



Monrovia Area Partnership's

# Neighborhood News



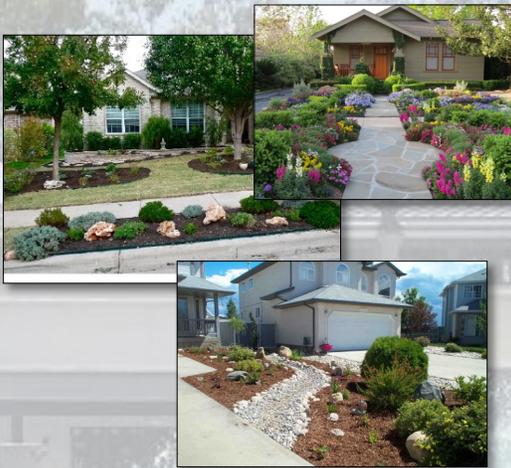
September 2015

Neighborhood News

## Conserving Water with Xeriscape

When most people think of **xeriscape** (commonly known as zero scape), they think of dirt, rocks, and cacti. However, with California in a 4 year- and counting- drought, more people are turning to creative ways to use less water and keep their yards beautiful. Preserving water does not mean that you have to have a brown lawn. There are various options, including; ornamental grasses, succulents, shrubs and trees.

There are quite a few benefits of xeriscape, including; **water conservation**, less maintenance and, no need for pesticides. Landscaping can improve property value and it can provide a habitat for the native wildlife.



### Tips for getting started

- ◇ Check with the Planning Division for landscape requirements before starting.
- ◇ Use regionally-specific, native plants.
- ◇ Avoid watering during the hottest, windiest time of day. Early morning is usually best.
- ◇ Minimize the number of young plants. New plants need water more often than mature plants, which have deeper root systems. They also require more pruning.
- ◇ Use mulch.

## Did You Know?

The new State water conservation mandate requires the City to cumulatively **reduce our water use by 28%** as compared to the amount of water used in the same period in 2013. Monrovia is currently meeting this conservation goal! **Interested in learning about your usage?** Request a report by emailing [MyWaterUse@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:MyWaterUse@ci.monrovia.ca.us) or calling (626) 932-5573.



### What do I reduce water around my home/business?

Every drop counts! Checking your home for leaks, taking shorter showers, turning off the water while you brush your teeth, modifying your home landscape to drought-tolerant plantings, or only washing full loads of laundry and dishes will make a difference and help us meet our goal

### Rebates?

Go to [socalwatersmart.com](http://socalwatersmart.com) to learn about residential rebates for high-efficiency clothes washers (\$85) and toilets (\$100), as well as irrigation devices, such as rotating nozzles (\$4 each, 15 min. purchase), moisture sensors (\$80), and rain barrels (\$75). Commercial rebates are also available.

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(our community calendar)



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

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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)

## Neighborhood Leader Spotlight



MAP Youth Leadership graduate and Monrovia High School student, **Lawrence Spicer** has been recognized for superior academic achievement by The National Society of High School Scholars.

The National Society of High School Scholars (NHSSS) announced student Lawrence Spicer has been selected to become a member of the esteemed organization. The Society recognizes top

scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship and community commitment. The announcement was made by NHSSS Founder and Chairman Claes Nobel, senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

*"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice and commitment that Lawrence has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence,"* said Mr. Nobel. *"Lawrence is now a member of a unique community of scholars - a community that represents our very best hope for the future."*

*"We are proud to provide lifetime membership to voting scholars to support their growth and development,"* stated NSHSS President James W. Lewis. *"We aim to help students like Lawrence build on their academic success by connecting them with unique learning experiences and resources to help prepare them for college and meaningful careers."*

NSHSS members become lifetime members. At each step along the way - from high school to college career - NSHSS connects outstanding young scholars with the resources they need to develop their strengths and pursue their passions.

Founded in 2002 by James H. Lewis and Claes Nobel, the National Society of High School Scholars recognizes academic excellence at the high school level and helps to advance the goals and aspirations of high achieving millennials through unique learning experiences, scholarships, internships, international study and peer networks. Currently there are more than 1,000,000 Society members in 160 countries. For more information about NSHSS visit [www.nshss.org](http://www.nshss.org).



## Make a Difference Day

*"Everything that brings us closer makes us stronger. The answer to every problem is community. You are all you've got and you are enough."*

- Angela Blanchard

Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley  
Presents the 25th Annual  
**MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY**  
A National Day of Doing Good  
Saturday, October 24th, 2015 at Monrovia  
Library Park  
119 W. Palm Ave.  
Monrovia, CA. 91016  
[vcsgv.org](http://vcsgv.org)  
To register as a  
volunteer call:  
626.256.8187

MAP, in conjunction with the Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley, will be working on various clean ups in YOUR neighborhood!

*Do you have a project in mind?*

*Are you excited to help us out?*

We need YOUR help to make this day a success. Sign up now to assist in keeping Monrovia beautiful.

For more information:

**Call** our friends at the Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley (VCSGV) 626.256.8187

**Email** Yenier at the VCSGV— [yenier@vcsgv.org](mailto:yenier@vcsgv.org)

## Summer Movie Series

Thank you all so much for coming out and bringing your families to our Summer Movie Series! This summer, we played three movies around the City (Annie, Maleficent, Big Hero 6), reaching out to various neighborhoods. We had so much fun with the snacks, raffles and family time.



