

2023
Egg-Stravaganza

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST

Henry Acuña Park
10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**FREE EGG HUNT, MAGIC SHOW, CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES,
FACE PAINTER, JUMPERS, PETTING ZOO, PHOTO BOOTH,
*VENDOR BOOTHS * FOOD TRUCKS & MORE ...**

*Special appearance from
the Easter Bunny*

*FOOD & ARTISAN CRAFTS AVAILABLE FOR A MINIMAL FEE



**City
Manager's
Message**

René Bobadilla
City Manager

Dear Residents and Business Owners – Spring has sprung and as we move forward into warmer days and put the memories of a historic California winter behind us, I want to tell all of you about one of the single, most important, and critical elements of your city’s operations that watches over our safety each and every day. It stands ready every moment, 24/7, to assist in all significant public health and safety incidents anytime of the day or night. It is relied on extensively by your Montebello Firefighters and paramedics both when needed by our residents, and when help is required elsewhere. Yet many of you will never see it, or even know how it works until now. Its benefits and impact on our entire community are visible nearly every day.

Known to participating cities as Verdugo Fire Communications, this vital system of mutual aid helps ensure Montebello can minimize the effect of fires and disasters and participate in the effective mobilization and dispatch of all available firefighting and emergency medical resources when needed. Montebello has agreed to operate and participate in this joint fire communications system, known as the “Verdugo System.” As part of this agreement, Montebello Fire can also be called upon to provide mutual aid services or automatic aid services to cities who participate in the Verdugo System and other jurisdictions as designated by the State (think last summer’s wildfires in Northern California).

The Verdugo Call system is located and operated from the City of Glendale, and included in the many communication services it provides are:

1. Receive 911 and wireless emergency calls;
2. Transfer 911 and wireless calls to other agencies as appropriate;
3. Receive 10-digit emergency and direct connect (formerly called ring-down, or phone line) calls on numbers/circuits provided by participating cities;
4. Provide Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and foreign language translation;
5. Provide Emergency Medical Dispatch pre-arrival and life-saving protocols as established by Los Angeles County Fire and approved by Los Angeles County Department of Health Services;
6. Enter incident information into computer aided dispatch system (CAD), including verified incident address/location, specific location information, informant’s location, informant’s telephone number, source code for call, basic Emergency Medical Dispatch information, appropriate text and type codes.

This system includes additional documentation, communication, and record management functions too numerous to mention. As a participant in Verdugo Communications, Montebello Fire has and maintains equipment and radio communication hardware necessary to participate and facilitate communications within this network. Radio communications are an essential and lifesaving tool for fire personnel, paramedics, and on-scene commanders to coordinate and manage situations. Just

Continued on page 6

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Montebello, CA 90640



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POSTAL CUSTOMER
Montebello, CA 90640



MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF FERNANDO PELÁEZ

As we move forward into 2023, the men and women of the Montebello Fire Department (MFD) are determined to continue providing the finest service possible to residents as they continue to embrace professionalism, compassion, courage and commitment to their duty. The success of what we can achieve this year can only be measured by how far we've come, however, and knowing that I wanted to take a moment to share with you how your MFD served the City of Montebello in 2022 before sharing what I look forward to achieving this year.

Last year, MFD responded to 8,656 service calls. This does not include responses through our mutual fire aid agreements with surrounding fire department agencies, which contributed an additional 776 service calls. That means that in total over the course of 2022, MFD responded to 9,432 service calls. You may be surprised to know that from this total, 7,064 were medical calls, 2,009 were fire calls and the remaining 359 calls were for other reasons. In addition, during FY2021-2022 the MFD's Montebello Community Assistance Program (MCAP) enrolled a total of 94 participants and responded to a total of 62 service calls. Out of the 94 participants that were enrolled, 46 were provided housing assistance, which does not include the additional 25 individuals that are currently being housed and assisted at Operation Stay Safe.

