



**DATE:** June 1, 2023

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

# CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT APRIL AND MAY 2023

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Council Washington D.C. Advocacy Trip

In April 2023, Mayor John Dutrey, Mayor Pro Tem Tenice Johnson, and Council Member Corysa Martinez met with Congress Members Norma Torres and Judy Chu, staff representatives for Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla and Congressman Adam Schiff, and representatives from the Department of Transportation, COPS Program and Economic Development Administration to discuss a variety of issues important to Montclair. Below is a summary of the Montclair team's intense, 2.5-day meeting schedule.

#### **Congresswoman Norma Torres**

- Gold Line Extension Funding
  - The Montclair Team asked Congresswoman Torres to spearhead a joint congressional letter with Congress Members Chu, Napolitano, and Schiff, urging the Foothill Gold Line Extension Construction Authority (Construction Authority) and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) to maintain the Gold Line Extension from Pomona to Montclair as their top priority transit project and, if necessary, to consider federalizing the project in the event state funding does not develop. Congresswoman Torres agreed to take the lead on the letter, to be prepared by the City Manager's Office. In addition, Congresswoman Torres indicated frustration with the lack of progress in completing the Gold Line extension to Montclair. She was disappointed that the project did not secure funding from the state's \$96 billion surplus budget during Fiscal Year 2022-23.
- 2. Montclair Transcenter Facilities Enhancement Project
  - Through the Community Project Funds program, Congresswoman Torres is requesting \$5,600,000 for the Montclair Transcenter Facilities Enhancement Project. The project, if approved, would include enhancements to existing

facilities, including new furniture, shade structures, perimeter fencing, landscaping, a bike storage facility, and an information/ticket/refreshment kiosk.

- 3. Montclair Transcenter Parking Structure and City acquisition of Transcenter parcel from Caltrans
  - The Montclair Team addressed the City's desire and intent to acquire the Transcenter property from Caltrans through State legislation and enter into a public-private partnership to construct high-density housing, a modern transit facility, and a multi-level parking structure on the site.
- 4. Central Avenue Bridge Replacement Project
  - The Montclair Team reaffirmed the City's commitment to replace the existing Central Avenue Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks with a new, wider bridge—Caltrans has determined that the bridge needs to be replaced or refurbished at a cost of approximately \$45 million. Congresswoman Torres indicated her support and advocacy for the bridge project and encouraged Montclair staff to submit grant applications for DOT funding.

#### Congresswoman Judy Chu

- 1. Gold Line Extension Funding
  - Congresswoman Chu expressed support for completing the Gold Line Extension to Montclair and indicated a willingness to sign a Congressional Joint Letter to LA Metro and the Construction Authority advocating for the project.

#### Jamie Thompson/Transportation Director, Office of Congressman Adam Schiff

- 1. Gold Line Extension Funding
  - Mr. Thompson indicated that Congressman Adam Schiff, regarded as the Grandfather of the extension of the Gold Line east of Los Angeles, would agree to a Congressional Letter to LA Metro and the Construction Authority advocating for the extension from Pomona to Montclair.

#### Joseph Ciccone/Legislative Director, Office of Representative Grace Napolitano

- 1. Gold Line Extension Funding
  - Mr. Ciccone indicated that Congresswoman Grace Napolitano would be agreeable to signing on to a Congressional Letter to LA Metro and the Construction Authority advocating for the project.

#### Freda Pachter/Transportation Director, Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein

- Gold Line Extension Funding
  - Ms. Pachter indicated that Senator Feinstein would be willing to consider introducing a separate letter urging the Construction Authority and LA Metro to maintain the Gold Line extension from Pomona to Montclair as their top priority transit project and to consider federalizing the project in the event state funding

does not develop. Ms. Pachter asked to be kept informed regarding Congresswoman Torres' actions in this regard.

#### 2. Central Avenue Bridge Replacement Project

 The Montclair Team advised of the City's commitment to replace the existing Central Avenue Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks with a new, wider bridge—Caltrans has determined that the bridge needs to be replaced or refurbished at approximately \$45 million. Ms. Pachter indicated Senator Feinstein's support and advocacy for the bridge project and encouraged Montclair staff to submit grant applications for DOT funding.

# Sam Mahood, Transportation Director, and Andrew Baratta, Transportation Aide Office of Senator Alex Padilla

#### Gold Line Extension Funding

 Misters Mahood and Baratta indicated that Senator Padilla would be willing to consider introducing a separate letter (or joint letter with Senator Feinstein) urging the Construction Authority and LA Metro to maintain the Gold Line extension from Pomona to Montclair as their top priority transit project and to consider federalizing the project in the event state funding does not develop. Misters Mahood and Baratta asked to be kept informed regarding Congresswoman Torres' actions in this regard.

#### 2. Central Avenue Bridge Replacement Project

• The Montclair Team advised of the City's commitment to replace the existing Central Avenue Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks with a new, wider bridge—Caltrans has determined that the bridge needs to be replaced or refurbished at a cost of approximately \$45 million. Misters Mahood and Baratta indicated Senator Padilla's support and advocacy for the bridge project and encouraged Montclair staff to submit grant applications for DOT funding.

#### **COPS Office, Katherine McQuay**

#### 1. COPS Grant.

 Ms. McQuay discussed with the City team various COPS office grants, including the New Hire program, the Community Policing Development (micro) grant program, the School Violence Prevention Program, and the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act program. All programs currently have open Notice of Funding Opportunities which closed in mid-May. In addition, Montclair PD has submitted various grant application requests for respondents to available COPS office grants.

#### **Economic Development Administration, Daria Daniel, Congressional Affairs Specialist**

 Montclair Transcenter Parking Structure and City acquisition of Transcenter parcel from Caltrans  The Montclair Team addressed the City's intent to acquire the Transcenter property from Caltrans through State legislation and enter into a public-private partnership to construct high-density housing, a modern transit facility, and a multi-level parking structure on the site. Ms. Daniel discussed EDA rolling grant possibilities and recommended that Montclair staff meet with EDA's Los Angeles Field Representative, Will Marshall, to discuss project funding opportunities.

#### **Department of Transportation**

- Central Avenue Bridge Replacement Project
  - The Montclair Team reaffirmed the City's commitment to replace the existing Central Avenue Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks with a new, wider bridge—Caltrans has determined that the bridge needs to be replaced or refurbished at the cost of approximately \$45 million—Montclair currently has a \$15 million local match for the project.
  - DOT officials discussed the upcoming Bridge Discretionary Grant Program, which should be released in June or July 2023.
  - DOT officials urged Montclair staff to contact Caltrans District 8 to discuss Bridge Formula Funds made available to Caltrans through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
  - DOT recommends that Montclair staff look at the State Highway Safety Improvement Program and the federal Safe Streets and All Roads Grant Program for project funding.
  - DOT representatives concluded by recommending that Montclair staff review the Reconnecting Communities Program as well as review the DOT website for additional information.

Congratulations to Mayor Dutrey, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, and Council Member Martinez for a successful and jam-packed Washington D.C. advocacy trip on behalf of the Montclair community. The City of Montclair looks forward to capitalizing on the Montclair Team's advocacy for each of the above topics.

# The Women's Club of Montclair Celebrates 50 Years with Bench Donation to Sunset Park

In celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, the Women's Club of Montclair (formerly the Montclair-Ontario Junior Women's Club) donated a stone bench to the City of Montclair for the community to enjoy at Sunset Park. The bench was delivered and installed in March with the assistance of Public Works Operations Assistant Manager Alex Cardona, under a shady tree along the sidewalk that passes by the community fruit park.

The City of Montclair is grateful for the Women's Club of Montclair's generous donation, which we know residents and visitors will enjoy as they relax in the park.







Women's Club of Montclair members, from left to right, starting with the back row: Treasurer Sue Yoakum, Vice President Tenice Johnson, Corysa Martinez, Laurie Milhiser, Secretary Marcia Richter, Diane Wells, Nicola Martinez, and President Andrea Myrick

The Women's Club of Montclair is active in supporting Montclair activities, co-sponsoring an annual Bingo fundraiser with the Montclair Senior Citizens Club, and providing scholarships for Montclair youth.

If you are interested in joining the Women's Club of Montclair and would like more information, please visit <a href="https://www.womensclubofmontclair.org">https://www.womensclubofmontclair.org</a>.

# Housing Unit Increase

Data recently released by Governor Newsom's Administration show that in 2022 California added homes to its housing stock at a faster clip than at any time since the Great Recession—123,350 additional housing units were constructed, for an increase of 0.85% year-to-year.

During 2022, the state's population declined, marking the <u>third year in a row</u><sup>1</sup> that California had seen an outward migration of residents—the three-year period represents the first time the state's population declined since 1900 when the U.S. Census Bureau started collecting population migration estimates. Put the increase in housing units and population declines together, and a surprising statistic emerges: **There are now more housing units per person—3,770 units for every 10,000 Californians—than there have been since at least 1991**.

