



Monrovia Area Partnership's

# Neighborhood News



June 2016

Neighborhood News

**7th Annual**



**MAP NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE**

**Saturday April 23, 2016**  
**Monrovia Community Center**  
*Healthy Communities, Healthy Homes, Healthy People!*

On Saturday, April 23, MAP held our 7th Annual MAP Neighborhood Conference! Over 250 residents and friends joined us for 16 amazing workshops on various topics including: *The History of Monrovia, Renewal, Homelessness Strategies, How to Grow a Vegetable Garden, Examining Snack Foods and Water Conservation!*



We had a delicious lunch thanks to our great food sponsors: Athens Trash Services (whose Master Chef, Will, barbecued), Jersey Mike's, Wendy's, and Original Tommy's. During lunch, we honored a few Monrovia residents who go above and beyond to help out their neighbors, our **2016 Neighbors of the Year**. We also honored our **Bob Bartlett MAP Leader of the Year**, Ms. Betty Thomas. Read more about all the incredible work they do for their fellow Monrovia residents on page 2!

We had a phenomenal key note thanks to Ms. Nancy Clifton-Hawkins, who spoke about: social determinants, health inequities, why our community matters, and how a healthy community can even make larger changes. It was truly inspiring, and it gave a great perspective on how we can all better our corner of the world!

After lunch, the focus was on the Community Health and Sustainability Fair. over 50 community partners, staff & local businesses were represented. This event would not have been possible without all of the residents who spent their Saturday with us learning about leadership and community. **Thank you!**

**Check out the [City's website](#) for more information from the Conference!**

## In this Issue

- Neighborhood Conference** - Page 2
- Budding Leaders** - Page 3
- MAP 10th Anniversary** - Page 4
- MAP & The Community** - Page 5
- Upcoming Events** - Page 6  
(our community calendar)
- Over the Counter Blog** - page 7



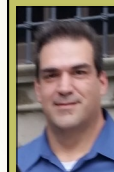
**City of Monrovia**  
**Neighborhood Services**  
 415 S Ivy  
 Monrovia, CA 91016

## Contact us!



**Sheila Spicer-Batice**  
 (626) 932-5586

**Ariel Tolefree**  
 (626) 932-5563



**Alfredo Enriquez**  
 (626) 932-5504

**Aleks Akopyan**  
 (626) 932-5525



[map@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto: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](http://TheNeighborhoodFix.blogspot.com)

## 2016 Neighbors of the Year Recipients



While neighbor, Alex Zucco, was undergoing chemotherapy this past year, **Steve and Jennifer Bray** were a tremendous help! May 14, 2015 was no exception. During a sudden rain storm, the barricades in place weren't quite working -- the Brays worked out in the rain with Alex, trying to get the barricades in place. Although it was cold and wet, they didn't give up until the barricades were finally in place.

In addition, Steve was the creator/originator of the Facebook Monrovia page. In 2015, he put the charge to the

community (of more than a couple thousand) to come up with a charity idea for the holiday and suggested a one dollar drive to raise funds for a family in Monrovia who was displaced because of a fire in 2015. His idea snowballed and raised nearly \$6000, including a matching gift from Monrovia business, Giggle Fiber. Those funds were dispersed to 3 families and a local charity.



**Bill Curtis** is a retiree who walks up and down, east and west, along old town Monrovia picking up trash and cigarette butts, a project he initiated on his own. He has been doing this for years, and hopes that someday all residents will be conscious about the environment and Monrovia will be clean and free from litter- it is a dream, but it has to start somewhere and be initiated by someone!

**Karla Wilson** works six days per week as a pediatric oncology nurse practitioner at City of Hope and at CHOC. On her one day off, she volunteers at the Monrovia Public Library. At home, she cares for her elderly mother. At least two times this past year, out of the kindness of her heart, she has taken in someone who had no place to go. Karla is a very active veteran cat rescuer - she helps keep her neighborhood feral cat population down by trapping, spaying/neutering, and releasing. She is the epitome of a person who is kind to animals by taking in stray kittens, rehabilitating them, and adopting them out. She will go above and beyond to help a community member who needs help rescuing a helpless animal, even if it overburdens or exhausts her.



