



Seascape

HAPPY HOLIDAYS IN SANTA MONICA!

With a beautiful downtown ice skating rink, shopping opportunities close to home and spectacular events in every corner of the city, Santa Monica never lacks in holiday spirit! Explore your city and make the most of the season at these holiday happenings.

THROUGH JANUARY 31

ICE RETURNS TO SANTA MONICA!

Newly expanded and better than ever, the rink will be open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to midnight. Admission is \$10 and includes rental skates. A fun activity for kids of all ages and adults! Located at the corner of Arizona and 5th Street. www.downtownsm.com

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4

MONTANA AVENUE HOLIDAY WALK

Welcome in the holiday season with twinkling lights, tasty treats and live music at over 150 stores between 6th and 17th Street on Montana Avenue, 5 to 9 p.m. www.visitmontanaavenue.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

CANDY CANE DRIVE

Santa Claus gets a ride and a little help spreading holiday cheer from the Police and Fire Departments on the sixteenth annual Candy Cane Drive. Catch up with Santa and our public safety officers

at one of the scheduled stops – just watch for the sirens, lights and plenty of holiday cheer.

Cont. on page 4



THE LUCE ARRIVES!

The Draft Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) of the city's General Plan is being released this November. It reflects the involvement of thousands of people during dozens of lively workshops, presentations and public hearings. It translates the community's desire for preserving the city's unique character and identity into programs which carefully limit and control growth, celebrate the natural beauty of our beaches and landscaped environment, and create complete neighborhoods that provide the needs of daily life within walking or biking distance of where people live.

The LUCE is also a paradigm shift in the way we move through the city. It builds upon the promise of the EXPO Light Rail line, integration of land use and transportation, shared parking, and transportation demand management districts to reduce trips and slow climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It transforms the city's commitment to think, act and plan sustainably into the specific policies and programs listed below:



- ▲ **Conserving & Enhancing Existing Neighborhoods** with neighborhood conservation overlay districts, modification of demolition regulations and development standards, retention measures for courtyard housing, and urban design.
- ▲ **Creating Livable Places with Housing Choices for All** by transforming some of the city's existing industrial and regional commercial land along transit corridors into new mixed-use affordable and workforce housing/jobs locations.
- ▲ **Managing Transportation** by implementing stringent requirements for trip reduction, transit enhancements, pedestrian and bike improvements, shared parking and impact fees, and reducing the amount of regional commercial in favor of local-serving and neighborhood retail.
- ▲ **Increasing Open Space** through ground level open space requirements and landscaping, complete streets with trees that provide green connections, and covering the I-10 Freeway at Memorial Park and Downtown/Civic Center.
- ▲ **Requiring Community Benefits** of new development such as affordable and workforce housing, gathering places, shared parking, and cultural facilities.
- ▲ **Incentivizing Historic Preservation** by establishing new programs that provide financial incentives for preservation.
- ▲ **Controlling & Monitoring Growth** through regular performance reviews to ensure transportation improvements and land use progress in tandem, and allowing the city to adjust the plan and "put on the brakes" as appropriate.

The Plan's release will be followed by a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and a series of citywide community workshops providing opportunities to learn about and comment on the plan.

Join us as the LUCE moves forward with workshops and public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council. Visit www.shapethefuture2025.net to view the plan and stay involved.

Briefly...

CITY HALL, 1685 MAIN STREET, is open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and every other Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Most city offices are closed on alternate Fridays as part of the city's commute trip reduction plan to improve air quality – November 20, December 4 and 18. Payment and permit services are available every Friday. All city offices will close at noon on December 24 and 31 and will be closed entirely on December 25 and January 1 in observance of the winter holidays.

NEW IN TOWN? Our new resident packet is filled with information to help you get familiar with your new neighborhood, including the City Services Directory, maps, parking and bus information, Family Guide, and more. Just send an email request to 411@smgov.net or call (310) 458-8411 and we'll drop one in the mail, or stop by the Information Desk in the City Hall lobby to pick one up.

PLANNING COUNTER HOURS HAVE CHANGED

The Planning Counter (City Hall, Room 111, Stations G and H) has changed its operating hours. The new hours give Planners office hours to follow up on issues and serve customers better and more efficiently. The counter is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; and from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Customers are asked to contact City Planning at (310) 458-8341 with any comments, questions, or concerns.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS WITH CITY MANAGER to Discuss Budget Priorities for FY 2010-11

Beginning in November, city staff will begin preparations for the development of the fiscal year 2010-2011 (FY 2010-11) budget. The hard choices cities and towns throughout California typically face as they construct their budget for the coming year are amplified by the uncertainties of the State's budgetary situation and the continuing economic turmoil. In order to properly respond to these challenges and create a budget that allocates scarce resources in line with community priorities, city staff will work with residents and government officials to finance a range of ongoing and unfunded projects, services, and programs.

An important part of the budget process is receiving feedback from the community on budget priorities for the coming year. A series of community meetings cosponsored by the city and Santa Monica's neighborhood organizations provide forums for public input, as does the public hearing at the January 26 City Council meeting. Please attend one of these meetings with City Manager P. Lamont Ewell and city staff to hear about neighborhood projects, budgetary challenges in the current economic climate, and to provide input on community priorities.

November 9 at 6 p.m. – Update on Ocean Park Blvd.; 7 p.m. – Budget meeting

SMASH/Muir School Auditorium
Cosponsored with the Ocean Park Association

November 12 at 7 p.m.

Grant Elementary School Auditorium
Cosponsored with the Friends of Sunset Park

November 16 at 7 p.m.

