



CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763

October 17, 2013

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: October 5-17, 2013

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

- Last Saturday, I attended the George C. and Hazel H. Reeder Heritage Foundation's inaugural "Picnic in the Grove" with Mayor Paul Eaton and Council Members Carolyn Raft and John Dutrey.

Held at the historic Reeder Ranch, the event was a step back in time reminiscent of early 20th century citrus grove life and what growing up was like for the Reeder children. The family friendly day celebrated typical late summer/early fall picnics and included traditional period games such as jacks, pick-up sticks, croquet, bean bags, Jacob 's ladder, marbles, and yo-yo tricks. Children feasted on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cookies, popcorn, lemonade, and fruit punch.

Foundation Vice Chairperson Ginger Eaton provided tours of the Reeder Ranch Home as well as the accompanying grove. Board Member Frances Gallup prepared sandwiches for 100 hungry children and adults that attended. Board Members answered questions about the Reeder family and the citrus industry.

There was significant interest from community members and visitors about the objectives of the Reeder Heritage Foundation, the future development and preservation of the house and barn, and the eventual development and construction of a museum and community center. The Foundation received several generous donations at the event.

Public Works crews prepared the grove for the event, including the setting up of tables and chairs. Human Services Department staff provided logistical support as well as translation services for Spanish-speaking community members. With the success of the event and feedback from the community, the Foundation plans to make the event even better next year.

I would like to extend special thanks to the Mayor and City Council, Planning Commissioners, Community Action Committee Members, City staff, and the public for their continued support of the George C. and Hazel H. Reeder Heritage Foundation.



Mayor Paul and Ginger Eaton enjoying the day

- Last month, I reported that in response to demands from the Amalgamated Transit Union (the nation's largest mass transit union) federal officials threatened to withhold more than \$4 billion in grants for transit-related projects, services, and activities in California. Officials with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) promised to halt federal dollars to the state, alleging California's Public Employee Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) violated Section 13(c) of the Federal Transit Act governing the collective bargaining rights of mass transit employees. Transit union leaders argue the mandated changes to the pension benefits of transit employees should have been bargained. Governor Brown argues Section 13(c) was not intended to inhibit states from introducing legislation imposing reasonable restraints on pension-related costs. Employees at 83 of California's 95 transit districts are affected by PEPRA.

Federal officials claim other states passing pension reform laws have exempted transit workers from coverage because of Section 13(c), and California would lose billions in transit grants if it did not reverse course.

The Federal Transit Act's Section 13(c) came about in 1964 when governments around the nation were taking over struggling, privately held transit companies. At that time, most state and local government employees did not have bargaining rights. Section 13(c) was passed to preserve the bargaining rights of mass transit employees.

In seeking a resolution, the DOL and Brown administration negotiated a multi-level strategy that will combine both a legal and legislative response, while allowing grant funds to flow to transit operators.

The legislative remedy includes AB 1222. The bill, signed by the Governor earlier this month, temporarily removes an estimated 20,000 transit workers from PEPRA coverage for approximately 15 months, and prevents the layoff of thousands of transit union employees—several transit agencies in the state have argued that without federal funding, they would face steep service cuts and major layoffs. To avert this threat, the bill seeks to keep grants in the pipeline pending resolution of a legal challenge. The legislation also provides loans to transit districts that lost grants.

Concurrent with adoption of the legislative effort, the Brown administration deployed its legal strategy by suing the DOL for blocking grant dollars from coming to California. The administration argues DOL incorrectly ruled the state's new pension rules curb workers' collective bargaining rights.

To trigger the lawsuit, the DOL blocked \$54 million destined for the Sacramento Regional Transit District to help fund a \$270 million expansion of light rail service from South Sacramento to Cosumnes River College. The DOL decision grants Sac RT, the first transit district in the state to be harmed, legal standing to challenge the PEPRA/13(c) question in federal court.

If the DOL prevails, AB1222 would extend the exemption until pension reform measures can be collectively bargained with transit districts. If California and Sac RT prevail, the PEPRA exemption will sunset January 1, 2015.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- On Tuesday, City and local representatives attended the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at The Paseos, the first residential project within the North Montclair Downtown Specific Plan.



Garth Erdosy, President of GLJ Partners, the project's developer, welcomed guests and described how his company was impressed with the forward-thinking nature and progressiveness of the Specific Plan, along with the proximity to the area's assets, including access to Metrolink and the future Metro Gold Line, nearby freeways, shopping and dining opportunities, and institutions of higher education. Although the architect for the project (DesignArc, based in Santa Barbara) had already been selected, Mr. Erdosy explained how a "competition" was conducted to select the landscape architect. EPT Design, a local firm with offices in Pasadena and Irvine, was ultimately selected.

Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ruh welcomed guests and spoke about the history of the site, which included John F. Kennedy Park and later, Montclair Town Square, anchored by PACE/Price Savers/Sam's Club. Presentations were made to Mr. Erdosy by Senator Norma Torres, Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez, and Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt.

