



DATE: September 27, 2021
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

- **Passing of Council Member Emeritus Leonard Paulitz**

On Tuesday, August 24, 2021, Council Member Emeritus Leonard Paulitz passed away at Pomona Valley Hospital. Leonard, who was preceded in death by the passing of his wife Constance, was 94 years of age. He is survived by 6 children, 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Leonard's life is a record of dedication to family: His spiritual family; his personal family of spouse, children and home; his family of extended relatives and friends; and his City of Montclair family.

In his commitment to family, Leonard followed the advice of Albert Einstein: *"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."* For Leonard, *"everything is a miracle."* Holding to that belief, he embraced every aspect of life as though there is a greater good and purpose behind all things, and that greater good and purpose germinates in the heart of each of us.

Leonard's commitment to public service was emblematic of his spiritual devotion to life. As citizens of this great country, we each know that the success of our nation, states, and local communities depend, in large part, on those who serve the public purpose.

Within this framework of public service is the role of elected leaders, without which our representative form of government would cease to exist. From their unique vantage point, elected leaders shape our society; define public goals and objectives; create optimism; and build a better, safer, fairer, and more just society.

Over a period of elected and appointed public service that lasted forty-nine years, Leonard was the archetype of an elected leader who made service to community a lifetime avocation—and, in the process, transformed the very meaning of public service.

When he stepped into the appointed role of Montclair Planning Commissioner in 1965, and later as an elected member of the Montclair City Council in March 1978, Leonard, a computer systems specialist working at General Dynamics' Pomona facility, had no vision that his service to the Montclair public and region would travel the course of nearly two generations.

When Leonard was asked why he committed so many years of his life as an elected leader, he would offer this unassuming response:

“Public service is a rewarding experience, and I am honored to have been given the privilege of serving the Montclair community as an elected representative at both the local and regional levels of government. What motivated me to dedicate myself to elected public service for nearly two-thirds of my life was the chance to produce results for those people who entrusted me to be their voice and their champion.”

Self-describing his public service with sanitized clarity may be reflective of Leonard's humble nature; but the reality of his service is a far different truth. In an editorial, *The Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* called Leonard an “icon”—a politician who symbolizes the very best in service and who is revered and idolized for his commitment. However, in Montclair, he was considered a “legend”, sitting for nearly 37 years in the same seat at the Council Chamber dais, from March 1978 to December 2014, including eight years as Mayor Pro Tem, where he deliberated on policies that shaped a City.

Under Leonard's watch a community and her people transformed, developing from the hollows of peaceful citrus orchards to become the retail hub of the Pomona Valley and west end of San Bernardino County.

When Montclair Plaza opened in 1968, the City of Montclair never looked back. Over the course of the next four decades, Montclair Plaza underwent a major expansion in 1986 and interior remodels in 2008 and 2015-16. Over the next ten to twenty years, a new transformation will come to the renamed Montclair Place, a product of Leonard's drive to promote adoption of the *North Montclair Downtown Specific Plan* and its offspring, the *Montclair Place District Specific Plan*.

A tireless defender and promoter of Montclair, Leonard was at the center of major issues affecting the community and region. He convinced the US Postal Service to create a unified zip code for Montclair; served 12 years on the South Coast Air Quality Management District; and was an ardent proponent of public infrastructure projects, including both the Ramona Avenue and Monte Vista Avenue Grade Separation Projects, and construction of a new Montclair Police facility, Montclair Youth Center, and his beloved Montclair Senior Center.

In addition to his work on the Montclair City Council, Leonard served on the following committees and boards: Chairman of the West Valley Airport Land Use Commission; Representative to the I-10 Corridor Beautification Authority; primary member on the boards of San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG, now known as the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, or SBCTA) and Omnitrans; Member on the SANBAG Major Projects and Commuter Rail Committee; Member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board (including Chairman of the Technology Committee and Vice Chairman of the Stationary Source Committee); Board representative to the California Fuel Cell Partnership; and Inland Empire Division Representative on the League of California Cities Environmental Quality Committee.

Over his 49 years of public service, Leonard not only endorsed the transitional changes that occurred and are occurring in Montclair, he helped shepherd the maintenance of a community that continues to exemplify the values and qualities of mid-nineteenth century Americana. Concurrently, Leonard overlaid a sense of community dynamic that enriched the citizenry with an array of exceptional government services, and captured for the community the essence of pride, partnership, vision, leadership and continual re-imagination.

In recognition of “*his contributions and extraordinary service to Montclair,*” the Montclair City Council, in December 2014, bestowed upon Leonard the honorary title of Council Member Emeritus of the City of Montclair, granting “*honorary rights and privileges as may, from time-to-time, be granted by the City Council within their capacity to grant such rights and privileges....*”

For nearly fifty years, Leonard lost himself in the service of Montclair, searching for a way to make a difference. The heart and warmth of the Montclair community lives within its memory of the service Leonard gave and changes his service wrought.

The funeral mass for Leonard will be conducted at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 10191 Central Avenue, Montclair, on Friday, October 1, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. Services will be inside the church and live-streamed to the garden outside for those who choose not to be in a large indoor gathering.

Donations can be made in Leonard’s name to the following organizations:

- [Our Lady of Lourdes School](#)¹
- [Sisters of the Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary](#)²
- [Anthesis](#)³ (formally Pomona Valley Workshop)
- [Gannon University](#)⁴

¹ <https://www.osvhub.com/ollschooll/funds>

² <https://pbvunion.org/donate/>

³ <https://anthesis.salsalabs.org/donationpageupdate2020/index.html>

⁴ <https://app.mobilecause.com/form/is5XfQ?vid=lx96q>



*Council Member Emeritus Leonard Paulitz
September 15, 1926 to August 24, 2021*

*"As a well spent day brings happy sleep,
so life well used brings happy death." Leonardo DaVinci*

- **Gold Line Funding Update**

In mid-September, Governor Gavin Newsom and state lawmakers tabled discussions for this legislative session on a range of transportation and transit projects that include \$4.2 billion in high-speed rail bond funding and \$540 million for extension of the Gold Line from Pomona to Montclair. The decision to suspend talks places a number of projects on hold or in doubt, and would likely increase construction costs for those transportation and transit projects that do go forward.