Ken Edwards Center, *Cosponsored with the Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Coalition*

December 1 at 7 p.m.

Montana Library, *Cosponsored with the North of Montana Association*

December 2 at 7 p.m.

Virginia Avenue Park Thelma Terry Room
Cosponsored with the Pico Neighborhood Association

January 26, 2010

Public Hearing at City Council Meeting

You may also give your opinion on priorities for the FY 2010-11 budget by writing to City Council, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401; posting your feedback form at www.smgov.net/budget, or e-mailing your comments to budget@smgov.net



SANTA MONICA

Seascope

Seascope is a publication of the City of Santa Monica designed to inform residents about city programs and services. Please e-mail editorial information and comments to seascope@smgov.net or mail to:

Rachel Waugh
Santa Monica Seascope
City of Santa Monica
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

DIANE KUNTZ DESIGN STUDIO

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Seascope is available in alternate formats by calling the City Manager's Office at (310) 458-8301 (TDD/TTY 917-6626).

city tv highlights

The City of Santa Monica is the first city in the County of Los Angeles to make the LA County Channel available to residents. The new channel can be found on Time Warner cable channel 75 and features live and replayed Board of Supervisor meetings, performances from the Ford Theatre, a weekly County News Show, a parks show and arts programming.

Become a fan of the Los Angeles County Channel, cable channel 75!



Pico Branch Library coming to Virginia Avenue Park

City Council answered the long-standing call for library service in the Pico Neighborhood by approving \$12.8 million in Redevelopment Agency funds to build a new 7,500 square foot branch library in Virginia Avenue Park.

Continuing a tradition of valued neighborhood branches, the new facility will offer programming geared to the community with an emphasis on popular materials, technology, reading readiness skills, homework assistance and Spanish-language resources.

Virginia Avenue Park, a focal point for the Pico neighborhood, offers accessibility and provides the most advantageous and cost-effective site for the new library. A 2008-09 site study suggested that an ideal location for the branch is just south of the Thelma Terry Building. Placement of the branch in the park setting complements and enhances the strong schedule of park activities and adds an exciting dimension to the offerings of this rich neighborhood resource.

The Library project is moving forward, with selection of the architectural design team underway. Community meetings will provide opportunities for public input on the look and feel of the family-friendly, neighborhood-centered branch. Construction of the Pico Branch Library is anticipated to begin by late 2011, with completion in fall 2012.

To receive announcements of community meetings and other news on the progress of the Pico Branch Library at Virginia Avenue Park, email pico.library@smgov.net or call (310) 458-8606.



Lawrence Anderson

New Public Artwork at the Big Blue Bus Facility

DIGITAL DIVIDE

The 200-foot wall running along the new Big Blue Bus facility on Colorado Avenue is a kinetic artwork created from cobalt blue glass and liquid crystal film. Inspired by the ocean's sparkle and the pulsing skin patterns of California's *Loligo opalescens* squid, the wall ripples in patterns from opaque to transparent, alternately revealing and obscuring the state-of-the-art bus facility that lies behind. Nine patterns repeat over a 39-minute cycle and are visible day and night. Digital Divide also incorporates a unique bus stop at 7th and Colorado.

Creator Dan Corson is a Seattle-based artist born in Glendale who is nationally recognized for his dynamic, large-scale public artworks utilizing light, green design and new technologies to frame our relationships to the natural world. Corson's projects range from installations at State Capitol Buildings, light rail stations and busy public intersections to quiet interpretive buildings, museums and meditation chambers.

THE OUTLOOK IS ONLINE

When and how will rail come to Santa Monica? This pressing question was already a hot local topic in the 1800s and early 1900s. Pleasure piers, the automobile and real estate concerns also made headlines in those years. This history is now at everyone's fingertips.

The earliest years of the Santa Monica Outlook, the city's former newspaper

of record, are now accessible online via the Santa Monica Public Library's Web site. Browse through individual issues of the paper or search for articles and ads containing specific words or phrases. All available issues of The Outlook from 1875 through 1912 can now be viewed at Imagine Santa Monica (<http://digital.smpl.org>), which also

contains thousands of historical photographs and images from the Library's Image Archives.

This initial project was funded by a grant administered by the California State Library. The Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library have generously pledged continuing support to make additional years of the paper available.

To learn more, contact the Main Library's Reference Department at (310) 434-2608.



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS FROM THE Santa Monica Fire Department

Thirty percent of all home fires start in the kitchen, and December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. With lots of cooking, candles, extra lights, decorations and guests in the home, following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

DECORATING

- Be smart when choosing your holiday decorations. Use decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory (“UL listed” or similar mark on the item.) Note that some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Don’t connect more than three strands of mini light sets or a maximum of 50 screw-in bulbs.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords are not damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Store matches and lighters in a high or locked cabinet.
- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

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223 Broadway @ 3rd St. Promenade
www.bigbluebus.com

Store Hours:
Weekdays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturdays 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

To get there, catch Big Blue Bus Line
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, or the Tide Ride.*
*Tide Ride weekends only



Shop for all your holiday cooking and gifts at the Santa Monica Farmers Markets!

Holiday dinners are perfect when you feature Farmers Market turkey, lamb, beef, fish, crab or local lobster with all the trimmings on your menu. Satsuma tangerines make fresh and healthy gifts, along with handmade soaps, dried flowers, wreaths, chocolates and tasty almond brittle from Paso Almonds – only available during the winter season at the Downtown Farmers Market on Wednesdays!



