

CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763

August 2, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT: July 27–August 2, 2012

➤ **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- In recent weeks, it has been brought to my attention that erroneous and/or fabricated rumors are circulating regarding the City's fiscal operations. One rumor suggests Montclair received approximately \$3 million in fees related to the Paseos at Montclair housing project, currently under development in North Montclair; and that fees were not reported in the City's Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget. In fact, the City received approximately \$2.9 million in development fees during the latter part of Fiscal Year 2011-12. Of this total, approximately \$2.6 million is restricted and held as pass through for other agencies—these revenues are not available to the City of Montclair for any purpose.

Montclair received approximately \$367,000 in revenue from the Paseos project, recorded as building permit, General Plan Update, and Strong-Motion fees—the latter being a fee established for acquiring, installing, and maintaining strong-motion instruments for collection of seismic data. That portion of fees allocated to Montclair are properly accounted for and reflected in the Fiscal Year 2012-13 General Fund Revenue Operating Budget.

A second false rumor regards health insurance programs. The rumor suggests Montclair receives a service fee (or kickback) from the City's health care insurance broker in exchange for an exclusive broker agreement. This administration does not engage in unethical practices, and any assertions to the contrary are patently false statements.

Dissemination of false, misleading, or inflammatory rumors serve no purpose other than to incite employees by creating misrepresentations regarding operational procedures and/or unflattering perceptions regarding other employees.

Employees with questions regarding the City Budget should contact Director of Finance Don Parker for accurate information. Questions regarding personnel-related practices and procedures should be forwarded to Personnel Officer Gary Charleston. In addition, the City Manager's office maintains an open door policy for all employees.

Employees are encouraged to ask questions of their supervisors, managers, and executive managers whenever they have questions or require clarification related to conversational issues lacking support or credibility.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Last Thursday afternoon, the Senior Center held a "Healthy Cooking for Seniors" workshop presented by Home Instead Senior Care. Seniors were given information on the ten warning signs that older adults are not eating properly and were taught the staple foods they should always have at home to maintain a healthy diet. The presenters demonstrated how to make a healthy, delicious tuna melt sandwich, which was later sampled by participants. Those in attendance had the opportunity to win door prizes.

A picture collage of the workshop is shown on page 8.

- On Monday afternoon, the Senior Center hosted a presentation demonstrating cost-effective activities and ways to have fun with their grandchildren. Senior Citizens Program Specialist Ester Vargas-Pipersky taught seniors how to make homemade playdough, Dr. Seuss marshmallow hat treats, and spider cupcakes. A lucky senior won a Dr. Seuss book as a raffle prize. Seniors and Montclair residents in attendance enjoyed the activities and refreshments provided. For information about these activities, contact Senior Citizens Program Specialist Vargas-Pipersky at x462.

A photo collage is shown on page 9.

- On Tuesday night, approximately two hundred community members and City employees attended the final 2012 Summer Concert Series performance at Alma Hofman Park. The concert, the final of four nights of music in the park, featured an outstanding performance by the popular band The Ravelers. The band even received a standing ovation and played an encore at the audience's request.

Special thanks to the Montclair Kiwanis Club for selling refreshments at all four concerts and to the Montclair Police Department Reserve Officers for their assistance with the concerts.

A picture of the band playing is included on page 10.

- The teen participants of the Montclair Youth Center had a busy summer, full of activities such as outdoor play, food crafts, field trips, and hanging out with friends. The Youth Center was open all summer long for Montclair students from grades 7 through 10 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The outdoor games that were most memorable to participants were soccer and kick ball. During their time on-site, the participants kept their brains active with fun and creative experiments like making solar hot dogs and crafting their own personal pizzas with common kitchen foods. Some of the most popular field trips were Six Flags, Santa Monica Beach, Raging Waters, Huntington Beach, Glen Helen, and the Orange County Fair. Participants had an unforgettable summer and are already looking forward to their next summer adventure.

A collage of this summer's Youth Center highlights is shown on page 11.

The Youth Center resumes its school year hours starting Monday, August 6. The Youth Center will be open to Montclair youth in grades 7 through 10 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m., Tuesdays from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m., and Fridays from 2 p.m. – 9 p.m. For more information about the program, call Senior Recreation Specialists Thailin Gavilanes or Fernando Saltos at 625–9482 or 625–9496, respectively.

