

CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763

October 18, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: October 12–18, 2012

➤ **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- On Monday of this week, the following editorial ran in the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin. In addition to its strong endorsement of Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Raft and Council Member John Dutrey, the editorial praises the strong fiscal management of the City of Montclair.

Re-elect Dutrey, Raft to council

Montclair City Council is perhaps the easiest endorsement for our editorial board to make this election season.

It's a straightforward case of backing two incumbents who have worked responsibly to hold the line on city expenses in the face of the Great Recession and its aftermath.

We support Carolyn Raft and John Dutrey for re-election in this well-managed city.

Montclair, more than most cities in the Inland Valley, actually has reined in expenses in response to falling revenue. The city laid off 11 employees - regrettable but necessary - when it lost its redevelopment agency. It was one of the first in the area to go to a two-tier system that provides more modest pensions to new employees. And the city has insisted that employees pay more of the employee portion of their pension costs.

The pension issue has led to friction with public safety unions, and that disagreement lies at the center of this election. The police and fire unions, after reaching impasses with the city and having contracts imposed upon them, want to get the incumbents out of office and replace them with union-friendlier challengers.

We think Dutrey, Raft and their City Council colleagues are doing a good job of protecting the public purse while dealing fairly with employees. Raft has long been the fiscal hawk on the council. Dutrey, himself a public employee in Rialto and a booster of public safety, has been backed by the employee associations in past elections, but not this time.

Our view is that all public employees should pay the full employee share of their pension plans; that's why it's called the "employee share." Many councils shortsightedly agreed to pick it up when times were good, but those times are gone.

Police officers and firefighters are the good guys and gals in town, there to protect and serve the public. Their union leaders and lawyers, however, are out to get as big a chunk of the public purse as possible, which is their job. The best city councils and city managers, in our view, are willing to stand up to the financial and political power of the unions - not in order to underpay the members but to reach a reasonable balance that protects taxpayers.

In Montclair, the incumbents are doing just that. Re-elect incumbents John Dutrey and Carolyn Raft.

http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_21773132/re-elect-dutrey-raft-council?IADID=Search-www.dailybulletin.com-www.dailybulletin.com

My thanks and gratitude to each member of the City Council for their smart policies and fair, balanced, and pivotal leadership. I also thank the City's management team and employees for being integral to the success our organization has achieved in weathering through the Great Recession. Difficult choices had to be made; but they were proactive choices that allowed the organization to cope effectively with a serious fiscal crisis unprecedented in modern times. Many challenges remain ahead, but they will be less daunting than what he have come through, together.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- The Montclair Community Health Fair was held on Tuesday, October 16, at the Community Center. Approximately 400 people attended the fair and representatives from more than 40 agencies were on hand to answer questions about programs. County Supervisor Gary Ovitt also attended the event and spoke with attendees. Health screenings offered included blood pressure, structural screening, hearing, pulse oximetry, and dental. Flu shots were administered to more than 250 people.

The event had over 150 volunteers, including students from Western University of Health Sciences, California Baptist University, Montclair Senior Citizens Program, Montclair Hospital Medical Center and the Montclair Walkers that assisted with registration, crowd control, immunizations,

screening stations, and entertainment and door prize giveaways. Representatives from our Fire and Police Departments were also present at the event with informational displays. Special thanks to our event co-sponsors, Chino Valley Medical Center, Montclair Hospital Medical Center and Montclair–Ontario Junior Women's Club for providing the refreshments, complimentary flu vaccines, and volunteer support; to the Public Works Department for assisting with set up; and to Human Services staff that worked at the event.

A photo collage from the Health Fair is included on page 8.

Another opportunity for City of Montclair employees to get their flu shot is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23 & 30 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Montclair Medical Clinic. No appointments are necessary, however shots are first come, first serve.

- The 2012 Candidates' Forum was held last night at the Senior Center. All five candidates running for Montclair City Council, incumbents Carolyn Raft and J. John Dutrey, and challengers Richard Beltran, Sean Brunske and Philip Ruiz, participated in the Forum, which was attended by 175 community members and City employees. If you did not attend the Forum, it may be viewed on the Government Access Channel (Channel 3) from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m., 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on October 23 – 25 and 27 – 30 as well as November 1 and 3 – 5, and will then air from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Election Day November 6, 2012. In addition, a video of the event will be posted on the City's website at www.cityofmontclair.org.
- Last Thursday, the Senior Center hosted a birthday bash for volunteer Mary Cotter, who turned 100 years old. Mary has volunteered for the City of Montclair Senior Programs for over 20 years, five days a week, serving coffee, tea and water to seniors who participate in the Nutrition Program. Nearly 200 people attended the birthday bash including Mayor Paul Eaton, Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Raft, Council Member Leonard Paulitz, City Manager Edward Starr, Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, Assembly Member Norma Torres and a representative of Supervisor Gary Ovitt, along with Mary's family from Canada and Chicago and many Senior Center participants. A photo slideshow and a video of Mary's daily routine were shown, a delicious chicken lunch, which is Mary's favorite, was served while Entertainer Ron Johnson performed. Mary looked fabulous in her shining tiara while blowing out her birthday candles. She looks forward to her 101st birthday.

