



City of Montebello view

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

SPRING 2021 ISSUE

CITY POSITIONED FOR POST-PANDEMIC FUTURE

For the last year, the City's local economy has faced financial challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. During the City's current fiscal year, we've been able to succeed in creating a balanced budget, despite the economic down-turn created by the pandemic. This was achieved through thoughtful and in-depth planning conducted by the Finance Department in open collaboration with City Council and all City-departments. For their work, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of Montebello, for its Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. This is the first time in the City's 100-year history that the budget document has been recognized in this manner. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide, and as a communications device. "The award signifies that the residents

and business entities who live and work in Montebello can be assured its finances are not only in very good standing, but that we are adhering to the highest standards of fiscal management and responsibility," stated Director of Finance, Michael Solorza.

The City generates operating revenue from multiple sources, the two largest being sales tax (32.7%) and property tax (23.4%). The remaining 44% of our General Fund revenue comes from Licenses and Permits, Fines and Forfeitures, and other miscellaneous services. It is important to note that 56.3% of the City's entire revenue goes to fund public safety operations, meaning your Fire and Police staff and services. The good news is the numbers demonstrate the City has been an effective steward of the community's tax dollars. Montebello will end the fiscal year in the positive, which helps set the stage for next year's budget. Planning for the 2021-2022 fiscal year has begun five weeks earlier than last year and is expected to be completed in June of 2021.



CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

René Bobadilla
City Manager

The start of spring symbolizes new beginnings and a sense of resilience. As we acknowledge the one-year anniversary of California's Safer at Home Orders, I am astounded by how we've endured as a City and community. A year ago, there was a sense of trepidation and fear of the unknown. Montebello residents, community members, and City staff faced the uncertainty head on.

Today, Montebello is in a different place, and although the pandemic still affects our daily lives, our future looks promising. You can see this resilience personified in our finances, community programming, and future plans. We also have made meaningful advances in our digital engagement as we bring enhanced content to social media with videos, streaming events, and community interaction.

I commend our City staff as they've not faltered to ensure the needs of residents and businesses are met. Even though many of our facilities remain closed to the public, City business has carried on by phone, email, or online. We continue to closely follow state and county guidelines and are working on a safe and effective reopening plan for all City facilities. I remain optimistic that we will substantially reopen before the end of this year.

I appreciate the community's patience and ask that we continue to follow Department of Public Health guidelines by maintaining social distancing, wearing a mask when out in public, and washing your hands consistently. As vaccinations become available to more residents over the next few months, I encourage everyone to get vaccinated at your earliest opportunity. Montebello is an incredibly resilient community, and I can see a future for life to regain some normalcy.

City of Montebello
1600 W. Beverly Blvd.
Montebello, CA 90640



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SOCIAL AWARENESS INITIATIVES

APRIL 2021

- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Volunteer Month
- Autism Acceptance Month
- Armenian History Month

MAY 2021

- Asian Pacific Heritage Month
- National Pet Month
- Mental Health Month
- Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

Learn more about these important initiatives by visiting the calendar on our City Website www.cityofmontebello.com.

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GENERAL PLAN UPDATE 2040

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

The Planning and Community Development Department has entered the "Visioning Phase" of the Montebello General Plan update. This phase offers Montebello residents and stakeholders a unique and vital opportunity to add their opinions and help shape the General Plan. While the primary purpose of the General Plan is to establish a road map for the future, the main goal of this "Visioning Phase" is to engage our community and residents directly to get insight on everyone's needs and wants. This feedback is used to shape future development policies across in the City. To obtain a sense of what the community envisions for the future, the City is conducting community outreach on social media, virtual focus groups, and utilizing an online survey.

Focus group meetings have begun and will continue throughout the year. Each focus group will cover different topics related to parks and recreation, health and wellness, accessibility, infrastructure, and more. Community participants can share their perspective directly with City staff and discuss areas of growth for Montebello. We believe these discussions will give the City a better understanding of what the community aspires to see in Montebello's future.

To sign up and join a focus group please visit planmontebello.com. On this site you will find further information and updates about the General Plan process and ways you can get involved.

PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED



The City of Montebello invites all residents and businesses to participate in the General Plan update. This is a multi-year process for the City to obtain public input to develop a new General Plan and Downtown Specific Plan. The next focus group open for participation:



OUR WELL-PLANNED & ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY (CORE)

MAY 17, 2021 | ZOOM

6:30 P.M.

- Must be age 15 years or older to participate.
- All focus group meetings are scheduled to last 90-minutes.

For more information, contact the Planning and Community Development Department at (323) 887-1478. Zoom links are available at www.planmontebello.com.

TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEY FOR THE GENERAL PLAN!



If you wish to participate in the planning process from the comfort of your computer, the City encourages all residents and stakeholders to fill out the General Plan Digital Survey which will be posted on our website and social media on April 15 in English and Spanish. Please visit www.planmontebello.com.



TIPS TO KEEP YOUR CARS SAFE TOPIC: CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

Vehicles manufactured after 1974 have catalytic converters which are located underneath the vehicle and connected to the tailpipe (exhaust). The theft of catalytic converters has increased during the pandemic, mostly due to more vehicles being parked in the same location for longer periods of time. These devices contain precious metals of high value and can be removed by thieves in under two minutes. The most common vehicles hit are SUVs and trucks.

Most people do not realize their catalytic converter has been stolen until they start the vehicle. When the catalytic converter is gone the vehicle makes a loud roaring sound that gets louder when the gas pedal is pushed. Replacing this part can cost up to \$2,000.

Increase protection for your vehicle from this type of theft by parking in well-lit areas or in view of security cameras. Park inside a garage or secure space if possible and always keep gates and doors closed and locked. Securing a catalytic converter by welding or bolting it to vehicle's frame may make it more difficult to steal or deter theft all together. Owners may consider engraving their vehicle identification number on the catalytic converter which will alert scrap dealers that the part is stolen and will help law enforcement identify victims when thieves are caught with the part. If the vehicle has an alarm, set it to detect vibration if possible. There are also many aftermarket products to deter and prevent these types of thefts that can be purchased online.

Police Chief Brad Keller urges the community to work together and report suspicious activity to the police. If you see someone who appears to be under a vehicle suspiciously, keep a description of the person and circumstances and call 911.



GROCERY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Receive FREE food delivery assistance from the City of Montebello! This program provides a monthly stipend in food assistance from a local grocery store partner. Groceries are delivered twice a month by City staff directly to your home.

ELIGIBILITY

- Montebello Resident
 - Household must meet low-income criteria
- To learn if you qualify, please call (323) 887-4540

APPLICATIONS can be picked up and submitted via mail or email from:

Recreation & Community Services Department
 1700 W. Victoria Ave., Montebello, CA 90640
 Monday – Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Email | ParksServices@cityofmontebello.com
 Phone | (323) 887-4540

SPRING PROGRAMS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

All organized youth sports considered high impact within the Los Angeles County public health guidelines are cancelled. Spring youth sports include basketball and soccer.

City parks remain open for passive recreational use, however, all park amenities remain closed at this time. No large gatherings until further notice please.

We continue to offer monthly Virtual Recreation activities such as fitness videos for high-impact and senior activities. Follow @cityofmontebello on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Nextdoor for these videos!

Rec 'N' Go craft bags are also available for purchase every month! Cost is \$5 per child and includes several themed crafts and activities for children ages 6-11.

Visit www.cityofmontebello.com.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES VOLUNTEER FOR CITY SERVICE SATURDAYS!

On March 20, the Recreation and Community Services Department launched a new community volunteer program called "City Service Saturdays" that partners with residents to beautify specific areas near their homes. This exclusive program uses data collected from the "My Montebello App" to pinpoint high-need areas around parks, public walkways, residential streets, etc. in need of upkeep. Recreation coordinates volunteers every month to complete pre-identified service projects. Projects may include painting, trash and graffiti removal, landscaping, vegetation removal, and cleaning of local parks and play equipment.

