Freeway. He reported that two male suspects in a white Chevy Caprice had pointed a handgun at him. The call was then cut off. We notified Temple Sheriff's Department and CHP. The caller called back reporting he was near Buena Vista. Monrovia officers responded and located both the caller and the two subjects at Mountain and the 210 Freeway. CHP officers arrived, also. A high-risk stop was conducted, and the two suspects were extracted from the vehicle. A search of the vehicle and a pat down of the subjects was made, but no weapon was located. After questioning the subjects involved, it appears this was a mild road rage incident.

Outside Assist. On November 30 at 2:49 p.m., Arcadia Police Department advised they were in pursuit of a tan or gold Yukon heading north on Myrtle. A Monrovia officer was heading south on Myrtle and saw the vehicle northbound at a high rate of speed and the Arcadia unit was about a half of a mile back. The officer made a u-turn and pursued the vehicle until Arcadia units closed in. The pursued vehicle drove through town and entered the 210 Freeway at Huntington. Arcadia took over and Monrovia officers pulled out of the pursuit. The suspect drove to Pasadena, where he eventually fled from the vehicle and ran into a building. Arcadia officers entered the building and arrested the suspect, who was hiding in the dropped ceiling of the location. The suspect had stolen the Yukon just prior to the pursuit and is a parolee at large.

Injury Collision. On December 1 at 7:23 a.m., Arcadia Police Department advised there was an auto versus pedestrian collision at Fifth and Huntington. The pedestrian was bleeding from the head. On arrival, paramedics tended to the pedestrian, who was later transported to the hospital. The accident occurred when the pedestrian began to cross Huntington at the corner on a green light. The vehicle made a left turn, and the driver did not see the pedestrian and struck him.

Non-Injury Driving Under the Influence Traffic Accident. On December 1 at 10:03 a.m., dispatch received a call from a business in the 500 block of South Myrtle reporting an accident in the alley between Lemon and Lime. Officers responded and were told the vehicle involved had backed up in the alley and struck a parked vehicle. The driver was determined to be driving under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested.

Possession of a Controlled Substance / Parole Hold. On December 2 at 9:13 a.m., police received a call from a business in the 300 block of West Huntington about a male subject who was possibly shoplifting. Officers responded and located the subject behind the wheel of a car parked in the parking lot. The officers detained the subject and he was patted down, but no property from the business was found. A consent search of the vehicle produced a baggie containing a white crystalline substance resembling methamphetamine on the front passenger seat. The subject was arrested and is on parole for possession of a controlled substance. He was taken into custody and booked for charges.

Drunk in Public / Warrant Arrest. On December 4 at 2:50 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the 300 block of East Foothill regarding a subject sleeping on a residential front lawn. Upon arrival, the subject was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested for being drunk in public, and a computer check revealed the subject had a no-bail warrant for grand theft auto out of Pomona.

Burglary / Grand Theft. On December 4 at 10:36 p.m., an officer was on patrol when he saw a vehicle with no license plates exit the driveway of a bank on Myrtle. The officer conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle. The driver and passenger of the vehicle acted extremely uneasy when being questioned. A consent search of the vehicle was made, and the officer discovered \$1,400 dollars in \$20 bills, a stolen credit card and driver's license in another person's name. Both subjects were arrested on reasonable suspicion that a theft had occurred through the ATM of the bank. Further investigation

with bank security revealed that both subjects were customer service representatives of the bank and they had used a customer's card and PIN number to make an illegal withdrawal at the ATM. It was also discovered that one of the subjects was already out on bail in an unrelated theft case in Burbank. Investigation continuing.

Suspicious Circumstances. On December 6 at 12:48 p.m., an officer observed a suspicious vehicle driving south on Shamrock with dark tinted windows. The officer turned his patrol car around and the vehicle increased speed and turned onto Fig and then drove down a small alley located behind a business storage yard. The officer tried to get out and make contact with the driver of the vehicle; however, the driver sped off down the alley. The officer put out a broadcast of the vehicle description and another police unit observed the car just north of Sherman and Cypress in a parking lot. Two officers approached the car and detained the driver. The passenger exited the car and jumped a wall. A perimeter was set up and officers eventually located the suspect at a residence. He was arrested for resisting and delaying a police officer. The driver was also charged with resisting and delaying and possession of marijuana while in a vehicle, as well as numerous vehicle code violations.



