



DATE: February 23, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council **FROM:** Edward C. Starr, City Manager

CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2023

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

 Montclair's Commitment to Addressing the Affordable Housing Shortage and Homelessness Crises

Despite the fact that Governor Newsom has prioritized the resolution of the state's homelessness crisis and significantly increased spending to combat this mounting problem, the state's homeless population continues to rise, contributing to a sense that California cannot make progress on this crucial societal concern.

Californians rank homelessness as the state's most pressing issue, with <u>73 percent of voters</u> saying the problem has worsened in the last year. Statistics appear to bear out this concern: The number of homeless people in California is roughly 171,000, compared to an estimated 130,000 in 2018. In addition, the recent homeless count in Montclair suggests the number of homeless in the City has doubled.

To combat this growth, California has increased its homelessness outlays from about \$515 million for the 2018-19 budget cycle to an estimated \$4.6 billion for the current fiscal year, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office. In addition, Governor Newsom proposes spending an additional \$3.4 billion on homelessness in the next budget.

So how do we know if this spending is working? What have these homeless-directed programs accomplished in terms of reducing the number of people living on the streets?

The governor's office points to the following programs: (i) the state's Homekey project funding hotel and motel conversions; (ii) the clearing of hundreds of homeless encampments throughout California; (iii) expansion of behavioral health funding; (iv) and California's new Care Courts program, which will assist people who are chronically homeless because of

https://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/crosstabs-likely-voters-0223.pdf

² https://tinyurl.com/2rj6dp7u

underlying mental health problems. Despite this massive fiscal effort, however, the numbers of homeless continue to increase.

The state argues that cities and counties need to build more housing in order to truly make a dent in the homelessness crisis. To that end, Governor Newsom proposes \$400 million in affordable housing assistance but will not increase that number unless local progress is made.

Local governments point out, however, that this is California, where housing costs play a significant role—median home prices nearly doubled in the last decade. Moreover, the estimated average construction cost is presently at or near \$480,000 per unit, whether the unit is in a market rate or affordable housing development.

Montclair is committed to addressing homelessness in the community. The Community Development Department and its Code Enforcement Bureau actively engage with City's homeless population members. The City has generated a wide network of partners to assist with providing housing and wrap-around services. The Economic Development Agency, through the assistance of the Human Services Department's grants specialist, is adding units to its affordable housing stock and is seeking funding to assist with the development of affordable housing projects that incorporate assistance programs. Last year alone, the City added more than \$5 million to its affordable housing fund, acquired land for a future affordable housing project, and provided for an extension of affordable housing covenants on more than 400 mobile home park units for the next thirty years. City staff also anticipate presenting a new inclusionary housing ordinance for City Council consideration that will require developer construction of, or in lieu of contributions for, affordable housing.

Gold Line Extension to Montclair Derailed Until Alternative Funding Sources are Secured

As part of his budget plan for Fiscal Year 2022-23, Governor Newsom and the State Legislature allocated \$2.5 billion in funding for mass transit projects administered through the California State Transportation Agency's (CalSTA) Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP).

Projects receiving funding must represent critical transportation and provide alternatives to driving with access to a modernized public transit system. Based on the preceding criteria, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) and the Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Construction Authority) submitted a TIRCP grant application for \$790 million to complete the extension of the Gold Line from Pomona to Montclair.

Montclair and its partner agencies had been advised to expect good news about the funding request. However, when funding was announced, the Gold Line Extension to Claremont and Montclair was not included. Regional projects on the TIRCP list include the following:

- \$600 million for LA Metro's East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor project
- \$407 million to help fully fund the Inglewood Transit Connector

- \$375 million for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension project
- \$19 million for the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority's West Valley Connector Bus Rapid Transit and Zero-Emission Bus Initiative

Montclair will now regroup with its partner agencies to seek alternative funding sources.

State Legislators hold out hope that Governor Newsom will release \$2 billion for additional transit projects statewide. A renewed effort would then be made to capture transit dollars for the Gold Line extension to Montclair. At the same time, Governor Newsom has announced his intention to claw back \$4 billion in transit dollars to address a projected \$24 billion State Budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2023-24, raising concern that additional transit funds will be available this year.

If funding is not developed over the next 18 months, the Gold Line Construction Authority will lose its leverage to negotiate the extension to Montclair within the current procurement contract with Kiewit Parsons Joint Venture (KPJV), which is projected to be at or near completion of the Glendora to Pomona segment in late 2024. In addition, rebidding the extension from Pomona to Montclair will result in significantly higher construction costs, pushing the project well above current funding estimates.

The Construction Authority, legislators, Claremont, and Montclair, continue holding out hope that the Gold Line will be completed to its legislatively mandated terminus at the Montclair Transcenter.

What remains to be determined is the funding sources. If project estimates exceed \$1 billion for the extension to Claremont and Montclair, an application may need to be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). However, an ask for federal dollars may ultimately require expanding the light rail extension to Ontario International Airport, which would not only add billions of dollars to the construction cost but could delay completion to Montclair until the late 2030s.

San Bernardino County Receives Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program TIRCP Funding

On February 1, 2023, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) announced the recipients for the sixth cycle of the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funding grants. More than \$2.5 billion was awarded to 16 ongoing public transportation projects in the state — the first wave of a historic infusion of state funding to expand California's transit and passenger rail service. The effort is designed to reduce the greenhouse gas effect caused by climate change and other environmental and manmade considerations.

In San Bernardino County, two projects sponsored by the San Bernardino County Transportation Agency (SBCTA) received grants:

- A \$15.772 million award for the Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) to Zero-Emission Multiple Unit project to fully fund the introduction of zero-emission multiple unit trains on the Redlands Passenger Rail Project (RPRP), which begins testing in the fall of 2023, with revenue service expected in 2024. The RPRP also won the Innovative Transportation Solutions Award at the recent Women's Transportation Seminar-Inland Empire Annual Dinner. RPRP is a nine-mile regional rail project that provides additional transportation choices by introducing a new rail service known as Arrow. Operated by Metrolink, Arrow uses Tier 4 Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) that are powered by smaller, lower-emission diesel engines for a quieter and more energy-efficient ride.
- \$18.778 million for the West Valley Connector (WVC) Bus Rapid Transit Phase 1 & Zero Emission Bus Initiative. The West Valley Connector project will introduce a new 19-mile bus rapid transit system to West San Bernardino Valley, connecting Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario International Airport, Ontario, Montclair, and Pomona. WVC will also connect two Metrolink lines (San Bernardino and Riverside) and major activity centers along the route.

