



April 6, 2017

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

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

**SUBJECT:** CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: March 31-April 6, 2017

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## **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- Did you know that, 100 years ago today, America entered the First World War? Nicknamed "The War to End All Wars," then President Woodrow Wilson held out as long as possible before subjecting America to war when it erupted in Europe on July 28, 1914, favoring instead to stay neutral, which was a position the majority of United States citizens at the time also favored.

However, a series of attacks by Germany upon the United States soon compromised that way of thinking. Events included the sinking of the William P. Frye, a private American vessel that was transporting grain to England in March 1915. A German cruiser did the deed, and the German government called the attack an unfortunate mistake.

On May 7, 1915, the British ocean liner RMS Lusitania was torpedoed without warning by a German submarine just off the coast of Ireland. Of the nearly 2,000 passengers, 1,201 were killed, including 128 Americans.

In November 1915, a U-boat sunk an Italian liner killing 272 people, including 27 Americans.

Then, in late March 1917, Germany sunk 4 more U.S. merchant ships. That was the nail in the coffin, so to speak. On April 2, 1917, President Wilson appeared before Congress and called for a declaration of war against Germany. Four days later, America formally entered World War I.

On June 26, 1917, the first 14,000 U.S. infantry troops landed in France to begin combat. After 4 years of bloody stalemate along the Western Front, the entrance of America's well-supplied forces into the conflict was a major turning point in the war. World War I finally ended on November 11, 1918.

To commemorate America's entry into the Great War 100 years ago, Mayor Paul Eaton proclaimed April 6, 2017, as World War I Centennial Day in the City of Montclair. Citizens are encouraged to remember this day in history that took place exactly 100 years ago!

- Passenger traffic at Ontario International Airport (ONT) was up 5.6 percent in February 2017, year-over-year, according to ONT officials. ONT served 321,276 passengers in February, compared with 304,270 passengers in February 2016.

Domestic traffic in February totaled 313,789 passengers, an increase of 6 percent compared with February 2016, when 295,948 travelers from within the United States passed through ONT.

International passenger traffic, however, declined from 8,322 last year to 7,478—a year-over-year decline of 10.1 percent. Some of the decrease in international travel may be directly related to emerging immigration policy in the Trump Administration.

Air cargo freight increased 9.1 percent in February year-over-year, with 44,234 tons handled. For January and February 2017, air cargo freight was up 8.8 percent, with 91,050 tons handled.

In late 2016, ownership of ONT transferred from Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to the Ontario International Airport Authority.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Buffalo Wild Wings is on its way! The previous home to Romano's Macaroni Grill is getting the roof raised—literally. The new Buffalo Wild Wings is expanding the footprint of the restaurant for additional dining space, an outdoor patio area, and, yes, roof height. The total restaurant will be 7,800 square feet and will be able to seat 270 people.

The anticipated opening date of the new restaurant is August 1. We will provide updates as they occur.



Before the start of renovation



Renovation in progress

- More than 3,500 stores are expected to close across the U.S. in the next couple of months, with some of the most iconic American fashion brands shuttering locations.

Retailers like Macy's, Bebe, and Payless are all closing dozens—possibly hundreds—of stores in 2017. As mall traffic declines and e-commerce grows, many fashion brands have struggled to keep up.

Here are 12 retailers, listed in no particular order, that are disappearing across the U.S., as store closures sweep the country:

### **Payless Stores Closing: 1,000**

The discount shoe retailer said Tuesday it had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and would immediately close 400 stores in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Additional store closures are likely.

Payless has been in talks with its lenders for months over a restructuring plan that at one point included closing as many as 1,000 stores, or a quarter of the company's locations. Payless has about 4,400 locations worldwide, including 3,600 in North America.

### **The Limited Stores Closing: 250**

The women's clothing retailer shut down all 250 of its stores in early January.

### **Wet Seal Stores Closing: 171**

The struggling teen retailer is closing all of its stores, the company announced in late January.

The closures come two years after Wet Seal closed 338 of its then-511 stores in January 2015, shortly before the company filed for bankruptcy protection. At the time, Wall Street analysts said that falling foot traffic at shopping malls played a major role in Wet Seal's death spiral.

### **BCBG Stores Closing: 120**

Currently, BCBG has 570 locations worldwide, and 175 in the U.S. Most of the 120 stores being shuttered are in the U.S.