## **ENGINEERING**

Myrtle Avenue Streetscape Project. Work is progressing on the eastside of Myrtle from Palm to Foothill. The underground electrical and irrigation conduits are completed. Concrete removals were completed, new curb and gutters will be poured this week starting at Foothill and working southerly. Several driveways were required to be removed and replaced to accommodate installation of the new electrical and irrigation conduits; staff worked with the contractor and business owners to maintain access. Sidewalks and pavement replacements are scheduled for next week.

Colorado Commons Project. Contractor is continuing with the excavation for the parking structure, stock piling dirt on the Lemon side of the project site. This material will be re-used for backfill against the underground parking structure walls and building foundations. Shoring operations are complete and daily inspections continue.

Railroad Depot Parking Lot. The paving project is complete. The contractor is beginning to install the street lights next week with completion scheduled for the end of the week.

Grading Projects. Staff is preparing reports for the Planning Commission to address the geological issues of 314 El Nido, a single family home development. In addition, staff is preparing the reports for illegal grading operations on 539 Cloverleaf.

## **OPERATIONS – Environmental Services – Facilities - Parks**

2007 Monrovia Recycles Calendar Winners. The 2007 Winners of the annual Fifth Grade Art Contest were recognized by the City Council at its December 5 meeting. Winners received a Certificate of Achievement from the Mayor and copies of the 2007 Monrovia Recycles Calendar. A special thanks to the 245 participating students, MUSD teachers, school principals, district officials and parents.

Used Oil Spill. Staff responded to a report of illegally dumped used motor oil in the curb and gutter along on the 1600 block of south Mayflower. None of the material reached the storm drain and the Streets Division crew helped clean the oil off the roadway.

## **STREETS**

Concrete Rehabilitation Areas: 600 Block of Linwood Ave. and 700 block of Norumbega Dr.

### Miscellaneous:

- Pre-Christmas Parade preparation and event clean-up.
- Cleaned grate drains at Youth Center and Skate Park.
- Anticipating weekend rain, notification signs for residents were placed on the northwest corner of Mountain and Olive and directly across the street directing sand pile and sand bags at Recreation Park between Barney Glen Field and Tennis Courts for residents.
- Graffiti Removal: 13 traffic signs

## **UTILITIES**

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

Miscellaneous Services: Customer service representatives delivered 150 shut-off notices, completed 59 work orders and reactivated 11 water services.

### WATER PRODUCTION

Water Consumption: Water production is 45.5 million gallons which is 7% lower compared to last week's water consumption.

Lead and Copper Test Results: The Department of Health Services water test results for lead and copper were mailed to 31 Monrovia residents who participated in this effort in September 2006. All residential sites passed noting that our water supply is below the required maximum contaminant levels for lead and copper contents.

Water Wells and Booster Pumps Maintenance: Motor oil for 8 booster pumps and 5 water wells were replaced as part of our routine water system maintenance.

### UTILITY MAINTENANCE

Water Service Upgrades and New Service: Three water service lines located at 415 N. Alta Vista, 520 & 519 Sombrero Road were upgraded from galvanized to copper lines. A new 2" water service line and a 1½" water meter was also installed at 1840 S. Mayflower Avenue.

Water and Sewer Services for the Fire Department: The water and sewer lines serving the temporary station of the Fire Department located at Olive Avenue and Ivy Avenue were completed last week by our construction crew.

Sewer Main Line Maintenance: Sewer crew cleaned 10,500 feet of sewer main line and video inspected 85 feet of sewer line. Crew also completed 22 underground service alert's utility location requests.

Have a great weekend!

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**FOR YOUR CALENDARS:**

<b>Mon., Dec. 11, 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Santa Tours, west of Myrtle, south of Huntington, west of Myrtle to Fifth, north of all southern City boundaries</b>
<b>Tues., Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Santa Tours, east of Myrtle, north of Foothill</b>
<b>Weds., Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Santa Tours, west of Myrtle, north of Foothill</b>
<b>Thurs., Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Santa Tours, east of Myrtle, south of Foothill, north of Duarte Road, west of east City boundaries</b>
<b>Fri., Dec. 15, 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Santa Tours, west of Myrtle, south of Foothill to Huntington between Mayflower and Fifth</b>
<b>Tues., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b><i>MONDAY, DECEMBER 25</i></b>	<b><i>CHRISTMAS DAY, CITY HALL CLOSED</i></b>
<b><i>MONDAY, JANUARY 1</i></b>	<b><i>NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY, CITY HALL CLOSED</i></b>
<b><i>TUESDAY., JANUARY 2,</i></b>	<b><i>REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLED</i></b>
<b>Fri., Jan 19, 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Chamber Installation, Iris Award Dinner</b>