Community Development Director Steve Lustro provided a brief history of the development of the Specific Plan and the steps taken to garner support for The Paseos, which will introduce housing types and building forms not found anywhere else in Montclair.

Afterwards, guests enjoyed a delicious catered lunch by Dolce Café & Bakery. While many chose to dine inside the clubhouse multipurpose room/demonstration kitchen, others enjoyed their meal in the warm afternoon sun at tables around the community swimming pool or in the adjacent cabanas.



Alliance Residential Company, a professional property management firm, will be handling leasing and management at The Paseos. Pre-leasing of the first units will begin in November, with first occupancies expected before the holidays.

- Last week, Community Development Director Steve Lustro and City Planner Michael Diaz attended the annual conference of the American Planning Association (APA) California Chapter, held in Visalia. The conference included educational sessions about hot topics in the planning profession; updates on legislative changes; projects in and around the host community; and experiences of other cities in the areas of land use, housing, financing, water, environment, and parking. Several sessions focused on the demand for transit-oriented developments and walkable neighborhoods, two "buzz phrases" that apply to the North Montclair Downtown Specific Plan. Other session topics included ethics training, sustainability, Mentoring Young Planners, the Politics of Planning, Getting High Quality Density with Form-Based Codes, and Reconciling Emergency Access with Healthy Streets.

The annual APA Conference provides attendees with an opportunity to hear about a wide variety of subjects and encourages networking with professionals from other California cities. Mike and Steve noted that two mobile workshops to Sequoia National Park, a short distance from Visalia, had to be cancelled because of the federal government shutdown.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- On Saturday, over 500 people attended the Fire Department's Annual Open House and Pancake Breakfast. Children had fun trying out a real fire hose, balloon creations were custom made for them, and their pictures were taken with Sparky the Fire Dog. Various Police and Fire vehicles were on display for observation, climbing, and sitting; and there were two different educational presentations on fire safety. Tours of the Fire Station were available to all interested parties.

We appreciate the following agencies that contributed to the success of the event:

Auxiliary Communication Services (A.C.S.)
 Balloon Sculptures by Sean Kennedy
 Chino Basin Water Conservation District
 Community Action Committee
 Department of Family Services
 Fire and Burn Foundation
 Fire Memories Museum
 Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
 Montclair Community Collaborative
 Montclair Hospital Medical Center
 Montclair Police Department
 Monte Vista Water District
 Mt. SAC Fire Tech Students

Southern California Edison
Starbucks Coffee
West Valley Vector Control

Photos are shared on Page 14.

➤ **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

- Tuesday's Community Health Fair attracted over 400 people to the Community Center for health screenings and/or flu shots.

The event had over 100 volunteers, including students from Western University of Health Sciences, California Baptist University, Montclair Senior Citizens Program, Montclair Hospital Medical Center, and the Montclair Walkers. They assisted with registration, crowd control, immunizations, screening stations, entertainment, and door prize giveaways. Public Safety staff attended with informational displays. We offer our humble appreciation to our event co-sponsors—Chino Valley Medical Center, Montclair Hospital Medical Center, and Montclair-Ontario Junior Women's Club—for providing the refreshments, complimentary flu vaccines, and volunteer support; Public Works Department staff for assisting with set up; and Human Services Department staff that worked the event.

A photo collage from the event is included on Page 13.

Additional opportunities for City of Montclair employees to get their flu shots are scheduled for Tuesday, October 22 and Tuesday, October 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Montclair Medical Clinic. Shots will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

- City employees and community members are invited to the Montclair Fruit Park Tree Planting and Celebration on Saturday, October 26 (Make a Difference Day) at Sunset Park, 4351 Orchard Street. There will be an official ceremony from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., and the planting of trees will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Additional information may be obtained by calling 909-625-9479.

- Please join us tonight at the Community Center for the Annual Lights on After-School Program. The program will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The theme this year is *Booktropolis*.

The Lights on After-School Program is held annually to promote reading and literacy. Projects, displays, and performances from over 1,000 children enrolled in the Montclair After-School Program will be featured.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department hosted its annual Mobile Field Force (MFF) training exercise on October 14 at San Manuel Amphitheater. MFF teams are mobilized and deployed for special events, demonstrations, or catastrophic natural and man-made disasters in which crowd control and management are anticipated or required. Eleven Officers from Montclair's MFF team participated in the training exercise with teams from throughout the County, including Chino, Ontario, and Upland Police Departments.

This year, mock scenarios focused on "peaceful protests" much like an "occupy" scenario, as well as spontaneous violence at large gatherings.

Our local MFF teams worked well together and took advantage of the opportunity to try out some of the new technologies available for these events. One device used was a Downlink handheld monitor that connects to cameras on the Sheriff's and Ontario Police Department's helicopters. The monitors allow for real-time, high-definition video of the event from the air, providing for expanded situational awareness.

- Last Thursday at the Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfast, Lieutenant Brian Ventura gave a short presentation to members of the Montclair business community on Nixel Connect. Nixel Connect is a free, mass notification system that connects law enforcement agencies to residents via text, web, and email.

