



**DATE:** February 29, 2024  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Edward C. Starr, City Manager

## CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2024

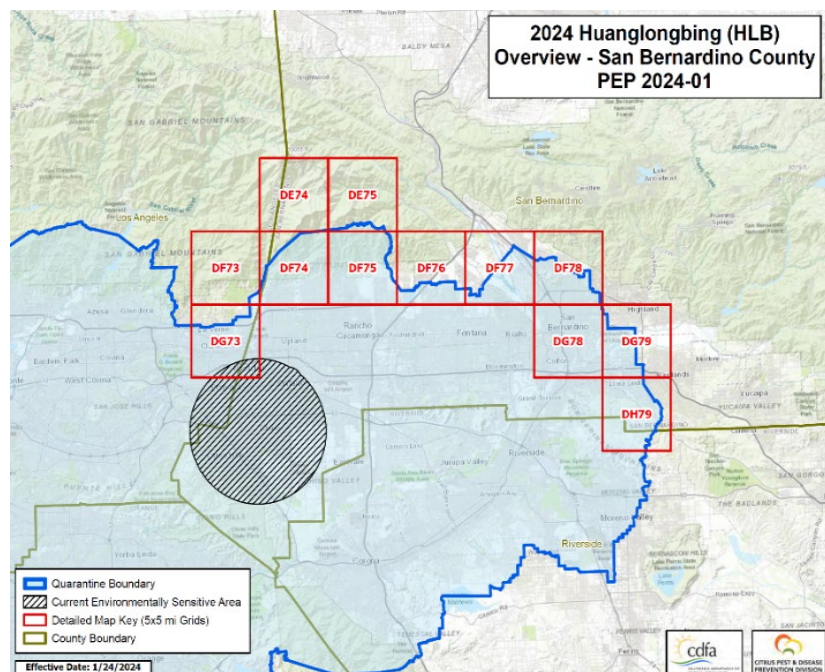
### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

- **Citrus Proclamation For Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) notified Montclair of their intention to issue a new proclamation of emergency program announcement for Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) and Huanglongbing (HLB) Disease based on recent survey work they performed between July 5, 2022, and December 29, 2023.

The survey confirmed the presence of the underlying bacteria that causes HLB. This survey involved the collection of citrus tree tissues and/or insect vectors located in Fontana, and the survey confirmed the presence of the underlying bacteria that causes HLB. These detections require expansion of the emergency program area for ACP and HLB to include Fontana, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, and Rialto. With the addition of these four cities, the emergency program area now includes the communities of Bloomington, Chino, Chino Hills, Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Montclair, Muscoy, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, San Antonio Heights, San Bernardino, and Upland—all in San Bernardino County.

Survey samples confirmed several positive detection sites located within the defined area illustrated in the map to the right.



ACP feeds primarily on *Citrus* and *Murraya* (a genus of flowering plants in the citrus family, [Rutaceae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rutaceae)<sup>1</sup>) species, but is also known to attack over forty species of plant that act as hosts and possible carriers. The psyllids cause injury to their host plants by withdrawing large amounts of sap as they feed and via the production of large amounts of honeydew, which coats the leaves of the tree and encourages the growth of sooty mold, which blocks sunlight from reaching the leaves.

These pests present a significant and imminent threat to the natural environment, agriculture, and economy of California. For example, unabated spread of HLB would have severe consequences to both the citrus industry and to the urban landscape via the decline and the death of citrus trees. The CDFA estimates that a 20 percent reduction in California citrus acreage would cause a loss of 7,350 jobs, \$127 million in employee income, and reduce state GDP by \$501 million.

HLB is considered one of the most devastating diseases of citrus in the world. The bacterium that causes the disease blocks the flow of nutrients within the tree causes the tree to starve to death within two to five years of infection, and there is presently no known cure for the disease. Symptoms of HLB often do not appear until two years after infection and include yellow shoots with mottling and chlorosis of the leaves, misshapen fruit, fruit that does not fully color, and fruit that has a very bitter taste, rendering it inedible for human consumption.

A surveillance and treatment plan for the ACP/HLB infestation has been expanded to include areas that are within a one-half (0.5) mile radius from ACP/HLB detections.

In addition, the treatment plan will include:

1. ACP and HLB Surveys repeated at least twice a year;
2. Chemical Treatment with Tempo® SC Ultra (cyfluthrin) and Merit® AF or CoreTect (imidacloprid); and
3. Physical Control by removal and destruction of all host plants found to be positive for HLB destroyed, including cutting down citrus trees on private property.

The CDFA treatment plan has now been expanded to include areas that are within a one-half (0.5) mile radius from ACP/HLB detections.

Residents of affected properties will be invited to public meetings or contacted directly by CDFA Staff. Consultation with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the County Agricultural Commissioners' Office will be provided at the public meeting or upon request to address residents' questions and concerns. Residents will be notified in writing at least 48 hours in advance of any treatment.

CDFA evaluated possible treatment methods and determined that there are no cultural or biological control methods available to control the immediate spread of HLB/ACP in the subject area.

The Proclamation of Emergency Program is valid until December 29, 2025. The two-year period past the date of the last detection is the minimum amount of time necessary to allow

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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rutaceae>

bacteria titers in any undiscovered asymptomatic HLB-infected host plants to build up to a detectable level, which allows for an assessment of the effectiveness of the treatment.