The Santa Monica Farmers Market Cookbook also makes a great gift, featuring seasonal foods and recipes. Available for purchase at all four markets for \$25.00 including tax.

Santa Claus visits the Pico Market on 12/19 and the Main Street Market on 12/20.

Please note the Downtown Farmers Market is closed on Saturday, November 28. All other markets are on the regular schedule during the holidays, rain or shine! Find the Santa Monica Farmers Markets on Facebook and Twitter for updates on produce in season, farmer profiles, recipes and more!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS Cont. from page 1

CANDY CANE DRIVE SCHEDULE:

- 10:30 - 10:50 a.m. Douglas Park, California Avenue and 25th Street
- 11:00 - 11:15 a.m. Christine Reed Park, California Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard
- 11:25 - 11:50 a.m. Third Street Promenade and Wilshire Boulevard
- 1:15 - 1:30 p.m. Virginia Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue
- 1:45 - 2:00 p.m. Marine Park, Marine Street and 17th Street
- 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. Clover Park, Ocean Park Boulevard and 25th Street

For more information, call the Santa Monica Police Department, Community Relations Office at (310) 458-8474.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

WINTERLIT LIGHT UP THE SEASON

Grammy® Award Nominee Brian McKnight and 94.7 The Wave take to the Third Street Promenade to herald the sounds of the season and light the 22-foot Christmas tree. Celebration begins at 5 p.m. www.winterlit.com

MAIN STREET HOLIDAY EVENT

Meet your neighbors at Main Street’s delightfully unconventional holiday event and tree-lighting, featuring the music of the Santa Monica High School Choir and the Off Their Jingle Bell Rockers, caroling and voting in the annual window decorating contest. Beginning at 6 p.m. at the California Heritage Museum. And don’t miss the Main Street Holiday Sidewalk Sale, all day December 5 and 6. www.mainstreetsm.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

BUY LOCAL SUPER SATURDAY IS BACK!

‘Tis the season to do your holiday shopping close to home, and receive special offers and discounts just for bringing your reusable bag! Visit www.buylocalsm.com for more information and participating retailers.

HOLIDAY GREENINGS!

The holidays – at their best they mean the company of family and friends, good food and merry-making, but at their worst they bring on a few unwanted pounds, excessive spending and heaps of waste. Making sustainable choices during the holiday season can make your holidays a little happier and less stressful as well as greener!

- You are likely receiving lots of catalogues in the mail that go straight to the recycling bin. Call the sender to get off the mailing list, or opt for specials and product information via email.
- Send electronic greeting cards or e-cards to save on postage and save a tree.
- Reuse old boxes for packaging and shredded newspapers for cushioning when mailing gifts.
- Reuse gift bags, boxes, tissue, wrap and even gifts – it's not regifting, it's recycling!
- What do you get the person who has everything? Consider making a donation to his or her favorite charity.
- Batteries not included? Purchase new rechargeable batteries and keep that gift running greener for years.
- The turkey's fifteen minutes (and four to six hours) are over. Introduce a vegetarian dish in the holiday dinner.
- Check out the Good Guide at www.goodguide.com to find safe, healthy and green products from puzzles to macaroni and cheese.
- Walk, bike and use the Big Blue Bus for traffic- and hassle-free shopping.
- Shop green and local this holiday season. Please visit www.buylocalsantamonica.com and www.smgb.org to discover unique, independent and/or environmentally-conscious retailers in your neighborhood.

GARDEN SHARING REGISTRY

Are you a Santa Monica home or property owner with a small area in your yard that you'd like to transform into a productive and beautiful garden, but lack the time and expertise? Consider sharing your soil with an experienced gardener by listing your space on the city's new Garden Sharing Registry.

Once registered, you'll be able to choose from a list of avid gardeners.



Together, you and your

gardener will structure a sustainable partnership that makes sense to both of you, including type of gardening project, how the cost of seeds and supplies will be handled, supply storage, length of commitment and availability. Home/property owners provide land and water, while gardeners do the work. Together, you share the crop! Bountiful benefits include home-grown produce, fresh herbs, fragrant flowers and a deeper connection with the community around you.

Signing up is simple – just complete an application online at <http://communitygardens.smgov.net> or call (310) 458-8573.

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON,
DUMP THE PLASTIC!**

Day Without a Bag

December 17, 2009

Visit www.sustainablem.org for more information.

Winter Tips for Home from Architecture Services

The city's Architecture Services Division, one of the areas responsible for the design and construction of public facilities and open spaces, offers the following tips from our green building knowledge base to save energy and keep you warm this winter:

1. WALL COLOR Adding a deep color on one wall brings warmth to your room. It can also be a great architectural element to create dimension in your space.

2. CURTAINS Hanging curtains instead of blinds on your windows provides added insulation for your room. If you

want to create the illusion of height, try installing floor-to-ceiling curtains.

3. CEILING FAN Most ceiling fans today come with reverse switches to draw warm air near the ceiling back into the room. Installing the right ceiling fan can also help define the look of your space.

4. AIR LEAKS According to the U.S. Department of Energy, gaps in exterior building walls cause a 5% to 30% energy loss annually. Find those leaks and seal them with caulking and weather-stripping.

5. WATER HEATER Another source of household energy loss is heating water. To minimize energy loss, we recommend installing hot water pipe insulation or a tankless water heater.

Although Architecture Services manages many large-scale projects, our team of well-versed experts is knowledgeable in all scale projects. To contact the city's Architecture Services Division, please email erin.hamant@smgov.net or call (310) 458-2205.



Drum making and a synchronous drum circle at the Senior Arts Festival, the only event of its kind in the region.