In his discussions with legislators, the Governor requested that the \$10 billion balance remaining from voter authorized funding contained in Proposition 1A (2008) for the high speed rail project be committed to allowing completion, by 2029, of the project's first segment from Merced to Bakersfield. In the deal, Newsom offered \$1 billion for transit projects in Southern California; however, legislators pushed back, arguing the high speed rail project is a stranded Central Valley asset.

Legislators and the Governor are expected to continue negotiations on the funding issue in hopes of reaching an agreement for next year's budget cycle.

For the Gold Line Extension Project, the decision is impactful. The current contract for construction of the project to Pomona contains an option to extend the Gold Line beyond

Pomona to Montclair, but with this important caveat: the option must be approved by October 7, 2021—if not, the contract option expires. The extension project would then have to be re-bid, adding up to 18 months for preparation and award of the project. The Foothill Gold Line Extension Construction Authority estimates that rebidding the Pomona to Montclair segment will add \$150 million to \$200 million to complete the extension to Montclair. The completion date to Montclair would also change, from the current 2026 to 2027 or early 2028.

Over the last several months state Legislators and officials in San Gabriel Valley cities, Claremont, and Montclair submitted numerous requests to the Governor's office asking for funding consideration from the state's estimated \$76.7 billion state budget surplus as gap funding to complete the 3.3 miles from Pomona to Claremont and Montclair. Unfortunately the demise of talks over the high speed rail project undermined that effort, and a budget trailer bill incorporating funding requests failed to materialize before the Legislature's September 10 deadline to pass bills. California Assembly Member Chris Holden, an advocate of the extension to Montclair, believes the project may stand a better chance for funding in 2022, but at the steeper construction price tag.

Uncertainty regarding state funding motivated Congress Member Norma Torres to invite Congressman David Price, Chairman of the House Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee to Montclair for a presentation on the Gold Line Extension Project and tour of the Montclair and Claremont Transit Districts.

At the September 13 visit, Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ruh welcomed Congress Members Price and Torres and other attendees to the Montclair Kids' Station at the Transcenter, where they received a brief introduction of the Gold Line project by Construction Authority CEO Habib Balian. The group then boarded a chartered bus for a tour of the two transit districts. On the tour, Mayor Pro Tem Run spoke of the need to acquire the Transcenter's northern parking fields for affordable housing projects, while also retaining the requirement for 1,600 parking spaces by constructing parking structures adjacent to the tracks.

Community Development Director Michael Diaz spoke on current and future high-density housing and mixed-use projects recently developed, under development, and in design for Montclair's transit district. The project list includes:

- The Paseos at Montclair
- Alexan-Kendry Apartments
- Proposed Alexan-Kendry Expansion
- Vista Court Apartments
- Arrow Station at Montclair Townhomes and Single Family Homes
- Village at Montclair – scheduled to begin construction in early 2022
- Projects proposed for Montclair Place District

Mr. Diaz also spoke on the North Montclair Downtown and Montclair Place District Specific Plans.

During the tour of the Claremont Transit District, Claremont Council Member Ed Reece spoke on the importance of transit to the students and faculty that work at, and attend the Claremont Colleges, noting that the Gold Line is often referred to as the “Brain Train” because once completed to Montclair, the light rail line will serve approximately two dozen different institutions of higher learning.

Both Montclair Mayor Pro Tem Ruh and Claremont Council Member Reece spoke on the positive environmental housing, employment, economic, cultural, educational, health, and entertainment benefits to be gained for residents of the area by completing the Gold Line to San Bernardino County.

The tour concluded by returning to the Montclair Transcenter where Chairman Price stated that he was impressed with the quality of the presentation and tour, and that it provided him with a depth of knowledge of the project and its importance to the region that he did not previously appreciate.

The Chairman’s role as leader of the House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee is potentially vital to the future of the Gold Line Extension because of his oversight role over transit dollars contained in the Biden-Harris Administrations proposed infrastructure bill and [H.R.1319 — American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#)⁵, which includes \$365.9 billion in direct funding for state, local, tribal, and territory infrastructure systems, including over \$30 billion for transportation.

Montclair City staff is working with the City’s federal legislative advocate and other stakeholders to secure federal infrastructure grant assistance for the Gold Line Extension and is also working with Congress Member Torres’ office to introduce legislation that would exempt transit projects, nationwide, from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review if the project has already undergone a state environmental review that is at least equal to the standards specified in NEPA — in the case of California, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is considered superior to NEPA.

- **Update: Save Our Access—San Gabriel Mountains v. Watershed Conservation Authority**

On August 19, 2021, in *Save Our Access—San Gabriel Mountains v. Watershed Conservation Authority*, the Second Appellate District Court of Appeal upheld approval of a recreational improvements/ecological restoration project despite the fact that the project would reduce parking space availability. The appellate court rejected a claim that the environmental impact report violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by failing to sufficiently analyze impacts of reduced recreational parking.

⁵ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319>

In its ruling, the court reversed a decision by a trial court that invalidated the project because it would create or exacerbate an existing parking shortage without adequate CEQA analysis of impacts related to the reduction in available parking. The Appellate court based its reasoning on two previous cases on parking and CEQA, *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City & County of San Francisco* and *Taxpayers for Accountable School Bond Spending v. San Diego Unified School District*. Under both of those cases, a project's unique circumstances are determinative when it comes to environmental impacts potentially resulting from parking deficits or reductions.

In *Save Our Access*, the court held “*the parking reduction here may have an adverse social impact for those who must recreate elsewhere, but it will prevent further adverse physical impacts on the environment.*” The court further observed that the plaintiff failed to identify “*any secondary adverse environmental effects of reduced parking, such as on traffic or air quality at the project site.*”

The decision in *Save Our Access* confirms that reduction in parking is considered a social impact rather than an environmental impact unless, based on the circumstances of the project, a reduction in parking would result in specific significant secondary effects on the physical environment. The decision may be relied on as a defense of California's reduced parking or limited parking requirements for housing projects neighboring major transit hubs and corridors and for accessory dwelling units.

