



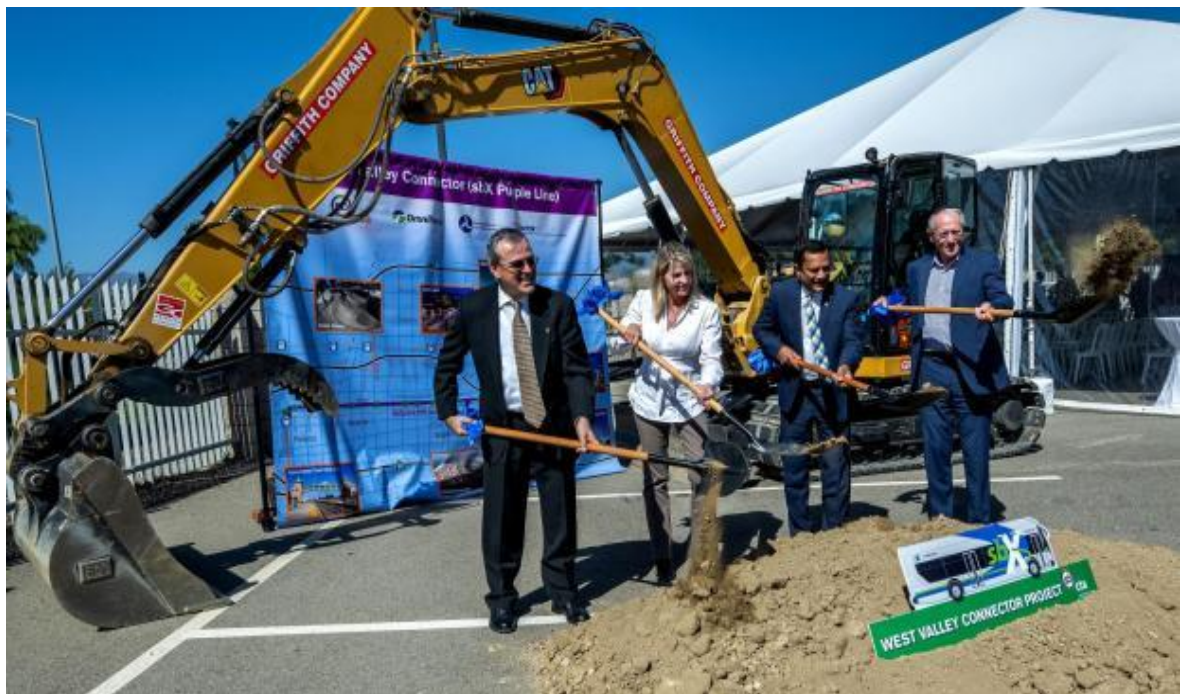
DATE: October 31, 2023
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2023

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

- West Valley Connector Groundbreaking October 2023**

On October 12, San Bernardino County officials celebrated the upcoming construction of the West Valley Connector (WVC) Project, a rapid bus transit system that, when fully completed, will carry travelers between Pomona and Fontana. The October 12 celebration at the Ontario Convention Center marks the groundbreaking for the first phase of the project.



Omnitrans Chair/Montclair Mayor John Dutrey, San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe, FTA Region 9 Administrator Ray Tellis, Ontario Council Member Alan Wapner (Photo: Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

As planned, the WVC would extend 19 miles along dedicated, bus-only lanes from the Pomona Regional Transit Center Metrolink Station (Riverside Line), onto Holt Boulevard through Montclair between Mills Avenue and Benson Avenue, and into Ontario to Vineyard Avenue where it will connect with Ontario International Airport (ONT).

The rest of the WVC route would follow Archibald Avenue, Inland Empire Boulevard to Ontario Mills mall and then north on Milliken Avenue, to the Toyota Arena, the Rancho Cucamonga Metrolink Station, onto Day Creek Boulevard to Victoria Gardens at Main Street before turning west onto Church Street, south onto Rochester Avenue, then west back onto Foothill Boulevard.

The WVC would be the first dedicated mass transit service line connecting with ONT. Crossing between Pomona and Montclair, the WVC would also become the first mass transit service to cross Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County lines. According to the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), the connectivity between the two counties provided by the WVC is critically important to promoting and enhancing the economic activity along the corridor.

Similarly, the planned Gold Line (L Line) extension to Montclair—a rail transit line advocated for by Montclair officials—would represent the first light rail transit system to cross between Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County—the Gold Line's arrival at the Montclair Transcenter would also open the two counties to an unparalleled array of social, cultural, economic, educational health, entertainment and job opportunities. According to a 2016 Study Report by real estate and business consulting firm, The Maxima Group, findings revealed that more than 12,500 housing units, 3.6 million square feet of commercial space, and 1,400 hotel rooms have been built within a half-mile radius of one of the 18 Gold Line stations from Chinatown to Montclair since 2003. This development activity has resulted in \$6.7 billion in private investment and the creation of nearly 50,000 direct and indirect jobs during construction, and 20,000 on-going jobs. Additionally, the report also reviewed the potential for transit district development along the Phase 2 corridor from Azusa to Montclair. Full Transit-Oriented District (TOD) buildout could add 17,000 more housing units, 10 million additional square feet of commercial space, and 250 more hotel rooms to the Gold Line corridor.

