



June 26, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager 

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT: June 20-26, 2014

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

- San Bernardino County last week surpassed its own record (from 2011 when it won 27 awards), winning 31 achievement awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its innovative programs and services, including top honors for the Countywide Vision, as well as the State of the County event. Last year, the County won 18 NACo awards and has won an average of 14 NACo awards annually for the past 10 years.

The NACo Achievement Awards Program recognizes innovative county government programs in the areas of children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, and health.

This year, San Bernardino County led the region with more awards than the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and Ventura. Only 29 of California's 58 counties received top awards.

The Countywide Vision won a 2014 Achievement Award in the category of County Administration and Management. The Board of Supervisors formed a partnership with San Bernardino Association of Governments and launched the Countywide Vision in 2010 after receiving public input and feedback from experts on improving the county and moving it forward. The Countywide Vision is an active, ongoing, collaborative process aimed at setting a course of the county as a whole, improving life within the county and making the county attractive to investors.

The Board of Supervisors will recognize and honor the people and departments responsible for the 2014 winning programs and services at an upcoming public meeting.

The following are some of San Bernardino County's 2014 winning programs:

- ✓ Countywide Vision – County Administration Management
 - ✓ The State of the County – Community/Economic Development
 - ✓ Rope Fog: Enhancing Unified Multi-Agency Response Coordination—Emergency Management and Response
 - ✓ Re-Entry Support Program—Employment and Training
 - ✓ Housing Authority and Workforce Investment Board Partnership—Employment and Training
 - ✓ Crisis Case Management through Kinship Care—Children and Youth
 - ✓ San Bernardino County Probation Day Reporting and Reentry Services Centers—Criminal Justice and Public Safety
 - ✓ Child Support Regional Legal/Operations Training—Human Services
 - ✓ Loma Linda University Medical Center Psychiatry Resident Rotation Program—Employment and Training
 - ✓ Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) —Family Resource Center—Human Services
- The City of San Bernardino announced an agreement with CalPERS last week to pay off an unprecedented pension debt owed for skipping payments to the pension fund for a year—\$13.5 million, plus several million more in penalties and interest.

Details of the agreement reached in closed mediation were not released but the city said in a court filing the CalPERS agreement would help form the basis for a debt-cutting plan needed to exit bankruptcy.

Whether or not the city's interim agreement with CalPERS means the city's debt-cutting plan of adjustment to exit bankruptcy will exclude pensions is not revealed in the court filing.

San Bernardino has not publicly proposed a pension cut. A sketchy plan for operating in bankruptcy only proposed a "fresh start" that would re-amortize CalPERS liability over 30 years, perhaps cutting costs by \$1.3 million in the first year.

Last week, an attorney for San Bernardino emphasized the importance of the city's relationship with the pension system during his opening remarks at a status hearing with U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Meredith Jury.

"The importance of this agreement to mediation and the case cannot be overstated because of the size of the CalPERS claim, the importance of CalPERS and its relationship to the city and because the city believes, based on discussions with unions and retirees, that sustaining their relationship with CalPERS is very important," said Paul Glassman, Chair of the Bankruptcy and Restructuring Practice for Stradling Attorneys at Law, as reported by the *San Bernardino Sun*.

The cash-short city's decision to skip employer payments to CalPERS, after an emergency bankruptcy filing in August 2012, would be grounds for termination of its CalPERS contract, if the city was not in bankruptcy. The city resumed payments last July.

CalPERS responded by attempting to sue San Bernardino for payment in state court. The federal bankruptcy judge blocked the attempt, saying employee pay would be threatened and the ability to reorganize in bankruptcy undercut.

CalPERS then opposed San Bernardino's eligibility for bankruptcy, followed by an appeal when the judge ruled the city eligible. The agreement announced last week delays action on the appeal.

CalPERS also filed a brief in support of an appeal by the state Department of Finance and the state Controller of the bankruptcy judge's ruling protecting \$15 million in city tax revenue. The judge blocked a state attempt to withhold \$15 million in San Bernardino sales and property tax revenue. The state said the city had not returned a similar amount of unspent housing funds after the state shut down local redevelopment agencies.

Unlike San Bernardino, Vallejo and Stockton continued to make their full CalPERS payments after filing for bankruptcy. The unprecedented San Bernardino lapse in payments was mentioned as CalPERS took several protective steps.

In a move said to be already underway due to low interest rates, CalPERS lowered the earnings forecast for terminated plans from 4.82 percent a year to 2.98 percent, sharply increasing the debt that must be paid if employers leave the system.

In April last year, the CalPERS board approved a staff proposal to sponsor legislation that would "provide CalPERS with a present lien on all assets of a contracting public agency in the amount of all obligations owed to the system."

After concluding negotiations with CalPERS, the court filing last week said San Bernardino officials are "now fully engaged" in negotiations with two holdout unions—police and firefighters.

