



March 6, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager 

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT: February 28-March 6, 2014

➤ **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- Monte Vista Water District (MVWD) expresses its sincere appreciation to Montclair residents and business owners for their patience and cooperation over the past two weeks.

On Tuesday night, February 18, a MVWD work crew discovered a gas leak in close proximity to a water pipeline leak. As a result, both water and gas services were interrupted. The MVWD crews worked around the clock to resolve the water outages as quickly as possible, and water services were reconnected by Saturday morning.

The MVWD recognizes the significant inconvenience caused by these events and would like to thank its customers for their understanding while services were restored. Customers can be assured that safety is the number one priority of the MVWD. **At no time was the water quality in the Monte Vista Water District distribution system compromised by this event, and tap water has been, and continues to be, safe for all uses.**

The MVWD is working with the Southern California Gas Company to investigate the cause of this event, which is unique in the MVWD's 87-year history.

Customers who experienced water outages and would like additional information should contact MVWD representatives at (909) 624-0035. For natural gas service outage questions, please contact Southern California Gas Company representatives at (800) 427-2200.

- Last Wednesday, Administrative Analyst Mikey Fuentes attended the League of California Cities Legislative Task Force meeting where guest speaker, Judge Marsha G. Slough, presiding Judge of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County, discussed the current state of the trial court system and the reorganization of the San Bernardino County Superior Court System (SBCSCS).

Since the Great Recession of 2007, the SBCSCS has suffered a \$14 million reduction in funding and, as a result, has eliminated over 269 positions, with an additional 41 employees being laid off. Since 2008, 18 courtrooms and courthouses have been either closed or partially closed, including those at Twin Peaks, Redlands, Chino, Needles, Big Bear, Joshua Tree, and Barstow.

Due to drastic operational and service cuts to the SBCSCS, the trial court system has elected to initiate a reorganization of local court cases, in an attempt to consolidate services and provide more effective and efficient services with fewer funds.

In May 2014, the SBCSCS will begin its process of reorganization which will coincide with the opening of the new San Bernardino Justice Center in downtown San Bernardino County. The San Bernardino Justice Center will provide 36 courtroom facilities directly across the street from the historic San Bernardino Courthouse. The courthouse will consolidate court operations, replacing seven facilities, and include space for court administration, a court clerk, court security operations, a holding area, and facility support space. The 11-story building will occupy a site of about 7 acres, which was donated by the City of San Bernardino.

While the Great Recession of 2007 played a significant role in the reduction of funding to the SBCSCS, it should be noted that the SBCSCS had been critically underfunded for several years prior to the Great Recession. The formula for current trial court system funding was adopted in 1997 and is based on the county-level funding that was in place prior to the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act (AB 233) that shifted trial court system funding to the state. Despite changes in demographic patterns and population growth, funding for trial courts has remained the same.

At its public meeting on February 20, the California Judicial Council approved recommendations from its Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to begin calculating each county's share of state judicial funds based on trial court workload. The new funding methodology will base a certain percent of funding based on workload. The percentage amount will gradually increase from 10 percent to 50 percent within 5 years. Because it is being phased in gradually, the new formula may not have a dramatic impact on trial court budgets for at least 5 years. The formula could change, however, if the state's budget picture improves.

As a result of the reorganization of the trial courts, the SBCSCS has announced the following changes affecting the Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, and San Bernardino Court Districts this year, as well as the communities they serve:

- ✓ May 12–Civil limited and unlimited cases from the Rancho Cucamonga District will be filed and heard in the new San Bernardino Justice Center
- ✓ May 12–Civil limited and unlimited cases from the San Bernardino District’s Historic Courthouse will be filed and heard in the new San Bernardino Justice Center
- ✓ May 19–Criminal felony and misdemeanor cases from the San Bernardino Historic Courthouse will be filed and heard in the new San Bernardino Justice Center
- ✓ May 19–All Capital/Death Penalty cases will be filed and heard in the new San Bernardino Justice Center
- ✓ May 27–Family Law cases from the Rancho Cucamonga District will be filed and heard in the San Bernardino Historic Courthouse
- ✓ May 27–Family Court Mediation matters from the Rancho Cucamonga District will be scheduled and held in the San Bernardino District Historic Courthouse
- ✓ May 27–Criminal felony and misdemeanor cases from the Fontana District will be filed and heard in the Rancho Cucamonga District
- ✓ May 27–Traffic and non-traffic infractions from the Rancho Cucamonga District will be filed and heard in the Fontana District
- ✓ May 27–Traffic and non-traffic infractions from the San Bernardino Historic Courthouse will be filed and heard in the Fontana District
- ✓ May 27–the Self-Help Resource Center in the Rancho Cucamonga District will be closed. Self-Help services will be available in the San Bernardino Historic Courthouse
- ✓ May 27–the Court Investigators Unit will be relocated to the new San Bernardino Justice Center

- ✓ June 2—the Appeals and Appellate Division will be relocated to the new San Bernardino Justice Center
- ✓ June 2—Small Claims and Landlord-Tenant cases from the Rancho Cucamonga District will be filed and heard in the Fontana District.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Staff was contacted this week by a residential developer interested in assembling approximately ten acres of land in the City's Sphere of Influence east of Central Avenue for the purpose of constructing 70-80 single-family, detached homes. The developer was directed to prepare a conceptual site plan for staff to review.