Internally, a strong focus to improve the development and interconnectivity of MFD's five divisions (Suppression and Operations, Community Risk Reduction, Public Safety Communications, Community Outreach and Support Services, and Administration) were made ensure that our foundation was as strong as ever. Additional changes saw us upgrading member's equipment, fire apparatus, and support vehicles, and an effort to pursue additional funding to support much needed projects, and community services, all this to ensure that we have the capacity to operate as an all-risk fire service in a time of growing need in our community and a constant changing environment around us.

As MFD provided 24/7 service to residents last year, MFD also focused on youth development. Over the course of 2022, 13 cadets, many of them being Montebello residents themselves, were sponsored by our department to participate in the Glendale Verdugo Academy and Rio Hondo Fire Academy. A total of three paramedics successfully completed their courses at the Paramedic Training Institute through the Captain George Miller Paramedic Trainee Program.



Knowing that 74% of our total calls in 2022 were related to medical emergencies, our firefighter/paramedics, firefighter/engineers and captains were pushed to their limits to meet this demand. It is because of this that addressing the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) model for our department is not only important, but urgently needed. I am committed to addressing this by making the necessary changes within our delivery model that will see advancements in the areas of: engagement, recruitment, retention, training and the mental health/well being of our members.

This year I also plan to create and launch the Montebello Fire Department Strategic Plan, which will guide us for the next three years. This plan will serve as a roadmap to continue to build upon our existing vision and core values as we look to incorporate advancements in the department in areas like technology, best practices, improved data-collection systems, all-risk training, recruitment and retention. This plan will be the roadmap for MFD as we continue to grow and expand our reach to the diverse community that we serve.

I have been a part of Montebello for more than 35 years. During that time I have developed a love and respect for the people that live in this community that eventually led me to the path to become a public servant. I began that journey as a firefighter and today, continue to do so as your Fire Chief. Going forward, I pledge to continue to meet the challenges we have faced for more than 100 years as the Montebello Fire Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, Montebello.

Fernando Peláez, Fire Chief

RENOVATIONS AND NEW TECHNOLOGY COMING TO MONTEBELLO

Montebello may only span eight miles, but that doesn't mean there is any lack of work for your Public Works Department to keep the City running smoothly for the 63,000 residents that call Montebello home. Working at all hours of the day, the Public Works Department accomplishes its duties through a balanced and prudent use of resources, technology, innovations and partnerships with local service providers in the City.

As we begin a new chapter in 2023, the Public Works Department is excited to announce plans to move forward with three major projects that the City Council has approved:

TRANSPORTATION FACILITY ROOF AND HVAC PROJECT

Throughout the course of 2021 and 2022, City staff worked with contractors to identify failing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment on the roofs that had exceeded its useful life and is operating with very low energy efficiency at the City's Transit Headquarters building. While performing these evaluations, staff also found that much of the roofing material on the buildings located on Transit's property had begun to decay to due years of being outside in the elements.

With evaluations complete, the decision was made to move forward with a complete replacement of all HVAC equipment and building controls for this equipment. Prior to these new units installation, a full roof replacement will take place atop each building. As part of this project, identified transformers will also be replaced so as to ensure the proper and efficient support of the new technology that will be installed.



GEROGE HENSEL AQUATIC CENTER UPGRADES PROJECT

As public locations such as parks and pools returned to operation following closures related to COVID-19, staff identified equipment at the George Hensel Aquatic Center that was beginning to fail and operate with low energy efficiency. Moving forward in 2023, this project will see a complete replacement of all HVAC equipment and building controls, a full roof replacement of the aquatics center and the installation of new heating and water filtration equipment for the pool. All the new equipment, being more energy efficient, will result in substantial annual energy and maintenance savings.



SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION PROJECT

Another project the Public Works Department will initiate this year is the installation of new, solar photovoltaic (PV) equipment at five City facilities that will lower energy bills. The reduced energy consumption will not only result in an immediate annual savings on utility bills but also reduce potential adverse budget impacts in the future from unpredictable annual increases to SoCal Edison (SCE) rates. The five locations that new, carport and structure-mounted PV systems will be installed at include:

- City Hall
- Cathy Hensel Youth Center Aquatics Center
- Montebello Golf Course
- Transit/Public Works Yard
- City Park





MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF PAUL ESPINOSA

Let me start by saying thank you for the overwhelming support this community has given our department. Montebello Police Department (MPD) officers take exceptional pride in this city and their ability to stay true to the mission of providing public safety to the residents that call Montebello home. During my time as Police Chief, I have been very pleased with the

great work the badged and civilian members of this department have done to truly live up to our motto of "Dedicated to Superior Service."

It is my job to put this department and its members in the best position to accomplish this goal, and I am excited to share with you some of the things coming in 2023:

EVENTS

Community

National Night Out – Last summer we had an exceptional turnout for our annual National Night Out. Thousands of you came to our event on Victoria Avenue for a night of fun, games, good, music and demonstrations from our elite MPD members. We are excited to build on this event this year and are working to bring back Open House and guided tours of our police station. So mark your calendars for August 1, 2023, as MPD's National Night Out returns!

Lunch with the Chief – I would like to personally say thank you to everyone who came and donated during our annual "Lunch with the Chief" event last year. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide youth involved in the Police Activities League and Explorers programs the ability to sustain their operations that include engaging in a competitive basketball league and purchasing much needed equipment. While a formal date has yet to be set, be sure to look for updates on our website and social media platforms for this year's event. We might even have a special visit from Santa Claus.

Public Safety Meetings

Throughout 2022, MPD hosted several public safety meetings in the community room at Henry Acuna Park and at other locations throughout the city. During these meetings our department provided crime and traffic updates and welcomed hearing what other concerns community members shared. Looking ahead to community meetings this year, MPD is planning to host at least one meeting per month within each of the respective council districts. Consistent with the saying "one city, one team," we will also call upon other city department representatives to join us at the meetings depending on specific concerns outlined and addressed in each individual meeting. For more information on public safety meetings, visit our website at www.montebellocal.gov.

Run, Hide, Fight Program

During 2022 MPD worked in partnership with our local schools and churches to hold active shooter training and information sessions. Unfortunately, these events have become all too common and it is MPD's goal to educate the community on how to respond in these situations. In 2023 we plan to expand the Run, Hide, Fight Program to large venues and places of employment throughout the city. "Always remember, if you see something, say something." For more information on this program, visit our website.

EFFICIENCIES FOR SAFETY

As we continue through the first quarter of the new year, I would like to take a moment to note that our officers can only provide the best service to the residents of Montebello if they are equipped with the tools and equipment that they need. That's why over the past year MPD has done just that, providing our officers:

40 millimeter less lethal weapons – This "less lethal" system embodies the goal to preserve life, a goal which MPD constantly strives for on any call or encounter. Utilizing a sponge-type of round, 40 millimeter less lethal weapons can potentially reduce the use of deadly force during situations with combative or even armed suspects. Thanks to the support of the Montebello City Council and City staff, MPD has been able to expand out inventory so that each officer in the field can now carry one of these weapons as opposed to only sergeants responding from the station.

Body Worm Cameras (BWC) – During the summer of 2022, MPD officers were issued BWC's to wear in order to record their contacts and interactions with the public. BWC's are an excellent resource for providing transparency within the community and our department.

Cell Phones – MPD has recently partnered with T-Mobile and secured cell phones for every patrol officer. This new advancement in the deployment of technology allows officers to use their city-issued cell phones to take photographs at crime scenes, record interviews with victims, witnesses, upload evidence into our evidence portal, and make phone calls while conducting investigations to necessary staff. Officers are also able to upload the needed information to the State of California after each enforcement/traffic stop.

