

Agreement made to protect depot

By JANICE LUDER
Staff writer

Fearful that the historic Monrovia train depot could be demolished, the City Council has signed a protective license agreement with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company.

Terms of the agreement protect the depot from demolition and place the city in the best position to eventually purchase the old station. In return, the city will pay an annual \$360 license fee and has placed a security fence around the depot to minimize vandalism and railroad liability.

With the contract, the city also hopes to cut its property acquisition time by about 50 percent, said Glenn Cox, redevelopment division manager.

"It normally takes a long time to purchase property from the railroad," he said.

"It's long been the city's position to do everything possible to refurbish the building and put it to use. Yet that is an expensive course of action," Cox said in a report.

It could cost more than half a million dollars to acquire the depot's approximately 1.5 acres, Cox estimated. The city's goal, he added, is to purchase the property and sell it to a developer willing to restore the site.

The depot was built in 1928 when passenger trains made frequent stops in the foothill community. As freight trains began dominating the rails, the



Staff Photo / Larry Goren

The city of Monrovia is planning to eventually purchase this historic depot.

depot closed and local preservationists have kept an eye on it ever since.

The Monrovia Chamber of Commerce and other local groups have been interested in restoring the site, said Jan Marugg, executive vice president of the chamber.

"Progress is kind of in limbo now while the city decides what

to do," she said.

In a related issue, the chamber has supported a proposed county commuter rail connecting Los Angeles and San Bernardino. The light rail would use existing depots at Pasadena, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Monrovia, according to Stephen Lantz, community relations manager for the Los Angeles

County Transportation Commission.

The county commission is currently drumming up local interest in the light rail and has yet to acquire the right of way from the railroad. As many as 11 stations could service the commuter system, including seven new facilities and the four existing depots.

Foothill news digest

Elizabethan faire planned

The third annual Elizabethan Family Faire hosted by the Walden School of California will be held on Sunday, April 30 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Memorial Park in Sierra Madre.

The Faire will feature a silent auction and scenes from Shakespeare's "The Tempest" and "As You Like It" performed by Walden students in the park's outdoor theater.

Artisans and craftspeople will sell handmade jewelry, weaving, toys, pottery, and a variety of other wares. There will also be games, fortune tellers, minstrels and a squire's pony to ride, and food and beverages will be available.

Children's activities include candle-making, creating clay sculpture, finger puppets and string necklaces, and participating in making a cooperative children's mural.

Faire-goers are encouraged to come in costume. Admission and parking are free. Proceeds from the event will benefit Walden School.

Memorial Park is located on Sierra Madre Boulevard at Hermosa Drive. For more information, call Marilyn Palmer at 798-0579.

PTRDA support group to meet

Marty Beeman of Senior Care Network, sponsored by Huntington Memorial Hospital, will discuss the programs and services available at the next meeting of the Pasadena Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 25 at St. James United Methodist Church, 2033 E. Washington Blvd., Pasadena.

PTRDA is a support group for those suffering from emphysema, chronic bronchitis and asthma. Friends and families are also invited. Fresh fruit, snacks and refreshments will be provided. For details, call Teri Schroeder at 793-4148.

Ostomy Association meeting set

The San Gabriel Valley Ostomy Association will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, April 25, 7:30 p.m. in Lewis Hall at Methodist Hospital, 300 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia.

This month's speaker will be Dr. Mark Kosins, psychiatrist, who will speak on pre- and post-operative depression.

For more information, 449-7083.

Organist Roberson to play

The Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society will present Gene Roberson in concert 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 23 at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, 220 S. Mission Drive, San Gabriel.