

CITY OF MONTCLAIR

**Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763**

February 9, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT: February 3-9, 2012

➤ ***CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS***

- In its second annual survey of California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS) contract cities, a remarkable 71 percent responded—of California's 482 cities, 449 contract with CalPERS. The pension survey, conducted in January 2012, queried city managers of cities contracting with CalPERS—[survey results](#) are posted on the League's online Pension Information Center.

The survey focused on three major areas:

- Pension Tiering
- Pension Rate Cost sharing and
- Final compensation calculation

Results indicate substantial changes continue to happen at the local bargaining table. Many cities have adopted new tier systems, are requiring employees to shoulder a share of defined benefit plan costs, and are adopting revised final compensation calculation formulas. Cities that have not yet adopted changes to their pension plans are contemplating adjustments.

Highlights from the 2012 survey include:

- At least one new tier system has been adopted by 47 percent of responding cities
- Most new tiered pension formulas were adopted since 2010
- For public safety employees, the majority of responding cities have adopted a lower benefit of 3 percent @ 55, moving away from the 3 percent @ 50 formula
- For miscellaneous employees, cities are moving toward the 2 percent @ 60 formula and away from the 2 percent @ 55; 2.7 percent @ 55; and 3 percent @ 60 formulas
- Changes in cost sharing was a major trend, with 64 percent of responding cities indicating they adopted new employee contribution requirements
- Among responding cities, 32 percent say they changed final compensation calculation formulas, moving away from the highest 12 months to an average of the last 3 years
- 47 percent of responding cities indicate they are planning to negotiate changes to employee pension benefits.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- This past Tuesday, the Senior Center was bursting with activities. In the west Room, more than 50 seniors attended an "Oh My Aching Bones" presentation sponsored by Inter Valley Health Plan. They learned ways of improving their mobility and how to prevent aching bones. Three seniors won exercise bands designed to help one stay mobile, compliments of Inter Valley Health Plan.

In the east room, seniors took part in a weekly yoga class that focused on developing core muscle strength and flexibility.

In the dining room, the Nutrition Program sold out of lunches as long lines stretched out into the hallway.

Finally, in the Community Center, (all rooms in the Senior Center were in use) seniors received free income tax assistance by AARP representatives. Free tax assistance is available to low-income residents every Tuesday through April 10. Appointments are required, and can be made by calling the Senior Center at 909-625-9483.

A photo collage of the day's activities is included on Page 9.

- Last Saturday morning, a group of volunteers and After-School Program staff restored a garden site at Lehigh Elementary School to use later to grow produce for the school's Farmers Market. Additional plans include the creation of a literacy garden with benches and a fountain.

The ambitious group worked for three hours clearing the site of weeds and other unwanted growth. Utilizing grant funds from Lowe's and under the leadership of by Lehigh After-School Program Leader Coordinator Emmanuel Gutierrez, After-School Program staff and students will plant the garden in the near future.

A photo collage of the day's work is included on Page 10.

➤ ***POLICE DEPARTMENT***

- Chino Police Department held its 11th Annual Run for Russ 5K and Community Walk on Saturday, February 4. Participating from the Montclair Police Department were Sergeants Brian Ventura and Bryon Kelly; Officers Eric Rivera and Ben Cypher; Dispatchers Karina Gonzalez, Luz Martinez, and Marie Quintanilla; Records Specialist Tina Lebron; and Administrative Aide Marilyn Hall.

Held every year since 2001, the event is a tribute to fallen Chino police officer Russ Miller who was killed while on duty on February 1, 2000, by a drunken driver.

Photos are included on Pages 11-12.

➤ ***FIRE DEPARTMENT***

- Fire personnel participated in Our Lady of Lourdes School's community day on February 2 and presented a fire safety demonstration to students in grades K-3. Grades 4-8 students learned about fire service as a career and watched a short video taken at Verdugo Fire Academy.

The students were attentive and inquisitive; and many of them voiced a desire to make fire fighting a career when they grow up.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- Beginning Monday, February 13, 2012, Southern California Edison will begin installation of electrical conduits and vault upgrades from its substation at Monte Vista Avenue and Arrow Highway through the intersection of Monte Vista Avenue and Moreno Street. The conduit and vault upgrades will have a major impact on traffic along Monte Vista Avenue, Arrow Highway, and Moreno Street.

During most of the construction phase, Monte Vista Avenue northbound will be reduced from three lanes to a single lane. At times, that single lane will actually need to be moved over to the west side of the roadway, using one of the southbound lanes. Because of this, southbound traffic will also be reduced to a single lane in places.

The proposed traffic control plan will have minimal impact on access to the Police Department. However, during a portion of the construction, there will be major impact on access to and from Fire Station 1 on Monte Vista Avenue. During these times, all access will have to be from Arrow Highway.

Due to the nature of the work and traffic impacts, longer work days and night work have been authorized to expedite construction. We anticipate completion the second week of June.

- There are quite a few items of good news to report regarding the Gold Line construction project. Last year a contract was awarded to Kiewit Parsons Joint Venture for the construction of Segment 2A of the Gold Line Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa. The team has launched an impressive effort thus far in addressing permitting issues with various agencies, including Caltrans and the Army Corps of Engineers. Work crews continue steady progress on pre-construction investigative work along the entire 11.5-mile corridor, collecting vital geotechnical data, utility locations, and survey information crucial for the design team's efforts as they develop the initial design submittals for Construction Authority and stakeholder review.

Separately, another construction team, Skanska USA, is responsible for building the bridge that will carry the Gold Line across the eastbound lanes of the I-210 Freeway in Arcadia. This work will involve a series of consecutive late night full closures of the eastbound lanes, which will continue through February and possibly into March. This is a critical point in the construction of the bridge, when crews are preparing to begin work on the superstructure.

