



CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763

March 7, 2013

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: March 1-7, 2013

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

- There is no new information to report this week.

➤ ***COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT***

- The City's 2013 Youth Basketball League concluded its season on March 2 with a championship tournament. More than 165 children on 18 teams participated in the program. The first and second place teams, Division B (5th and 6th grades) and Division C (3rd and 4th grades), and an all-star boys and girls team from Division A (7th and 8th grades), will advance to the Inland Valley Municipal Athletic Association Tournament. The regional tournament will be held March 16-17 for Divisions B and C, and in April for Division A, and will include teams from various surrounding cities.

Our congratulations go to all of Montclair's youth basketball players and volunteer coaches.

➤ ***POLICE DEPARTMENT***

- On Sunday, March 3, Lieutenant Reed attended a Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) meeting at Montclair High School (MHS), along with the school's principal, the superintendent and assistant superintendent of Chaffey Joint Union High School District, and several board members.

Lieutenant Reed's role was to solidify rapport between the Montclair Police Department, the Chaffey Joint Union High School District, and MHS officials. He answered questions from school district officials regarding how the Police Department handles deployment at MHS.

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC), is one of six regional accrediting associations in the United States. The ACS WASC extends its services to over 4,500 public, independent, church-related, and proprietary pre-K–12 and adult schools, works with 16 associations in joint accreditation processes, and collaborates with other educational organizations. The ACS WASC accreditation process fosters excellence in elementary, secondary, and adult education by encouraging school improvement. WASC accreditation recognizes schools that meet an acceptable level of quality, in accordance with established, research-based WASC criteria.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Police Officer Ron Goble and Fire Department Secretary Angelic Bird participated in a community meeting with residents at Monterey Manor on Thursday, February 28.

Angelic presented "Personal Preparedness—Are you Ready?" She covered the following five steps to being more prepared for emergencies/disasters: building an emergency supply kit, making an individual/family emergency plan, becoming informed about the hazards that affect the areas you frequent, practicing earthquake safety, and getting involved in preparedness activities.

Officer Goble wrapped up the meeting by engaging residents in a question-and-answer session regarding community policing topics. He discussed the We Tip Program and offered preventative actions for them to take to make their homes more secure.

- Don't forget to "spring forward" this Sunday for the start of Daylight Saving Time. When you set your clocks ahead an hour this weekend, remember to also change and test the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.

Families nationwide are affected by tragic home fire deaths each year. Nonworking smoke detectors rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. Having working smoke detectors in our homes can give us the vital extra seconds we need to escape a home fire.

CO is called the "invisible killer" because it is a colorless and odorless gas. Every year, more than 100 people in the United States die from unintentional exposure to carbon monoxide associated with consumer products. While proper installation, operation, and maintenance of fuel-

burning appliances in the home is the most important factor in reducing the risk of CO poisoning, an additional protective measure is to install battery-operated CO detectors or plug-in CO detectors with battery backup.

By simply changing your batteries when you change your clocks, you may develop a live-saving habit!

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- Starting next week, the Montclair Skate Park will be closed for a much needed face-lift. California Landscape & Design, as part of its annual contract, will grind and sand chipped paint and rust on the iron work. Next, they will paint the surrounding fence and the block walls on the south and west sides of the Skate Park. We expect to reopen the Skate Park on Saturday, March 16.

Within a few weeks after this initial work is completed, repairs to the concrete pad within the Skate Park will begin, and all sidewalks surrounding the Skate Park will be pressure washed.

- Over the past few weeks, Parks Division staff readied Montclair's baseball fields for Little League Baseball's opening day on March 2. They trimmed trees and hedges and painted curbs, benches, and bat racks to make the ball fields look appealing to the general public. Work other than routine included painting foul ball poles; dressing the pitching mounds; cutting the base paths; adjusting and repairing all the gates; and spreading brick dust along base paths, pitching mounds, and around home plate (the place where all of the kids hope to cross many times during the season).

Let's hear it for the Parks Division for doing an amazing job each season for our Little Leaguers!

➤ **SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/MONTCLAIR HOUSING CORPORATION**

- Montclair Housing Corporation staff will soon be soliciting bids for the electrical upgrade to the 5444 Palo Verde Street property. However, prior to going out to bid, staff will have certain deficient structures on the property removed to provide complete access for the contractors bidding on the electrical upgrade. The electrical upgrade to the existing residence and accompanying design studio is one of the major components to the property's rehabilitation.
- Despite the fact that gasoline prices are well over \$4 per gallon, state regulators have approved a tax increase on gasoline that will take effect on July 1, 2013.

The State Board of Equalization approved an excise tax increase from 36 cents per gallon to 39.5 cents per gallon. Regulators are required by law

to adjust the excise tax each March. Approval of the increase in excise tax was granted on a 3-2 vote. The excise tax is a by-product of laws, signed by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, which mandated the Board adjust the state gas excise tax rate by March 1 of each year.

The so-called "fuel tax swap" laws require the board to lower the sales tax on fuel and raise the excise tax by a corresponding amount to ensure "revenue neutrality." The new tax structure eliminated the general fund portion of the sales and use tax on motor vehicle fuel and raised the excise tax. The change was proposed when the state sales tax rate was reduced in 2010, and the Schwarzenegger administration was looking for ways to free up money to balance the state budget. The swap was designed to ensure state taxes consumers pay at the pump remain the same as they would have been under the previous tax structure.

In early 2010, Schwarzenegger administration officials touted the switch as a way to help California close a nearly \$20 billion budget gap by nullifying laws reserving most of the gas pump sales tax for transit agencies. Officials claimed that would free up hundreds of millions for the state general fund. Calculations were hotly disputed by government and transit officials, and the governor's administration warned at the time the gas excise tax would increase annually for 10 years. The current structure is tied to the price of fuel, but also involves estimating future gasoline consumption within the state. The Board of Equalization said 14.6 billion gallons of gasoline were purchased in-state last year. Based on projections, the 3.5-cent increase will generate more than \$500 million from July 1 through June 30, 2014.

Under the old tax structure, a consumer paying \$4.45 a gallon at the pump paid \$3.96 for fuel, 18 cents in excise tax, and 31 cents in sales tax. Under the current structure, the same \$4.45 for a gallon of gas breaks down this way: \$3.96 for fuel, 39.5 cents in excise tax, and 10 cents in sales tax.

Gasoline sales tax revenue funds local government programs; the state excise tax on gasoline funds highway and mass transit projects throughout California.

With California drivers paying the highest gas prices in the U.S. for gasoline, the increase means the average driver will be paying more than \$500 a year in state, federal, and sales taxes. University of San Diego economist Alan Gin estimates for every cent the price of a gallon of gasoline increases, a million dollars per month is taken out of the local economy.

ECS:spa

*"You may delay, but time will not."
~ Benjamin Franklin*

MARCH 2013



10	Daylight Saving Time Begins – Set your clocks ahead one hour	2 a.m.
11	Planning Commission Meeting - Canceled	
12	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
14	League of California Cities General Membership Inland Empire Division Dinner Meeting Sierra Lakes Golf Club, Fontana	6:00 p.m.
17	St. Patrick's Day	
18	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
18	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
20	Spring Begins	
21	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
21	2013 City-County Conference, March 21-22 Lake Arrowhead Resort	
21	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
25	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
26	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
27	Soroptimist International of Montclair/Inland Valley 22nd Annual Prism Award Luncheon Ontario Convention Center	11:30 a.m.
30	Easter Eggstravaganza and Pancake Breakfast Montclair Community Center	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
31	Easter Sunday	