

## CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center  
5111 Benito Street  
Montclair, CA 91763

November 21, 2012

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

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

**SUBJECT:** CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: November 16-21, 2012

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

- On the eve of the 2012 holiday season, shares of Best Buy tumbled earlier this week following the company's weaker-than-expected earnings report. The struggling consumer electronics retailer posted third-quarter results of \$0.03 per share, well below Wall Street's expectations of \$0.12. Best Buy's profits fell a whopping 94 percent from a year ago, while sales fell 3.5 percent to \$10.75 billion, down from \$11.15 billion. Best Buy is purportedly taking steps to rejuvenate its business model. The company has a retail outlet in north Montclair—the store's nationwide struggles to remain buoyant are reflected in local and regional sales.

Best Buy executives are reporting the big-box retailer would begin to match prices this holiday season of its Internet-based competitors, including Amazon.com. The move is part of the company's efforts to decrease the growing number of people who browse Best Buy's stores and then buy from online competitors—a practice known as "showrooming."

Investors, however, are demonstrating a lack of confidence that Best Buy will survive under current management. Earlier this year, the company rejected an \$8.5 billion buyout offer from the company's founder and former CEO, Richard Schulze. Schulze is reportedly working with three private-equity partners to revise his earlier offer, but will wait to see how Best Buy performs this holiday season before agreeing to one of the largest corporate buyouts in recent years.

In the meantime, Best Buy shares continue to decline—stock prices are already down more than 40 percent on the year and its market cap has decreased to \$4.07 billion. An \$8.5 billion buyout by Schulze—roughly \$25 per share (a premium close to 100 percent over Best Buy’s current stock price)—may now look more appealing to Best Buy executives.

- "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." – John F. Kennedy

"Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year. And then discover once a year is way too often." – Johnny Carson

We each embrace holidays in our own way—from the lofty ideals expressed by President John Kennedy; to the lesser aspirations humorously applied by Johnny Carson; or somewhere in between. But no matter your holiday whims, your Montclair City Family wishes each of you a joyous and wonderful Thanksgiving.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Mark your calendars for the City’s Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, to be held on Thursday, December 6 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Center. The lighting of the community tree and complimentary family pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be held outside the Youth Center, while free refreshments and the letters to Santa station will be located inside the Youth Center. A community holiday sing-along will be held both inside and outside the Youth Center.

Gift lights on the community tree can be purchased in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones for \$10 each. Money raised from the sale of gift lights will be used to benefit youth programs in Montclair. This event is sponsored by the Community Action Committee and the Montclair-Ontario Junior Women’s Club.

Please direct questions to 909-625-9451.

- The Metrolink Holiday Toy Express Train came to Montclair Metrolink Station on Sunday, November 18 to kick off the holiday season. The special train, featuring more than 50,000 lights and a live action show by Santa and his friends, was welcomed by a crowd of approximately 300 people, including Mayor Paul Eaton, Council Member Bill Ruh, and City staff members. Everyone enjoyed a pre-show performance of holiday songs and a holiday rap by a group of kids and staff from the Montclair Youth Center. Cookies and cider were given to the crowd, the Montclair Kiwanis Club sold hot chocolate and coffee, and the Montclair Ontario Junior Women’s Club sold holiday scarves.

Toys were collected as part of the Montclair Fire Department's Spark of Love Toy Drive and will be distributed with the City's Toy and Food Basket Program.

As always, we appreciate our Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments; the Information Technology Division; and our volunteers for contributing to the success of this event!

Two photo collages are included on Pages 7-8.

➤ ***POLICE DEPARTMENT***

- Kingsley School has been vandalized several times recently, primarily for copper wire and copper coils in the air conditioning units. A theft on November 6 captured a suspect on video wearing a distinctive tool belt, and he had his shirt pulled up to conceal his face.

On the evening of November 16, Officers responded to a motion sensor alarm activation at Kingsley School and located a person on the roof. Knowing he had been spotted, the suspect jumped from the roof and fled toward Bandera Street; however, he was detained just 25 yards from the school's back fence. Officers discovered the suspect actually lives on Bandera Street, which is how he had been able to elude Officers up to this point. The suspect was in possession of the same tool belt as seen in the November 6 video, and his shirt was stretched consistent with pulling it up to cover his face.

In a previous theft, what Officers believed were drag marks from stolen wire led toward the back fence. Based on the totality of the evidence, the suspect was arrested for both incidents and was booked at West Valley Detention Center. The two cases will be sent to the District Attorney's Office.

Obviously Ontario-Montclair School District administrators are pleased with the outcome of this case since costs from the thefts have amounted to well over \$10,000.

