

Seascape

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NOV 2015 -
FEB 2016

WHAT'S NEW,
SANTA MONICA?
LIBRARY TO
CELEBRATE
125 YEARS

TRAVEL
SMARTER:
PIECING TOGETHER
THE MOBILITY
PUZZLE

WHAT'S
HAPPENING,
SANTA MONICA?
ICE & WINTERLIT
MAKE SEASON
BRIGHT



BreezeTM

BIKE SHARE 

Presented by **hulu**

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

MAKE BREEZE YOUR CONNECTION TO THE CITY, PUBLIC TRANSIT



Solstered by a five-year, \$675,000 per year commitment of sponsorship by Hulu, Breeze Bike Share was formally launched on November 12, with 500 bright-green bicycles now stationed all over Santa Monica, ready 24/7 for public use. Breeze bikes can take you anywhere you want to go within the system area, which includes the entire city as well as adjacent Los Angeles neighborhoods east to I-405 and as far south as Venice Boulevard.

At a launch celebration attended by members of the Santa Monica City Council, state Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Hulu leadership, Metro officials and others, Mayor Kevin McKeown cut the ribbon and several hundred volunteers rode off on Breeze bikes to points around the city as Breeze officially began its service to the community.

The celebration continued the following evening with a party for founding members and Breeze supporters at CycleHop’s warehouse headquarters, located across from the new 17th Street/SMC Expo Line station.

The announcement last month of Hulu’s significant financial support has created quite a buzz. The City of Santa Monica is proud to have a local sponsor with an international profile that shares the community’s environmental and healthy lifestyle values. The Hulu logo on Breeze bikes serves as reminder of the firm’s support for its hometown, and many of its 500 local employees were among those who rode the bikes from the launch event.

System testers, who rode the bikes in August and September, gave Breeze rave reviews and found the bikes easy to access and ride. Their input inspired innovations that have already been implemented, including the expanded system area and a technology adjustment that allows Breeze account-holders to take

out multiple bikes at the same time. Breeze members inviting friends along for a ride will use their available account minutes for the first bike, and be charged the regular hourly rate for up to five more. A visiting group using pay-as-you-go can sign up on one account and get the whole group out on the road more quickly. (See “How to Use Breeze” on the front cover for registration and pricing details.)

The City Council has set improved mobility as a top priority for the city’s focus in the coming years. The launch of Breeze culminates a multi-year planning process to achieve the 2011 Bike Action Plan and the Sustainable City Plan goals for clean air and community access to bicycles as a healthy, efficient means of transportation to

replace some of the trips now taken by car. The presence of so many additional bicycles on the roads is also a message to drivers: Expect to see folks you know riding bikes and drive with their safety in mind.

When the Expo Line opens next spring, Breeze will be there any time of the day or night to take you to the station and to bring you home at the end of your ride. For more information, check out smgov.net/bikeshare or to buy your membership, go to breezebikeshare.com.

Photography on cover and this page by William Short

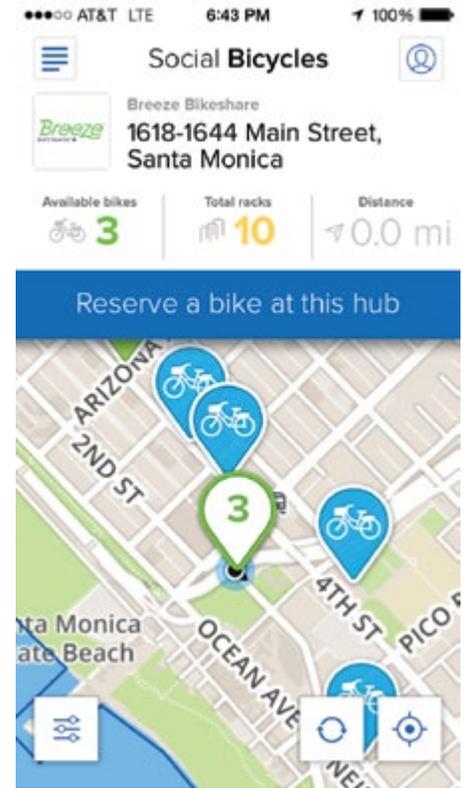


How to Use Breeze

Breeze registration is a breeze, whether prospective riders go online at breezebikeshare.com or use the Social Bicycles mobile app for iOS and Android. For those who may not have access to these options, a few kiosks are available at some of the Breeze system's larger stations, including those by Parking Structure #6 on 2nd Street, at all Expo stations and at Tongva Park (Olympic Drive and Ocean Avenue). These kiosks offer on-the-spot account set-up, dispense membership cards and will soon also sell reasonably priced helmets to encourage all riders to protect their heads from injury. (Helmets are required by state law for those under 18). Members are also offered an online discount to purchase a helmet, and the city plans to offer free safe-riding classes that will include a free helmet to all participants.

Founding Memberships for Breeze Bike Share, which include 60 daily minutes of riding time, special gifts and a commemorative RFID card, remain available through the end of the year for just \$99. Beginning January 1, 2016, Santa Monica residents and those who work in the city and qualify for (and join) the soon-to-be-launched Transportation Management Association, will continue to receive the \$99 annual rate. For all others, annual passes are \$119 for 30 daily minutes or \$149 for 60 daily minutes.

New Breeze users and visitors may choose to try out bike share using the pay-as-you-go rate of \$6 an hour, prorated based on actual trip time. Or start out with a monthly pass for \$20 or \$25, which includes 30 or 60 daily minutes, respectively. But the best Breeze value is the annual membership pass!



