



June 5, 2014

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

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

**SUBJECT:** WEEKLY REPORT: May 30 – June 5, 2014

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

- The close of California's election this week marked yet another primary where voter participation was significantly low.

According to the most recent data from the Secretary of State (SOS), Tuesday's election had only an 18.3 percent voter turnout. Typically, voter turnout for primary elections is low with more voters participating in the November General Election.

The June 3 primary was the second time in California history that statewide elections were held under the new open primary system. Voters approved the open primary system in 2010 with the passage of Proposition 14. Under the new system, the top-two vote getters in the primary election advance to the general election, regardless of party affiliation.

Compared to other years, the menu of ballot measures was relatively light with only two proposed initiatives—Propositions 41 and 42. Both measures received overwhelming voter support and passed with more than 60 percent of the vote. The passage of Proposition 41 suggests the state's favorable fiscal outlook may have persuaded voters to loosen state purse strings and allow for a \$600 million investment in homeless veteran housing.

Incumbent Governor Jerry Brown easily won the top spot on the crowded gubernatorial ticket with 54.5 percent of the vote. Republican candidate Neel Kashkari came in second with 19 percent of the vote. The two will now face off in November for California's highest office.

As a result of term limits, several legislative seats are up for grabs. As such, a number of vigorous primary contests developed in recent months between candidates of the same party due to California's newly implemented open primary system. With Tuesday's results, approximately one dozen district races will now have rival candidates from the same party on the November 2014 General Election ballot.

The SOS has identified several races as too close to call because the vote margin between candidates is less than 2 percent. For example, the Controller race currently has three democratic candidates within razor-thin vote margins of each other due to a split in party voting. Rather than voting for only one candidate in each party, the open primary system allows for intra-party competition that pits members of the same political party against each other. As a result, a significant distribution of votes amongst party members occurs. In the case of the Controller race, this vote distribution has resulted in multiple democratic candidates vying for the second top spot after the republican candidate secured a first-place finish.

Election officials have until July 4 to submit a statement of results to the SOS for certification. After the SOS certifies the election results, a final vote statement will be released on July 11.

For more information and comprehensive elections results, please see the SOS website, <http://vote.sos.ca.gov/> .

- Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) announced this week that passenger-air traffic at LA/Ontario International Airport (ONT), for the first four months of the year, has shown a slight increase over last year during the same period. Passenger activity in April shows ONT airlines served 338,421 travelers, a 1.5 percent increase compared to April 2013. International traffic is showing higher numbers, which is being helped by Volaris, a new carrier at ONT serving Guadalajara, Mexico. Volaris started twice weekly service in mid-April 2014. AeroMexico also provides nonstop service between ONT and Guadalajara, Mexico.

ONT officials are pleased with the reported rise in passenger traffic, but remain cautious about calling the increase part of an overall trend toward sustained improvement. LAWA officials argue that airline companies have increasingly focused on profitability—one reason that medium hub airports across the country have experienced challenges and passenger declines similar to ONT.

A second positive indicator: ONT is showing passenger increases even though the number of available seats is lower than last year for the same period. This latter indicator may suggest air carriers are flying more efficiently, with higher load factors—a positive impact on their bottom line.

Air cargo traffic showed a significantly higher gain. During April, 39,657 tons shipped out of ONT, an 8.8 percent gain over the same period last year. ONT cargo volume has been on a gradual and steady increase since 2010.

ONT is considered a medium-hub, full-service airport with nonstop commercial service to 14 major U.S. cities, plus Guadalajara, Mexico, and connecting service to many more U.S. and international destinations. ONT has approximately 60 daily flights offered by 8 passenger carriers, including the recent addition of Volaris.

- The California Department of Public Health's new cap on water contaminant Chromium-6 of 10 parts per billion is set to take effect July 1, 2014, after the limit received final approval from an administrative arm of the department last week.

The Office of Administrative Law's approval follows more than three years of work by the health department to reduce the maximum contaminant level for the cancer-causing element featured in the 2000 film, *Erin Brockovich*. Public health officials used more than a decade of research completed by the city of Glendale to craft the new cap.

Chromium, an odorless and tasteless metallic element, is found naturally in rocks, plants, soil, volcanic dust, humans, and animals. The most common forms of chromium that occur in natural waters in the environment are trivalent chromium (Chromium-3) and hexavalent chromium (Chromium-6).

Chromium-3 is an essential human dietary element and occurs naturally in many vegetables, fruits, meats, grains, and yeast. Chromium-6 occurs naturally in the environment from the erosion of natural chromium deposits; but it can also be produced by industrial processes.

While Chromium-3 has a relatively low toxicity, Chromium-6 is more toxic, poses health risks, and has been identified as a human carcinogen. People who use water containing total chromium in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) over many years could experience allergic dermatitis and possibly develop cancer.

Prior to the change made official last Wednesday, the state department limited total chromium, which includes the cancer-causing Chromium-6 and the nutrient Chromium-3, to 50 parts per billion.

One part per billion is often compared to a drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool; so setting the limit at 10 parts per billion would be equivalent to 10 drops of Chromium-6 in a 130,000-gallon pool.