**CMO ATTACHMENTS:**

***Monrovia to vote on library tax***

**\$15.5 million would be raised for new building**

By Emanuel Parker Staff Writer  
Pasadena Star-News

MONROVIA - Not many City Council actions draw applause, but it happened Tuesday after the Monrovia council unanimously agreed to bring a parcel tax for a long-awaited new library before voters.

The measure, which will appear on the March 6 municipal ballot, would levy a \$62-per-year parcel tax that would expire in 30 years; it will require approval by 67 percent of voters.

"This is a historic event," said Councilwoman Mary Ann Lutz. "This will take us into a new millennium."

The city paid for a telephone survey that found 51 percent of voters definitely support the tax; 16 percent would probably support it; 4 percent are undecided but leaning toward support; while 18 percent definitely oppose it.

Monrovia has nearly 40,000 residents and 17,284 registered voters, of whom 3,912 voted in the 2005 municipal election.

The parcel tax would raise about \$15.5 million to replace the city's 14,000-square-foot library - which is more than 50 years old - with a 28,000-square-foot facility in Library Park, site of the current library.

City officials say the current library is outdated and bursting at the seams.

The library has more than 120,000 volumes, but only 50,000 can be displayed. It can't support additional computer stations, has one toilet each for men and women, and the roof, heating and air conditioning need constant repairs.

City officials have been trying since 1996 to get a new library, and applied several times without success for grants from state Library Bond Acts.

"This was a long time coming," said Councilman Joe Garcia. "It's a dream now, but there's light at the end of the tunnel."

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# Plans For Library Move Forward

BY DANIEL FRITZ

The Monrovia City Council has unanimously decided to take the next step toward building a brand new 28,000 square-foot public library.

"This has been a long time coming," council member Joe Garcia said.

The replacement of the current 14,000 square-foot facility has been a community and city priority for several years; the project has been in the works for a decade.

"We've outgrown our current library," said deputy city manager Tito Haes.

More specifically, the current 50-year-old building in Library Park lacks adequate seating and shelf space, is limited in computer technology available, and is in major need of repair. Because of an obsolete infrastructure, repair and expansion are not adequate solutions to the problem of a growing city versus a shrinking library.

In 2002, the solution was initially met with an ambitious plan to build a 45,000 square-foot building; this design, however, was based on the possibility of receiving a grant from the state in agreement with the Library Bond Act of 2000.

After three failed attempts to receive state funding, the new library design schematics, developed through a partnership between the city's library board, city staff and architects Gonzales and Goodale, were scaled down to accommodate for the possibility of garnering the funds from a parcel tax or a bond issue.

At the Dec. 5 meeting, the council approved this design, and agreed upon placing the measure for a possible parcel tax on the March 6, 2007 general municipal election ballot.

If the community votes at least 66.7 percent in favor on the March ballot, property owners can expect to pay \$62 per parcel of real property per year. Under this taxation, the \$15.5 million price tag will be paid off in 30 years.

In an early survey conducted a few weeks ago by Fairbanks, Maslin, Maulin, & Associates, of the 509 Monrovia voters polled, 71 percent responded with a "likely yes" to the question of whether or not they would support a plan that required this kind of taxation.

"We feel pretty good about the response to this survey," said Dick Singer, public information officer for the city.

The approved design for the library that will hopefully break ground in the summer of 2007 features a computer technology area with 22 workstations, an audio-video collection area, and a new periodicals area, among many other additions.

"I've always felt our library was a bit small," said James Burdik, a Monrovia resident. "The library is so important as a gateway to literacy. I believe we should get it up to par with other cities libraries."

Though the overwhelming response was positive on Tuesday, Monrovia resident Paul Greenwood was concerned that the new plan was a "compromise" to the earlier, more elaborate designs.

"We have to live inside the budget we have," said Mayor Rob Hammond. "With the consensus of all, we need to provide a facility that will benefit the community today and far into the future."