

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

YOUR MAP TEAM



SHEILA SPICER-BATICE



JESSIE WOO

Introduction

Get ready for an exciting 2024 with the Monrovia Area Partnership team! Join our Annual Neighborhood Conference in April, the Anniversary Block Party in June, quarterly MAP-Edu meetings, and Adult and Youth Leadership Academies in September and October.

But that's not all - we're bringing fresh ideas to enhance our events and programs. Our goal is to make Monrovia thrive, empowering residents to become community leaders. Your input, feedback, and ideas matter. Connect with the MAP team anytime with suggestions.

Let's make 2024 a fantastic year together! Please continue reading for more information on upcoming events and more.

A Sneak Peak at this February 2024 Issue:

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STAY IN TOUCH!

- @MONROVIAMAP
- MAP@CI.MONROVIA.CA.US
- f FACEBOOK.COM/MONROVIAAREAPARTNERSHIP
- MONROVIAAREAPARTNERSHIP.EVENTBRITE.COM
- ₩ www.monroviaareaparntership.com

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!

QUARTERLY MAP-EDU MEETING | JANUARY 11, 2024

Exciting news from the recent MAP-Edu meeting! Our quarterly meetings aim to inform and engage the community, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. In January. we focused on "Mastering the Art of Voting," featuring Monrovia's City Clerk sharing valuable insights on local voting centers, registration, and more, timely with the upcoming local elections on March 5, 2024.

At the meeting, we also have our City

Manager Updates, New Police Officer Introductions, Community Services Announcements, and networking opportunities. Watch a recording of the meeting by KGEM here.

We invite the entire community out to join us at our future meetings, and encourage you to send us topics you want to hear about. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2024 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Library Community Room.





MAP 2024 Events Calendar

JANUARY

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X HOLIDAY

- Adult Leadership Academy - 7 weeks
- Youth Leadership Academy - 7 weeks
- Newsletters Quarterly (4)
- MAP-edu -Quarterly (4)
- Neighborhood Conference
- Anniversary **Block Party**

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!

14TH ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE

Don't miss out on our biggest event of the year - the 14th Annual Neighborhood Conference! This event brings out 300+ individuals each year. Are you looking for the perfect opportunity to network with City officials, learn about trending topics at our workshops, receive free health screenings, get information on local businesses and local government, and/or indulge in free breakfast and lunch? This event is for you! Workshop capacity is limited and first come, first serve, so be sure to register as soon as possible. Full workshop details can be found on our website here.



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. CATCH UP WITH THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE AND SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING DIVISION MONROVIA'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS

WOULD YOUR HOME QUALIFY?

A Tale of Monrovia's Historic Preservation Program

Monrovia has a long and rich history! Historic Preservation Program provides both tangible and intangible benefits to our community. Monrovia's Historic Preservation program was created to benefit both property owners of qualified properties and many generations of Monrovians to come. It encourages investment in the maintenance and improvements of the City's treasured buildings.

Adopted in 1995, Monrovia's Historic Preservation Ordinance (Ordinance 95-01) established the framework and authority to implement the City's Historic Preservation Program. The protection, appreciation, and preservation of Monrovia's historic and cultural resources is the program's guiding mission.

The ordinance contains landmark eligibility criteria, a review process, and findings for approval. While the Historic Preservation Commission provides oversight of the program, the Planning Division is responsible for the day-to-day administration.

Monrovia's preservation has been widely successful. As of 2024, the program has yielded 164 designated Historic Landmarks, two Historic Districts containing 81 properties with 52 contributors, 153 Mills Act Contracts, a



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING DIVISION (CONT.)

a Citywide Historic Context Statement, and a Demolition Review Ordinance. This is quite an achievement for a City of Monrovia's size!

Would Your Home Qualify as a Historic Landmark?

Is your home associated with someone important in history? Is it an outstanding example of a particular style of architecture? If so, your property may qualify as a City of Monrovia Landmark and help preserve our community's legacy.