- **Extension of Teleconferencing Under Modified Brown Act**

On March 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued [Executive Order N-29-20](#)⁶ allowing local or state legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically without violating the open meeting laws found in the Bagley-Keene Act (the “Brown Act”).

The Brown Act requires that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate in such meetings. Specifically, the Brown Act allows legislative bodies to hold meetings by teleconference, but imposes very specific requirements for doing so. In order to hold a meeting by teleconference, the Brown Act requires that the legislative body satisfy the following requirements:

1. Provide to the public notice of the teleconference location of each member participating remotely; and
2. Allow the public to access each teleconference location and address the legislative body from such a location.

⁶ <https://us.eversheds-sutherland.com/portalresource/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf>

Many of California's COVID-19 safety provisions were to be lifted effective June 15, 2021; however, Governor Newsom, on June 11, 2021, issued [Executive Order N-08-21](#)⁷, further clarifying N-29-20 as it relates to meetings by teleconference:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of state or local law (including, but not limited to, the Bagley-Keene Act or the Brown Act), and subject to the notice and accessibility requirements set forth below, a local legislative body or state body is authorized to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body or state body. All requirements in both the Bagley-Keene Act and the Brown Act expressly or impliedly requiring the physical presence of members, the clerk or other personnel of the body, or of the public as a condition of participation in or quorum for a public meeting are hereby waived.”

Executive Order N-08-21 is due to expire September 30, 2021. On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 361 into law, amending the Brown Act and allowing legislative bodies to continue to meet virtually during the continuing public health emergency. The bill is urgency legislation and became effective immediately upon enactment. However, the prior Executive Orders will continue to apply through September 30, 2021.

- **Distracted Driving Due to Cell Phone Use Plagues California**

Students across California have returned to in-person classes after nearly a year-and-a-half hiatus. However, the coronavirus is just one of many concerns parents are facing. A poll conducted by Zogby Strategies, in conjunction with [Students Against Destructive Decisions](#)⁸ (SADD) and Root Insurance, reveals that 64 percent of Californians with children under the age of 17 believe that distracted driving is a threat to their personal safety and is getting worse, with 80 percent of respondents indicating that teen drivers are more likely to use their phones while behind the wheel. From 2015 to 2019, there were 979 teen driver and passenger [fatalities](#)⁹ in California. The poll also shows that an overwhelming majority of respondents want lawmakers to take action.

The problem is particularly worrisome in Southern California, where 70 percent of respondents said distracted driving is getting worse and only 6 percent believe it is getting better. Traffic deaths in Los Angeles, for example, are up in 2021 over the previous year, and 2020 was already a [deadly](#)¹⁰ year according to [data compiled by the LAPD](#),¹¹ and [one of the deadliest years on U.S. roads](#)¹² in more than a decade. In fact, since Los Angeles officials

⁷ <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/6.11.21-EO-N-08-21-signed.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.sadd.org/>

⁹ https://www.ghsa.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/GHSA_TeenSpeeding_Feb16.pdf

¹⁰ <https://laist.com/news/transportation/2021-la-traffic-deaths-on-pace-to-exceed-2020>

¹¹ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/21018978-2021-lapd-crash-data-jan-1-july-10>

¹² <https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/2020-fatality-data-show-increased-traffic-fatalities-during-pandemic>

announced Vision Zero to reduce traffic deaths in 2015, pedestrian deaths have [increased](#)¹³ 36 percent.

The poll also found that Californians are nearly united (90 percent) in their belief that texting is a distraction while driving. Checking social media came in second at 66 percent.

Studies have found that at least 50 percent of drivers admit to using their phone while driving and the reported rates of phone usage while driving was 13 percent higher for women than men. Bay Area residents are five times more likely to use their phone when they get a call or text compared to drivers in Southern California. Since San Francisco's Vision Zero policy initiative was announced in 2014, 200 persons have been [killed](#)¹⁴ and 20,000 injured in traffic violence.

It appears, however, that most of the distracted driving phenomenon is unique to people in the 16 to 30 age group. Fully 80 percent of parents responding to the poll believe young people, as compared to adults, are more likely to drive distracted, and younger people appear to agree.

As a group, Californians were overwhelmingly supportive of creative solutions to combat distracted and unsafe driving, with 70 percent supporting the use of apps on phones that can measure and provide feedback on driving ability (including whether a driver uses their phone), especially if it was tied to more affordable insurance premiums. Furthermore, over 62 percent, including over 80 percent of teens, said they'd be more likely to support such technology if the government imposed limits on how the data was used or sold; and 80 percent of respondents said they think it's fair to base car insurance rates on driving ability—California is the only state in the nation to not permit insurance rates to be based on driving ability. In October 2019, 12,000 Los Angeles area drivers downloaded an app that could evaluate their driving ability and the safest driver won \$20,000 in the campaign.

By a significant margin, Californians want to see drivers less focused on their phones and more focused on the road, and they want California lawmakers to take action by supporting innovative solutions, including using technology to better understand who's likely to text and drive, and use that data to incentivize drivers to make safer decisions, including rewarding safer, less distracted drivers with lower auto insurance rates.

In December 2017, Montclair was one of the first cities in the nation to adopt a distracted pedestrian ordinance. Ordinance No. 17-971 bans pedestrians from crossing streets or highways while engaged in practices that could distract them while crossing streets including taking phone calls, looking at mobile electronic devices, and covering or obstructing both ears with personal audio equipment. The ordinance exempts emergency responders while

¹³ <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-09-02/schmitt-davis-overstreet-pedestrian-deaths>

¹⁴ <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/S-F-has-seen-more-than-200-killed-20-000-hurt-15892033.php>

performing their duties and others when using electronic devices to make 911 emergency calls.

