



Monrovia Area Partnership's *Award Winning* Neighborhood News



October 2017

Neighborhood News

Celebrating Monrovia; Our Treasures, Our Differences, Each Other

Recognize yourself in he and she who are not like you and me.
— Carlos Fuentes

Over the last few months, we have been busy thinking of ways to celebrate each other in tumultuous times. Every year MAP thinks of ways to be different and innovative to best serve the community and 2018 is no different. Welcome to our theme for 2018: *Celebrating Monrovia: Our Treasures, Our Differences, Each Other!*

Words sound great, but how are we going to do it? One way we are planning to celebrate includes bringing back our block parties, where MAP first began. The block parties bring people out of their homes and into a common area to enjoy each other's company. There is always food, music, games and more fun treats.

As an added element to the block parties, MAP will have a celebration for a new program called *Neighborhood Treasures* that we have been working on. *Neighborhood Treasures* sheds light on unsung heroes of Monrovia. We will be celebrating three (3) Treasures over 2018 with a block party and with an installation of a creative art piece inspired by that specific person in various parts of the City.



March 10th will be our first block party honoring Colonel Allen Allensworth. Who is he, you ask? Check out the back page for a sneak peek and make sure to join us on March 10th for what is sure to be a special day!



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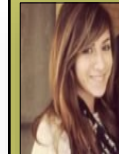
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City of Monrovia
Neighborhood Services
415 S Ivy Ave
Monrovia, CA 91016



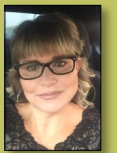
[Sheila Spicer-Batice](#)
(626) 932-5586



[Ariel Tolefree](#)
(626) 932-5563

[Aleks Akopyan](#)
(626) 932-5525

[Kerri Zessau](#)
(626) 932-5564



Contact us!

map@ci.monrovia.ca.us



Connect with Monrovia
Volunteers & Leaders -
"Like" MAP on
Facebook.



Watch our blog for
news on events and
opportunities through
MAP.

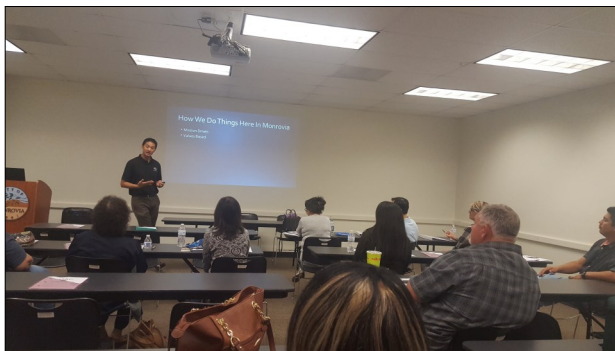
TheNeighborhoodFix.blogspot.com

Community Leaders in Training

Leadership Academy



It's fall and you know what that means...Leadership Academies! We kicked off both our Youth and Adult Leadership Academies, and it has been great. Adults attend a seven week crash course on the intricacies of the City of Monrovia and the importance of involvement. Classes are already half way through and participants are a blast!



Youth Leadership Academy

Just like our adults, the Youth Leadership Academy is off to a great start! So far, we have:

- Talked about why leadership is important and how everyone can be a leader in one way or another
- Discussed personal integrity
- Gone on a walking tour of the City to learn more about the awesome place they live

Next up for our fun group is beginning our volunteer projects to determine how the youth can better their little corner of the world from right where we are. Most importantly, our Youth Leadership Academy exists to motivate teens that they don't have to be adults to change the world.

Stay tuned...



Five years ago, my sister Mary Warrick was told by doctors that in the future she would need a kidney due to her then Stage 3 kidney disease. At that time, I told Mary I was willing to be tested to become a kidney donor for her. In February 2017, Mary was placed on the “eligible to receive a kidney list”, she was now at Stage 5 kidney disease. At the time, the expectation to receive a deceased donor kidney was 10 years. I knew my sister could not wait 10 years. The best possible option for a kidney donation is a living sibling. Statistics show that 1 in 4 siblings are a potential kidney match.