The detections of HLB/ACP described above require immediate action to address the imminent threat to California's commercial citrus production, residential citrus plantings, natural resources, and economy. More specifically, in addition to a variety of commercial citrus crops, HLB/ACP threatens loss and damage to native wildlife, private and public property, and food supplies. Due to ACP being a vector for the bacteria, CLAs, that causes HLB and the rapid reproductive rate of ACP, there is a high potential for ACP to establish and spread, resulting in sudden future detections of HLB/ACP in the cities and communities listed above.

As a reminder, residents within treatment plan areas should not remove citrus from their respective properties. All citrus should be thoroughly cleaned during handling and prior to consumption. Citrus not purchased at stores or other commercial vendors should be disposed of by placing discarded citrus in secured bags and placing the bags in solid waste containers, not green waste containers. Disposing of citrus in this manner prevents contamination to recycled green waste materials.

In a related matter, [Assembly Bill 2827<sup>2</sup>](#) has been introduced, asking the state to take action to prevent [fruit fly infestations<sup>3</sup>](#) to minimize the need to [strip orange trees of their fruit<sup>4</sup>](#). The bill would require state agencies to develop and implement strategies to detect, control, monitor, and eradicate invasive species. The objective is to protect the state's agriculture, environment, and natural resources. [Sixty percent of the United States' citrus crop is grown in California<sup>5</sup>](#), according to the CDFA. Female Oriental fruit flies lay eggs inside fruit, leading to maggots tunneling through it. The [flies can infest more than 478 kinds of crops<sup>6</sup>](#) including apricot, avocado, banana, citrus, coffee, fig, guava, loquat, mango, papaya, passion fruit, peach, pear, persimmon, pineapple and tomato.

Oriental fruit flies are a little larger than a housefly, according to the CDFA, and are generally bright yellow with a dark "T" marking on their abdomen.

- **Senate Bill 969 Entertainment Zones**

As early as January 1, 2025, if [Senate Bill 969<sup>7</sup>](#) is passed in the current Legislative Session, Californians age 21 and over may be able to order a beer at a bar to-go, walk it straight out the door, and drink it outside. The restaurant and entertainment industry considers the legislation important to their operational livelihood, and a way of countering fewer tourists, office vacancies, perceived street-level crime, and less alcohol consumption by Gen Z'ers.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB2827](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB2827)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/2023/11/13/oriental-fruit-fly-quarantine-declared-in-inland-empire/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/2024/02/14/why-california-agriculture-regulators-are-stripping-redlands-citrus-trees-of-their-fruit/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/fruitfly/>

<sup>7</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB969](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB969)

Under regulated control, current law allows businesses to set up booths during street festivals to sell alcoholic beverages, but SB 969 aims to expand outdoor to-go alcohol sales.

The bill aims to return foot traffic to pre-pandemic levels and would allow California cities and counties to designate “entertainment zones” where brick-and-mortar bars and restaurants could serve alcoholic drinks that people can consume on public streets and sidewalks. In 2023, a similar law, [SB 76<sup>8</sup>](#) was limited to creating an entertainment zone only in San Francisco.

In response to SB 76, San Francisco’s drinking and food establishments ramped up events to benefit charities and host and participate in outdoor events such as street festivals.

San Francisco’s government leaders have since embarked on an expansive program to drive foot traffic in their entertainment zones. Proponents argue SB 969 would help revitalize cities where foot traffic has plummeted since the pandemic. Cities will be able to tailor these zones to their needs, allowing bars and restaurants to sell to-go drinks similar to what vendors do at festivals.

The bill’s author argues that getting people back out in the streets is key to the economic recovery of cities across California. Entertainment Zones, will give people a reason to go back to areas where recovery has been slow, while creating a vital new revenue stream for bars and restaurants.

Research from the University of Toronto that tracked cell phone activity to [determine how well cities have rebounded<sup>9</sup>](#) since the pandemic demonstrate that San Jose and Bakersfield had recovered 96% and 95% of visitors, respectively, to its downtown area, followed by Los Angeles at 83%, San Diego at 80%, Oakland at 74%, Fresno at 72%, San Francisco at 67% and Sacramento at 66%. Hoping to continue that upward momentum, passage of SB 969 is expected to make it easier for local businesses to host block parties, wine walks and other outdoor events designed to return people to downtowns.

If SB 969 becomes law, Montclair’s Economic Development team, in cooperation with the Community Development and Human Services Departments, would consider a variety of steps to support seasonal and recurring events in partnership with Montclair Place and other outlets to promote cultural and entertainment events designed to attract people to make Montclair’s economy stronger while adding cultural vibrancy.

SB 969 is expected to receive pushback from neighborhood groups worried about public nuisances and noise, as well as organizations concerned with alcohol-related health impacts and harm. An organization known as Alcohol Justice expressed that the bill would make it easier for under-aged people visiting entertainment zones to obtain alcoholic beverages, which could lead to other concerns including liability issues and uncontrollable neighborhood disruptions.

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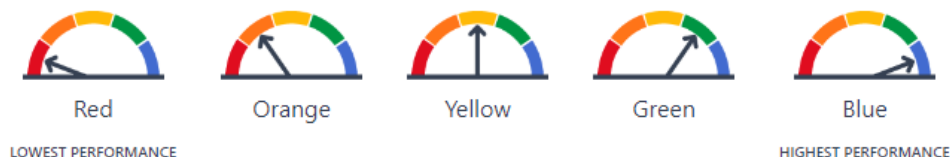
<sup>8</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB76](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB76)

<sup>9</sup> [https://downtownrecovery.com/charts/rankings?ac\\_cid=DM906183&ac\\_bid=893685226](https://downtownrecovery.com/charts/rankings?ac_cid=DM906183&ac_bid=893685226)

- **California Student Performance**

How are students in California doing? According to a new California Department of Education [2023 School Dashboard](https://www.caschooldashboard.org/)<sup>10</sup>, the state's students are still struggling on several fronts.