The first phase of the WVC project is estimated to cost \$262.67 million. In April 2021, the SBCTA received an \$87 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration, which is expected to cover one-third of total project costs.

A second phase for the West Valley Connector would be built along Haven Avenue and connect with Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Fontana.

The WVC project is meant to give travelers an alternative to driving on congested local freeways by providing faster transit service with strategic stops between communities along the dedicated BRT route. Headways (time between buses) will be 10 minutes in the peak commute period and 15 minutes off-peak.

The \$280-million project uses all-electric, zero-emission buses and adds 21 stations. The Zero-emission buses will travel bus-only lanes between the Pomona and Ranch Cucamonga.

Construction of 3.5 miles of center-running lanes on Holt Boulevard in Ontario is scheduled to start within the next month, with construction of new stations in Pomona, Montclair and Rancho Cucamonga expected in 2025. First phase construction is expected to be completed by spring 2026, with service beginning shortly thereafter. A date for the second phase of the project has not been determined.

The West Valley Connector is the second rapid transit system in San Bernardino County operated by Omnitrans, the county's public transit agency. A 16-mile line opened between San Bernardino and Loma Linda in 2014.

- **Monte Vista Water District Receives National EPA Award**



Monte Vista Water District (MVWD) recently announced that it was awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense Excellence Award in Education and Outreach. The award was presented at the annual WaterSmart Innovations conference in Las Vegas, NV on October 5, 2023.

Through social media and in-person education, MVWD created a strategic campaign to provide information on WaterSense-labeled products and rebates, as well as water-saving programs to help customers improve efficiency when watering their landscape. For example, MVWD celebrated Fix a Leak Week 2022 by conducting a workshop to encourage customers to get "Ready for Drought" with simple ways to save water inside and outside the home. Social media outreach included Water Watch Wednesdays, providing drought updates and tips to help followers reduce their water use. Additionally, MVWD promoted multiple WaterSense campaigns and encouraged customers to look for WaterSense labeled products when purchasing new appliances, plumbing fixtures, and irrigation products.

MVWD was among 47 award winners from across the nation, including utilities, manufacturers, builders, a retailer, and other organizations that promote, produce, and sell WaterSense labeled products; build WaterSense labeled homes; and operate WaterSense labeled certification programs. WaterSense programs encourage more efficient use of water both indoors and outdoors.

MVWD provides a variety of free programs and rebates to help customers make minor improvements around the home to use water more efficiently, which can result in savings on their water bill. Products that carry the WaterSense label help save water as well as yield lower water and energy costs. WaterSense-labeled products can be found at most retail stores that sell appliances, plumbing fixtures, and irrigation products. For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-products>.

- **Metrolink Student Adventure Pass**



On October 9, Metrolink launched its Student Adventure Pass Program. The pilot program will offer FREE rides systemwide to K-12, trade school, community college, and university students with a valid student ID. Students of any age, including students taking courses online, are eligible. Students must present a valid ticket and student ID when riding the train.

The Student Adventure Pass is a grant-funded pilot program made possible through grant funding from the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP), administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The grant program runs for six months, or until grant-funding is exhausted.

Students can get their Student Adventure Pass on the Metrolink mobile app. After downloading the app, the student registers using his/her school email address; the account is then verified via the student's confirmation email. The Student Adventure Pass will appear in the student's mobile ticket wallet within 24-hours.

The Student Adventure Pass is available as a Round-Trip ticket on the Metrolink mobile app and will need to be activated daily when boarding the train. For paper tickets, the Student Adventure Pass is valid when selecting One-Way, Round-Trip, 7-Day Pass, 5-Day Flex Pass, 10-Day Flex Pass or Monthly Pass. The Student Adventure Pass is not valid for special train services.

The student's school does not need to be in California to take advantage of the Student Adventure Pass. They must, however, present a valid Student ID when riding the train.

The Student Adventure Pass includes free transfers on most connecting transit. Connecting transit information is available at the [Metrolink Connections Page](#).

Students can also earn points for Metrolink train miles travelled that can be redeemed for free tickets when signing up for SoCal Explorer.

Metrolink's Personal Impact Calculator shows how much a student can save by taking the train and by doing so, how they significantly reduce their carbon footprint.

Additional information regarding the Student Adventure Pass is available at Metrolink's [Student Adventure Pass webpage](https://metrolinktrains.com/students)¹.

- **Synthetic Turf Legislation Allow Cities to Prohibit Use**

Less than a decade ago then-Governor Jerry Brown signed a law prohibiting cities and counties from banning synthetic grass. At the time, California was in the middle of a crippling drought and fake lawns were thought to be helpful in saving water.



