

## **CITY OF MONTCLAIR**

Montclair Civic Center  
5111 Benito Street  
Montclair, CA 91763

March 1, 2012

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Edward C. Starr, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** WEEKLY REPORT: February 24—March 1, 2012

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

- Yesterday, Council Member John Dutrey, Senior Intern Mikey Fuentes, and I represented Montclair at the County of San Bernardino State of the County 2012 Program. This year's presentation, "Your County...Your Future," was held at San Bernardino International Airport and focused on the County Board of Supervisors' vision to achieve a "complete county" capitalizing on the diversity of its people, its geography, and its economy to create a broad range of choices for its residents in how they live, work, and play.

Components of the County's Vision Element include the following:

- 1) A vibrant economy with a skilled workforce and healthy labor market built on a foundation of employment opportunities presented by the county's unique advantages
- 2) A sustainable system of high-quality education, affordable community health services, public safety, quality housing, retail choices, recreational opportunities, diversity in arts and culture, and a solid infrastructure foundation to complement natural resources and the environment
- 3) A model community governed in an open and ethical manner, where great ideas are replicated and brought to scale, and all sectors work collaboratively

Implementing the countywide vision is anticipated to improve the quality of life for residents; create the foundation for a prosperous future; establish future opportunities and advantages; unite residents, businesses, and municipalities; and create a shared vision to identify mutual interests and preserve scarce resources.

Congratulations to 4th District Supervisor Gary Ovitt and the entire Board of Supervisors for establishing a dynamic roadmap designed to create the foundation for a prosperous future in San Bernardino County.

- Last week, Senior Administrative Intern Mikey Fuentes attended the League of California Cities Legislative Task Force meeting where presenters discussed the following issues:

### **AB 1437—Budget Transparency Bill**

A representative from Assembly Member Mike Morrell's (R-63rd Assembly District) office discussed Assembly Bill 1437 (Budget Transparency). As proposed, the bill would require that no vote may be taken in either house of the Legislature on AB 1437, or other bills providing for appropriations, until such bills have been made available to the public for three days on a publicly accessible website. The objective of AB 1437 is to create a transparent budget process and hold elected representatives accountable by allowing a thorough review of appropriations bills before any votes occur.

### **SB 986—Redevelopment Bond Proceeds Bill—Urgency Measure**

A representative from State Senator Bob Dutton's (R-31st Senate District) office discussed SB 986—the Redevelopment Bond Proceeds bill—which would provide that all bond proceeds generated by former redevelopment agencies shall be deemed encumbered, prohibiting successor agencies from remitting such proceeds to the county auditor controller.

SB 986 would also require that proceeds of bonds issued by a former redevelopment agency must be used by its successor agency for the purposes for which bonds were sold pursuant to an enforceable obligation, provided such obligation was entered into either by the former redevelopment agency prior to its dissolution, or its successor agency by December 14, 2014.

If an enforceable obligation has not been entered into by the dates defined, or if the purpose for which bonds were sold are no longer achievable, then bond proceeds shall be used to defease bonds or purchase outstanding bonds on the open market for cancellation. An oversight board would be required to approve establishment of an enforceable obligation with respect to bond proceeds; furthermore, the oversight board would be prohibited from disapproving establishment of an enforceable obligation with respect to bond proceeds, if that obligation is reasonably in furtherance of the purposes for which bonds were sold.

Statewide, there exist approximately \$20 billion in bond proceeds issued for redevelopment—most of which are tax exempt bonds. Under current IRS regulations, if cities are required to surrender bond proceeds to taxing agencies and such entities used the proceeds for general operations, bond proceeds would then become taxable, making the issuing city liable for having violated bond covenants. Hundreds of shovel-ready projects up and down the state are in limbo waiting for clarification on this issue.

### **Ontario Airport Transfer**

Ontario City Council Member Alan Wapner discussed continuing efforts to transfer control of Los Angeles/Ontario International Airport from Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to the City of Ontario. Mr. Wapner commented that Congressmen Jerry Lewis (R- 41st Congressional District) and Ken Calvert (R- 44th Congressional District) plan to meet with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Officials to warn of the significant decline in air and passenger traffic at Los Angeles/Ontario International Airport and the need to support the airport's dynamic role as economic hub for the Inland Empire. Both Congressmen also signed a letter to Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, informing him of the airport's decline.

Since the start of the recession, Los Angeles/Ontario International Airport has seen a 35 percent decline in passenger traffic, costing the Inland Empire economy half a billion dollars annually and 9,200 jobs. Domestic departures and non-stop flights served from the airport are down 56 percent from 2007. Los Angeles/Ontario International Airport also has the highest in-plane passenger costs of any airport in the country of similar size, making it less attractive to airlines and passengers. In 2011, more than 2 million people in the airport service area were forced to fly out of Los Angeles International Airport in order to receive affordable airfare rates and convenient flight schedules. This diversion of air passengers added 1.3 million car trips to the Los Angeles freeway system; and, according to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the increase in car traffic to LAX is increasing the amount of particulates in the atmosphere, jeopardizing Federal Transportation Funds if air quality standards are not met.

## **Delta Water Project**

Jeff Kightlinger, Metropolitan Water District CEO, discussed a proposal to construct twin 33 foot diameter tunnels in the San Joaquin Delta to carry a portion of the Sacramento River's water flow 150 feet below the delta on a 37 mile underground path from the northernmost portion of the bay delta to its southernmost tip at the beginning of the California Aqueduct. The massive \$12.5 billion project, to be funded by a 1 percent increase in water rates over the next 10 to 12 years, is intended to move water intakes upstream to locations less harmful to the delta ecosystem and native smelt fish population.

