




November 5, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager 

SUBJECT: CITY MANAGER’S WEEKLY REPORT: November 2 – 5, 2020

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

- Voting in the 2020 Presidential Election concluded at 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020. The City’s races consisted of three seats on the City Council—two full terms and one partial term—and a City ballot measure, Measure L. Voters had several choices on how to cast their vote including mailing their ballot, using a ballot drop box, or voting in person at vote centers beginning October 5th, early voting sites starting October 26th, or polling places from October 31st through November 3rd. Final results have not been reported as the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters continues to tally mail and provisional ballots. The current unofficial results of Montclair’s election as of today at 4:00 p.m. are as follows:

**City of Montclair General Municipal Election
Unofficial Results — 11/05/2020 4:00 p.m.**

City Council Member, Full Term (Vote for 2)

Mayoral Candidates	Vote Count	Percent
MICHAEL TADROUS	1,345	13.03%
BENJAMIN “BEN” LOPEZ	1,998	19.36%
ROBERT PIPERSKY	1,550	15.02%
JULIET OROZCO	1,455	14.10%
OSCAR MIRANDA	1,668	16.16%
TENICE JOHNSON	2,302	22.30%
TOTAL	10,321	

City Council Member, Short Term (Vote for 1)

	Vote Count	Percent
CORYSA MARTINEZ	5,803	99.43%
TOTAL	5,836	

City of Montclair Measure L (Vote for 1)

	Vote Count	Percent
YES	4,908	69.23%
NO	2,181	30.77%
TOTAL	7,089	

- Last Thursday, I participated in a Microsoft Teams meeting regarding Metrolink services during COVID–19.

Metrolink is in its 27th year of operations, and is the third largest rail transit provider by route mileage (538 miles of network), and the 8th largest by ridership. Metrolink operates 52 locomotives and 258 passenger cars on seven separate train lines, stopping at 62 stations across 6 counties. Metrolink has also decommissioned all Tier 3 locomotives in favor of Tier 4, which are more efficient, quieter, and are 4.85% cleaner than Tier 3 locomotives – Tier 4 trains are the cleanest burning locomotives available on the market.

In Fiscal Year 2019, Metrolink achieved an agency ridership record of 11.9 million boardings, and five years of continuous growth that added approximately 100,000 riders. By choosing to ride Metrolink, 9.3 million car trips are removed annually from regional freeways, eliminating over 130,000 metric tons of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from the air basin, equivalent to the carbon captured by 153,000 acres of forest.

The ongoing public health crisis has greatly affected transportation and transit services throughout the region. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) estimates a loss of up to \$7 billion in non–federal transportation revenues over the next two years. Without additional funding, transportation / transit systems are expected to see continue service disruptions.

A drive by the Montclair Transcenter leaves no doubt that transit ridership throughout the system has been severely impacted by the public health emergency, with ridership throughout the system down significantly, as demonstrated in **Table 1**, below.

**Table 1
Metrolink Lines Ridership Decline from COVID–19 Public Health Emergency**

Metrolink Lines	Ridership Decline at Beginning of Pandemic (April 2020)	Current Level of Ridership Recovery as of October 2020
Antelope Valley Line	–83%	–74%
Inland Empire–Orange County Line	–92%	–74%
San Bernardino Line	–88%	–76%
91/Perris Valley Line	–89%	–77%
Orange County Line	–93%	–84%
Ventura County Line	–94%	–86%
Riverside Line	–94%	–89%

Regional rail providers in other parts of the nation have experienced similar ridership declines as demonstrated in **Table 2**, below:

**Table 2
National Ridership Decline from COVID–19 Public Health Emergency**

National Lines	Ridership Decline at Beginning of Pandemic (April 2020)	Current Level of Ridership Recovery as of October 2020
Long Island Railroad	–97%	–78%
Metro North – New York	–97%	–78%

Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA)	-90%	-79%
Chicago METRA	-97%	-90%
Coaster (San Diego – Oceanside)	-97%	-93%
VRE – Washington DC	-97%	-94%
Caltrain (San Francisco–Silicon Valley)	-98%	-95%

To address the decline in ridership, Metrolink is introducing a reduced operating schedule starting November 16, 2020. The revised, temporary schedule is available [here](#)¹.

