



City Manager's Message



Recently, cities throughout California were forced to turn over \$2 billion in redevelopment funding to use for State obligations in the current budget year, a required payment resulting from the State's decision to raid local redevelopment funds as part of the 2009-10 State Budget. Instead of funding going toward local job creation and economic development projects, this money will now be used to pay the State's financial obligations to K-12 schools.

Please read the City's stand on these takeaways in the message below, which ran in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune on June 8.

Thank you,
René Bobadilla, P.E., City Manager

California's Budget Shell Game Weakens the State's Economic Recovery

Previously printed in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune on June 8, 2010

The open wound that is California's budget continues to infect the services and fiscal resiliency of programs throughout the State.

Cities took the most recent blow, as communities throughout California were forced to turn over more than a billion dollars in redevelopment funds to backfill California's unbalanced budget. The loss of these funds will result in fewer improvements to our streets and sidewalks, decreased affordable housing, no new jobs and the delay of shovel-ready projects. This means potential local jobs generated by these projects will not see the light of day.

Cities throughout California were forced to turn over \$1.7 billion dollars. This was a midyear budget shift, directly impacting city services to residents. And in another couple of months, they will have their hands out for another \$350 million for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. For the City of El Monte, it means a cut of more than \$2 million from our City's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). In addition, next year's estimated obligation of \$421,581 will further stymie the city's ability to generate economic activity. Our local assemblymember, Mike Eng (D-El Monte), has a record of supporting local control of local funds, but his voice alone is not enough to stop the State from taking these funds.

California cannot continue to function in this manner with this flawed budget process. Meanwhile we seem to be in denial over the fact that each year the budget process becomes more and more incomprehensible. From the supermajority needed to pass a budget, to the hyper-political posturing plaguing the State Capitol - something needs to change. There needs to be a holistic approach to budgeting, with the understanding that we are the largest, most populous state in the union, operating with a budget that exceeds that of most small countries. Yet each year we teeter on the brink of bankruptcy and it is our basic needs - education, infrastructure, health services, and public safety - that take the largest hit.

I will urge my colleagues in local government to support the filing of an appeal by the California Redevelopment Association to the California Court of Appeals for a return of the funds, as I strongly believe that funds generated through local economic development and housing initiatives should remain within our communities to provide services to seniors and families, and repairing and building the infrastructure necessary to move our cities forward. We must stop the State from cutting programs and implementing State takeaways. I urge you to take a stand against these takeaways by contacting your local legislators and expressing your concerns about these much-needed funds.

CITY COUNCIL

André Quintero
Mayor

Patricia Wallach
Mayor Pro Tem

Juventino "J" Gomez
Councilman

Emily Ishigaki
Councilwoman

Norma Macias
Councilwoman

Henry Velasco
City Treasurer

Lorene Gutierrez
City Clerk

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Community Redevelopment Meeting

DATE & TIME:
Tuesday, June 15, 5:00 p.m.
LOCATION:
City Hall East
11333 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA 91731

City Council Meeting

DATE & TIME:
Tuesday, June 15, 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION:
City Hall East
11333 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA 91731

"Seniors on the Move" Workshop

DATE & TIME:
Tuesday, June 22
8:30 a.m. to 11:00 am.
LOCATION:
El Monte Senior Center
3120 N. Tyler Ave.
El Monte, CA 91731

Teen/Youth Boxing Matches

DATE & TIME:
Saturday, June 26, 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION:
Jerry Ortiz Memorial Boxing Gym
3557 Lexington Ave.
El Monte, CA 91731

But the even bigger issue is that the State's budget process needs to be overhauled. This shell game of taking money from cities is not a long-term fix for California's dysfunctional budget process. It hurts economic development just when we need jobs the most.

-André Quintero is the Mayor for the City of El Monte

Relay for Life Raises More Than \$20,000 for Cancer Research

In an effort to help raise funds and awareness about the importance of cancer research, the City of El Monte recently held its 2010 El Monte/South El Monte Relay For Life in association with the American Cancer Society. The 24-hour event, which began on May 1 at 9 a.m. and ended on May 2 at 9 a.m., was held at South El Monte High School, utilizing the school's track as the course. Preliminary estimates show that the event raised more than \$20,000, with more donations still to come in the future.

"The Relay For Life proved to be a very successful event, both in monetary and social terms," said André Quintero, El Monte Mayor. "Not only did the Relay For Life help raise important funding for the American Cancer Society, but it also provided plenty of fun and entertainment to all who participated in the event."