In the first glimpse of California's K-12 schools' year-over-year progress since the pandemic, graduation rates hit some of their highest levels ever, absenteeism dropped significantly, and hundreds of districts showed academic improvements. However, most of the 13 measurements that California uses to gauge student achievement remained flat.



Returning to the color-coded system the state used prior to the pandemic, the new dashboard graded many categories as “yellow,” or mid-way between high and low. In assigning one of five colors, the state combines data about current school district performance and progress from previous years. Districts that score red—the lowest grade—for more than one category qualify for extra assistance to make improvements.

During the pandemic, the state did not update the dashboard for two years and, in 2023, did not use the color-coding system because there was no previous data to compare it to. This is the first year since 2019 that the dashboard contains full information about test scores and other metrics.

First released in 2018, the School Dashboard is meant to give the public a fuller view of school performance, beyond just test scores. The dashboard looks at detailed data such as suspension rates, progress of English learners and career readiness, broken down by race and ethnicity and whether students are low-income, in foster care, are homeless or have disabilities.

The number of students who graduated within five years climbed to 88.7%, the highest rate since the state started tracking that data in 2018. More than half of those students qualified for California's public universities, also the highest rate in years.

Chronic absenteeism, which hit record levels during the pandemic, dropped to 24.3%, down more than 5 percentage points from last year but still more than double the pre-pandemic level.

Despite those improvements, educators argue the state needs to take dramatic steps to jolt schools toward better results. A [recently released study](https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/what-does-it-take-accelerate-learning-every-child)<sup>11</sup> appears to indicate that collaboration among teachers, when combined with extra help for struggling students, can have “measurable impacts on student achievement.” The number of school districts in the state, however, that qualify for what the state calls “differentiated assistance”—extra help

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/what-does-it-take-accelerate-learning-every-child>

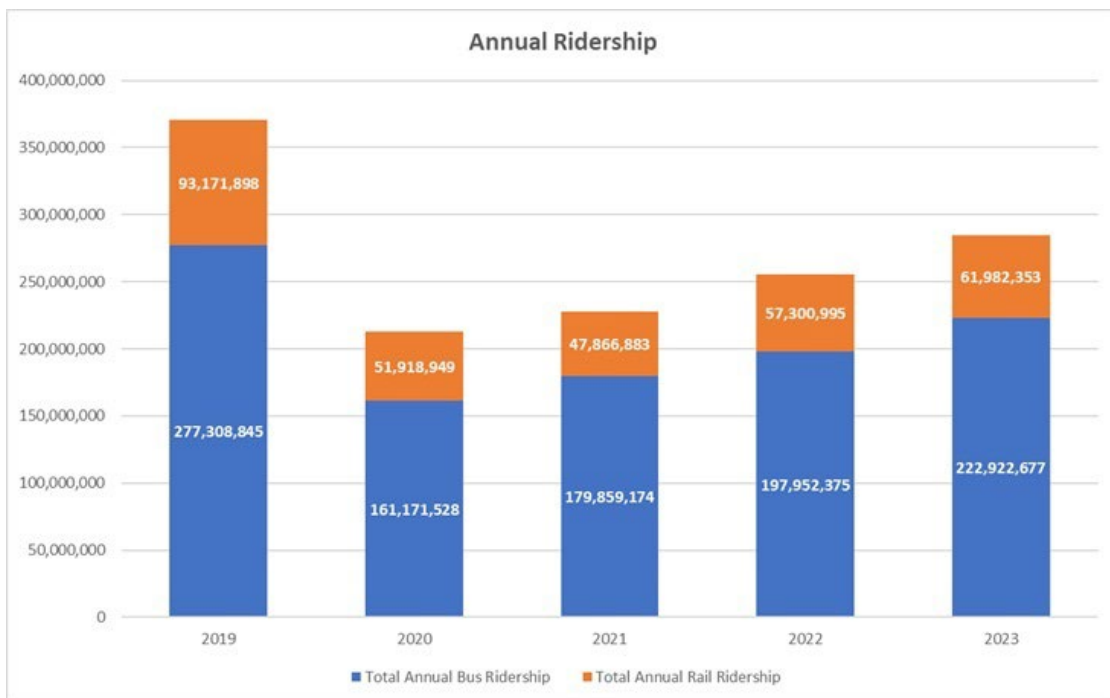
based on poor achievement in at least two categories—fell dramatically, from 617 last year to 466 in 2023, primarily because of improvements in attendance, according to the state.

[Smarter Balanced test scores<sup>12</sup>](#) were released in October and incorporated into the new dashboard. The dashboard shows English language arts and math both in “orange,” or below average. In English language arts, students scored an average of 13.6 points below the state benchmark on a 200-point scale, and 49.1 points below the standard in math.

Education officials say they are largely gratified about the dashboard data, and that the improvements show California’s recent investments in K-12 education are beginning to pay off. Since the onset of the pandemic, the state and federal governments have spent billions on tutoring, after-school programs and mental health programs to help students recover from school closures.