The projects received funding in previous TIRCP cycles, and the additional resources will help fill funding gaps to complete the projects. SBCTA is honored to receive this critical funding that recognizes these innovative transit projects in San Bernardino County.

Natural Gas and Petroleum Prices in California Continue Upward Trend

Earlier this month, Governor Newsom asked the federal government to investigate why Californians saw unusually high natural gas bills this winter. In a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Governor Newsom requested that the agency assess "whether market manipulation, anti-competitive behavior, or other anomalous activities" drive elevated prices in the Western United States.

Families across California are opening up their utility bills to discover eye-popping charges. According to some news outlets, wholesale natural gas prices have been up 63% since October. While an early burst of cold winter weather contributed to the jump, Governor Newsom argues that weather "cannot explain the extent and longevity of the price spike."

The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) voted in late January to provide temporary relief by fast-tracking the release of credits to help Californians struggling to pay off their high utility bills.

Governor Newsom is also trying to push back on recent spikes in gasoline prices by launching a campaign to impose a penalty on oil companies when their refinery profits rise above a certain threshold and to use the revenue to provide consumer rebates.

While national gas prices per gallon continue to either drop, hold steady or increase only slightly, average costs in California, have been ratcheting up. At the end of January, the American Automobile Association (AAA) reported spiking gas prices, with California's average

up 10 cents in one week, with an average of \$4.62 per gallon of regular fuel. At the same time, the national average for a gallon of gas dropped by 3 cents in the same period to \$3.47, according to AAA.

Gas price increases in California occurred even though oil prices declined after OPEC announced that it would maintain current production levels and not make any cuts to production.

Average regular gas prices in California are approximately \$1.15 above the national average.

Seven States Fail to Meet Consensus on Colorado River Water

California and other Western states that import water from the parched Colorado River failed to reach an agreement earlier in February on how to cut their use despite a deadline from federal officials.

Six states presented the federal government with a proposal to slash the lower basin's use by 2.9 million acre-feet from their historic allotments— including more than 1 million acre-feet from California, or 25% of its entitlements. But California, the largest user of Colorado River water, refused to sign onto the proposal and, hours later, issued its own proposal — it closely resembles a similar offer made in October³ to cut annual withdrawals by 400,000 acre-feet per year at least through 2026. That 9% reduction is much less than the 15% to 30% cuts federal water managers are waiting for.

The impasse is over water delivered to Imperial Valley farmers and cities in six Southern California counties.

A severe mega-drought — the driest conditions in 1,200 years — has forced the states to find ways to reduce their imports since they are now consuming far more water than the river contains. Allocations to the United States and Mexico based on historic rights total 16.5 million acre-feet a year. In most years, they use around 13 million acre-feet — significantly more than the river's 11 million acre-feet. In addition, reservoirs feeding the Colorado River are at record low levels and are expected to keep dropping.

U.S. Interior Department officials, who enforce the river's allocations, have not yet weighed in on the proposals. However, an official for the Department of Interior said in a statement that the Department remains committed to "pursuing a collaborative and consensus-based approach."

The dispute pits the Imperial Irrigation District, the Metropolitan Water District, the Coachella Valley Water District, the Palo Verde Irrigation, and the Quechan Tribal Council against Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Utah.

³ https://calmatters.org/environment/2022/10/california-colorado-river-water/

⁴ https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/colorado-river-basin-focus-area-study-water-use

The Imperial Irrigation District is by far the largest user in California, with senior rights to 3.1 million acre-feet per year. However, Imperial Valley growers have resisted following their fields, 5 saying they have rights to the water and have already cut their usage. By importing Colorado River water, Imperial County has become California's ninth-largest agricultural producer, reporting \$2.3 billion in sales in 2021, led by cattle and lettuce. Bottom of the Form Alfalfa and other forage grasses — water-intensive crops used to feed dairy cows and cattle — dominate the acreage, carpeting more than half of the farmland. Imperial also produces two-thirds of the vegetables 6 consumed in the U.S. during winter months.

The Colorado River Board of California issued a statement calling the six-state proposal inconsistent with the Law of the River. The proposal does not form a seven-state consensus approach. The <u>Law of the River</u> refers to the system of allocating water to each state based on decades-old agreements and court rulings. That process favors California with its senior rights.

The steep decline in the river's supply induced the Bureau of Reclamation to ask the states in the Colorado River basin for a plan to reduce the use of the river's water by 2 to 4 million acrefeet each year; however, the consensus remains out of reach.

Some water policy experts consider it fair for California to give up more water than it has agreed to since it uses the most.

The six-state proposal suggests that lower basin states – California, Arizona, and Nevada – plus Mexico cut their usage by 1.5 million acre-feet when the elevation of Lake Mead drops below 1,145 feet, to account for water lost to evaporation, which current allocation systems do not consider. Lake Mead currently stands at 1,046 feet⁸ and, by volume, is three-fourths empty. The proposal suggests further water cuts as Lake Mead declines past specific trigger points. At a level below 1,020 feet, California would retain 3 million of its full 4.4-million-acrefoot entitlement.

Representatives of the six states argue that they produced the plan because the situation was urgent. However, the seven states now appear to be close to open conflict over dwindling supplies. The conflict has become a political nightmare for federal officials as they try to adjudicate between the seven states.

The six-state proposal has united players in California, with cities like Los Angeles and San Diego joining with the state's big agricultural users to defend California's legal rights. According to the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California, Davis, most observers believe California has the strongest legal argument, and a victory for California could have dire results for Arizona and Nevada.

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https://calmatters.org/environment/2023/01/colorado-river-water/

⁶ https://vegetablegrowersnews.com/news/winter-vegetable-season-looks-promising-in-californias-imperial-valley/

https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/pao/lawofrvr.html

⁸ https://mead.uslakes.info/level.asp

The Colorado River Board of California, representing the San Diego County Water Authority, argues that California has a blueprint for other states — <u>a multi-agency, multi-year process</u>⁹ — that California used to rein in its water use two decades ago.