Adjustments to the service schedule are based on demand and shifts in travel patterns; e.g., Metrolink officials have observed the system's trains are carrying more passengers in early morning and mid-morning periods, and fewer passengers in evening hours.

Metrolink estimates that of its ridership during the pandemic, 71% are essential workers, 32% have no car, 7% have a disability and depend on Metrolink for travel, 4% are former bus riders, 3% ride because their carpool is no longer available, and 14% represent undefined categories.

When Metrolink polled former riders as to why they stopped riding the train, 72% said they are concerned about social distancing, 51% are concerned about cleanliness on the trains, 39% feel they are safer in their own cars, 27% are telecommuting, 6% are no longer employed, 6% find their car to be faster, 5% are now going to school online, and 3% said driving their car is cheaper.

Based on pollig, Metrolink has committed to the following system priorities based on order of importance:

1. Health and Safety – Commuting Together, Socially Distant

- Face masks are required for employees and passengers.
- Social distancing is required on Metrolink trains and at stations.
- Promotion of contactless ticketing through the Metrolink Mobile App.
- [Online tool](#)² to check ridership levels to ensure there is space for social distancing – 30% or less occupancy is considered safe for social distancing.
- Signs on platform trains informing riders about social distancing and face mask requirements.

2. Operational Transparency – Fast Track Customer Confidence

- Install two hand sanitizer stations on every train car.
- Use electrostatic sprayers to disinfect trains daily.

¹ <https://metrolinktrains.com/scheduleupdate>

² <https://metrolinktrains.com/howfull>

- Deploy Clean Care Crew to clean and sanitize touchpoints with hospital-grade disinfectants throughout each day on each train.
- Station attendants will regularly and visibly clean station touchpoints (e.g., ticket vending machines and handrails).
- Prominently post how and when the last cleaning was performed on trains.
- Educate riders, employees and contractors on all cleaning measures.
- Implement the "Clean Commuting" campaign to advance health and safety onboard Metrolink trains.
- Upgrade air filters on every rail car with the latest readily available technology that is compatible with the current HVAC system.

3. Triple the Bottom Line – Environment. Economy. Equity

- Create a different business model to support economic recovery goals and job creation for Southern California – emphasize essential workers who are more likely to be low-income and rely on Metrolink for transportation.
- Consider new promotional fare products, including a low-income fare, telecommuting pass, and off-peak riding incentives.
- Continue to achieve and surpass Metrolink's diverse participation goals, and explore launching a small business program as a part of Metrolink's procurement process.
- Launch a loyalty program to reward riders for taking Metrolink with tickets, as well as promotional offers from local and national businesses.
 - Modifications to ticketing programs to give advantages to pass holders.
 - Institute a point system that offers discounts on tickets and purchases from participating national vendors.
 - Under Metrolink's ["Kids Ride Free Weekends"](https://www.welikela.com/kids-ride-free-on-metrolink-starting-august-29-2020/)³, up to three children 17 and under can now ride free on Saturdays and Sundays when accompanied by a fare-paying adult, with each paying adult member of the household. Each adult passenger can buy a Weekend Pass for \$10, and the pass can be used multiple times, giving families the opportunity to visit multiple Southern California locations in a single weekend. A family of five (two adults and three children) can travel the Southland on both Saturday and Sunday for just \$20.

³ <https://www.welikela.com/kids-ride-free-on-metrolink-starting-august-29-2020/>

- Kids age 6 and under always ride free on Metrolink every day. For more information go to [Kids Ride Free Weekends](https://metrolinktrains.com/kidsridefree)⁴ to learn about area destinations.

4. Future-Proof Operations – More Efficient Stewardship

- As Metrolink moves from response to recovery, Metrolink will be flexible while taking a measure approach to implementing strategic and sustainable service.
- Metrolink is committed to:
- Optimizing operations.
- Improving coordination with the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency. LOSSAN is a joint powers authority originally formed in 1989 that works to increase ridership, revenue, capacity, reliability, coordination and safety on the coastal rail line between San Diego, Los Angeles and San Luis Obispo. LOSSAN travels through a six-county coastal region in Southern California and is the second busiest intercity passenger rail corridor in the United States, and the busiest state-supported Amtrak route. The LOSSAN Corridor service includes 41 stations and more than 150 daily passenger trains, with an annual ridership of nearly 3 million on Amtrak Pacific Surfliner intercity trains and 5 million on Metrolink and COASTER commuter trains.
- Improving first mile/last mile coordination with transit providers.
- Leveraging opportunities to accelerate capital projects.

