

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A community based newsletter brought to you by the Monrovia Area Partnership team

#### YOUR MAP TEAM



ALEKS AKOPYAN



JUSTIN EDSON



JESSIE WOO

### Introduction

Hello MAP Leaders and MAP newsletter readers! Whether you are a MAP Leader, or you are a Monrovia resident who stumbled across this newsletter but have no idea what or who MAP is, I can guarantee that this newsletter will be beneficial to you!

If the latter is the case and you don't know what MAP is, MAP stands for Monrovia Area Partnership and we are a program run out of the Community Development Department, Neighborhood and Business Services Division at City Hall. In short, our program began in 2006 as a tool to remove misconceptions and a lack of knowledge and resources in the community. Since then, MAP has educated thousands of residents, empowered over 300 MAP Neighborhood Leaders, partnered with local businesses, and created volunteer opportunities to better our community! Learn more about how to become a MAP Leader and other ways to get involved in the community by continuing to read this newsletter.

# A Sneak Peak at this May 2022 Issue:

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#### STAY IN TOUCH!

- @MONROVIAMAP
- MAP@CI.MONROVIA.CA.US
- FACEBOOK.COM/MONROVIAAREAPARTNERSHIP
- MONROVIAAREAPARTNERSHIP.EVENTBRITE.COM
- CITYOFMONROVIA.ORG/MAP

TIP FOR FULL DIGITAL NEWSLETTER POTENTIAL: ANYTHING THAT IS BLUE & <u>UNDERLINED</u> IS A CLICKABLE LINK THAT IS CAPABLE OF TAKING YOU TO THE RELATED EXTERNAL PAGE WITH FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES TO EXPLORE.

### Check out what MAP has been up to!

#### 12TH ANNUAL MAP NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE RECAP

On Saturday, April 30, we hosted our 12th Annual MAP Neighborhood Conference at Second Baptist Church in Monrovia. It was a fun-filled day full of information from our workshop speakers, free breakfast and lunch provided by our sponsors, and an information fair including City booths, local organizations and businesses, health screenings from our partners SET for LIFE, and a pickle ball demonstration!

Workshops included: Addressing Our Environment with the City Manager, Top 10 Secret Resources in Monrovia by our Community Services Director, Historic Preservation with our Community Development Team, a Housing Panel with

the Housing Rights Center and Neighborhood Legal Services of LA, the History of Monrovia with PCC Associate Professor and Historic Preservation Group President, Active Shooter Training with the Monrovia Police Department, How to Eat Healthy When You Have No Time with City of Hope, and a Volunteering Panel with the Volunteer Center of SGV and Foothill Unity. Attendees were able to attend two workshops, one from session 1 and one from session 2. Food was provided by Trader Joe's, Starbucks, Wendy's, Jersey Mike's, and Athens Services. Thank you to our sponsors, staff, workshop speakers, booths, and event attendees for making the conference a HUGE success!





<u>Click here</u> to view a recap of our 12th Annual Neighborhood Conference made by KGEM!

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#### **NEIGHBORHOODS USA (NUSA) CONFERENCE 2022**

The Monrovia Area Partnership team and Council member Larry Spicer took on Little Rock, Arkansas at the Annual Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference Tuesday, May 3 through Saturday May 7! We had a blast taking in new information on the different programs, events, and technology used in different cities across the United States to potentially apply them here in Monrovia. We attended workshops ranging from 'How Little Rock is Using Data Tools to Help Neighborhoods' to 'Neighborhood Notification and Engagement: Keeping Citizens in the Know' and MORE! Not only did we learn so much from our workshops, but we are also FINALISTS

for the Best Neighborhood Program award for our virtual MAP Neighborhood Conference that took place in 2021! The MAP team presented to a panel of judges on our 11th Annual VIRTUAL MAP Neighborhood Conference in hopes to inspire other cities and organizations, and to show how our team adapted in the heat of the pandemic. We attend the NUSA Conference yearly in hopes to learn about the various events and programs that other cities in other states have, so that we can implement new ideas to make our MAP programs and events better for our community. Fun fact, most of MAP's current programs and events came from previous NUSA Conferences. :)



Monrovia Area Partnership Best Neighborhood Program Award Finalist

### MAP Upcoming Events

THE MONROVIA AREA PARTNERSHIP TEAM IS ALWAYS BUSY LOOKING FOR NEW WAYS TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY. TAKE A SNEAK PEAK AT WHAT EXCITING EVENTS WE HAVE COMING UP DOWN BELOW!