This year, however, Governor Gavin Newsom and the State Legislature went in a different direction, approving legislation designed to discourage use of synthetic turf, fearing the health risks created by the chemicals present in these lawns, including perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl—substances, also known as PFAS chemicals, or the so-called “forever chemicals”. PFAS have been used for decades to make non-stick and waterproof coatings and food packaging, and have been linked to kidney cancer and other serious health conditions.

According to environmentalists, chemicals in the crumb rubber base of synthetic turf, such as bisphenol A, commonly known as BPA, can leach out during extreme heat. These chemicals have been linked to various chronic diseases including cancers, diabetes and neurological impairments.

Senate Bill 676 undoes the Brown-era law and allows cities and counties to again ban artificial turf, with some California cities already moving to prohibit fake lawns. Governor Newsom also directed his administration to consult with lawmakers on “alternative approaches to regulating the use of harmful PFAS chemicals in consumer products.

Manufacturers of synthetic turf say they are working to address concerns about the materials they use, although for the most part they have been unable to entirely remove PFAS. Some have switched to sand and other safer products in an attempt to replace rubber crumb.

Synthetic turf is a non-living replacement of turf grass that requires little water or maintenance. The grass blades are made of fibers such as nylon or plastic, while the base is typically a crumb rubber made from used tires, plastic pellets or sand that usually contains PFAS chemicals.

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

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), PFAS chemicals are a known carcinogen, which can interfere with hormones, reproduction, immunity and cause developmental delays in children. Although research is still being done, the consensus in the scientific community suggests, “PFAS are absolutely bad for human health.

According to health experts, PFAS chemicals can enter the human body through contact with skin, by breathing the particles in or through water sources, especially groundwater sources that can get contaminated during leaching. Once in groundwater sources, they enter food chains in the ocean. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, microplastics from ocean sources can be found in human blood and muscle tissue.

Research by the National Toxicology Program shows that high heat can cause chemicals to leach out of the crumb rubber base of synthetic turf, which is made of recycled tires. These leached chemicals are known to cause cell death in humans.

Synthetic turf, like other artificial surfaces including asphalt and concrete pavement, heats up by several degrees more than living lawns. According to the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation’s Heat Equity Initiative, synthetic turf can trap heat and radiate it back slowly, staying warm for longer periods of time, making it one of the hottest surface materials.

Temperature readings conducted by the University of California, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources demonstrated that when air temperatures reach around 100° Fahrenheit, the surface temperatures of synthetic turf can climb to around 175° Fahrenheit.

According to researchers at the University of California, the best alternative to any artificial surfaces are local habitat pollinators and climate-resilient plants that provide shade, buffer sun exposure, provide windbreaks, help reduce storm water runoff and reduce soil and water erosion—conditions not created by the use of synthetic turf.

There are several drought-friendly approaches to landscaping, including warm-season grasses such as Bermuda grass and Buffalo grass, or doing away with grass altogether and planting trees or drought-resilient varieties of plants that are endemic to California. Even though plants require water and maintenance, their cooling and ecosystem benefits for the natural environment exceed the water savings benefits derived from the use of synthetic turf and the harm PFAS chemicals cause to the ecosystem.

The Chino Basin Water Conservation District, located at 4594 San Bernardino St, Montclair, regularly provides programs for businesses and residents related to creating drought-friendly landscapes. Even though plants require water and maintenance, their cooling benefits and ecosystem benefits go far beyond the water savings one could get through synthetic turf.

Montclair City staff will evaluate bringing forward to the City Council for consideration an ordinance prohibiting the future use of synthetic turf.

- **Ornamental Grass Banned by AB 1572**

Concurrent with his recent action to give local governments authority to prohibit the use of synthetic turf, Governor Gavin Newsom also signed Assembly Bill 1572, prohibiting California businesses and institutions from irrigating decorative grassy areas with potable water. In 2022, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-7-22 that led to a similar prohibition that remains in effect until June 2024.



AB 1572 bans use of potable water—water that is safe to drink—to irrigate ornamental lawns or grasses at businesses, institutions, industrial facilities and certain developments. The grass could only be irrigated with recycled water. The aim of the legislation is to force businesses to tear out their turf lawns and replace them with landscapes that use much less water.

Residential yards, cemeteries, parks, golf courses and sports fields where people play, picnic and gather are not included in the ban. Non-ornamental plants like shrubs, flowers, trees, and landscapes irrigated with potable water are also unaffected.

The provisions of AB 1572 will roll out in stages starting in 2027 with government properties, followed in 2028 by institutional, commercial and industrial properties. Common areas of developments such as homeowners associations, mobile home parks and retirement communities would have until 2029.

The State Water Resources Control Board, in certain circumstances, can give three-year extensions if necessary. Furthermore, state-designated disadvantaged communities do not have to comply until 2031, or when they receive state funding, whichever comes later. Montclair is identified as a state-designated disadvantaged community.

Beginning in 2030-31, owners of especially large properties must certify to the state every three years that they are meeting the requirements of AB 1572.