Our Neighbor of the Year award is for any Monrovia who goes above and beyond to help out their fellow neighbor. Do you know of anyone who goes above and beyond and want to nominate them for our 2017 MAP Neighborhood Conference? Email [map@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:map@ci.monrovia.ca.us) and tell us all about them!

## Bob Bartlett MAP Leader of the Year

This person is a MAP Neighborhood Leader who truly has a passion for her neighborhood and the community. This passion is exemplified through her various volunteer efforts in the community including assisting with the care of her neighbors and volunteering at various MAP community events and projects. She volunteers for the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association in their various fundraising efforts to fund scholarships that the organization gives to Monrovia and Duarte High School Seniors each year. For the past few years, she also has led the reading program that provides readers at all the elementary schools during Black History Month.

Additionally, this MAP Leader is a board member for local organization, **SET for LIFE**, a community based organization whose focus is on healthy living for Monrovia and Duarte senior citizens and their families. Meet our Bob Bartlett MAP Leader of the Year - **Ms. Betty Thomas**.



## MAP Youth Leadership Academy

On March 2, our Youth Leaders met with the **Boys & Girls Club**. Peter Mejia, the Main Site Director, warmly welcomed us with great information regarding being a leader at the Boys & Girls Club means. Peter & staff member, Alize Neal, told us all about the programs available, how teens can volunteer and even possibly get a job working at the Boys & Girls Club.

We were also able to meet Teen Site Director, Emily Buchanan, who told us about what is available to youth ages 13-18. Fun activities included: the Smart Girls program, access to an Xbox and various games and tournaments, and Teens Taking Charge (an activities committee who plan trips to places like Disneyland!).

One great program that the organization offers is *Diplomas to Degrees*. This program offers resume help to teens looking for a first job and interview assistance and how to's. The program also offers assistance with college applications and how to fill out a FAFSA (for free).



**They Graduated!!**



On April 13, our Youth Leaders met again with Emily Buchanan from **Boys & Girls Club** and Mrs. Kati Chick, the ROP and Job Coordinator for **Monrovia Adult School**. The session was especially informative because we were able to expand from the previous session. Emily discussed how to have the most effective resume, starting with the **Three F's: Function, Form, and eEffectiveness**. After taking time to read all participants' resumes, Emily also gave specific advice on resumes, such as being clear and the most effective way to include different experiences.

After having the perfect resume, applying for the job and having a potential employer call you in, we learned about interviews, and how to prepare and how to rock them! Kati gave out small books that spell out the "how to's" of getting hired, which all participants were able to take home with them to look over further.

After learning about the importance of verbal versus non verbal communication and handshakes, we went into how to prepare for an interview. Some great take-aways from preparing for an interview include: researching the company and knowing their key values, looking up fair wages (more applicable after "first" job), being properly dressed, keeping good posture, and practicing the "*Top 10 Interview Questions that are Generally Always Asked*".

We want to **congratulate** our 4th class of graduates from the MAP Youth Leadership Academy. These 20 individuals trained together for 8 months learning about the Monrovia Community, local government, public speaking, local and online resources and leadership.

On behalf of the entire class, I'd like to give a big thanks to all of the staff, officials, volunteers and fellow leaders who helped host these trainings. The collaboration is what makes the training so unique and impactful.

Next steps for our Leaders?