An agreement reportedly may be near with police. But firefighters, worried the city may plan to contract for fire services, filed a request last week to be released from court-ordered mediation, saying talks with the city were stalemated.

The city filing said San Bernardino plans to ask the judge for authorization to impose a "last, best, and final offer" if unions do not agree to new cost-cutting contracts when negotiation procedures are completed, probably by the end of August or sooner.

"Since employee compensation represents approximately 75 percent of the city's costs, many of the cost reductions inevitably are labor related," said the court filing.

Stockton, which filed a month before San Bernardino, theoretically could be approved to exit bankruptcy at a hearing on July 8. The judge may be considering a separate ruling to clarify whether CalPERS pensions can be cut in bankruptcy like other debt.

In Detroit, a federal bankruptcy judge has ruled the city's pensions can be cut. Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation Friday for a "grand bargain," providing state and foundation money to ease pension cuts that retirees are being asked to approve.

In a plan negotiated with unions, active Detroit workers will be switched to a "hybrid plan" that combines a smaller pension with a 401(k)-style individual investment plan.

"Trading down to a less generous pension plan is often said to be a legal nonstarter for government workers, so if Detroit succeeds, its hybrid could become a model for other distressed governments from Maine to California," a page one story in the *New York Times* said last week.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- On Saturday morning, June 21, Medic Engine 151 and Battalion Chief 1915, along with units from Ontario Fire Department, responded to an incident on the I-10 Freeway. A large commercial truck had rolled over multiple times, and the driver was possibly trapped inside. The initial dispatch information reported the truck was a semi tanker that had rolled over, was possibly on fire, and was leaking the chemical it was transporting.

Upon arrival at the scene, Ontario Fire crews rescued the trapped driver while Montclair Fire crews mitigated the spilled liquid, which was identified as a wastewater treatment chemical. Thankfully, there was no fire, and the driver was quickly rescued and transported by ambulance to Arrowhead Regional.

While crews were working on scene, the westbound I-10 Freeway off-ramp was closed at Central Avenue as was Central Avenue south of the freeway in both directions. Ontario's Hazardous Materials team responded and tested the chemical and San Bernardino County Hazmat supervised the cleanup. There were no additional vehicles or victims involved.



- At 8:30 a.m. on June 23, the Montclair Fire Department transitioned its dispatch services from Ontario Dispatch Center to CONFIRE JPA Communications Center.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department—CONFIRE JPA Communications Center, is located in the city of Rialto, adjacent to the County Emergency Operations Center. CONFIRE is a multi-agency emergency fire- and medical service-only dispatch center. Its primary mission is to provide direct Fire/EMS dispatch services 24-7. CONFIRE also functions as the Operational Area's dispatch for the County. Under this function, the Communication Center is responsible for coordinating mutual-aid needs within the County and for processing mutual-aid requests to and from the Region VI Operations Center of the California Office of Emergency Services, located in Riverside.

In the months prior to this transition, City staff worked diligently with Ontario Dispatch and CONFIRE staff to make this transition a success. When the new system went live on Monday morning, the altering systems at Fire Station Nos. 151 and 152 worked properly, radio communications were successful, and 9-1-1 calls transferred seamlessly.

While the Montclair Fire Department is pleased with this transition and eager to develop its relationship with CONFIRE, it is also sincerely thankful for the 40-plus years of outstanding service the Ontario Dispatch Center has provided our community.

We are grateful to Montclair City staff in the Information Technology Division, the Police Department Communications Center, and the Fire Department for their efforts in making this transition a reality. We are especially thankful to the City Council for its vision and commitment to becoming part of a regional dispatch center.

- Mark your calendars for the Fire Department's inaugural Apparatus Dedication Ceremony that will be held on Monday, July 7 at 5:45 p.m. at City Hall's Memorial Garden. The Fire Department's new 2014 KME fire engine will be dedicated to a life of service to the City.

Featured at this event will be remarks from local officials, an apparatus christening, and refreshments. The whole community is invited to attend!

Please refer to the flyer on Page 12 for more details.

➤ **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

- Yesterday, the Senior Center hosted its monthly birthday party in the Community Center. The western-themed event was attended by 250 seniors and included lunch, birthday cake, and ice cream. Senior Center volunteer Dee Copeland organized a photo display of the seniors' fathers or a special father in their life. All the men in attendance were invited to have their pictures taken.

Fourth District County Supervisor Gary Ovitt made a surprise visit and thanked everyone for being a part of our community and for allowing him to represent Montclair.

See Page 13 for photos.

- Join us starting next Tuesday night for the 2014 Summer Concert Series. All concerts are held at Alma Hofman Park (Shark Park), begin at 7 p.m., and are presented to the public free of charge. Bring your friends and family, blankets, lawn chairs, and a picnic dinner for a relaxing evening under the stars. Free activities to keep the children busy will be offered.