5. Sustainable Financial Performance

- The Metrolink allocation of CARES Act funding is estimated at \$227 million. Funding will help ensure a balanced budget without additional subsidies for FY 20 and FY 21. Commuter rail depends more than inter-city bus on fare box revenue, and is not as heavily subsidized as bus service. The reduction in transit ridership hit rail operators hard, and most rail transit operators are anticipating future CARES Act funding to allow for full integration back into the transportation system.

Metrolink is committed to:

- Managing CARES Act funding carefully.
- Leveraging operating expenses to mitigate pandemic-related cost increases.
- Develop and monitor ridership recovery scenarios.
- Continue to identify discretionary cost savings.

⁴ <https://metrolinktrains.com/kidsridefree>

- Identify and implement revenue generating ideas.
- Fully implementing the SCORE grant to make regional transit ready for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. SCORE is part of a ten-year, \$10 billion Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority program (*twenty-eight by twenty-eight*) to upgrade transit in the region before the '28 Olympics. To date, sixteen projects have been funded, with more transportation projects coming on line. Included in the SCORE grant is nearly \$90 million to improve headways on the Metrolink Lines to 30–minutes throughout the day. Completion of the Gold Line to the Montclair Transcenter is a *twenty-eight by twenty-eight* project.
- Request Wi-Fi Reverse Pitch Proposals. In a [reverse pitch](#)⁵, another person or company pitches to a business or entity a business plan for a service or project designed to help the company with service delivery. The main purpose is to introduce new ways to solve problems. If done correctly, a reverse pitch is a win–win for both companies. The business or entity doing the reverse pitching may receive the job and develop partnership opportunities, and business or entity receiving the reverse pitch gets help from the entrepreneur on solving a problem or receiving assistance in service delivery. Metrolink plans to invite companies to submit concepts for permanent Wi-Fi service on Metrolink trains.

During the meeting, Montclair inquired if Metrolink was satisfied with the results of the ***Los Angeles Metro Conceptual Design / Planning in Support of the Metrolink San Bernardino Line / Gold Line Task Force Study***. The study supports both rail services running parallel to the Montclair Transcenter, and concludes that following implementation of the SCORE grant headway improvements on the San Bernardino Line and the arrival of the Gold Line at the Montclair Transcenter, ridership on both transit services is expected to increase significantly. Metrolink representatives agreed that the study satisfies their concerns and that the operation of both lines on parallel tracks will not compete for ridership on the respective services.

- Metrolink, Southern California’s regional train service, recently launched [SoCal Explorer](#)⁶, a new loyalty program that rewards riders with points as well as exclusive offers and perks from local businesses and attractions throughout the Southern California region. The program makes it more affordable for people to make taking the train a part of their everyday lifestyle.

The [SoCal Explorer](#) program was designed to reward all Metrolink riders, whether they take the train to commute to work or ride on the weekend for personal family enjoyment. Members earn one point for every mile travelled, and miles can be redeemed for free

⁵ <https://www.alleywatch.com/2014/08/why-your-startup-needs-to-reverse-pitch/>

⁶ <https://socalexplorer.metrolinktrains.com/>

tickets. Just for signing up, members will receive enough points for a round-trip Metrolink ticket – new riders can redeem their points and try out the service for free.

While the SoCal Explorer program was created to benefit its customers, Metrolink saw an opportunity to also support the recovery of local businesses hit hard by the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Currently more than 30 local businesses are SoCal Explorer Partners, offering discounts and other incentives to program members. Businesses can sign up to be partners by visiting [SoCalExplorerPartners](#)⁷.

To create a Metrolink SoCal Explorer account visit [SoCalExplorer](#). Metrolink Mobile App users can register with the SoCal Explorer program using the same email address used for the mobile app account. Tickets purchased through the Metrolink Mobile App will earn points and be credited to their SoCal Explorer account automatically. Paper ticket users can take a photo of their tickets and easily upload it to their SoCal Explorer account to be rewarded with points.

