



CITY OF MONTCLAIR

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

March 22, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT: March 16-22, 2012

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

- On Tuesday, the Los Angeles City Council Trade, Commerce and Tourism Committee, approved a motion calling for the Los Angeles City Administrative Officer to conduct an objective analysis of the City of Ontario's offer to return Los Angeles/Ontario International Airport (ONT) to local control. In late January 2012, a motion was approved by the Los Angeles City Council asking for Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to report on ONT's fair market value and the possibility of sale. It is this motion, amended to replace LAWA with the Los Angeles City Administrative Officer that was taken up by the Trade, Commerce and Tourism Committee.

There is an overwhelming and growing consensus in the region that it no longer makes sense for LAWA to control ONT and that the airport would be more effectively and efficiently managed under local control. Currently, more than 60 governments and organizations are on record supporting local control of ONT. A majority of Riverside and San Bernardino County cities, including Montclair, have been joined by a number of eastern San Gabriel Valley cities in passing resolutions supporting the transfer of ONT back to Ontario or regional consortium. Resolutions typically argue the financial significance the airport has for the region.

Earlier this month, Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa stated he would not approve the sale of ONT until the real estate market recovers. However, Ontario city officials have apparently made no offer to purchase ONT from LAWA, although a \$250 million transfer proposal has been submitted; \$50 million would go to Los Angeles to dissolve the 1967 joint operating agreement; and the balance would represent an assumption of debt obligations from LAWA and diversion of \$125 million in future passenger facility charges to LAWA.

For more information on the City of Ontario's efforts to regain control of ONT, visit www.SetONTarioFree.com.

- Yesterday, Police Chief Keith Jones, Fire Chief Troy Ament, Police Captain Mike deMoet and I, along with representatives from a number of other local government agencies and businesses, attended a "breakfast meet-and-greet" with San Bernardino County 4th District Supervisor Gary Ovitt. Supervisor Ovitt reviewed a number of issues facing the County and thanked cities for joining with the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors in adopting a shared vision statement for the County's future.

Components of the County's vision statement 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.
4. A region capitalizing on the natural beauty of its valleys, mountains, desserts, and communities to attract visitors and residents alike to the grandeur that is San Bernardino County.

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.

The Montclair City Council adopted the countywide vision statement at its March 19, 2012 meeting.

- Last Thursday, Redevelopment/Public Works Director Marilyn Staats and I attended the League of California Cities, Inland Empire Division, quarterly meeting. The program included a presentation by Mr. A. J. Wilson, Interim Director, San Bernardino International Airport Authority, and Ms. Debra Dorst-Porada, Ontario City Council Member.

Mr. Wilson, the apparent successor to Scot Spencer, spoke on current issues related to operation of San Bernardino International Airport—formerly Norton Air Force Base. Mr. Spencer was tasked to transform the air base into an international airport, utilizing his extensive aviation industry connections developed during his control of Braniff Airways in the 1990s. In recent years, the cost to renovate the airport allegedly increased from \$50 million to over \$142 million. No commercial airlines have thus far agreed to use the airport upon completion of improvements. Until recently, Million Air, a corporate jet-servicing company, was the primary tenant at the airport—the company terminated its relationship earlier this year. In September 2011, federal and state authorities served search warrants against various administrators and businesses serving the airport. According to search warrants, authorities were seeking information regarding suspected misuse of federal funds, bribery, mail fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy. Mr. Wilson was hired last November to the position of interim executive director, with responsibility to take over management of the airport.

Ontario City Council Member Dorst-Porada spoke on the city's "Set ONTario Free" movement. According to Ontario city leaders, Los Angeles/Ontario International Airport (ONT) has lost 35 percent of its passenger traffic over the past three years, costing the Inland Empire economy an estimated \$500 million annually and over 9,200 jobs. Among airports its size, ONT also has one of the highest per-enplaned-passenger costs, making it unattractive to domestic and international carriers. In 2011, more than 2 million passengers were forced to bypass ONT for Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) in order to receive flight schedules and air fares desired, adding an estimated 1.3 million car trips to the existing Los Angeles region traffic gridlock. ONT is currently operated by Los Angeles World's Airport (LAWA) under a joint operating agreement in place since 1967. Ontario city officials argue local vested interest in the region equips regional leaders with the necessary incentive to make them more effective managers of the airport.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Last weekend, six teams from the City's Youth Basketball League participated in the regional Inland Valley Municipal Athletic Association (IVMAA) tournament, held in Riverside, Rancho Cucamonga, and Chino.

One of our teams, the Division C Hawks (3rd and 4th grade boys and girls), coached by Senior Recreation Specialist Fernando Saltos, advanced to the championship game where the team fought hard but lost to a team from Corona. The second place Hawks now advance to the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation tournament, to be played March 31, 2012, in Garden Grove.

Congratulations to our Montclair teams!

- Yesterday, the Senior Center welcomed spring with a *Spring Fever Dance*. Over 85 seniors put on their dancing shoes and did the rumba, cha-cha, waltz, line dancing, and more. Delicious refreshments with a spring theme were served.

A photo collage of the event is featured on Page 9.

- This week, the Youth Center celebrated spring break with new hours, activities, programs and members because students were out of school. The Youth Center opened daily at noon and membership was free this week only for Montclair students.

On Tuesday, the kids went to go see *The Lorax* in 3D, and tomorrow they take a field trip to Skate Express in Chino. With staff, they took advantage of great weather to enjoy outdoor sports and activities, games, and spring crafts.

