



## CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center  
5111 Benito Street  
Montclair, CA 91763

May 2, 2013

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

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

**SUBJECT:** CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: April 26-May 2, 2013

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➤ **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- Today, National Day of Prayer, community and church leaders came together for a message of hope and encouragement for our community at a Mayor's Prayer Luncheon.

Montclair Police Chaplain and volunteer Vicki Brobeck organized the event through the Montclair Chamber of Commerce. In the aftermath of senseless acts of violence, the timing couldn't have been more appropriate. I was honored to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, and introductions were made by Mayor Paul Eaton.

Six pastors led those present in prayer for our nation; our citizens; our youth and schools; our police, fire, and city employees; and the national and local economy.

In 1775, the Continental Congress allocated a time for prayer in forming a new nation. Over the years, there have been calls for a day of prayer, including from President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law in the United States. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, designating the first Thursday of May each year as the National Day of Prayer.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- There is no new information to report this week.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- Reserve Officers issued 38 citations in a Traffic Enforcement Detail held on Saturday, April 27. They also handled calls for service and cited an unlicensed driver whose vehicle ended up being impounded.

This was more great volunteer work by Reserve Captain Ron Foss, Reserve Sergeants Frankie Fonseca and Scott Stephenson, and Reserve Officer Nick Lopez.

The next Traffic Enforcement Detail is scheduled for May 18, 2013.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Firefighter/Paramedics Carlos Becerril, Narek Babayan, and Ben Garcia trained suppression personnel on several Inland County Emergency Management Agency (ICEMA) protocol updates related to patient treatment. ICEMA is San Bernardino County's medical authority which certifies and allows our Firefighter/Paramedics to practice medicine under their guidelines. These important changes include heat- or cold-related emergencies, treatment of seizures, treatment of decreased level of consciousness patients, and pregnancy emergencies. Each shift coordinated to receive training and update their knowledge to better serve the citizens of Montclair in emergency situations.
- Captain Chris Younggren retired from the Montclair Fire Department on April 30 after over 30 years of service.

Chris began his career with the Fire Department in 1981 as a Reserve Firefighter. In 1983, he was hired as a full-time Firefighter. In 1994, Chris was promoted to Fire Engineer after being certified as an engineer and after passing the engineer's test. In 2006, Chris was promoted to the Fire Captain position.

During his career with the City and the Fire Department, Chris was a member of the Training and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Committees, responsible for the implementation of the monthly safety messages at both stations and revisions and updates to the Training Manual. He was a subcommittee member responsible for updating the Department's Probationary Recruit Academy. Chris also coordinated a multi-company Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) drill to keep personnel

ready to perform at the RS1 level, which is a requirement of housing the OES331 unit.

We congratulate Chris on his retirement and thank him for his many years of dedication and service to the City. We wish him much luck and happiness as he begins a new chapter in his life, raising alpacas with his wife!

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- With Memorial Day weekend coming up, Building Maintenance Division staff have started preparations for the Splash Pad grand reopening on Saturday, May 25. Next week, Building Maintenance Technician John Conley will start removing water deposits that were left behind on water features from last year's usage. Next, John will wax, buff, and polish all painted surfaces. The transformation will be amazing and all of the painted water features will look brand new again.

Next week, the underground water tank will be filled, the pumps will be turned on, and the system will run for three weeks prior to opening weekend to test for any major problems.

- This week, the Parks crew completed a multi-phase project that ultimately renovated the appearance of the southern entrance of City Hall.

Overall, the improvements included tree removals; removal and replacement of handrails and uneven concrete pathways; construction of a new break room patio; art décor; landscape irrigation; and landscaping.

With the concrete pathways and break room patio completed in February, City Planner Mike Diaz took on the task of preparing a landscape design for the project. Mike's design included a couple of new species of plants, but stayed within the parameters of the existing Civic Center landscape pallet.

While the Parks Crew was placing the final touches on the landscape this week, Public Works Lead Worker Jeff Flanders was working on a special project of his own. Jeff had proposed the idea a few months back of using some artwork, "seagulls," that was created in 1965 by longtime Montclair resident and world renowned sculptor, John Svenson. Mr. Svenson created the seagulls in 1965 as a decorative piece, and they hung from the ceiling of Montclair Plaza, surrounding the infamous giant clock. Both the seagulls and clock were ultimately removed from the Plaza during the mid-1980s remodel and were stored at the Public Works Maintenance Yard

since their removal. Thanks to Jeff Flanders, the seagulls are soaring again in three separate locations at City Hall.

Thanks go to the entire Public Works maintenance staff as this project took some time from start to finish.

The end result can be seen in the photos, below:







Seagulls in flight in their original mall location

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

- The United States Senate is anticipated to vote on the Marketplace Fairness Act sometime after May 6, 2013. The Marketplace Fairness Act would require online retailers to collect sales taxes levied by the various states. It is estimated between \$22 billion to \$24 billion in tax revenue is lost to states and local jurisdictions because online retailers are not required to collect sales tax unless they have a physical outlet in the state where goods are sold. The brick-and-mortar retailers have lobbied hard

for this legislation because they claim they are at a competitive disadvantage compared to online retailers which do not have the overhead and expenses related to a traditional retail store. Old fashioned retailers complain they have simply become "showrooms" for merchandise where shoppers inspect their wares, then leave the store to purchase the same merchandise online because they can find a lower price and avoid paying sales tax.

The bill would allow states to require all Internet sellers to collect sales taxes for the state and local governments of the buyers. State governments would be required to provide software free to Internet retailers to calculate sales taxes. Online retailers with out-of-state sales less than \$1 million per year would be exempt. Opponents of the bill predict bookkeeping would be a nightmare because online retailers would have to keep track of more than 9,000 sales tax regimes. Internet companies in states with no sales taxes would have to build a collection apparatus from scratch. Yet, many of the largest Internet retailers, such as Amazon.com, have already begun collection of sales taxes because of pressure from state governments.

The debate on the Marketplace Fairness Act has thus far turned democrat against democrat, republican against republican, and business against business. At this point, it appears the Senate has a good chance of passing the Marketplace Fairness Act. However, the fate of the bill when it reaches the House is still uncertain.

ECS:spa

*"It is insane to do the same thing over and over  
and over and expect a different result."  
~ Albert Einstein*

# MAY 2013



6	City Council Workshop Council Chambers	5:45 p.m.
6	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
12	<b>Mother's Day</b>	
13	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
14	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
15	Police Appreciation Luncheon, hosted by Montclair Chamber of Commerce, Dolce Café	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 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 - <b>Canceled</b>	
20	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
27	<b>Memorial Day – City Hall Closed</b>	
28	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
30	Retirement Celebration for Police Chief Keith Jones Montclair Senior Center	6:00 p.m.