BRIEFLY

CITY HALL, 1685 MAIN STREET, is open Monday through Thursday from 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 27, December 11 and 25, January 8 and 22, and February 12. All city offices will also be closed November 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday, and at noon on December 24 and December 31, and all day January 1 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Payment and permit services are available every Friday; please call 310.458.8411 for the counter hours of your preferred service.

SANTA MONICA'S BIG BLUE BUS

is sponsoring the 20th Annual Holiday Food Drive to benefit the Westside Food Bank, November 2 through January 15, and invites one and all to make the season brighter for those less fortunate by dropping off canned goods and other non-perishables into specially marked barrels placed in facilities around the city. Checks are welcome, too! Visit wsfb.org for details.

“WHAT A WAY TO GO!” Climate Action Santa Monica hosts a transportation festival and forum with presentations on Expo, Big Blue Bus and Breeze by city officials and transit leaders, as well as a look at El Niño and climate change. Sunday, November 22, 12-1 p.m. (festival) and 1-3:30 p.m. (forum), Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill Street. Free admission. Please RSVP to CASMTransitForum.Eventbrite.com

WHAT'S NEW. SANTA MONICA?

OUR LIBRARY CELEBRATES A LANDMARK ANNIVERSARY!



Mark your calendars! The Santa Monica Public Library is getting ready to throw a big party on Saturday, January 9, 2016 to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

One hundred and twenty-five years takes us back to the year 1890. What was Santa Monica like just before the turn of the century? The local paper, *The Evening Outlook*, observed on December 10 of that year: “No town its size in the State can show more gratifying evidence of public spirit. Elegant streets, pavement sidewalks, an excellent water system, a street railway, a well equipped fire company, a good start for a public library, a fine bank building, some excellent business blocks and a large number of elegant homes.”

In November 1890, the town trustees accepted a proposal from the Women’s Christian Temperance Union to turn over WCTU’s Reading Room collection of 800 books. On December 10, Elfie Mosse was appointed City Librarian. Two rooms in the Bank of Santa Monica building, located at Oregon Avenue (now Santa Monica Boulevard) and Third

Street, were set aside for the library. For the first 14 years, Mosse was the only staff, though she had additional help during summers when the library was busier. She would serve as the city’s librarian until 1939.

From those humble beginnings, Santa Monica Public Library has grown to become a system of five locations and more than 400,000 volumes in various formats in its collections. Offering a wide variety of programs for people of all ages and engaging in a lively online presence, SMPL has been honored numerous times over the years as a public institution of excellence. Much has changed in 125 years, but the tradition of service remains its cornerstone.

Keep an eye out for activities—exhibits, film series, a library card design contest and more—leading up to the big celebration on January 9. And plan to join us that day as we celebrate this historic occasion!



PHOTOS:

(Top) Circulation Desk with Stanton Macdonald-Wright mural, Main Library at 503 Santa Monica Blvd.

(Middle) Main Library at 1343 Sixth St.

(Bottom) Elfie Mosse, City Librarian, 1890 to 1939

MAKING CONNECTIONS FOR WELLBEING



A new program focused on wellbeing for older adults will be presented in early 2016 by the Older Adult Task Force, a collaboration of service providers and senior advocates in Santa Monica and the Westside. “Wellbeing: A Journey Into Aging” offers practical, lifestyle information in three interactive workshops to be held in Santa Monica. These sessions are offered at no charge, and you can attend all three or just one, but reservations are required.



Photography by Shams Soomar

Saturday, January 23

Community Connections

1 to 4 p.m., Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard

- How To Make New Friends
- Connecting and Reconnecting Online

Sunday, February 21

Body/Mind Connections

1 to 4 p.m., Santa Monica/UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street

- Letting Go and Moving Forward
- Science of Mindfulness

Monday, March 14

Health Connections

(presented in English and Spanish)

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue

- Food and Good Health
- Keep Moving and Stay Healthy
- Shopping at the Farmers Market for Healthy Eating

Call 800.516.5323 for more information and to reserve your seat at any one or all three of these workshops.

El Niño Alert!

Free Sandbags and Sand Now Available

With predictions of a rainy winter ahead, the Santa Monica Fire Department is already getting calls from residents wanting to be prepared. Free sandbags are available from any fire station in the city (see below). Get sand from the Street Maintenance Division at 2500 Michigan Avenue, Building #8, and watch for announcements of additional locations online at santamonicafire.org, facebook.com/santamonicafd and on Twitter (@santamonicafd).

The time to start preparing is now!



- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Station 1
1444 7th St.
310.393.8461</p> | <p>Station 2
222 Hollister Ave.
310.396.1259</p> | <p>Station 3
1302 19th St.
310.828.0950</p> | <p>Station 5
2450 Ashland Ave.
310.450.9029</p> |
|---|---|--|--|

Landscaping Rebates

**Up to \$8,000
in landscape
rebates available**

**Apply online at
SMgov.net/water**



Tree Care During the Drought

Despite this winter's El Niño forecast, the statewide drought is going to be with us for some time to come. With state-mandated water conservation rules in place, the city has taken steps to restrict its own water usage and help educate the community to do the same. *How to Help Urban Trees Survive a Drought* is a guide to identifying drought symptoms in your trees and improving their tolerance while still conserving water. It's available for viewing and download at santamonicatrees.com.