Medical Safety Equipment – Our department has taken the initiative in updating trauma kits located inside every patrol vehicle and ensured that a number of trauma kits are strategically located at our police station as well. As part of this initiative, MPD officers were given a refresher course on first aid and shown how to properly use the supplies located in the kits.

Upcoming New Vehicles - I am pleased to report that MPD has recently secured new vehicles that will replace several of our aging patrol units. Residents should expect to see these new units throughout the community by the beginning of summer.

As Montebello's Police Chief, it is my commitment to you to ensure that this department does all that it can to provide the residents of this wonderful community the most dependable, trustworthy and exceptional service possible. I look forward to another year of health, success and Superior Service!

Thank you for your continued support, Montebello,
Paul Espinosa, Police Chief



M MONTEBELLO BUS LINES

Effective 01/22/2023

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 90

Learn more at RideMBL.com
RealFast > RealEasy > RealTime

Say Hello To Our New Look

Montebello Bus Lines (MBL) is excited to announce the launch of its new brand! Riders will be the first to see the new look of our vehicles as the new brand is applied to the newest vehicles in our fleet that are continuing to roll into revenue service.

Bus Route Updates

MBL made changes to our bus lines effective Sunday, January 22, 2023. The next planned schedule update date is Sunday, June 11, 2023. Changes made to MBL schedules are done so to ensure that we are continuing to distribute an even service footprint across all our routes. For the latest information on schedule changes, rider alerts and other MBL news, visit our website at www.ridembl.com or by calling out customer service staff at: (323) 558-1625.

Get Behind the Wheel of Your Career!

A great career is just a bus ride away. MBL is looking for energetic, hardworking, customer service oriented individuals to join our team! For a limited time only, paid training is available to successful candidates as well as a \$2,000 sign-on bonus (terms and conditions apply).

Starting Monthly Salary:

With Class A or Class B License - \$4,155.00
With Class C License - \$3,589.00

Sign-On Bonus!

- \$1,000 upon Operator certification (successful completion of training)
- \$1,000 upon successful completion of probation period

More Reasons to Apply!

- Earn up to \$1,250 twice a year under our Incentive Program (after successfully passing probation)
- Training provided to obtain a commercial driver's license (Class B)
- Great Benefits
- For more information on this and other positions offered by the City of Montebello, visit: montebellocal.gov/jobs





RECREATION PROGRAMS

Session III: April 3 - April 29 • Session IV: May 1 - May 27

All programs subject to change according to COVID-19 mandates. Program must have a minimum of 5 participants to start class.

Classes

Cheer Program

Students will learn cheers and incorporate different styles of choreography.

Age	Days	Time	Fee	Location
5 - 8 yrs.	M/W	6 - 7 p.m.	\$25	Cathy Hensel Youth Center
9 - 12 yrs.	M/W	7 - 8 p.m.	\$25	Cathy Hensel Youth Center

Boot Camp Workout

Age	Days	Time	Fee	Location
16+	Saturdays	8 - 9 a.m.	\$25	City Park

Karate

Learn martial art skills in tumbling, kicking, ground self defense & more!

Age	Days	Time	Fee	Location
4 - 8 yrs.	M/W	5 - 6 p.m.	\$45	Senior Center Upstairs Hall
9+	M/W	6 - 7 p.m.	\$45	Senior Center Upstairs Hall

Music Lessons

Learn the basic skills of piano or guitar. All skill levels welcome. (5 classes)

	Age	Days	Time	Fee	Location
Guitar	5+	M	3:45-4:40 p.m.	\$65	Holifield Park
Piano Keyboard	5+	M	4:45-5:40 p.m.	\$65	Holifield Park

- Session 1: 3/20, 3/22, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17
- Session 2: 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 6/25

"Paint and Play" Painting Class

Explore your imagination through creative engagement. All supplies are provided. No experience necessary.

Age	Days	Time	Fee	Location
8 - 12 yrs.	3/4, 3/18, 4/8	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	\$30	Henry Acuña Park
16+	4/29, 5/13, 5/27			

FREE Parent Engagement Institute

Learn to support your child's academic, social, and emotional development.