The Bureau of Reclamation insists that consensus must be reached and is optimistic the seven states will come to an agreement before it is too late

Hamburg University Reports on Global Warming

For decades, researchers and climate scientists have argued that the global temperature rise must be kept below 2 degrees Celsius by the end of this century to avoid significant climate-related impacts produced by a warming world. In recent years, however, the target shifted to keeping the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid the worst impacts.

According to a <u>2023 Hamburg Climate Futures Outlook Report</u>, ¹⁰ keeping global warming within 1.5 degrees Celsius (equivalent to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) is "currently not plausible." The Report's authors conclude that the types of swift, transformative social change needed to reach that target aren't happening fast enough—a perspective shared by climate scientists and policy experts, who increasingly acknowledge that the 1.5 degree Celsius target probably does not seem to be achieved.

Returning to the less ambitious target of 2 degrees Celsius may still be possible, but it would require world leaders to set more ambitious climate goals for their nations and put them in motion quickly.

The Report, known as the "Hamburg Climate Futures Outlook," examines the factors affecting the world's ability to meet its global climate goals. Nations participating in the Paris Agreement have pledged to keep global warming well under 2 degrees Celsius while striving for a more ambitious 1.5 degrees Celsius target.

The Paris Agreement is a 2015 international treaty on climate change negotiated by 196 nations participating in the <u>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</u>¹¹ (UNFCCC). The United States withdrew from the agreement in 2020 but rejoined in 2021.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that meeting the 1.5 degrees Celsius to 2 degrees Celsius target range requires immediate global efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions, with global emissions hitting net zero by 2050 and falling by roughly half within the next decade.

The United Nation's <u>latest annual emissions gap report</u>¹², which assesses global progress on the Paris Agreement targets, found that climate policies currently in place worldwide aren't even enough to meet the 2 degrees Celsius target, let alone 1.5 degrees Celsius. Moreover,

⁹ https://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia/quantification-settlement-agreement

¹⁰ https://www.cliccs.uni-hamburg.de/results/hamburg-climate-futures-outlook.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2022

they stated that humanity could blow past the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold in about a decade.

The <u>Hamburg Report</u>¹⁰ examines 10 different social drivers that can affect the world's ability to achieve "deep decarbonization" in time to meet the Paris Agreement targets. These include governance from the United Nations., transnational initiatives, climate-related regulation, climate protests and social movements, climate litigation, corporate responses, fossil-fuel divestment, consumption patterns, journalism, and the production of knowledge on climate change.

On a global scale, not one of the aforementioned social drivers supports deep decarbonization by 2050, according to the Report's authors, although most of them are moving in the right direction, as indicated below:

- Journalism. Depending on the media organization, platform, and story framing, journalism sometimes promotes and hinders climate action.
- Corporate responses and global consumption patterns. The Report states these two social drivers actively impair global efforts by failing to support decarbonization adequately.
- Social change. The Report states that the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have complicated social change.
 - Global lockdowns in 2020 resulted in a temporary dip in global carbon emissions. But as the world reopened, recovery efforts aimed at jump-starting the global economy likely increased the world's reliance on fossil fuels, the Report suggests.
 - The long-term consequences of Russia's war are less clear, but experts are concerned it may also lock in more future fossil fuel dependence as places like Europe search for replacements for Russian fuel.
- Physical Climate Factors. A handful of physical climate factors could affect the speed of future warming, including various feedback mechanisms and tipping points in the Earth's climate system, as follows:
 - Permafrost is a common point of concern among climate scientists. As the Earth warms and frozen soil in the planet's coldest places begin to thaw, it can release large volumes of climate-warming carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. These emissions could, theoretically, further speed up the rate of global warming.
 - Other potential physical drivers include the Earth's melting ice sheets and dwindling sea ice; the potential slowing of giant heat-ferrying ocean currents;

and the decay of the Amazon rainforest, which stores billions of tons of carbon in its trees and soils.

Many of the above social drivers are cause for significant concern in the long term, making them major barriers to the Paris Agreement targets. However, the influence of these social drivers between now and 2050 is likely to be relatively small, according to the Report.

The Report recommends that policymakers begin making more serious efforts to adapt to an increasingly likely post 1.5 degrees Celsius world. If (or when) the world warms past 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, expect extremely hot days, large-scale drought, loss of entire ecosystems, species die-off, rising sea levels, food insecurity, loss of habitable land, forced migration, and more extreme weather disasters — all of which increase annual fatalities and compromise public health.

The world has already warmed by 1.1 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial levels. Capping the average global temperature at 1.5 degrees Celsius is within humanity's grasp, but the window is closing.

Since the Paris Agreement was signed, climate scientists have become more certain that 2 degrees Celsius of average global temperature rise above pre-industrial levels would be cataclysmic — and that even a 1.5 degrees Celsius change will be transformative.

Heat waves are now happening <u>five times more often</u>¹³ after the 1.1 degrees Celsius of temperature rise than they did historically, according to the IPCC. At 2 degrees Celsius, similar heatwaves would occur 14 times more often. Hitting 2 degrees Celsius would also mean the loss of 99% of coral reefs — the base of the marine food chain — and assure the irreversible loss of the West Antarctic ice sheet, eventually causing 5 meters (roughly 16 feet) of sea level rise, enough to inundate large portions of many coastal cities around the world. Thus, 1.5 degrees Celsius is the essential target. Every tenth of a degree beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius makes climate damage much greater and the overall crisis harder to contain.

The IPCC and climate experts believe humanity has nearly all the knowledge and tools needed to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, but the challenges are not primarily technological; they are political and economic:

- First, the global economy must quit oil, gas, and coal rapidly and shift to solar, wind, and other non-carbon energy sources, according to climate scientists.
- Second, humans must end deforestation, much of which is driven by industrial agriculture's desire to expand beef, soy, and palm oil production
 - Coal, which has been the main driver of global warming since it began fueling the Industrial Revolution 250 years ago, must be phased out across the globe, and oil and gas must follow the same script.