The City wants enthusiastic households to help in this safe and socially distanced clean-up effort. To stay within COVID-19 guidelines, participants must be from a single household to work together and volunteer sites will be staggered throughout the event. Participants must be at least eight years old to join. Volunteers must pre-register before the event by calling the Recreation and Community Services Office at (323) 887-4540.



UPCOMING CITY SERVICE SATURDAYS

MAY 22 | JUNE 26

Times and locations provided after registration to ensure social distancing requirements are met.



BEFORE



AFTER



CITY OF montebello

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH



NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS!
www.cityofmontebello.com | (323) 887-1200

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH HONOREES



Betty J. Rodriguez
 February 2021

At 81 years young, Betty has demonstrated exceptional community activism and has been a resident since 1957. As a YMCA volunteer, Betty worked to distribute food to families in need. She also pioneered efforts with Montebello's Parks and Recreation staff to get food delivered from the YMCA to homebound seniors.



Teresa Lopez
 March 2021

Teresa is a local volunteer, realtor, and founder of the Montebello Blue Hearts Charity group, dedicated to improving the quality of life for Montebello residents. Currently, Teresa works closely with the Montebello Senior Center to coordinate bi-monthly food distribution events for those impacted by the pandemic.



SOUND THE ALARM MAY 8, 2021

Every eight minutes, the American Red Cross responds to a disaster in the U.S. – the vast majority of which are home fires. And tragically, seven people die in home fires each day, most in homes that don't have smoke alarms.

Unfortunately, this loss of life and the commonplace nature of home fires rarely gets significant media attention, even when it strikes our local community. That's why we are excited to partner with the Red Cross for their Home Fire Campaign, intended to reduce home fire deaths and injuries.

A critical campaign element is Sound the Alarm, a home fire safety event in at-risk communities across the country. Red Cross volunteers, in coordination with the Montebello Fire Department, are bringing Sound the Alarm to south-side homes in Montebello on May 8. We will be canvassing the neighborhoods, educating residents about home fire safety, and helping families create escape plans. The goal is to make 100 families safer by installing new smoke alarms to cut the risk of death by half. Having an escape plan further improves the odds of survival.

In addition, we encourage residents to keep their family safe by signing up for the Red Cross's personalized preparedness classes. The classes are individualized to help you understand, prepare for, and respond appropriately to home fires. During your meeting Red Cross will help you identify fire hazards in your home, help you make a home fire escape plan, and understand and implement general preparedness tips. All you need is 20 minutes, a phone, or a laptop.

For more information, call the Sound the Alarm hotline at (310) 445-9914 or visit their website at www.redcross.org/LAhomefire.



COVID-19 EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE

The Montebello COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program provides temporary support grants to income-eligible Montebello households economically impacted during the pandemic through job loss, furlough or reduction in hours or pay.

Grants are rental/mortgage payments made by the City on behalf of income-eligible households to maintain housing and/or reduce payment delinquency in areas due to economic hardship. A maximum total grant of \$2,400 is available per household for a time period not to exceed three-months.

Information about eligibility and registration will be available online April 26.

Visit www.montebellofiredept.org/cv19era



GET CITY NEWS & UPDATES

Get City news sent right to your inbox by signing up for updates on our City website. We have a lot of important information coming your way:

- Newsletters
- Public Notices
- Event Reminders & more!

SIGN UP at www.cityofmontebello.com by clicking on this button:



CITY COUNCIL

Kimberly Ann Cobos-Cawthorne
Mayor

David N. Torres
Mayor Pro Tem

Angie Jimenez
Councilmember

Scarlet Peralta
Councilmember

Salvador Melendez
Councilmember

Christopher Jimenez
City Clerk

Rafael Gutierrez
City Treasurer



City Council Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Agendas, public documents and Live Stream link are posted on the City's website.

CITY OF montebello

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Montebello, CA 90640
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Download our FREE APP
"My Montebello"

Available on Apple & Android phones.



Council Meetings now available to watch live on Spectrum Public Access Channel 3!



Newsletter produced and published by the Public Affairs Department.

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