SAFETY ZONE

CEREMONY WELCOMES POLICE DEPARTMENT'S NEWEST STAFF AND OFFICERS



Community Service Officers Elizabeth Dye (left) and Jessica Baca



Police Officers Andrew Sanchez (left) and Hunter Knowles

Police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks welcomed 28 civilian staff and 17 new police officers to the Santa Monica Police Department during a celebration ceremony at the SGI-USA World Culture Center in Santa Monica on September 15. Attended by a number of dignitaries, elected officials and family members, the event formally introduced the honorees to the community and recognized them for their professional achievements.

“You have chosen to further your career in Santa Monica, a sophisticated community known far and wide for its high levels of service,” Chief Seabrooks told the department’s newest members. “And because you are here, I am sure you know there is no greater calling and no greater reward than being of service to the public.” Having met the rigorous requirements of SMPD employment, these men and women exemplify not only the department’s commitment to professional standards, but also its organizational core values of Integrity, Courage, Accountability, Innovation and Respect.

“Because you are here, I am sure you know there is no greater calling and no greater reward than being of service to the public.”

–Police Chief
Jacqueline Seabrooks



Traffic Services Officer Anthony Teposte with Chief Seabrooks



Color Guard (left to right): Trevor Smith, Anthony Amersfoort, Marcus Mitchell, Marilyn Amiache

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS HELP COMBAT HOMELESSNESS



It's been said that a community can be measured by how it treats its most vulnerable members. Santa Monica has taken this to heart, as shown by our strategies to address homelessness in our community.

Homelessness is a highly complex issue that no one agency can successfully tackle alone. The city's strategic plan focuses on the root causes of homelessness—mental health, substance abuse, legal and financial trouble, and access to affordable housing among them. Implementing the plan requires active collaboration locally, regionally and beyond. Locally, we work with the city attorney's office, the Santa Monica Police Department, the housing division and outside service agencies to connect individuals with the services they need, and help them get off the streets and into housing. Regionally, we collaborate with neighboring communities, and we also advocate at the state and federal levels for funding and support to address homelessness.

How do we know if our work is making a difference? Santa Monica's

annual Homeless Count is one key source of information. On one night each January, teams fan out across the city to visually count the number of people sleeping on the streets, elsewhere outdoors and in vehicles. They take special note of the families in these situations, as well. The collected information helps us track trends in the homeless population. These data sets are used to develop or adjust strategies, and help support our regional, state and federal advocacy efforts.

Pulling off a citywide homeless count each year requires a tremendous amount of coordination, in logistics, outreach and on-the-ground implementation. The city leads this effort in partnership with St. Monica Catholic Community and relies on help from many other organizations, including our Human Services Grant Program agencies, as well as from elected officials, the business and faith communities, first responders and concerned residents.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed to conduct the count of people experiencing homelessness, from checking in the workers to pounding

the pavement. It's not necessarily easy work, but it is tremendously rewarding, with community members working alongside people who have dedicated their careers to addressing this issue. Consider participating in the 2016 Homeless Count to get an inside view of what's being done to help homeless individuals. It's also a way to connect with fellow Santa Monicans you might not otherwise meet.

2016 Homeless Count

Wednesday, January 27
10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

To volunteer, please sign up online at santamonicahomelesscount.com.

Questions? Email humanservices@smgov.net or call 310.458.8701. If you're not able to participate in this activity, please check our website for other ways to help.

SUSTAINABLE SANTA MONICA

COOKING WITH SANTA MONICA FARMERS MARKETS



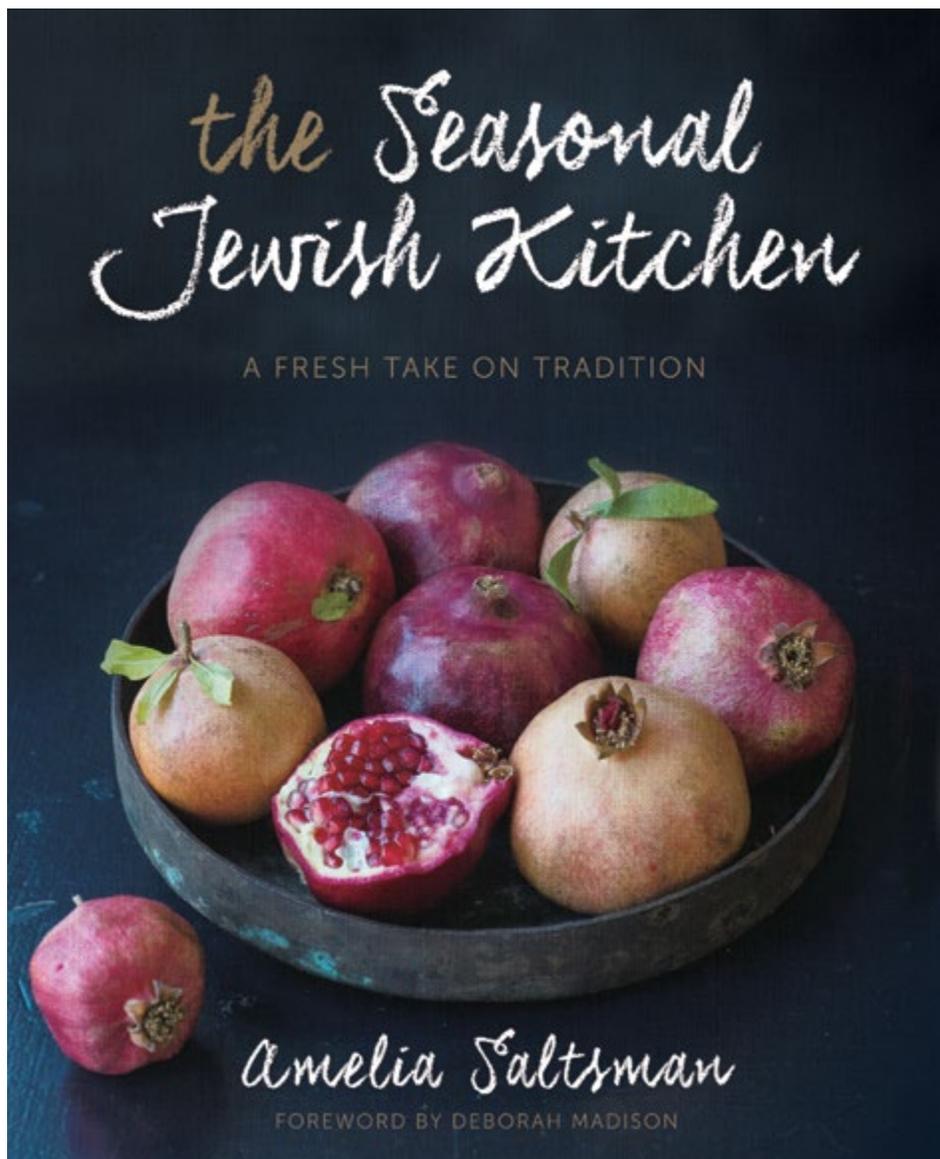
All four Santa Monica Farmers Markets will remain open through the December and New Year’s holidays. The Saturday market in Downtown will be closed on November 28.