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¹³ https://www.eenews.net/articles/ipcc-window-closing-to-stop-worst-effects-of-climate-change/

 Of particular note, transportation must transform, with vehicles powered by electricity and driving needs to become less necessary by redesigning cities and suburbs so residents can meet their needs with mass transit, biking, and walking, similar to what is occurring in North Montclair.

Forests must be left intact, so they continue to extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere via photosynthesis and store it in trees and soil. So much of the Amazon rainforest has been leveled that much of it has transitioned from storing CO2 to a carbon source that emits it. Because deforestation is primarily driven by a push to raise cattle and other foods, some scientists suggest that people change their diets to consume less meat.

While limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius this century is herculean, some indicators on the horizon show that some governments are recognizing the seriousness of the issue and are taking steps to deal with it.

On a more cautionary note, climate scientists warn that instead of waiting for that world to arrive, humanity needs to plan for it in advance, focusing on the world's most vulnerable people and places.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

New Employees

Welcome to the following new employees:

- Alicia Arenas, Sr. Recreation Leader, Human Services
- Carolina Diaz-Ruiz, Recreation Leader, Human Services
- Roberto Gerardo Hernandez, Recreation Leader, Human Services
- Sigifredo Gonzalez, Police Officer Trainee, Police Department
- Zachary Granzow, Fire Engineer, Fire Department
- **Jacob Hernandez**, Recreation Leader, Human Services
- **Bridgitte Martinez**, Recreation Leader, Human Services
- Andrea Monzon, Senior Learning Leader, Human Services
- Benjamin Ochoa, Maintenance Worker, Public Works
- Roberto Ortega, Project Manager, Public Works
- Margarita Rodriguez, Housing Specialist, Economic Development Agency
- Alison Walker, Deputy City Clerk, Administrative Services

Internal Appointments / Promotions

Congratulations to the following current employees who have been internally promoted or appointed to new positions:

- Cristina Arizpe, Receptionist/Office Specialist, Police Department
- Jimmy Ballesteros-Rodriguez, Police Officer, Police Department
- April Brady, Accounting Specialist, Finance
- Christian Dominguez, Benefits Specialist, Administrative Services
- Angela Franco, Recreation Coordinator Community, Human Services
- Natalia Magana, Police Officer, Police Department
- Ivan Oseguera, Police Officer, Police Department
- Alex Perez, Leadworker, Maintenance, Public Works
- Krystal Rabino, Administrative Specialist, Human Services
- Maria Rubaclava, Police Officer, Police Department
- **Destiny Santacruz**, Senior Learning Leader, Human Services
- Jessie Solis, Senior Learning Leader, Human Services
- Rhiannah Villanueva, Senior Learning Leader, Human Services
- Angela Vong, Junior Accountant, Finance
- Jason Ycedo, Senior Recreation Leader, Human Services

• Employees Whose Service to the City Has Ended

The City would like to thank the following individuals who have concluded their service with the City of Montclair:

- Darlene Alvarez, Senior Learning Leader, Human Services
- Ryan Barron, Firefighter (Paramedic), Fire Department
- Melissa Rodriguez, Learning Leader, Human Services
- Alisa Smith, Senior Recreation Leader, Human Services
- Augustine Tejas, Police Officer, Police Department
- Tommy Tran, Learning Leader, Human Services
- Claudia Uribe, Senior Learning Leader, Human Services

Montclair Job Opportunities

The City is hiring qualified individuals to fill the following positions:

Continuous Recruitments

Applications are continuously accepted and reviewed for the following positions on an ongoing basis:

- Fire Engineer
- Firefighter (Paramedic) (Entry-Level/Lateral)
- Senior Police Dispatcher
- Police Dispatcher (Entry-Level/Lateral)
- Police Officer (Entry-Level/Lateral)
- Reserve Police Officer Level II and I
- Police Cadet
- Recreation Leader
- Senior Recreation Leader
- Learning Leader
- Senior Learning Leader
- Substitute Learning Leader

Upcoming Recruitments

Maintenance Worker

For an up-to-date listing of all job opportunities available at the City of Montclair or to apply for a job, please visit the Employment Opportunities page on the City's website at https://www.cityofmontclair.org/employment-opportunities/.

You can now apply for most City of Montclair positions online through **GovernmentJobs.com!** Please visit our career page at https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cityofmontclair to view active openings for which we accept online applications.

• Free Community Shredding Event

Residents are invited to shred up to three boxes of documents at the north parking lot of City Hall on Saturday, March 11, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, or until the shredding truck reaches capacity. This event is sponsored by Supervisor Curt Hagman's office, in partnership with the City of Montclair.

More details for this event can be found on the flyer located on page 32.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

• Fontana State of the City 2023: Raising the Standard of Excellence

Last Thursday, Economic Services and Housing Manager Thailin L. Martin attended the City of Fontana's 26th annual State of the City 2023 *Raising the Standard of Excellence* address. The event took place at the Water of Life Community Church in the City of Fontana (Fontana). Master of Ceremonies Mayor Acquanetta Warren delivered her thirteenth State of the City address to over 100 attendees. Among the attendees was Congresswoman Norma Torres.

The address included a video presentation showcasing Fontana's City Council and citywide departments. Altogether, the engaging presentation highlighted Fontana's success in meeting their residents' needs, contributions towards maintaining a strong economy, a magnified focus on capital improvement programs and public transportation, a resilient public safety presence, and a robust community economic development presence with an emphasis on affordable housing.

During the presentation, a notable mention of Fontana's recent awards included the \$2.7 million Family Homelessness Challenge grant, the \$500,000 CalHome Program grant to rehabilitate modular and mobile homes for low-income families, and the Project Homekey grant to provide 14 units of interim housing with supportive services and 3 units of affordable housing with an anticipated occupancy date of summer 2023. Congratulations to the City of Fontana for its achievements and successful event.

A recording of the City of Fontana's 26th annual State of the City 2023 *Raising the Standard of Excellence* address video presentation is available via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y77xaW3TYLU.