Upon completion of the necessary donor application, the process began and medical testing at Loma Linda University Transplantation Institute began. The medical testing for both of us was extensive. It began with Mary as the recipient to determine she was healthy enough to receive the donation. For me, as the donor, the Institute was very accommodating to my work/life schedule. They tested me thoroughly to ensure compatibility to my sister and for my best health and wellbeing. In the end, Mary and I were found to be an excellent kidney match. Wow, what a blessing! The Loma Linda Transplant Committee (an objective team of 20 medical professionals including doctors, nurses and independent advocates one for the donor, one for the recipient) met and gave their approval to proceed. We were thrilled and solidified our decision to proceed with the kidney transplant surgery.



On August 7, 2017, my sister and I underwent kidney donor/recipient surgery at Loma Linda University Hospital. We are sincerely grateful to God for the invaluable expertise and help from doctors and staff at the Loma Linda Transplantation Institute and Hospital, and of course the support of family, friends and neighbors. Loma Linda accommodated us and allowed my sister and I to recover in a shared hospital room where we watched over one another. My sister reported feeling amazing after receiving the organ donation and her health continues to improve. What a miracle! Being an RN, Mary was an amazing patient advocate for her and me as we were healing. We are both now recuperating in our respective homes and being cared for by husbands and families. We have received many prayers, well wishes, and visitors which we have very much appreciated!

Not surprisingly, as we were navigating through the process, life continued to happen around us. My sister was blessed by the birth of her 11th grandchild. I was laid off from my job and subsequently received a new job offer from a dear neighbor and began work before surgery.

There is a lot in life that cannot be controlled. You may have family members going through medical matters and may feel like there is not a lot you can do. This opportunity has forever touched the hearts of my sister and I and our family. Looking back I would do it again in a heartbeat! An opportunity like this may present itself at some point in your life. And you should think of it as just that, an opportunity! Take time to consider that you may be able to give or renew life to another. The rewards of being an organ donor are indescribable.

I have researched and learned about the staggering statistics of organ need and I registered myself in the event of death my allowable organs and tissues may be used by others so that they may live.

If you would like to help through a living donation you may contact the **United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)** services line at 1-888-894-6361.

You may also wish to register to **Donate Life**. You may check the UNOS website, the DMV website or go online to Donate Life California www.donatelifecalifornia.com.

Julian Fisher Park Update

On Saturday, July 1, we had the pleasure of having two great speakers join us at our Quarterly Meeting! Public Services Director Tina Cherry, stopped by to give an update on the upgrades in progress at Julian Fisher Park. By now, you have seen that the park is under construction, and will be through the fall. The updates we should be seeing soon include improving the basketball courts; bringing in energy efficient LED light fixtures that reduce light spill outside of the park; bringing in native plants to the landscape; updating the park sign; and bringing in a Portland Loo (a restroom).

We are so excited about the new updates to the park, which will make spending time and having family fun even better! Take a look at the pictures to the right for a sneak peak at the plans.



PLEASE EXCUSE THE DUST WHILE WE MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO JULIAN FISHER PARK!

CONSTRUCTION MID-JULY THROUGH OCTOBER 2017

ALTERNATIVE RECREATION LOCATIONS:
Basketball: Mary Wilcox Youth Center Gym (843 E. Olive Ave.)
Monday-Friday 6pm-10pm
Saturday and Sunday- 12pm-5pm
Playground/Picnic Space:
Recreation Park (740 E. Olive Ave)

JOIN MORE AT OUR OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, JUNE 21 AT JULIAN FISHER PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: 626.256.8225



Focus on Fire Safety

At our quarterly meeting on July 1, we also were lucky enough to get Evan Nuckles, our Building Official, to provide us information on fire safety in the home. Evan gave us staggering numbers on residential fire statistics (on average residential structure fires happen 366,600 times a year, resulting in an average of 2,750 deaths, 13,210 injuries and \$7.2 billion in damages) and how most of the fires people face could be prevented, with just a little fire safety.