Celebrating Life Through the Arts

The second annual Senior Arts Festival this past October was a Celebration of Life, bringing an intergenerational crowd together for an afternoon of demonstrations, performances, exhibits and workshops at the Senior Center in Palisades Park. Activities were led by professional artists and performers ages 50 and over. The event was a collaborative effort of the city's 50+ Senior Programs and the Senior Arts Foundation.

View more photos online at www.seniorartsfoundation.org.

50+ & Senior Programs

SANTA MONICA SENIOR CENTER Located in beautiful Palisades Park, the Senior Center has a full schedule of activities, seminars, events and fitness programs.

New this winter: educational workshops on healthy cooking, staying independent, available services for seniors with disabilities and free or low-cost legal services for older adults.

The Senior Center's Wii Health & Fitness program offers a new, fun and easy way to stretch and strengthen those muscles, improve balance and exercise the mind. Programs include virtual bowling, tennis, boxing, golf and ping pong. Personalized sessions run Tue/Thu 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. and Mon/Wed/Fri 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. The Senior Center even offers tournaments throughout the year!

Hours: Weekdays 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Front Office open until 4:00 p.m.); Sat 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Wii Fit Sessions:** Mon/Wed/Fri 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.; Tue/Thu 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. **Location:** Palisades Park at Broadway, 1450 Ocean Avenue.

Call (310) 458-8644 for more information.

- **WISE & HEALTHY AGING SENIOR NUTRITION** A new and improved healthy and delicious hot lunch is waiting for you, featuring a new caterer and a wider assortment of food! Suggested donation is \$2.50. Reservations required – call (310) 458-2219 a day in advance before 11:45 am. Mon-Fri: Senior Center, Ken Edwards and Reed Park; Thu: Virginia Avenue Park. A hearty box lunch is also available at the Senior Center on Saturday.
- **SENIOR LATINO CLUB AT VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK** Join the club! Programs include exercise classes in Spanish, educational activities, cultural celebrations and bingo! Meets Thursdays at Virginia Avenue Park's Thelma Terry Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call WISE & Healthy Aging at (310) 452-7802 or the Senior Center for more information in English or Spanish.
- **SUPPORT SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS** The City of Santa Monica's Human Services Division and community partners offer a wide range of services for older adults, including Meals on Wheels, door-through-door transportation services, independent living support, health education and advocacy, housing assistance, caregiver support groups and more. Please call (310) 458-8701 for more information or email olderadulttaskforce@yahoo.com for a **Senior Resource Directory & Quick Reference Guide**.

➤ WWW.SMGOV.NET/HSD/SENIOR

Santa Monica Police Activities League

Did you know that PAL offers a range of programs and activities at the main facility at 1401 Olympic Blvd. and a fitness center at Virginia Avenue Park? PAL provides educational, cultural and recreational programs for youth ages 6-17. A full slate of enrichment classes will be offered this winter, including classes in cooking, performing arts, arts and crafts and dance.

You won't want to miss special winter programs and events, like bicycling in the Los Angeles Marathon, hiking, basketball or skiing in the local mountains. An array of fitness classes including karate, boxing, weight training and open workouts are now available for youth ages 6-24. Coaches and instructors for the PAL program include Santa Monica Police Officers, staff from the Community and Cultural Services Department, and volunteers.

PAL HOMEWORK ROOM

Hours: Mon-Thu 2:30-6:30 p.m.
Computers available until 9 p.m.

PAL GYM @ MEMORIAL PARK

1401 Olympic Blvd.
Hours: Mon-Fri noon-8 p.m., Sat noon – 6 p.m.
Friday Nights w/PAL for youth ages 13-17, 6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
You must sign up weekly.

PAL FITNESS GYM @ VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK

2200 Virginia Avenue
Hours: Mon-Fri 12 noon-8 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

1401 Olympic Blvd. (310) 458-8988 www.smgov.net/hsd/pal

PAL'S "BEST GIFT EVER" GIFT DRIVE December 5 – December 14

Remember getting the "best gift ever"? Let that be your inspiration and bring an unwrapped gift or cash donation for a deserving children ages 6 to 17 in the Santa Monica Police Activities League.

GIFT DROP LOCATIONS

- **SMPD Substation** – 1433 2nd Street between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway
- **Police Activities League** – 1401 Olympic Boulevard

Volunteer Santa Monica Help for the Holidays – volunteer!

The holiday season and the beginning of a new year offer many opportunities to get involved in your community. Openings exist to work with youth, Special Olympics, library services, farmers market, police neighborhood programs, emergency preparedness, senior adults and more. PAL is seeking volunteers to help with homework, special events and field trips. Call the Volunteer Program office at (310) 458-8300 or email volunteer@smgov.net to get started today!

CONNECT WITH THE COVE!

Even as new skate parks open in surrounding cities, Santa Monica's skatepark, the Cove, remains a vibrant state-of-the-art facility with a focus on safety and a quality participant experience.

Opened in 2005, the Cove is a 20,000 square foot facility with transitional and street elements that appeal to skateboarders, skaters, in-line skaters and even bikers. One of the only parks in the area to allow bikes, the Cove offers bikers a chance to hone their craft during special bike-only sessions in a facility built to withstand this type of use. Over the past four years, the Cove's operating hours have been extended to meet demand and lighting has been installed to allow for skating until 10 p.m. The coping was recently replaced on the pool as well. The park offers two adult-only sessions on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, allowing experienced skaters who know the facility a safe time to take their runs.