San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness: 2023 Housing Summit

Earlier this month, Economic Services and Housing Manager Thailin L. Martin, Housing Specialist Margarita Rodriguez, Assistant Code Enforcement Manager Gabe Fondario, and Code Enforcement Supervisor Robert Hargett attended the San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness- 2023 Housing Summit. The event took place at the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation in the City of San Dimas. More than 200 local City staff, elected officials, housing service providers, housing developers, and community organizers attended the event.

A diverse panel of housing and housing policy experts led a roundtable discussion on various pressing housing topics. The panel included: Jenna Hornstock, previous Deputy Director for Planning and Land Use for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and now Karen Bass's Deputy Mayor for Housing for the City of Los Angeles; Tish Kelly, Senior VP of Housing Development for Jamboree Housing; and Paul Cho, Chief Financial Officer of LifeArk.

Jenna presented SCAG data and strategies that communities and housing advocates can use to build more housing. Tish shared her experience working with Claremont City staff to build the Larkin Place permanent supportive housing and the community resistance to the project, and Jamboree's position on "by right" building entitlements will allow the project to move forward. Paul Cho closed the presentations by describing the innovative housing building system and community that LifeArk has created in El Monte.

After the panel presentations, two break-out sessions, led by each presenter, were accommodated for attendees to ask questions relevant to their line of work and/or curiosity.



AB 2011 Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act of 2022

On September 28, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the AB 2011, Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act of 2022, which allows for ministerial, by-right approval for affordable housing on commercially-zoned lands and mixed-income housing along commercial corridors as long as the projects meet specified affordability, labor, and environmental criteria.

Beginning July 1, 2023, AB 2011 authorizes the opportunity for housing developers to construct projects in commercial zones with limited local discretion. Qualifying housing projects under AB 2011 located along commercial corridors, as defined, receive by-right approval with joint statutory development thresholds that supersede certain locally-adopted, objective planning standards. This includes a streamlined, ministerial review of 100 percent affordable multifamily housing projects in commercial zones.

Along with other requirements, qualifying projects must be located in areas highly developed with urban uses, and less than one-third of the site, or its immediate neighbors, must be dedicated to industrial uses, as defined. Additionally, AB 2011 requires all projects seeking approval under its provisions to ensure all construction workers earn prevailing wages and receive health benefits.

Economic Development Monthly Business Newsletter

The Economic Development Department is pleased to share its monthly business newsletter promoting current and future Montclair businesses and entrepreneurs with resources for growth and expansion. Montclair is at the core of Southern California's economic revival and boasts diverse business sectors, quality housing, and ample recreational amenities that offer residents and businesses a high quality of life.

The E-Newsletter shares business resources and free training offered through our resource partners.

To sign up for the newsletter, go to https://www.cityofmontclair.org/newsletter/, and view past editions at https://www.cityofmontclair.org/economicdevelopmentnewsletter/

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Montclair Police Department Partners with American Red Cross to Host Blood Drive

It's that time of year again, and the Montclair Police Department is proud to partner with the American Red Cross and be a part of all they do for our community, our country, and worldwide. Of course, our blood drive is important to patients in need, but the collection and distribution of blood is just a small part of all the Red Cross does. The enormity of what the Red Cross accomplishes every day is astounding.

- The American Red Cross assists more than 1,200 people in America every hour of the day.
- More than 17,000 people every day receive lifesaving Red Cross health and safety training.
 The Red Cross provides more than 1,100 services to military members, their families, and veterans daily.
- About 170 times a day, Red Cross workers help families affected by a home fire or other disaster. From a blood supply standpoint: The Red Cross must collect more than 13,000 blood donations and more than 2,500 platelet donations each day.

The blood collected by the Red Cross helps millions of patients in over -2,500 hospitals and other facilities across the country.
 84 percent of blood donations are given at blood drives - hosted by generous sponsoring organizations like ours.

Our goal this year is to collect 25 pints, which we easily accomplished last year. The blood drive event will be held in the Montclair Senior Center on Tuesday, February 28, from 2:00 p.m. − 8:00 p.m. City personnel, friends, family, and members of the community are invited to participate as donors. You can sign-up by visiting: www.redcrossblood.org, → "Donate Blood," → "Find a blood drive," then enter the sponsor code: "montclairpd" or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

A flyer for the event is shown on page 26.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Memorial Service for Rancho Cucamonga Fire District Engineer Miguel Cervantes

On Friday, February 17, 2023, Deputy Fire Chief David Pohl, Fire Captain Michael Matheson, and Firefighter/Paramedic Joseph O'Neil attended a funeral service for Engineer/Paramedic Miguel Cervantes, an engineer with Rancho Cucamonga Fire District. Engineer Cervantes passed away at a young age in a line-of-duty death from illness. Local departments and several departments from over one hundred miles away attended the service.

Firefighter funeral traditions show the deep gratitude and respect that the community holds for the selfless and brave contribution firefighters make to the protection and safety of society. When a firefighter dies, he is considered a "fallen hero," and his funeral will reflect his honorable career and life. Certain funeral aspects are retained only for firefighters, signifying what they have given, what they have lost, and how deeply they will be missed.

Thank you, Chief Pohl, Captain Matheson, and Firefighter/Paramedic O'Neil, for representing the Montclair Fire Department.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Alleyway Improvements in CDBG Target Areas

Within Montclair, there are over 40 alleyways — 16 of which are located in the Community Development Block Grant areas (CDBG). Five alleyways have been rehabilitated previously. In addition, five additional alleyways were completed recently at the following locations:

- 1. **9600 Monte Vista Avenue**, located west of Monte Vista Avenue, between Monte Vista Avenue and Harvard Street.
- 2. **4700 San Bernardino Street**, located south of San Bernardino Street, between Helena Avenue and Monte Vista Avenue.

- 3. **5300 San Bernardino Alley,** located south of San Bernardino Street, between Rose Avenue and Vernon Avenue.
- 4. **4800 Orchard Street**, located south of Orchard Street, between Tudor Avenue and Monte Vista Avenue.
- 5. **10300 Amherst Avenue**, located west of Amherst Avenue between Kingsley Street and Holt Boulevard.