Smelt are currently protected under both the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Federal Endangered Species Act. The aqueduct's existing pumping systems have produced significant declines in the smelt population. To avoid further declines in the smelt population, current regulations severely restrict pumping of water from the delta during the smelts' annual migration (December to June) to spawning habitats. Restrictions limit water pumping to 5 months out of each year, with only limited pumping during typical wet seasons.

The proposed tunnel project is the centerpiece of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, designed to create a balance between water demand and habitat protection within the delta system. A draft environmental impact report is expected later this year, followed by a public review period. A formal decision is expect by the California Department of Water Resources in 2013.

### ➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Last Thursday, a lucky senior, Julie Saige, was treated to a special lunch with Senior Center staff. They enjoyed sparkling cider and a delicious meal served in the courtyard. A City staff member donated a special dessert and the sparkling cider, and staff also paid for their own meals.

The meal, from the nutrition lunch, was served with a goal of providing the opportunity to get acquainted and to share ideas and thoughts about the Senior Program. The casual atmosphere opened the door to make Ms. Saige feel special and helped her to open up about herself and discuss the programs that are offered for seniors.

Seniors are encouraged by staff to make suggestions for future programs. They are also encouraged to drop their names in a special mailbox at the Senior Center for an opportunity to have lunch with staff.

At lunch, Ms. Saige shared that she had been "at a loss" since her husband passed away four years ago. A Senior Center participant invited her to attend Montclair's programs, and it changed her life. "If it wasn't for the Center, I would be at home doing nothing, feeling lonely and sad," she said. She is grateful for the friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to be part of a great program.

A picture taken at the special luncheon is included on Page 8.

- The monthly senior birthday party held yesterday at the Community Center had more than 250 senior citizens celebrating the "month of love." They were served a delicious meal of chicken with all of the trimmings and cake and ice cream for dessert. Entertainment included harmonica music, line dancing, and games.

As you can see from the photos on Page 9, everyone had a wonderful time.

## ➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- On Thursday, February 24, 2012, just after 8 p.m., four suspects wearing black clothing and ski masks entered the Ben Bridge Jewelry store in Montclair Plaza. One suspect was armed with a handgun and another with a sledge hammer. The suspect with the handgun held the customers and employees at gunpoint, while the other suspect smashed the glass Rolex watch display cases. The two other suspects grabbed about 25 to 30 Rolex watches (worth over \$200,000) and placed them into bags.

The suspects tried exiting the Plaza through a corridor exit on the west side of Nordstrom. As they exited, they were confronted by security and reentered the Plaza. Based on that information, police believed they had armed suspects inside the Plaza. Police locked down the Plaza and requested mutual aid. Approximately 50 police officers from outside agencies responded to assist. These agencies included Ontario Police Department, Chino Police Department, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Upland Police Department, and the California Highway Patrol.

Police established a perimeter around the entire Plaza. All of the major stores were locked down. Each outside assisting agency was assigned a major store to extract employees and customers, while screening them as potential suspects. Once the major stores were evacuated and searched, police began to search and clear the main interior area of the Plaza. The search lasted about 4-½ hours, and the suspects were not located.

Police Officers located a magazine to an air soft handgun outside the doors the suspects had attempted to exit. Officers determined the handgun used by one of the suspects was not an actual firearm.

This was a very difficult scene to manage due to the size of the Plaza and the number of customers and employees. Plaza security, along with the major store loss prevention agents, did an outstanding job assisting police during this incident.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Fire suppression personnel participated in forcible entry training, instructed by Fire Engineer Sergio Mejia, from February 23-25. Forcible entry is used by Firefighters to gain access into burning buildings, for medical emergencies in which a patient cannot reach the door to unlock it, and when young children are locked in houses unattended.

Training began with a classroom presentation at Station No. 2. Crews reviewed types of locks, doors, and windows, as well as forcible entry techniques, equipment, and safety. The training exercise continued at the vacant City-owned buildings on Monte Vista Avenue. Fire personnel performed various operations including forcing and cutting various locks, roll-up doors, wood doors, and barred windows; and they practiced breaching walls.

Photos of the training are included on Page 10.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- Thanks to the City's fairly new storm sewer system, flooding was not a problem in Montclair as a result of the downpour on Monday. Still, Public Works crews checked the streets for potholes and debris during the storm, and they checked and cleaned storm drain catch basins as needed.

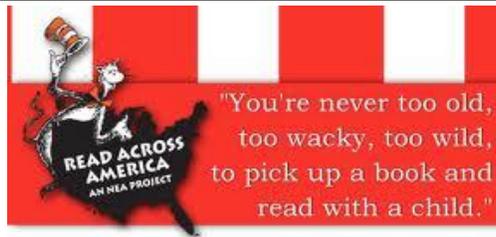
The Public Works Department distributed a few sandbags to residents who experienced drainage problems on their properties.

Montclair residents can pick up a maximum of ten sandbags at the City Yard upon proof of residence.

ECS:spa

*"The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom."*  
~ H. L. Mencken

# MARCH 2012



**March 2<sup>nd</sup> is Read Across America Day!**

5	City Council Workshop Council Chambers	5:45 p.m.
5	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
7	Community Action Committee Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
11	Daylight Saving Time Begins	
12	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
13	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
15	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
15	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
19	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
19	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
20	First Day of Spring	
26	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
27	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.



Pictured are, from left: Program Aide Martha Medina, Senior Program Specialist Ester Vargas Pipersky, Guest of Honor Julie Saige, and Senior Case Manager Sue Yoakum.



# Montclair Senior Nutrition *Valentine's Party*



**February 29, 2012**



**FORCIBLE-ENTRY  
TRAINING  
FEBRUARY 2012**