- **Metro Ridership Increases**

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) recently announced ridership on their system (buses and trains) continues to improve. As indicated in the following table, ridership increased 12% on the Metro system in 2023 (285 million boarding’s) as compared to 2022. Ridership on the rail system, alone, has reached 67% of 2019’s pre-pandemic levels. Train ridership grew from about 48 million in 2021 to almost 62 million in 2023—an increase of 14 million riders. Train riders have been slow to come back, in part because many workers who once rode the trains to work started to work from home during the pandemic, and many of them, according to studies, continue working from home for at least part of the workweek.



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<sup>12</sup> <https://calmatters.org/education/k-12-education/2023/10/california-student-test-scores/>

Bus ridership—at 80% of the pre-pandemic ridership—reached 222.9 million riders in 2023. Metro reported that increase was in part due to re-establishing bus routes and frequencies to pre-pandemic levels in December 2022.

At the stations built by the Construction Authority from Union Station to APU/Citrus College, average weekday boarding's in the last four months have rebounded to a little more than 51% of 2016 levels (2016 was one of the highest recorded years of ridership on the Gold Line, following the opening of the line to Azusa) and was up an additional 3% on weekdays during the recent I-10 closure for fire repairs.

Importantly, average weekend boarding's (Saturday and Sunday combined) at the Foothill Gold Line stations is now 120% of 2016 levels, highlighting the growing travel demand along this corridor for use of the line for not only work trips, but also for non-work trips.

Metro attributed the jump to several factors, from more safety personnel riding with passengers and being present at train stations, to more leisure riders who use public transit to attend rock concerts, baseball, football and soccer games and other special events to avoid driving in traffic and paying to park. Metro's focus on making the system safer, more welcoming and accessible is reflected in the increase in ridership.

Last year, Metro began adding safety personnel that consists of Metro Transit Security, private security, [325 Metro Ambassadors<sup>13</sup>](#) and care teams that help the unhoused find shelter. According to Metro officials, this “layered public safety” template is providing a visible presence as well as directly addressing and preventing crime.

Incidents of trespassing (individuals who don't pay their ridership fare and/or sleep on trains) and people who take illegal drugs on platforms and onboard moving trains and buses has also dropped by 30% from 2022. [According to surveys<sup>14</sup>](#), homeless riders using trains and buses as shelters has contributed to ridership decline. However, a recent effort by 24 multidisciplinary outreach teams has brought this under control. Outreach teams have connected more than 650 people with housing solutions since July, according to Metro.

- **Updated COVID Protocols**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is planning to drop its COVID isolation protocol to mimic California's post-pandemic approach.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

Currently, under CDC isolation guidelines, people who test positive are urged to stay home for at least five days. Under a revised isolation protocol, people would no longer be advised to isolate at home if they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, and their symptoms are not severe and are improving.

While the coronavirus continues to cause serious illness across the U.S., especially among the unvaccinated and individuals with underlying health conditions, the vast majority of people

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.dailynews.com/2023/03/06/300-transit-ambassadors-become-new-sets-of-eyes-and-ears-for-la-metro/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.dailynews.com/2023/09/29/metro-riders-speak-out-about-crime-drug-use-and-homeless-on-transit-system/>

have some protection. Research conducted on COVID antibodies by the CDC between April 2021 and September 2022 indicated an overwhelming majority of American adults had immunity to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Navigating the revised protocols would mean an ongoing and collective effort to test and wear masks when sick, stay up to date on vaccinations, and prioritize safety for the most vulnerable.

The CDC's planned coronavirus isolation guidance aligns with how to avoid respiratory illnesses like the flu or RSV, respiratory syncytial virus. CDC officials say that people who contract the flu should stay home until 24 hours after their fever of 100 degrees or higher is gone without the use of fever-reducing medications. Individuals who do not have a fever should isolate at home between four and five days after the start of their symptoms. With the flu, household members who are not ill are not required to stay home but should continue to monitor their symptoms.

The guidelines surrounding RSV are vague and include staying home when sick, washing your hands, and covering your cough and sneezes with a tissue or covering your cough and sneezes properly.

## **WHAT IS CALIFORNIA'S GUIDANCE?**

Similar to the CDC's planned guidance, California public health officials say the length of someone's isolation period should be determined based on the severity of their symptoms. Under the state Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommendation, Californians who test positive for the coronavirus no longer need to isolate for five days.

## **HOW PREVALENT IS COVID IN CALIFORNIA RIGHT NOW?**

The number of reported COVID-19 cases across California has decreased since a spike in the weeks following the 2023 holidays.

JN. 1, the latest COVID-19 variant being tracked by health experts, started rapidly circulating in December 2023. COVID-19 test positivity was at 8.1% as of February 9, 2024, according to the CDPH, compared to 11.8% on January 12, 2024. COVID-19 appears to spike seasonally like the flu and RSV. In the future, health experts believe COVID's annual spread will not be that much different from an illness like influenza.

In mid-February 2024, an estimated 2,302 patients were admitted to hospitals in California due to the coronavirus, and 2% of deaths during the same week were COVID-19-related.

