

## **CITY OF MONTCLAIR**

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

May 24, 2012

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

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

**SUBJECT:** WEEKLY REPORT: May 18-24, 2012

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

- A new bill has been introduced in Congress intended to expedite the transfer of Los Angeles/Ontario International Airport (ONT) to local control. The Transfer Control of Ontario Airport Now Act gives Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), which manages ONT, 60 days to turn over operations and ownership. The bill also calls on the Federal Aviation Administration to withhold funding from LAWA and area airports if no action is taken within the first 60 days after the bill's enactment. A commission also would be created to determine a fair market value for the sale of ONT. LAWA would then be forced to sell the airport to the City of Ontario at the commission's determined, fair market price, according to the bill. The City of Los Angeles assumed management of ONT in 1967 and purchased adjacent property in 1985 to construct two new terminals for an estimated \$270 million.

A bill introduced last year would have authorized transferring control of ONT from LAWA to a regional airport authority—that bill has since been tabled. In a related move, the state Assembly's Committee on Local Government is expected to consider a bill calling for creating an Inland Empire-based authority to negotiate a transfer plan for ONT.

At last week's Four Corners Summit, attended by the City's Senior Intern, Mikey Fuentes, LAWA's Executive Director cautioned that local control is not the solution to ONT's revival. ONT has seen a decline of nearly 3 million passengers since 2007, when more than 7.2 million passengers passed through the airport.

San Bernardino County officials suggest the decline has cost the region approximately \$500 million in economic activity and the loss of an estimated 9,250 jobs. LAWA officials argue that recessionary forces, not LAWA's management of the Ontario aerodrome, resulted in airlines retreating from smaller hub facilities like ONT. The expectation is for improvement at ONT once the economy recovers.

Among medium size U.S. airports, ONT suffers from one of the worst declines in airport passenger traffic since 2007—only Cincinnati fared worse, suffering a 55.3 percent decline in total passengers, versus a 36.8 percent decline at ONT, followed by Oakland at 36.6 percent. Locally, Burbank is experiencing a 27.4 percent decline and Orange County a 13.7 percent decline.

City of Ontario officials are currently awaiting a report from a Los Angeles City Council subcommittee that analyzes Ontario's proposal to regain control of the airport. The report is expected to be completed in June.

To gain public awareness, City of Ontario officials launched its [SetONTarioFree.com](http://SetONTarioFree.com) campaign earlier this year to regain control of the ailing airport. Part of Ontario's claim is that LAWA allowed ONT to decline while focusing on expansion and growth at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). A LAWA consultant suggests the Set ONTario Free dialogue is a factor in declining ridership and retreat by airlines. The consultant argues the campaign is producing a negative effect on customers and creating a turbulent environment for airlines at ONT. However, airline retreat and passenger declines at ONT began long before the City of Ontario initiated its recently formed campaign.

LAWA officials also suggest ONT suffers from weak brand identity, making it difficult for the airport to move forward. Reportedly, LAWA offered to fund a marketing campaign under control of the City of Ontario; however, the offer was declined. Ontario officials counter that marketing the airport is not the issue; rather, LAWA has made ONT unattractive to airlines and passengers by making the airport one of the nation's most expensive to fly out of, thereby creating a systemic decline in service that can only be resolved by a local commitment to success. Ontario also argues it is unlikely LAWA would actually support a marketing program designed to increase scheduled flights and onboard passengers if it produced a negative impact on LAWA's earnings at LAX.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- The Community Action Committee's Annual Memorial Day Program on Monday, May 28 will feature the dedication of three new plaques on the City's Veterans Memorial. The Veterans Memorial is a tribute to deceased Montclair veterans from all branches of service whose families have purchased plaques.

The event will also include a presentation of colors by the Montclair High School ROTC, patriotic music performed by the Montclair Walker's Choral Group, refreshments, and readings. The Program starts at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center's Memorial Garden located at 5111 Benito Street.

- The City's summer youth programs begin next week. The three programs being offered are:

**Summer Day Camp Montclair**, a structured day camp held at the Montclair Youth Center for children in grades K-8 (2011-12 school year). This is a 10-week program (May 29 through August 3), held Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Games, field trips, arts and crafts, special events, swimming, sports, and movies are some of the activities included in Summer Day Camp. The cost is \$125 for a two-week session with additional attendance/fee plans available. Summer Day Camp is limited to 40 participants.

**Montclair Day Program**, a "drop-in" camp program, is held at Vernon Middle School for children in grades K-8 (2011-12 school year). This is a 10-week program (May 29 through August 3), held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sports, arts and crafts, table games, field trips, and special events are some of the activities included in the program. The cost is \$10 per week, plus a \$10 start-up fee that includes a camp t-shirt. Field trips are available for an additional fee.