Before that work can begin, Skanska USA must erect a temporary support structure, known as falsework, which will create a secure work space over the lanes of the freeway for the entire span of the future superstructure.

Because the 584-linear-foot bridge is crossing the freeway at a skewed angle, the falsework structure will be significant and create a temporary tunnel through this area. To help explain what the falsework will look like, a rendering has been developed. Also shown is a rendering of the proposed bridge, which has been referred to since its conception as the Iconic Freeway Structure, or IFS for short.



The House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee released its draft Reauthorization bill language this week, which contains a program to allow states to utilize local environmental regulations (CEQA in California) in lieu of NEPA for public transportation capital projects. It is believed that such an action is unprecedented. This program initiative was supported by San Gabriel Valley and other regional representatives, as well as the Construction Authority leadership who advocated to Congressional representatives the importance of streamlining the approval process.

Although Reauthorization has a long road ahead before it is finalized, this language could help advance the Foothill Extension Project from Azusa to Montclair, which is scheduled to be environmentally cleared under CEQA this year.

Finally, Assembly Member Norma Torres introduced a bill this week to extend the Foothill Extension Project beyond the County of Los Angeles to the City of Montclair. The legislation would allow the project to be completed as planned and extend light rail to the multi-modal Montclair Transcenter. This short extension beyond the L. A. County line to Montclair has been supported by the Authority Board, as well as officials in San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties, and would add another important connection at the Transcenter that currently links transit riders from numerous Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside County bus lines, as well as Metrolink.

The proposed legislation is coming at a critical point in planning for the next phase of the Gold Line. Assembly Member Torres and her staff should be commended for their continued support of this project.

- Recently custom steel security fencing was installed by Public Works Leadworker Jeff Flanders and Maintenance Worker Kirk Haymore at the 4100 block of Holt Boulevard and the San Antonio Flood Control Channel. Graffiti, trash dumping, and other unwanted activities from trespassers prompted Public Works Superintendent Xavier Mendez and Leadworker Flanders to solve the problem by constructing the security fence to the current bridge structure. So far, the fencing is deterring trespassers.

Public Works staff also installed security fencing along the newly constructed Ramona Avenue Grade Separation below Brooks Street to hinder trespassers from crossing the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.

Montclair Police Officers and Code Enforcement are enforcing the no trespassing signage in these areas.

- The City received its analysis of Fiscal Year 2011-12 Property Tax conducted on January 30, 2012, by Hdl Coren & Cone. The report revealed the City experienced a very modest .3 percent increase in net taxable value over the 2010-11 fiscal year, as a result of increases in residential assessed values. The increased revenue to the City as a result of the minor increase is anticipated to be approximately \$2,290, after the mandatory deduction for the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund. Montclair is 1 of 7 cities in San Bernardino County showing an increase in net assessed value.

In the prior fiscal year, the net assessed value in the City declined by 2.18 percent. Assessed values of commercial properties declined by 4.2 percent, and values of industrial properties declined by 5.1 percent.

Declining values in the commercial and industrial sectors in the City are largely driven by successful property tax appeals. Declines in assessed value occurred in 17 cities in the County. Upland had the highest increase in net assessed value at 1.49 percent. The largest decline in net assessed value was experienced by Victorville at -2.92 percent.

As of December 31, 2011, the median sales price (MSP) of homes in Montclair was \$223,500. This was the MSP of homes in Montclair in 2003. The highest MSP of homes in Montclair was experienced in 2006 at \$445,000. The MSP of homes in San Bernardino County in 2011 was \$150,000—also the MSP in 2002. Currently, in San Bernardino County, Chino Hills is the city with the highest MSP of homes—\$426,250—while the lowest MSP for homes in San Bernardino County is Needles—\$35,000.

One reason for the slow growth in residential home values is caused by a rise in the sale of lower cost distressed homes. Also, there is still much hesitation in the housing market because of less than positive economic reports and uncertainty regarding the debt crisis. The MSP of a single family home in California in July 2011 was \$252,000—a 6 percent decrease from \$268,000 in 2010. Of the existing homes sold in the state in July 2011, more than half were either short sales or foreclosures.

ECS:spa

"Each person's task in life is to become an increasingly better person."
~ Leo Tolstoy

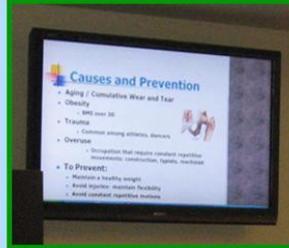
FEBRUARY 2012



13	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
14	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
14	6th Annual Battle of the Badges Bloodmobile – Canceled	
15	Midyear Budget Review Council Chambers	5:45 p.m.
16	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
16	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
20	Presidents Day – City Hall Closed	
21	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
21	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
27	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.

Senior Center Programs and Activities

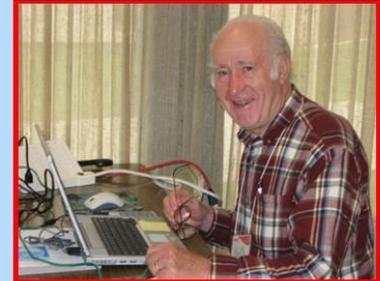
Oh My Aching Bones Presentation



Yoga Class



Taxes



Nutrition Program



January 7, 2012

Lehigh Elementary School Garden Clean Up



MONTCLAIR

February 4, 2012

RUN FOR RUSS 5K AND COMMUNITY WALK



From left: Officer Eric Rivera, Officer Ben Cypher, Sergeant Brian Ventura, Dispatcher Karina Gonzalez, and Sergeant Bryon Kelly



Dispatcher Luz Martinez and Officer Eric Rivera