	Age	Days	Time	Location
Technology & ESL	18+	M	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Provided after registration

Tennis

Learn the basics while having fun on the court. *Not available in Feb.

Age	Days	Time	Fee	Location
8 - 13 yrs.	Friday	5 - 6:30 p.m.	\$65	City Park Tennis Courts
8 - 13 yrs.	Saturday	9:30 - 11 a.m.	\$65	City Park Tennis Courts
14 - 17 yrs.	Saturday	11:30 - 1 p.m.	\$65	City Park Tennis Courts
18+	Tuesday	4 - 5:30 p.m.	\$65	City Park Tennis Courts

Yoga Stretch & Strengthen Class

Boost your flexibility and stretch your muscles. *Not available in March.

Age	Days	Time	Fee	Location
16+	M	7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	\$35	Senior Center

Youth Evolution Basketball

Learn the basic skills and techniques of basketball!

Four Week Clinic Class | Taylor Ranch Park

Level	Age	Days	Time	Fee
1	3.5 - 4.5 yrs.	F	3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	\$68
2	5 - 7 yrs.	F	4:05 - 4:50 p.m.	\$68
3	8 - 11 yrs.	F	4:55 - 5:35 p.m.	\$68

Youth Evolution Soccer

Learn the basic skills and techniques of soccer!

Four Week Clinic Class | Chet Holifield Park

Level	Age	Days	Time	Fee
1	3.5 - 4.5 yrs.	W	3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	\$68
2	5 - 7 yrs.	W	4:05 - 4:50 p.m.	\$68
3	8 - 11 yrs.	W	4:50 - 5:35 p.m.	\$68

Register at
bit.ly/mtbRecRegistration

Zumba

Join the party for a fun combination of dance moves.

Age	Days	Time	Fee	Location
16+	M - TH	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	\$45	Senior Center

Cardio Fitness Class

Age	Days	Time	Fee	Location
16+	Thursdays	1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	\$25	Cathy Hensel Youth Center

Sports

Youth Soccer

1700 W. Victoria Ave. | (323) 887 - 4570

Fee | \$60 per participant

Ready to score some goals? Athletes will learn basic rules, strategies, and skills to enjoy the game.

Children's ID and birth certificate required to register.

Divisions

- AA Division - Born in 2007/2008
- A Division - Born in 2009/2010
- B Division - Born in 2011/2012
- C Division - Born in 2013/2014
- D Division - Born in 2015/2016
- Rookie - Born in 2017/2018
- Tiny Tots - Born in 2019 (Must be 3 years old)

Practices

- M/W or T/Th
- 1 hour duration
- 5 p.m., 6 p.m., or 7 p.m.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Volunteers wanted every City Service Saturday. This monthly program offers community members a chance to perform beautification projects throughout Montebello. Must be 8 years or older to participate.

Upcoming City Service Saturdays | 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- April 22 - Earth Day Saturday
- May 20 - TBD
- June 10 - TBD

Call (323) 887-4540 or visit cityofmontebello.cogran.com to sign up. You must make a FREE online account to register.

Low-Impact Senior Zumba

Looking to get active in a fun, creative way? This is the class for you.

Age	Days	Time	Fee	Location
50+	M	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	\$25	Chet Holifield Park

Youth Evolution Flag Football

Learn the basic skills and techniques of football!

Four Week Clinic Class | Chet Holifield Park

Level	Age	Days	Time	Fee
2	6 - 7 yrs.	TH	3:30 - 4:15 p.m.	\$68
3	8 - 9 yrs.	TH	4:15 - 5:00 p.m.	\$68
4	10 - 11 yrs.	TH	5:00 - 5:45 p.m.	\$68

Older Adult Classes

All programs are FREE for Seniors ages 55+ and located at the Senior Center, 115 S. Taylor Ave. Call (323) 887-4575 to register.