One study cited as justification for adoption of the ordinance came from the University of Washington, which found that one in three pedestrians uses mobile electronic devices while crossing busy streets. The ordinance also pointed out national statistics that show falling numbers of overall traffic fatalities yet increasing pedestrian deaths since 2010, with states around the country reporting increases from 11 percent to 15 percent and more.

The [American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons \(AAOS\)](#)¹⁵ is one of many organizations that has been tracking the statistics for distracted pedestrian injuries and deaths over the past decade. According to an AAOS study conducted in 2015, the number of pedestrian injuries due to cell phone use while walking more than doubled from 2004 to 2015. The study found that at that time, at least 60 percent of pedestrians walk while distracted by other activities.

- **Moving East to Rent**

According to a [Lending Tree compilation of Census Bureau housing demographics](#)¹⁶ for the 50 largest metropolitan areas nationally, young renters (those below the age of 35) in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Statistical Area appear to prefer living in the Inland Empire to Los Angeles and Orange Counties, if for no other reason than lower rents.

Locally, the average Inland Empire renter is 30.7 years old — 7th youngest among the 50 metropolitan areas identified in the Lending Tree demographic data — while the average Los Angeles/Orange County renter is 33.7 years old — 14th oldest.

Nationally, the youngest renters can be found in St. Louis, Missouri, where the average age of a renter is 29.6 years; followed by Houston, Texas and Salt Lake City, Utah, at 30.1; then Memphis, Tennessee, at 30.4. The oldest renters are found in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the average age for a renter is 36.5 years; followed by the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area at 35.6; Providence, Rhode Island at 35.5; and Hartford, Connecticut where the average age for a renter is 35.4 years.

What does the data tell us about younger people and their relation to the housing market?

- **Young adults, who tend to have limited earning power, intentionally seek out more affordable areas to live.** Monthly rents average 8 percent less in markets that attract young-renters, where the average monthly rent is \$1,090 vs. \$1,180. Southern California, of course, has few inexpensive places to rent or buy. The Inland Empire, for example, is the 11th highest market for rents at \$1,326 monthly on average, and the Los Angeles/Orange County area comes in at \$1,545 monthly (the 5th highest). Nonetheless,

¹⁵ <https://orthoinfo.aaos.org/en/staying-healthy/distracted-walking/>

¹⁶ <https://www.lendingtree.com/home/average-homeowner-age-50-largest-u-s-metropolitan-areas-study/>

housing data shows that Inland Empire rents are 14 percent less expensive than the coastal counties of Los Angeles and Orange.

- **Young renters also seek areas with home buying potential.** Homes with mortgages, on average, cost 17 percent less a month to own in young-renter markets — \$1,566 vs. \$1,892. Southern California, again, is no bargain for homebuyers: the Inland Empire is the 12th highest market at \$1,917 monthly vs. Los Angeles/Orange Counties, which rank as the fourth highest at \$2,581 monthly. As with the rental market, Inland Empire homes are 26 percent less expensive than the two coastal counties.
- **Transitioning from renter to owner does not come quickly.** The data show that across the 50 metropolitan areas homeowners are, on average, 19 years older than renters and the Inland Empire has the nation's largest gap at 21 years; whereas, in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, the age gap between renters and homeowners is 18-years.

The data appears to suggest that young people are likely to seek out more affordable areas to rent before making the leap to home purchases within the same market area, thus increasing the level of homeownership in those more affordable areas. For example, in the Southern California market, homeownership in the Inland Empire is 65 percent versus 48 percent in the Los Angeles/Orange County area, which comes in last among the 50 metropolitan areas used in the Lending Tree demographic analysis.

- **FDA Authorizes COVID–19 Vaccine Booster for 65 and Older**

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized a booster dose of Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID -19 vaccine for people 65 and older and for certain high-risk adult populations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working on a rollout plan, and San Bernardino County Public Health Officials have announced availability of booster shots, including at Montclair Place.

The move aligns with an earlier recommendation from the agency's independent vaccine advisers when they endorsed offering boosters to people at high risk of severe disease as well as those 65 and older at least six months after completion of the primary two-dose series.

The FDA authorization permits Pfizer boosters for anyone between the ages of 18 and 64 "whose frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 puts them at high risk of serious complications of COVID-19 including severe COVID-19." Those workers may include health care workers, teachers, day care staff and grocery store workers, among others.

The Biden-Harris Administration had hoped to begin a broader booster rollout heading into late September. The booster rollout represents a key part of the Administration's plan to eradicate the virus, and came after top federal health officials endorsed the idea of offering a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to most adults on that

timetable. However, in subsequent weeks scientists in and out of the federal government pushed back against the idea, arguing there was not convincing evidence for the plan.

The Biden-Harris Administration also received a setback when the FDA's vaccine advisory panel rejected the notion of fully approving the Pfizer-BioNTech booster for people 16 and older, citing concerns about the quality of existing data on safety and effectiveness. The panel instead endorsed narrower use of the shot.

The FDA granted full approval to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for people 16 and older on August 23, 2021, and the vaccine remains available under an emergency use authorization for teens 12 to 15.

One day after the FDA authorized a booster dose of Pfizer and BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine for people 65 and older and for certain high-risk adult populations, the CDC vaccine advisory committee endorsed the use of Pfizer and BioNTech's Covid-19 booster shot for elderly people and those who may be at risk of developing severe disease, including residents in long-term care settings, and those age 50 to 64 with underlying medical conditions at least six months after receiving their initial series of vaccinations. The independent CDC committee said the booster dose should be given at least six months after the initial two-dose vaccination series.

The CDC also said younger adults with underlying medical conditions might get a booster, as well as adults age 18 to 64 at increased risk for exposure to the coronavirus because of occupational or institutional settings. At this time, the CDC recommendations only apply to people who received the Pfizer vaccine. Similar recommendations will be considered for the Moderna and J&J vaccines as soon as those data are available.