HAPPENING AT THE FARMERS MARKETS

On Saturday, December 5, Author Amelia Saltsman will be on hand to sign copies of her new cookbook, *The Seasonal Jewish Kitchen*, under the Downtown market tent at 2nd and Arizona from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. In her second cookbook, Amelia shares 150 recipes that offer a refreshingly different take on traditional and contemporary Jewish cooking, tracing the delicious thread of Jewish cuisine from its ancient roots to today’s focus on seasonality and sustainability. Books will be available for purchase.

Preserving the Flavor, a series of complementary classes offered by the Virginia Avenue Park Farmers Market, will be offered from January through June 2016, on the fourth Saturday of each month. Class topics may include jams, pickles, Kimchi, dehydration, fermentation, and using citrus peels to make things like candy and salt. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Visit farmersmarket.smgov.net for a complete list of dates and topics, or email farmersmarket@smgov.net or call 310.458.8712, ext. 3, for more information.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers are vital to the operations of the Santa Monica Farmers Markets and those who serve are greatly appreciated. Performing a wide variety of tasks at our information booths and on special projects, volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of six months and 36 hours of service. Please visit our website (farmersmarket.smgov.net) and click on “About Us” to learn more and download the application. It can be submitted by email to odi.low@smgov.net. A background check and training are required.



Roasted Butternut Squash, Apple, Pear and Goat Cheese Salad

Courtesy of Emma D'Alessandro

Autumn months call for hearty dishes that bring friends and family together. Serve this dish on a crisp fall's eve for an added touch of warmth and comfort.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 small butternut squash, peeled and cubed
- 1 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1 small Honeycrisp apple, thinly sliced
- 1 small Bartlett pear, thinly sliced
- 1/4 c. chopped walnuts, toasted
- 4 oz. baby arugula, washed and spun
- 4 oz. goat cheese, broken into pieces or crumbles

Dressing:

- 2 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp. honey
- 1 tbsp. fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tbsp. chopped sage
- Salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Place the butternut squash on a sheet pan. Add olive oil, salt and pepper and toss to coat. Roast the squash for 20 to 25 minutes, turning once, until tender. Add the apple and pear to the baking sheet for the last 3 to 4 minutes.
2. While the squash is roasting, combine the dressing ingredients in a bowl and set aside.
3. Place arugula in another bowl with squash, apple, walnuts and cheese. Toss ingredients, drizzle with dressing, and serve.

INGREDIENTS BOUGHT AT THE SATURDAY VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK FARMERS MARKET:

- Butternut squash and sage** - Fresno Evergreen
- Arugula** - Kenter Canyon Farms
- Apples and pears** - Ha's Family Farms
- Goat cheese** - Drake Family Farms
- Honey** - Energy Bee Farm

SEE YOU AT THE FARMERS MARKETS!

WEDNESDAYS
Arizona Ave @ 2nd St
8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

SATURDAYS
Arizona Ave @ 3rd St
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

SATURDAYS
Virginia Avenue Park
8 a.m.-1 p.m.

SUNDAYS
2640 Main St,
9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Emma D'Alessandro is a farmers market enthusiast and avid volunteer, educator and food blogger; find more from and about her at cravingnature.com.

'TIS THE SEASON TO BUY LOCAL ... FIND THE PERFECT GIFTS IN SANTA MONICA!



Spending money locally is perhaps the most powerful action citizens can take to support their community. Shopping at Santa Monica businesses for the holidays (and all year long) provides jobs for local residents, keeps money circulating in the local economy and helps to improve the environment by reducing our carbon footprint—and it's convenient!

Shopping here is also an awesome way to find the perfect gift for the holiday season. Why purchase the same t-shirt, bracelet or knick-knack that's sold at every big-box store in the nation when you can find something unique, handcrafted and special in your own hometown? To assist residents with their holiday shopping, the Buy Local Santa Monica Committee has created "The Perfect Gift List" for the 2015 holiday season with great tips for perfect gifts for her (moms, sisters, wives, girlfriends, BFFs), for him (brothers, dads, boyfriends, husbands, best mates), for the little ones, and for your neighbors/boss/workmates ... not to mention great finds to assist with holiday preparations. Go to buylocalsantamonica.com/perfectgift2015 when you're ready to get that holiday spirit.