When riding Metrolink, face masks are required on station platforms and aboard trains. Trains are continuously cleaned and disinfected by a Clean Care Crew, and every day each train car is deep-cleaned and electrostatically sprayed with hospital-grade disinfectants. Social distancing is easy to achieve by using Metrolink's [How Full is My Train?](#)⁸ tool to check recent ridership levels and ensure there's plenty of space for their train ride. To see all the ways Metrolink is working to keep riders and team members safe, please visit Metrolink's [Clean Commute](#)⁹.

For more information about Metrolink's SoCal Explorer rewards program visit the [SoCal Explorer](#) website at <https://socalexplorer.metrolinktrains.com/>.

- The California Legislature has again enacted a set of new laws to encourage housing development in the state. The new housing laws, among other things, relax regulations, streamline development procedures, increase incentives for the construction of affordable housing projects, and further limit local control over housing development. Laws going into effect January 1, 2021, include the following:

1. Planning and Zoning Law – Annual Report on General Plan

- California's Planning and Zoning Law requires a local jurisdiction to adopt a general plan. The jurisdiction's "planning agency" (typically the Planning Commission) must report annually to the State on General Plan implementation. New amendments to Government Code (GC) section 65400 add to the list of subjects that the report must address. Reports must now include:

⁷ <https://socalexplorer.metrolinktrains.com/partnerships>

⁸ <https://metrolinktrains.com/howfull>

⁹ <https://metrolinktrains.com/cleancommute>

- Compliance with Native American tribal consultation and related protections as of Sept. 25, 2020 under [Assembly Bill 168](#)¹⁰.
- Density-bonus applications and approvals per [AB 2345](#)¹¹.

2. Housing Accountability Act

- California's Housing Accountability Act (HAA) has long limited local discretion to deny condition or delay certain housing projects. Amendments to the HAA in 2019 allow an applicant to vest its right to proceed under a given set of rules even earlier by submitting a "preliminary application." New amendments to GC section 65589.5 further refine how a preliminary application is handled. As of Sept. 25, 2020, the HAA under [Senate Bill 1030](#)¹² provides for the following:
 - Allows the developer to skip submission of a preliminary application to have "complete application" deemed complete with full application.
 - Excludes a local-bonus increase in units from triggering resubmittal of preliminary application.

3. ADU Law

- California's accessory dwelling unit law has been on the books for decades, but interest in the law increased significantly in 2017 when the Legislature made approvals of certain ADUs mandatory. The Legislature continues to amend the law and reduce local control over ADU development. New changes to the ADU law under [AB 3182](#)¹³ include the following:
 - Deems an ADU application approved if the local agency fails to act on a complete application by the 60-day deadline.
 - Expands situations in which an owner may develop both a junior ADU (JADU) and an ADU on the same lot as a single-family dwelling. Before, a lot could only have a JADU and a small detached ADU under GC section 65852.2 (e)(1)(B); now, a lot can also have a JADU and a converted ADU under section 65852.2 (e)(1)(A).

¹⁰ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB168

¹¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB2345

¹² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB1030

¹³ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB3182

4. SB 35 Ministerial Streamlining for Certain Multifamily Projects

- In 2018, SB 35 created a new streamlined, ministerial approval process for certain multifamily projects under GC section 65913.4. New amendments incorporate [SB 330's](#)¹⁴ new preliminary application into the SB 35 process, grants developers even more flexibility in changing their project after approval, and further limits the use of government property in connection with a streamlined project.
 - ❖ As of September 25, 2020, [AB 168](#)¹⁵ :
 - Requires an applicant seeking SB 35 streamlining to first submit a preliminary application as a “notice of intent”; local government must undertake scoping consultation with Native American tribes based on the notice (CEQA doesn't apply to the consultation); applicant may proceed with full application if no tribal cultural resource would be affected.
 - Sets the time for early vesting for SB 35 streamlining at submission of a preliminary application's “notice of intent.”
 - ❖ As of September 28, 2020, [AB 831](#)¹⁶ :
 - Allows a developer to modify a project that has already been approved under SB 35 streamlining if the final building permit has not been issued. Modification has to be consistent with development standards that applied to the original application. With limited exceptions, certain changes can be made to unit count and total floor area. Current building code standards apply.
 - Limits local government discretion over use of government property for public improvements needed for a streamlined project.
 - Clarifies the requirement that two-thirds of a mixed-use project be dedicated to residential use. In response to an SB 35 lawsuit, the new amendments clarify that an SB 35 project must be both zoned for residential use or mixed-use development and, separately, have at least two-thirds of the square footage of the development designated for residential use