**Montclair Youth Center Program**, for those in grades 6 through 9 (2011-12 school year). This is a free program offered Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons and evenings from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. From 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., the program will be held at the Recreation facility, Room D; and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the program will move to the Youth Center. Activities will include activities such as games, dances, movies, and crafts. Field trips are offered for an additional fee.

Registration for these programs is ongoing throughout the summer. Programs are open to children who live in Montclair, attend a Montclair school, or have a parent/guardian who works in Montclair (proof required). Summer Camp Montclair sign ups are taken at the Recreation facility, and sign ups for Montclair Summer Playground are taken at Vernon Middle School the first day of the program.

For additional information on the above programs, please phone (909) 625-9479.

- City employees will receive a coupon on their paychecks today, redeemable for a free food item at the Family Fun Festival on Saturday, June 2. The free food items are made possible through a donation from Burrtec Waste Industries, Inc.

This year's event, "Bringing Spirit to Montclair," will feature live entertainment from a D.J., the crowd favorite Disc Dogs, a BMX demonstration, new carnival rides and games for the kids with \$5 unlimited wristbands, community organizations, vendors, a skateboarding competition, and food vendors.

The Family Fun Festival will be held at Alma Hofman Park from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. I hope to see you there!

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- Police Department sworn and non-sworn personnel were honored yesterday at the Annual Montclair Police Department Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by the Montclair Chamber of Commerce. I was joined by Mayor Eaton and Council Member John Dutrey. Chaplain Vicki Brobeck gave an uplifting invocation, and Chief Keith Jones led the group in a salute to the flag.

Chief Jones commended all Department employees. He noted the Department saw a 7.3 percent increase in calls for service between 2010 and 2011; yet the City has seen a reduction in crime each year since 2006.

Captain Mike deMoet introduced Jim Michel as the 2011 Officer of the Year and Chief Jones introduced Officer Rob Pipersky as the 2011 Annual Achievement Award recipient. Both Officers received plaques and certificates from Mayor Paul Eaton and representatives from the offices of County Supervisor Gary Ovitt, Congressman David Dreier, Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, and Assembly Member Norma Torres. The event's major sponsor, Ronald Cuning of Cuning Dental Group, also presented plaques to the honorees.

Our appreciation goes to the Montclair Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring this annual event for the Police Department.

A photo of Officers Pipersky and Michel is featured on Page 10.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- On May 14-16, Fire suppression crews were invited by LA County Fire to a wildland fire training exercise at Claremont Hills Wilderness Park. La Verne Fire and the Department of Forestry also participated.

Training consisted of group discussions on incident command structure, communications, safety, and a manipulative exercise simulating a brush fire. Fire crews conducted a progressive hose lay around the fire, stopping at the top of a hill, and they performed fire shelter deployment. A helicopter from LA County Fire performed water drops around the crews advancing up the hill.

This training helps prepare firefighters for the physical exertion that is required to carry hose and tools up steep terrain while fighting fires and remaining cognizant of safety at all times.

- At Monday's City Council meeting, the Montclair-Ontario Junior Women's Club president, Trisha Martinez, presented Fire Chief Troy Ament with a check for \$829 to purchase extrication gloves for Fire Department personnel.

Chief Ament thanked the club members for their generous donation and stated the gloves are valuable personal protective equipment that Fire suppression crews will wear when performing extrications, especially those that involve motorists trapped in vehicles. The gloves are puncture and heat resistant, do not get slippery when wet, and the elastic cuffs protect users from broken glass and other debris. An additional benefit is a built-in barrier that helps protect users from microorganisms and bloodborne pathogens that Firefighters may encounter during extractions. The use of the gloves also increases dexterity, allowing for easier manipulation of rescue tools. The Fire Department is committed to protecting life and creating a safe environment in which to live and work, and the new gloves will assist in accomplishing that mission.

The Montclair-Ontario Junior Women's Club's mission is to enrich the quality of life within the Montclair-Ontario area through service projects that are aligned with the club's major objectives. One of those objectives is to encourage public safety.

A portion of the donation was raised at a Bunco Bash held earlier this month at the Community Center. A special thank you goes to all those who attended the Bunco Bash, helped sell tickets for the event, and made donations for the prizes. Our appreciation also goes to the Montclair-Ontario Junior Women's Club and the City's Senior Bunco Group for sponsoring and coordinating the event.

A photo is included on Page 11.

