



## CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center  
5111 Benito Street  
Montclair, CA 91763

August 29, 2013

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

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

**SUBJECT:** CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: August 16-29, 2013

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➤ **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- Last week, the Fair Political Practices Commission revised gift rules involving travel by local elected officials. Revisions clarify the following:
  - 1) A local agency can only require disclosure or impose restrictions if there is a personal benefit to the individual; and
  - 2) A third party can only pay for a public official's participation on educational panels if the travel is directly related to the official's duties. If there is no relation to official duties, the travel is not exempt from the annual \$440 gift limit. For example, if a local official has a third party pay for a week-long trip during which the official sits for only an hour or two on panels every third day, the travel would not be exempt from the annual \$440 gift limit.

Under current rules, local officials are prohibited from receiving a gift or gifts totaling more than \$440 in a calendar year from any source that would have to be disclosed on statements of economic interests (Form 700).

- Earlier this month, I reported on the impact of AB 90 and the relocation of low-level inmates to local jails through a process known as realignment. However, the state must still reduce its prison population by nearly 10,000 additional inmates by the end of the year if it is to be in compliance with a federal court order.

Now, with the clock ticking on this year's legislative session and the federal court deadline, Governor Brown and state lawmakers are considering a budget amendment to finance the transfer of thousands of inmates out of state prisons—the estimated appropriation amount is \$315 million.

As a budget-related bill, special prison funding could be passed by a simple majority vote in each house. However, many legislative members object, arguing the cost to retain prisoners will impact the state's economic recovery and delete funding for other programs. Governor Brown is adamant the state has no intention to release almost 10,000 inmates by the December 31, 2013, deadline set by a panel of three federal judges. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to block that order earlier this month on August 3. Governor Brown indicates he will continue fighting the order to reduce the inmate population in state prisons, which judges say are unconstitutionally overcrowded.

The proposed legislative action would relocate inmates from state prisons to either private, local, or out-of-state lockup. A total of more than 8,700 state prisoners are now housed in private prisons in Arizona, Oklahoma, and Mississippi. Governor Brown has also proposed using state prison guards at privately operated prisons in the state.

One difficulty in crafting a solution centers on the resistance of non-state facilities to accept other than low-level inmates. However, the state has already transferred a substantial percentage of the low-level prison population through realignment. What remains are serious offenders. The state Senate is expected to respond with its own prison plan as early as today.

Funds to pay for relocation of state prisoners is expected to come from a projected \$1.1 billion reserve in the state's current General Fund operating budget.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- There is no new information to report this week.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Captain Sergio Mejia, Acting Engineer Chris Jackson, and Firefighter Brian Cizek are among 3,700 firefighters battling the Rim Fire near Yosemite. They have been assigned to the Confidence Structure Defense Group in the town of Twain Harte.

The fire has burned more than 160,000 acres and by Tuesday night had already destroyed 31 homes and 80 other structures. In all, the fire threatens 4,500 homes, 1,000 outbuildings, and 6 commercial buildings. As of yesterday morning, the fire was only 20 percent contained.

The Rim Fire is reported to be one of the largest wildfires in California's history and the seventh-largest wildfire since California started keeping records. The cause is still under investigation.



Pictured is Firefighter Brian Cizek at the Rim Fire

➤ **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

- Yesterday, the Senior Center held its monthly birthday party at the Community Center. More than 270 seniors attended the luau-themed event, received leis, and enjoyed Hawaiian food and entertainment.

A photo collage of the event is shown on Page 8.

- The L.A. County Fair opens tomorrow at 3 p.m. at Fairplex in Pomona and runs through Sunday, September 29. The Fair is open on Monday, September 3 for Labor Day, but is closed subsequent Mondays and Tuesdays. Live thoroughbred horse racing will be held September 6–22, but will be dark Mondays and Tuesdays.

City employees and the community may again purchase discount Fair tickets at the Recreation facility and the Senior Center. Tickets are good any day the Fair is open. Adult tickets are \$10 and child tickets (6-12 years old) are \$6. Children 5 and under are free. Tickets must be purchased with cash only.

Metrolink is also offering a discounted transportation and ticket program for those wanting to ride the train to the Fair. Program information can be found at:

[http://metrolinktrains.com/news/promotions\\_detail/title/la\\_co\\_fair\\_2013](http://metrolinktrains.com/news/promotions_detail/title/la_co_fair_2013).

- Montclair Day at the Fair on Wednesday, September 4 will include a parade featuring Montclair groups and a special ceremony for Montclair's Community Heroes (Vicki Brobeck, Montclair Police Department's volunteer chaplain; and Walter Askier, from Habitat for Humanity's ReStore).