¹⁴ <https://www.bbklaw.com/News-Events/Insights/2019/Legal-Alerts/10/SB-330-Limits-Local-Laws-Over-Housing-Developments>

¹⁵ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB168

¹⁶ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB831

5. Density Bonus Law

- California has long had a mandatory [Density Bonus Law](#)¹⁷ that requires local jurisdictions to grant liberal density bonuses to developers. New amendments give developers a right to even higher bonuses, lowers the thresholds to qualify for other developer incentives and concessions, and adds parking exemptions for religious institutions. Under [AB 2345](#)¹⁸ the Density Bonus Law now includes the following:
 - Requires the density-bonus units to be affordable in a 100-percent-affordable project, not just the non-bonus units (before, only the non-bonus units had to be affordable).
 - Lowers the lower-income threshold to qualify for two incentives or concessions from 20 down to 17 percent; and lowers the threshold to qualify for three incentives or concessions from 30 down to 24 percent.
 - Increases the maximum bonus from 35 to 50 percent.
 - Allows a project that receives a density waiver to also receive other waivers and reductions of development standards (previously prohibited) — at the city or county’s discretion.
 - Refines the way distance from a major transit stop is calculated, and makes technical changes to the definition of “major transit stop.”
 - Decreases parking ratio for certain units in density-bonus projects, and prohibits parking requirements for certain transit-oriented developments or senior projects.
- A city or county with a density-bonus ordinance or housing program, or both, that allows for greater density bonuses than what the current Density Bonus Law requires is exempt from the changes in AB 2345. Cities may consider amending their current Density Bonus Law to exceed the changes before the end of the year in order to become exempt from the AB 2345 changes.
- [AB 1851](#)¹⁹ restricts a local agency's ability to require religious institutions to replace existing parking spaces designated for places of worship when that parking is made available to develop a housing development project.

¹⁷ https://www.meyersnave.com/wp-content/uploads/California-Density-Bonus-Law_2020.pdf

¹⁸ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB2345

¹⁹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1851

6. Preliminary Application

- Last year's [SB 330](#)²⁰ introduced a new preliminary application as a way to vest rights and lock in applicable rules even earlier in the development process. An amendment to GC 65941.1 via [AB 168](#)²¹ creates a new limited exception to the early vesting that comes with a pre-app by leaving a project subject to post-pre-app historic listings. As of September 25, 2020, the preliminary application statute allows a tribal cultural resource to be listed on a historic register after preliminary application is submitted, and the new listing does not count as a change in applicable regulations if it applies to the project.

7. Housing Element

- [AB 1561](#)²² changes the Housing Element Law provisions of GC 65583 governing the assessment of housing needs and the inventory of resources and constraints. Starting in 2024, at the discretion of HCD, the Housing Element's analysis of constraints on the maintenance, improvement or development of housing may also address constraints on housing for persons due to their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, citizenship, primary language or immigration status.

8. Housing Entitlements

- Certain entitlements under GC 65914.5 are extended and Native American Tribes have more time to comment on certain projects. Specifically:
 - In response to COVID-19 and to ensure uniformity across the State, the life of "housing entitlements" that were in effect before March 4, 2020 and expire before December 31, 2021 are automatically extended by 18 months. If a local jurisdiction has adopted its own extension that is 18 months or longer before AB 1561 becomes effective, the entitlement will not be eligible for an additional extension under AB 1561.
 - "Housing entitlement" is defined to include most approvals, permits or other authorizations for a housing project. It does not include a development agreement or preliminary application.
 - Under CEQA, the time for California Native American Tribes to respond to a lead agency's consultation request for housing development projects is extended to 60 days when the project application is completed between March 4, 2020, and December 31, 2021.