For a state that has long suffered from too many people living in too few homes, the housing construction-population migration dynamic leads to the following question: Do the migration of residents to other states and the increase in housing construction translate to an end to California's perennial housing shortage? Effectively, the answer is no.

There is no consensus on how many more homes the state would need to build (or how many more people would need to move out) before state officials can call an end to California's housing crisis—an environment where rents and home prices fall within reach of working- and middle-class Californians. Yet, while housing experts fail to agree on how much available housing the state might need to attain affordability, there is universal agreement that many more housing units need to be constructed.

### What is the Genesis for Migration Away from California?

People who move out of state cite employment, housing, or family as the primary reason, with much of the outflow <u>driven by California's high cost of living</u><sup>2</sup>—since 2015, an estimated 500,000 adult residents cited housing as the primary reason for leaving. In June 2020, the median price of an existing single-family home shot up from \$626,170 to a peak of \$900,170 in May 2022, according to data compiled by the California Association of Realtors. That's an increase of 44% in less than two years. Since then, high-interest rates have brought California's housing inflation back down slightly. However, the median price in March 2023 was still 29% above where it was three years earlier at \$791,490,3 more than twice the <u>national median of \$375,700</u>4.

When the state's housing costs increase, some residents make the decision to move to more affordable states. A <u>statewide survey by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)</u><sup>5</sup> finds that 34 percent of Californians have seriously considered leaving the state because of high housing costs. For a much smaller subsector, political philosophy may play a role for some residents who choose to relocate—another PPIC study has determined that <u>conservatives</u> are more likely to contemplate leaving the state than liberals.<sup>6</sup>

A shrinking population, driven largely by outward migration, provides an escape valve for some of the pressure to construct new homes. However, according to an analysis conducted by USC demographers for the California Association of Realtors, demand for homes is expected to stay strong given how large the millennial generation is and how many are now

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://calmatters.org/politics/2021/05/california-population-shrink-exodus/

https://www.ppic.org/blog/whos-leaving-california-and-whos-moving-in/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.car.org/en/marketdata/data/housingdata

<sup>4</sup> https://www.nar.realtor/research-and-statistics/housing-statistics/existing-home-sales

<sup>5</sup> https://www.ppic.org/publication/ppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-their-government-february-2023/

<sup>6</sup> https://www.ppic.org/blog/the-politics-of-leaving-california/

reaching a baby-having age. The analysis also notes that if the California migration is a cure to the state's housing shortage, it's also a symptom. Of the approximately 8.1 million Californians who moved out of the state from 2010 through 2022, older residents left because they cashed in on the value of their homes; conversely, the young people leaving have done so primarily for the reason that they cannot afford to buy a house in the state.

Housing experts argue that even if the total number of Californians continues its gradual downward decline, more homes are needed to house the roughly 38 million Californians remaining, including the 5.8 million who moved to California during the same 2010 through 2022 period that saw a net migration out of the state.

### How Big is California's Housing Shortage?

In 2000, a report issued by California's Department of Housing and Community Development (CDHCD) estimated that the state would need to build 220,000 additional units<sup>8</sup> each year for two decades to meet the needs of what was then still a growing population. Unfortunately, that level of housing growth did not occur, and even last year's growth in home construction is approximately 100,000 units below the 2000 goal established by the CDHCD.

CDHCD revised its estimate in 2018,9 suggesting that 180,000 units per year need to be constructed through 2025. Last year, in putting together housing goals for regions across the state, the CDHDC put forth its multi-pronged Statewide Housing Plan, 10 arguing for adding up to 2.5 million new homes over the next eight years (or 315,000 per year). Adding further to the confusion on how many housing units need to be constructed, Governor Newsom, in his 2023-24 Budget Revise, estimates the need at 148,000 new units per year. 11

It is evident that the lack of a clear and single definition for "housing shortage" is the primary reason why estimates vary related to the need for new construction. In 2015, for example, the Legislative Analyst's Office framed the housing shortage issue with the following question: "How many units would the state have had to build between 1980 and 2010 to keep the median value of an owner-occupied home increasing at the same rate as the rest of the nation, rather than skyrocketing so much higher, as it has for the last half-century?" In answering its own question, the LAO estimated the total should have been 210,000 housing units each year<sup>12</sup>—an annual mark that California has reached only five times since 1980 and not once since 1990.

Adding to the mix, the global consulting firm McKinsey & Company, in October 2016, estimated in its Tool Kit to Close California's Housing Gap<sup>13</sup> that California needs to construct 3.5 million homes by 2025. McKinsey based its estimate on its own version of the state's housing problem: the number of new units required to bring California's houses-to-people ratio in line with that of the rest of the country.

<sup>7</sup> https://www.ppic.org/blog/whos-leaving-california-and-whos-moving-in/8 https://escholarship.org/content/qt1391n947/qt1391n947.pdf?t=lnqfw6

<sup>9</sup> https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/docs/sha\_final\_combined.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/94729ab1648d43b1811c1698a748c136

https://ebudget.ca.gov/2023-24/pdf/Revised/BudgetSummary/EconomicOutlook.pdf

https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2015/finance/housing-costs/housing-costs.aspx

<sup>13</sup> http://tinyurl.com/4ayjmhnm

#### Is California's Housing Crisis Moving in the Right Direction?

The 2022 construction number of 123,350 additional housing units, if sustained, is a clear indication that California is moving in a more encouraging direction. In addition, since 2020, roughly 430,000 new homes have been constructed in the state, and some 821,000 residents have moved out of California, narrowing the housing gap.

According to researchers at the PPIC, if the state continues to construct housing at the current pace with very slow population growth or essentially no population growth, then the housing crisis will diminish significantly. But conversely, if the goal established by McKinsey & Company for 3.5 million housing units by 2025 is closer to the mark, then California is a long way from resolving its housing crisis.

The housing shortfall is, in fact, a moving target, and one that (i) follows the boom-and-bust cycle of the building industry; (ii) demographic transitions among residents—i.e., young Californians grow old enough to move out on their own while older residents die off, and still other residents choose to migrate out of California while immigrants and residents of other states move to California; and (iii) people's housing wants and needs change and evolve.

#### Did the COVID Pandemic Exacerbate the Housing Crisis

The COVID pandemic was a particularly dramatic driver of change in the housing market. Eager to keep COVID at bay and seeking more space to work from home, many Californians sharing housing units dumped their roommates when they could and sought out places to live on their own, resulting in what the PPIC has labeled the "spreading out.14" The trend toward fewer people living in each home appears to be nationwide and long-term. Over the last 40 years, the number of people living alone doubled across the country. The pandemic, however, put the trend on overdrive—a trend that has only worsened the state's housing shortage. By the beginning of 2023, with the worst of the pandemic presumably behind us, the number of Californians per household hit a record low of 2.77. Unfortunately, for the present, there is no sign that congregate living will resume soon.

# Housing Trust Fund

In 2011, as part of his effort to balance the state budget, Governor Jerry Brown and the State Legislature enacted two pieces of legislation that targeted community redevelopment agencies (RDAs) throughout the State of California:

- 1. AB X1 26 would eliminate California's RDAs by denying them the ability to borrow, acquire property and adopt or amend redevelopment plans, among other things.
- 2. AB X1 27 would allow RDAs to continue to exist, but only if the cities and counties that created them "voluntarily" agreed to make payments to benefit State schools and special districts. These payments for the 2011-2012 fiscal year would total \$1.7 billion, with \$400 million to schools and special districts in subsequent budget years.

<sup>14</sup> https://www.ppic.org/blog/shrinking-household-size-strains-californias-housing-market/

https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/families/households.html

The California Redevelopment Agency Association sued California in an effort to strike down both pieces of legislation. In December 2011, the California Supreme Court, in <u>Cal. Redevelopment Assoc. v. Matosantos</u><sup>16</sup> held that AB X1 26, the bill designed to eliminate redevelopment agencies, is "a proper exercise of legislative power vested in the Legislature" under the California Constitution because that power includes the right to create entities, such as RDAs, to implement State goals. Along with this power to create, the Court concluded, comes the power to dissolve the same entities when the Legislature deems it necessary and proper.

Conversely, the Court determined that AB X1 27 was invalid under <u>Proposition 22</u>,<sup>17</sup> passed in November 2010—Proposition 22 prohibits the State from redirecting funds required to be used for local government projects and services to other uses for the State's benefit. Unfortunately for RDAs, the Court determined that Proposition 22 invalidated AB X1 27 in its entirety, leaving no option but for the elimination of RDAs.

As it turns out, *Matosantos* eliminated a massive trove of funding for affordable housing development in California. Under the State's redevelopment law and its twenty-percent set-aside rule, 20% of all RDA funding derived from property tax increment (nearly \$1 billion a year) was available for dedication to affordable housing production in the 400 jurisdictions that operated RDAs. Following the elimination of RDAs, the lack of affordable housing has elevated into a major housing crisis in California.

Several California counties have sought to address the growing lack of affordable housing by establishing regional housing trusts to provide a mechanism to raise and leverage available funds to support the creation of housing, with a focus on affordable housing.