California now follows on the heels of Nevada, where lawmakers barred the use of Colorado River water for irrigating nonfunctional grass in Southern Nevada at certain commercial, multi-family, government and other properties.

The Contractors Association and the California Legislative Action Committee/Community Associations Institute opposed AB 1572. The California Landscape Contractors Association, said the bill is unnecessary because of the state’s “temporary” emergency drought measures.

In response to Governor Newsom’s 2022 Executive Order, the State Water Board, starting in June 2022, banned use of drinkable water to irrigate ornamental grass at commercial, industrial and institutional facilities. The ban was extended through June 2024. AB 1572 now makes the ban permanent.

The board also is developing new water conservation rules that would require urban water suppliers to ban the irrigation of non-functional turf with drinking water starting in 2025.

Whether California's ban under Executive Order No. 7-N-22 has actually reduced irrigation at businesses isn't clear. Local water suppliers and municipalities are tasked with enforcement, and are not required to report progress to the state.

According to a state report, turf lawns are thirsty, drinking up more water than any other vegetation analyzed in California. The Pacific Institute, a global water think-tank, estimates that tearing out grass and replacing it with less water-demanding plants would reduce water use across California by about 1 million to 1.5 million acre-feet per year, enough to supply about 4.5 million households. About 400,000 acre-feet of conservation a year could be squeezed out of businesses, institutions and industrial facilities, the report says.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a major water importer and a sponsor of the bill, estimates that tearing out non-residential decorative grass across all of Southern California would save about 300,000 acre-feet per year—enough to serve about 900,000 households.

Under provisions of AB 1572, property owners designate which lawns are considered "functional," and local water systems and governments would be tasked with enforcement.

Overhauling landscapes can be pricey, discouraging many property owners from transitioning to non-turf landscapes. Converting grass to less water intensive plants costs about \$10 a square foot, according to the Metropolitan Water District. In recent years, however, landscaping grants offered by water suppliers have provided at least some financial incentive to tear out grass.

Montclair City staff are currently evaluating replacement of ornamental grass at the City Hall campus and other City-operated facilities, and will look for available grants to fund landscape improvements. City staff will also develop the necessary enforcement component for local implementation of AB 1572.

- **Energy Commission to Look for Oil Company Windfall Profit**

A With California gas prices hovering roughly \$2.00 to \$3.00 above the national average, the watchdog agency for the state's Energy Commission is expected to pursue two actions:

1. Consider whether to take a key step toward imposing penalties on windfall oil profits; and
2. Broaden what data the Commission's new watchdog agency can collect.

As of mid-October, the average price per gallon of gasoline in California was \$5.59—higher than the national average by approximately \$2.00, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA). This ongoing price difference in California gasoline prices, versus the national average, has triggered the examination.

The Energy Commission's watchdog agency was formed in June 2023 after Governor Gavin Newsom called a special legislative session in 2022 to combat the state's rising gas prices and what the administration saw as price gouging by oil companies. The result of that special legislative session is Senate Bill X1-2.

SB X1-2 does not directly penalize oil industry profits; instead, it requires the Energy Commission to establish new regulations and investigate and potentially limit oil industry profits before any fines would be imposed. Oil companies are also required to regularly report information on factors that can contribute to massive price spikes at the pump such as refinery maintenance schedules, on-hand gasoline and oil inventory, and fuel and oil import and export levels.

The new law also erects specific guardrails designed to prevent penalties from being passed on to consumers through increases at the pump. In practical effect, this means that the Energy Commission, under its new authority, can impose penalties through a public rulemaking process only if it determines doing so wouldn't cause undue harm to consumers. Furthermore, the law requires the State Auditor to investigate any imposed penalty to determine if that penalty is or is not meeting the goal of reducing gasoline price spikes. If the investigation determines that an imposed penalty is not meeting the goal of reducing price spikes, the Energy Commission would be required to terminate the penalty.

In its examination of price increases for gasoline and potential windfall profits, the Energy Commission considers the various factors that go into the state's gas prices.

Gas prices in California are consistently higher than the rest of the country, primarily due to a combination of factors as indicated the chart below:



Of the factors identified, California's isolated gas refining market is central to the pump price for gasoline. An isolated gas refining market means that gasoline purchased in California by motorists is refined or produced locally in the state. The state's oil refineries and fuel distribution centers are isolated by time and distance from alternative sources that may, on occasion, be needed to resupply the state with refined fuel during planned and unplanned

refinery outages—events that typically occur at least annually, and often during the peak summer travel season. Nonetheless, and except for crude oil supplies, California's transportation fuel market is nearly self-sufficient—imported gasoline to balance supply with demand and fuel blending components account for only 3 to 7 percent of total gasoline supply. In addition, pipelines connect the state's refining centers to distribution terminals in Nevada and Arizona, but they are used only to send gasoline and other transportation fuels to those states.