²⁰ <https://www.bbklaw.com/News-Events/Insights/2019/Legal-Alerts/10/SB-330-Limits-Local-Laws-Over-Housing-Developments>

²¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB168

²² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1561

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- Damage estimates from a rare windstorm that slammed the City on Monday, October 26, continue to grow. Approximately 60 trees throughout the City fell and many trees suffered considerable damage. Power outages ensued where power lines were damaged. Traffic signal outages were quickly addressed as Public Works staff posted stop signs at blacked out intersections. Police, Fire, and Public Works personnel quickly performed a reconnaissance assessment to identify any potential hazards. The City's responsibility is to return the City to a safe place for our residents, businesses, and visitors. Any fallen trees on major roads were identified and prioritized to open the City back up for business as quickly as possible.

Public Works staff quickly evaluated the impacted sites to identify safety or health hazards. Crews quickly got to work with chainsaws and personal protective equipment and commenced the cleanup. Staff encountered hazards ranging from potential contact with live downed lines, live electrical equipment, and other utilities. Public Works staff coordinated with Southern California Edison (SCE) to identify the location of any energized electrical power circuit that workers or their tools and equipment could contact during the cleanup. Downed electrical conductors can energize other objects, including fences, water pipes, bushes, and trees; and telephone, CATV, and fiber optic cables. Staff contacted SCE to deenergize power lines that fallen trees had impacted in order to clear the debris.

Staff stayed late to get as much of the critical work done as soon as possible. By the end of the day, the major work of clearing hazards and obstruction to the motoring public had been cleared. Cleanup work continued throughout the remainder of the week to get the City back to normal. Crews will continue to clean up and resume the normal street sweeping schedule now that the major work is completed.

Photos are included below and on the following page.





HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- The annual Youth Talent Showcase, themed “Ain’t No Stoppin’ Us Now,” was virtually broadcast on the City website and YouTube channel on Friday, October 30, 2020. Three acts competed in the Mighty, Junior and Senior divisions. The winner of the Mighty Division, Stella Tay, sang the song “Cups,” Natalie Martin, the Junior Division winner, performed “Demon” on a ukulele, and the Senior Division winner, Giselle Puente–Rivera, sang the song “Amor Eterno.”

Stella, Natalie and Giselle each won a basket of donated cupcakes and gift cards from community businesses, including Little Caesars, Warehouse Shoe Store, Buffalo Wild Wings, Farmer Boys, The Hat and My Delight Cupcakery.

Special thanks go to our amazing judges, Council Member Tenice Johnson, OMSD Music Director Brittany Martinez and OMSD Dance Teacher Wendy Chinchilla, as well as Senior Recreation Leader Briana Chavez for serving as the master of ceremonies and video editor!

Congratulations to the 2020 Youth Talent Showcase winners! The 2020 Youth Talent Showcase can be viewed on the [City website](#) ²³.

- Dozens of Montclair residents participated in the virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest held October 11 through October 24. Contest categories included Most Creative (Ages 6–13 and Ages 14+/Family) and Scariest (Ages 6–13 and Ages 14+/Family). Community Activities Commission members volunteered to judge the contest. Winners received a \$50 gift card to a Montclair restaurant or business of their choice.

The virtual Halloween Costume Contest was held October 18 through October 31. Numerous residents submitted photos of their cute, creative, and creepy costumes. Contest categories included Scariest (Ages 0–6 and Ages 7–12), Most Unique (Ages 0–6 and Ages 7–12), Cutest (Ages 0–6 and Ages 7–12), and Family (All Ages). Community

²³ <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/city-government/human-services/community-events-programs/youth-talent-showcase>

Activities Commission members volunteered to judge the contest. Winners will be notified by Thursday, November 5, 2020. The Women's Club of Montclair donated the prizes for the costume contest.

Photos are shared on Pages 16–17.

- Hundreds of children (and their families) attended the Montclair Drive-Thru Halloween Party last Saturday at the Montclair Civic Center in Parking Lot B. Also in attendance were Council Member Bill Ruh and Community Activities Commission Chairperson Arturo Padilla and Vice-Chairperson Darlene Ferraro as well as CAC Members Richard Escalante, Laurie Milhiser, and Diane Wells.

Dressed in costumes coordinating to their candy station, staff distributed treats to children 12 years old and under at seven Halloween-themed booths. The booth themes included *Beetle Juice*, zombies, *Stranger Things*, circus, "Monster Mash," and Dia de los Muertos.