There are approximately 48 affordable housing trusts in California, whose members include more than 60 local jurisdictions. For example, housing trusts in Southern California include the West Hollywood Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the Orange County Housing Finance Trust, the Skid Row Housing Trust, the Santa Monica Citywide Housing Trust Fund, the County of Ventura Housing Trust Fund, and the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust.

In recent years, through the active involvement of State Senator Susan Rubio, the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust, administered by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) and formed by Senate Bill 751 to fund and finance the planning and construction of homeless housing, and extremely low, very low, and low-income housing projects in the San Gabriel Valley, has had tremendous success in securing nearly \$25 million in State funding for affordable housing development and homelessness assistance. To date, the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust has opened three tiny home bridge housing sites for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, helped finance over 550 affordable housing units in seven cities, and established a revolving loan fund to help cities with acquisition and predevelopment expenses for affordable housing development.

-

https://scocal.stanford.edu/opinion/cal-redevelopment-assoc-v-matosantos-34044

<sup>17</sup> https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2010/22\_11\_2010.aspx

In 2022 Senator Rubio sought to introduce legislation that would have allowed the cities of Montclair, Ontario, and Chino to join the SGVCOG Housing Trust Fund; however, the proposed bill failed to move forward after Chino and Ontario failed to demonstrate interest.

Senator Rubio has since introduced a housing bill that will help local governments address the affordable housing shortage and homelessness crisis by establishing a framework for California cities seeking to create a regional housing trust. Senate Bill 20<sup>18</sup> would provide local communities with clarity and guidance by establishing a state framework for regional housing trusts to fund housing to assist low-income and unhoused individuals and families. The bill allows regional housing trusts to receive public and private financing and funds and authorize and issue bonds to fund housing units' planning, acquisition, and construction. The bill also requires all regional housing trusts to maximize transparency and accountability through annual financial reporting and auditing requirements.

Acting on the momentum to establish Housing Trusts, the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) proposes to administer a regional housing trust designed to address regional housing needs while minimizing the duplication of resources across San Bernardino County.

SBCOG worked with the City/County Managers Technical Advisory Committee in 2022 to conduct research, analysis, and outreach to create a structure for how a regional housing trust would work in San Bernardino. In addition, the SBCOG hired consultants to develop a White Paper<sup>19</sup> and Strategic Plan<sup>20</sup> to support its research.

On April 5, 2023, the SBCOG Board of Directors initiated the process of establishing the San Bernardino Regional Housing Trust (SBRHT), including establishing a new Joint Powers Authority. Montclair anticipates being a partner in the San Bernardino Regional Housing Trust when it is formed later in 2024-25.

The following questions and responses clarify the purpose and benefits associated with joining a regional housing trust.

#### What is a regional housing trust?

A regional housing trust is a program or independent organization that raises funding for housing construction, preservation, and rehabilitation, often concentrated on affordable housing, homeless housing services, down payment assistance, gap financing, supporting housing trusts, and related activities. The goals of a housing trust are to create affordable housing and/or homelessness solutions by leveraging new funding sources.

#### How are housing trusts funded?

Housing trusts receive financial support from a variety of sources. Some of the most common funding categories include dedicated funding from local jurisdictions, State and federal grants, bonds, and private donations. Importantly, significant funding sources are only accessible to

<sup>18</sup> https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\_id=202320240SB20

<sup>19</sup> https://www.gosbcta.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SB\_Housing\_Trust\_White\_Paper\_April\_2022.pdf

<sup>20</sup> https://www.gosbcta.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SBCTA\_Strategic\_Plan\_Compressed.pdf

housing trusts and not available to local jurisdictions, making membership in a housing trust important for developing affordable housing in member jurisdictions.

#### What are the benefits of an affordable housing trust fund?

In general, housing trusts provide a variety of quality housing types and options for those who might otherwise struggle to afford housing. Assistance includes housing support for lower and middle-income earners such as teachers, service workers, warehouse and logistics personnel, and other essential workers. Depending on how a regional housing trust is administered, benefits can include (i) providing housing and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness; (ii) bringing outside money to the region, not otherwise accessible; and (iii) improving the quality of existing affordable housing to improve quality of life for residents and neighbors. Effective housing trusts achieve these outputs by leveraging new funding sources rather than redirecting existing funding sources.

#### How would the administration of a housing trust fund work?

SBCOG's proposed housing trust fund would most likely be structured as a hybrid nonprofit-Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The housing trust could potentially leverage the administrative support and executive leadership of SBCOG to achieve efficiencies, with oversight from its governing board. The trust would establish a JPA for the 24 cities and towns in San Bernardino County and the unincorporated areas of the County. The SBCOG would administer the trust on behalf of the JPA, with operating costs offset by the housing trust fund's resources.

# How does a housing trust fund enhance existing local and County affordable housing efforts?

A key differentiation is access to funding. Affordable housing trust funds are able to compete for additional funding not generally available to local and county housing authorities. A primary function of the program will be to raise funds from new sources and operate programs that complement—and do not compete with—the work of existing agencies in the subregion. Some of the key strategies that housing trusts can leverage include (i) flexible sources of gap financing such as revolving loan funds; (ii) the ability to compete for State funds such as the Local Housing Trust Program; (iii) tailored solutions to address regional needs related to homelessness; and (iv) the ability to pool resources to help funds go further.

#### How would a city or county join a regional housing trust fund?

A local government would agree to take formal action to join the housing trust fund JPA by adopting a resolution at the local level. The trust would require a minimum threshold (membership payment) for membership. If a jurisdiction decides to join after the initial opt-in period, that agency will pay an additional joining fee equal to the administrative fee. If a jurisdiction does not participate in the trust, it would not be eligible to receive any funding or program services the trust offers.

#### What are the costs of participating in a regional housing trust fund?

SBCOG estimates that an affordable housing trust fund will require approximately \$230,000 annually in total annual contributions from participating jurisdictions for the first five to ten

years of operation until the housing trust fund achieves financial independence. Member dues would be based on a combination of factors such as the jurisdiction's population, jobs, and anticipated growth and may range from \$1,500 to \$50,000, depending on which factors are selected, how many jurisdictions choose to participate, and other local criteria. Membership dues would ensure ongoing revenues for trust operations and cover the administrative and staffing costs of establishing and growing the housing trust fund.

#### What kinds of programs and activities do housing trust funds operate?

Approved activities could include new construction of affordable housing, predevelopment activities for affordable housing, down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers, preservation or rehabilitation of existing affordable housing, support for community land trusts, and establishment of housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness.

#### How would housing trust funds be allocated across the region?

Housing trust bylaws embedded in an administrative plan would establish a methodology for investing funds across the region. Allocation methodologies generally leverage funds to their greatest potential without imposing absolute geographic restrictions on housing trust fund expenditures.

#### Why join a regional affordable housing trust fund instead of creating local funds?

Cities and counties can form their own housing trusts; however, most jurisdictions have limited staff, time, and funding to administer a housing trust fund. Similar to a regional approach to transportation, a regional housing fund will avoid unnecessary strain on the limited resources of local jurisdictions while leveraging the region's collaborative strengths, relieving the pressure of local housing needs through a regional approach to housing. A regional housing trust is anticipated to secure more funding to invest in the region than the aggregate of any individually managed local programs.

# The United States on Verge of a Debt Limit Crisis

At the time of this writing, the U.S. government is on the verge of a debt limit crisis—the debt limit, or debt ceiling, is the legislatively mandated cap on how much the federal government can borrow. Raising the debt limit is not an authorization for new spending; rather, it increases the capacity of the federal government to borrow money to pay existing obligations and commitments of the United States. In other words, the debt limit is the total amount of money the United States government is authorized to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations, including Social Security and Medicare benefits, military salaries, interest on the national debt, tax refunds, and other payments.

By all accounts, the \$31.4 trillion debt limit has already been reached, requiring the Department of Treasury (DOT) to use "extraordinary measures" to pay the bills of the U.S. government. The "extraordinary measures" include, but are not limited to, suspending investments in various programs, including the Civil Service Retirement Fund—a step akin to

.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> https://www.npr.org/2023/01/19/1150006177/debt-limit-ceiling-political-fight-janet-yellen

the California state government and local governments suspending payments into the California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS), thereby harming retirees reliant on CalPERS' monthly annuity. The special measures undertaken by the DOT are essentially accounting maneuvers that have allowed the U.S. to avoid breaching the debt limit. Police agencies identify several advantages related to body-worn cameras:

The DOT states that the effectiveness of the "extraordinary measures" will cease on or about June 1, 2023; thereafter, failure to raise the debt limit is likely to result in default at the federal level, i.e., the inability of the federal government to make good on its promise to pay its debts.

Default by the U.S. government is projected to be economically disastrous, sending shock waves through global financial markets and triggering a worldwide recession at least on par with the Great Recession of 2007 to 2009.