## **WHERE CAN I GET FREE AT-HOME COVID TESTS?**

U.S. residential households are eligible for another round of free at-home COVID-19 self-tests through the U.S. Postal Service. Each order includes four individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests. To order free, at-home COVID-19 test kits, click on the following link: [COVID Home Tests | USPS<sup>15</sup>](https://special.usps.com/testkits)

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<sup>15</sup> <https://special.usps.com/testkits>

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- **Customer Service for Public Servants Training**

The Personnel Division will be broadcasting a live training put on by the firm Liebert Cassidy Whitmore (LCW) on Thursday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Council Chambers. This half-day workshop brings together the best of LCW's Public Service, Difficult Conversation, and Implicit Bias workshops to offer insight on the benefits and responsibilities of public servants including working with your constituents in productive and meaningful ways.



The training is open to all City employees, but RSVP is required through the proper channels within your department (Supervisor, Manager, or Department Head). A recording of the training will be available for a limited time to those who are not able to make it to the training.

Each department must submit an attendee list to City Clerk/Human Resources Manager Andrea Myrick via email by Thursday, February 29, 2024.

- **New Employees**

Welcome to the following new employees:

- **Emily Bravo**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Angel Gutierrez**, Police Officer, Police Department
- **Katarina Herrero-Solorio**, Police Dispatcher, Police Department
- **Dali Lai**, Senior Recreation Leader, Human Services
- **Kaylen Lopez-Martinez**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Madison Maestas**, Police Dispatcher, Police Department
- **Uhura Mckenzie**, Administrative Specialist, Public Works
- **Francisco Soberanes**, Police Officer, Police Department
- **Aqueelah Williams**, Senior Learning Leader, Human Services

- **Internal Appointments / Promotions**

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

- **Rick Dominguez**, Police Sergeant, Police Department
- **Brian Ventura**, Police Captain, Police Department
- **Michael Zerr**, Police Lieutenant, 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:

- **Alinna Arteaga**, Recreation Leader, Human Services
- **Josue Barrios**, Customer Service Representative/Office Specialist, Human Services
- **Raul Bedolla**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Michael Braun**, Maintenance Worker, Public Works
- **Bryan Jimenez Vera**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Michael Lopez**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Amber Orozco**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Bridget Puebla**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Allison Stevens**, Police Officer, Police Department
- **Jillian Ubaldo**, Deputy City Clerk, Administrative Services

- **Montclair Job Opportunities**

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

**Current Recruitments**

- **Deputy City Clerk** – Administrative Services
- **Customer Service Representative/Office Specialist** – Human Services
- **Montclair After-School Program Coordinator** – Human Services
- **Recreation Coordinator - Sports** – Human Services
- **Fire Captain** – Fire Department (internal)
- **Firefighter (Paramedic)** (Entry-Level/Lateral) – Fire Department
- **Building Official** – Community Development
- **Plans Examiner** – Community Development

**Continuous Recruitments**

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

- **Senior Police Dispatcher (Lateral)** – Police Department
- **Police Dispatcher (Entry-Level)** – Police Department
- **Police Officer (Entry-Level/Lateral)** – Police Department
- **Reserve Police Officer Level II and I** – Police Department
- **Police Cadet** – Police Department
- **Senior Recreation Leader** – Human Services
- **Recreation Leader** – Human Services
- **Senior Learning Leader** – Human Services
- **Learning Leader** – Human Services
- **Substitute Learning Leader** – Human Services

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

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

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- **Montclair Chamber of Commerce Grand Re-Opening**

On February 1, 2024, the Montclair Chamber of Commerce celebrated the Grand Re-opening and Ribbon Cutting for their brand new headquarters, conveniently located at 9916 Central Avenue, Montclair, just blocks away from City Hall.

This beautiful new location will allow the Chamber of Commerce to work in partnership with our local Small Business Administration office to provide a one-stop shop of powerful tools, resources, and connections for Montclair businesses and entrepreneurs.



Dignitaries in attendance included Mayor John Dutrey, Mayor Pro Tem Tenice Johnson, Council Member Corysa Martinez, and representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Norma Torres, Senator Susan Rubio, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, and Supervisor Curt Hagman.

- **Shop Local Montclair**

In recognition of Small Business Saturday, the City of Montclair and the Montclair Chamber of Commerce introduced “Shop Local Montclair,” a campaign aimed at supporting our small and local businesses and thanking those who choose to shop local.

When you shop local, you are not just making a purchase—you are investing in your neighbors, friends, and local entrepreneurs. In addition, every time you shop local, you ensure that your sales tax dollars are being reinvested in your community. Together, let’s keep Montclair strong by shopping local!



**SHOP LOCAL, WIN LOCAL!**

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!**

We're making shopping local even more rewarding! For every purchase you make at a local Montclair business, snap a photo of your receipt, and submit it for a chance to win exciting prizes. Each valid receipt is an entry into our quarterly raffle, where you could score a \$75 gift card to a local Montclair business!

- **1. MAKE A LOCAL PURCHASE**  
Support Montclair's local businesses by making a purchase at your favorite local business.
- **2. SNAP A PHOTO**  
Capture the moment! Snap a photo of your receipt.
- **3. ENTER THE RAFFLE**  
Send your first and last name, phone number, and a photo of your receipt to [info@montclairchamber.com](mailto:info@montclairchamber.com) to enter into the raffle.

- **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.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- **Tree Planting Event**

Last year, Stuart Wood from Sustainable Claremont contacted Public Works Director Heredia to start a partnership with the City and apply for a grant to plant trees in Montclair to help grow the City's urban forest. Stuart and his team were successful and were able to secure grant funds to plant 150 trees at three City Parks and the Pacific Electric Trail. Director Heredia has been coordinating with Green Crew staff representing Sustainable Claremont, to program these events in February, March, April, and May this year.

