



CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763

March 8, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT: March 2-8, 2012

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

- Public Service Announcement: Southern California Gas (SoCalGas) is alerting customers to be aware of persons reportedly posing as SoCalGas employees. According to complaints, imposters distract an unsuspecting customer by performing "gas leak inspections" while an accomplice burglarizes the customer's home.

SoCalGas recommends the following customer tips to help identify its employees:

- ✓ Be vigilant and question anyone who presents themselves as a representative of the utility
- ✓ SoCalGas workers who perform in-home appliance services, work on gas meters, or work on gas pipelines, wear uniforms. Nonetheless, always ask for identification before allowing a SoCalGas employee inside your home or on your property. All SoCalGas employees carry proper identification when called out to any job. Most field employees also drive company vehicles
- ✓ Typically, a SoCalGas employee visits a home or business only in response to a service request. If no one in the

household scheduled an appointment, call SoCalGas to confirm the employee's visit

- ✓ Never leave your house unattended in response to a request from a person claiming to be a SoCalGas employee

To verify the authenticity of anyone claiming to be a representative of SoCalGas, customers are encouraged to ask for proper identification or call the utility at 1-800-427-2200 (or 1-800-342-4545 for Spanish speakers). SoCalGas customer service representatives are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For additional information, visit socialgas.com/safety.

- Last week, the Senate Governance and Finance Committee and Transportation and Housing Committee held a joint informational hearing on economic development options in the wake of redevelopment agency dissolution through ABX1 26. Montclair's Redevelopment Agency ceased operations effective February 1, 2012; although, technically, community redevelopment agencies were prohibited from engaging in the normal course of business, retroactive to January 1, 2011. The City must now cope with the annual loss of \$11.5 million in property tax increment, plus growth; and the potential transfer of an estimated \$2 million in fiscal obligations to the General Fund.

Senate Hearing

Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) was the first to address the committees, outlining his ideas for creating new economic development strategies. Steinberg suggested that new economic development programs should be focused on creating regional collaboration; furthering statewide goals such as SB 375; attracting high-skill, high-wage jobs; and making affordable housing a priority. Steinberg concluded the real work would be done by local officials making decisions on behalf of their respective communities.

Steinberg also introduced legislation allowing cities and counties to retain assets of their dissolved redevelopment agencies in order to fund future economic development. In addition to legislation protecting existing assets, Steinberg promoted public pension fund investments in economic development and noted the need to identify a stable, permanent source of funding for economic development.

Task Force Meeting

Immediately following the Senate hearing, the League of California Cities' new economic development task force met for the first time. Task force membership is comprised of representatives from the League's board, policy committees, professional departments, and divisions, as well as

representatives from the California Redevelopment Association.

The task force is discussing ABX1 26 cleanup; the legal, technical, and policy challenges stemming from dissolution of redevelopment; possible tools and strategies for economic development; and policy questions surrounding dissolution of redevelopment agencies. The task force set its next meeting for March 21, with sub-committee work conducted over the next few weeks.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Yesterday, the Senior Center held a presentation entitled "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren." Sue Yoakum, Montclair Community Collaborative Case Manager and retired Assistant Director of Human Services, provided information and referrals for grandparents. Participants were also given ten ways to deal with caregiver stress, and they were encouraged to schedule an appointment with Mrs. Yoakum for individual assistance. A photo collage of the presentation is included on Page 9.
- Shortly after midnight on Sunday, February 26, Senior Code Enforcement Officer Gabe Fondario responded to a call for assistance from the Police Department regarding uninhabitable conditions at a home in the 5500 block of Hawthorne Street. Upon arrival, Gabe observed significant accumulations of trash, junk, debris, old clothes, plastic bags, containers, and other miscellaneous items stacked throughout the dwelling, creating an extreme fire hazard and severely obstructing ingress into and egress from the structure. The conditions endangered the lives and property of the occupant, neighboring properties, and the safety of the City's first responders. Upon further investigation, Gabe observed approximately 20 to 25 cats throughout the interior of the residence. The smell of cat feces, urine, and litter boxes overpowered the dwelling, creating unbearable conditions for Fire and Police personnel responding to the property.

The rear yard area of the premises was also in disarray. Excessive amounts of dead and overgrown vegetation, as well as accumulations of trash, junk, and debris created the perfect environment and breeding ground for rats and vermin to flourish. There were also large amounts of cat food, bird seed, and other forms of food scattered throughout the yard that enticed and invited the habitation of rodents.

Given the nuisance conditions on the property, the dwelling was deemed unsafe for occupancy. With the assistance of Police Sergeant Brandon Kumanski, Adult Protective Services and family members of the elderly occupant were contacted to provide necessary assistance with housing and support. The days following the red-tagging of the home brought about unexpected positive outcomes. Family members pulled together to assist the occupant of the dwelling. A 40' roll-off bin was

delivered to the residence and clean-up of the property quickly commenced. Several storage units were also obtained by the family for the removal of personal property and/or valuable items. Approximately 30 church members were also recruited to begin the process of removing all dead and overgrown vegetation, trash, junk, and debris from the front and rear yards of the residence. Although the clean-up continues daily, major progress has clearly been made in less than two weeks. "Before" and "to date" photos can be found on Page 10.

Code Enforcement will continue to monitor the progress of the clean-up and will hopefully have some dramatic "after" photos in a future edition of the *City Manager's Weekly Report*.