When considering designation, it is important to note that the age of a structure is not the sole criteria for eligibility. The Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council determine whether a property qualifies as a Historic Landmark based on research into a property's history. The property owner must conduct research to determine if the property has any historic significance and prove that at least one of the following designation criterion is met through documentation:

- It is identified with persons or events significant in local, regional, state; or national history.
- It is representative of the work of a notable builder, designer, or architect.
- It contributes to the significance of a historic area, being a geographically definable area possessing a concentration of not less than 50% of historic or architecturally related grouping of properties which contribute to each other and are unified aesthetically by physical layout or development.
- It embodies one or more distinctive characteristics of style, type, period, design, materials, or craftsmanship. Note: in order for a property to be considered solely on this criterion, the structure must be fully restored from public view and must be an excellent example of an architectural style.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING DIVISION (CONT.)

- It has a unique location or physical characteristics or represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community, or the City of Monrovia.
- It incorporates elements that help preserve and protect an historic place or area of historic interest in the City.
- It has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Responsibilities and Benefits

Once a property is designated a landmark, the property owner must follow review and protection measures that are intended to preserve the home as a historic resource. Certain modifications to the exterior of the home require special review and approval from the City's Historic Preservation Commission. This approval is known as a Certificate of Appropriateness and is generally required when a modification requires a Building Permit.

Through the Certificate of Appropriateness review process the Commission must determine that the proposed change will be "appropriate" and will not adversely affect the historic significance of the property. Some minor modifications are exempt from the Commission's review, such as paint color, single story additions to existing structures, garages, and guest houses.

The City of Monrovia has a number of incentives for property owners of Historic Landmarks. The most significant benefits are shown on the following page.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING DIVISION (CONT.)

Mills Act Contract Incentive Program

A Mills Act Contract is an economic incentive that offers tax relief to owners of historic properties. Participants enter into a contract with the City, agreeing to preserve, restore, and maintain the property in exchange for a reduction in property taxes. However, there are several variables to factor, as not every property owner will benefit from a contract. For example, property owners that already have a low tax value because they have owned it for many years would generally see less of a benefit than someone who just purchased a property. The City generally begins accepting Mills Act Contracts for processing in January of each year, and requires two public hearings.

State Historical Building Code

The State Historical Building Code (SHBC) allows the use of more flexible building code provisions when approving modifications to historic structures.

Building Permit Fee Relief

Applicable building permit fees may be reduced for owners of historic properties.

Zoning Relief

In order to facilitate the preservation of existing residential structures, exceptions to zoning code standards may be approved if it is determined that the value of preserving the structure outweighs

Resources to Help Evaluate Your Home's Historic Potential

Monrovia's Historic Context Statement provides information about how to identify and evaluate the City of Monrovia's historic properties. Information contained in the Monrovia Historic Context Statement differs from other types of narrative histories because they identify important development themes in the City's history. It then shows how those themes relate to our existing historic properties. Check out Monrovia's Historic Context Statement to find out how your property fits within one or more historic themes, such as architectural style, builder, architect, development patterns, or other cultural topics.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING DIVISION (CONT.)

In addition to the Historic Context Statement, another great source of information the Monrovia is Legacy Project www.cityofmonrovia.pastperfectonline.com, which an database of historic documents and photographs. The Monrovia Library has also has a Heritage Room dedicated to collecting, preserving, and protecting historic information as well as on-line list of historical documents and links for researching homes in the City. For more visit the About Μy resources. House webpage at www.cityofmonrovia.org/myhouse.

For more information, scan here.

To learn more about Historic Landmarks in Monrovia or the process of landmark designation, you can visit the Planning Division Counter in City Hall or contact the Planning Division at (626) 932-5565 or by email at planning@ci.monrovia.ca.us, or visit the City's Historic Landmark webpage by scanning the QR code.



Community Activist Policing Tip

SAY HELLO TO SPRING!

Spring is a busy time in the City of Monrovia, especially with wildlife. Did you know that the Monrovia Police Department partners with Pasadena Humane for animal control services?