Photos of the birthday bash are displayed on page 9.

- On Saturday, Code Enforcement conducted another successful neighborhood clean-up with approximately 250 volunteers from Montclair's Iglesia Ni Cristo church congregation. With a large donation of paint and materials by

the property management company that is responsible for four single-family residences in the 10800 block of Ramona Avenue, those four homes, along with one in the 9800 block of Fremont Avenue, were each given a fresh coat of paint. The former appearances of each residence were in varying degrees of disrepair and in need of attention. The Ramona Avenue homes are directly across from the Mission Tiki Drive-In Theater, so they are viewed by thousands of motorists weekly. The Fremont Avenue home is in the middle of a block that has seen several neighboring homeowners perform significant upgrades to paint, landscaping, fencing, and window replacement. Senior Code Enforcement Officer Gabe Fondario reported that some members of the church took the Ramona Avenue residents to John's Incredible Pizza for lunch while the work was being performed. When they brought the residents back, they were blindfolded and, in the spirit of Extreme Makeover's signature "move that bus!" scene at the end of each episode, the residents were allowed to remove the blindfolds when they arrived to see their homes' new look. Gabe said that the residents were extremely appreciative of the volunteers' work and even shed some tears.

Before and after photos of the transformations appear on pages 11–13.

This is the second clean-up event Code Enforcement has coordinated with Iglesia Ni Cristo. In September 2011, approximately 200 enthusiastic volunteers of all ages removed weeds and trash from six vacant lots throughout Montclair.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- On Tuesday, October 16, Lieutenant Reed attended a Law Enforcement Collaboration Forum at the Inland Regional Center (IRC) in San Bernardino. The IRC is a non-profit agency that provides services to individuals that have a developmental disability. They manage licensed community care facilities to provide residential services to their clients. Many of these facilities and/or homes are located in the City of Montclair.

Lieutenant Reed sat on a panel consisting of law enforcement and mental health officials throughout San Bernardino and Riverside counties. He participated in fielding questions from an audience of approximately 200 care providers throughout the Inland Empire. The questions fielded and answered provided a communication conduit between providers and law enforcement agencies. Lieutenant Reed was pleased to hear from a care provider who operates a care facility for elderly disabled residents in Montclair. She was complimentary of the police officers who have responded to her care facility over the past few years. During the conversation, she expressed how appreciative she is of how helpful and professional our officers are during calls for service at her facility.

- On Saturday, October 13, the Chino Police Department held their grand opening at their new police facility. They reached out to our police department to cover their patrol duties during the ceremony so their personnel could attend the event.

Sergeant Borra led officers Andrew Graziano, Steven Griffin, Michael Lang, and Jacob Altig as they handled patrol calls for service for approximately four hours in the City of Chino. During that time, the officers responded to what was initially reported as a bank robbery in progress, a vicious dog call, assisted in evacuating a building from a possible fire, and other routine calls for service. Upon their return to the City of Montclair, those same officers assisted our own patrol officers in a shooting that had just occurred in the northeast portion of Montclair. Thank you to those four officers and Sergeant Borra for representing our Department well in Chino, and for assisting during the shooting call in our City.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- On Saturday, October 13, the Fire Department held its annual Open House and Pancake Breakfast. This event coincides with the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Fire Prevention Week, which commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of October 8–9, 1871. Each October, the NFPA sponsors a fire prevention campaign; this year's theme was "Have 2 Ways Out." According to NFPA, only one of every three American households (33%) have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan to ensure they could escape quickly and safely.

The annual open house is the Fire Department's most important public relations event, and Fire personnel spend a lot of time and effort to ensure its success. This year, 400 pancake breakfasts were served. The children in attendance received goodie bags and had the opportunity to have their picture taken with Sparky (the National Fire Prevention Dog). Approximately 200 free photos were printed and distributed for the children to take home with them as a memento of their trip to the Fire Station.

Fire Prevention personnel gave presentations on fire safety, including teaching those in attendance about smoke detectors, Exit Drills In The Home (E.D.I.T.H.), disaster preparedness, and how to stop-drop-and-roll. The children were also taught about fire safety by Timon and Pumbaa through a Disney DVD. Southern California Edison presented an electrical safety demo with the use of their "Hazard Hamlet" prop.

Fire crews entertained the attendees with a live vehicle extrication demonstration and gave station tours where the attendees were enlightened to discover what a firefighter's home away from home was really like. The firefighting prop was once again a big hit as children lined up for a chance to put out a "fire" using a miniature attack line.