#### What is the debt limit, and why does it exist?

The debt limit<sup>22</sup> is a legislative cap on the total amount of government borrowing, first enacted by Congress during World War I. The debt limit was designed to grant the DOT blanket authorization to borrow money to finance the government's spending up to the established legislative limit.

Raising the debt limit has typically been a routine act of Congress. Since 1960, Congress has raised the debt limit 78 times.23 In recent years, however, raising the debt limit has digressed into a rancorous debate in Congress. The debt limit was last raised in 2021 to \$31.4 trillion, where it currently stands.

#### Are the Debt Limit and National Debt the same thing?

Almost every year, the government spends more than it collects in taxes—this gap between revenue and expenditures represents the "deficit." To eliminate the deficit, the federal government borrows money to close the revenue-expenditure gap—this borrowing of money. and the balance owed on the borrowing (including principal and interest), represents the National Debt. Raising the current \$31.4 trillion debt limit allows the federal government, in this case, to borrow money beyond the debt limit to meet its obligations authorized under successive federal budgets. Unlike the U.S. government, states and local governments are required to balance their annual budgets and eliminate deficits either by using reserve funds or by reducing expenditures. State and local governments can, however, accumulate debt through borrowing. For example, in 2021, the City of Montclair issued lease revenue bonds to borrow money to finance infrastructure improvements throughout the City. This borrowing constitutes a debt to the City. Montclair makes annual payments on the debt through a commitment of tax revenues until the bonds are matured.

<sup>22</sup> https://bipartisanpolicy.org/debt-limit-through-the-years/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-markets-financial-institutions-and-fiscal-service/debt-limit

#### Where does the U.S. Government's debt come from?

Deficit spending and the national debt both go back to the founding of the republic.

In the last half-century, there have been only a handful of years when the federal government did not spend more than it collected in taxes. In the last 23 years, however, the federal government experienced significant increases in expenditures generated not only by services provided by the federal government, such as Social Security and Medicare but more specifically because of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and in combating COVID-19. During the same time, tax revenues failed to keep pace with the federal government's spending, partly because of tax cuts approved during the George W. Bush Administration. They were extended in some cases by the Obama Administration and tax cuts passed during the Trump Administration. By contrast, tax increases passed during the administrations of George H.W. Bush and the Clinton administration set the stage for budget surpluses between 1998 and 2001.

### What are the biggest contributors to the federal debt?

The biggest federal programs, including Social Security and Medicare, are referred to as "mandatory spending"—they operate on autopilot and do not require annual approval. Mandatory spending accounts for an estimated 63% of the total federal budget. Other programs fall under "discretionary" spending, making up an estimated 30% of the total federal budget. Under discretionary spending, Congress decides each year whether to continue funding certain programs and by how much. The <u>largest chunk of discretionary spending</u><sup>24</sup>—nearly half—is for defense. The other major contributor to discretionary spending is interest payments on the debt.

#### How much interest is paid on the federal debt?

Interest payments on the federal debt represent the fastest-rising portion of the debt. As recently as 2021, accruing interest was at a record low of 1.6%. With rising interest rates, it is approximately 6%, but still well below the 15% interest rate reached in the mid-1990s.

The government's cost of borrowing varies according to the overall size of the debt and interest rates. For much of the last decade, the cost of borrowing had been low, primarily due to the Federal Reserve's historically low rates.

Now, with the Federal Reserve increasing interest rates in an effort to bring down inflation, payments on the debt have increased, leaving less money for other obligations.

During the last fiscal year, the federal government spent more on interest payments than transportation, housing, food, and nutrition services combined. In the final quarter of 2022, it paid a record \$213 billion in interest, up from \$63 billion during the same period from the year before.

<sup>24</sup> https://executivegov.com/articles/u-s-defense-budget-2022-how-much-does-the-united-states-spend-on-its-defense-budget

#### How is the federal debt financed?

Federal debt is financed through U.S. treasuries—government bonds backed by the DOT that are sold to investors inside and outside the U.S.

#### Who owns the debt?

About 75% of the federal debt is owned either by domestic or foreign investors, including foreign nations. The debt owned by governments abroad accounts for roughly a third of this public debt, with Japan and China topping the list.

#### What would happen if the U.S. defaulted on the debt?

Although it has never happened, the federal government came close to default<sup>25</sup> in August 2011 amid a prolonged debate in Congress on raising the debt limit, similar to what is occurring now. The delay sent stock markets into a freefall, and rating agencies downgraded 26 the U.S. from its top AAA credit rating to AA+.

Economists agree that an actual default would be far worse. Not only would the U.S. likely be downgraded again, but government workers, the military, and Social Security recipients among many others—would go unpaid. In addition, financial markets could be severely hit, with trillions in investments, including retirement investments, wiped out. For businesses and average Americans, it could become difficult to borrow money. According to economists, a recession would be all but certain without access to credit.

Other nations, particularly China, might challenge the global status of the U.S. dollar as a reserve currency<sup>27</sup> and U.S. Treasury bonds as a "safe haven" investment.

#### How does the U.S. debt compare to other countries?

The sheer size of the nation's debt in dollar figures is difficult to grasp. However, most economists agree that measuring the debt against the total value of all goods and services produced in an economy better indicates a country's ability to pay its obligations by that measure—known as the debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio—the U.S. fares better than Japan and Italy and roughly the same as Canada, France, and the United Kingdom.

#### Is paying down the debt a good thing?

The answer is complex. It can be argued that the U.S. currently has too much debt; however, paying it down too rapidly would likely create havoc in domestic and global economies due to global reliance on investments in U.S. treasuries.

Economists generally think some debt is important. The banking sector needs treasuries to sell to individuals, organizations, fiduciaries, and corporate investors. Without debt, economists believe that the U.S. economy would grind to a halt. To some degree, this scenario played out in the late 1990s and into the housing crisis of 2006 and the subsequent market meltdown that led to the Great Recession—during this period, the federal government

27 https://tinyurl.com/3zsfrnke

<sup>25</sup> https://www.voanews.com/a/five-ways-us-debt-default-would-echo-through-global-economy/6250949.html
26 https://tinyurl.com/345mnvuc

was paying down its debt too quickly, which many economists believe led to a lack of U.S. treasuries, pushing investors into certain types of mortgage-backed securities billed as safe but later proved to be toxic. The collapse of those ultimately risky securities evolved into the Great Recession.

#### What impact would defaulting on the federal debt have on local government?

- 1. Local governments need to position themselves to have liquidity, or cash on hand, to make up for any shortfall that might come from failure to receive principal and interest payments of U.S. government-issued securities or other investments.
- 2. Any breach of the debt limit could substantially drive up the cost of short-term debt. Local governments that use short-term debt for immediate bills, including those around infrastructure and capital improvements, would face rising interest rates and the inability to complete or initiate projects until the debt limit issue is resolved and interest rates return to more normal levels. For local governments nationwide, default would immediately impact funds and projects planned through the rollout of the Infrastructure Law that funds projects nationwide.
- 3. A breach of the debt ceiling would depress equity markets. <u>Moody's Analytics predicts</u><sup>28</sup> that \$10 trillion in household wealth could be lost. This would, in turn, reduce sales tax receipts as residents withdraw from spending on anything other than necessities.
- 4. Much like when COVID first hit, there is a possibility that credit markets could seize up as the unknown of what is next and what will happen takes hold. This could mean lower-rated issuers will have a more challenging time issuing debt in the market.

With the uncertainty related to the debt limit crisis and the development of Montclair's Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget in progress, City staff will make a concerted effort to plan for a recessionary outlook and ensure that the City retains liquidity on its investments to meet fiscal obligations.

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

# New Employees

Welcome to the following new employees:

- Janeane Barraza, Learning Leader, Humans Services
- Angeni Garcia, Recreation Leader, Human Services
- Guadalupe Gonzalez-Tinajero, Recreation Leader, Human Services
- Leticia Huazano, Customer Service Representative/Office Specialist, Public Works
- Jacob Marsh, Information Technology Specialist, Information Technology Department
- Jerald Norori, Recreation Leader, Human Services

City Manager's Monthly Report — April & May 2023

<sup>28</sup> https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2023/05/14/debt-ceiling-deadline-what-default-means/

- Ricardo Rodriguez, Learning Leader, Human Services
- Christine Thomas, Marketing & Promotions Coordinator, Economic Development Agency
- Joanna Vazquez-Castaneda, Police Dispatcher, Police Department
- Andrea Zamudio-Bedolla, Police Cadet, Police Department

# Internal Appointments / Promotions

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

- Carla Becerra, Housing Specialist, Economic Development Agency
- Olga Guerrero, Senior Recreation Leader, Human Services
- Rosemary Hoerning, Executive Director of Engineer/Major Projects Manager, Public Works
- Alexis Monarrez, Senior Recreation Leader, Human Services
- Jason Reed, Acting Chief of Police, Police Department

# 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:

- Jalen Askins, Recreation Leader, Human Services
- Laura Embree, Administrative Secretary, Community Development
- Issac Mendez, Police Officer, Police Department
- Mark Robles, Police Officer, Police Department

# 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 (Lateral)
- Police Dispatcher (Entry-Level)
- 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**

Plans Examiner – Community Development

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 <a href="https://www.cityofmontclair.org/employment-opportunities/">https://www.cityofmontclair.org/employment-opportunities/</a>.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

# New Business and Development Projects

We are excited to announce some development projects and businesses that are coming to our community.