Some great events for the whole family are planned this holiday season—see our calendar at right and then join us for the celebrations. And remember: 'Tis the Season to Buy Local! Visit buylocalsantamonica.com to learn more about all the ways your support strengthens our community.



Enjoy Buying Local for the Holidays

Small Business Saturday – November 28, all day. Participating businesses citywide and at Montana Avenue event.

Montana Avenue Holiday Walk – Friday, December 4, 4 to 9 p.m.

Holiday Hop on Pico – Saturday, December 5, Noon to 4 p.m. Entertainment, refreshments, art displays, shopping specials, Santa and fun for the whole family! Organized by the Pico Improvement Organization (facebook.com/picoimprovementorganization).

Main Street Holiday Celebrations – Saturday, December 5, 6 to 9 p.m. Sixty parties, tree lighting, carolers, meet Santa and much more! Organized by the Main Street Business Improvement Association (mainstreetsm.com).

WATER HEROES SAVE WATER AND HELP MONARCHS, TOO!



Ramesh Ramalingam and Blanca Andres had two goals when they decided to renovate the front yard of their Ocean Park home last winter. First, they wanted their yard to reflect their environmental consciousness with drought-tolerant landscaping. And second, they wanted to make it a happy, useful space for their family.

With the help of a landscape architect selected from the City of Santa Monica’s “Buy Local” list, the couple scored big on both goals. They redesigned the yard so they and their two children could make better use of the space, added a new fence for the dog, and replaced their lawn with sustainable, native landscaping. While it was an expensive project—with a \$3,000 rebate from the city helping to trim the cost—the payback has been quite substantial: The family has saved 643 gallons of water a day—more than 120,000 gallons—in the 16 months since the project was finished, and significant value was added to their home.

Change did not come easily for everyone, because going water-smart meant saying goodbye to some favorite plants. But the milkweed planted with the drought-tolerant landscaping to replace the lawn has provided a spectacular benefit the entire family is enjoying. It attracts and sustains beautiful Monarch butterflies, colorful travelers who visit the yard for egg-laying, caterpillar-raising and nectar-drinking purposes during their seasonal migrations to and from Mexico—making these water heroes pollinator heroes, as well!



The family has saved 643 gallons of water a day—more than 120,000 gallons—in the 16 months since the project was finished.



For more information about sustainable landscaping and the many water- and energy-saving rebates available to city residents, visit sustainable-sm.org.



TRAVEL SMARTER



No doubt *Seascope* readers have observed that there's been a whole lot of construction going on in Santa Monica. This work is the culmination of a vision that began with the Land Use and Circulation Element, adopted by the City Council in 2010. It's a working document that has guided the shaping of the city's mobile landscape since then, with input from city residents, stakeholders and the general public.

There currently are three major—and very exciting—projects underway which, when complete, will greatly improve mobility options in Santa Monica: the Expo Light Rail Station, the Colorado Esplanade and the California Incline.

There currently are three major—and very exciting—projects underway which, when complete, will greatly improve mobility options in Santa Monica: the Exposition (Expo) Light Rail Station, the Colorado Esplanade and the California Incline. And—like pieces of a puzzle—they fit with and complement other projects and initiatives undertaken by the City of Santa Monica in recent years, designed to encourage residents and visitors to explore and enjoy our beautiful city by the bay without adding extra vehicle traffic to our streets and neighborhoods.

An example is the Bike Transit Center, open since 2012 in Parking Structure 8 at Colorado and 2nd Street. Here, there are many bicycle-related services available, with and without membership, including rentals, repairs, secure parking and shower facilities. Already popular with local cyclists, it will be an especially useful amenity for commuters when the Exposition Light Rail Line is completed in spring 2016, since it will enable workers, tourists and residents to enter and leave Downtown Santa Monica without the stress of freeway traffic or the worry about parking once they get here. A signature feature is the bike lane next to the Expo Line: Separated from traffic lanes, it enables bicyclists to ride free of conflict with vehicles—a rare and increasingly desirable prospect in the L.A. area.



Light rail photo by William Short

Between Expo and the Bike Transit Center lies the much-anticipated Colorado Esplanade, also slated to open in spring '16, that will connect pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers to the Downtown/3rd Street Promenade, Ocean Avenue, the Pier and Tongva Park. A median here will also segregate cyclists and pedestrians from vehicle traffic. Bikes will have their own traffic signals, as well as designated areas to wait for a signal to change. Festival lights spanning the Esplanade and augmented landscaping and public art will all contribute to a stunning focal point between Downtown and Civic Center areas. The Esplanade will soon become a bicycle hub in Santa Monica!

Another dramatic improvement in mobility is underway with the rebuilding of the California Incline. Due to be completed next summer, this important scenic route will offer dramatically improved travel for both pedestrians and bicyclists between Palisades Park and Santa Monica State Beach. Where the old Incline had a sidewalk just four feet wide, the new bridge will have a 16-foot-wide path for use by those on foot and on bikes. In addition, it will be physically separated by a concrete barrier from vehicle lanes for improved safety while traveling to and from the beach. And if that's not enough, the existing pedestrian overcrossing and Idaho Trail are being reconstructed as part of the Incline project to provide another improved beach access point.

All of this infrastructure will contribute to the health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors by providing mobility choices that complement one another, and outstanding amenities that encourage people to get out and explore our wonderful city. After years of planning, engineering and construction, the many pieces of Santa Monica's mobility puzzle will be snapped into place and ready for everyone to use!