- ◇ 1st Jobs
- ◇ Internships
- ◇ Volunteering in community events

# Monrovia Area Partnership

Ten Year



Anniversary

# Block Party & Movie Night

Join us for this *fun-filled and free event!*



Saturday July 9, 2016

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm @ Julian Fisher Park  
901 S. California Ave

Meet the City Departments | Free Popcorn |  
Free Hot Dogs & Hot Links | Activities for Kids and Families |  
Summer Movie Series—*Hotel Transylvania 2*

## MAP Care for Your Neighbor Program

On Saturday, April 2, the MAP Care for Your Neighbor Program successfully completed another community improvement project and helped another Monrovia family in need. The property had a series of property maintenance issues that presented serious problems to area neighbors for many years. Traditional code enforcement efforts were not successfully gaining the necessary compliance for this property, which was plagued with massive overgrown vegetation, dead and dry growth, accumulation of trash and debris, and safety issues to pedestrians. This property belonged to a lifelong Monrovia resident whose poor health kept him from staying on top of maintaining this large property. Sadly, the property owner passed away several months ago. The burden then fell to his children, who did not have the resources to address this increasing problem in the neighborhood.



The MAP Care for Your Neighbor Program jumped into action by coordinating community resources to help abate the problem property by partnering with MAP Leaders, Athens Waste Management Services, and the Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley for the cleanup effort. Volunteers convened at the property to help abate public nuisance issues and correct some major code violations. Participants helped prune low hanging branches that were obstructing the public right of way, clear up trash and debris throughout the front yard area, and removed brush that was obstructing a clear line of sight of the house.



Volunteers worked side by side with the deceased owner's children to clear the front of the property of trash and debris. This project proved to be a monumental effort by our participants. Needless to say, the results showed that our volunteers were up to the task, and they made quick work of the distressed front yard. Several **major milestones were accomplished** from this volunteer team cleanup effort that will benefit the community:

- ◇ Helping a family who had recently undergone major personal loss of both parents within a year's time.
- ◇ Improving a property that had been in major disrepair for many years and proved to be a problem to the community.
- ◇ Abating an unattractive nuisance, by allowing a clear line of sight to the building, and decreasing the level of transient traffic on an abandoned property.
- ◇ Clearing the pedestrian right of way from dangerous low lying branches, to allow for improved pedestrian traffic.
- ◇ Making neighbors aware of how volunteerism can help improve their neighborhood.



**The Monrovia Area Partnership wants to thank everyone who was able to help to make this community improvement project another success for our Monrovia neighborhoods.**

**Want to get involved? Email us at [map@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:map@ci.monrovia.ca.us) to sign up for the next Care for Your Neighbor opportunity!**

# 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.

**August 13 :** Vector Control: Zika Virus & More  
**Location:** Monrovia Library Community Room  
321 S. Myrtle Ave Monrovia, CA 91016  
**Time:** 11am to 1pm

**November 19:** Topic TBD



## Summer Night Movie Series

Why stay indoors when we have great California weather? Bring your chair and meet your neighbors at the Outdoor Summer Movie Series. All movies are **FREE** and family friendly.

**Antman (Rated PG-13)**  
Saturday, June 18 at 8:00pm  
Monrovia Historical Museum | 742 East Lemon Avenue

**Hotel Transylvania 2 (Rated PG)**  
**\*\*10th Anniversary Party starts at 6pm\*\***  
Saturday, July 9 at 8:00pm  
Julian Fisher Park | 901 S. California Ave

**Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Rated PG-13)**  
Saturday, July 23 at 8:00pm  
Station Square Park | 1629 S Myrtle Ave

**The Good Dinosaur (Rated PG)**  
Saturday, August 6 at 8:00pm  
Grand Ave Park | 340 North Grand Ave at Prospect Ave

## Meet our Code Enforcement Officers:

The City of Monrovia's Code Enforcement program helps to protect property owner investment, promote the general health and welfare, and enhance the quality of neighborhoods. When homes and businesses are properly maintained it has a **positive effect** on the overall appearance of our City.