➤ ***PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY***

- This week at Alma Hofman Park, Public Works staff worked diligently to make sure all systems are operational for the Splash Pad grand re-opening on Saturday for Memorial Day weekend. During a routine filter cleaning, however, staff noticed the sewer line would not drain. Without being able to clean and drain the filter system into the sewer system, the Splash Pad cannot be used. Public Works staff spent most of Tuesday attempting to clear the sewer line—to no avail. Yesterday they dug up the sewer line to locate the problem and make repairs. As of this report, it was still unknown if the Splash Pad will be opened on Saturday, May 26. City staff is hoping for a successful outcome.

- The Gold Line Construction Authority recently released an update on its construction activities for Phase 2A and 2B Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Montclair. A little less than a year ago, the Construction Authority began work on a bridge spanning the eastbound lanes of the Foothill Freeway in Arcadia. The two pictures below show the freeway as it looked prior to beginning construction and as it looks today:



July 2011



May 2012

Crews from Skanska USA are finalizing the form-work for the bridge's superstructure and outrigger (or main cross-beam). Once completed in early June, an 18-hour concrete pour will be performed. More than two hundred concrete trucks will be needed to place 2,100 cubic yards of concrete that will form the main bridge structure.

The FTC (Foothill Transit Constructors—a Kiewit Parsons Joint Venture) team has made significant progress on the design for the 11.5-mile light rail extension to Azusa. Nearly 80 full-time engineers and designers are working on the project at this point. The design is in excess of 60 percent complete at this time. Construction of the mainline is expected to begin in September. As design progresses, FTC crews are out along the corridor conducting preconstruction activities. During the next several weeks, crews will start demolishing the abandoned freight track in Arcadia, as well as the Colorado Boulevard bridge, which crosses Colorado Boulevard just west of Santa Anita Avenue.

With respect to Phase 2B, the segment that extends the Gold Line from Azusa to Montclair, two bills are working their way through the legislature. AB1446 (Feuer) is enabling legislation that would ask voters to approve an indefinite extension of the Los Angeles County Measure R half-cent sales tax. The bill is currently moving through the Assembly and is anticipated to be placed on the November 2012 ballot). The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has committed \$810 million to the project so far (enough to complete the first half of the project to Azusa). This leaves a \$764 million funding gap to complete the project to Claremont. The expenditure plan anticipates the additional funding will be needed starting in 2016, with completion to Claremont anticipated in 2021.

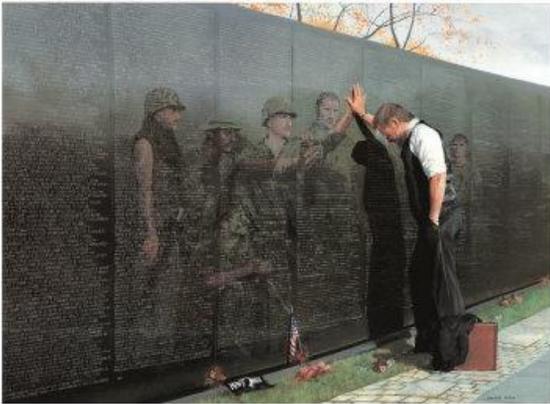
This timeline is based on the latest schedule to obtain environmental clearance for the Azusa to Claremont segment later this year.

AB1600 (Torres) is also moving through the State Legislature. The bill would amend the Construction Authority's enabling statute to extend jurisdiction for planning, designing, and constructing the light rail project to the City of Montclair. Additionally, it would add Montclair as an "extension city" and require Metro to operate the line into San Bernardino County (with funding by San Bernardino County).

ECS:spa

*"And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me."*  
 ~ Lee Greenwood

# MAY 2012

		
<b>28</b>	<b>Memorial Day – City Offices Closed</b>	
28	Memorial Day Program City Hall Memorial Garden	6:00 p.m.
29	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Manager's Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
29	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.

# JUNE 2012



2	Family Fun Festival Alma Hofman Park	11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
4	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
11	Community Action Committee Interviews City Manager's Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
11	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
12	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Manager's Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
12	Preliminary Budget Review Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
13	Oversight Board Meeting Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
17	<b>Father's Day</b>	
18	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Manager's Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
18	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
20	First Day of Summer	
21	Safety Committee Meeting City Manager's Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
21	Public Works Committee Meeting City Manager's Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
25	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
26	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Manager's Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
27	Patton v. City of Montclair Appeal Hearing Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.

# MYC DANCE AND MOVIE FIELD TRIP





Officers Rob Pipersky and Jim Michel



Pictured, left to right: Fire Chief Troy Ament, Montclair-Ontario Junior Women's Club President Trisha Martinez, and Fire Secretary Angelic Bird