- An entry in a Sergeant's Log in which Sergeant Brian Ventura commended Officer Chad Ebli on a DUI arrest recently caught my attention. In an extremely rare occurrence, the arrestee actually came in to the Police Department after the arrest to express how professional Officer Ebli had been to him during a time of personal humiliation. The arrestee admitted he has been taken into custody many times; but he was grateful that Officer Ebli treated him with dignity and respect during the arrest. Sergeant Ventura pointed out that it is not often arrestees feel it necessary to come to the Department to compliment their arresting officers. In fact, in most cases, the complete opposite is the norm.

Thank you, Officer Ebli. A person is not judged by how he is treated; but how he treats others in a wide range of interactions. You have demonstrated a police officer can be both firm and kind in typical interactions with the public.

- In response to recent contacts by citizens regarding various traffic issues in the City and around the schools, Lieutenant Jason Reed organized a traffic enforcement detail. Led by Sergeant Brian Ventura on November 15, Officers Jerad Burns, Chris Fisher, Rod Godoy, and Eric Ruziecki worked proactive traffic enforcement from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Forty-six citations were issued and two vehicles were impounded due to unlicensed drivers. Most of the traffic citations were moving violations—several of them in school zones.

It should be noted that no overtime funds were expended for this traffic enforcement!

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- On November 13, Emergency Medical Dispatch Training was conducted by members of the Ontario Fire Department Dispatching Center on the new system. The system consists of the dispatchers having a scripted format of various questions for the emergency medical calls they receive.

Additionally, a class on firefighter survival was presented by Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Jackson. The class involved brainstorming on the use of various tactics and strategies for scenarios that develop from the initial dispatch to an actual "Mayday" incident requiring self-survival and egress from a building.

- On November 14, all members of the Fire Department were honored at a Montclair Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Annual Firefighters' Recognition Breakfast held at Dolce Café & Bakery.

Firefighter Rusty Vidal received special recognition as the 2011 Firefighter of the Year and Angelic Bird was named Employee of the Year for 2011.

Rusty and Angelic were presented with awards from local dignitaries and the Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations, Rusty and Angelic, on being recognized for your outstanding work performance!

Photos are featured on Page 9.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- Staff met with National Community Renaissance (National CORE) representatives last week to discuss the proposed Special Needs Housing Project to be constructed on the vacant 4113 Kingsley Street property that was purchased by the former Montclair Redevelopment Agency in 2009. National CORE representatives informed staff they have successfully secured funding for the project which includes tax credit financing. The challenge for the project now lies with the Successor Agency's inability to sell the property to National CORE in a timely manner. The Department of Finance (DOF) is categorizing the proposed site as a non-housing asset, thereby stalling the Successor Agency's sale of the property to National CORE, despite the fact that an executed Option Agreement between the former Agency and National CORE currently exists. The Option Agreement details the sale of the property to National CORE for the construction of the Special Needs Housing Project.

Staff will attempt to work with DOF staff to quickly resolve this matter, because National CORE will lose its funding sources if it cannot secure control of the property.

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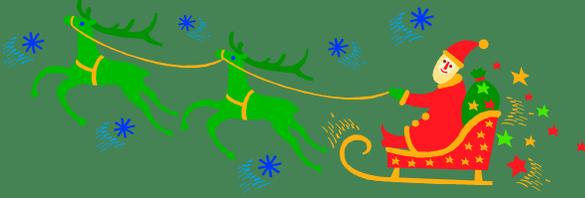
*"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."*

*~ Melody Beattie*

## **NOVEMBER 2012**

		
22	Thanksgiving Day – City Hall Closed	
26	Planning Commission Meeting - <b>Canceled</b>	
27	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
27	Ethics Training Council Chambers	3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

# DECEMBER 2012



03	City Council Workshop – Code Enforcement Update Council Chambers	5:45 p.m.
03	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
06	Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Youth Center	7:00 p.m.
10	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
11	City Manager’s Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
12	Oversight Board Meeting Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
17	Code Enforcement Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
17	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
18	City Manager’s Staff Meeting City Hall Council Chambers	9:00 a.m.
19	Safety Committee Meeting Dolce Café & Bakery	11:30 a.m.
19	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
24	City Hall Closed through December 26 in Observance of Christmas	



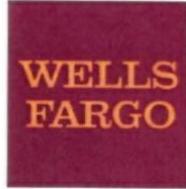


*The Montclair Youth Center participates in the 2012 Metrolink Holiday Toy Express*



Presented by

**MONTCLAIR HOSPITAL  
MEDICAL CENTER**



  
**MONTCLAIR**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
ANNUAL FIREFIGHTERS'  
RECOGNITION BREAKFAST  
November 14, 2012