Improvements included full removal and replacement of existing concrete asphalt, construction of new longitudinal concrete drainage gutter, replacement of non-compliant Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) pedestrian ramps, and new traffic legends.

The final construction cost for these improvements was \$994,717. The City was granted a total amount of \$849,440 of CDBG funds, and the remaining \$145,277.38 was covered using 2021 Lease Revenue Bond Proceeds.



• Fire Station No. 2 Landscaping Project

The Fire Station No. 2 Landscaping was altered when the Monte Vista Grade Separation Improvements were constructed. The Monte Vista Grade Separation Improvements were completed around February 2020. During the Monte Vista Grade Separation construction, the City worked with Monte Vista Water District to implement a water system service upgrade to the Public Works Yard. The Public Works Yard is located behind Fire Station No. 2. These improvements included the installation of a four-inch water meter in a large vault and a backflow prevention device in front of the fire station. These facilities altered the available landscape area, and restoration of the fire station landscaping was to be constructed by the City in the future.

With the assistance of the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, staff prepared drought-tolerant landscape and irrigation plans for Fire Station No. 2. The landscape consisted of a succulent plant pallet and strategically placed river rock boulder clusters installed within a

decomposed granite surface and irrigated through a newly installed subterranean automatic drip system. In addition, the site was cleared of weeds and other vegetation through a sequence of treatments to minimize subsequent weed growth and to prepare the site for the proposed hardscape, planting, lighting, and irrigation improvements.

The overall construction contract cost for Fire Station No. 2 Landscaping Improvements was \$51,897.01. The electrical and lighting materials were purchased by the City and installed by City staff.



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Montclair Mourns the Passing of a Dedicated City Employee, G. Keith Alber

It is with great sadness that the City announces the untimely passing of a beloved and dedicated member of our staff, G. Keith Alber. Keith began working for the City of Montclair's Human Services Department in July 2012. He had an invaluable wealth of knowledge in restaurant management with over twenty years of experience, and shared this knowledge with the Montclair Senior Center as the Senior Nutrition Program's Kitchen Assistant and later Site Manager for over 10 years.

Keith assisted in the drive-thru transition of the senior nutrition program during the pandemic beginning in March 2020 by quickly and effectively training Human Services staff in the intricate workings of food service. He was an indispensable resource during this time. His accomplishments with the City of Montclair included designing senior nutrition menus, managing grant report data, and running an impeccable kitchen at the Senior Center alongside his colleague, Patti Pennington.

Keith ensured staff, volunteers, and senior nutrition participants, had a great time while eating nutritious food during the senior lunch program. Patti Pennington shared, "His contagious laugh and sense of humor brought smiles to people's faces and gave the kitchen staff and volunteers a sense of comradery. He truly became not just our kitchen site manager... but our friend. He was kind, dependable, and trustworthy." We will deeply miss him.

The Human Services Department is in great appreciation of Keith and his decade-long dedication to Montclair's seniors.



G. Keith Alber May 6, 1947 ~ January 8, 2023

Save the Date for the Following Upcoming Events!

Montclair After-School Program (MAP) Masters of Art Showcase

The third annual MAP Masters of Art Showcase will take place on Thursday, March 2nd from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Montclair Community Center. The show will include an unveiling of each student's masterpiece. For the past month, students from each of MAP's 10 school sites have been exploring artistic methods from world-renowned artists, along with their masterpieces and techniques. Students participated in hands-on activities examining these artists and created their own works of art in the process! All are welcome.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Meeting

The City of Montclair Parks & Recreation Master Plan is in the final stages of the plan development. Please join us on Tuesday, March 14th, between 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Montclair Senior Center to learn about the project recommendations and the next steps! Light refreshments will be provided.

San Bernardino County Tax Filing Assistance

The City of Montclair is partnering with the San Bernardino County Transitional Assistance Department for tax preparation. Tax preparation services will be available by <u>APPOINTMENT ONLY</u> at the Montclair Senior Center (5111 Benito Street, Montclair) from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 21st; Tuesday, March 28th; and Thursday, April 6th. To schedule an appointment, please call (909) 421-4091 or (909) 421-4093.

Easter Eggstravaganza

The City's Easter Eggstravaganza and Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 8th, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Alma Hofman Park.

The Eggstravaganza will include games, activities, Easter eggs, and treats for children 12 or under. In addition, children are invited to bring their baskets from home to win candy-filled eggs as game prizes. The Easter Bunny will arrive and pose for photos (\$3 per photo or \$1 to take your photo). The pancake breakfast, offered for \$5 per plate, will include, 2 pancakes, 2 sausages, and an orange juice while supplies last.

The event is sponsored by the City of Montclair, Ontario-Montclair Kiwanis Club, Women's Club of Montclair, Montclair Police Officers Association, and Montclair Firefighters Association.

For additional information, call (909) 625-9479.

Memorial Day Ceremony

Join us on Monday, May 29th at 6:00 p.m. for the Community Activities Commission's 23rd Annual Memorial Day Program. The Program will be held in the Memorial Garden, adjacent to City Hall. More event details will be announced soon.

The Community Activities Commission is now accepting new submissions for plaques on the Veteran's Memorial Wall to honor Montclair veterans. Each plaque pays tribute to deceased Montclair veterans from all service branches.

If you would like to purchase a veteran's bronze plaque, please submit a complete application and payment to Angela Franco at the Recreation Center by Monday, February 27, 2023. The cost is \$375 per plaque. Please make checks payable to "City of Montclair." Payment can also be made by credit card; please call (909) 625-9457 to make arrangements.

New plaques will be dedicated on Memorial Day, May 29, 2023, and will remain on the Veteran's Memorial Wall as an ongoing dedication to those who served our country during any war or peacetime.

The application is included on page 27.

Country Fair Jamboree

The 9th Annual Country Fair Jamboree will be held on Saturday, June 3rd, from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Alma Hofman Park. More details will be announced soon.

Any employees interested in volunteering at the Jamboree should contact Recreation Coordinator Emily Gomez-Medina at ext. 482.