Beginner Crochet

Learn to crochet with step-by-step instructions and weave together your very own keepsake.

Fridays | 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Free

Independent Art

Need a fun, creative outlet? This is the class for you.

Fridays | 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Free

Older Adult Classes

(continued)

Line Dancing

Come and experience country line dancing with friends as we learn easy steps to get your moving around the dance floor.

Tuesdays | 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. | Free

Pickleball

A fun sport with a combination of tennis, badminton, and ping pong at the Pickleball Courts.

Monday - Sunday | 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Free

Recreational Bingo & Loteria

Sponsored by: Natividad Insurance, AltaMed

Mondays & Tuesdays | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Free

Tai Chi

A low impact exercise to feel strong and energized.

Tuesdays | 9:30 - 11 a.m. | Free

Thursdays | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Free

Yoga Class

Energize your body and improve your flexibility with Instructor Kat.

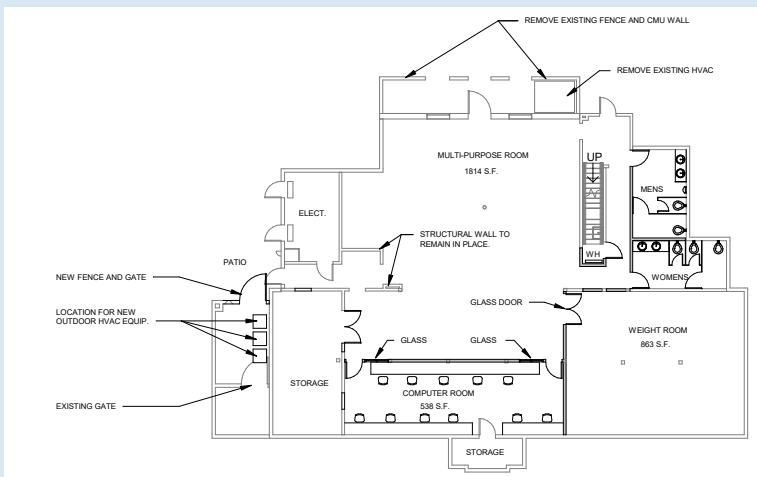
Wednesdays | 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. | Free

Zumba Gold

Modified Zumba class with Instructor Letty.

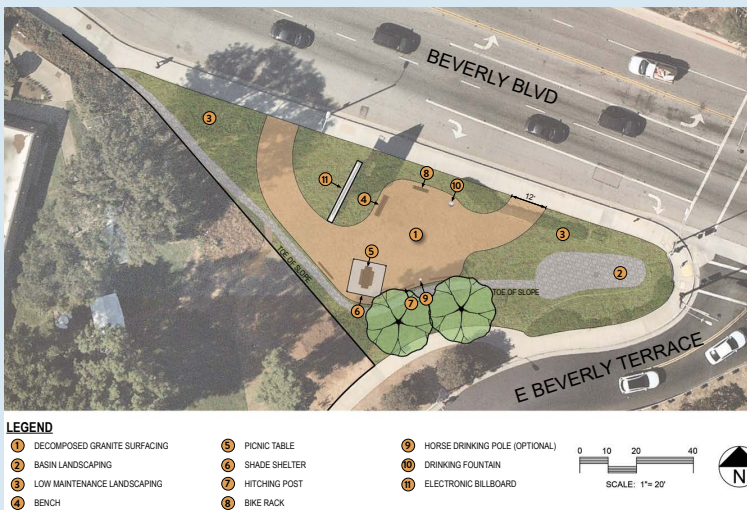
Thursdays & Fridays | 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. | Free

Recreational Improvement Projects



Senior Center Renovation

The Senior Center Renovation Project will make improvements and upgrades to the downstairs area of the Senior Center in an effort to provide seniors in the Montebello community with additional services and amenities. The project scope includes the addition of an exercise area, computer area, and a meeting room. Improvements also include HVAC replacement, lighting upgrades, and restroom renovation. The project is funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and is estimated to be completed in late spring of 2023. The project is currently in the design phase.