Big Blue Bus Offers Diff'rent Strokes For Diff'rent Folks!

The City of Santa Monica's efforts to increase transportation and mobility options for everyone who lives in, works in or visits this community are, at their core, aimed at improving the quality of life for all. No matter your age or stage in life, whether you prefer to walk, ride a bus or bike, or if you need a quicker way to get from Point A to B, Santa Monica's integrated services offer so many choices! Read on:

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

"Next summer, I'll be able to visit all the museums in downtown LA by catching the Expo line at any of Santa Monica's three new stations—and I'll have the option to get to Pasadena on the Metro Gold Line so I can meet my buds in Old Town."

SENIOR

"With stored value on my TAP card, I can ride a Big Blue Bus or Metro bus—and soon, the Expo Line—and take advantage of the reduced rates for older adults. I'll be able to take the Big Blue Bus near my home to within walking distance of the Expo station at 4th Street, and then ride the train to the new Westwood station. I can easily make a connection to UCLA's medical center from there on one of several BBB routes. "And if I need to run errands in town—getting groceries comes to mind—I can depend on the local Dial-a-Ride to get me where I need to go."

COMMUTER

"I'll have more options than ever when Expo's Santa Monica service begins. I'll finally be able to join my co-workers for dinner because the Expo trains run well past quitting-time and even later Friday through Sunday. And when I ride the bus, NextBus and similar services offer real-time trip planning so I know when it will arrive at my stop—saving me time and bench-warming."

YOUNG ADULT

"It's a snap to borrow a Breeze bike from one of nearly 80 bike stations located around the city—and since it's not my bike, I don't have to worry about what to do with it at the end of the day. I like the flexibility and convenience of Breeze—I can run errands on the way home from work, or catch a carpool, take a different bus route or call for a ride. And with Big Blue Bus soon offering late-evening weekend service from the Expo stations, I'll be able to get to the train using Breeze but take the bus home if I don't want to bike late at night."

VISITOR

"It's already easy to get to Santa Monica from the airport using the Big Blue Bus or the LAX Flyaway, and pretty soon I'll be able to take the Expo train to get downtown LA. From there, I can take the Red Line to Hollywood or even Universal Studios. Of course, I know from Google Trip Planner that it's easy to get to Hollywood on Metro buses now, so I don't even have to wait for Expo."

BBB photo by Scott Sporleder



So you see, it's all about options: Whether it's Expo-friendly service on Big Blue Bus, the Expo Light Rail Line, Breeze bike share or lots of new, bike-friendly routes and safer walking paths, Santa Monica helps you get around town without getting in a car!

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL: PROMOTING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FOR ACTIVE LIVES



Fostering use of the city's active transportation infrastructure is another piece of the mobility puzzle, essential to Santa Monica's long-term sustainability and economic viability. The Safe Routes to School initiative—aimed at developing a bike- and pedestrian-oriented culture among students and their families—offers programs that encourage them to leave their cars at home, and helps ensure that innovations like Breeze and Expo will be safely and thoroughly used by future generations. They are highlighted here:

Bike It! Walk It! Days have been a community tradition since they were first organized as a single-day event in 2007 by students from Santa Monica High School's Solar Alliance. The event has grown in popularity over the years, expanding to a full week and gaining the participation of students in every public school in Santa Monica. This year, for the first time, Big Blue Bus offered free rides to SMMUSD students for the entire week of October 5-9, prompting a new name: Bike It! Walk It! Bus It! Week.

Not only does the weeklong activity help families discover that relying on active transportation modes can actually make their lives easier and more enjoyable, it also supports students in developing important skills that lead to greater self-reliance and better health to last a lifetime.

Kidical Mass drew dozens of Santa Monica families on International "Talk Like a Pirate Day" in September, joining thousands of others around the world for the inaugural *Kidical Mass-IVE*, the largest global family bike ride ever! The Kidical Mass movement aims to save lives and improve a community's quality of life by demonstrating that kids on bikes are traffic, too, and that cities which plan for family biking are more livable—and FUN! At the SRTS-sponsored event, eye patches and helmets were decorated, many an "Arrrr!" was bellowed and prizes were awarded for best costumes. Be sure to keep an eye on our website (santamonicasaferoutes.org) for more events coming soon and then plan to join the fun!

Racks for Grant Elementary School

Grant School parents approached the City of Santa Monica about getting bike racks installed at their school in anticipation of an influx of bikes during Bike It! Walk It! Bus It! Week. Racks had previously been installed at several SMMUSD schools: Will Rogers, Franklin, SMASH/Muir, John Adams and Lincoln. Thanks to the efforts of SMMUSD District Carpenter Elizabeth Villalobos and Skilled Maintenance Worker Sean Morris, aided by members of the school staff and parents, Grant's racks were in place and ready to receive bikes October 5, just in time for the big week.

BIWIBI! Week Results Are In

This fall's Bike It! Walk It! Bus It! event fell nothing short of previous participation rates. Half of all Santa Monica elementary- and middle-school students walked, biked, skated, scootered, bused or carpooled on their school's respective event day.

Participation rates at each school tell the tale: Congratulations to McKinley, the two-time reigning champ with a 77% participation rate! Once again, that school's event was extended to three days, it hosted several community partners who shared safety information, and a Triumphal Arch was constructed for students to cross under when entering campus, adding to the fun and excitement.

Will Rogers and Muir schools were neck-and-neck for second place at 66.5% and 66% respectively, while SMASH and Franklin came right behind with 59% and 56%. Overall participation at all schools was 48%.