The Relay For Life was participated in by a total of 14 teams, made up of between 12 and 24 people each, who took turns walking the South El Monte High School track, relay style, continuously throughout the course of the 24-hour marathon. As teammates took turns walking the track, those on the infield were treated to food, drinks and entertainment, which included ZUMBA and dance classes, music provided by KIIS FM radio, La Primaria Folklorico, Sister City Youth Association activities, El Monte Parks and Recreation Pee Wee Cheers, and Roland the Magician, donated by Healthcare Partners of El Monte.



Kara Montgomery, and a reading of luminaria names as participants walked the track. The event ended with a closing ceremony on Sunday morning highlighted by a "Fight Back" rally, led by Advocacy Relay chair Jeannette Ramirez, and a Final Lap, participated in by all teams and participants at the Relay.

El Monte Women's Club Hosts 35th Annual Scholarship Luncheon Awards More Than \$20,000 to Local Students

The El Monte Women's Club hosted its 35th Annual Scholarship Luncheon, which awarded scholarships to students from El Monte's five high schools, continuation school and adult school. The event took place on Thursday, May 6, at the Grace T. Black Auditorium in the El Monte Community Center. Each student was allowed to bring two guests and was accompanied by their school counselor.

"It was great to see all the scholarship recipients together with the scholarship donors at our annual luncheon," said El Monte Mayor Pro Tem Patricia Wallach. "It is such a

DONATION:
\$5.00

For reservations or more information, call (626) 580-2210.

El Monte Public Library

3224 N. Tyler Ave.
El Monte, CA 91731

- Adult Programs
Amigo Book Club
DATE & TIME:
Wednesday, June 30
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Family Story Time
DATE & TIME:
Every Tuesday of the month,
3:45 - 4:30 p.m.
- Teen Program
DATE & TIME:
Every Wednesday of the month,
3:15 - 5:00 p.m.
- Bilingual Story Time
DATE & TIME:
Every Saturday of the month,
11:00-12:00 p.m.
- Summer Reading Program -
All ages
DATE & TIME:
June 15-July 31
(To sign up, please call library)

City Hosts Special Cinco de Mayo Celebration for Local Residents

The City of El Monte hosted a special Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sunday, May 2 at the Valley Mall in El Monte. The free event, which was designed to bring the community together and teach residents about the significance of Cinco de Mayo, featured live entertainment, a disc jockey, face painting, food vendors and a children's jumper.

Marlene Saenz, a cheerleader from Fletcher Park, and Raffina Silva, a cheerleader from Mt. View Park, read to the public about the significance and history of the Cinco de Mayo celebration.



"This was our first Cinco de Mayo

rewarding experience to see the students from our community so enthusiastic about their education. We appreciate the generosity from all of our sponsors. This event would not be possible without them."

At the event a total of 20 recipients received \$1,000 scholarships, four received \$750 scholarships and three art and three music students were awarded checks of \$100 each.

Major scholarship sponsors included Alsaleh Project Management, Inc., DWK Attorneys, Cardinal Industrial Finishers, Longo Toyota, Phoenix Commercial Services, Sam's Club, Wayne C. Clayton Foundation, The Carolyn Metzger Memorial Fund, The Pearl & Ed Hoefl Trust Fund and IBE Digital. Many donations and contributions from community members were also made toward the effort of fundraising for the planning of the event.



celebration since I've been on the City Council and it was a great success," said City of El Monte Councilman Juventino "J" Gomez. "Not only is this a great way to bring the community together, but it also teaches our children about history and the Mexican army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla. We plan to make this an even bigger and better event every year and make it a historical tradition for our City."

The event featured live performances by Aztec dancers, La Primaria Elementary School's Folklorico dancers, Ballet Folklorico Internacional de Lucia Parra, Los Tequileros (a Mariachi Band) and El Zoruyo y su Dinamita (a Latin band).

The Cinco de Mayo Celebration was attended by Mayor André Quintero, Councilman J Gomez, City Manager Rene Bobadilla, Interim Assistant City Manager Steve Schuster, Chief of Police Tom Armstrong, Interim Deputy City Manager for Community Development Minh Thai and Economic and Redevelopment Director Jesus Gomez.

27th Annual Fiesta of Books Provides Free Books to More Than 2,000 Local Children

More than 2,000 El Monte children received free books at the City's 27th Annual Fiesta of Books, held on Saturday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event, which was sponsored by the El Monte Community Services Department, El Monte City School District and Mt. View School District, took place at the El Monte Community center.

"This year's Fiesta of Books was such a great success," said El Monte Councilwoman Norma Macias. "Literacy is the best gift we can give our children and we must continue to think of new ways to impart that gift upon them. We are so thankful to all of the volunteers and sponsors who made this event possible."