Because more than 90 percent of the gasoline consumed in California comes from in-state refineries, significant planned and unplanned refinery outages do contribute to increases in the price at the pump. The state's 14 oil refineries are in the Bay Area, Central Valley, and Los Angeles. Together, these refineries process more than 1.6 million barrels per day of crude oil. Of the 14 oil refineries, 11 major refineries produce transportation fuels that meet California's specific environmental standards for formulated gasoline and three smaller ones produce other fuels. The 11 major refineries also provide most of Nevada and nearly half of Arizona's transportation fuels.

California's isolated refinery market is, however, largely dependent on outside shipments of crude oil—more than two-thirds of the crude oil California's refineries process comes from out of the state, as indicated below, and it is the fluctuating price in crude oil, more than any other factor, that contributes to the ups and downs in the price of gasoline at California's fuel pumps:

- 56.2 percent of crude oil is imported from foreign sources.
- 14.9 percent comes from Alaska.
- 28.9 percent is produced in California, with a small amount from the other states.

The state's Energy Commission is now tasked to look at the various gas price components to determine if oil companies are benefitting from inappropriate windfalls. Specifically, the two actions now before the Energy Commission were recommended by Governor Newsom in September, when he also ordered the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to allow gas stations to sell a lower-cost blend of fuel (Winter Blend) earlier. Governor Newsom also directed the Energy Commission to look into "an unusual transaction" on the spot market that contributed to a significant September price spike.

Other states are watching the outcome of the Energy Commission's new powers to determine if their respective legislatures should follow California's lead and adopt bills similar to SB X1-2.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- **New Employees**

Welcome to the following new employees:

- **Viktoria Ananikian-Nunez**, Senior Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Emilie Aremendariz**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Talyna De Anda**, Data Entry Clerk, Police Department
- **Erick Duran-Mateos**, Police Cadet, Police Department
- **Marina Hernandez**, Police Cadet, Police Department
- **Alexis Mancinas**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Julie Meza**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Bridget Puebla**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Ahtziry Quintero-Garcia**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Esperanza Ramos**, Police Cadet, Police Department
- **Samara Sotelo**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Lillian Tigerino Ordonez**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Margarita Vasquez**, Police Cadet, Police Department

- **Internal Appointments / Promotions**

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

- **Adrian Anguiano**, Police Officer Trainee, Police Department
- **Cristina Arizpe**, Police Services Specialist, Police Department
- **Alinna Arteaga**, Recreation Leader, Human Services
- **Ryon Dierck**, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Department
- **Angela Franco**, Montclair After-School Program Coordinator, Human Services
- **Arturo Ramos**, Recreation Leader, Human Services
- **Andrea Zamudio**, Police Services Specialist, 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:

- **Samantha Cacerez-Romero**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Andrea Flores**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Desiree Gonzales**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Deondra Gutierrez**, Recreation Coordinator – Senior Center, Human Services
- **James Martin**, Senior Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Jonathan Pettitt**, Maintenance Worker, Public Works
- **Joseph Puckett**, Maintenance Worker, Public Works
- **Jorge Rodriguez**, Learning Leader, Human Services

- **Adrian Santillan**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Brittany Solorzano**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Joanna Vasquez**, Police Dispatcher, Police Department
- **Alison Walker**, Deputy City Clerk, Administrative Services

- **Montclair Job Opportunities**

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

Current Recruitments

- **Administrative Specialist** — Public Works
- **Senior Citizens Supervisor** — Human Services
- **Fields Groundskeeper** — Public Works
- **Recreation Coordinator – Community** — Human Services
- **Recreation Coordinator – Senior Center** — Human Services

The following opportunities are open to current employees of the City of Montclair only:

- **Leadworker, Maintenance** – Public Works
- **Maintenance Worker** – Public Works

Continuous Recruitments

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

- 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

- Police Sergeant

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/>.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- **Innovating Commerce Serving Communities (ICSC) at the Western Conference**

City of Montclair staff participated in the Innovating Commerce Serving Communities (ICSC) Western Division Conference & Deal Making in San Diego on Thursday, October 26 and Friday, October 27, 2023. The October 2023 ICSC Western Conference & Deal Making team included Community Development Director Michael Diaz, Director of Economic Development Agency Mikey Fuentes, Economic Services and Housing Manager Thailin Martin, and Marketing and Promotions Coordinator Christine Thomas. ICSC's Western Division Conference attracted over 4,000 attendees that includes real estate professionals, developers, lenders, retailers, businesses, and the public sector.

The City hosted a booth complete with brochures, maps, demographic updates, site availability, and other information regarding location opportunities in the City. The City's staff made use of its new high-foot traffic location by engaging and welcoming all who stopped at the City booth. Staff met with several representatives assigned to retail who expressed interest in expanding to the Inland Empire in the near future. Staff will follow up regarding appropriate sites, property contacts, and other demographic information about Montclair.



Pictured from left to right: Director of Community Development Mike Diaz, Economic Promotions Coordinator Christine Thomas, Economic Services & Housing Manager Thailin Martin, and Economic Development Agency Director Mikey Fuentes.