## VIRTUAL MAP-EDU COMMUNITY MEETING | SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022

Our quarterly MAP-edu community meetings are a way of engaging Monrovia residents in trending topics within the community.

Join us at our next virtual MAP-edu community meeting on Saturday, May 21 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm hosted on Zoom. Register now!

#### Topics include:

- Welcome to the Community Welcome Wagon with John Watson
- MAP Programs with MAP Team
- Neighborhood Preservation with Code Enforcement

# MAP 16TH ANNIVERSARY BLOCK PARTY | SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022

MAP is turning 16! There will be free food, music, games, information booths, raffles, and most importantly a chance to celebrate this amazing community that we enjoy today.

The whole community is invited to celebrate with us on Saturday, June 25 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Julian Fisher Park in Monrovia. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, pets, and colleagues! This is a family friendly event you won't want to miss! Don't forget to register!



### MAP Upcoming Events

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#### YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Completing the 7-week Youth Leadership
Academy prepares our youth with the
necessary skills that they can use in and
outside of school. Some of the classes offered
include how to practice self-care, how to
prepare for job interviews, how local
government operates, the importance of
volunteering, resume building, and more!

The youth academy is open to grades 6-12 or age 11-18. Classes begin the first week of September through the last week of October, and are held weekly on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm. Registration is open now!

#### ADULT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The MAP Adult Leadership Academy is our way to give our residents an educational opportunity to learn about how local government operates, how to be a leader in your neighborhood, and how to stay active in the community through building valuable relationships with other members in the community.

The adult academy is open and free to the entire community age 18+. Classes are held weekly on Thursdays from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm beginning September 8 through October 27. Click on the image to register now!



## Department & Division Highlights

HIGHLIGHTING DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS AND DIVISIONS GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON AND HOW THEY ARE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE. SO, CATCH UP WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING!

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

The Administrative Services Department is one of the City's six operating departments and we, along with all other departments throughout the City, are committed to serve the people of Monrovia to create a community that offers a premier quality of life. We are thankful for the opportunity to share some information about our department, so that you can get to know us better!

Administrative Services oversees, manages, and reports on all of the City's financial assets and financial transactions. Everything we do touches the City finances in one way or another. Our department is comprised of fifteen full-time employees and one part-time employee, and our annual operating budget is \$2.9 million. We are largely a support department, as we provide support to the City's internal operating departments, so they can have the tools that they need to be fiscally successful. We are largely a support department, as we provide support to the City's internal operating departments, so they can have the tools that they need to be fiscally successful.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Many people believe that the
Administrative Services Department
only handles the City's money. There's
actually a lot more to it! Administration
is one of the many functions in the
Administrative Services Department.
This area focuses on short-term and
long-term financial planning to ensure
the financial health and stability of the
City. Developing plans and policies to
help guide and manage the City's
financial resources is one of our key
responsibilities.



### Department & Division Highlights

#### **BUDGETING AND LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING**

Our department takes the lead in coordinating the development of the budget each year. We work closely with the City Manager's Office and all operating departments to develop a thoughtful and diligent budget that will be presented to City Council for consideration for approval. The budget is the City's Spending Plan, and it guides how the City allocates its resources. After the budget is approved by City Council, we work closely, throughout the year, with City departments by helping them track their budgets. Everyone knows things don't always go as planned, so we are also constantly tracking our budget to make sure that we stay within our Spending Plan. Quarterly budget updates are presented to City Council and adjustments are proposed, when needed.

#### GENERAL ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

We also maintain the City's books. We make sure that the City's financial transactions are recorded accurately in the City's accounting records. At the end of the year, we summarize this financial information in a report called the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). This report is available on the City' website. Please feel free to check it out! As part of this process, we also undergo an annual financial audit by an independent CPA firm, who reviews the City's accounting records and internal controls. We are happy to share that the City has received "clean" audits each year, and our financial report meets the highest reporting standards possible. For 27 years straight, the City has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) issues this award after reviewing the City's ACFR and determining it to meet the program's standards and qualifications. This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

#### TREASURY/CASH MANAGEMENT

With great power comes great responsibility. The City has many short-term and long-term expenses, and one of our many responsibilities is to ensure that there are adequate funds to support these needs. Making prudent investments is one way that we ensure the safety, liquidity, and return on the City's funds.

### Department & Division Highlights

#### **FINANCE OPERATIONS**

One of the biggest areas in Administrative Services is finance operations. The operational functions listed below help to ensure that the City's day-to-day financial transactions, bills, and receipts are processed.