Stay tuned for National Bike to School Day in May, which will be our fourth annual springtime Bike It! Walk It!—and now Bus It!—Day.

WHAT'S HAPPENING, SANTA MONICA?

PAL'S "BEST GIFT EVER" TOY DRIVE NEEDS YOUR HELP



Help brighten the holidays for nearly 300 kids in need by contributing to the Santa Monica Police Activities League's annual "Best Gift Ever" Toy Drive. Your donation will help ensure that no child is left empty-handed this holiday season.

Contributions from both individuals and businesses are welcome, from mid-November to December 12. Donated gifts should be appropriate for children ages 6 to 17. They will be presented at a special PAL Holiday Workshop on December 14.

To contribute to this year's toy drive and learn more about Santa Monica PAL, visit smpal.org or call 310.458.8988. PAL is a 501(c)3 corporation, and all gifts are tax-deductible.



SANTA GETS A RIDE FROM FIRE AND POLICE

Get ready, kids, Santa Claus is coming to town ... and Santa Monica's firefighters and police officers are leading the way! Santa and his public safety helpers will distribute good cheer and thousands of candy canes as part of Santa Monica's 23rd annual "Candy Cane Drive."



Santa and his friends will make stops throughout the community on Saturday, December 19, on the following schedule:

- **10:30 - 11 a.m.** - Douglas Park (California Avenue and 25th Street)
- **11:15 - 11:45 a.m.** - Christine Reed Park (California Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard)
- **12 - 12:30 p.m.** - Third Street Promenade and Wilshire Blvd
- **1:45 - 2:15 p.m.** - Virginia Avenue Park (2200 Virginia Avenue)
- **2:30 - 3 p.m.** - Marine Park (Marine and 17th streets)
- **3:15 - 3:45 p.m.** - Clover Park (Ocean Park Boulevard and 25th Street)

Santa Monica children are encouraged to watch for Santa by looking and listening for the lights and sirens of police and fire department vehicles, and parents and others should be sure to bring their cameras.

For more information, call SMPD's Community Affairs Unit at 310.458.8474.

Tree of Life and Holiday Open House

Woodlawn Cemetery hosts the John Adams School Choir, ornament decorating, photos with Santa, Toys for Tots collection and much more. 1847 - 14th Street, 3-5:30 p.m.

Free admission.

Call 310.458-8717 or visit woodlawns.com for more information.



SUNDAYS AT THE ANNENBERG BEACH HOUSE

DECEMBER
20

to

JANUARY
24



DECEMBER 20 – Two Beach Walks

Snowy Plovers (8:30-10 a.m.)

Connect with your inner naturalist—explore the habitat and life cycle of the federally protected snowy plover, a small, white shorebird that makes Santa Monica its home this time of year. Binoculars will be provided, or bring your own!

Family Field Trip (10:30-11:30 a.m.)

Sign a permission slip for fun! Explore slimy seaweed, sand crabs, beach hoppers and grebes! Ages 5+, with parent/guardian. Binoculars and field guides available for extra fun.

JANUARY 10 - Happy Birthday Marion!

Join the festivities from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., as we celebrate Marion Davies, renowned actress, philanthropist, party host and mistress of media tycoon William Randolph Hearst.

JANUARY 24 - Beach Walk & Sketch

Bring your sense of adventure and take to the sands from 9 to 10:30 a.m., walking and sketching the natural wonders of Santa Monica State Beach. Binoculars, drawing boards and newsprint provided, or bring your own easy-to-carry sketching tools.

All of these activities are free of charge, but reservations are requested. Please call 310.458.4904 or visit annenbergbeachhouse.com for more information or to RSVP.



Photo by Catherine Lacey



"PEACE REQUIRES JUSTICE"—CELEBRATING THE KING LEGACY

Monday, January 18, 2016 – 9 to 10:30 a.m.

JANUARY 18

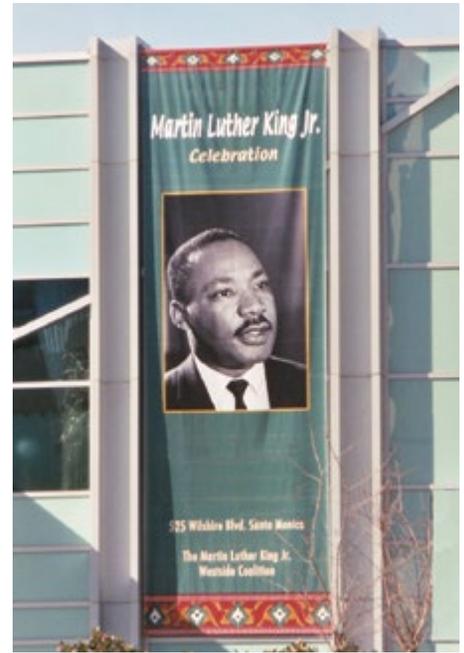
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition invites all Santa Monicans to join in honoring Dr. King and his legacy at the Coalition's 31st annual observance of his vision for a peaceful and just society. This inspirational program will be held at SGI-USA World Peace Auditorium, 525 Wilshire Boulevard.

The program will include a keynote address by former state senator and current Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, as well as education awards presented to local students, inspirational readings, music and dance. The Coalition will also present its Community Light Award to FAME Santa Monica Redevelopment Corporation, which has helped bring affordable senior housing to Santa Monica.

A Community Involvement Fair immediately follows until noon, with community and civic organizations meeting visitors and providing informational materials. Refreshments will also be provided.