Most fires occur at night and during the winter months, when people have multiple heaters and/or decorative lights plugged in. Because of this, it is extremely important to have working smoke alarms to alert you of any problems.

Other major causes of death, injury or damage?

1. Cooking
2. Heating equipment
3. Electrical malfunction
4. Mechanical failure
5. Not paying attention
6. Improper use



For more information on fire safety, please visit CityofMonrovia.org/MAP for the PowerPoint!

Community Policing Tip

As we near the end of the year, here are some tips to follow, especially as we get closer to the holidays: always keep your residential doors locked, even when home; keep exterior lights on during the night and while you are away, keeping your house is well lit; trim all shrubbery surrounding your house; activate residential alarms when away; do not leave valuables in plain view; retrieve your mail daily; and make sure to always secure your vehicle(s) as well.



Care For Your Neighbor

October 2017

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On Saturday, August 26, 2017 the MAP Care for Your Neighbor Program successfully completed another community improvement project and helped a Monrovia in need. This property, while well kept, had a few issues with the front landscape. Traditional code enforcement efforts were not necessarily going to solve the problem to gain compliance, so MAP stepped in.

The MAP Care for Your Neighbor Program jumped into action by coordinating community resources to help clean up and beautify the landscape. Neighborhood Services staff partnered with MAP Leaders, the Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley and even brought out some family members to help provide resources and assistance in the efforts. The Monrovia Area Partnership wants to thank everyone who was able to help to make this community improvement project another success for Monrovia neighborhoods.



Upcoming Events

MAP-Ed Quarterly Meeting

Save the date for our quarterly education meeting where staff, officials, and City partners discuss a variety of community topics.

Date: January 20, 2018

Topic: To Be Announced

Location: Library Community Room
321 S. Myrtle Ave

Time: 11am to 1pm

BLOCK PARTY

When: Saturday, March 10

Where: Second Baptist Church Parking lot
925 S Shamrock Ave

Time: 11 am to 2 pm

We will be having a great time filled with fun, music, games, prizes and a special unveiling of our first Neighborhood Treasure! Block parties are created to foster relationships among residents, strengthen the community and enhance city services. Activities include food, music, games, raffles and giveaways. City staff is on hand to update participants on current programs and listen to concerns and suggestions.

SAVE THE DATE and join us for the fun!

Code Enforcement Tip

You too can help make our Community a safer, cleaner place! Here's how:

The City of Monrovia contracts with California Shopping Cart Retrieval Service Company to pick up stray carts. Their drivers pick up carts on a daily basis and will respond to requests for pick up from anyone either by calling in the location to their hotline number at **1-800-563-3070** or online at <http://www.cartretrieval.net/>. You can also report an abandoned cart's location to code enforcement at **626-932-5582**.



As part of the City of Monrovia's partnership with Athens Services, residential customers get two (2) free bulky item trash pick-ups per calendar year. Those pick-ups can be scheduled by calling **1-855-557-1007** or online at <http://athensservices.com/request-services/>. Many of our residents take advantage of this service and properly schedule and place out their items for pick up; but unfortunately there are still some items abandoned out in the public right of way that if not reported will remain there for days.

If you see abandoned bulky items out in the public right of ways around town, please report it to Public Works at: pwcomments@ci.monrovia.ca.us, at **626-932-5553** or **626-932-5582**.



To report code violations, please contact Code Enforcement!