### MV Builders, LLC. Office Space

A new 6,820-square-foot industrial building was approved for a vacant parcel located at 4790 Brooks Street to serve as the new home of MV Builders, LLC. MV Builders specializes in commercial remodels and repairs and is relocating from Anaheim to Montclair. The new building provides the company with office space for day-to-day business and a warehouse area to store construction materials, lumber, drywall, restaurant equipment, etc. The project continues the steady improvements being made to Brooks Street properties over the past few years.



**Existing Vacant Lot** 



Rendering design of the new building

#### The Kickin' Crab

The Kickin' Crab seafood restaurant is opening in July 2023 at 5275 Holt Boulevard within the Cardenas Marketplace shopping center. The 3,541 square foot restaurant features seafood and vegetables prepared in a Louisiana Cajun style mixed with Asian-inspired cooking. Menu items include raw and fried oysters, fried fish, fried shrimp, fried calamari, fried fish tacos, grilled shrimp tacos, garlic noodles, Cajun-style edamame, Cajun-style fries, and sweet potato fries.



### La Carniceria Meat Market Butcher Shop

La Carniceria Meat Market is coming to 9477 Central Avenue within Montclair's newly remodeled commercial center located at the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Palo Verde Street. The new butcher shop will occupy a 1,500-square-foot space and offer the finest USDA Prime cuts and a wide variety of high-quality meat such as Japanese, Australian, and American Wagyu Beef.





### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

# Innovating Commerce Serving Communities (ICSC) Conference

This year's Innovating Commerce Serving Communities conference has attracted nearly 25,000 attendees, including real estate professionals, retailers, businesses, and the public sector attending the 3-day event held May 21-23, 2023, at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The three days of professional development workshops, networking, and business development lend a prime opportunity to engage with others.

At the City's exhibitor booth, City Council Members Bill Ruh and Corysa Martinez, Director of Economic Development Agency Mikey Fuentes, Director of Community Development Mike Diaz, and Economic Services and Housing Manager Thailin Martin represented the City.

The City of Montclair's booth and over 50 public sector exhibitors are designed to bring awareness to potential business prospects about new development, leasing, and for sale opportunities within their respective communities. In addition, approximately 900 companies exhibited in the Las Vegas Convention Center halls, exceeding one million square feet in total.

The City's booth was equipped with the updated 2023 edition of the <u>Growth Opportunities and Retail Site Selection booklet</u><sup>29</sup> and other marketing materials that were handed out at the event. In addition, an electronic copy of the publication is available on the City's website. The booklet highlights the following:

- Updated trade-area demographics;
- New and upcoming commercial and urban housing developments within the City's North Montclair Downtown Specific Plan;
- North Montclair Downtown Specific Plan emphasizing a Transit Oriented District; and
- Listings of retail and industrial buildings and spaces "for sale" and "lease."

The world's largest global gathering of retail real estate professionals serves as a prime location for City staff to engage with retailers, developers, leasing agents, brokers, and public sector professionals. The City's booth allowed staff to meet with several tenant representatives for retailers and restaurants to acquaint them with site opportunities in Montclair. In addition, City staff explains what is planned or proposed or what sites are available in the City in order for retailers to consider potential sites for future development or leasing. For instance, since the CIM Group (owners of Montclair Place) booth was close to the City's booth, a few potential retailers and developers were directed to CIM's booth to speak directly with development and leasing staff.

The conference featured several educational sessions on retail and economic development issues, engaging keynotes with networking and deal-making opportunities such as:

 Professional Development Workshop: Developing where we shop, dine, live, work, and play. Leaders representing varying aspects of a mixed-use development shared

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/montclairca/uploads/2023/05/2023-ICSC-Booklet-small.pdf

how the planning, design, operations, finance, and leasing all come together to create vibrant centers and communities.

 Professional Development Workshop: investing in retail properties and structuring partnerships. Raising equity from friends and family and from institutional investors to acquire a retail property can be challenging if you do not structure the deal to ensure investors receive the tax-advantaged returns commensurate with the potential risk. Forbes Books, author of "Investing in Retail Properties," shared a reasonable preferred return, the effects of a cumulative non-compounded return compared to a cumulative compounded return, and how to structure your back-end promotion for creating value for the investment property.

The City's presence at the conference continues to enhance Montclair's image as a business-friendly City as staff seeks developers and retailers for new development and/or leasing opportunities.



From left to right: Director of Economic Development Agency Mikey Fuentes, Director of Community Development Mike Diaz, and Economic Services and Housing Manager Thailin Martin.

# 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 <a href="https://www.cityofmontclair.org/newsletter/">https://www.cityofmontclair.org/newsletter/</a>, and view past editions at <a href="https://www.cityofmontclair.org/economicdevelopmentnewsletter/">https://www.cityofmontclair.org/economicdevelopmentnewsletter/</a>

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Congratulations Officer Salvador Herrera

On Wednesday, May 24, 2023, Chief Reed presented Officer Salvador Herrera with the California Highway Patrol MASTER Pin for his 5th GTA (10851) award. Officer Herrera earned his MASTER Pin in March of this year. The 10851 pins are awarded by the California Highway Patrol, in cooperation with the Automobile Club of Southern California based on meeting certain criteria, as follows:

An officer or sergeant assigned to patrol who, during a 12-month period, meets any of the following criteria will qualify for a 10851 award.

- 1. Make 6 separate incident rolling stolen in-custody arrests, or
- 2. Recover a total of 12 stolen vehicles, of which a minimum of 3 must be rolling, or
- 3. Develop information resulting in the identification of a vehicle theft ring, subsequent arrest of 2 or more suspects, and the recovery of at least 10 vehicles.

Officers who meet one of the above requirements earn the California Highway Patrol 10851 Pin. "10851" is the California Vehicle Code Section for Grand Theft Auto (GTA). There are three types of 10851 Award Pins,

White Pin: 1st award through 4th award

• Blue Pin: MASTER level award given for 5th, 10th, 15th, & 20th awards

Gold Pin: Lifetime Achievement Award given for the 25th award

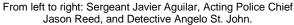
Officer Herrera's diligent efforts toward recovering stolen vehicles have been truly impressive. His efforts have made our community safer and has returned 30 stolen vehicles to their rightful owners. Congratulations, Officer Herrera!

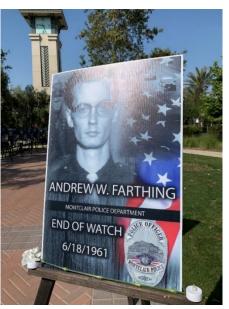


# Memorial Service for Montclair Police Department Police Officer Andrew Farthing

On Thursday, May 18, 2023, San Bernardino County's Annual Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony was held at Ontario Police Department. This annual event is held to honor the lives of the peace officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice as they faithfully served the communities of San Bernardino County. Chief Jason Reed announced Montclair Police Department's fallen officer, Andrew Farthing, who passed away in the line of duty on June 18, 1961. Sergeant Javier Aguilar and Detective Angelo St. John represented the Police Department as Honor Guards.







### FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Fire Medic Report LUCAS 3 CPR – May 9, 2023

On Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at approximately 8:00 p.m., Montclair Medic Engine 152 (ME152) responded to a reported diabetic problem at home in Montclair. While driving to the location, ME152 was advised that CPR was now being performed on the patient. Medic Engine 151 (ME151) was then requested to assist. Upon arrival, ME152 found an approximately 50-year-old man lying on the floor of his home, with the patient's family performing CPR.

ME152 personnel took over CPR while applying the new LUCAS 3 CPR device, which performs consistent, precise chest compressions and minimizes interruptions. An IV was established, and medications were administered in an attempt to restart the heart. After approximately 10 minutes of CPR and medications, the patient's pulse returned, and CPR was halted. Due to an excessively slow heart rate, paramedics used the pacemaker function of the cardiac monitor to successfully pace the patient's heart at an adequate rate.

The patient was loaded for rapid transport to the most appropriate hospital, with Montclair Fire paramedics riding in the ambulance for patient care. While on the way to the hospital, the patient regained consciousness and could converse with paramedics. The patient was taken to the Pomona Valley Hospital Emergency Department, where he is expected to recover.

All of the links in the American Heart Association's "Chain of Survival" for cardiac arrest were in place and resulted in a positive outcome.

# Sound the Alarm with American Red Cross San Bernardino Chapter

On Saturday, April 1, 2023, the Montclair Fire Department had the opportunity to partner with the American Red Cross San Bernardino Chapter for their Sound the Alarm Event. The goal of the Sound the Alarm event was to help educate homeowners and bring awareness about the importance of smoke alarms when it comes to fire safety. B-Shift personnel from both Stations 151 and 152, as well as Fire Battalion Chief Ryon Dierck, spent the day working alongside Red Cross volunteers at the Hacienda and Monterey Manor Mobile Home Estates parks to test and install smoke alarms. As a result, all volunteers at both parks installed 213 smoke alarms, and 340 residents were reached and given fire safety resources!