The event was co-sponsored by the City of Montclair, Burrtec Waste Industries, and Montclair Place. The Women's Club of Montclair donated the Halloween bags to collect candy. Recognition also goes to the Police Department and the Public Works Department staff for assisting with the event.

Photos are shared on Page 18.

- Over the Halloween weekend, residents from Montclair and surrounding communities were invited to participate in a virtual scavenger hunt called Montclair Unsolved Mystery: The Case of the Missing Medallion.

Participants started the scavenger hunt at Reeder Citrus Ranch where they were tasked with assisting Detective James Taylor as he investigated the case of a missing, priceless Egyptian medallion that was stolen from the home of a renowned archeologist, Professor Charles Levy, during a dinner party on Halloween night. To help the detective locate the five suspects, players drove around Montclair at their own pace to solve ISPY clues that led them to a suspect's location where they scanned a QR code to receive the next interrogation video and ISPY clue. Once Detective Taylor had interrogated each suspect and collected clues, it was up to the player to identify the thief.

Dozens of participants submitted their answer in an attempt to identify the thief, but only twenty participants submitted the correct answer. Players who correctly identified the thief and submitted the right answer were entered into a raffle to win a \$100 Barnes and Noble gift card.

Thank you to Montclair Place and Barnes and Noble for sponsoring the Montclair Unsolved Mystery activity and thank you to our creative staff who wrote the video scripts, acted out scenes, and made their voice debut in the scavenger hunt videos.

Special thanks go to Senior Recreation Specialist Emily Gomez–Medina who spearheaded the project and worked tirelessly to put it all together and to Information Technology Specialist Edmund Garcia for his assistance and guidance.

- Beginning on Monday, November 16 through Friday, December 11, the Human Services Department will sponsor its Annual Canned Food and Toy Drive. Employees and the community are encouraged to donate to this worthy cause.

For the health and safety of those receiving food baskets, we cannot accept outdated, dented, or bulging cans—or open packages. Toys must be new and unwrapped.

Marked collection bins will be located in the Recreation Center, Youth Center, Senior Center, City Hall lobby, Fire Station 1, and the Police Department's lobby. Collected food and toys will be distributed to needy Montclair residents during the 2020 Holiday Toy and Food Basket Program.

Basket applications from low-income Montclair families were taken this week. Many applied for a basket and those applications are now being reviewed.

- With the holiday season quickly approaching, we invite you to mark your calendars for the following events:
 - Join us as we kick off the holiday season! The City of Montclair invites you to a **Drive-Thru Holiday Event** on Thursday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Montclair Civic Center.

A holiday surprise will be available for children 12 years old and under who are present at the event, while supplies last. Children can write a letter at home and drop it off to be mailed to Santa Claus; personal replies may be returned to those who have included the child's first and last name as well as a legible and complete mailing address. A free stationary template is available to download under the "[Community Events](#)"²⁴ section of the City website.

Gift lights may be purchased for \$10 in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. Additional information on gift lights is available by calling (909) 625-9453.

- **Dashing Through Montclair** will be held on Saturday, December 5 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Santa, Mrs. Claus and their sleigh will be dashing through the streets of Montclair, spreading holiday cheer. Due to COVID-19, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be social distancing and will not be making any stops along the route.

Please note that while Santa wants to visit every street, Montclair is too big so the route is changed every year to see as many streets as possible.

For more information or to view the route for 2020, please visit the "[Community Events](#)"²⁵ section of the City website.

²⁴ <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/city-government/human-services/community-events-programs/drive-thru-holiday-event>

²⁵ <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/city-government/human-services/community-events-programs/dashing-through-montclair>

VIRTUAL PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST



1st Place, Ages 14+ / Family
Submitted By: Samantha Santoscoy



Tied for 1st Place, Ages 6-13 • Most Creative
Submitted By: Leanne Cordova



1st Place, Ages 6-13 • Scariest
Submitted By: Vina Truong



Tied for 1st Place, Ages 6-13 • Most Creative
Submitted By: Sydney Cha



Virtual Halloween Costume Contest



DRIVE-THRU HALLOWEEN PARTY