The recent CDC recommendation was not the final step before boosters become commonplace in California. The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup—that includes public health experts from California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington—was required to weigh in, as is the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

The CDPH estimates there are about 6.6 million California seniors, alone, who eventually could be eligible for a booster dose, with younger Californians adding their names depending on how high-risk conditions are ultimately defined. However, moving expeditiously to cover these populations would entail dramatically accelerating the inoculation rate, and California's public health officials are moving to dramatically ramp up for delivery of the booster shots, with a new [COVID-19 Vaccine Action Plan](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Vaccine-Action-Plan.pdf)¹⁷ released late last week. The CDPH says the state's [MyTurn platform](https://myturn.ca.gov/)¹⁸ will have the ability to screen residents' booster eligibility, as well as send text messages to alert people of available options. Demand for the booster shots may also increase if there is a worse-than-expected autumn and winter outbreak.

¹⁷ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Vaccine-Action-Plan.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://myturn.ca.gov/>

Booster administration for those 65 and older will rely mostly on pharmacies and primary healthcare offices, while mass vaccination clinics may need to be reopened or expanded if eligibility is offered more broadly among younger adults. Pharmacies currently provide more than 60% of administered vaccine doses and can probably handle more demand according to the CDPH.

School-based vaccine clinics, pharmacies and pediatricians are expected to serve as the primary sites for vaccinations for those younger than 12 when children become eligible for vaccination. The California Health and Human Services Agency says vaccinations for 5- to 11-year-olds might start by mid-October.

California continues to lead the nation in both vaccines administered [and low case rates](#),¹⁹ giving credence to the argument that vaccines work, are safe and effective, and are the science behind ending the pandemic. A slowdown in inoculations in recent months is partially the byproduct of a strong share of the population—about 66 percent—having already been at least partially vaccinated, leaving a pool predominantly full of people who [have hesitated](#)²⁰ or resisted vaccination. Unvaccinated Californians are eight times more likely to be infected with the coronavirus, 13 times more likely to be hospitalized and 15 times more likely to die from the disease than their vaccinated counterparts according to public health officials.

In 11 of California's 58 counties, more than 70 percent of the population is at least partially vaccinated, but 14 other counties have coverage rates below 50 percent. The Inland Empire is one of those lesser-vaccinated areas. During this past summer, the Delta variant overwhelmed Inland Empire hospitals, with hospitalization rates higher than anywhere else in Southern California. Although the [number](#)²¹ of COVID-19 hospitalizations is gradually [dropping](#)²² in Inland Empire hospitals, public health officials fear another surge if more people don't get vaccinated before the autumn and winter [cold and flu season](#)²³.

According to available data, the Inland Empire hit its peak of hospitalizations on September 1, when 1,246 coronavirus-infected people were hospitalized—the equivalent of 28 hospitalizations for every 100,000 residents—a number that is 56 percent worse than the peak for the three-county coastal region of Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura counties, which recorded 18 hospitalizations for every 100,000 residents at its peak on August 17; and also worse than San Diego County, which peaked on August 27 with 20 hospitalizations for every 100,000 residents.

The Los Angeles Times analysis found that no other counties or regions in Southern California have had a [higher hospitalization rate](#)²⁴ this past summer than the Inland Empire—including

¹⁹ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-09-20/california-lowest-coronavirus-rate-us-what-to-know>
²⁰ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-05-10/california-push-covid19-vaccine-hesitancy-skepticism>
²¹ <https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-coronavirus-cases-tracking-outbreak/san-bernardino-county/>
²² <https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-coronavirus-cases-tracking-outbreak/riverside-county/>
²³ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-08-30/coronavirus-flu-season>
²⁴ <https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-coronavirus-cases-tracking-outbreak/hospitals/>

impoverished and largely agricultural [Imperial County](#)²⁵, which had Southern California's worst hospitalization rate during each of the pandemic's first three surges last year, but not during the fourth wave this summer.

The Inland Empire has the lowest vaccination rate in all of Southern California, and the vaccination rates are likely influencing the varied hospitalization numbers. Just 47.2% of residents of all ages in San Bernardino County are fully vaccinated, and only 50.4% of residents in Riverside County are. By contrast, 60 percent of L.A. County residents are fully vaccinated, as are 61.3 percent of Ventura County residents, 62.1 percent of Orange County residents, 64.5 percent of San Diego County residents and 66.2 percent of Imperial County residents.

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center reports that the severely ill patients in the intensive care unit are [unvaccinated](#)²⁶, and hospital administrators are pushing to give at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to as many patients as possible regardless of their reason for coming in. In Riverside County, 90 percent of hospitalized COVID-19 patients are unvaccinated; although, this estimate reflects similar numbers in hospitals throughout Southern California. To facilitate acceptance, hospital personnel are [answering any concerns patients have](#)²⁷ about the efficacy and safety of the vaccines.

Another immediate concern facing the Inland Empire is the resistance among health care workers to be vaccinated. Once the CDPH's policy on [mandated vaccinations for health workers](#)²⁸ goes into effect at the end of September, some doctors and nurses at hospitals overwhelmed by COVID patients may have to be let go if they refuse to be vaccinated.

Patients seeking care for other than COVID-19 symptoms have also overwhelmed some Inland Empire hospitals. In Riverside County, for example, hospitals have seen abnormally high non-COVID-19 hospitalizations, with those patient volumes as much as 25 percent higher than normal for this time of year, according to Riverside County health officials.

Overall, the number of patients hospitalized for COVID-19 in Inland Empire hospitals is down when compared to the peaks during the severest part of last winter's surge. Kaiser Permanente's hospitals in Fontana and Ontario continue to have more than 80 COVID-19 patients filling their beds each day according to press reports, but last winter there were over 400 patients with the coronavirus admitted in both hospitals, with over 100 in the ICU. Currently, there are 20 to 30 ICU patients with COVID-19 between the two hospitals compared with more than 100 ICU patients during the winter. However, with the added pressure of patients coming in for deferred care and surgeries, many parts of the Inland Empire's healthcare system are overwhelmed.

