



## CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center  
5111 Benito Street  
Montclair, CA 91763

November 15, 2012

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

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

**SUBJECT:** CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: November 9-15, 2012

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➤ **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- Last Thursday evening, the League of California Cities, Inland Empire Division, honored Montclair Mayor Paul M. Eaton with the James S. Thalman Memorial Public Service Award. Mayor Eaton is the ninth recipient of the award, which honors elected and appointed officials for outstanding efforts on behalf of their respective cities and the region. Mayor Eaton was selected for his dedication of service and commitment to protect and further the cause of vital local government services. The citation awarding Mayor Eaton the James S. Thalman Memorial Public Service Award reads as follows:

*Born in El Cajon, California, Paul Eaton was the fifth of six children. His father was blinded in a freak accident when Paul was an infant; but that tragedy only encouraged Paul's father to guarantee security for his family by starting and operating a septic tank business. In a charming twist of fate, the motto of the family business, "Ask Your Neighbor," became the enduring calling card of Paul Eaton, the future candidate for public office.*

*From that tragic family episode, young Paul and his siblings developed a strong and enduring work ethic that propelled them to achievement in their respective careers; but for Paul, it was also the beginning of a life-long fascination with heavy equipment.*

*As a young boy, Paul was introduced to heavy machinery, operating the family tractor and other heavy equipment as part of his chores in support of the family business. This early interest in machinery prepared Paul for a career in construction, including 40 years operating some of the world's largest tower cranes, often from dizzying heights atop the skeletal frames of breathtaking structures, building into the sky.*

*In his early twenties, Paul joined the local chapter of the Operating Engineer's union, remaining a member until his retirement in 1997. The only time Paul worked outside the construction trade was during the mid-1990s, when a recession in the construction industry caused Paul to take up duties as a commuter bus driver for Omnitrans.*

*When experience and service excellence counts, managers look to their experts. In the mid-1970's, Paul was tapped by the captains of his industry to lead a mission to Saudi Arabia. His assignment was to train personnel in that nation's fledgling nationalized oil industry on the operation of heavy equipment.*

*Amidst this professional journey, love came to Paul late during his high school years in the form of his best friend's sister, Miss Ginger Rathbun. Paul married that charming young lady 55 years ago, and together they raised four children: Paul Junior, Paulette, Grant, and Annette. This young family moved to Montclair in 1965, where they remain fixtures in the community's life. Paul and Ginger also have 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.*

*Between job and family, Paul harbored a deep desire for volunteerism and public service. From 1956 to 1962, he served as a reserve police officer for the El Cajon Police Department; and for a number of years, he braved the trials of coaching the softball teams of daughters Paulette and Annette. His love of the baseball diamond extends to a lifelong devotion to the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers. Paul is also a commercial aviation enthusiast, with knowledge of nearly every aircraft type used commercially over the last 50 years.*

*A devout Christian, Paul currently serves on the Board of Directors for Community Christian Church; he also helped construct the sanctuary at Bethany of Montclair. Paul believes what is good for the soul is good for community—clean living. Accordingly, he can typically be found operating a tractor during community cleanup days in Montclair.*

*Paul's first real venture into community advocacy came in 1970 when appointed as a founding member of Montclair's Community Action Committee—a group of citizens committed to advising the City Council on social, cultural, recreation, and community activities. In 1974, Paul was appointed to the Montclair Planning Commission—an appointment he held for 14 years and relinquished only after he was appointed to the City Council in 1988 to fill the unexpired term of the late Billy Oldfield. From that point on, Paul merged his personal, professional, volunteer, and community life into a driving force directed at giving back to his community and the people of the Inland Empire.*

*Since 1995, Paul has served four terms as Mayor of the City of Montclair with concurrent service as Chairman of the Montclair Redevelopment Agency, Montclair Successor Redevelopment Agency, Montclair Housing Authority, Montclair Housing Corporation, Montclair Financing Authority, and Montclair Community Foundation.*

*As steward of Montclair's welfare, Paul's industry and influence combine to produce dramatic and evolving, positive impacts for the community he so dearly loves. His influence in Washington D.C. brought to Montclair federal and state funding for many local projects, including the Ramona Avenue grade separation and pending construction of the Monte Vista Avenue grade separation; and his state and regional influence is expected to produce funding for reconstruction of the Central Avenue grade separation and widening of Monte Vista Avenue at the I-10 Freeway. Other locally funded projects benefitting from Paul's influence include construction of the City's state-of-the-art Police facility and Youth and Senior Centers; widening of Central Avenue at the I-10 Freeway; and major improvements to the Holt Boulevard Corridor and historic Mission Boulevard Corridor.*

*Paul is now working with his City Council colleagues and City staff to pursue a renaissance in Montclair's commercial center. The North Montclair Downtown Specific Plan follows a pedestrian-oriented transit village concept, designed to capitalize on Montclair's Transcenter—a public transit service facility served by Omnitrans, Foothill Transit District, and Metrolink; with future connection to the Metro Gold Line.*

*The North Montclair Downtown Specific Plan has now seen its first groundbreaking, with the planned construction of the Paseos at Montclair, a 385-unit luxury condominium/apartment development. Following close behind is Arrow Station at*

*Montclair, a 129-unit luxury condominium and detached, single-family home development. Now under new ownership, Montclair Plaza is also expected to undergo significant transformation designed to place the regional retail center back on top as a destination for consumer shopping and entertainment*