Staff is trained in basic first aid and is always present during operating hours to ensure that proper safety gear is worn. Every member of the staff prides themselves on the community feel of the park and strives to meet the needs of all facility users with the understanding that skating is not just a sport – it's a culture.

The Cove is located at 1401 Olympic Boulevard. Registration is required; users ages 17 and under need to register with a parent or guardian present. Elbow pads, knee pads and helmet are also required. To register, please visit the Community Sports Office at Memorial Park, from 12-9 p.m. weekdays and 12-8 p.m. on weekends. The Cove Santa Monica Skatepark is open daily from 12-10 p.m. with specific bike and adult-only sessions.

For more info, visit www.thecove.smgov.net or call (310) 458-2201 x2020.

Santa Monica Awarded Recovery Act Grant to Prevent Homelessness

As of October 1, 2009, Santa Monica residents at risk of losing their housing have a new program designed to prevent evictions, create stable homes and keep people from becoming homeless. The program offers temporary financial assistance, housing relocation and case management services through an allocation of federal stimulus funding and a partnership with St. Joseph Center, the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (Santa Monica) and St. Anne's Social Service Program. Approximately \$1.5 billion has been distributed to over 400 communities across the nation.

Eligible low-income Santa Monica residents may receive short- and medium-term rental subsidies, payment for rental arrears, security and utility deposits and moving assistance. People enrolled in the program also receive a wide range of supportive services to help them move out of crisis.

Funding is not available for mortgage assistance, cash assistance directly to participants, travel costs, medical care, home furnishings, child care, employment training, work- or education-related materials, food or operations of homeless shelters. Participants must be on the verge of homelessness.

For more information, please call St. Joseph Center at (310) 396-6468 x348.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK

• Winter Break: December 21-23 and 28-30

Come play with us! Field trips, art classes, games, fitness programs and more await youth ages 6-21 at VAP. Our programs are free and open to Santa Monica residents or students at SMMUSD schools.



• Winter Programs

Get on the right track back to school starting January 4 at VAP. Our school support team is on your side with homework help and college prep. We also have cultural arts classes in airbrushing, painting, photography and DJ-ing. Start the New Year off right with a fitness or martial arts program at the VAP/PAL gym.

• Saturdays at VAP

Youth up to age 13 are welcome in the Saturday Kidz Zone from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. each week at VAP. Drop in for arts & crafts, sports, cooking and more – all programs are free. The Teen Center for older youth is also open.

• Volunteer

VAP is looking for tutors, reading partners or helpers for Saturday Kidz Zone and special events. Call (310) 458-8688 for more info.

• **The SMC Emeritus Program** offers classes for seniors at VAP. Schedule is available online at www.smc.edu/emmeritus.

• **Child Development** Connections for Children and SMC offer child development activities for ages 0-5 Mondays through Fridays.

VAP also offers help with employment searches, mental health counseling and workshops for youth and parent education. Call (310) 458-8688 to find out more.

BIG BLUE BUS Getaways!

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS, BIG BLUE BUS DRIVES ALL THE WAY!

SOLVANG AND CAMARILLO - ON SALE NOW!

Saturday, December 5

Enjoy the picturesque Danish village of Solvang, offering more than 350 charming shops, bakeries, hotels, restaurants and a one-of-a-kind Christmas Parade. Then check off your holiday shopping list at the Camarillo Premium Outlets, featuring 160 outlets stores with name-brand items at reduced prices! \$35 per person.

ROSE PARADE AND ROSE BOWL GAME - ON SALE NOW!

Friday, January 1

Our most popular trip, the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Getaway has become a family tradition for hundreds of college football and Big Blue Bus fans. The 121st Rose Parade, themed A Cut Above the Rest, will feature majestic floral floats, high-stepping equestrian units, and spirited marching bands from throughout the nation, while the 96th Rose Bowl hosts the most tradition-steeped game in college football. Trip options include transportation to the parade and game, with grandstand seating at the parade. This Getaway does NOT provide game tickets. Transportation to/from the parade only: \$35 per person. Transportation to/from the parade with grandstand seating: \$75 per person. Transportation to/from the game only: \$40 per person.

BCS CHAMPIONSHIP – ON SALE DECEMBER 1!

Friday, January 7

For the first time ever, Big Blue Bus will be offering transportation to the BCS National Championship Game, also to be held at the Rose Bowl. This game marks the culmination of a thrilling college football season, featuring an exciting match-up between the No. 1 and No. 2 BCS-ranked teams in a competition for the national title. This Getaway does NOT provide game tickets. \$40 per person.

TICKET INFO Tickets are available at www.bigbluebus.com, visit blue:the transit store at 223 Broadway near the Third Street Promenade or call our customer service office at (310) 451-5444 for more information.

SANTA MONICA CIVIC AUDITORIUM EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 13 – 15 Los Angeles Asian & Tribal Arts Show
- 26 Thanksgiving Dinner

DECEMBER

- 4 – 6 International Gem & Jewelry Show

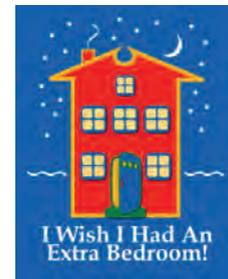
The Civic Auditorium is served by Big Blue Bus lines 1, 3, 7, 8 and 10. For information, please call (310) 458-2288, or visit www.santamoniacivic.org. All events are subject to change without notice.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: THE EXTRA BEDROOM PROGRAM

If you plan to have relatives visiting over the holidays but don't have enough beds or room, the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau (SMCVB) has the answer. In appreciation of our local residents, SMCVB and their hospitality partners will once again offer the popular Extra Bedroom Program, an exclusive offer only available to Santa Monica residents. With proof of residency, you can take advantage of these annual discounts and offers at participating hotels and enjoy discounted rates and free services, just for living here in our beautiful city! And let the SMCVB help with your duties as official "Santa Monica Tour Guide" as well – this year, Santa Monica's world-famous attractions, restaurants and retail partners are offering even more incentives for you, your family and friends to stay, play and buy local.