- All City employees are invited to the annual Montclair Summer Bar-B-Que on Tuesday, August 14, from 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Senior Center. The event will feature a barbeque lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings, side dishes, plus a special treat for dessert. See you there!

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- No new information to report.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

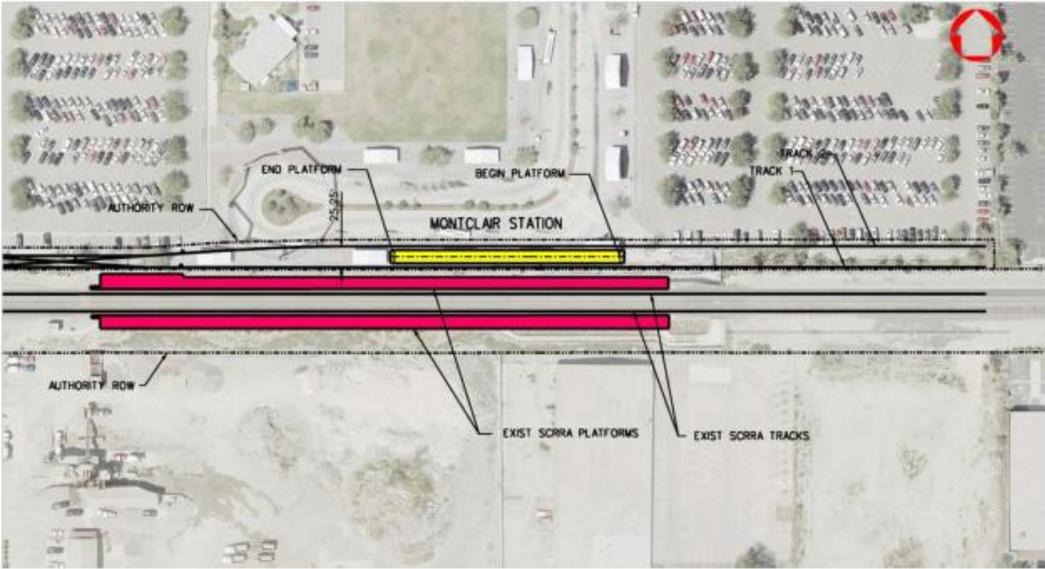
- On Tuesday, Secretary Angelic Bird participated in the Ontario–Montclair School District's (OMSD) Certified Staff Development Day. The event focused on the topic of safety and consisted of several sessions facilitated by four presenters on universal precautions, safe lifting techniques, computer security awareness, and emergency preparedness. Ms. Bird gave three consecutive presentations on what it means to be a Disaster Service Worker and the importance of personal emergency preparedness. OMSD staff asked a lot of great questions and interjected relevant personal

anecdotes into the discussion. Many participants commented that the presentation provided them the tools needed to better prepare themselves and their families for emergencies.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- The Gold Line Azusa to Montclair Draft Environmental Impact Report will be released for public review starting next Tuesday, August 7, 2012, for a 45-day review period. During that time, cities, agencies, and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the project. The project would provide Light Rail Transit (LRT) service from the Azusa-Citrus Station to the City of Montclair Transcenter. Although I reported last week that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency did not intend to include the Azusa to Claremont segment of the Gold Line into its Measure R extension expenditure plan, work continues on the environmental clearance of that segment to Claremont and Montclair.

The existing Metrolink platforms and new Gold Line platform are pictured.



A new LRT bridge would be built over Monte Vista Avenue, which would roughly match the present Metrolink grade separation configuration. The existing Metrolink bridge over the San Antonio Wash would be expanded to serve the LRT and relocated Metrolink tracks.