If the subject site were to remain in the County, staff would make a recommendation to the County's Land Use Services Department, including conditions of approval from various City departments. If the subject site were to become part of Montclair as part of an annexation of a larger area, then the developer would be required to go through the City's process for reviewing residential subdivisions.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9, which means your clocks need to "spring forward" an hour. When you change your clocks this weekend, remember to change and test the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.

Communities nationwide witness 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 your home can give you the extra seconds you need to get out safely during 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 back-up in your home.

By taking simple steps to change your batteries whenever you change your clocks, you will develop a habit that may be lifesaving!

➤ **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

- After 9 weeks of play, the 2014 Montclair Youth Basketball League season ended last Saturday with exciting championship games. The league had a record 20 teams and 193 registered participants. At the end of March, 2 teams from Divisions A, B, and C will compete in the Inland Valley's Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation tournament and face opponents from neighboring cities.

We wish our teams the best of luck and extend a special thanks to our volunteer coaches. Without their support, the program would not be possible. Go Montclair!

- Last week, students enrolled in the Mission Elementary School After-School Program began an eight-week series of tennis classes. The program is a collaboration between the Ontario-Montclair School District and the Draper Center for Community Partnerships at Pomona College. The goal of the Draper Center's Tennis FUNdamentals Program is to expose underrepresented students to the sport of tennis, teach the fundamental skills and rules related to the sport of tennis, and to foster and encourage life-long health and wellness.

The program targets students in kindergarten through third grade, and is taught by students from the Claremont Colleges. There will also be an opportunity for the participants in the tennis class and their families to attend a tennis tournament at Pomona College on a Saturday in the spring.

The students are featured in a photo collage on Page 9.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- A probation sweep held in Montclair last week targeted 14 houses and resulted in 3 arrests—2 felonies and 1 warrant.

CSU Officer Eric Ruziecki coordinated the sweep with San Bernardino County Probation. They had originally targeted 30 houses but had to scale back due to limited manpower that day.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- The Splash Pad at Alma Hofman Park will get a facelift within the next two months. Last season, the rubberized play surface started to lift around the drain, and soft spots were forming at various locations around the pad. As it turns out, the chlorinated water was able to find a path under the play surface and eventually the underlayment became soft and the play surface began to delaminate.

Because this issue did not appear until after the 2013-14 Fiscal Year Budget was adopted, and after the Splash Pad opened for the season, the existing surface was nursed along to finish the season. At the Midyear Budget Review last month, the City Council appropriated funds to replace the Splash Pad surface before the season opening this coming May. Bids for this project are currently being submitted, and work is expected to begin late March to early April.

After the closing of the Splash Pad every September, the pump equipment is idle for eight months, sometimes causing gaskets and O-rings to dry out and some parts to leak. Hopefully, the new surface will be installed by the end of April, allowing staff to run the equipment for a few weeks prior to opening day.

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

- Following double-digit quarterly sales declines in the fourth quarter and mounting losses year over year, RadioShack Corporation said Tuesday it would close as many as 1,100 stores, about 20 percent of its total, with the possibility of more closures in the future. CEO Joseph Magnacca told GlobeSt.com that even after the closings, "We will continue to have a strong, unmatched presence across the US with over 4,000 stores, including over 900 dealer franchise locations."

The electronics retailer said the locations that will be shuttered, subject to the consent of its lenders, were selected based on location, area demographics, lease life, and financial performance. It did not identify the locations, which follow on 2 consecutive years of closing about 100 stores per year.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported Tuesday that the closings were more than twice as large as the ballpark figure of 500 that the retailer was considering a month earlier. In its annual report filing, also on Tuesday, RadioShack said it would continue to monitor the performance of its other stores, with the possibility of additional closures beyond the round announced on Tuesday.

Net sales and operating revenues for fourth quarter fell 20 percent to \$935.4 million from about \$1.2 billion in the last quarter of 2012. Same-stores sales were off by 19 percent for the same quarter last year and 8.8 percent for the year, while the company's full-year net loss rose to \$400.2 million from \$139.4 million the year prior; 4th quarter results marked the 8th consecutive quarter of losses.

About half of the net loss for the year arose from its 4th quarter results. Magnacca, hired about a year ago to turn the chain's results around, says the 4th quarter numbers were driven by "a holiday season characterized by lower store traffic, intense promotional activity particularly in consumer electronics, a very soft mobility marketplace, and a few operational issues."

Although, he added, "We're continuing to make progress on the 5 pillars of our turnaround plan: repositioning the brand, revamping the product assortment, reinvigorating the stores, operational efficiency, and financial flexibility." He cites the sales growth in the company's new Concept Stores, "which redefine the RadioShack store experience." Further, the company lined up \$835 million in 5-year financing during 4th quarter.

ECS:spa

"Some think it's holding on that makes one strong; sometimes it's letting go." ~ Sylvia Robinson

MARCH 2014



8-12	Congressional City Conference Washington D.C.	
9	Daylight Saving Time Begins	2:00 a.m.
10	Planning Commission Meeting - Canceled	
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	St. Patrick's Day	
17	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
17	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
20	Spring Begins	
20	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
20	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
24	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
25	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
27-28	City-County Conference Lake Arrowhead Resort	11:00 a.m.

MONTCLAIR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

MISSION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TENNIS PROGRAM