Residents West of Myrtle Ave, Contact Ken True: 626-932-5535 | KTrue@ci.monrovia.ca.us

Residents East of Myrtle Ave, Contact Rick Macias: 626-932-5545 | RMacias@ci.monrovia.ca.us

Commercial Businesses, Contact Krystina Contreras: 626-932-5533 | KContreras@ci.monrovia.ca.us

Over the Counter News

Part of what makes this City great is how thoughtful it is designed and how the City can keep up with the needs of its' citizens. Our Planning Division works hard to do what is best for Monrovia's! Part of that is continually working with the public, Hollywood, and the Historic Preservation and the Planning Commissions. Read below about what is happening...*over the counter!*

When Anti-Aging Cream Isn't Enough... Even Buildings Get Facelifts

Since it's been a hot minute (it's also been a particularly humid minute, don't you think?) since our last blog post, we wanted to update you on some of the revitalizations happening throughout the city. Some of the City of Monrovia's commercial buildings are undergoing some major facelifts... Just in case you look around one day and wonder where the heck you are, here are some of the more prominent age-defying changes currently underway.

The 7-Eleven on Duarte Road is getting a brand spanking new look! New eyebrow lift, new paint, and new parking will be noticeable. "Did you know?" 7-Eleven was previously named for their hours of operation 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. However, most are now open 24 hours per day. We guess those late night hours would age anybody! Not to worry, through the miracle of modern construction technology, 7-Eleven will be refreshed and looking new again in no time! This facelift is bound to bring new energy to a classic location. Now onto our next problem... is there any way we can let them be open more than 24-hours per day?



The renovated 7-Eleven is going to be a quality project, and we think this next one will be too. I mean, it says so right there in the name! We're talking about the Quality Inn on Huntington Drive, of course! Yep, you heard it here first, folks, the Quality Inn is doing the Cadillac of all facelifts... new stone facades, shutters, and light fixtures, in addition to a new breakfast room and ADA upgrades! After they're done, you may not even recognize them. But don't worry, you can still expect the same QUALITY service and reasonable room rates.

And, have you seen the facelift that is in progress on Huntington Drive? Watch out, it's a bird, it's a plane, oh, wait, it is a plane! The iconic airplane mural at the former Albertson's is getting saved! In fact, it is such an important piece of

art, that the shopping center shall henceforth forever be known as "Monrovia Landing" (sound the trumpets!). Yes, this major transformative and refreshing façade remodel is breathing new life into an important commercial center. New Facelift, New Make-up, New Parking, New Landscaping and New Businesses! Once the work is done, the tabloids will run side-by-side photos and report that Monrovia Landing denies having any professional work done. It just drinks lots of water and gets plenty of sleep. We swear.



Want more information on anything you've read here? Read more on the Planning Division's blog: <http://cdoverthecounter.blogspot.com/>

City of Monrovia Neighborhood Services
415 S Ivy Ave
Monrovia, CA 91016

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Neighborhood News

October 2017

Join us for a celebration of a *Neighborhood Treasure*, Colonel Allen Allensworth!
Saturday, March 10, 2018
925 S. Shamrock
11:00 am to 2:00 pm

A new component to MAP's Block parties is the unveiling of the Neighborhood Treasures Program. Neighborhood Treasures is an innovative approach to showcase Monrovia's unsung heroes through art and education. Local artists will create art work that honors the chosen "treasures" and the adjacent interpretative signage will share the outstanding accomplishments of these fine Monrovians.

Our first treasure to be celebrated is Colonel Allen Allensworth! For a sneak peek at his life and why he is so special see below!



Colonel Allen Allensworth April 1842—September 1914

Colonel Allensworth was born into slavery in Kentucky and was only able to escape during the Civil War, where he became a Union soldier. During his career in the army, he became a Chaplain and became the first Black man to reach the rank of lieutenant colonel. After retirement, he and his family moved to Los Angeles, where he started his work in ministry. In 1902, he started Second Baptist Church here in Monrovia and by 1908, started the township of Allensworth, CA. Allensworth is the only town in the state of California to be founded, financed and governed by African Americans, which was turned into a state park in 1976... ***Find out more at his celebration!***

For additional details, contact us at
map@ci.monrovia.ca.us or at 626-932-5563!