Pasadena Humane has an extensive Wildlife Program which includes rescue and rehabilitation, community education, and community assistance. If you believe you have found sick or injured wildlife, you can now TEXT the wildlife hotline at 626-344-1129. Photographs of the animal are welcome!

General inquiries regarding wildlife can be sent to wildlife@pasadenahumane.org.



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!

MONROVIA RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD & TENANTS - UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS & MANAGING DISPUTES

Since 2020, our Code Enforcement Department has received a higher volume of complaints from tenants regarding property maintenance issues, disputes between tenant and landlords, rent increases, rental agreement terminations and/or evictions.

Understandably, this can be a very stressful time when one is faced with eviction or property maintenance issues (i.e., your apartment is flooded from a roof leak or a backed-up sewage line) and you're not able to make contact with the landlord or owner.

First, check your rental agreement for the scope and your rights for the situation. Many agreements have detailed in the contract the maintenance parameters (urgent vs routine) and should the landlord want to take possession back of the property, there are laws to protect both parties. The Code Enforcement Department is available to aid the tenants for specific issues regarding health and safety.

In addition to maintenance issues, we receive complaints from tenants who are being evicted by their landlord. The eviction process is a civil matter between the landlord and tenant. This process is usually handled between attorneys and the courts. The city does not get involved in civil disputes between the landlord and tenant. Code Enforcement refers these cases to the California Tenants Guide. This guide outlines the residential tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities printed by the State of California. A copy of these rights can be received by calling 866–320–8652, or by going to the website at www.court.ca.gov/documents/California-Tenants-Guide.pdf.

Code Enforcement Tip

Lastly, additional information regarding state legislation on Rent Control/Rent Increases, or Evictions, please refer to the California State mandated requirements in AB-1482 Tenant Protection Act. If you feel your tenant or landlord rights may have been violated, contact an attorney or contact any of the following agencies and/or their websites; LawHelpCA's Housing, State Bar of California's Legal Services Project, or Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County.



#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 www.cityofmonrovia.org/cleanmonrovia

Hidden Gems in Monrovia

IF YOU HAVE ANY NOMINATIONS FOR A HIDDEN GEM IN MONROVIA, PLEASE EMAIL US AT MAP@CI.MONROVIA.CA.US

MONROVIA AIRPORT STRIP

Monrovia Airport, also called the Foothill Flying Field, was an American airport in Monrovia, California active from 1928 to 1952. The spot was flat, level, and no work was needed to open the airport. The airport had a single 2,700-foot north–south runway. The club built a hangar and owned two planes. In November 1930 the Foothill Flying Field became a commercial-municipal airport and three more hangars were



built. The airport had a repair shop and by 1932 had flown 12,000 passengers.

With Hollywood only 25 miles away, Monrovia Airport became a popular spot to shoot movies. The airport liked to call itself "America's Friendliest Airport" and used the slogan "See the Valley from the Air, Monrovia Airport Inc."

On February 26, 1952, the land was sold to Consolidated Engineering Corporation for redevelopment. The site now is car dealerships and Pink's Transfer, just north of the Foothill Freeway, between Shamrock and Mountain Avenue, south of Huntington Drive (Route 66).



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

STRENGTHFLEX ATHLETICS

StrengthFlex Athletics is a gymnastics facility where we provide gymnastics classes for infants 6 months and above. We are a Sweet Peas Educational program member. The Sweet Peas program is a franchise program, designed to promote physical, social and cognitive development in children 6 months to 6 years old. Our gym is the only location where a potential client can enroll their child in parent and me classes in a radius of 7 miles.

We also provide Academic gymnastics courses for 6-14 year age groups. Excel USAG competitive gymnastics is a program where athletes begin their training at 4 years of age in advance of competition at 5 years of age. For 3+ years now weekend courses have been dedicated to strength and flexibility training for competitive dancers. The classes are specially designed for dancers, cheer or gymnasts who desire to increase flexibility and take their tumbling to the next level of difficulty.

We have athletes coming to Monrovia on weekends from Riverside county, Semi valley, Orange County and even San Diego. Our goal is to introduce and involve the next generation of youth in a variety Gymnastics based activities. Strength, flexibility, and coordination are the foundation's core for all other sports.