# MAP Leadership Academies

## Sign Up Today!

- September 2 Your Community
- October 7 Walking Tour of the City
- November 4 TAB & Youth Commission
- January 6 YMCA
- February 3 Youth Programs at MHS
- March 2 Boys & Girls Club
- April 13 Career Workshop & Resource Fair



Adult Leadership Academy



Youth Leadership Academy

- September 10 MAP, Monrovia & You
- September 17 Connecting in the Community
- September 24 Local Government
- October 1 Public Health & Safety
- October 8 Tools and Resources
- October 15 Public Speaking & Facilitation Training
- October 22 Putting Theory into Practice
- November 3 MAP Leader Graduation**

Day/Hour: Thursdays 7-9pm  
 Dates: September 10-October 22  
 Location: **Monrovia Community Center**  
 119 W. Palm Ave. Monrovia  
 Fee: Free for 7 weeks  
 Ages: 18+

*“The purpose of life is not to be happy - but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all.”*

~Leo Rosten

If you are ready to take the first steps to becoming a connected member of the Monrovia community and a positive presence in your neighborhood and the City, please fill out the MAP Leadership Academy application (found on <http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/communitydevelopment/page/map-leadership-academy>) or pick up a copy and return it to Neighborhood Services.

*We look forward to serving with you!*

Monrovia Neighborhood Services  
 415 S. Ivy Ave  
 Monrovia, CA 91016

# Upcoming Events

## Youth Leadership Academy

Monthly trainings are held throughout the school year and are hosted by local youth agencies. This program is open to grades 6-12 or equivalent in age.

**1st Wednesday of every month** at 2:30pm-4:30pm  
September 2, 2015– April 2016

## MAP-Ed

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

**August 29:** Landlord and Tenant Rights  
and a Water Conservation Update

**Location:** Library Community Room

**December 5:** TBD

## Adult Leadership Academy

The MAP Leadership Academy demonstrates initiative and innovation by educating our residents on how to actively participate in our community. This program partners with residents and local resources to facilitate open lines of communication, build trust and find creative solutions to enhance our City.

**Thursdays at 7-9pm**

Monrovia Community Center  
September 10 – October 22

## Make a Difference Day

Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley Presents the  
25th Annual Make a Difference Day— *A National Day of Doing Good*

**Saturday, October 24 at Monrovia Library Park**

119 W Palm Ave  
8:00 am– 2:00 pm

## Code Enforcement Tip:

Summer is winding down and it is time to put away all of our toys (RVs/ Boats/ Trailers/ and other Recreational Vehicles) and get back to work. Our friends at Code have some helpful tips for us to do so!

- ◇ If you have the space to keep your recreational vehicles at your residence, please remember a properly stored Recreational Vehicle is on a paved, rear setback, behind a gate.
- ◇ If you do not store your recreational vehicles at your residence, please make proper arrangements to move them back to storage within a few days of returning from your trip.

Vehicles maintained illegally can have repercussions.

- ◇ This includes an **Education Notice — a Warning Notice — and then Enforcement.**

Please email Code Enforcement for more information!

**Residents East of Myrtle Ave:** RMacias@ci.monrovia.ca.us or **Residents West of Myrtle Ave:** KTrue@ci.monrovia.ca.us

## Emergency Preparedness Tip:

**Make a Plan for what you will do in an emergency.**

- ◇ Develop a Family Communications Plan; where each family member calls or emails the same friend or relative in the event of an emergency.
- ◇ Watch TV and listen to the radio for official instructions as they become available
- ◇ Create a plan to get away by choosing several destinations in different directions. In addition to that, keep around half a tank of gas and leave an emergency supply kit in your trunk.
- ◇ Know how emergency plans at school and work operate for your loved ones.



## 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's! Part of that, is continually working with the public, the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning Commission. Read below to read more about what is happening....over the counter!

### Monrovia Neighborhood Study

Based on concerns of Monrovia's, the City took a step to slow things down and "take a breath" so the community could have a conversation about what Monrovia's neighborhoods should look...and even more important, what they should feel like. Over the past six months, City Staff has facilitated a conversation with the community to figure that out. They've done a lot of listening and what was presented to the City Council was what they have heard and some potential policy considerations. The City Council reviewed this information at a Study Session in July, with a follow up on August 4th. The Council provided policy direction which is being forwarded to the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission.

**Phase 1** - Community meetings to present the issues and get feedback.

**Phase 2** - Analysis of the feedback and defining the issues for the City Council.

**Phase 3** - Conduct a series of meetings and workshops with the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and the community to refine policy options and considerations based on the City Council's direction. The policies will then be further refined and implemented as amendments to the Monrovia Municipal Code.

### Library Public Art

The City Council also approved a new piece of public art to be installed in the Monrovia Library. The Library Book Mural will be designed, constructed and drawn by Sierra Madre artist, Mick Stilkey. The mural will be installed in the Youth Services corridor. Library patrons know this as the wall that's screaming "put art here." Well, maybe not screaming...it is a library after all...a loud whisper perhaps.

The mural's centerpiece will be one of Samson's relatives Penny-farthing through a field along with some of his native species friends...headed to the Youth Services room, of course! Based on the recommendation of the Art in Public Places Committee, the City Council enthusiastically approved the commission of the mural.



### Planning Commission and the Development Review Committee

The Planning Commission and the Development Review Committee (DRC) have been very busy keeping up with changes happening in Monrovia. In July, the big item on the agenda was a **little drive-thru Starbucks** (950 square feet) proposed at 860 West Foothill Boulevard (southeast corner of Foothill and Madison). In addition to that, look forward to some more new businesses in town; a new laundromat at the Monrovia Plaza Shopping Center and a new Orchard Supply Hardware store (OSH) at 725 W Huntington Drive (the old Office Depot site).

*Want more information on anything you've read here? Read more on the Planning Division's blog ([CLICK HERE](#))*