#### **PAYROLL**

Did someone say payday?! Fun fact, the Payday candy bar was invented in 1932. This function is one that brings smiles to people's faces. Our team ensures that the City's bi-weekly payroll is processed and all federal and state reports are filed timely.

#### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

We also process payments to our vendors, consultants, and contractors for good and services that they provide to the City. We make sure to adhere to purchasing policies, maintain vendor accounts, and pay the City's bills every week.

#### ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND CASHIERING/CASH HANDLING

The City also sends bills to different entities and individuals, for various services that the City provides. That's handled through the accounts receivable function. This operation is responsible for billing, collecting payments, and handling cash.

#### UTILITY BILLING

Have you visited City Hall to pay your water bill? If you have, then you've probably met one of our friendly staff members! We enjoy meeting you and assisting you with your utility bill payments. In addition to issuing monthly utility bills to approximately 10,000 customers, we also work closely with our Public Works department to coordinate activities related to customer accounts.

These are the functions that make up the Administrative Services Department! In a nutshell, we manage the City's finances and provide support to all our other operating departments, to help ensure the City's fiscal health and sustainability, so that we can continue serving you!

QUESTIONS? Contact Administrative Services at: 626-932-5517

## Community Activist Policing Tip

#### CYBER SAFETY TIPS FOR MONROVIA PARENTS

- Keep the computer in a common area, such as the family or living room. This helps you monitor your child's computer use.
- Spend time with your child online, and talk to them about their internet use. Ask to see their profile page(s). Many children have more than one profile. You can also Google your child's name and see what comes up.
- Know your child's screen names and passwords. Ask your child to add you as a "friend" on his/her profile page.
- Limit the information allowed in online profiles and make sure profiles are set to "private".
- Control access to chat rooms and Instant Messaging. Monitor the sites they are visiting by clicking the internet browser's History button.
- Teach children to avoid risky behavior, such as maintaining buddy lists that include strangers, flirting, or discussing sex online with people they do not know in person, posting sexually aggressive material, or being rude or mean to someone online.
- Teach children to immediately notify a parent, guardian, or teacher if they are bullied or made to feel uncomfortable online.
- Remind children that computer use is not confidential.
- Keep the lines of communication open.
- Make agreements about computer use, such as sites they are allowed to visit and the length of time they can be online.

#### HERE ARE BASIC SAFETY RULES YOU SHOULD INCLUDE IN YOUR AGREEMENT:

- Never give out personal information (name, age, address. phone) or use a credit card online without permission
- Never share passwords with anyone, including friends
- Never arrange to meet in person someone they met online unless you agree and go with them
- Never reply to a bully or any other uncomfortable message they receive online
- Agree upon the consequences for not following the rules or breaking the agreement. It can be helpful to write down the rules and agreements in the form of a contract.

QUESTIONS? Contact the MPD Non-Emergency Line at: 626-256-8000

## Code Enforcement Tip

THE GOAL OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM IS TO WORK WITH RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND PROPERTY OWNERS TO ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE AND ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITY!

#### **GREEN POOLS & MOSQUITOS**

Summer is fast approaching yet mosquitos have already started making their nuisance behavior known. Spring showers and warm weather welcomes the aedes mosquito or better known as 'ankle biters' as well as the common southern house mosquito. How can Monrovia residents and business owners help eliminate these little nuisances? Source Reduction! According to the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District, 'source reduction' is much more effective at eliminating mosquitos than the use of chemicals and pesticides.

#### **HELPFUL 'SOURCE REDUCTION' TIPS**

- Remove any stagnant water. Mosquitos can use
  the smallest amount of stagnant water (for
  example, a filled water <u>bottle cap</u>) to lay their
  eggs and grow. Stagnant water can be found in
  places like water fountains, plant saucers, yard
  cuttings, pile of recycles, unused tires, etc.
  Basically anyplace were water can collect and
  become stagnant.
- SGV Vector Control recommends 'Tip 'n Toss'! Tip any stagnant water and toss out unused containers. Walking your property and tip 'n tossing once a week will help dramatically reduce mosquito infestation.



- Green pools are not only a safety hazard but also a mosquito haven! Even the smallest amount
  of stagnant water in a drained pool can create an environment conducive to mosquito breeding.
  Make sure pools are routinely cleaned and treated or drained of all water leaving no stagnant
  water behind.
- Educate your neighbors. Take responsibility of your own yard but also talk to your neighbors to do the same. Together we can help Monrovia be a safer and healthier community.