Strengthflex Athletics 947 Duarte Rd.Monrovia, CA 91016

(626) 437-0358



MAP Leader Highlight

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



BRIAN YAMAGUCHI | 2022 ADULT LEADER

Aloha Monrovians! My journey to becoming a MAP leader began with headlines in the regional news. The scandals involving widespread corruption that included soliciting and receiving bribes, misappropriation of public funds, and embezzlement in the City of Bell in 2010 and the City of Maywood in 2021 piqued my interest in seeing whether our local government had any of the early warning signs of similar inappropriate

behavior. During the COVID lockdowns, the city's council and commission meetings were moved to Zoom and I became a bit of a city government groupie, virtually attending as many of the meetings as I could. However, where I expected to find greed, I found generosity. Where I expected to find fiscal waste, I found financial restraint. Where I expected to find political stalemates, I found cooperation and a strong desire to do what was in the best long-term interest of our community. In the Community Services Commission meetings, Commissioner Genia Mills consistently gave the MAP program shout outs during her liaison reports. This led me to attend a MAP conference which I found educational and inspirational. The next logical step was the MAP leadership academy, of which I am a proud 2022 graduate.

My family moved to Monrovia in 2008. The primary reason was originally a simple logistic choice. It was geographically located about halfway between San Dimas where our homeschool co-op met and Pasadena where my daughters' ballet studio was located. A location in the middle would minimize the distance required to shuttle the kids between activities. Little did we know at the time of Monrovia's charm, history, natural beauty, small town warmth

MAP Leader Highlight

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

and caring neighbors. That ignorance was short-lived. Within weeks of our arrival, John Watson and Hal Leavens from Monrovia's welcome wagon came knocking at our door with a huge packet of information and fascinating stories told with genuine love and pride.

My favorite spots in Monrovia to hangout/shop are the power tool aisle of Home Depot and the fruit tree aisle of Armstrong Nursery because one can never have enough power tools and fruit trees. Woodworking and gardening are a couple of my hobbies. I also enjoy white-water rafting, fishing and USC Football.

I'm currently serving as a commissioner on Monrovia's Historic Preservation Commission. I volunteer regularly with Gleanings for the Hungry which is a mercy ministry of Youth with a Mission which aims to feed the hungry of the world, both physically and spiritually. A large part of their mission is the procurement and production of shelf-stable food for shipment overseas.

Another organization that I volunteer with is Habitat for Humanity. Their mission to bring people together to create affordable homes, community and hope aligns with my core values and my construction skill set. Locally, I have volunteered with Young Nak Church, Foothill's Kitchen and Fellowship Church in their respective homeless outreach ministries. I have also assisted Grow Monrovia with planting of neighborhood trees, a large lawn replacement project at Maryknoll and the establishment of Maryknoll's One Earth (cont.)





MAP Leader Highlight

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

(cont.) Community Garden.

The proudest accomplishment of my life is accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. This decision brought profound peace, purpose, and love into my life. It redefined my values, guided my actions, and opened my heart to a deeper connection with God and others. While life's challenges continue, my faith provides strength, hope, and an unwavering foundation upon which I stand. This personal choice continues to shape my journey and remains the most significant and impactful decision I have ever made.

Get Involved in the Community

MONROVIA POLICE DEPARMENT COMMUNITY ACTIVIST POLICING BUREAU

PHONE # 626-256-8020

VOLUNTEER WITH THE COMMUNITY ACTIVIST POLICING BUREAU

Are you Interested in volunteering with the Monrovia Police Department? Please come join our Citizen Patrol! These volunteer community members help support our police department but more importantly, provide extra support to keep our community safe. They assist with graffiti patrols, subpoena service, assist with school crossings and traffic control, neighborhood watch, and crime prevention.

Applicants go through a Citizens Academy and as would anyone working with a law enforcement agency, you get to complete lots of forms undergo a background check and an interview. We provide all the training needed. Come join our team, work with your Monrovia Police Department, and enjoy making new friends with your fellow Citizen Patrol colleagues!

