



City of EL MONTE

SPRING 2015

City Gets Boost from Economic Development Projects

Officials break ground on several new exciting projects

The City Council has made economic development a priority and is seeing its efforts lead to significant regional projects.

In November, officials broke ground on an 110,000 square-foot retail center that will feature nationally-recognized retail stores and restaurants. Dubbed the Santa Fe Trail Plaza, the center located at the northeast corner of Valley Boulevard and Santa Anita Avenue represents the first project of its kind for El Monte in 25 years.

In December, the City Council broke ground on a Hilton Garden Inn at 9920 Valley Boulevard, the first full-service hotel to open in the City. The hotel, with plans for 133-rooms, three restaurants, a conference center and banquet facilities is one of many developments spurring economic growth in El Monte. The hotel is expected to generate \$500,000 in sales, property and bed tax revenues for the City.

The City and LaTerra Development also recently broke ground on the newest mixed-use residential/commercial development in the City, Garvey Square. This is the first project under the new mixed-multi use zoning and development regulations adopted in 2011 for the Garvey Corridor.

Garvey Square will combine a single-story commercial center at the northeast corner of Garvey Avenue and Peck Road, a four-story mixed-use building with 12 residential units above ground-floor retail shops fronting Garvey Avenue, and three-story townhome buildings housing 102 residential units extending east and north on Garvey Avenue and Meeker Avenue.



Santa Fe Trail Plaza



Hilton Garden Inn



Garvey Square



SAVE THE DATE: El Monte to Honor Fallen Soldiers at Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

The El Monte community is invited to attend the City's Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 25 at Tony Arceo Memorial Park to honor the men, women and families of those who served our nation and made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting our freedom.

The event will feature keynote remarks by U.S. Army Captain Joseph P. Davis. The ceremony will include a tribute to POWs and MIAs, the presentation of a Memorial Day wreath, a 21-Gun Salute and a performance of "Taps."

All families are invited to attend this Memorial Day Ceremony. Light refreshments will be served.

Major Construction Completed at Baldwin Avenue Rail Crossing



A train travels over the new Baldwin Avenue Grade Separation, a project completed by ACE under budget and ahead of schedule.

After being closed for two years due to construction, a four-lane roadway underpass at the railroad crossing on Baldwin Avenue opened to traffic on Tuesday, March 3.

Approximately 28,000 vehicles per day will pass through the new underpass and railroad bridge, located north of Valley Boulevard. The completion of this project re-establishes the Baldwin Avenue connection between Interstates 10 and 210 in the San Gabriel Valley.

The re-designed area will alleviate traffic congestion and eliminate the potential for train-vehicle collisions and emergency responder delays. Noise pollutants - inclusive of locomotive horns and crossing gate warnings - and emissions levels are also expected to be drastically reduced.

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11333 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA 91731



El Monte Chooses New Police Chief



The City announced on Friday, March 27 the selection of David Reynoso as the City's next police chief. Reynoso is a veteran with the City of Baldwin Park Police Department.

An officer with the Baldwin Park police force since 1990, Reynoso worked his way up from a police officer to the Captain of Operations, a position he has held since 2013. During his 25-year career with Baldwin Park Police Department, Reynoso served as a detective, patrol sergeant, SWAT team leader, watch commander and traffic sergeant commander, among the many other assignments throughout his career.

Reynoso's selection represents the first time in the City's history that the City has conducted a broad search for police chief candidates. The selection process included initial screening from panels of police chiefs and local city managers, as well as interviews with the City's ad hoc Council selection committee. Representatives from the El Monte Police Officers Association and the Police Mid-Managers Association also participated in the process.

Reynoso holds a Master of Arts in Organization Leadership from Chapman University, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Management from Union Institute & University. He is also a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy #244.

Reynoso's appointment was effective Monday, April 6.



Business Advisory Council Brings Valuable Tools to Small Business Owners

Recognizing that quality businesses are crucial to the prosperity of the community, the City, through its Business Advisory Council (BAC), aims to continue to bring additional programs and resources to the business community.

A BAC luncheon was held on Thursday, March 26 for local business owners to network and hear from City staff about upcoming development projects, how to contact code enforcement and local resources for small businesses. The lunch featured awards to recognize local businesses that positively impact El Monte. BAC leaders also provided the group with a summary of committee recommendations on processes that can be put in place to help the business community.

The Business Advisory Council was created to support the City's efforts to strengthen the local business community and is comprised of local business owners, residents, City officials, real estate experts, prospective/potential business interests, the El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce and others committed to helping transform El Monte into a flourishing economic center.

If you are interested in learning more about the Business Advisory Council, please contact Sheila Crippen at scrippen@elmonteca.gov.

Young Women Inspired at Annual Conference

The City hosted its third annual Inspire: A Young Women's Leadership Day on Saturday, March 7 in the Grace T. Black Auditorium. The conference was developed to inspire young women to dream big and follow their goals, using local successful community leaders to serve as role models.