- Photos of this week's activities are included on Page 10. You can also check out the program's new Facebook page—Montclair Youth Center—to see more of our kids in action.
- Mark your calendars for the City's Easter Eggstravaganza and Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 7 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Montclair Community Center and adjacent Starlite Patio. The event will include games, activities, Easter eggs, and candy for children 10 years and younger. Children are invited to bring their own baskets from home to win candy filled eggs as game prizes. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos (\$3 per photo or \$1 to take your own photo). The pancake breakfast, offered for \$3, will include pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee.

The event is sponsored by the City of Montclair, Montclair Kiwanis Club, Montclair Police Officer's Association, and Montclair-Ontario Junior Women's Club. For more information call (909) 625-9479.

- ***POLICE DEPARTMENT***

- On February 23, 2012, at 8 pm, the Ben Bridge jewelry store inside Montclair Plaza was robbed by four armed suspects. They made off with 23 Rolex watches (a total value of \$210,150).

Last week, the Detective Bureau arrested seven suspects for their involvement in the robbery. Two of the arrestees were local residents and the other five were from Las Vegas, Nevada.

During the course of the investigation, it was determined there were two similar robberies that occurred previously in Nevada. One of those robberies occurred at a Ben Bridge jewelry store in Henderson, Nevada on February 12, 2012.

Montclair detectives worked diligently with Henderson detectives to develop leads. All of that hard work paid off when a group of suspects were determined to be involved, which ultimately led detectives to a suspect's Pomona residence. After conducting a surveillance of the residence, six suspects were arrested at the location, and the seventh suspect was arrested the following day in Los Angeles.

As a result of the arrests, evidence was located that indicated the group had been conspiring to commit additional jewelry heists in California. Montclair detectives found evidence the suspects were planning to rob the Ben Bridge jewelry store at Glendale Galleria that day and another jewelry store in San Francisco some time later.

Out of the 23 Rolex watches stolen during the robbery at Montclair Plaza, it was determined 19 of those watches were sold to a jewelry broker in Los Angeles. Montclair detectives searched several homes and the jewelry brokerage business, but they were unable to locate any of the stolen merchandise. They did seize two motorcycles from the robbery suspects and \$180,000 from the jewelry broker, which the Police Department believed to be the illicit proceeds from the robberies and the sale of the stolen watches.

The Detective Bureau has recovered 16 of the stolen watches and is working hard to recover the ones still missing.

Please join me in thanking the Detective Bureau, as well as SB WESTNET and CSU, for this outstanding investigative work.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- The Fire Department recently acquired three new LifePak 15 cardiac monitor/defibrillators with \$80,956 in funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant, along with the City's required ten percent match. The new monitors have replaced the Department's outdated LifePak 12 cardiac monitor/defibrillators that have been in service since inception of the Paramedic Program in 2001. The updated equipment will significantly improve patient care and will allow for interoperability and compatibility with all bordering emergency medical service partners.

Also, the LifePak 15 will continue to support interoperability with the 11 LifePak 1000 automated external defibrillators located throughout City-operated facilities and law enforcement vehicles. The LifePak 15 monitors were placed in service on all front-line fire apparatus after the Paramedics received training on March 20.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- West Coast Arborists, the City's tree-maintenance contractor, has begun trimming trees in Grid Area 2, the area designated for tree trimming for Fiscal Year 2011-12. Grid Area 2 is bounded by Kingsley Street to the north, Monte Vista Avenue to the east, and Ramona Avenue to the west.

Public Works staff is responsible for administering this program. Weather permitting, we anticipate all City trees located in the rights-of-way and parks in Grid Area 2 will be trimmed within four to six weeks.

- Bids for the Montclair Housing Corporation (MHC) Canoga Street Apartments Construction Project are due this afternoon. The project is a comprehensive exterior renovation of the Canoga Street Apartments (32 units) that includes new roofs, installation of energy-efficient windows, stucco repair, and new paint.

Staff conducted two walkthroughs with prospective contractors to explain the project, as well as to allow the contractors the opportunity to ask specific questions and take measurements. MHC staff looks forward to starting the project and is enthusiastic about the energy-efficient upgrades and the apartment building's new look.

ECS:spa

"If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall."

~ Nadine Stair

MARCH 2012



26	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
27	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
28	Soroptimist International of Montclair/Inland Valley 21st Annual Prism Award Luncheon Ontario Convention Center	11:30 a.m.
31	Reserve Officers Appreciation Banquet Montclair Police Department	3:00 p.m.

APRIL 2012



2	City Council Workshop Impound Lot Operational Status Report Council Chambers	5:45 p.m.
2	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
4	State of the City and Taste of Montclair Montclair Community Center	11:30 a.m.
4	Community Action Committee Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
7	Easter Eggstravaganza and Pancake Breakfast Montclair Community Center and Starlite Theater	9 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
8	Easter	
9	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
16	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
16	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
19	Safety Committee Meeting Council Chambers	9:00 a.m.
19	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
22	Earth Day	
23	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
25	Legislative Action Days, April 25-26 Sacramento	
27	Arbor Day	

Montclair Senior Center "Spring Fever Dance" March 21, 2012





The Youth Center is open
OVER SPRING BREAK
12-6 Mon-Thu 12-7 Fri
Youth Center Spring Breaks