To report areas of mosquito breeding such as green pools and stagnant water contact San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control at <a href="https://www.sgvmosquito.org/submit-a-tip">https://www.sgvmosquito.org/submit-a-tip</a> or (626)814-9466 or Monrovia Code Enforcement at <a href="mailto:ce@ci.monrovia.ca.us">ce@ci.monrovia.ca.us</a> or (626)932-5582.

### #CleanMonrovia

CLEAN MONROVIA IS A MULTI-DEPARTMENT STRATEGY FOCUSED ON ENHANCING THE WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY AND LONGEVITY OF OUR PLANET. WHETHER IT'S ILLEGAL DUMPING OR WASTE REDUCTION, WE'RE DEDICATED TO PROVIDING A SOLUTION TO POLLUTION.





#### **YELLOW TAGS**

In an effort to reduce illegal dumping and encourage proper disposal of bulky items, the City of Monrovia launched the #CleanMonrovia campaign. This is a multi-department strategy to provide educational resources to residents and to curb illegal dumping.

Code Enforcement Officers will be placing a yellow tag on dumped items and at the front door of the property if they are unable to make contact with the resident. These "yellow tags" have a step-by-step process to schedule a bulky item pickup with Athens Services so it does not become illegal dumping.

If you receive a yellow tag and did NOT schedule with Athens, please remove the item from public view and schedule a pickup with Athens. It will typically be the same day as your trash service. If you DID schedule a pickup you can disregard the yellow tag.



For more information, visit <a href="https://www.cityofmonrovia.org/cleanmonrovia">www.cityofmonrovia.org/cleanmonrovia</a>

### Hidden Gems in Monrovia

IF YOU HAVE ANY NOMINATIONS FOR A HIDDEN GEM IN MONROVIA, PLEASE EMAIL US

AT MAP@CI.MONROVIA.CA.US

#### LIBRARY PARK FOUNTAIN

The Library Park Fountain at the entrance to the library along Myrtle Avenue is a wonderful feature that was built in 2009. It coincided with completion of the new bond-funded Monrovia Public Library building that same year. This 30-foot diameter Art Deco-inspired fountain features a decorative central spout pedestal and custom glass tiles in green and black. The fountain not only adds to the beauty of the park, but also contributes to the sustainable design of the park integral to the plans created by the City. It uses re-circulated water, reduces the heat island effect which in turn reduces ambient temperatures surrounding the water feature, and masks



urban environmental noise. It provides a peaceful backdrop to picnics in the park or a walk along Myrtle Avenue.

The fountain is an integral part of Library Park's overall relaxing, inviting tone and provides visitors with a beautiful feature when going to the library or the many community events hosted each year in the park.



### Hidden Gems in Monrovia

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#### MARK TWAIN STATUE IN LIBRARY PARK

Funded by the city's Art in Public Places program, the bronze statue was placed in Library Park near the corner of Myrtle Avenue and Lime Avenue with a special dedication on March 29, 2003. Its artist, award-winning sculptor Gary Price, has captured the famous author sitting on a bench, reading one of his books. It provides the perfect spot to sit and listen to the nearby fountain or enjoy the sunshine while in Library Park.

The Mark Twain Statue is just one of the many pieces of public art that can be found throughout the city as well as public art in Library Park. There is also a mural made of over 3000 discarded books called "Sunday Drive" by Mike Stilkey inside the library as well as Samson the Bear in the Youth Services Area. Monrovia is full of beautiful, amazing public art to discover!





## Local Small Business Spotlight

IF YOU HAVE ANY NOMINATIONS FOR A LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT IN MONROVIA, PLEASE EMAIL US AT MAP@CI.MONROVIA.CA.US

#### MONROVIA PRENATAL MASSAGE



My name is Michelle Morris and I appreciate this very special opportunity to be featured in the MAP newsletter.

I am a California licensed massage therapist and the founder of Monrovia Prenatal Massage. I specialize in prenatal massage/hypnobirthing. I have been a Massage Therapist for over ten years and I still love it. I have a special place in my heart for new and expectant mothers. As a mother of two wonderful adult sons, I remember each pregnancy was very different and it would

have been amazing to have a licensed professional massage therapist. I didn't even know this was possible in 1996.

Our target clients are new moms and expecting moms. I am trained in medical based massage therapy. My clients can ask questions and I am happy to explain within my scope of massage therapy. I also refer them to the right places to get the correct information. I offer lymphatic drainage massage which is considered my specialty. Before I started my business, I worked with a plastic surgeon Dr. Kapoor in Beverly Hills, so what makes me special is my training. My Prenatal massage trainer was Carole Osborne. She has been working with prenatal clients for over 50 years now. Your niche is what makes you special.