Since the Montclair Police Department signed on last month to use this direct communications tool, it has sent out several messages to Montclair residents. To begin receiving these messages and alerts, residents need to register by providing their address or an intersection near them, a cell phone number, and an email address. They can then choose which messages they receive on which devices. Residents can also text 91763 to 888-777 to begin receiving alerts from the Police Department.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- On Wednesday, October 16, Public Works Director Michael Hudson and Facilities and Grounds Superintendent Mike McGehee met with seven Metrolink representatives regarding several ongoing issues at the Montclair Transcenter.

The first issue and primary reason for the meeting was to discuss allowing City staff access to the Metrolink communications shack located at the west end of the south platform. During construction of the underground tunnel connecting the north and south platforms, completed in April 2009, it was decided the City and Metrolink would share a communications shack, owned by Metrolink, for communications devices. As part of the underground tunnel project, several cameras and intercoms were installed in and around the tunnel area. These cameras and intercoms were installed to provide Metrolink passengers a better feeling of security. Instantaneous communication with the Police Department was available with just the push of a button in the event of an emergency.

Shortly after completion of the project, the cameras and intercoms ceased to function and have not worked since. Over the past four years, there have been many requests made by the City to gain access into the communications shack so repairs could be made; but up until last Thursday, all requests went unanswered. On Wednesday, October 9, Public Works Director Michael Hudson sent what would be the final request to Metrolink regarding access to the communications shack. The next day, we finally received the combination to the lock; and on Tuesday of this week, Senior Information Technology Specialist Ricky Tankersley and Senior Intern Travis Agajanian began work on the camera and intercom system. During the inspection of the camera/intercom system, Ricky and Travis were able to determine a vital piece of equipment was inoperable and they are now in the process of making repairs. As of the time of this report, a completion date was not available.

Another reason for this meeting was to discuss maintenance items at the Transcenter. Once each month, Metrolink inspects the entire Transcenter and sends an email to the City and various Metrolink departments to correct any noted deficiencies. Transcenter maintenance is shared by Metrolink, Caltrans, and the City, with each agency being responsible for certain areas. Until today, it has been unclear to Metrolink who had responsibility for what when they perform their inspections, and consequently anything that was not Metrolink's responsibility has always been given to the City to correct. The majority of the noted deficiencies are actually Caltrans related.

Both meetings were very productive, and we accomplished what we set out to do. It is unfortunate it took this long to get these issues resolved; but now that they are, we expect to have a much better relationship with Metrolink since we established a clear line of communication between both City and Metrolink staff.

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

- Last week, Governor Brown signed AB 562 into law. This legislation will require all cities and counties to provide a report to the public before approving any economic development subsidies of \$100,000 or more that are provided to corporations and other business entities. In addition, each city and county will need to review, hold hearings, and report on those subsidies at five-year intervals. These requirements will begin January 1, 2014.

AB 562 adds Section 53083 to the Government Code and declared this issue to be a matter of such statewide concern that it applies to all general law or charter cities. Once effective, Section 53083 will require that each city and county provide the following information about the economic development subsidy prior to its approval:

- ✓ name and address of any business entity benefiting from the subsidy
- ✓ the start and end dates for the subsidy
- ✓ a description of the subsidy and estimated total amount of the expenditure of public funds, or revenue lost, as a result of the subsidy
- ✓ a statement of the public purpose of the subsidy;
- ✓ projected tax revenue to the city or county as a result of the subsidy
- ✓ estimated number of jobs created by the subsidy, broken down by full-time, part-time and temporary positions.

There shall be a notice and hearing before the subsidy is approved and the report must be posted on the city or county website.

During the term of the economic development subsidy, but not later than five years after the action granting an economic development subsidy, the city or county shall issue a report for each economic development subsidy and hold a public hearing. The report shall contain the information described above as actual numbers rather than estimates.

ECS:spa

"The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which to burn."

~ David Russell

OCTOBER 2013



17	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
17	<i>Lights on After School</i> 14th Annual Celebration Montclair Community Center	6:30 p.m.
21	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
21	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
26	Montclair Community Fruit Park Tree Planting & Celebration Sunset Park, 4351 Orchard Street	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
28	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	2:00 p.m.
29	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
31	Halloween	

NOVEMBER 2013

		
03	Daylight Savings Time Ends	2:00 a.m.
04	City Council Workshop – David Turch & Associates' Federal Legislative Advocate Presentation	5:45 p.m.
04	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
06	Community Action Committee Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
11	Veterans Day – City Hall Closed	
12	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
12	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
13	Oversight Board Meeting Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
18	City Council Workshop – R-3 Development Standards Related to Implementation of Housing Element Council Chambers	5:45 p.m.
18	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
25	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
28	Thanksgiving Day – City Hall Closed	



Montclair Community Health Fair



October 15, 2013



ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MONTCLAIR FIRE DEPARTMENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
8901 MONTE VISTA AVENUE