We look forward to partnering on future events with the American Red Cross as they work to end home fires.









# Montclair Fire Department at the Easter Eggstravaganza

On April 8, 2023 – Montclair Fire's B-Shift from Stations 151 and 152 were able to attend the City of Montclair's Easter Eggstravaganza! The Montclair Firefighters and Montclair Police Officers' Associations sponsored three prize baskets for the lucky winners!



# • Fire Incident Report – May 11, 2023

On May 11, 2023, the Montclair Fire Department responded to a reported commercial fire in the 4700 block of Holt Blvd. Upon arrival, crews faced an approximately 5,000 sq. ft. single-story strip mall with heavy smoke and fire showing. Firefighters made an aggressive attack on the involved unit and were able to prevent the spread of the fire to adjacent units. Ultimately the fire required 3 alarms, with over 60 personnel responding. Fire personnel ensured all occupants were out of the building; fortunately, no injuries or deaths resulted. Firefighters received assistance from San Bernardino County, Chino Valley, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Los Angeles County, and Rialto Fire Departments. The Montclair Fire Department saved an estimated \$2 million worth of property. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.





### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

# Reeder Ranch Park Groundbreaking Ceremony

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 3, 2023, for the Reeder Ranch Park Project. Attendees included Mayor John Dutrey, Council Member Corysa Martinez, Planning Commission Chair Manny Martinez, Vice Chair Jaso Sanchez, and Commissioners Ginger Eaton, Krishna Patel, and Sergio Sahagun.



From left to right: Mayor John Dutrey, Council Member Corysa Martinez, Planning Commissioner Sergio Sahagun, Planning Commissioner Ginger Eaton, and Vice Chair Jaso Sanchez.

Attendees also included Representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Norma Torres, Senator Susan Rubio, Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez, and County Supervisor Curt Hagman, who each presented the City with Certificate of Recognitions for this celebratory milestone.

The design architect, EPT Design, and the construction company, PUB Construction, Inc., were also in attendance. In addition, Assistant City Manager/Director of Human Services Marcia Richter, Director of Community Development Michael Diaz, Director of Economic Development Mikey Fuentes, Director of Public Works Monica Heredia, Director of Finance Janet Kulbeck, Director of Information Technology John Nguyen, Executive Director of Engineering/Major Projects Manager Rosemary Hoerning, other City staff, and I attended to support the start of this important construction project.

The Reeder Ranch Park is a significantinvestment in our community. The park will provide a beautiful and accessible space for residents to enjoy nature, recreation, and social gatherings. In addition, we envision the park as a hub for community events and a place where families can gather to make memories.

This exciting new project would not have been possible without a \$5.1 million grant from the California Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program. The estimated construction cost is \$6.5 million, and the remaining cost of the park improvement will use 2021 Lease Revenue Bond Proceeds.

This project has been a long time in the making, and we are proud to have worked with the community to design a park that meets the needs of our residents, and we are excited to see the positive impact it will have on our community.

The park will include a 2,500 square-foot recreational building with an indoor/outdoor stage, a natural playground with shades, walking trails, fitness stations, drinking fountains, bike racks, LED lighting, solar panels, picnic tables with shade structures, as well as benches and a companion seating area, which will be arranged around the playground and barbeque area; public art, parking lot, office space, storage and landscaping throughout the park.



From left to right: Planning Commissioner Krishna Patel, Director of Public Works Monica Heredia, Vice Chair Jaso Sanchez, Mayor John Dutrey, Planning Commissioner Ginger Eaton, City Manager Edward Starr, and Planning Commissioner Sergio Sahagun.

#### National Public Works Week

This year's National Public Works Week was celebrated from May 21-27. It was celebrated in many states, provinces, cities, towns, and municipalities from across North America in honor of public works' contribution to their communities: in planning, building, managing, and operating the heart of our local communities and in building the quality of life. The year 2023 marks the 63rd annual National Public Works Week, sponsored by the American Public Works Association.



Public Works staff celebrated Public Works Week with a potluck at City Yard, bringing all PW staff together

"Connecting the World Through Public Works" is the National Public Works Week 2023 poster theme. This year's poster illustrates how public works connect us all through infrastructure and service, enhancing the quality of life for the communities these professionals serve.

Public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are vital to sustainable and resilient communities and the public health, high quality of life, and well-being of Montclair residents, business owners, and visitors. The City's infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, managers, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our nation's transportation, water supply, water treatment, and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and essential facilities.

# Tree City USA – Arbor Day Celebration

As one of the world's largest operating conservation foundations, the Arbor Day Foundation, through its members, partners, and programs, educates and engages stakeholders and communities across the globe to involve themselves in its mission of planting, nurturing, and celebrating trees.

Since 1998, Montclair has been designated as a Tree City USA community. In April of this year, the City received recognition as a recipient of the 2022 Tree City USA. This recognition is essential as available grants are allocated to recognized Tree City USA communities for their forestry programs.

The Arbor Day Foundation's standards for becoming a Tree City USA community are as follows:

# • Standard 1 - Tree Board or Department and/or Chair/City Manager representation

The Public Works Department oversees the City's Forestry Program, the City Manager signs the application, and the City Council adopts a Resolution.

#### • Standard 2 - Community Tree Ordinance

The City Council approved the City of Montclair Tree Policy on January 5, 2004. The policy protects and preserves trees planted within the City's rights-of-way and at City facilities.

#### Standard 3 – Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita

The City spends an estimated total of \$160,000 annually for the maintenance of trees, including planting new trees and tree removals. In the last five years, the City has planted approximately 200 trees.

#### Standard 4 – Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

City Council presented the Arbor Day proclamation at the City Council meeting on April 3, 2023, declaring the City to observe Arbor Day on April 22, 2023.

Two Arbor Day events were held on April 22, 2023. The first Arbor Day event was held in the fruit park area of Sunset Park from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to plant three trees. Lane Security

Paving Company, Inc., the contractor completing the I-10 Freeway Improvements, donated a nectarine, apple, and apricot tree. Mayor Dutrey, City staff, volunteers, and I attended and assisted in planting the trees.





The second Arbor Day event was held at MacArthur Park from noon to 1:00 p.m. for planting three additional trees. West Coast Arborists donated a Southern Magnolia, an Eastern Redbud, and a Chitalpa tree. Several Costco staff also volunteered and donated ten pizzas and bottled water to support this event. Other City staff, volunteers, and I attended and assisted in planting the trees at this site.

Public Works staff were also there to prepare the sites and ensure that both events were successful.

Representative Jacqueline Elizalde from Congresswoman Norma Torres's Office presented the City with a Certificate of Recognition.

Residents of our community can be proud to live in a place that makes the planting and care of trees a priority, and the City staff is proud of a job well done!



### **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

# Save the Date for the Following Upcoming Events!

### **Country Fair Jamboree**

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

Attractions will include games, food trucks, a petting zoo, carnival rides, pie eating, pony rides, live music by Suave Band, craft vendors, fun contests for all ages, and much more.

Guests can save \$10 per wristband with the Early Bird Sale! Pre-sale wristbands will be sold at the Recreation Center Building beginning Monday, May 22 to Friday, June 2 (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.). The following two wristbands are available:

- Unlimited Rides & Games: \$10 pre-sale, \$20 day of the event
- Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Unlimited Rides & Games: \$15 pre-sale, \$25 day of the event.

An early bird flyer is included on page 40, and an event flyer is on page 41.

City employees will receive a coupon attached to their paycheck on May 25, and it is good for use at any of the food trucks at the Jamboree. City employees can redeem the coupons at the City Manager's booth.

Event parking will be available at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, and a shuttle service will be provided.

Any City employees interested in volunteering at the Jamboree should contact Recreation Coordinator Angela Franco at ext. 457.

#### **Summer Concert and Movie Series**

The Human Services Department is pleased to announce its Summer Concert and Movie Series. This year's movie theme is Disney in honor of Walt Disney's 100th birthday. The schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, June 13, 2023 8:00 p.m.
   Movie in the Park Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (G)
- Tuesday, June 20, 2023 7:00 p.m.
   Concert in the Park Cold Duck (R&B and Latin)
- Tuesday, June 27, 2023 7:00 p.m.
   Concert in the Park In the Mixx (Top 40 and Old School)
- Thursday, July 6, 2023 8:00 p.m.
   Movie in the Park Toy Story (G)
- Tuesday, July 11, 2023 7:00 p.m.
   Concert in the Park Melodia Versatil (Latin Variety Band)
- Tuesday, July 18, 2023 7:00 p.m.
   Concert in the Park Queen of Hearts (Country)

- Tuesday, July 25, 2023 7:00 p.m.
   Concert in the Park Mariachi Aguilas de Mexico (Mariachi)
- Tuesday, August 1, 2023 8:00 p.m.
   National Night Out / Movie in the Park Jungle Cruise (PG-13)

All concerts and movies will be held at Alma Hofman Park and are presented to the public free of charge.