On February 3, 2024, more than 20 volunteers planted eight trees at Saratoga Park near the south parking lot facing Vernon Avenue. Volunteers planted four Natchez Crepe Myrtles on the north side of the parking lot, and four Chinese Pistache trees were planted on the south side of the parking lot.



Sustainable Claremont Green Crew members, Richard Herrera, Tree People representatives, and volunteers in front of a newly planted Pistache Tree.

One of the requirements of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant for Reeder Ranch Park is to install trees using 20 volunteers. On Saturday, February 24, 2024, more than 30 volunteers showed up to plant 23 trees at Reeder Ranch Park, which is currently under construction. Volunteers planted ten 24-inch Wester Redbuds, ten 24-inch Red Ironbark, and three 36-inch Natchez Crape Myrtle trees.



Mayor Dutrey, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, Council Members Martinez and Ruh, Planning Commissioner Mendez, Director Heredia, Project Manager Ortega, Sustainable Claremont Green Crew members and volunteers at the start of the tree planting event

Additionally, Public Works staff, maintenance workers, contractors, and managers assisted with preparing each site before the planting event, ensuring adequate irrigation and soil preparation.

Thanks to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE), the State of California Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018 (Prop 68), Tree People, and Green Crew from Sustainable Claremont, the City will increase its urban forestry by 150 trees.

The next tree-planting events are scheduled for March 16, 23, and 30, 2024, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Volunteers will plant Magnolia, Chinese Pistache, and Chitalpa trees along the Pacific Electric Trail segment maintained by the City. Volunteers will plant sixty trees along the frontage of the future Marlow Development west of Monte Vista Avenue.

On National Arbor Day, Friday, April 26, 2024, volunteers will plant twenty-four trees at Sunset Park, which is currently under construction. The final partnership event with Sustainable Claremont will be on Saturday, May 25, 2024, when volunteers will plant 35 trees at Sunset Park.

RSVP is required to register as a volunteer for these events. See the flyer on page 28 for more details.

## - Fire Station 1 — Parking Lot Improvements**

On November 6, 2023, the City Council approved two contracts for the parking lot improvements at Fire Station 151(FS1). FS1 is located at the southeast corner of Monte Vista Avenue and Arrow Highway. The contract with Rymax Electric entailed installation of parking lot lighting. The contract with Grigolla and Sons Construction Company, Inc. involved removing the existing parking lot asphalt surface and constructing a concrete surface.

In 2018, the City purchased a 48-foot long, 72,520-pound ladder truck. The ladder truck required a larger diameter-turning radius to enter the fire station bay doors. To provide the additional turning space, the center island and parking lot lighting was removed from the parking lot. The new path of travel transitions from the concrete driveway onto the parking lot asphalt surface and the size and the weight of the ladder truck has worn away the asphalt in multiple areas. Eight inches of 3,250-psi concrete is required to support the weight of the

ladder truck. Parking lot lighting was also included as part of this renovation for the safety and security of staff and equipment.

The total cost of the asphalt surface replacement and installation of the parking lot lighting was \$153,568.75. Funding in the amount of \$175,000 to replace the parking lot asphalt surface at FS1 was included in the Fiscal Year 2023–2024 Public Works Operations Budget.

#### BEFORE IMPROVEMENS



#### AFTER IMPROVEMENTS



## HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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

### **Easter Eggstravaganza and Pancake Breakfast**

The City's Easter Eggstravaganza and Pancake Breakfast are scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 30 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Alma Hofman Park.

The Eggstravaganza will include games, activities, Easter eggs, and candy for children 12 years and younger. Children are invited to bring their own baskets from home to win candy-filled eggs as game prizes.

The Easter Bunny will arrive and will pose for photos (\$3 per photo or \$1 to take your own photo). The pancake breakfast, offered for \$5 per plate, will include 2 pancakes, 2 sausages, and orange juice, while supplies last.

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

For more event details please contact Jordi Ubaldo, Community Services Supervisor at (909) 625-9489 or visit <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/easter-eggstravaganza/>

The event flyer is shown on Page 21.

### **Memorial Day Program**

Join us on Monday, May 27 at 6:00 p.m. for the Community Activities Commission's 24th Annual Memorial Day Program. The Program will be held in the Memorial Garden, adjacent to City Hall.

To honor Montclair Veterans, the Community Activities Commission accepted new submissions for plaques on the Veteran's Memorial Wall until Friday, February 23. Each plaque pays tribute to deceased Montclair veterans from all service branches.

New plaques will be dedicated on Memorial Day, May 27, 2024 and will remain on the Veteran's Memorial Wall as an ongoing dedication to those who served our country during any war or peacetime.

### **Country Fair Jamboree**

Please join us for the 10th Annual Country Fair Jamboree, on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from noon to 6 p.m. at Alma Hofman Park. This event will consist of games, food trucks, a petting zoo, carnival rides, pie eating, pony rides, bands, entertainment, Splash Pad, and craft vendors.

For vendor and sponsorship information, please call the Montclair Chamber of Commerce at (909) 985-5104.

For volunteer opportunities, please call (909) 625-9482. For event information, please call (909) 625-9479 or visit <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/countryfairjamboree/>.

An event flyer is shared on Page 22.