²⁵ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-07-28/imperial-county-coronavirus-rural-california>

²⁶ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-08-29/hospitals-see-more-unvaccinated-younger-healthier-people-with-covid-19>

²⁷ <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2021-03-25/we-asked-southern-californians-for-their-questions-about-vaccines-and-we-got-experts-to-answer>

²⁸ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Health-Care-Worker-Vaccine-Requirement.aspx>

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- **COVID-19 Community Recognition Awards**

The City of Montclair launched a COVID-19 Community Recognition Award program in January to recognize residents, community members, businesses, and organizations for their outstanding efforts in the community during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic. If you would like to nominate a person, business, group, or organization, please visit the [COVID-19 Community Recognition Award page on the City's website](#)²⁹.

Welcome Inn Motel

Nominated by: Mayor Dutrey & Montclair Code Enforcement Homeless Taskforce

In March 2020, Governor Newsom introduced “Project RoomKey,” a program designed to house homeless individuals 65 years or older, or individuals suffering from underlying health issues that increase the risk of hospitalization or death from COVID-19. In late April 2020, County Supervisor Josie Gonzalez requested the City of Montclair introduce a Project RoomKey Program at one of our local motels. The owner and on-site managers of the Welcome Inn Motel agreed, demonstrating how a private business and government agency can come together to assist vulnerable individuals during a public health crisis. Seventeen out of thirty-four homeless individuals participating in Project RoomKey at the Welcome Inn Motel were ultimately placed into permanent housing. The patience, compassion, and understanding displayed by the owner and managers of the Welcome Inn Motel undeniably played a huge part in encouraging participants to overcome obstacles and break the cycle of homelessness. The City Council honored the owner and managers of the Welcome Inn Motel at its meeting on September 20, 2021, and presented them with Certificates of Recognition.



Motel Manager Josafat Elenes, Motel Manager Gopal Brahmabhatt, Mayor Javier John Dutrey, Motel Owner Purushottam “Peter” Patel, and Senior Code Enforcement Supervisor Gabe Fondario

²⁹ <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/covid-19-community-recognition-award/>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

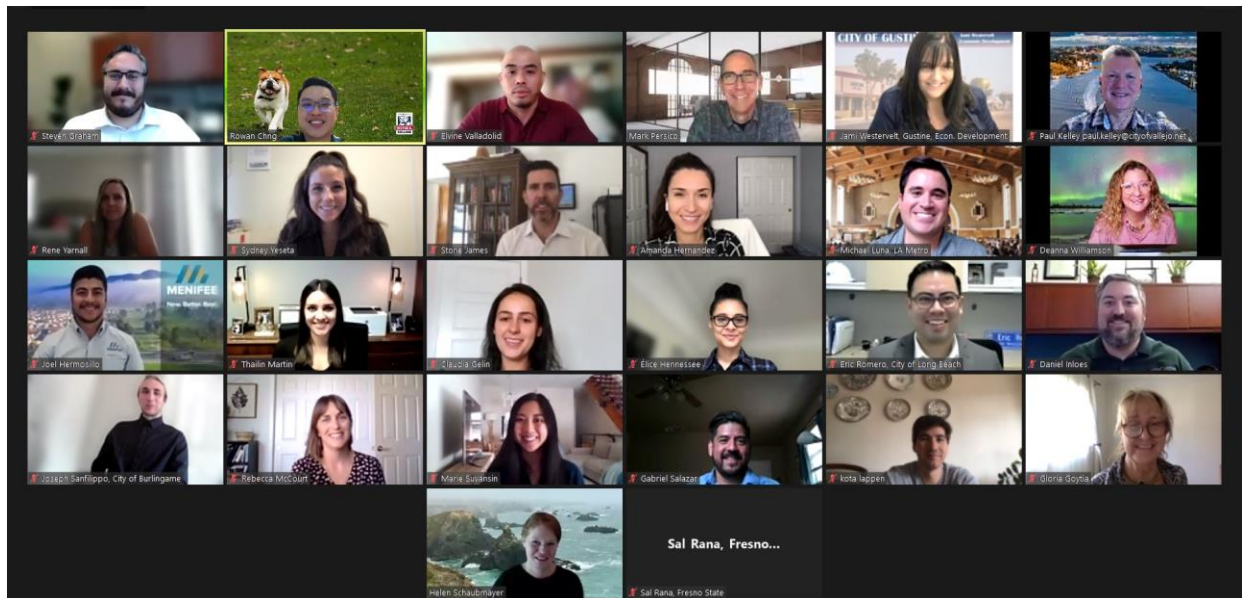
- **California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) Conference**

Recently, Economic Services and Housing Manager Thailin Martin completed the 2021 Advanced Institute for Economic Development conference hosted by the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) and the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno. The week-long conference took place via Zoom through a live virtual platform.

CALED was established in 1980 with a mission to be the premier statewide professional economic development organization dedicated to advancing its members' ability to achieve excellence in delivering economic development services to their communities and business clients.

Led by professors and industry leaders, the annual conference attracts economic development professionals and professionals in related fields to discuss complex economic development challenges. Topics discussed include *Economic Development Strategy Planning, Business Retention and Expansion, Real Estate Development and Reuse, Navigating the Regulatory Environment and Entitlement Process in California, and Economic Development Finance*. Lastly, attendees were given the opportunity to engage in group discussions and small-group activities during each topic session.

Economic Development staff participation at CALED conferences continues to enhance ongoing creation of wealth efforts throughout the City of Montclair.



Picture Credit: 2021 CALED Conference participants

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- **Thank You Police Dispatcher Wendy Vlasak!**

After 28 years of service at the Montclair Police Department, Police Dispatch Supervisor Wendy Vlasak retired on Thursday, September 23rd.

Police Dispatch Supervisor Vlasak began her career in 1993 as a Records Specialist. In 1995, she made the transition to Police Dispatcher and ultimately became Police Dispatch Supervisor in 2015. Over the years, Wendy has trained and mentored numerous dispatchers. In 2014, she received the Department's Annual Achievement Award, and she is a member of the Department's Peer Support Counseling Team. She has contributed to the success of the Police Department as both a dispatcher and supervisor who always goes above and beyond for everyone.