In addition to Montclair Fire Department employees, families, and the Montclair Fire Fighters Association, there were several volunteer organizations and representatives of the community that participated and provided valuable assistance to on-duty personnel and information for the attendees:

- American Medical Response
- American Red Cross
- Auxiliary Communication Services
- Crown Firecoach Enthusiasts – Don Beckwith
- Latex Configuration Specialist – John Shannon
- Montclair Community Action Committee
- Montclair Community Collaborative
- Montclair Fire Fighter's Association
- Montclair Hospital Medical Center
- Montclair Police Department
- Monte Vista Water District
- Mt. San Antonio College Fire Technology Club
- San Bernardino County Department of Family Services
- Southern California Edison
- The Gas Company
- West Valley Vector Control

All of these volunteers and representatives were instrumental in the success of the Open House. Fire Department staff would like to thank Public Works and Building Maintenance for improving the appearance of Station No. 1, and the Police Department for generously providing the use of their parking lot for volunteers, participants, and attendees.

A photo collage of the event is featured on page 14.

- At Monday's City Council Meeting, Nathan Brooks was introduced as the newest Firefighter/Paramedic. At the age of 14, Nathan was a member of the Chino Valley Fire Protection District's Explorer Program where he promoted to the rank of Explorer Chief. He now serves as an Explorer Advisor.

Nathan graduated from Damien High School in 2009 and continued his education at Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa. He completed the Regional Fire Academy in 2010 and the paramedic program in 2011. He is currently pursuing two Associate Degrees. He has worked for three years at American Medical Response in Rancho Cucamonga as both an EMT–Basic and paramedic.

Welcome, Nathan, to the City of Montclair!

Photos of Nathan with his family at City Hall are shown on page 15.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- The Canoga Street Apartments Landscape Construction Project is nearly completed. The project can be considered one of the finishing touches to the recently remodeled Montclair Housing Corporation's apartment complexes. This restores the courtyard to a design indicative of 1960s midcentury landscaping, consistent with the age and original style of the apartment buildings. The design has incorporated a variety of succulents and drought-tolerant plants with extensive use of rock materials. The goal was to create a low-maintenance and low-water consumption landscaped courtyard by carefully selecting plants and materials reflective of the buildings' original style. The major remodel, completed in September, used eco-friendly green materials as much as possible. The final addition to the apartment buildings will be the installation of new mid-century-style wall signs identifying the complexes as the Patio Apartments, similar to signs that once graced the buildings.

ECS:amp

"There is something haunting in the light of the moon; it has all the dispassionateness of a disembodied soul, and something of its inconceivable mystery."

~ Joseph Conrad

OCTOBER 2012



18	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
18	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
18	Lights on After School Community Center	6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
22	Planning Commission Meeting City Hall Conference Room	7:00 p.m.
31	Children's Halloween Party Community Center	5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.



Montclair Community Health Fair



Senior Center
Celebrating Mary Cotter's 100th Birthday!

100!

100!



10833 Ramona Avenue

BEFORE



AFTER



10839 Ramona Avenue

BEFORE



AFTER



10849 Ramona Avenue

BEFORE



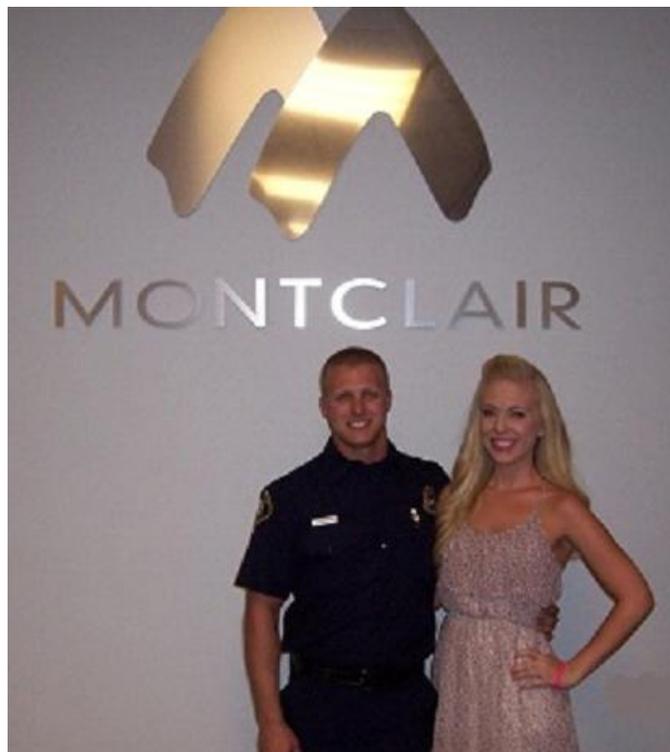
AFTER







Firefighter/Paramedic Nathan Brooks and his family.



Firefighter/Paramedic Nathan Brooks and his girlfriend.