The SMCVB's visitor information locations at 1920 Main Street and on the Santa Monica Pier located between Blazing Saddles and Starline Tours are the perfect places to stop by (or drop off visiting relatives) for information and Santa Monica-themed holiday gifts. The SMCVB's experienced staff can help plan transportation and daily itineraries, and share all of the wonderful things to do here in Santa Monica and the Los Angeles area. Introduce yourself as a local and mention this article to receive 50% off most Santa Monica retail items as well as a free Santa Monica gift.

For a full list of program offers please visit www.SantaMonica.com/extrabedroom.



C Y B E R N E W Z

The Center for Digital Government, a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies, has awarded the City of Santa Monica top honors in its 2009 Digital Cities Survey. The award is based on a comprehensive analysis of how cities are using technology to create a seamless environment between local government and constituents.

Santa Monica has been recognized as a leader in the effective use of technology since the city first offered services online in 1989. The city placed first in 2007 and third in 2004 and 2008 in the Digital Cities Survey, which recognizes cities' application of technology to good governance, planning, operations, and the electronic delivery of services.

Hundreds of digitally advanced cities are considered every year in four size-based categories. Out of the mid-level cities with populations of 75,000 to 124,999, the City of Santa Monica placed first.

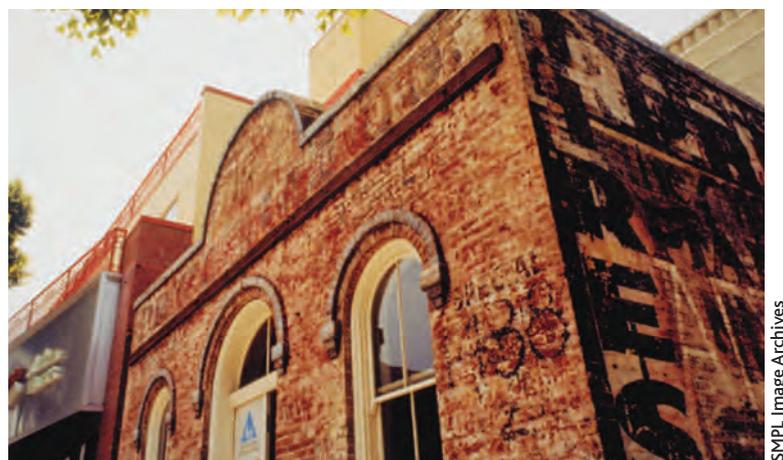
Chief Information Officer Jory Wolf notes, "The award recognizes Santa Monica's investment in the right technologies and our commitment to being a leader in using technology to better connect our community." Technologies identified as especially significant include real-time parking information on the web, the traffic signal synchronization system, online payment services, video streaming of public meetings, the complaint tracking system, free Wi-Fi services, the fiber optic rings around the city, and an emphasis on investing in green technology.

LANDMARKS OLD AND NEW

A new series of articles about Santa Monica's historic places

The coming year marks the 35th anniversary of the Santa Monica Landmarks Commission. Created by the City Council on the City's Centennial in 1975, the Commission safeguards the city's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage by fostering civic pride in the city's landmarks and historic districts.

Santa Monica's very first landmark, designated August 20, 1975, is the Rapp Saloon/Old Town Hall at 1438 Second Street. Dating from 1875, it was used as Santa Monica's town hall from May 1888 to February 1889. First opened as a saloon serving "fresh-tapped Los Angeles Beer," the building has also housed a Salvation Army meeting hall, radiator repair shop, art galleries, and storage for one of the first movie studios in the Los Angeles area, Vitagraph Film Co. Today, the building is a stunning example of adaptive reuse, serving as the centerpiece for the Hostelling International Youth Hostel.



A few blocks away, the Builder's Exchange Building at the southeast corner of 4th Street and Broadway, is an outstanding local example of a Churrigueresque building, a Spanish Baroque architectural style. It was built in 1927 as the city's business district began to expand. Designed by local architect M. Eugene Durfee, the building features a rich array of decorative details, including fine grillework and cast-stone ornamentation. Designated Santa Monica Landmark #88 on June 8, 2009, this building is a favorite on the Santa Monica Conservancy's downtown walking tour.

For more information on Santa Monica landmarks call (310) 458-8431. For walking history tours, visit the Santa Monica Conservancy at www.smconservancy.org.

THE LIVING ROOM SERIES



The Santa Monica Public Library, Human Services Division and Life Long Learning Older Adult Task Force offer the following series of forums geared towards adults 50+ at the Main Library.

The New Retirement: Women in Transition

Saturday, January 23, 2-3:30 p.m.

For the first time in history, millions of working and career women are facing retirement with few role models. This life stage is creating new expectations, language, norms, challenges and possibilities. Learn how women are facing the "new retirement", their key issues and the emerging organizations and movements relevant to women's professional and personal lives.

Resources for Caregiving Challenges: Partnering for Support

Thursday, February 25, 7-8:30 p.m.

The demands and time involved in caregiving can be overwhelming. There are many aspects to effective caregiving, and multiple ways to meet the needs of those we care for. This presentation will focus on a variety of traditional and unique caregiving options, resources and community services.