*Beyond the borders of Montclair, Paul represents Inland Empire interests on a variety of regional, state, and national organizations; distinguishing himself as the "guru" of mayors among his peers in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Taking advantage of Paul's breadth of regional, historical and political wisdom, specifically in the area of regional transportation, colleagues seek his advice on a range of important matters.*

*Paul's interagency affiliations include: Board of Directors, San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG); SANBAG Commuter Rail Committee, Member; Ex-Officio Member, SANBAG Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority; Board Member, SCRRA (Metrolink) serving as the Chair of the Safety Operational Oversight Committee; Board of Directors, OMNITRANS and member of Omnitrans' Administrative-Finance Committee; Member, Inland Empire Utilities Agency serving on the Regional Sewage Policy Committee; Member, Major Projects Committee (SANBAG); Member, Plans and Programs Committee (SANBAG); Member, SANBAG Administrative Committee Gold Line Joint Powers Authority.*

*External Organization Affiliations include: Member, Southern California Associated Governments (SCAG); Honorary Member, Montclair Kiwanis; Delegate, SCAG District 9 General Assembly; and Delegate, National League of Cities.*

*In recognizing Mayor Paul Eaton's public service and his admission to the list of distinguished public servants in the Thalman Award circle, it is necessary to take pause and reconfirm that greatness is more a thing of substance than achievement. Mayor Paul Eaton is truly a very good and endearing public leader; not because we declare he is, but because his deeds make it so.*

Congratulations, Mayor Eaton; and Happy Birthday as you prepare to enter the 77th year of your life!

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Don't miss the 2012 Metrolink Holiday Toy Express Train when it arrives at the Montclair Metrolink Station on Sunday, November 18 at 5 p.m. More than 50,000 twinkle lights and holiday displays will decorate the train; plus, there will be 20 minutes of free entertainment.

Free apple cider and cookies will be served, and participants from the Montclair Youth Center will perform holiday songs. Steaming cups of coffee and hot chocolate will be offered for \$1 by Montclair Kiwanis Club members, and the Montclair Ontario Junior Women's Club will be selling warm and cozy fleece scarves for \$3 each or 2 for \$5.

And don't forget to bring an unwrapped toy because the Montclair Fire Department will be collecting donated toys for the Annual Spark of Love Toy Drive, which will be distributed as part of the City's Toy and Food Basket Program.

For additional information, phone (909) 625-9479.

- Starting Monday, November 19 through Friday, December 14, the Human Services Division will be sponsoring its Annual Canned Food and Toy Drive. Employees and the community are encouraged to donate to this worthy cause.

For the health and safety of those receiving food baskets, we cannot accept outdated, dented, or bulging cans; or opened packages. Toys must be new and unwrapped. Marked collection bins will be located in the Recreation facility, Youth Center, Senior Center, City Hall lobby, Fire Station No. 1, and the Police Department. All food and toys collected will be distributed to needy Montclair residents during the 2012 Holiday Toy and Food Basket Program.

- Yesterday, the Senior Center held its monthly birthday party at the Community Center. The "Thanksgiving Fest" was attended by more than 250 seniors who enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal, birthday cake, ice cream, and pumpkin pie. Senior Center participant Rufus Fairly entertained the seniors on the piano with a medley of songs, and Stan Chapin sang "Bless This House," which has become a tradition at the November birthday parties.

Photos are included on Page 9.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- Reserve Officers conducted a Traffic Enforcement Program on November 10. The results were 102 vehicle code citations and 2 impounded vehicles. They also assisted the Department by handling calls for service.

The next Traffic Enforcement Program is scheduled for December 8, 2012.

Thanks go to Reserve Captain Ron Foss, Reserve Sergeant Scott Stephenson, and Reserve Officers Randy Ortiz, Joe Kuskie, and Nick Lopez!

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- From November 7-9, Fire Inspector Scott Sherwood conducted target hazard tours for all suppression personnel at Industrial Wood Products Inc., located at 5123 Brooks Street. The business specializes in the manufacture and repair of wood pallets and has a large inventory of finished pallets and lumber on the property.

The tours were conducted to familiarize suppression crews with the occupancy, the hazards created by its manufacturing processes, and pre-existing fire protection features.

During the tours, each of the suppression crew members formulated firefighting strategies and tactics in the event of a fire. Topics discussed included water supply, apparatus positioning, exposure protection, and containment.

Photos are included on Page 10.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- The Gold Line Bridge over the eastbound lanes of the 210 Freeway will be complete in just one more month. The Gold Line Construction Authority and its contractor, Skanska, are focusing on final bridge details including the basket reeds, barrier and retaining walls, and lighting and landscaping. Overall, the bridge is coming together as envisioned and will only be enhanced by the completion of these final details. Below is a recent picture showing the bridge supported by the two reed baskets and connecting beam. A dedication ceremony is planned in December in Arcadia.



Another significant project element is the \$160 million Gold Line Operations Facility in Monrovia being built to accommodate Metro's light rail vehicle fleet. With demolition now complete at the 24-acre site and grading underway, another Gold Line Construction Authority contractor, FTC, is focused on completing the material removal, relocating utilities, and preparing to mass grade the largest single project element of the Foothill Extension project.

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*"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."*

*~ Thornton Wilder*

# NOVEMBER 2012



15	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
18	Metrolink Holiday Toy Express Train Montclair Metrolink Station	5:00 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.
22	Thanksgiving Day – City Hall Closed	
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 Citizens'

# Thanksgiving Party



November 16, 2012





## *Target Hazard Tour*