Glendale and other cities in the San Fernando Valley have been plagued for decades by the water pollutant that leaked into groundwater after being

used by the long-gone aerospace industry that was once prominent in the Los Angeles area.

With this new rule, California will lead the way in providing quality drinking water, free of dangerous levels of this carcinogen. While the new cap has been heralded as a major step in ensuring clean and safe drinking water for all Californians, many have called for individual water agencies to further limit the carcinogen level in their drinking water.

Health department officials have estimated that reducing the limit to 10 parts per billion will cost water agencies statewide \$156 million.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- On Monday, the Building Division was recognized with a Certificate of Achievement by the International Code Council (ICC). Target Store Property Development Division and the ICC sponsored a campaign to "Build the Best Communities Ever" with emphasis on construction code knowledge. Divisions with 100 percent ICC-certified staff demonstrate their commitment to protecting the public, health, safety, and welfare of the people who live and work in their community. This achievement also recognizes their commitment to excellence in the industry by advancing their career through education.

Congratulations to our Building Division on receiving the "Get Certified Award."

- Also on Monday, City Planner Michael Diaz and Community Development Director Steve Lustro met with the principals of a local manufacturing company interested in relocating to Montclair. The 54-year-old company is seeking to consolidate its operations under one roof and has been in communication with a local developer who is planning on constructing a large industrial building in the City. The principals of the firm indicated to staff that if they are able to consolidate operations, there is an opportunity for an expansion that could potentially create an additional 50 jobs within the company, which currently employs 100.
- At long last, the deteriorating residence at 5399 Holt Boulevard, which had become a haven for transients and criminals, was reduced to rubble last week. The 101-year-old structure, which had been vacant for a number of years, was suffering from constant vandalism, theft, and general "demolition by neglect," creating an ongoing challenge for Code Enforcement to work with the property owner to keep the property secured and maintained to a minimum level.

In late 2012, staff worked with the property owner to contact several local historic preservation organizations with the express purpose of seeking individuals or organizations interested in relocating the house. However, the initial 60-day response period yielded no takers.

Notwithstanding that the house remained standing for the subsequent year, staff was not contacted by any interested parties until December 2013. While the individual who contacted staff and spoke before the Planning Commission in February was desirous of saving the house, it was clear he did not have the resources to do so in a timely fashion. The property owner, who also owns the adjacent used car lot, now plans to move forward with expanding the business onto the property formerly occupied by the home and an outbuilding.



➤ ***HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT***

- Please join us this Saturday from noon to 8 p.m. for the 2nd Annual Country Fair Jamboree at Alma Hofman Park. There will be carnival rides and games for adults and kids, a DJ, performances by an 80's band and Latin variety band, pony rides, a petting zoo, a BMX demonstration, a skateboarding competition, food vendors (including Tommy's and The Taco Man), free contests for all ages, community organization-sponsored booths, and much more.

New for this year is the sale of beer and wine and extended evening hours. Wristbands, good for carnival rides and games all day long, are only \$10. Don't forget your coupon for a free Tommy's cheese burger or double cheese burger that was attached to today's paychecks.

A schedule of events for the day is Included on Page 14.

Log on to [www.cityofmontclair.org/countryfairjamboree](http://www.cityofmontclair.org/countryfairjamboree) for additional information.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- On June 2, 14 members of the Montclair Police Department and 2 non-members participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run in support of the Special Olympics. This annual event has officers from local, state, and federal agencies carry the "Flame of Hope" throughout Southern California. More than 4,000 officers and Special Olympics athletes proudly run 1,500 miles throughout 200 communities with the torch to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics Southern California.

Team Montclair received the torch from Chino Police Department at Phillips Boulevard and Monte Vista Avenue and ran 4.5 miles before passing the torch to Ontario Police Department at Phillips Boulevard and Benson Avenue. The team stopped along its route at City Hall just long enough to take a few photos (and catch their breath) with their highly spirited coworkers and members of the community before embarking on the second half of the run.

The runners were: Sergeants Matt Borra and Steven Griffin; Detective John Minook; Officers Javier Aguilar, Jacob Altig, Brian Blyther, Jesus Carrillo, Ben Cypher, Ron Goble, Kyle Hurd, Kris Kelley, and Ashlee Westall; Police Cadets Ed Fornes and Candace Martinez; and IT Senior Intern Travis Agajanian. Officer Jake Westall from the Corona Police Department was also a runner. Sergeant Borra organized the event this year—great job, Matt!

Photos follow:







I took a much-needed break from budget issues to cheer for the runners

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- State Street east of Central Avenue has been deteriorating significantly for the past several years. Although most of this street is within unincorporated San Bernardino County, a small portion is within the City of Montclair.

Montclair Public Works staff has performed extensive pothole repairs to the City's portion over the years. We expected that when the next phase of the West State Street Storm Drain Channel, a County facility, was replaced, the State Street pavement would also be replaced. This was the case more than ten years ago during previous channel work west of Central Avenue. It was also expected the County would again take the lead for this work

Unfortunately, with the County's last phase of the West State Street Storm Drain Channel postponed indefinitely, and with little budget for complete removal and replacement of the pavement, Public Works staff has been able to do little more than patchwork.