Family members, as well as the resident, have been very appreciative of the enforcement actions taken at the property and subsequent assistance by City staff. The property owner seems to have a new outlook on life and new appreciation for her family. She is no longer overwhelmed by the condition of her home. The chain of events also seemed to pull the family closer together; not only did they work together for a common goal, but they will soon be able to visit their family member at a place that was closed to company for many, many years.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- The Police Department worked an undercover "John" operation with SBWESTNET on February 29, with Detective Perez and Officers Holloway, Mair, Potts, and Westall posing as prostitutes on Holt Boulevard. Four arrests were made in the first half hour; and at the close of the operation, 22 arrests had been made.

Our appreciation goes to Sergeants Carlos and Pollich and all the officers who participated in this undercover operation.

- Reserve Officers Ortiz and Dow accommodated a request by Lehigh Elementary School to read to students on Friday, March 2 at the Montclair Barnes and Noble store for National Education Association's "Read Across America" Day.

Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.

The Reserve Officers enjoyed reading to their captive audiences. A photo is featured on Page 11.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Change your clocks, change your batteries! A working smoke and/or carbon monoxide (CO) detector could be the difference between life and death. Almost all U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm, but almost two-thirds of home fire deaths result from fires in homes without *working* smoke alarms.

Sunday, March 11 at 2 a.m. marks the official change to Daylight Saving Time. When you "spring forward" this weekend, remember to test and change the batteries in your smoke alarms and CO detectors as well.

- The Fire Department also participated in "Read Across America" by reading to students at Howard Elementary School on March 1. Captain Chris Younggren and his crew read to 100 students and 25 parents to support the National Education Association's mission to inspire children to read.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- The first phase of Southern California Edison's underground utility upgrades in Arrow Highway and Monte Vista Avenue has been completed. This portion of work consisted of the installation of four 7'x18'x 8' vaults, 9,018 feet of 6" conduit, and 1,768 feet of 4" conduit. Base paving of the trench alignment will take place this week. Photos are included on Pages 12-13.

The second phase of work will start in two weeks. This work will consist of the installation of new cable and splicing according to SCE's inspector. The contractor, International Line Builders, Inc., has had no delays and is on schedule. Public Works Inspector Jim Diaz is pleased with the progress and professionalism of the contractor. The limits of the work are from the SCE substation at the northeast corner of Arrow Highway and Monte Vista Avenue to a vault 300 feet west of Monte Vista Avenue on Moreno Street.

- Trucks in excess of five tons are prohibited on most City streets except to make pickups and deliveries. Driving on these restricted streets is a violation of both the Motor Vehicle Code and the Municipal Code. In order to be enforceable, streets must be posted as either restricted or unrestricted. Monte Vista Avenue south of the I-10 Freeway is restricted, but westbound truck traffic from the I-10 Freeway had no notice of this restriction until the driver was already on Monte Vista Avenue. Without effective notice, the restriction was not enforceable—until this week.

In cooperation with and under a permit issued by Caltrans, City crews recently completed the installation of new truck restriction signage on I-10 for eastbound and westbound directions. The new signage makes it clear that trucks are not permitted on Monte Vista Avenue south of I-10, as shown in the picture below.



- For the past few weeks, staff has been working with various contractors and a trucking company to move a big rock through the City. On Thursday, March 1, just before noon, the big rock made the move locally. This large granite boulder is actually part of Michael Heizer's ["levitated mass"](#) art exhibit, which will be on display at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

The boulder originated in Jurupa Valley and is making the journey to LACMA traveling across 4 county lines and 22 cities. Because of its size, the route taken is very circuitous, avoiding overpasses, and travel is limited to between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. When it arrived in Montclair, it traveled westbound on Mission Boulevard, turning southbound at Ramona Avenue, and then into the City of Chino. The tractor/dolly assembly carrying the granite boulder is 22 feet in height, 32 feet in width, and 295 feet in length, nearly the length of a football field. It weighs in at a massive 340 tons. Due to its size, signal mast arms at several intersections on Mission Boulevard had to be removed to allow passage.

There were many Montclair residents in attendance to watch the granite boulder travel through the City. Administrative Specialist Alicia Johnson and Secretary/Emergency Services Coordinator Angelic Bird were also on hand to take pictures of the event (see Pages 14-16).

The granite boulder is expected to arrive at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on Saturday, March 10 and should be ready for public display by late spring/early summer.

ECS:spa

"Affection is responsible for nine-tenths of whatever solid and durable happiness there is in our lives."

~ C. S. Lewis

MARCH 2012



11	Daylight Saving Time Begins	
12	Planning Commission Meeting - Canceled	
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.

Montclair Senior Center Presentation Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN
WHEN GRANDPARENTS BECOME PARENTS AGAIN

Wednesday March 7, 2012

Presented by
Sue Yoakum, Case Manager
Montclair Community Collaborative
Montclair Senior Center
(909) 625-9461

The Montclair Community Collaborative is funded by First 5 San Bernardino, the City of Montclair and the Ontario-Montclair School District



Hawthorne Street Clean-Up

Before



To Date





Reserve Officers Keith Dow and Randy Ortiz with "The Cat in the Hat"

SCE UNDERGROUND UTILITY UPGRADES





BOULDER MOVE



Making a left turn from westbound Mission Boulevard to southbound Ramona Avenue



Granite boulder exiting the City of Montclair and entering into the County area



Los Angeles Signal Construction Inc. rotating the signal mast arm at Mission Boulevard and Ramona Avenue back in place