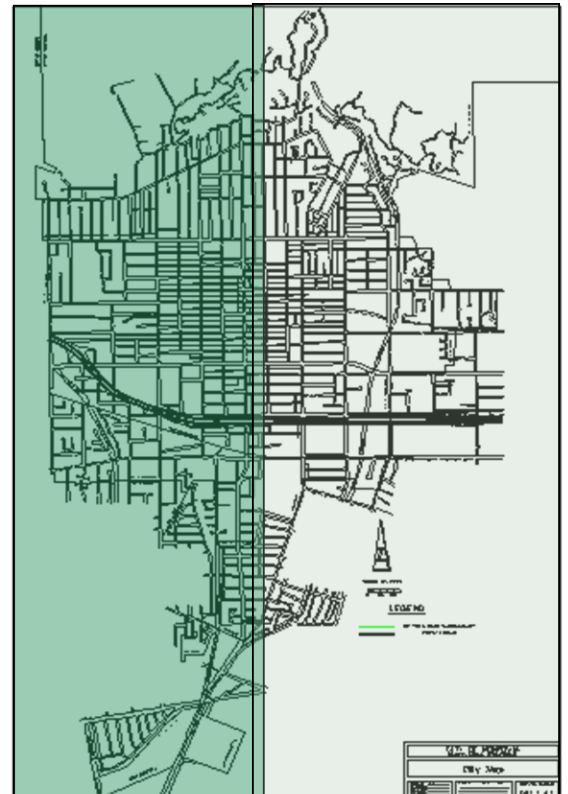
The **goal** of the Code Enforcement program is to bring to the attention of property owners any existing code violations which could have a negative impact on the property, neighborhood, and the City of Monrovia as a whole. Through voluntary compliance, cooperation, and a spirit of personal responsibility for the well-being of our community, the program will succeed in making Monrovia an even better place in which to live, work, and shop.



Please contact Code Enforcement for more info

**Residents West of Myrtle Ave:** 626-932-5535 | [KTrue@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:KTrue@ci.monrovia.ca.us)

**Residents East of Myrtle Ave:** 626-932-5545 | [RMacias@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:RMacias@ci.monrovia.ca.us)



## Over the Counter News

Part of what makes this City great is how well 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! 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!*

## Landmarks are Awesome



We have a brand new historic landmark to brag about here in Monrovia! Wait... can something be both new and historic at the same time? We think so, and we think it's a pretty big deal! Seriously, this is the one you've all been waiting for! That's right, the Monrovia Santa Fe Depot officially received landmark designation at the April 19, 2016 City Council meeting!

I bet some of you out there are thinking, "How has the Depot not been designated before?" That is a valid question. Though residents, officials and City staff have long looked at the iconic structure as an important and historically significant building, there have been a few hurdles to overcome in getting it landmarked. One big hurdle was that the City didn't actually own the building for quite a while. It was actually under the ownership of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, or Metro, if you know the lingo. Luckily, in 2013, in conjunction with the Gold Line Extension construction negotiations, Monrovia received ownership of the property.

The timing of this landmark is also pretty fantastic. Not only has the Gold Line recently opened, along with several amenities at Station Square, but that area is also going to be the location of several more developments. And the Depot is a big part of that plan. Picture it... a year from now, you could jump off the train (please wait until the ride comes to a full and complete stop), and stroll into the beautifully restored Santa Fe Depot to enjoy tasty treats and libations. We are very excited to see this plan come to fruition and for one of our most treasured buildings to be restored to it's former glory, while also becoming a prime destination in Monrovia!

There is quite a long history to the Depot, and you can read all about it here in the staff report that was prepared for the City Council meeting. We hope that you are as excited as we are about this new landmark. Stay tuned for future updates about the progress of the restoration.



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

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ARCADIA, CA  
PERMIT NO. 18

## Neighborhood News

June 2016



# Monrovia Area Partnership Summer Movie Series

Free Admission • Family Fun

*Feature film to start at 8:00pm Saturday Nights*

**6/18** ANTMAN

Monrovia Historical Museum  
742 E Lemon Avenue

**7/9** HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2

Julian Fisher Park  
901 S California Ave

**7/23** STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

Station Square Park  
1629 S Myrtle Ave

**8/6** GOOD DINOSAUR

Grand Ave Park  
340 N Grand Ave at Prospect Ave



For more information, please contact us!

626-932-5563

atolefree@ci.monrovia.ca.us