The City of Montclair's booth exhibit was designed to bring awareness to potential business prospects about newly approved development projects and leasing and/or for sale opportunities within the community. Approximately 300 retailers, developers, leasing agents, brokers, and public sector professionals exhibited in Exhibit Halls A and B of the San Diego Convention Center, with more than 25 public sector exhibitors. Many brokers representing retailers visited the City's booth with hopes of acquiring updated site-selection for their clients. Brokers expressed that many retailers are very enthusiastic about making selective deals and procuring sites.

The two-day event featured several educational Professional Development Workshops, an appealing Keynote Panel Presentation, Retailer Runway, and networking and deal-making opportunities.

The City's presence at ICSC's Western Division Conference continues to enhance Montclair's image as a business-friendly City as staff seeks developers and retailers for new development and leasing opportunities. City staff explains to attendees what is planned or proposed and what sites are available in the City in order for retailers to consider potential sites for future development or leasing. Staff plans to follow-up with specific retailers in effort to enhance retail options for our community.

- **New Businesses – Welcome to Montclair!**

This past month, Mayor John Dutrey and Council Member Tenice Johnson, other local elected representatives, and the Chamber of Commerce Board representatives had the honor of welcoming new businesses to our community.

SED Cocina

We are all thrilled to welcome SED Cocina located at 5474 Moreno Street, Montclair, CA 91763. SED Cocina is a Mexican restaurant, providing various delicacies Monday – Sunday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.



- **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.

From its strategic location, 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 alike a high quality of life.

The E-Newsletter shares business resources and free training offered through our resource partners. Go to <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/newsletter/> to sign up for the newsletter or to view past editions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- **Code Enforcement Officer Appreciation Week**

October is National Code Enforcement Month and on October 2, the Montclair City Council, in conjunction with the State of California, proclaimed the second week of October as Code Enforcement Officer Appreciation Week. The proclamation recognizes the role played by the City's Code Enforcement Officers in working to improve the quality of life for both the residents and businesses of our community.

Because of the nature of the important work they do, Code Enforcement Officers are not greeted with smiles as often as they should be when they visit someone's property, even though our neighborhoods would be much less safe and pleasant without them.

It's Code Enforcement's job to investigate complaints about threats to public health and safety as well as nuisances prohibited by local laws. These complaints can range from accumulations of garbage that can spread death and disease to broken furniture and appliances littering a lawn, creating an eyesore and affecting neighbors' property values.

Please extend a big "Thank You" to our Code Enforcement Officers for making Montclair a safe, clean, and beautiful place to live, work, shop, and play!



Pictured from left to right: Code Enforcement Supervisor Robert Hargett, Code Enforcement Officer Charles Muse, Council Members Ben Lopez and Bill Ruh, Mayor Javier John Dutrey, Assistant Code Enforcement Manager Gabe Fondario, Code Enforcement Officers Alan Romansky, Denise Ortiz, and RJ Goodrich, and Mayor Pro Tem Tenice Johnson.

- **Yard Sale Weekend — November 3, 4, and 5**

The first full weekend in November is the final Yard Sale weekend of 2023. No permits or fees are required for yard sales for 2023.

Residents are allowed no more than two signs, no larger than 2 ft. x 2 ft., displayed at your property, or a neighbor's property (with their permission); no attaching the signs to any City property (stop sign, traffic signal, in the median, etc.). Yard sales may only be conducted Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 3, 4, and 5, 2023, from sunrise until sunset. Code Enforcement personnel will be canvassing the city during the event and removing signs posted in violation. Violators may be subject to citation and fine.

If you have any further questions, please call (909) 625–9477.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- **Alma Hofman Park Playground Surface Replacement**

In May of this year, the City Council approved a contract with SpectraTurf Inc. for the replacement of the playground surface at Alma Hofman park. Due to material unavailability and labor shortages, the replacement of the rubber padding and the shark monument was completed last month



The old playground padding was past its service life and began to crack and separate between the top-colored layer and the bottom-black layer. The separation of materials led to a large section of the top layer to peel away and dislodge from the surface.

Over the course of three weeks, Spectraturf removed both the top and bottom layers of poured-in-place rubber and prepared the surface for the new padding. The shark monument received a blue top padding, which led several people to comment that “the shark is back in the water,” and the main playground received a multi-colored top layer of blue, tan, and green.

All colored layers have an upgraded aliphatic resin and solid colors containing no black rubber particles. The clear resin and solid colors give a vibrant new look to the playground. With proper care and maintenance, the new poured-in-place surface will provide many years of beauty and protection to the playground at Alma Hofman Park.

- **Sunset Park Groundbreaking Ceremony and Start of Construction**

On September 27, 2023, the City proudly hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Sunset Park Beautification Project.

Pictured from left to right: Caltrans Representative for the Clean Local Grant Program Michael Martinez, Peter Dalma of Architerra Design Group, Carla Berard of LD King, Chris Yi of Pub Construction, Mayor Javier John Dutrey, Senior Public Works Inspector Jim Diaz, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Monica Heredia, and Executive Director of Engineering/Major Projects Manager Rosemary Hoerning.