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please call Monrovia Police Department Community Activist Policing Bureau at 626-256-8020.





PAGE 19 GET INVOLVED!

MAPconnect

ABOUT

MAPconnect is an initiative to retain, grow, and connect MAP Leaders. MAPconnect begins upon graduating from the MAP Leadership Academy. It is a multifaceted approach to incentivize volunteerism, provide resources, and encourage leaders to build networks.

MAP Leader Levels



Bronze: 35 points



Silver: 100 points



Gold: 200 points

POINT OPPORTUNITIES

Events		Volunteering	Bonus
Volunteer/Attend MAP Conference (6 pts)		City Volunteer (CERT/PD/Fire/Code) (1pt/1hr)	Become a Zone Coordinator (10 pts)
Make a Difference Day (4 pt	rs)	Volunteer Center (1 pt/1 hr)	Refer Someone to the Academy (10 pts)
Volunteer/Attend MAP Block	Party (3 pts)	Foothill Unity (1 pt/1 hr)	Become a Zone Asst. Coordinator (5 pts)
Attend a MAP-Edu (2 pts)		Volunteer at MAP Block Party/Neighborhood Mtg. (1 pt/1 hr)	Host a Neighborhood/Park Clean Up (5 pts)
Attend Neighborhood Treas	ure (2 pts)	YMCA (1 pt/1 hr)	Host a Block Party (5 pts)
Speak at a Leadership Acad	demy (2 pts)	Library Story Time (1 pt/1 hr)	Provide Gift to New Neighbor or Baby (5 pts)
Help with Holiday Parade (1	pt/1 hr)	Boys & Girls Club (1 pt/1 hr)	Participate in City's Holiday Decorating Contest (5 pts)
Attend Neighborhood Watch	Meeting (1 pt/1 hr)	KGEM Volunteer (1 pt/1 hr)	Bring a Neighbor to a MAP Event (1 pt)
		Community Services (1 pt/1 hr)	Wear Your MAP Shirt to an Event (1 pt)
MAPconnect		Community Garden (1 pt/1 hr)	Write a Newsletter Highlight (1 pt)
		Participate in Regional Activities (1 pt/1 hr)	Follow MAP on Social Media (1 pt)
			Like a Social Media Post (1 pt)
Bridging Neighborhoods Together			Re-post a Social Media Post (1 pt)
			Confirm Your Status as Active (1 pt)

MAPconnect

THE STEPS



LOG YOUR HOURS

Track it Forward is the program we use to track volunteer efforts. Volunteers can log hours via the web or mobile app, as well as sign up for events and track their progress for requirements.

Step 1: Go to

<u>www.monroviaareapartnership.com/leg=hours</u> and scroll down until you see the Track It Forward widget.

Step 2: Create an account by clicking on 'Click Here to Register'. Fill out the information.

Step 3: Log your hours by filling in the number of hours volunteered, date volunteered, activity, and bonus points (if any), and click 'Submit Time'.

GOALS

- Increase participation of MAP Leaders at events, social media, and in their neighborhoods.
- Provide toolkits to encourage networking amongst neighbors in the different zones.
- Honor those MAP Leaders who climb the tiers and dedicate their time to the community.
- Encourage MAP Leaders to recruit their neighbors and get involved.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

- In addition to earning points to climb the tiers, MAP Leaders will earn hours for the time they spend volunteering at activities.
- MAP will then award the Leader with the United States Presidential Volunteer Service Award (National Award)
- Bronze (100 hrs), Silver (250 hrs), and Gold (500+ hours)
- Receive a pin, certificate, and letter from the President of the United States.

HONORING LEADERS

Once a year, MAP will make a presentation to City Council honoring all the MAP Leaders who moved up a tier or were awarded a Presidential Volunteer Service Award. MAP Leaders will receive pins for each tier and can proudly display them on their lanyards or clothing.

Upcoming Events

CLICK ON THE FLYER BELOW TO RSVP