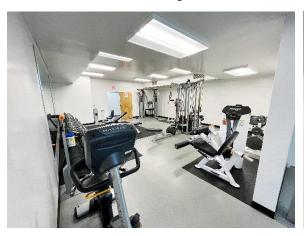
Bring friends and family, blankets, lawn chairs, and a picnic dinner for delightful summer evenings in the park. Food trucks will be selling your favorite food and snacks. Free children's activities will be offered.

For more information, contact the Human Services Department at (909) 625-9479 or visit <a href="https://www.cityofmontclair.org">www.cityofmontclair.org</a>. We hope to see you there!

# Grand Reopenings!

#### Weight Room & Racquetball Courts

The Montclair Weight Room & Racquetball Courts reopened on Monday, May 8. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., but may be subject to change. In addition, three new exercise machines were installed: a 4-station gym, a dual pulley functional trainer, and a leg extension/seated leg curl machine.





The weight room is open for a fee to all adults, seniors, and teens ages 14-17 (teens must be accompanied by an adult).

The usage fees are as follows:

- Weight Room Montclair Senior (60+)\*: FREE (must present proof of address with a valid California ID with a utility bill)
- Weight Room Fee: \$5.00/day or 3.00/day for non-resident seniors (60+)\*
- Weight Room Membership Fee: \$20.00/month
- Racquetball Court Fee\*\*: \$5.00/per person per hour

\*Photo identification required. / \*\*Racquetball courts are subject to availability and can be reserved up to 24 hours in advance. For more information, please call (909) 625-9479.

#### Montclair Youth Center

After being closed for over 3 years, we are excited to announce that the Montclair Youth Center reopened on Monday, April 17!

On Friday, May 5, the Montclair Youth Center hosted a Cinco De Mayo quesadilla/chips and salsa bar and a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. About 80-100 participants attended and enjoyed delicious foods and refreshing agua fresca and watched an intense basketball game! The 3 on 3 winners went home with a Championship ring and a big smiles on their face! Teens are also excited for the upcoming end-of-the-year party to be held on May 19, which should be a blast!

During the Summer, the Montclair Youth Center will be open at the Community Center for youth in grades 7th to 12th for the 2023-2024 school year. Open gym operation hours are from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Registration is required.

Photos are shared on page 42.

For information or questions regarding the Youth Center, please call Recreation Coordinator Emily Gomez-Medina at (909) 625-9482.

#### **Montclair Medical OMM Clinic**

We are excited to announce that the Montclair Medical Clinic is back at the Recreation Center! The evening clinic was housed in the Recreation Center for over 30 years before moving in 2017 to a new location inside the Montclair Community Health Center (5050 San Bernardino Street), where it retired its services at the beginning of January 2022.

The evening clinic will be staffed and supervised by Dr. Loveless, who began as a student intern in 1998, became a resident physician in 2002, and continued as a licensed physician. For more than 20 years, Dr. Loveless supervised Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Students to provide care for those that attended the clinic and was honored in the City's Volunteer of the Year Program in 2005 and 2009. His services to the Montclair Community are remarkable, invaluable, and greatly appreciated.

The evening Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) clinic will be held on the second Monday of the month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will be staffed by Western University medical student volunteers who will offer OMM, a form of treatment that physically manipulates the body's muscle tissue and bones. Patients will not be provided with prescriptions or other medical care.

Appointments are limited. Office visits are \$15, and payment is due at the time of the appointment. For more information and to schedule an appointment, please call (909) 625-9479.

# Memorial Day Ceremony

The Community Activities Commission's 23rd Annual Memorial Day Program was held on Monday, May 29, at 6:00 p.m. The Program was held in the Memorial Garden, adjacent to City Hall. In addition, a new plaque for Montclair's past Mayor, Harold M. Hayes, was dedicated to our Veterans' Memorial Wall. Harold M. Hayes served in the U.S. Coast Guard

during World War II from 1942-1945. In 1959, Mr. Hayes began as a member of the Montclair City Council. He was later named the first directly elected Mayor of the City of Montclair in 1970 and served as Mayor for 18 years. He was passionate about public service as well as rail travel and photography. We will always value and honor Mayor Harold Hayes' service to the City of Montclair.

All other service members on the Veteran's Memorial Wall and Remembrance Wall were also honored. The Memorial Wall pays tribute to 72 deceased Montclair residents from all service branches. The Remembrance wall honors 19 Montclair individuals who were killed in action during the Vietnam War and 1 individual who was fallen in the line of duty during the Iraq War.

The evening was filled with patriotic songs performed by the Band of the California Battalion, a presentation of colors and flag lowering from the Montclair High School JROTC, and a BBQ dinner afterward in the Senior Center, which was free to all guests of the event.

I was in attendance, along with Mayor Dutrey, Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, Council Members Martinez and Ruh, Congresswoman Norma Torres, Representative Nadya Bahena from the Office of Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez, Representative Melissa Compani from the Office of County Supervisor Curt Hagman, Monte Vista Water District Board Vice-President Michael Milhiser, Chaffey College Governing Board Immediate Past President Gary Ovitt and Chaffey Joint Union High School District School Board Clerk Sue Ovitt.

A special thanks to Montclair Police Chaplain Josh Matlock, the Band of the California Battalion, Montclair High School Junior ROTC, the Montclair Information Technology Department, the Public Works Department, and the Human Services Department for assisting with this event. Photos are included on page 43.

# • Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

On Monday, April 3, 2023, the Community Activities Commission held its 35th annual Volunteer Recognition Program during the City Council Meeting. Many gathered to "Shine a Light" on volunteers from organizations that serve Montclair. Ten organizations submitted nominations for the 2023 Volunteer Recognition Program. All ten volunteers nominated were recognized for their outstanding service to the City, and 8 attended the ceremony. Each volunteer brings a light of their own to the City of Montclair, and their hours of dedication will always be appreciated. Photos are included on page 44.

Below is a list of our recognized volunteers, along with their nominating agency:

#### **Volunteer Nominated by:**

Judith Gomez
Mariza Hernandez
Sharon Johnson
Tom Padilla
Ester Vargas Pipersky
Morgan Rucker
Cheryl Sackett
Irma Sanchez
Mitchell Tran
Sue Yoakum
Vernon Middle School
Montclair Little League
Montclair Nutrition Program
Montclair Senior Center
Montclair Meals on Wheels
Christian Development Center
Foothill Family Shelter
Montclair Chamber of Commerce
City of Montclair – Sports
Women's Club of Montclair

# Easter Eggstravaganza

The City's Easter Eggstravaganza and Pancake Breakfast took place on Saturday, April 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Alma Hofman Park.

Approximately 800 children and adults attended. City Representatives included Mayor John Dutrey, Mayor Pro Tem Tenice Johnson, Council Members Bill Ruh, Corysa Martinez, and Senator Rubio and Congresswoman Torres' Representative Sophia Siqueiros. Children enjoyed playing games, art activities, and winning candy-filled eggs and treats. In addition, the Easter Bunny was available for pictures, sponsored by the Women's Club of Montclair. Attendees also enjoyed taking their own pictures at the Easter photo booth station.

There was also an opportunity to draw for a large Easter basket for children sponsored by the Montclair Police Officer's Association and the Montclair Fire Fighters Association.

Over 350 breakfasts were served for a nominal fee, which included pancakes, sausage, and orange juice, cooked and provided by the Kiwanis Club of Ontario-Montclair members.

Special thanks go to the Information Technology Department for setting up and printing the bunny photos; the Montclair Police Officers Association and the Montclair Fire Fighters' Association for donating and presenting the children's opportunity gift baskets; members of the Kiwanis Club of Ontario-Montclair, Women's Club of Montclair, Montclair Public Works, the Community Activities Commission, and numerous community volunteers for their tireless work during the event; and the Human Services Department staff for coordinating a memorable event for the community.

Photos are shared on page 45.

# Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Aloha! On Tuesday, April 11, the Human Services Department held the 39th Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner in the Senior Center. Mayor John Dutrey and I joined over 45 volunteers and their guests at the event. The Volunteer Recognition Dinner is held in April in conjunction with National Volunteer Month to thank the individuals who give their time throughout the year to the Human Services Department programs.

This year's themed event was "Ohana Means Family, Montclair Volunteers Are Family." Attendees were greeted by a live ukulele player and a hula dancer gifting every guest a lei. In addition, volunteers received personalized keychains as a token of appreciation. Guests enjoyed appetizers of fruit, crackers, and cheese, handmade mock-tails, a delicious dinner catered by 'A Touch of Paradise,' and a three-layered cake from King's Hawaiian Bakery and Restaurant for dessert. Hula dancers from Kahula Voyage provided entertainment, performing regional dances from Hawaii, Tahiti, and New Zealand. Other activities included a craft table where guests could customize their own Hawaiian fan, hula instruction by performers from Kahula Voyage, and a free photo booth.