- **Montclair to College**

MTC is a one-of-a-kind college readiness program brought to Montclair High School students and their families by the City of Montclair and Montclair Community Foundation. If completed successfully, MTC allows students to earn a two-year scholarship to Chaffey College, valued at approximately \$4,500; including tuition, textbooks, parking, and other fees. Other benefits of enrolling in MTC include a dedicated counselor for all MTC students at Chaffey College and two-year priority registration. The extended deadline for students in 12th grade to submit the Montclair to College application and community service is March 11.

This program is sponsored by the City of Montclair, Chaffey College and Chaffey Joint Union High School District.

For more information on Montclair to College, please contact Angela Franco at (909) 625-9457 or visit <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/montclair-to-college/>.

- **Montclair Youth Center**

**MYC Super Bowl Party 2024**

On Friday, February 9, the Montclair Youth Center hosted a Super Bowl Party for over 50 Youth Center participants. The event featured football themed game day appetizers and snacks including refreshments, popcorn, snow cones, and tailgating themed games that surely made it a touchdown event.

Photos are shared on Page 23.

**Youth Center Activities**

The Montclair Youth Center Cooking Club takes place every Wednesday at

4:00 p.m. and is free for all Youth Center participants. Every week participants cook and bake new items. For the month of February, participants baked Valentine's Day themed goodies, including cake pops, heart shaped pizza, heart shaped cookie cakes, and cupcakes.

The MYC Rhythm Lounge Club is held in the assembly room every Friday at

4:00 p.m. and is free for all Youth Center participants. Participants engage in music themed games, discuss music, artists, pop culture, compose songs, and create weekly music playlists as a group.

The Youth Center also offers open gym every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the Montclair Community Center, free to all MYC participants.

Photos are shared on Page 24.

- **Youth and Adult Sports Leagues**

**Youth Volleyball League – Spring 2024 Registration Open!**

The Youth Volleyball League is back this Spring! Registration is ongoing through March 1 at the Recreation Center, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The league is open to youth born between 2010 and 2013 or in 5th through 8th grade for the 2023-2024 school year. The league fee is \$30, which includes a jersey and medal.

All players are required to attend a mandatory skills assessment at the Montclair Community Center on Saturday, March 9. Practices begin the week of March 25 and are held in the Montclair Community Center. Games are played on Saturday's for six weeks beginning the week of April 13 and ending Saturday, May 18 in the Montclair Community Center.

Volunteer coaches are needed for all divisions. All volunteer coaches are required to be fingerprinted by the Montclair Police Department.

For more information, please call (909) 625-9479.

### **Men's Basketball League – Winter 2024**

Adult Sports league games started the week of January 11, 2024. Men's Adult Basketball plays on Thursday nights in the Montclair Community Center from

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. through March 28. Please feel free to stop by and cheer on the players!

### **Youth Basketball League- Winter 2024**

The always-entertaining Coaches game returned for the first time after four years. Eighteen coaches participated in this fun and friendly game. Spectators and youth players had lots of fun supporting their coaches as they showcased their basketball skills. During halftime, players were invited to a shooting challenge where they had a chance to win a free Gatorade and popcorn. Lastly, there was an opportunity drawing to win prizes including, basketballs, signed posters and basketball gear. We can't wait for next year's game!

- **Senior Center Activities**

#### **Senior Birthday Celebrations**

The January Senior Birthday Party was held on January 31 at the Senior Center. The theme was "It's a Winter-ful World," and over 150 attendees celebrated January birthdays in a room full of arctic decorations, including snowflakes and snowy reindeer. Caricature artists were available during the event for attendees. Birthday honorees received cards or certificates of recognition from representatives of Congresswoman Norma Torres, Senator Susan Rubio, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, and San Bernardino County Fourth District Supervisor Curt Hagman.

Photos are shared on Page 25.

#### **Valentine's Day Dance**

On Wednesday, February 14, over 100 attendees celebrated Valentine's Day at the Community Center with a dance that featured a DJ, light refreshments, and multiple photo opportunities. Attendees arrived dressed in their best pink and red attire. They enjoyed the sweetheart theme table décor and danced to their favorite songs throughout the two-hour event.

Photos are shared on Page 26.

## **Tax Prep Services**

The Montclair Senior Center will host two providers for free tax assistance. The deadline to file taxes is April 15. More details on each provider can be found below:

- **AARP Tax Services**

Volunteers from AARP will be assisting with filing income taxes at the Montclair Senior Center every Tuesday through April 9 from 1 - 4 p.m. Assistance will be provided on a first come, first served basis. A sign-up sheet will be available as soon as the Senior Center opens at 8 a.m. on the day of each session. Sign-up must be made in person and you must be present at the time you are called. No advanced registration will be taken.

- **San Bernardino County Transitional Assistance Department (TAD)**

TAD Tax preparation services will be available by APPOINTMENT ONLY at the Montclair Senior Center from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on March 20, March 29 and April 4. To schedule an appointment, please call (909) 421-4091 (909) 421-4093, or (877) 410-8829.

## **Area Agency On Aging (AAA) Public Hearing**

On Tuesday, March 5, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of San Bernardino County will conduct public hearings to discuss the 2024-2028 Area Plan. The plan sets forth goals and objectives to address the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities throughout San Bernardino County. The agency is interested in receiving comments regarding the Area Plan from older adults, individuals with disabilities, family caregivers, advocacy groups who serve these individuals, and any other interested parties. The hearing will begin at 9:00 AM at the Montclair Senior Center.