Sunset Park will be completely transformed; renovations and improvements will include the pilot segment of the San Antonio Creek Trail, shade structures and picnic tables, two new playground areas, a concrete walking trail along the park perimeter, exercise stations, water fountains, restrooms, and drought-tolerant landscaping.

The park improvements are based on the community's feedback. This project is made possible through a combination of funding from the City of Montclair and grants received from Caltrans Clean California program and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018.



Construction of the Sunset Park Beautification Project started this month and will be completed by April 2024. This project is intended to completely renovate Sunset Park and provide a new restored park facility that will have modern equipment and facilities for the community. These improvements are intended to enhance the entirety of the park and provide a special recreational experience.

To protect the public during the construction of this project, the park will be closed and secured with temporary fencing. A pedestrian detour route was sent to Lehigh Elementary School and surrounding residents. The safety of the community is of utmost importance to the City and we apologize for any inconvenience during the construction of these improvements

You can find more information about the project on the City Website at <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/current-projects/>

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- **National Fire Prevention Month at Montclair**

October is National Fire Prevention Month and the Montclair Fire Department has been busy! Over the last month our crews have been taking visits to our local schools including Howard Elementary, Monte Vista Elementary, and Moreno Avid Academy to help raise awareness about the importance of fire safety and to help teach them more about our department! We have also been welcoming lots of visitors to see our station and get a glimpse of what our fire department personnel are up to on a day-to-day basis! We so enjoy being a part of our community and look forward to our annual invites to stop by and say hello to our schools!



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- **Save the Date for the Following Upcoming Events!**

Holiday Food and Toy Basket Program

Join us in helping the less fortunate in Montclair. From Monday, November 13 through Friday, December 15, food donations and unwrapped gifts for teens will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center. For the health and safety of those receiving baskets, we cannot accept outdated, dented, bulging, perishable or open cans or packages.

Residents are also encouraged to adopt a family. A donation of \$75 to feed a parent and child or a donation of \$125 to feed a family of four can be made any time prior to December 15.

For more information on making a donation, please contact Jordi Ubaldo at (909) 625-9489 or email montclairevents@cityofmontclair.org

- **Intergenerational Dance**

On September 13, 2023, the Senior Center and Youth Center hosted a 50's themed Intergenerational Dance at the Community Center. Around 120 guests attended, including some senior participants' grandchildren. A nacho bar, light refreshments, and root beer floats were provided. The main attraction of the event was the Senior and Youth participants dancing together and truly enjoying each other's company. The dance was a success and everyone had a blast! Thank you to the recreation staff for assisting with set-up, creating fun 50's themed decorations, and helping ensure that the dance ran smoothly!

Photos are shared on Page 25.

- **Youth Talent Showcase**

The Annual Youth Talent Showcase, themed "Where Stars are Born," was held on Saturday, October 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the Montclair Community Center. The competition was split into two divisions: Junior, which consisted of children from

6 years-old to 6th grade, and Senior, which consisted of children from Middle School to High School.

Nine acts competed in the Junior and Senior divisions before an audience of family and friends, including Council Member Corysa Martinez.

The winner of the Junior Division was Laila Ganhinhin who sang "Part of Your World" from *The Little Mermaid* and the winner of the Senior Division was Aubrey Sotelo who sang "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys.

Laila and Aubrey won baskets of donated gift cards from the business community, including Montclair Buffalo Wild Wings, Montclair Lazy Dog, Ontario Raising Canes, Ontario the Chocolate Bar, Ontario My Delight Cupcakery, Montclair Warehouse Shoe Store (WSS), Bowlero Upland Bowling Alley, Upland Handel's Homemade Ice Cream, Montclair Yum Yum Donuts, Upland the Hat World Famous Pastrami, the City of Montclair, as well as flowers provided by Montclair Mary's Flowers. Special thanks go to Recreation Staff, youth volunteers, and the judges: Chris Taylor; Serrano Middle Schools band, orchestra, choir, and theatre teacher. Briana Chavez; former Senior Recreation Leader and the 2014 & 2015 Youth Talent Showcase winner. Monica Flores; coaches' students at a studio in Los Angeles called The Voices of The Heart and owner of Music Tree School in Pomona and last but not least, former Recreation Leader Jalen Askins for serving as master of ceremonies. Congratulations to all of the participants!

Photos are shared on Page 26.

- **Halloween Spooktacular**

The City of Montclair hosted its annual Halloween Spooktacular on Saturday, October 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Montclair Place (5060 N Montclair Plaza Lane). Mayor John Dutrey, Councilmember Bill Ruh, and over 10,000 community members enjoyed this haunting evening which included trick or treating, kid's crafts, carnival-style games, a costume contest judged by members of the Community Activities Commission, a live DJ, a magic show, jumpers, and other ghoulish surprises for the whole family. A new addition to this year's Halloween event was an inflatable Spooky Haunted Maze for those brave souls who wished to enter. Candy was distributed by staff and various store fronts, and a costume contest was held for different categories including: scariest, cutest, most unique, and family group (for two or more family members dressed in a theme).