During her career, Wendy has often been the calm voice on the other end of the radio. She has served the Montclair community and the Police Department with integrity and honor, making a difference in the lives of those she assisted. Wendy, thank you for your dedication and service, and congratulations on your successful career. May you enjoy a long, happy, and healthy retirement. You deserve it!



Police Dispatcher Wendy Vlasak

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- **Fire Incident — August 30, 2021**

On Monday, August 30, at 10:50 a.m., Montclair Fire Medic Engine 152 and Truck 151, Chino Engine 65, LA County Engine 183, and San Bernardino County Truck 161 responded to a reported structure fire in the area of Mission Blvd and Fremont Avenue. A large column of smoke was visible in the area immediately after dispatch. Fire Medic Engine 152 arrived first to the scene and reported a house and garage on fire with numerous trailers exposed to flames. Due to this report and the density of trailers and buildings surrounding the involved structure, four additional fire engines were requested in order to prevent the rapid spread of the fire. During the fire, an emergency danger alert was broadcast, indicating that the roof of the garage was significantly sagging, and that no personnel were to enter that area. The fire was brought under control with the loss of a garage and attached room, one camper trailer, and numerous appliances stored along the exterior of the building. Chino Engine 67, LA

County Engine 182, Ontario Engine 134, also responded to assist. Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department provided coverage for the City from Montclair Fire Station 1 during the incident.

- **A Big Thank You to Love Sanctuary Church!**

On Saturday, September 11, the Outreach Ministry Program / Love Sanctuary Church donated dozens of cases of water to the Fire Department to show their appreciation to the firefighters of their community. The program is sponsored, in part, to teach the children of the Ministry about the importance of helping and supporting others. Members of the church were given a tour of Station 151.



Engineer Vidal (left), Captain Brambilia (right) and children from the Ministry



Firefighter/Paramedic Gross



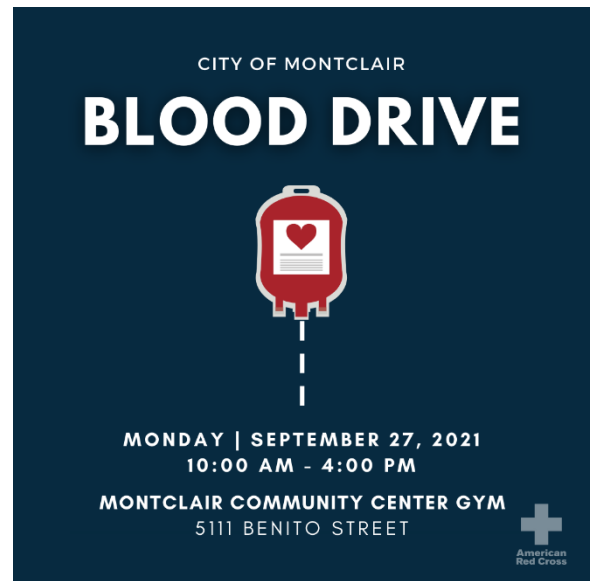
Members from the Ministry

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- **Red Cross 9/11/2001 Memorial Blood Drive**

The City of Montclair has partnered with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive at the Montclair Community Center Gym on Monday, September 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All donors and staff will be screened for COVID-19 infection or exposure before entering the drive. Participants must make an appointment before donating. COVID-19 vaccinated individuals can still donate.



To schedule your blood donation appointment, please visit <https://redcrossblood.org> and enter sponsor code: **cityofmontclair** or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. A flyer and information about donating are available on pages 22 and 23.

- **Outdoor Halloween Spooktacular**

Saturday, October 30, 2021
Alma Hofman Park
5201 Benito Street, Montclair
Fun & Games • 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Movie in the Park • 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



Come and enjoy a fun evening with family at the City of Montclair's Outdoor Halloween Spooktacular! Bring your own bag to receive candy, treats and toys. Children can enjoy playing games and making crafts—all while supplies last. You will also want to bring your appetite to enjoy delicious foods and desserts from food trucks! Wear your favorite costume to enter the costume contest—categories include scariest costume, cutest costume, most unique costume, and family costumes (for two or more family members dressed in a theme).

After the event, enjoy a special movie screening of *Hocus Pocus* (Rated PG) in the park, which will begin at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the Recreation Center at (909) 625-9479 or see our flyer on the City website or in the October edition of the City Manager's Monthly Report.

Hope to spook you there!

- **Monthly Food Distribution Event**

Stop by the Montclair Civic Center for our Monthly Food Distribution event!

Thursday, October 21, 2021
Montclair Civic Center Parking Lot
9555 Fremont Avenue, Montclair
8:30 am – 9:30 am

All participants are responsible for picking up their food in the Community Center and taking it to their car. Food will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis or while supplies last. Please park in the Montclair Civic Center parking lots.

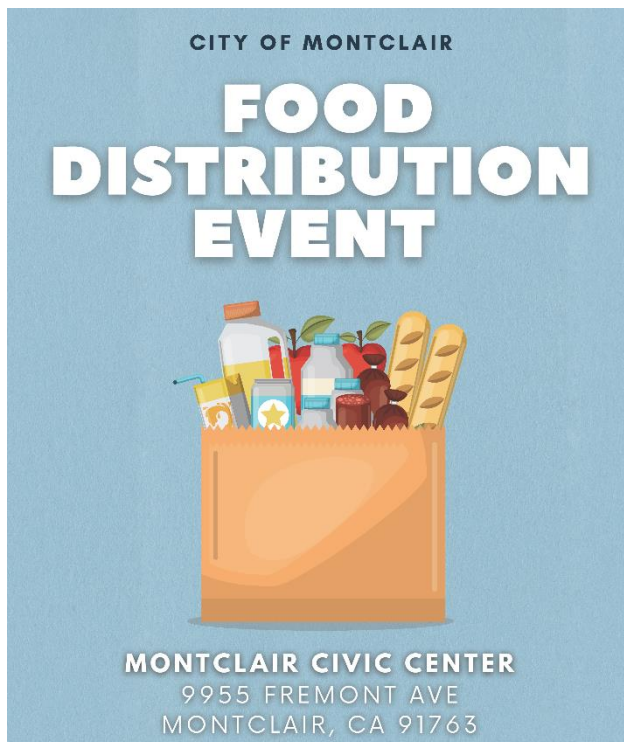
Due to the public health emergency and for your safety, we require all participants (including vaccinated individuals) to wear a facemask while in City buildings.