Rendering is a preliminary draft and the final design is still in development.

Rio Hondo River Access Improvement Project

The Rio Hondo River Access Improvement Project aims to improve connections from the Rio Hondo River entrance on Beverly Blvd. to Montebello through the renovation of public right-of-way land. The project scope includes improvements to lighting and landscaping, and the addition of amenities such as a new electronic sign, benches, bicycle racks, horse hitching posts, and shade structures. The project is funded through Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Measure A grant funds. The project is currently in the design phase and is estimated to be completed in late spring of 2023.

Spring Senior Activities

FREE for Seniors ages 55 years or older. Located at 115 S. Taylor Ave. Call (323) 887-4575 to register.



Senior Birthday Celebrations

Monthly birthday celebration on the last Monday of each month! Call (323) 887-4575 to sign up. Sponsored by Simpler Horizon

Thursday Mid-day Movie

Every Thursday, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Enjoy a classic or something you might have never seen before with friends for FREE at the Senior Center.

YWCA Grab 'N' Go Lunch

Tuesdays, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Free weekly frozen meals. Lunch is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Glucose & Blood Pressure Screening

Every third Friday of the Month
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
December 16, January 20, & February 17
Sponsored by Beverly Hospital.

SAVE THE DATE

Memorial Day Ceremony:

Monday, May 29, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.
City Park Memorial Wall

We invite the public to join us this Memorial Day as we honor our local military heroes and pay tribute all those who served our country in the armed forces.

Featuring Montebello City Councilmembers
For more information, call (323) 887-4540

Montebello Night Market

Featuring a Certified Farmers Market
Fresh Produce - Music - Food - Artisan Crafts
Thursdays - 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Conveniently Located: 777 Whittier Blvd. (Parking Lot Behind Wells Fargo Bank)
Featuring: Thursday Night Sports Viewing and Live Bands
Second Thursday of every month
April 13, May 11, June 15, July 13, August 10, September 14

Easter Egg-Stravaganza

Saturday, April 1, 2023 - 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Henry Acuna Park, 1700 W Victoria Ave
Free egg hunt, magic show, crafts and activities, face painters, jumpers, petting zoo, photo booth, *vendor booths, food trucks and more!
Special appearance from the easter bunny!
*Food & artisan crafts available for a minimal fee
Egg Hunt & Entertainment Schedule
Event Schedule:

11:00 a.m. - 2 yrs. and under egg hunt
11:30 a.m. - 3-4 yrs. egg hunt
12:00 p.m. - 5-7 yrs. egg hunt
12:30 p.m. - Magic Show
1:00 p.m. - 8-10 yrs. egg hunt
1:45 p.m. - cheer performance

*Egg hunt bags will be provided while supplies last.
Activities and times subject to change.

City Manager's Message - continued from front page

imagine a major building fire or other emergency where multiple fire crews, emergency personnel and equipment respond and you start to understand the need for cohesive, standardized, and reliable communications necessary to manage so many moving parts, as well as to ensure the safety of those on-scene in dangerous situations. Montebello receives tremendous benefits as a participant in this system as demonstrated by the 2021 apartment building fire on South Greenwood Avenue. With high winds and high-density structures in the area, automatic aid provided by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and at least 10 other automatic aid fire departments enabled quick containment of this fire. Instead of losing an entire city block and displacing hundreds of families and losing dozens of homes, the fire and damage was contained to just a few dwellings. The benefit of an automatic and mutual aid response is that it expands the amount of availability of personnel and equipment that fire departments can use daily for help without delay.

Today, Verdugo Communications participating agencies include fire departments from the cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank, Hollywood Burbank Airport, Glendale, Montebello, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, and the County of Los Angeles. As stated in the history of the Verdugo Fire Communications Center, it was established on August 1, 1971, when the founding cities Fire Chiefs from Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena were faced with a number of concerns.