Recently, Public Works staff met with counterparts from San Bernardino County and discussed a joint project to do an overlay on that segment of State Street shared by both agencies. After a couple of meetings and approvals by the Public Works Director, it was decided the agencies would work jointly to complete the State Street Rehabilitation Project.

A narrow portion of westbound State Street belongs to the City, and the remainder of the westbound lane and the entire eastbound lane belongs to the County. The agencies agreed on the following:

It would be the City's responsibility to:

- ✓ Develop a traffic control plan
- ✓ Arrange for a construction notice to be delivered to business owners and residents
- ✓ Pay for and deliver all asphalt pavement required for the City's portion (approximately 125 tons).

It would be the County's responsibility to:

- ✓ Pay for and deliver all asphalt required for the County's portion
- ✓ Furnish equipment and personnel to spread and compact the asphalt on both City and County portions of the street. Equipment will include a large motor grader, a pneumatic roller, and a heavy steel-wheel roller for the final pass)
- ✓ Provide all striping and pavement markings for complete roadway

- ✓ Raise utility covers to grade.

This was an excellent training experience for some of our newer City Yard employees. Both crews felt a good bond occurred between the two agencies and would be amenable to working together again.

I would like to thank Streets Leadworker Alex Cardona, all of the City Yard Maintenance Workers, and San Bernardino County Maintenance Superintendent Scott Ryan and his team for a job well done.



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

- It is widely known that the restaurant business is tough. Since the Great Recession, the overall industry has struggled, except for the category of "fast-casual restaurants." Fast-casual is a type of restaurant that does not offer full table service, but promises a higher quality of food and atmosphere than a fast-food restaurant. The fast-casual restaurant generally has counter service accompanied by handmade food, and alcohol may be served. The menu is usually limited to an extended over-counter display, and options in the way the food is prepared are emphasized. Health-conscious items have a larger-than-normal portion of the menu. Most fast-casual restaurants emphasize high-quality ingredients. Full table service is not offered. The average price of a meal at a fast-casual restaurant ranges between \$8 and \$15. The quintessential "fast-casual" restaurant is Chipotle Mexican Grill. Other restaurants in the fast-casual genre would include chains such as Panera Bread, Noodles & Co., Smashburger, and Pieology.

According to the research firm NPD Group, fast food, family, mid-scale, and fine-dining restaurants are limping along with a 2 percent growth rate. Adjusted for inflation, these restaurant segments are weak. However, the fast-casual restaurant segment shows positive numbers—traffic was up 8 percent last year. The fast-casual segment has become popular because it competes with other restaurant venues on two fronts: price and better food. According to research by Technomic, there is a clear "sweet spot" for fast-casual dining pricing. The research found that consumers believe restaurant prices that were too cheap, such as fast-food choices, impacted quality; but the same customers were also sensitive to prices that seemed too expensive when choosing to dine out.

Fine dining experiences cannot touch the prices of the fast-casual segment. However, other full-service restaurants in the family and mid-scale segments are attempting to fight back. Many of these full service restaurants are offering a variety of lunch specials in the \$7 to \$8 per meal range. In addition, it is common to find mid-scale restaurants offering dinner specials in the "two meals for \$20" category. Many restaurant patrons are also seeking relatively fast service. While that can be a challenge for full service restaurants, the fast-casual operators, such as Chipotle and Panera Bread, sometimes have more business that they can handle. At some fast-casual units, lunch can be formidable. To this end, some mid-scale restaurants are boasting that their take-out service can rival the speed of the fast-casual experience.

It is likely that more corporate restaurant chains may take the plunge into the fast-casual arena. According to the research by NPD Group, it may be the only way to keep restaurants growing.

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood."

~ Fred Rogers

## JUNE 2014

		
07	Country Fair Jamboree Alma Hofman Park	Noon - 8:00 p.m.
09	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
10	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
11	Fiscal Year 2014-15 Preliminary Budget Review Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
15	<b>Father's Day</b>	
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 Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
23	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.

# Country Fair

JAMBOREE

**11:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.** Skateboard Competition  
*Skate Park*

**1:00-3:30 p.m.** Back to the 80's Band  
*Main Stage*

**1:30 p.m.** BMX Demonstration  
*North Parking Lot*

**3:30 p.m.** Watermelon Eating Contest  
*Main Stage*

**3:30 p.m.** BMX Demonstration  
*North Parking Lot*

**4:00 p.m.** Minute to Win Contest  
*Main Stage*

**4:30 p.m.** Water Balloon Toss Contest  
*Main Stage*

**5:00 p.m.** Hula Hoop Contest  
*Main Stage*

**5:30-7:00 p.m.** Suave Band  
*Main Stage*

**7:00 p.m.** Pie Eating Contest  
*Main Stage*

**7:30-8:00 p.m.** Kids Dance  
*Main Stage*