In January, BCBG told Bloomberg that it would shift its focus away from brick-and-mortar stores, and instead double down on e-commerce and selling the BCBG brand through other retailers. In February, Women's Wear Daily reported that the retailer is considering filing for bankruptcy, with a source telling the publication BCBG is "shopping for bankruptcy attorneys."

### **Bebe Stores Closing: 170**

In March, Bloomberg reported Bebe planned to close all 170 stores, in an effort to focus on online sales. The retailer previously announced in early February that it planned to shutter up to 25 locations in 2017.

Bebe's sales have been slumping in recent years. In the most recent quarter, the company reported that same-store sales dropped 10.5 percent compared to the same period a year ago, in which sales declined 2.5 percent.

### **Guess Stores Closing: 60**

The retail store announced in mid-March that it planned to close 60 stores by the end of the year. Guess has already closed 62 stores in the last 2 years, including 10 in the last quarter alone.

### **Abercrombie & Fitch Stores Closing: 60**

The teen retailer announced in March that it was closing another 60 stores. Abercrombie's store count has dropped 20 percent since 2013, with the latest wave of closures bringing the brand's total number of stores down to roughly 674.

### **American Apparel - Stores closing: 110**

The future of American Apparel's stores has not been formally announced following the retailer's acquisition by Gildan Activewear Inc.

Gildan did not acquire the chain's 110 locations when it bought the American Apparel brand. If American Apparel does not find a buyer, these stores will likely be shut down.

While rumors circulated that the brand would be shuttering all locations immediately, the retailer has denied those reports. Stores will not close for at least a few more months due to a 100-day license with Gildan.

### **Sears Stores Closing: 42**

Sears plans to shutter 42 stores by April. Sears' downward spiral has analysts speculating that the company will file for bankruptcy, and some of the brand's suppliers are already cutting back on shipments.

### **Kmart Stores Closing: 108**

Parent company Sears Holdings Corp. is shuttering 108 Kmart stores by April.

### **Macy's Stores Closing: 68**

Macy's is closing 68 stores and laying off nearly 4,000 employees beginning in early 2017. Ultimately, the retailer plans to shut down about 100 stores, or 15 percent of its store base, over the next couple of years.

The retailer has struggled to keep up with the rise of e-commerce. In early February, the Wall Street Journal reported Macy's had received a takeover offer from Canadian retailer Hudson's Bay.

### **JCPenney Stores Closing: 138**

In March, JCPenney released the list of the 138 locations—about 14 percent of its stores—that would shut down in the next couple of months. Most of the stores will begin liquidation sales in mid-April and close their doors for good by June.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

- On Monday, Mike Matheson received formal recognition at Montclair's City Council meeting as the City's newest Fire Engineer.

Mike began his career as a Firefighter with the Montclair Fire Department in August 2011. He graduated from Pomona High School in Broomfield, Colorado and went on to serve four years in the United States Marine Corps as an Aircraft Firefighter and Rescue Man. He served a deployment to the Middle East and was honorably discharged from the service in 1992. Before joining the City of Montclair, Mike worked nine years at Norco Fire Department.

Mike completed the necessary requirements for the position of certified Acting Fire Engineer in May 2014, and he was promoted to the rank of Fire Engineer on March 6, 2017. Mike looks forward to continued service to the residents of Montclair as a Fire Engineer.

Congratulations are in order for Mike Matheson!

Pictures are shared on Page 8.

ECS:spa

*If you don't design your own life plan,  
chances are you'll fall into someone else's  
plan. And guess what they have planned  
for you? Not much.*

**~ Jim Rohn**

# APRIL 2017

		
10	Planning Commission Meeting - <b>Canceled</b>	
11	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 am.
<b>14</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	
15	Coffee With CURT (Curt Hagman, 4th District Supervisor) Montclair Police Department Community Room 4870 Arrow Highway	8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
<b>16</b>	<b>Easter</b>	
17	Real Estate Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	5:30 p.m.
17	Code Enforcement/Public Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:15 p.m.
17	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
19	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	10:30 a.m.
20	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	4:00 p.m.
<b>22</b>	<b>Earth Day</b>	
24	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
25	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.

**Mike Matheson  
Council Presentation:  
Fire Engineer Promotion  
April 3, 2017**