This program is coordinated with the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County. To qualify you must bring a valid ID and live in San Bernardino County. Commodities to be given may include canned meat, canned vegetables, flour, cornmeal, pudding, sauces, pasta, juices, and frozen items. The types of commodities change monthly.

Call (909) 625-9456 for information on qualifying income guidelines, confirmation of dates, and food items.

Please refer to the **Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) 2020 Income Guidelines** shown on page 24 to determine if you qualify.

ECS:sg



SEPTEMBER 2021

Day	Event & Location	Time
Mon. 27	American Red Cross 9/11/2001 Memorial Blood Drive Event Community Center Gymnasium, 5111 Benito Street, Montclair	10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 2021

Day	Event & Location	Time
Mon. 4	Council Workshop — Reeder Ranch Park Development Update City Council Chambers / Zoom Webinar / Teleconference	5:45 p.m
	City Council Meeting City Council Chambers / Zoom Webinar / Teleconference	7:00 p.m
Wed. 6	Community Activities Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Mon. 11	Planning Commission Meeting City Council Chambers / Zoom Webinar / Teleconference	7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 21	Food Distribution Event Civic Center (City Hall) Parking Lot	8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
	Public Works Committee Meeting Zoom Webinar / Teleconference	4:00 p.m.
Mon. 18	Real Estate Committee — CANCELLED	
	Code Enforcement/Public Safety Committee — CANCELLED	
	Council Workshop — 2021A Lease Revenue Bond–Funded Projects City Council Chambers / Zoom Webinar / Teleconference	5:45 p.m
	City Council Meeting City Council Chambers / Zoom Webinar / Teleconference	7:00 p.m.
Mon. 25	Planning Commission Meeting City Council Chambers / Zoom Webinar / Teleconference	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 30	Outdoor Halloween Spooktacular Alma Hofman Park	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Agendas for all Montclair public meetings can be viewed on the City’s website at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at www.cityofmontclair.org/departments/public-meetings/.

More event details can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofmontclair.org/events/ and www.cityofmontclair.org/news/



BLOOD DRIVE

The City of Montclair

Location: Gym (Community Center)
5111 Benito St
Montclair, CA 91763

Monday, September 27, 2021
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

All Donor Promo: Limited Edition Red Cross College Football T-Shirt

Please schedule an appointment online by visiting www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: **cityofmontclair** or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

ALL DONORS AND STAFF WILL BE SCREENED BEFORE ENTERING THE DRIVE.

Only healthy donors will be allowed inside.
Masks may be required at certain locations.
You can still donate if you received a COVID-19 vaccine.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

© 2017 The American Red Cross | 148909

The Donation Process



Giving whole blood is simple. The donation process, from the time you arrive until the time you leave, takes about an hour. The donation itself is only about 10 minutes. And the satisfaction you get from knowing you've helped change a life? Timeless.

Step 1: Registration

- You will read information about donating blood.
- You will be asked to complete a form with demographic and basic health information.
- You will be asked to show an American Red Cross donor card or positive ID.

Step 2: Health history and mini physical

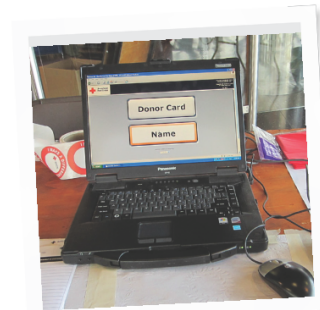
- A trained staff person will ask you some health history questions during a private and confidential interview.
- You will have your temperature, iron level, blood pressure and pulse checked to protect your health and well-being.

Step 3: Donation

- Staff will cleanse an area on your arm and insert a needle for the blood drawing procedure.
- The actual process of donating blood takes approximately 7-10 minutes.
- When about a pint of blood has been collected, the staff will remove the needle and place a bandage on your arm.

Step 4: Refreshments

- You will spend a few minutes enjoying refreshments so your body can adjust to the slight decrease in fluid volume.
- Enjoy the feeling of knowing you've done something good.



Before you give: Get a good night's sleep, have a good breakfast or lunch, drink extra water and fluids (but avoid tea, coffee or caffeinated beverages), eat iron-rich foods like fortified cereals and broccoli, and avoid fatty foods like hamburgers, fries or ice cream.

While you give: Wear clothing with sleeves that can be raised above the elbow, show the staff "good veins" that have been used to draw blood in the past, and don't forget to relax.

After you give: Enjoy a snack and drink in our refreshment area. Drink plenty of fluids in the next 24 to 48 hours, avoid strenuous physical activity or heavy lifting for about five hours, and eat a well-balanced meal.

Remember: Donors seldom experience discomfort after giving, but if you feel light-headed, lie down until the feeling goes away. If bleeding occurs after you take off your bandage, apply pressure to the site and raise your arm until the bleeding stops. If bruising or bleeding appears under the skin, apply a cold pack. And if for any reason, something doesn't feel right, call the post-donation number at 1-866-236-3276.

Wear your badge of honor proudly! You've earned it!

Maximum Income Per Household

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Household Size	Monthly Household Income	Annual Household Income
1	\$2,498.83	\$29,986.00
2	\$3,376.17	\$40,514.00
3	\$4,253.50	\$51,042.00
4	\$5,130.83	\$61,570.00
5	\$6,008.17	\$72,098.00
6	\$6,885.50	\$82,626.00
7	\$7,762.83	\$93,154.00
8	\$8,640.17	\$103,682.00
9	\$9,517.50	\$114,210.00
10	\$10,394.83	\$124,738.00
Over 10	Add \$877.33 per person	Add \$10,528 per person

California Department of Social Services

State of California - Health and Human Services Agency

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.