The conference was attended by 150 seventh- through 12th-grade girls who are students of El Monte Union High School, El Monte City and Mountain View school districts. Breakout session topics included seminars on self-defense, financial fitness and planning for future success. A mentoring lunch enabled young women to introduce themselves to 40 professional career women and ask questions regarding how to reach their professional objectives.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis was a surprise speaker at the conference. Solis spoke about how she drew on her experience growing up as the daughter of immigrant parents to take on local leadership positions, eventually enabling her to become the first Hispanic woman to serve in the U.S. Cabinet.



U.S. Marine Corp 1st Lt. Maria S. Chavez hands a leadership coin to a student attending the Inspire conference. The coins serve as a reminder of what the students could accomplish if they worked hard to follow their dreams.

Delegation of Chinese Students Visits Community



The El Monte community hosted a delegation of students from China as part of an ongoing partnership to raise cross-cultural awareness.

The 136 students, ages 8-15, and 25 adults from the Harbin Zhongshanlu Primary School, located in the Heilongjiang region, spent two weeks in El Monte learning about American language, customs and history and visiting Southern California museums and attractions. The students also attended English language and history classes at the University of California-Los Angeles and California State University-Dominguez Hills. An assembly was held in their honor at Cherrylee Elementary School in order to share customs with local school children.

A highlight of the students' trip was a tour of El Monte City Hall and the Police Department on Tuesday, February 3.



Free Books to be Given at 32nd Annual Fiesta of Books

The City invites local families to celebrate literacy on Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the 32nd Annual Fiesta of Books. At the event, held at the El Monte Community Center, thousands of books will be given to children. All children in grades preschool to sixth will be allowed to choose two books. Free books will be given to teens and adults.

Children can also take part in story-telling sessions. The Fiesta of Books will feature several fun family activities including a moon bounce, face-painting, and arts and crafts. Delicious food will be available for purchase.

City libraries will be represented at information tables where used books will be given away for free.

Admission to the Fiesta of Books is free.

Celebrities, City Officials Empower El Monte Sixth-Graders at 'Believe in Yourself' Youth Summit

The City, El Monte City School District and Mountain View School District hosted a Youth Summit on Friday, Jan. 9 at Columbia School, where leaders from an array of careers shared their experiences to inspire success for hundreds of sixth-graders from diverse backgrounds and often difficult life circumstances.

The Summit, the largest in the San Gabriel Valley, represents one of the first such collaborations between the City and its School Districts. The program targets sixth-graders to help them in their transition to a middle school setting at a time that heralds significant changes as they prepare for their teen years.

Highlights of the event were remarks from three actors: Tom Choi, Michael Gregory and Zibby Allen. KTLA Channel 5 Meteorologist Vera Jimenez shared with students her personal stories about how she followed her dreams and achieved her goals.



El Monte Opens Gym for Local Seniors

As a result of community feedback, the City celebrated the opening of its new Senior Gym with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, February 12.

The Gym, featuring two recumbent bikes, two treadmills, two elliptical machines, a set of free weights with an adjustable bench, a multi-gym machine, a stability ball and a stretch area, is located at the Jack Crippen Multipurpose Senior Center and will be open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The idea to open a Senior Gym came from a group of senior swim participants that regularly use the City's Aquatic Center. On November 25, 2014, the Council approved the appropriation of funds for the renovation of the 544 sq. ft. room into a new Senior Gym.

The cost for residents to use the Senior Gym is \$1.50 per visit or \$15 per month. Non-residents will be charged \$2.50 per visit or \$25 per month. Visitors must be 50 years of age to use the facility.



El Monte Events

Fiesta of Books

Date & Time:
Saturday, May 2
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location:
El Monte Community Center
3130 Tyler Ave.
El Monte, CA

City Council and Successor Agency Meeting

Date & Time:
Tuesday, May 5
7 p.m.

Location:
Council Chambers
11333 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA

2015 Relay for Life Mountain View High School

Date & Time:
Saturday, May 16 – Sunday, May 17
9 a.m.

Location:
Mountain View High School
2900 Parkway Drive
El Monte, CA

City Council and Successor Agency Meeting

Date & Time:
Tuesday, May 19
7 p.m.

Location:
Council Chambers
11333 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA

El Monte Women's Golf League

Date & Time:
Wednesday, May 20
Time to be determined

Location:
Azusa Greens
919 W. Sierra Madre Ave.
Azusa, CA

Memorial Day Ceremony

Date & Time:
Monday, May 25
9 a.m.

Location:
Tony Arceo Memorial Park
3125 N. Tyler Ave.
El Monte, CA

City Council and Successor Agency Meeting

Date & Time:
Tuesday, June 2
7 p.m.