Managing the Emotional Chaos and Crisis of Caregiving

Saturday, March 27, 2-3:30 p.m.

Those caring for aging loved ones are often faced with a roller coaster ride of emotions and crises. The importance of the wellbeing of caregivers is highlighted in this forum, and includes tools for avoiding caregiver burnout and available and appropriate community resources that support the emotional and social health of the caregiver.

Who Will I Be When I Grow Up?

Wednesday, April 28, 7-8:30 p.m.

This highly interactive presentation and workshop provides a very dynamic 90 minutes to discover purpose, creativity, beauty and joy in life after age 50. It includes both practical and highly entertaining strategies to express your unique living legacy.

All programs will be held in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium at the Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Underground parking available below the library (\$1.00 per hour). For information, please call (800) 516-5323.

ADULT PROGRAMS

MAIN LIBRARY

All main library events in MLK Jr. Auditorium unless otherwise indicated.

LIVE! THEATRE! A DIRECTORS SHOWCASE Directors, actors and writers perform four different 10-minute scenes, followed by audience feedback. Sat., 11/21, 2 p.m.

NAVIGATING THE SENIOR CARE MAZE For caregivers, family or friends. Thu 12/3, 7 p.m., Multipurpose Room.

LOS ANGELES CLARINET CHOIR IN CONCERT Clarinetists performing on soprano, sopranino, alto, bass, basset horn, and contrabass clarinets. Sat 12/5, 2 p.m.

YOUR RECESSION DEPRESSION Learn how the recession affects moods, relationships, and self esteem. Mon 12/7, 7:30 p.m. Multipurpose Room.

A JOURNEY THROUGH LITERARY AMERICA A visual presentation featuring the sites that inspired 26 of America's great authors. Wed 12/9, 7 p.m.

REDUCE STRESS & RELAX! Licensed psychotherapist Linda Heisen teaches simple, effective ways to reduce stress. Wed 1/6, 3 p.m. and Sat 1/30, 11:30 a.m. Multipurpose Room.

SHOW ME THE WAY SCREENING Documentary film on the mentoring of five urban high school kids. Thu 1/7, 7 p.m.

FAIRVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY

HOLIDAY HANDBELL CONCERT Ring in the holidays. Sat 12/19, 3 p.m.

FOSTER PARENTING WORKSHOP Have you ever thought about becoming a foster parent? Wed 1/20, 6 p.m.

LITERATURE BOOK GROUP Second Saturday of the month, 11 a.m. 11/14 *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner; 12/12 *My Antonia* by Willa Cather; 1/9 *The Quiet American* by Graham Greene.

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK GROUP Third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. 11/18 *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell; 12/16 *The Master* by Colm Toibin; 1/20 *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout.

CHINESE FLORAL ARRANGEMENT With certified master of Chinese floral arrangement Rosa Zee. Sat 12/5, 11 a.m.

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP Second Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. 12/9 *Acqua Alta* by Donna Leon; 1/13 *Folly du Jour* by Barbara Cleverly and *Maigret and the Man on the Boulevard* by Georges Simenon.

OCEAN PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

OCEAN PARK BOOK GROUP First Saturday of the month, 11 a.m. 12/5 *Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey; 1/3 *Home: A Novel* by Marilynne Robinson; 2/7 *March* by Geraldine Brooks.

WISDOM TALES FOR ADULTS Paulette Rochelle-Levy, MFT, draws on many traditions including Jewish folklore to weave movement and music into an interactive discussion. Sat 12/5, 2 p.m.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

MAIN LIBRARY

Winter Musical Story Time Celebrate Winter with stories, music and rhythm fun. Ages 2-5. Thu 12/17, 10:15 & 11 a.m.

Winter Break Family Flicks Movie fun for everyone! Featuring *The Tale of Despereaux* (G); Wed 12/30, 3:00 p.m. MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Creative Kids' Club A series of monthly stories and crafts program for grades K-4. Wednesdays, 3:45 p.m. 1/20 – Sunshine Drum Circle Stories with Ina & Chazz; 2/17 – Grrrrr! A Chinese New Year Celebration.

Family Fun with Ceramics! Create a work of art with the help of acclaimed local ceramist Moyer Thompson. For grades 1-5 and parents or guardians. Sat 1/30, 2 p.m. Registration begins Monday, 1/11.

Valentine's Day Hearts & Crafts Listen to Valentine themed stories & make an old-fashioned Valentine's card. Ages 5 & up. Wed 2/10, 3:45 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Teen Volunteer Information Session Find out what volunteer opportunities are available at the Main Library for Winter and Spring. Tue 1/12, 4 p.m.

Kaplan SAT/ACT Combination Practice Test Take an SAT/ACT Combination Practice Test and find out which test fits you best. Sign-ups begin Mon 12/14. Test: Sat 1/16, 12 p.m. **Results Seminar:** Mon 1/25, 7 p.m. Multipurpose Room.

Kaplan Full-Length SAT Practice Test Take a full-length SAT Practice Test with Kaplan. Sign-ups begin 2/8. Test: Sat 2/27, 12 p.m. **Results Seminar:** Thu 3/4, 7 p.m. Multipurpose Room.

FAIRVIEW BRANCH

Make your own Holiday Cards and Ornaments All ages welcome. Mon 12/14, 3:30-5 p.m.

Holiday Handbell Concert Ring in the season and share in the fun. All ages welcome. Sat 12/19, 3 p.m.

Kids' Craft Club For ages 6-10. Registration begins 12/7. Mon 1/11, 3:30 p.m.