Holly Jolly Holiday Event

On Thursday, December 1, 2022, at the Montclair Youth Center, children of all ages were delighted with the annual lighting of the City Christmas Tree and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Holly Jolly Holiday event sponsored by the Montclair Community Activities Commission (CAC). Music from the Montclair High School Jazz Band led by Director of Bands Anthony Caro had everyone in the Christmas spirit. In addition, the community enjoyed free photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, complimentary refreshments, multiple family photo opportunities, and an area to write letters to Santa.

This annual community favorite event brings hundreds of people out each year to celebrate the joy and magic of the season as approximately 400 guests attended, including Mayor Javier John Dutrey, City Council Member Corysa Martinez, representatives from the offices of Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and County Supervisor Curt Hagman, and many City employees.

Special thanks go to the CAC, Public Works Department, IT Department, CAC Vice-Chairperson Richard Escalante, and Recreation Coordinator Deondra Gutierrez for serving as Santa and Mrs. Claus, the Montclair Police Department, the Montclair High School Key Club volunteers, the Women's Club of Montclair, and the Human Services Department staff for decorating and creating a memorable event for the community.

Photos are shared on page 28.

Holiday Home Decoration Contest

The Montclair Community Activities Commission (CAC) recognized the 2022 Holiday Home Decoration Contest winners at the City Council meeting held on December 19, 2022. The CAC judged nineteen homes, and three winners were selected:

- Welcome to Snowman Land 10169 Camulos Avenue
- Once Upon a Christmas Time 10990 Kimberly Avenue
- Journey to the North Pole 10049 Marion Avenue

The winners received a framed certificate and a \$50 gift card to the restaurant or business of their choice.

Montclair Holiday Food and Toy Basket Program

On Monday, December 19, 2022, many City staff members and volunteers participated in the City's annual sorting of food and toys. On Tuesday, December 20th, Montclair families in need received generous baskets of donated toys and food. Donations from City staff members, local businesses, and community members helped provide baskets for 118 families. We also received a special donation of turkeys from Costco.

As always, it was wonderful to see the appreciation from the families that received the baskets.

Special acknowledgment goes to the volunteers from the Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments, Montclair Place, as well as staff from OMSD Health and Wellness Services, and business and community members, for giving their time and energy to make the holidays so much brighter for the less fortunate families in our community.

Photos are shared on page 29.

Montclair After School Program (MAP) Annual Arts Workshop

On Saturday, January 14th, the Montclair After-School Program hosted its annual art workshop for staff. The goal of the workshop was to equip staff with the tools needed to present the art curriculum to program participants successfully. Staff learned about various artists, their masterpieces, and the innovative techniques the artists used to create their works of art. MAP staff will present the art curriculum to program participants during January and February.

Photos are shared on page 30.

Military Banner Presentation

Banners honoring Montclair military members are displayed annually throughout Montclair. In addition, the banners of those who have been discharged are presented to the veterans and/or their families every January.

At the City Council meeting on January 17th, six banners were presented to recently discharged Montclair veterans.

The honorees this year included:

Andrew Beltran Jr.	Navy	2016-2022
Esmeralda Bocardo	Marines	2018-2022
Mark Koeller	Army	2018-2022
Stephanie Mejia	Navy	2015-2022
Jakob Ryan Plant	Marines	2019-2022
Christopher G. Taffoya	Army	2001-2022

Our sincere appreciation goes out to these and all veterans for their service to the United States of America!

Photos from the presentation are featured on page 31.

Montclair to College

On Tuesday, February 7th, the Montclair to College (MTC) Scholarship Program held an informational night at Montclair High School. Chaffey College Outreach Specialist Osmara Torreblanca, City of Montclair's Assistant Director of Human Services & Grants Manager Alyssa Colunga, and City of Montclair's Recreation Coordinator Angela Franco welcomed Montclair High School students and their families and encouraged them to take advantage of the great opportunity to receive two free years of college at Chaffey College.

Those in attendance learned about the many opportunities with Chaffey College and received information from the departments of Financial Aid, Transfer Center, Disability Programs and Services, and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services.

MTC is a one-of-a-kind college readiness program brought to Montclair High School students and their families by the City of Montclair and Montclair Community Foundation. If completed successfully, MTC allows students to earn a two-year scholarship to Chaffey College, valued at approximately \$4,500, including tuition, textbooks, parking, and other fees. Other benefits of enrolling in MTC include a dedicated counselor for all MTC students at Chaffey College and two-year priority registration. The deadline for students in 12th grade to submit the Montclair to College application and community service is March 1, 2023

Youth and Adult Sports Leagues

Youth Basketball League – Winter 2023

The City of Montclair's Youth Basketball League is back! On Saturday, January 7th, sixteen teams of over 144 players from grades 1-8 and 22 volunteer coaches took the court inside the Montclair Community Center for the first time in three years! Game days are every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. through March 4th. All are welcome to stop by and support the players.

Youth Volleyball League – Spring 2023 Registration Open!

The Youth Volleyball League is back this spring! Registration is from January 30th through February 24th at the Recreation Center, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The league is open to youth born between 2009 and 2012 or in 5th through 8th grade for the 2022–2023 school year. The league fee is \$30, which includes a jersey and medal. All players are required to attend a mandatory skills assessment at the Montclair Community Center on Saturday, March 11, 2023. Practices begin the week of March 20th and are held in the Montclair Community Center. Games are played on Saturdays for six weeks, beginning the week of April 15th and finishing Saturday, May 20, 2023, in the Montclair Community Center.

Volunteer coaches are needed for all divisions. In addition, all coaches are required to be fingerprinted by the Montclair Police Department.

For more information, please call Recreation Coordinator Ramon Ramirez at (909) 625-9481 or email rramirez@cityofmontclair.org.

Adult Volleyball and Basketball Leagues - Winter 2023

Adult Sports Leagues are also back! Games started the week of January 9th. Women's Adult Volleyball plays Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. through March 21st, and Men's Adult Basketball plays on Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. through March 30th. Please feel free to stop by and cheer on the players!

Senior Center Activities

The Montclair Senior Center hosted themed birthday parties for December and January during the Senior Lunch Program, including "Holiday Party" and "New Year's," attended by over 100 seniors. Birthday honorees received certificates of recognition from the offices of Senator Susan Rubio, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, and County Supervisor Curt Hagman. Other special activities included celebrating winter with Fun Fridays, Lunar New Year, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Montclair Senior Center also hosted a Valentine's Day Dance on February 14th. Seniors celebrated love and friendship with a DJ, a photo booth, games, desserts, refreshments, and lots of dancing.