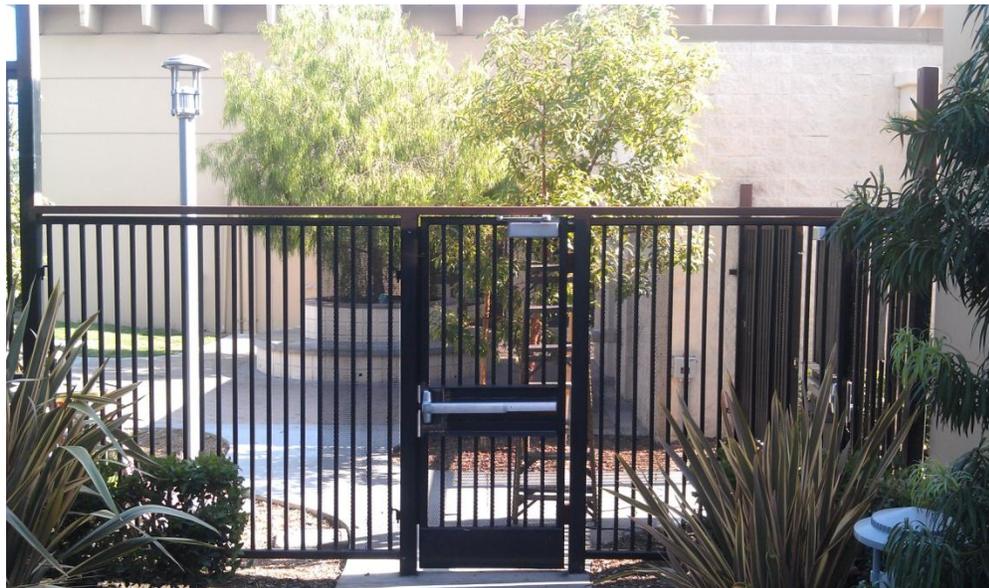
- The new Montclair Senior Center has been open for a little over a year and a half and has been plagued with trespassing and vandalism during non-operating hours ever since its opening.

Recently, there has been an increase in vandalism in the courtyard and rear patio areas of the facility. Trespassers and vandals are entering the secured areas by climbing over and under fences. Vandals have damaged

several of the water fountains and the two barbeque units as well as painted graffiti on walls and windows.

In an attempt to reduce the amount of trespassing and graffiti, the City has hired a contractor to modify the existing fencing. Improvements will include self closing gates and additional fencing. Work is expected to be completed next week.

Below are photos of the Senior Center's current fencing structures.



- Some big box retailers are learning that the giant one-size-fits-all approach does not work for all shoppers nor all locations. It is becoming a trend for retailers to introduce smaller, more intimate stores.

A few of the retailers undergoing this evolution include the following businesses:

Ace Hardware – Plans are in the works for 400 scaled-down home improvement and rural locations. Some stores will consist of a 5,000 square foot format within a larger supermarket.

Best Buy – This brick and mortar store is competing with internet merchants from around the world. The big-box model is proving to be too costly so the retailer is closing dozens of larger stores and focusing on expanding the number of smaller stores focused on goods that don't take up a lot of space.

JCPenney – While there have been many changes with the makeover of JCPenney, the store is now considering small, branded boutique-like hubs that will take over space in its larger department stores to create intimate-feeling spots. A prototype for a mini Levi's store within the store is being developed. Other mini-store brands within the store could include Sephora, Liz Clairborne, and Izod.

Office Depot – The office supply store has redesigned itself so it can operate a store with one-fifth the space and one-half the number of items for sale. This will allow Office Depot to compete in more pricey urban markets.

Target – Like JCPenney, Target has plans for the store-within-a-store concept, although Target's partner is the extremely popular Apple store. There are reportedly more than two dozen such Apple Stores-within-Target-stores in the works. In large urban settings, Target is also considering partnering with the health food restaurant Pret A Manger, offering preservative free and vegan food choices. Urban Target stores are roughly two-thirds smaller than a standard Target.

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*"Without passion, we'd be truly dead."
~ Joss Whedon*

AUGUST 2012

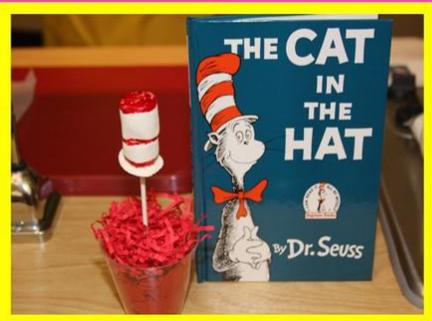


6	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
13	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
14	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
14	All Employee Summer Bar-B-Que Senior Center	12:00 p.m.
16	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
16	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
20	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
20	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
27	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.

Senior Center Healthy Cooking Presentation



Senior Center Presentation Fun Activities Your Grandchildren Will Enjoy



CONCERT IN THE PARK
July 31, 2012



The Ravelers



Montclair Youth Center in action!