My business goal is to become a full service resource, that helps new parents in the community by finding other services/ business professionals who can assist them in other areas of life. I am currently working on a list of other services in the community-that can be a resource to my clients. Sometimes you just need a little blueprint of local services. Thank you, for making us part of this beautiful journey.

CONTACT: HELLO@MONROVIAPRENATALMASSAGE.COM



## MAP Leader Highlight

AN HONORABLE MENTION FOR OUR MAP LEADERS WHO CONTINUE TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AFTER GRADUATING THE ACADEMIES



#### **GIANGELO LEOS | 2021 GRADUATE**

I decided to become a MAP leader to get more entrenched in the community. Genia Mills, a fellow commissioner on the Community Services

Commission, is an incredible advocate for the program and the outcomes that MAP leaders provide to the community. In addition, MAP has a reputation for providing the community excellent programs and outreach events. MAP is a service and service provider in itself and I wanted to

to connect to the amazing people that call themselves MAP leaders.

I'm a product of Monrovia, having lived here nearly all of my life. I went to Wildrose, Clifton, MHS, and played in our parks, visited our lovely library, and spent every year in K-12 walking/marching in our holiday parade. My childhood and adult life have greatly been influenced by Monrovia, my neighbors, and our special slice of the Foothills. If you really want to know something about me, it all starts with our community and programs that imparted my personal and professional love for sharing information and resources with others. I have fond memories of visiting Canyon Park's Nature Center and Monrovia Public Library where naturalists and librarians shared their passions and interests with a smile, I remember our city historian, Steve Baker, sharing the profoundness of a landmark in a tour, and I can't shake memories of the amazing city staff that hosted programs and events that inspired a sense of volunteerism and dedication to serving our town. My distinctly Monrovian experience has been integral to how I see myself as a member of our community and as a useful sharer of information.

Professionally and as a volunteer, I share my love of nature, plants, bugs, soil, gardening; the list goes on and on and on..., with my community. I have a Masters degree in Information Science and I am currently the Education and Garden Program Director for a Monrovia based non-profit called Food Exploration & Discovery.

#### **GIANGELO LEOS | 2021 GRADUATE**

When I'm not creating programs for local schools, I enjoy looking at soil under a microscope, hiking Hillside Wilderness Preserve with my family, and reading non-fiction.

I have trained as a Master Gardener, become a certified UC Climate Steward, California Naturalist, Master Herpetologist, and, within a few months, a Master Composter. In my "free time" I also play brass instruments like the French horn and tuba, and was the director of the Monrovia Young Musicians Ensemble for six years. My wife Amanda and I are Monrovia High School sweethearts and met in marching band 13 years ago. Amanda is a vet tech in town, and whenever we are out, she can name all of the dogs she's ever helped. We have a sweet pup named Charlotte, and a plethora of other critters have lived with us. We recently welcomed Oakley Wilder Leos into the world and he is the joy of our life.

I hope to be useful in our community, serving as a Community Services commissioner, board member of the Monrovia Parks, Wilderness, and Recreation Foundation, as a member of the garden leadership team at Monrovia Community Garden, and as a Monrovia Area Partnership MAP leader.

Right now, my proudest accomplishment is keeping this baby alive. It's been such a wonderful time, but we are oh so tired! It might be that my favorite music group, Canadian Brass, follows me on Instagram or really any opportunity to share information about my interests with the community. This is a talk I did with the Monrovia Public Library about Monrovia's endangered plant that is only found in 11 locations in So Cal, the Braunton's Milkvetch.

LIVE! with Locals:
Giangelo Leos,
Program Director of
Food Ed &
the Braunton's Milkvetch



### Get Involved in the Community

**VOLUNTEER WITH THE VOLUNTEER CENTER OF SAN GABRIEL VALLEY** 

## VOLUNTEER CENTER OF SAN GABRIEL VALLEY PHONE # (626) 256-8187

#### **MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 2022**

Last year, on Saturday, October 23rd, 2021 hundreds of volunteers helped to make a difference in the Monrovia community. We came out and helped lend a hand to make a positive change in the community and in someone's life.

Mark your calendars for this year's Make a Difference Day on **Saturday, October 22, 2022** from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm to be apart of the impact! Projects include (but are not limited to):

- Home Improvements & Landscaping for low-income families and home-bound seniors
- City Beautification improving local parks and the community center
- Food Sorting & Landscaping at Foothill Unity Center

For any questions or concerns, contact Macy Gracia at 626-774-1105.

#### MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY EVENT (2021)