The February Senior Birthday Party is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2023, for the senior lunch program, and the theme will be Mardi Gras.

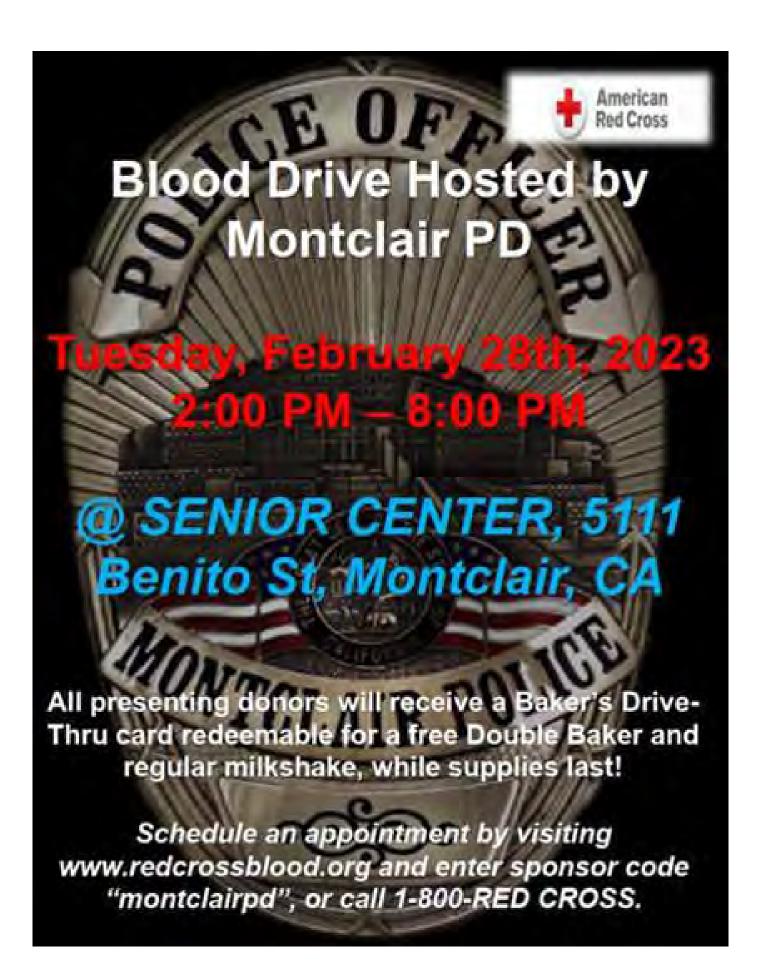
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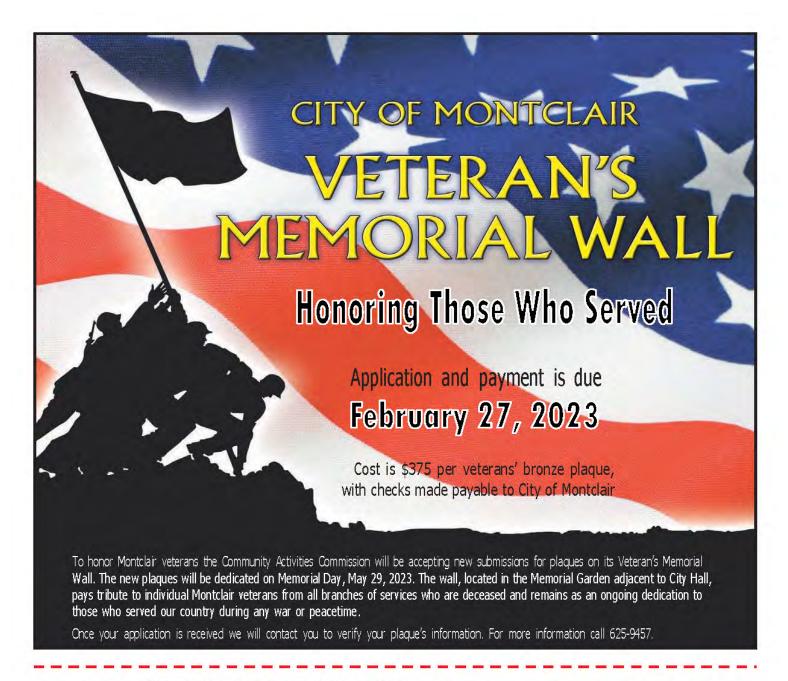
FEBRUARY 2023			
Day	Event & Location	Time	
Mon. 27	Planning Commission Meeting — CANCELLED		
Tues. 28	Blood Drive Hosted by Montclair Police Department Montclair Senior Center	2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	

MARCH 2023			
Day	Event & Location	Time	
Weds.	Community Activities Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.	
Mon. 6	City Council Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.	
Sat. 11	Free Community Document Shredding Event Civic Center Parking Lot (north)	9:00 a.m. – Noon	
Mon. 13	Planning Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.	
Tues. 14	Parks and Recreation Master Plan Senior Center	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	
Thurs.	Public Works Committee Theater Conference Room	4:00 p.m.	
Mon. 20	Real Estate/Public Safety Committee Theater Conference Room	5:30 p.m.	
	Code Enforcement/Public Safety Committee Theater Conference Room	6:00 p.m.	
	City Council Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.	
Mon. 27	Planning Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.	

Agendas for meetings include instructions for all participation options and can be viewed on the City's website at least 72 hours before each (regular) meeting at: www.cityofmontclair.org/agendas/.

More event details can be found on the City's website at: http://www.cityofmontclair.org/events/, .../community-programs/, and .../news/.





YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

_____ ZIP CODE_____





2022 Holiday Food and Toy Basket Program





























Date: Saturday, March 11, 2023

Time: 9 AM- 12 PM or until shredding truck reaches capacity

Location: Montclair City Hall

Address: 5111 Benito Street, Montclair CA 91763

Preregister at: SBCshredding031123.eventbrite.com





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