Photos are shared on page 46.

# Montclair After-School Program Activities

On Friday, April 14, the Montclair After-School Program (MAP) hosted its annual Montclair Athletic Conference Basketball Tip-Off event at Vernon Middle School's Wellness, Arts, and Technology (WAT) Center. Approximately 120 students from 10 MAP school sites joined NBA alumni and PAC-10 Hall of Honor inductee Pete Williams, two-time NCAA Champion Kenny Booker, and NCAA Champion and PAC-10 Coach of the Year Stan Morrison for an exclusive mentoring session on basketball skills and character. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, Councilmembers Martinez and Ruh, Assistant City Manager/Director of Human Services Marcia Richter, and Ontario-Montclair School District Superintendent Dr. Hammond were also in attendance. The event included hands-on drills conducted by Chaffey Men's Basketball Coach Jeff Klein, Montclair Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach Bill Blades, and players. Drills focused on basketball fundamentals such as dribbling, passing, rebounding, footwork, and more. The event concluded with teams posing for a photo with guest mentors and giveaways that included a bag, mini MAP basketball, MAP towel, and signed lithograph from the legends (guest mentors).

Photos are shared on page 47.

# Montclair to College Graduation

The annual Montclair to College (MTC) graduation ceremony took place on Wednesday, April 26, at **The Canyon** in **Montclair Place**, honoring Montclair High School (MHS) Seniors who completed the program. MTC graduates are awarded two years of admission with tuition, books, parking, and other fees paid to Chaffey College. This year, 240 people attended to honor sixty-seven graduates at a dinner with funding provided by the Kaiser Permanente Hospital Foundation.

Mayor John Dutrey, his wife Anne, Mayor Pro Tem Tenice Johnson, Council Members Corysa Martinez, and Bill Ruh, and I attended the event. Dignitaries included MHS Principal Joshua Cho, Chaffey Joint Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Matthew Holton and Chaffey Joint Union High School District Board Members, Chaffey College Superintendent/President Dr. Henry Shannon, and members of the Chaffey College Governing Board.

MHS and MTC alumni Nicola Martinez and Niosely Pacheco delivered inspirational speeches to graduating seniors, their families, and friends. Both Nicola and Niosely spoke about their experiences in MTC Program, Chaffey College, and their future career goals.

The graduating students received a Montclair to College Cord, certificates from Congresswoman Norma Torres, California State Senator Susan Rubio, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman, Chaffey College, and the City of Montclair.

Congratulations to the class of 2023! Photos are shared on page 48.

# Youth Sports

"Can you dig it?" The City of Montclair held its first-ever Youth Volleyball Camp from March 20 to April 28. Twenty children enrolled for the 6-week camp to learn the fundamentals of volleyball. The camp culminated with twelve children participating in an official volleyball game. So if you missed out on our amazing Spring Youth Volleyball, be sure to keep an eye out for our Winter Volleyball League later on this year!



### Senior Center Activities

On Tuesday, April 18, the Senior Center hosted **Paint and Fun**, a free painting class, and 14 seniors were instructed by Guillermo, owner of Memo's Canvas located in Montclair. Seniors were guided step by step on creating their spring-themed canvas painting while enjoying light refreshments.

The **April Senior Birthday Party** was held in the Community Center on Wednesday, April 26, with 140 attendees. Representatives from California Senator Susan Rubio, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, and County Supervisor Curt Hagman's offices presented certificates of recognition to the Senior Birthday Honorees. This spring-themed event also had a coloring contest and games for entertainment.

On Friday, May 5, over 140 seniors participated in the **Cinco De Mayo Fiesta-themed Senior Lunch** program. The seniors enjoyed entertainment from a Mariachi band while eating lunch and had a special treat for dessert, Mexican sweet bread- Pan Dulce! That evening, over 100 people participated in the annual Bingo Bash sponsored by the Women's Club of Montclair and the Montclair Senior Citizens Club. Ten different bingo games were played, along with six raffle giveaways and a 50/50 drawing. In addition, participants enjoyed dinner catered by **Los Portales**. Photos are shared on page 49.

On Wednesday, May 24, the **May Senior Birthday Party** was held in the Community Center with 117 attendees. Tradicion Dance Company contributed to Folklorico dancers for entertainment. The Top Golf Ontario Team volunteered as game attendants and assisted with serving lunch. Representatives from Senator Susan Rubio, Assembly Member Freddie

Rodriguez, and County Supervisor Curt Hagman's offices presented certificates of recognition to the Senior Birthday Honorees.

For more information or questions regarding the Senior Center, please see the Senior Newsletter, <a href="https://www.cityofmontclair.org/senior-newsletter/">https://www.cityofmontclair.org/senior-newsletter/</a> call (909) 625-9483 or visit <a href="https://www.cityofmontclair.org/senior-center/">https://www.cityofmontclair.org/senior-center/</a>

ECS:scg

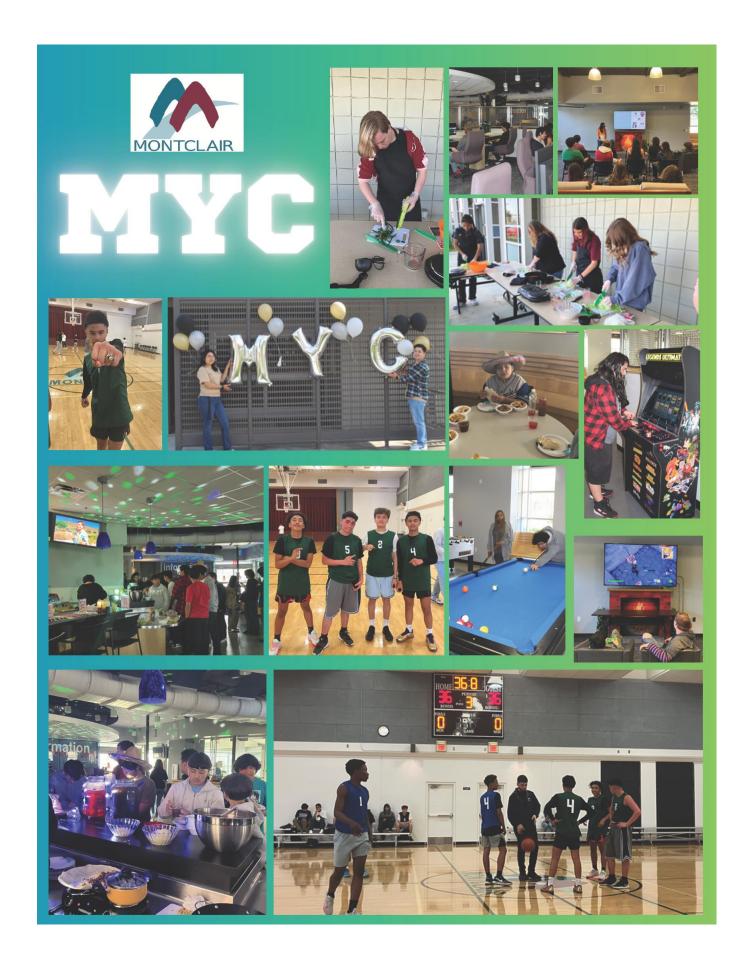
JUNE 2023		
Day	Event & Location	Time
Sat.	Country Fair Jamboree Alma Hofman Park	Noon – 6:00 p.m.
Mon. <b>5</b>	City Council Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Weds.	Community Activities Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Mon. <b>12</b>	Planning Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Tues. <b>13</b>	Movie in the Park — Snow White and the Seven Dwarves (G) Alma Hofman Park	8:00 p.m.
Thurs. <b>15</b>	Monthly Food Distribution Event Community Center	9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
	Public Works Committee Theater Conference Room	4:00 p.m.
Mon. <b>19</b>	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.
Tues. <b>20</b>	Concert in the Park — Cold Duck (R&B and Latin) Alma Hofman Park	7:00 p.m.
Thurs. <b>22</b>	Senior Mobile Pantry by Feeding America City Hall Parking Lot B (behind library)	Noon – 2:00 p.m.
	City Council Workshop – Preliminary Budget Review City Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
Mon. <b>26</b>	Planning Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Tues. <b>27</b>	Concert in the Park — In the Mixx (Top 40 and Old School) Alma Hofman Park	7:00 p.m.
Thurs. <b>29</b>	City Council Special Meeting – Budget Adoption City Council Chambers	6:00 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: <a href="https://www.cityofmontclair.org/agendas/">www.cityofmontclair.org/agendas/</a>.

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







## 2023 Memorial Day Program May 29, 2023



## Shining a Light on Montclair Volunteers 2023 Volunteer Recognition Program April 3, 2023



























Chara Mears Family

Montclair Volunteers are Family

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

April 11, 2023









**April 26, 2023** 

MONTCLAIR COLLEGE





## **Senior Center Activities**



Paint and Fun April 18, 2023















Senior Birthday Party April 26, 2023



Cinco de Mayo Fiesta with the Mariachi band May 5, 2023