Location:
Council Chambers
11333 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA

El Monte Men's Golf League

Date & Time:
Saturday, June 6
Time to be determined

Location:
Los Serranos Country Club
15656 Yorba Ave.
Chino Hills, CA

City Council and Successor Agency Meeting

Date & Time:
Tuesday, June 16
7 p.m.

Location:
Council Chambers
11333 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA

El Monte Free Job Fair

Date & Time:
Friday, June 19
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Location:
Community Center
3130 Tyler Ave.
El Monte, CA

State of the City

Date & Time:
Wednesday, July 8
5:30 p.m.

Location:
Grace Black Auditorium
3130 Tyler Ave.
El Monte, CA



El Monte Continues Tough Stance on Illegal Fireworks

The City of El Monte wants all residents to know that using or possessing dangerous illegal fireworks will not be tolerated this Fourth of July and will result in fines or possible arrest.

The City will continue strict enforcement of an ordinance passed by the City Council in 2013 that issues an immediate \$1,000 fine to those caught using illegal fireworks. The ordinance will also make property owners liable for illegal fireworks used on their property, as well as parents whose children are caught violating the new rules. Should offenders not pay their citations, a lien will be placed on their property taxes and the City will receive payment at that time.

El Monte will also be stepping up code enforcement of trash and debris violations after the 4th of July.

The City encourages residents to support local nonprofits by purchasing safe and sane fireworks at various firework stands throughout El Monte. Many local

nonprofits count on the stands to serve as a major fundraiser for their organizations.

Over the past few years, there has been overwhelming resident concern over the use of illegal fireworks, which has led to serious injuries, property fires and an overburdened El Monte Police Department. Last year, the El Monte Police Department confiscated more than 46 tons of illegal fireworks during 41 sting operations in several area cities, resulting in 45 felony arrests.

Anybody currently in possession of illegal fireworks can turn them in, no questions asked, at any local fire station.

Any use, possession or sale of illegal fireworks can be reported to the El Monte Police Department at (626) 580-2100.

Community Kicks off Spring with Eggstravaganza Family Fun Day

The City of El Monte hosted its 3rd annual "Eggstravaganza Family Fun Day" on Saturday, March 28 for local families. The City's goal was to provide families with the opportunity to spend time together in a safe, healthy and active atmosphere.



Highlight activities of this award-winning event included Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and three organized Egg Hunts, divided by age.

Additional activities included Zumba, arts & crafts vendors, food vendors, face painting, a bounce house, bunny ears crafting, gunny sack races, game booths, a disc jockey, petting zoo, and the opportunity to take pictures with the Easter Bunny.



Save the Date

Employers to Recruit Thousands at Annual El Monte Free Job Fair

Calling all job seekers! Join the City at the annual El Monte Free Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, June 19 at the Grace T. Black Auditorium (3130 Tyler Avenue, El Monte, CA).

One of the largest job fairs in the San Gabriel Valley, the El Monte Free Job Fair will be a one-stop venue with more than 50 employers ready to hire. Organizers estimate that there will be thousands of jobs ready to be filled and several Fortune 200 companies will be in attendance. Last year's successful event attracted more than 3,000 participants.

For more information, please contact the City of El Monte Administration Office at (626) 580-2001.

City Council

André Quintero
Mayor

Bart Patel
Mayor Pro Tem

Juventino "J" Gomez
Councilman

Norma Macias
Councilwoman

Victoria Martinez
Councilwoman

Jerry Velasco
City Treasurer

Jonathan Hawes
City Clerk

City Directory

City Hall Services

City Manager's Office..... (626) 580-2001
City Council (626) 580-2001
City Attorney (626) 580-2010

Economic Development

Administration (626) 580-2090
Code Enforcement (626) 580-2080
Economic Development
Department (626) 580-2249
Valley Vista Services (800) 442-6454

Finance

Administration (626) 580-2023
Business License..... (626) 580-2031
Water (626) 580-2024

Human Resources

Administration (626) 580-2040

Parks & Recreation

Administration (626) 580-2200
Aquatic Center (626) 580-2213
Community &
Senior Services (626) 580-2210

Museums

El Monte Historical Society (626) 580-2232
La Historia (626) 279-1954

Public Safety

Administration (626) 580-2101
Emergency Fire/Police..... 911
Fire Department
L.A. County..... (626) 974-8371

Information/Patrol (626) 580-2110
Community Relations..... (626) 580-2186

Public Works

Administration (626) 580-2058
Transportation
Division (626) 580-2217
MTA Bus Passes (626) 580-2242
Dial-a-Ride..... (626) 307-3224
Trolley Information..... (626) 943-1200
MTA Bus Information (800) 266-6883

El Monte Library
(Tyler/Asher) Closed for Renovations
Norwood Library
(Peck/Emery) (626) 443-3147
Animal Control (626) 962-3577