Each child was given two new books, one dictionary and an unlimited amount of free-used books, as well as a decorative bag to hold their items. They were also given a free pizza certificate to Shakey's Pizza Parlor and had the opportunity to see costumed characters and receive autographs from the 2010 Miss Friendly El Monte/South El Monte Princesses.

Children also enjoyed storytelling, participated in arts & crafts and had their faces painted. Food vendors and music from Latino 96.3 FM disc jockeys were available for the public.



Donors for the event, included the El Monte Education Center, Rotary International Club of Five Points, Valley Vista Services, El Monte Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10218, El Monte City School District Superintendent Jeff Seymour, El Monte Police Officers Association, Longo Toyota/Lexus, Wayne C. Clayton Foundation, Mountain View School District Teachers Association, Cherrylee PTA, Diane McMaster and Marian Last, Acting Deputy City Manager for Community Services.

El Monte Resident Honored as Senior of the Year

The Senior Presidents' Council of El Monte, Community & Senior Services Division, recently named Nancy Kennon as its '2010 Senior of the Year' for her active and committed community involvement in El Monte.



Kennon was honored, along with other Senior-of-the-Year nominees from cities throughout Los Angeles County, at a special ceremony given by the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging on May 10. The Senior Presidents' Council and City of El Monte Community & Senior Services Division also honored Kennon at a special luncheon, on May 20.

Rabies Clinic Available for Local Pets

The City of El Monte will be holding a Low-Cost Vaccination Clinic for Dogs on Thursday, June 17, at Lambert Park in El Monte from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event, for dogs only, will offer pet owners the opportunity to vaccinate their animals for discount prices.

This year's vaccinations will include Rabies, DHPP and Bordatella, with the Rabies shot costing \$10, DHPP, \$14, and Bordatella \$15. Vaccination Packages will also be available, with all three shots costing \$39, DHPP and Bordatella, \$29, and Rabies and DHPP, \$24.

The Low-Cost Vaccination Clinic for Dogs, sponsored by the City of El Monte, the Southern California Veterinary Vaccine Clinic, and the County of Los Angeles, is for DOGS ONLY; NO cats or other such animals will be admitted. For more information please call the Code Enforcement Department at (626) 580-2080.

Buckle Up For Safety

Summer is approaching and if you are planning on taking a trip or driving your families around town, don't forget to buckle up. This year, fines and fees have increased from \$132.00 to \$142.00 for first-time adult seat belt violations. For children under 16, the fine is now \$445.00 for a first-time offense. As the driver of the vehicle, you are responsible for all occupants in your vehicle. The driver can be cited for a child under 16 if they are not fastened in properly and the child's parent is not in the vehicle. A child must be properly secured in the rear seat in a child passenger restraint system if they are under six years of age and weigh less than sixty pounds (27360 (a) VC Child Passenger Restraints). For further information regarding seat belt violations and child seat belt violations, please refer to California Department of Motor Vehicles on-line at: <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/> and look up the following vehicle codes: 27315 (a) VC, Mandatory Seat Belt Law; 27360.5 (a) VC, Child Passenger Restraint System: Safety Belt: Requirements; 27360 (a) VC Child Passenger Restraints: Requirements. Remember, "Buckle Up" before you start your vehicle. If you have any questions you can contact the El Monte Police Department Traffic Safety Bureau Lt. States at 626-580-2158.

"I was so surprised and overwhelmed when I found out I had been nominated for this wonderful award," said Kennon. "I have lived in El Monte nearly my entire life and it has been so fulfilling to serve my community. I'm very thankful to be recognized in this way."

Kennon first moved to El Monte with her family at the age of 5 and has become a pillar in the community through her many years of dedicated service. Together with her husband Ron, Kennon opened her own business in El Monte, "Nancy's Curling House," which is well known for supporting many local organizations and sponsoring dinners for various community events.

Kennon also participates in fundraisers for the Cancer Society; co-chaired the City's annual 2010 Relay for Life; and has been an active member of the Moose Lodge for more than 50 years. Both Kennon and her late husband, Ron, received the City tile from the City of El Monte for their dedicated service. Kennon has also received the 'College of Regents Degree' from the Moose Lodge, and countless awards from the City's local Parent Teacher Association. Currently, she is the president of the El Monte Police Canine Association, and continues with a long-standing tradition of hosting an annual 'Appreciation Dinner' for the El Monte City Council, Police, Fire and general employees.

"Nancy has been a long-time dedicated supporter and resident of the City of El Monte and her contributions to the City have been very valuable," said Emily Ishigaki, El Monte City Councilwoman. "I am very proud to call her El Monte's 2010 Senior of the Year. She very much deserves this honor."

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