Other upcoming March special events at the Senior Center include:

- March 6: Breathe Easier™: Understanding & Managing COPD Workshop
- March 13: St. Patrick's Day Dance (RSVP required by March 6)
- March 14: Alzheimer's Association: 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
- March 26: City of Hope Colon Cancer Presentation
- March 27: Senior Birthday Party! Theme: Spring is in the air

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

- **Free Community Shredding Event**

Residents are invited to shred up to three boxes of documents at the north parking lot of City Hall on Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, or until the shredding truck reaches capacity. This event is sponsored by Supervisor Curt Hagman's office, in partnership with the City of Montclair.

More details for this event can be found on the flyer located on page 27.

**ECS:ym**

# MARCH 2024

<i>Day</i>	<i>Event &amp; Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
Mon. <b>4</b>	<b>City Council Workshop</b> City Council Chambers	5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
	<b>City Council Meeting</b> City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Wed. <b>6</b>	<b>Community Activities Commission Meeting</b> City Council Chamber	7:00 p.m.
Mon. <b>11</b>	<b>Planning Commission Meeting</b> City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Sat. <b>16</b>	<b>Free Community Document Shredding Event</b> Civic Center Parking Lot (north)	9:00 a.m. – Noon
Mon. <b>18</b>	<b>City Council Meeting</b> City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
	<b>Real Estate Committee Meeting</b> City Hall Conference Room	5:30 p.m.
	<b>Code Enforcement/Public Safety Committee Meeting</b> City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
Thurs. <b>21</b>	<b>Monthly Food Distribution Event</b> Community Center	9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
	<b>Public Works Committee Meeting</b> City Hall Conference Room	4:00 p.m.
Mon. <b>25</b>	<b>Planning Commission Meeting</b> City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Wed. <b>27</b>	<b>Senior Mobile Pantry by Feeding America</b> Recreation Center	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Sat. <b>30</b>	<b>Easter Eggstravaganza</b> Alma Hofman Park	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.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/](http://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/).

**JOIN  
US!**

**FAMILY  
FUN!**



**PHOTOS  
WITH  
THE  
BUNNY!**

\$3 photo,  
\$1 using own camera  
(cash only)

**CANDY!**

**FREE  
CANDY-FILLED  
EASTER EGGS  
AND TREATS**  
for children ages 12 and  
under, while supplies last

**PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST!**

**\$5 BREAKFAST**  
2 Pancakes, 2 Sausages, and  
1 Juice, while supplies last  
(cash only)

**Alma Hofman Park**  
5201 Benito St., Montclair

**IMPORTANT:** Please bring your  
own bag or basket to collect  
eggs and treats at the event

For more information  
please call: (909) 625-9479

**PRIZE  
EGGS!**

and an opportunity drawing  
for a large Easter Basket for  
children ages 3-12

Presented by



**MONTCLAIR  
FIRE FIGHTERS  
ASSOCIATION**



10<sup>th</sup>  
Annual

SAVE  
THE  
DATE!

# Country Fair

JAMBOREE

GAMES ★ FOOD TRUCKS ★ PETTING ZOO ★ CARNIVAL RIDES ★ PIE EATING  
PONY RIDES ★ BANDS ★ ENTERTAINMENT ★ SPLASH PAD ★ CRAFT VENDORS

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024

12-6 PM

ALMA HOFMAN PARK  
5201 BENITO ST., MONTCLAIR

**FUN CONTESTS  
FOR ALL AGES**

PRESALE CARNIVAL WRISTBANDS AVAILABLE AT  
SELECT LOCATIONS. VISIT WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION.

[www.cityofmontclair.org/countryfairjamboree](http://www.cityofmontclair.org/countryfairjamboree)

FOR MORE EVENT  
INFORMATION CALL

**(909) 625-9479** ★

FOR VENDOR AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION  
CALL THE MONTCLAIR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**(909) 985-5104**



# MONTCLAIR YOUTH CENTER ACTIVITIES



**RHYTHM LOUNGE**



**OPEN GYM**



**FUSE BEADS**



**COOKING CLUB**



# January Birthday Party

## *It's a Winter-ful World*

January 31, 2024





# Valentine's Day Dance

## February 14, 2024



# Document Shredding Event



Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024

Time: 9 AM- 12 PM

or until shredding truck reaches capacity

Location: Montclair City Hall

Address: 5111 Benito Street, Montclair CA 91763

Preregister at: [HagmanShred0324.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hagman-shred-0324-tickets-7044444444444444444)

## Free

San Bernardino County  
Residents Only



Document shredding truck will destroy documents on site



**NO** CDs, DVDs, Binders, X-rays, Plastics, Etc.



Limited to 3 standard-size filing boxes (10"x12"x15") of documents per vehicle



Out-of-county residents will be turned away

In Partnership with



Please enter driveway heading North on Fremont and form an orderly line along the curb

Montclair Tree Planting Events taking place  
March 16, 23, & 30 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Pacific Electric Trail

# SUSTAINABLE CLAREMONT

## Tree Plantings

Grow your urban forest!



For details and  
registration:



**RSVP  
REQUIRED!**



**GREEN  
CREW**

*This project is supported by funding from TreePeople, CAL FIRE, and the Proposition 68 Parks, Environment, and Water Bond Act of 2018.*

[www.sustainableclaremont.org](http://www.sustainableclaremont.org)

[greencrew@sustainableclaremont.org](mailto:greencrew@sustainableclaremont.org)