The concert schedule is as follows:

July 2	Suave (Latin favorites)
July 9	The Silverados (country)
July 15	MO Briggs (R & B)
July 23	The Ravelers (classic rock)
July 30	Mariachi El Aventurero (mariachi)

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- Back in May, I reported the Splash Pad play surface was being replaced and the Splash Pad would be opening late this season. Now, it is questionable whether the Splash Pad will be able to open this season at all. Here is what has occurred:

Installation of the new surface began two weeks ago. A new concrete base was poured over top of the existing concrete base in an effort to raise the height of the concrete pad.

After the new concrete work was completed, the concrete pad was too high and needed to be ground down to accommodate the thickness of the new rubber play surface. After the concrete was ground down, it was discovered that the new concrete did not bond well to the old concrete. The interface between the two concrete layers was full of air pockets all around the surface.

At this point, the new concrete must now be removed and poured again. That work is expected to take several weeks. After pouring the new concrete, the play surface installers require three weeks of dry time before installation of the new play surface. By the time all this new work takes place, it is projected to be mid-August before the Splash Pad would be ready for operation (the Splash Pad closes for the season in early September).

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

- Yesterday, over 60 people attended the Annual Montclair Chamber of Commerce Installation of Officers and Directors Awards & Recognition Luncheon at John's Incredible Pizza. Several dignitaries, including Mayor Paul Eaton, Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ruh, and Council Member Leonard Paulitz, attended the event and presented certificates to new and outgoing Chamber directors and officers, as well as outstanding ambassadors.

Also present were 4th District County Supervisor Gary Ovitt, Chaffey Joint Union High School District Board Member Sue Ovitt, Marisol Guerra of State Senator Norma Torres' Office, and Fabian Naranjo-Gonzalez of State Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez's Office. Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Darleen Curley served as Master of Ceremonies.

The following new officers and directors were installed: Steve Hammitt of Hammitt Benefits Group, Dan Neale of Nationwide Insurance, Virgel Mabini of Wells Fargo Bank, Rosa Rangel of Montclair Florist, Gregory Brentano of Montclair Hospital Medical Center, Bobby Hyde of Ben Bridge Jeweler, Barbara Johnson of Travel by Design, Joe Lindsey of Elephant Bar Restaurant, Scott Poddig of Bowlum Lanes, Pat Rees of Montclair Kiwanis, Traci Rivera of The Paseos at North Montclair, and Ruccsana Ahmed of Laptop Xchange,

A highlight of the awards ceremony was Pat Rees of Montclair Kiwanis Club receiving the "Ambassador of the Year" title for the fifth year in a row.

The City of Montclair sincerely appreciates the diligence of the Montclair Chamber of Commerce and its dynamic group of officers and directors. We are thankful to have such diligent ambassadors that volunteer their time all year long in support of the Montclair business community.



Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ruh at the podium



Mayor Pro Tem Ruh installing the new directors: Barbara Johnson (Travel by Design), Bobby Hyde (Ben Bridge Jeweler), Traci Rivera (The Paseos at North Montclair), and Pat Rees (Montclair Kiwanis).



Mayor Pro Tem Ruh installing the new officers: Steve Hammitt (Hammitt Benefits Group), Dan Neale (Nationwide Insurance), Rosa Rangel (Montclair Florist), and Virgel Mabini (Wells Fargo Bank).

ECS:spa

"An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day." ~ Henry David Thoreau

JUNE 2014

30	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.

JULY 2014

3	City Hall Closed in Observance of Independence Day	
4	Independence Day	
7	Fire Department Apparatus Dedication Ceremony Montclair Civic Center – Memorial Garden	5:45 p.m.
7	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
9	Oversight Board Meeting Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
14	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
15	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
17	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
17	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
19	Police Department Open House 4870 Arrow Highway	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
21	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
28	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
29	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.



SAVE THE DATE

Montclair Fire Department



Apparatus Dedication Ceremony

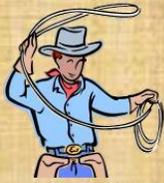
**You are invited to a dedication ceremony for the
Fire Department's new 2014 KME fire engine**

Monday, July 7, 2014

5:45 p.m.

City Hall ♦ Memorial Garden

5111 Benito Street, Montclair



Senior Center June Birthday Party



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

53RD ANNUAL
SUMMER
SEASON

FREE
CONCERTS!

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Outdoor concerts at Alma Hofman Park (Shark Park),
located at 5201 Benito Street. Bring the family, lawn
chairs and a picnic dinner and enjoy music in the park.

July 1 **SUAVE**
(Latin Variety)

July 8 **THE SILVERADOS**
(Country)

July 15 **MO BRIGGS**
(R & B)

July 22 **THE RAVELERS**
(Classic Rock)

July 29 **MARIACHI EL
AVENTURERO**
(Mariachi)

FREE
KIDS ACTIVITIES!

BRING THE
FAMILY!

REFRESHMENTS
FOR SALE

Admission is **FREE** • All Programs Begin at 7:00 pm

CITY OF MONTCLAIR • HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT • 625-9479