This event was sponsored by the City of Montclair, Montclair Place, Burrtec Waste Industries, and Women's Club of Montclair.

Photos are included on Page 27.

- **Youth Sports**

- Youth Volleyball League (YVL) – Fall 2023**

The City of Montclair's Youth Volleyball League is back for the fall season! Over 45 children from grades 5 – 8 and four amazing volunteer coaches began the program on Saturday, October 7 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. in the Montclair Community Center. Games will end on Saturday, November 18. For more details feel free to reach out to (909) 625-9479 or email rramirez@cityofmontclair.org.

Photos are shared on Page 28.

Youth Basketball League (YBL) – Winter 2024

The City of Montclair is excited to once again host its annual Winter Youth Basketball League. This program serves children who were born between 2010 – 2017 or are enrolled in grades 1 – 8 for the 2023 – 2024 school year. All divisions are full. The YBL Skills Assessments were held on October 17 for Divisions C & D, and October 19 for Divisions A & B. Practices will begin the week of December 11, 2023, and games will begin on January 6, 2024. For more details feel free to reach out to (909) 625-9479 or email rramirez@cityofmontclair.org.

- **Senior Center Activities**

September Senior Birthday Party

The Montclair Senior Center welcomed the fall season with themed senior birthday parties. The September Senior Birthday Party was held on September 27 in the Community Center with over 120 attendees. The theme was football and participants enjoyed lunch while wearing their favorite football team's gear.



Representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Norma Torres and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presented certificates of recognition to the Senior Birthday Honorees.

October Senior Birthday Party

The October Senior Birthday Party was held in the Community Center on October 25th with over 160 attendees. The Halloween-themed party invited participants to wear their spookiest, cutest, and silliest costumes. Representatives from the offices of Senator Susan Rubio and County Supervisor Curt Hagman, presented certificates of recognition to the Senior Birthday Honorees. The celebrated seniors also received certificates from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez. The party was followed by the Monster Bash Dance. Guests enjoyed live music, a photo area, and light refreshments.



Upcoming Senior Center Events

Upcoming November events and special presentations at the Senior Center include:

- November 8: Veterans Day Dance. RSVP by Wednesday, November 1 by calling (909) 625-9483
- November 15: Diabetes Awareness Presentation (Spanish)
- November 16: Diabetes Awareness Presentation (English)
- November 22: Senior Birthday Party! Theme: Friendsgiving
- November 28: City of Hope Lung Cancer Presentation

For a complete list of upcoming senior activities and more information, please see the Senior Newsletter at <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/senior-newsletter/>

ECS:ym

NOVEMBER 2023

Day	Event & Location	Time
Wed. 1	Community Activities Commission Meeting City Council Chamber	7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 2	Community Health Fair Community Center	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Fri. - Sun. 3 – 5	Yard Sale Weekend No permit and no fee for yard sales for 2023.	Sunrise – Sunset
Mon. 6	City Council Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Wed. 8	Veterans' Claims Event Office of Fourth District County Supervisor Curt Hagman 14010 City Center Drive, Chino Hills	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Thurs. 9	Veterans' Day City Hall Closure (City Hall reopens Monday, November 13, 2023)	
Mon. 13	Planning Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 16	Monthly Food Distribution Event Community Center	9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Sat. - Sun. 18 – 19	Free E-Waste Weekend Montclair Chamber of Commerce, 8880 Benson Ave.	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Mon. 20	Code Enforcement/Public Safety Committee Meeting — CANCELLED	
	Real Estate Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
	City Council Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Wed. 22	Senior Mobile Pantry by Feeding America Recreation Center	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Thurs. 23	Public Works Committee Meeting CANCELLED — Reschedule TBD	
	Thanksgiving Day City Hall Closure (City Hall reopens Monday, November 27, 2023)	

NOVEMBER 2023

Mon. 27	Planning Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 30	Holly Jolly Holiday Event Youth Center	6:00 p.m. – 8:30 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/](http://www.cityofmontclair.org/community-programs/), and ...[news/](http://www.cityofmontclair.org/news/).





THE CITY OF MONTCLAIR PRESENTS

YOUTH TALENT Showcase

WHERE STARS ARE BORN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023



*Aubrey Sotelo
1st Place Sr. Division*



*Laila Ganhinhin
1st Place Jr. Division*



CITY OF MONTCLAIR HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

10.28.23



CANVA STORIES F20



CANVA STORIES

CANVA STORIES F20



CANVA STORIES F20



KODAK PORTRA 400

47



CANVA STORIES



KODAK PORTRA 400

47



CANVA STORIES F20



BOO!

BOO!

montclair
place

BURRTEC
"We'll Take Care Of It"

WCM
Women's Club of Montclair

WCA