Coupons for \$5 admission to the Fair on Montclair Day are available at the Senior Center, Recreation facility, and City Hall. These tickets must be purchased online in advance.

The Montclair Golden Express will provide free transportation for those 18 and older on Montclair Day only, beginning at 11 a.m. To make reservations, call the Senior Center at (909) 625-9483. For more information on discount tickets call the Recreation facility at (909) 625-9479, or the Senior Center at (909) 625-9483.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- On August 14, the GameStop Store on Central Avenue was robbed by a male and female, and the suspects got away with \$2,600 in cash and Apple I-pods. Detectives quickly distributed to local police agencies a Robbery Flyer with surveillance photographs of the suspects and their vehicle.

A few days later, a Colton Police Officer recognized the male suspect in the flyer from a prior traffic stop and contacted the Detective Bureau to identify him. The victim in the robbery also identified the suspect as having committed the armed robbery at GameStop.

The Detective Bureau was notified by Ontario Police Detectives that the same suspects were responsible for three additional armed robberies in Ontario and had been identified by the victims.

The Detective Bureau later learned the male suspect was also responsible for six additional armed robberies in Redlands, San Bernardino, and Rialto.

On August 22, the male suspect was located leaving his San Bernardino residence, driving the listed vehicle. Evidence related to the robberies was located in the suspect's residence and vehicle.

The female suspect was located the next day in Rialto. Both were booked at West Valley Detention Center on ten counts of armed robbery. On August 26, the District Attorney's Office filed two counts of armed robbery and one count of commercial burglary against the two suspects for the Montclair GameStop Store robbery.

- The Police Department welcomed Brian Hansen as its newest Police Officer on Monday. On Tuesday, Brian was officially sworn in to duty by Chief Mike deMoet.

Brian will be formally introduced to the City Council at its regular meeting on September 2 at 7 p.m.

Welcome aboard, Brian!

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- This weekend will be your last chance to enjoy the Montclair Splash Pad located in Alma Hofman Park, because on Monday, September 2 at 6 p.m., the Splash Pad will close as its fourth season comes to an end. Within a week of closing, Public Works crews will begin the tedious task of using up all the chlorine and acid that remains in the chemical tanks,

flushing the chemical lines, and test the water to make sure the water in the underground tank is suitable to drain into the City's sewer system.

After the water is deemed safe to dump into the sewer system, the pumps will be shut off and the entire pump/filter system will be drained. The 4,000 gallon underground water tank will be drained using the built-in sump pump. This draining process normally takes around four hours to complete. With the help of the Public Works Sewer Division, the interior of the tank will be pressure washed to remove all the mud and sludge that accumulates during the season.

The Splash Pad will open its fifth season next year during the Memorial Day weekend and will run through Labor Day 2014.

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

- Sears Holding Corporation, the parent company of Sears and Kmart stores, reported another quarter of disappointing sales results in today's tough retail environment. Sears Holdings reported a loss of \$194 million, or \$1.83 per share, compared with a loss of \$132 million, or \$1.25 per share, a year earlier. Excluding one-time charges, the company lost \$1.46 per share in the last year.

Revenue for the quarter dropped 6 percent to \$8.87 billion from \$9.47 billion a year ago, mostly due to store closing. Fewer stores compared with last year accounted for about \$210 million of the decline, and the separation of its outlet stores accounted for \$195 million, the company said. Meanwhile, weaker sales at existing stores also drove down revenue. Sales at U.S. stores open at least one year declined 1.5 percent, including a 2.1 percent fall at Kmart and a 0.8 percent decrease at Sears.

A decrease in Sears home appliance sales was offset by increases in lawn and garden, apparel, and home categories. Kmart saw sales declines in grocery, pharmacy, consumer electronics, and toys, which offset sales growth in footwear and the lawn and garden categories. Sears Chairman and Chief Executive Eddie Lambert stated, "We recognize how important it is to improve profitability of our company, and I am disappointed that we did not deliver better results."

The profitability of brick and mortar retail stores in this very competitive retail market will become increasingly important as greater numbers of consumers turn to the internet to make purchases.

ECS:spa

"Be on the alert to recognize your prime  
at whatever time of your life it may  
occur."

~ Muriel Spark

## SEPTEMBER 2013

		
2	Labor Day – City Hall Closed	
3	City Council Workshop Council Chambers	5:45 p.m.
3	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
4	Montclair Day at the Fair	
9	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
10	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
11	Oversight Board Meeting Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
16	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
16	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
19	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
19	Public Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
23	Planning Commission Meeting - Canceled	

# Senior Birthday Party



August 28, 2013