Rhythm Child A unique opportunity for young children to experience the pulse of drum-based world music. Ages 2 & up. Mon 1/25, 4 p.m.

Make your own Valentine's Day Cards For ages 3-18. Mon 2/8, 3:30-5 p.m.

Sunshine Drum Circle Stories with Ina and Chazz! Celebrate Black History Month with this highly interactive storytelling adventure. Ages 5 & up. Sat 2/27, 2:30 p.m.

TWEENS! (GRADES 4-7)

Make Your Own Avatar Learn how to make a character that you can personalize and use when interacting with friends online. Grades 4-7. Space is limited, registration begins 1/11. Sat 2/6, 2-3:30 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

It's FAFSA Time! and Other Financial Aid Information FAFSA, CSS, EFC: demystify the alphabet soup of financial aid. Mon 1/11, 7 p.m.

Community Service Opportunities at the Library For grades 6-12. Contact Sylvia.anderle@smgov.net for details.

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH

Hanukkah Program Join us for a Hanukkah puppet show with Ilene Cohen. Ages 3 & up. Tue 12/15, 3:45 p.m.

NEW! Family Night at the Library Come for stories, crafts and games for the whole family. All ages welcome. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. 1/19 *Bubbly Bubble Bathtime*; 2/16 *What Are You Wearing?*

Drumming in the Library Be prepared for a lively time with Marcus Miller and his drums. All ages welcome. Tue 2/23, 3:45 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Holiday Ornament Workshop Make holiday ornaments out of duct tape! Grades 6-12. Mon 12/7, 4 p.m.

OCEAN PARK BRANCH

Holiday Hoopla Join Mr. Jesse and his puppet pals for seasonal fun and holiday stories. Tickets required. Ages 3-7. Two shows: Tue 12/8, 3:30 & 4:30 p.m.

The International Magic Bus! Join Makinto and take a musical journey with songs and music from all over the world. Ages 4 & up. Thu 1/14, 3:30 p.m.

A Heart Full of Laughter Enjoy heartfelt stories and barrels of laughter with Mr. Jesse and his puppet pals. Tickets required. Ages 3-7. Two shows: Tue 2/9, 3:30 & 4:30 p.m.

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

Main Library 601 Santa Monica Boulevard, (310) 458-8600
Hours: Mon-Thu, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fri-Sat, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sun, 1 to 5 p.m.

Fairview Branch 2101 Ocean Park Boulevard, (310) 450-0443

Montana Avenue 1704 Montana Avenue, (310) 829-7081

Ocean Park Branch 2601 Main Street, (310) 392-3804

Branch hours: Mon-Thu, noon to 9 p.m. Sat, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed Fri and Sun

All city libraries are wheelchair accessible. To request a disability-related accommodation, please call the library at (310) 458-8600 [TDD (310) 395-8499] at least three business days in advance. The Main Library is served by Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10.



1685 Main Street
 P.O. Box 2200
 Santa Monica, CA
 90407-2200

To link to RecScape Community Programs Guide
 Winter Classes 2009-2010, go to:
www.smgov.net/seascape

WINTER 2009/2010 | Link to class registration form is <http://www.smgov.net/SeascapeRegistration/>

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Santa Monica City Council regularly meets at 5:45 p.m., on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month in Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 1685 Main Street. Upcoming City Council meetings are scheduled for November 10, 17 and 24 and December 8 and 22. November 17 is a special meeting. City Council meetings are open to the public. Public comment may be made in person at the City Council meeting, or prior to the meeting via regular U.S. mail, e-mail, or by fax to:

1685 Main Street, Room 209
 Santa Monica, California 90401
 Phone: (310) 458-8201
 Fax: (310) 458-1621
 Email all Council members: council@smgov.net

Check the status of upcoming agenda items at www.smgov.net/council

ARTIFACTS:

Original cultural experiences continue at the new Annenberg Community Beach House



- ▲ **Vista Santa Monica I**, the new gallery exhibition assembling works that share the theme of local stories, conveying senses of places nostalgic, conceptual and mythical through the eyes of Santa Monica artists. On view through April 2010.
- ▲ **New Annenberg Community Beach House Writer's Completion Residency** Created by the city to celebrate Marion Davies' own philanthropic support of artists, and to help advance the literary disciplines, this ten-week, day/work residency begins in November. The residency offers a seaside place to write in an upper-floor office in the restored Guest House. The writers-in-residence will receive an honorarium of \$1,500 and will participate in public interactions such as lectures, workshops, readings and a video blog.
- ▲ **Beach=Culture** In the wake of the summer's astonishing successes, Tuesday night events continue with world-class performances, readings and artist talks at no charge to the public. Schedules of events are online at www.annenbergbeachhouse.com. Advance reservations are essential due to limited seating.

To receive our popular weekly email *The Palette* or for information on the Beach House, Miles Playhouse and other Santa Monica cultural events, sign up at www.arts.smgov.net or send a message telling us what you're interested in to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net

2010 Santa Monica Citywide Reads Features *Little Bee*

Join your friends and neighbors in this annual community reading program that invites everyone to read and discuss the same novel at events held throughout the City. The book selection for the upcoming *Citywide Reads* event beginning in February 2010 is Chris Cleave's *Little Bee*, a riveting and beautiful story of a teenage Nigerian refugee and a married pair of disaffected British journalists, whose lives and destinies collide in unexpected and shocking ways. For a complete list of discussions and special events, please visit www.smpl.org/cwr, stop by your local Santa Monica Public Library, or call 310-458-8600.