- Limited local resources,
- Voluntary mutual aid with an average 45-minute delay,
- Unfamiliarity with neighboring cities' geography,
- Nonstandard fire-fighting tactics,
- Incompatible equipment, and a lack of common radio frequencies.

They recognized a need for a single Fire/EMS communications center which would support mitigation of these issues; prior to 1979, they were each dispatched by their Police Department Communications Centers. The benefits of this localized dispatch center were recognized immediately. In its first year of operation, Verdugo dispatched over 19,000 incidents. The agreement among the three cities included a "no borders" clause – the closest fire engine responded to calls regardless of jurisdiction.

Today, when an emergency call is received by Verdugo, a dispatcher enters the pertinent details into the computer-aided dispatch system and the situation details are immediately transmitted via the voice radio and data

system to the closest apparatus to the incident. Emergency personnel are generally on the road within a minute or two of receiving the information and remain in constant radio contact with the communications center as additional details are received. Think about this the next time you or a loved one are involved or near a major accident or disaster in our area, and how thankful you can be for the vision of those first Fire Chiefs who had the foresight to create the Verdugo Fire Communications system we all rely on today.

To put the effectiveness of this system in to perspective for Montebello, here are a few charts showing the type and number calls answered and facilitated by Verdugo Communications in just the past year.

Year	2021		2022	
UNIT/AGENCY	Responses	Incidents	Responses	Incidents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MTB	8013	6316	8656	6809
FIRE	1531	981	1648	1026
MEDICAL	6201	5099	6677	5526
OTHER	11	8	22	11
SERVICE	270	228	309	246
Total	8013	6316	8656	6809

Table 1: Number and type of calls

2022 Busiest Units			2022 Busiest Days		2022 Busiest Hours	
UNIT	Responses	Transports	Date	Incidents	HoursR	Incidents
E55	3169	1126	2/8/2022	35	14:00-15:00	420
E57	2191	583	4/7/2022	34	12:00-13:00	401
E56	1965	458	3/21/2022	32	10:00-11:00	398
T55	933	14	7/4/2022	31	11:00-12:00	388
BC55	241		1/20/2022	30	13:00-14:00	387
MCAP56	62	3	2/14/2022	30	17:00-18:00	373
INV55	34		1/24/2022	29	15:00-16:00	372
INV56	29		3/22/2022	29	16:00-17:00	361
Total	8656	2184	Total	6809	Total	6809

Table 2: 2022 busiest units, days and hours

The next time you see those bright red fire engines and hear the sirens rolling down the street, be courteous, move your vehicle to right if driving, and keep in the mind the fantastic system of instant communication and technology that made that response possible within moments to help save lives – possibly the life of someone you know or care about someday.

COMING SOON: Topgolf and New Golf Courses

On February 28, 2023, Montebello City Councilmembers and staff joined members of Topgolf and partnering agencies for a ceremonial groundbreaking on a three level, technology-enabled Topgolf venue in Montebello.

Located just off the 60 Freeway at Garfield Avenue, the future Topgolf venue will feature 102 climate-controlled outdoor hitting bays. Players will also have access to a full-service restaurant, top-shelf drinks, music and year-round family-friendly programs. The venue will be adjacent to the Montebello Golf Course, which is currently being revitalized and transformed into two courses. The first course will be a traditional course that can be played as either a nine-hole or 18-hole course, with the second course being a new nine-hole, par 3 course. The redevelopment will also include a new clubhouse, night lighting and water features on the par 3 course.

Topgolf and the new golf courses in Montebello are expected to open in the spring of 2024.



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CITY COUNCIL

As of December 14, 2022

David Torres, Mayor

Scarlet Peralta, Mayor Pro Tem

Angie Jimenez, Councilmember

Salvador Melendez, Councilmember

Georgina Tamayo, Councilmember

Christopher Jimenez, City Clerk

David Matanga, City Treasurer

City Council Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. Agendas, public documents and Live Stream link are posted on the City's website.



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