These activities—free of charge and open to the public—are presented by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition and sponsored by the City of Santa Monica, SGI-USA, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica College Associates, the Rand Corporation, City TV and other generous contributors.

For more information, please visit facebook.com/mlkwestsidecoalition.



7TH ANNUAL FIRESIDE AT THE MILES INTIMATE PERFORMANCE SERIES

January 8 – February 27

JANUARY 8 to FEBRUARY 27

The City of Santa Monica's Cultural Affairs Division is proud to announce the 7th Annual Fireside at the Miles Performance Series at the historic Miles Memorial Playhouse. Few residents know that the Playhouse, designed by renowned local architect John Byers and completed in 1929, contains a large period fireplace in the main auditorium. The fireplace was often used in the 1930s and '40s as a centerpiece for community events and performances, and it is in this spirit of community gathering that the performance series was launched in January 2010.

For the series, the risers are oriented in front of the fireplace, along with a few couches and coffee tables, while an organic coffee and tea bar offers refreshment. Candles and intimate lighting add to the seasonal ambiance. The series offers a unique live-entertainment experience in an extraordinary setting.

Performances are scheduled on Friday and Saturday nights in January and February and include classical music, comedy, storytelling, dance, poetry and lots of great jazz. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for youth 18 years and under, adults age 55+ and students of any age. The doors open at 7:30 p.m.; shows begin at 8 and end at 10 p.m. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. FREE underground parking is available at 808 Wilshire Boulevard.

For a complete line-up, please visit milesplayhouse.org and select the *Fireside at the Miles* link.

For more information or to make a reservation, please email milesplayhouse@smgov.net with your name and telephone number, date of performance and number of seats desired.



HEAL THE BAY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF ACTION WITH FREE AQUARIUM ADMISSION

In celebration of Heal the Bay’s 30 years of dedication to a healthy ocean, Wells Fargo is sponsoring free admission to the environmental organization’s Santa Monica Pier Aquarium one day each month through the end of 2015. From 2 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4 and Wednesday, December 2, visitors can enjoy—free of charge—viewing and learning about more than 100 species of local marine life on exhibit at the Aquarium.

The Aquarium is located at 1600 Ocean Front Walk, directly beneath the Carousel building. Regular operating hours are from 2 to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and weekends from 12:30 to 5 p.m. Regular admission is free for children 12 and under; for all others it is \$5 per person. Groups of 10 or more pay \$3 per person, regardless of age. We suggest visiting healthebay.org/santa-monica-pier-aquarium or calling 310.393.6149 for special hours during the holiday season.



santa monica swim center

winter break 2015

The Swim Center will close on November 20 for annual maintenance/renovation. When we reopen in February, you’ll find:

- Shiny new pool tiles
- Long lasting, energy efficient LED pool lights
- A brand new pool deck that will make your feet happy!

This will make the Swim Center safer and more enjoyable to use, and reduce costs for years to come.

We thank you in advance for your patience.

For more information:

smgov.net/swim

HOLIDAY FUN ABOUNDS IN DOWNTOWN!



ICE at Santa Monica, presented by Downtown Santa Monica, Inc., returns to freeze over the corner of 5th Street and Arizona Avenue from **November 1 through January 18**. This premier outdoor skating destination marks the start of the holiday season and gives Southern Californians 8,000 square feet of real ice on which to enjoy all the fun of winter without the frosty bite.

The rink is open to all ages and the cost to skate is \$15, including skate rental and unlimited skating for the entire day of purchase. Cabañas lining the perimeter are perfect for private events, birthday parties and holiday gatherings. ICE at Santa Monica provides the ideal setting for anyone looking to take part in a winter tradition and enjoy what those on the East Coast cannot—ice-skating in short sleeves!



WINTERLIT is coming to town! The season-long celebration returns to charm Third Street Promenade with holiday spirit. We'll light Santa Monica's official holiday tree on **Thursday, December 3** at 6 p.m., welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus, and then enjoy kids' crafts, live music and other holiday fun.

Downtown Santa Monica will also mark Hanukkah with a traditional menorah lighting on the Third Street Promenade, beginning **Tuesday, December 16** at 5 p.m. and repeating each day through December 23.

(See the calendar section on page 11 for more festivities occurring in Downtown and throughout the city.)



For more information about Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. and its holiday programming, please visit downtownsm.com or follow DTSM on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

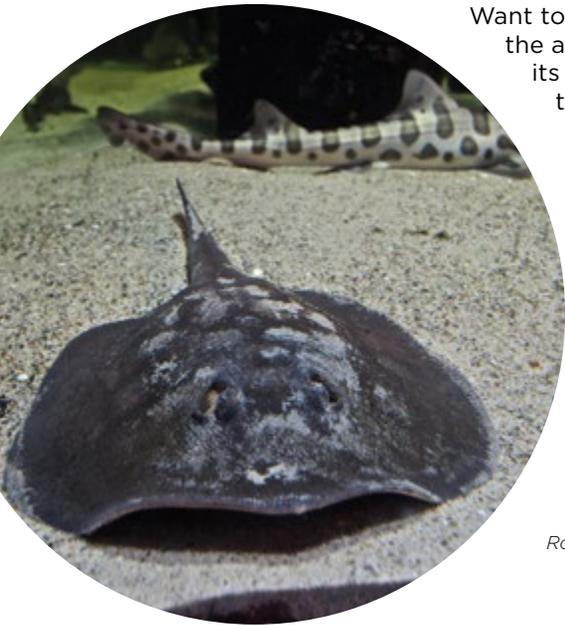
Curbside Holiday Tree Collection
 Place tree in the alley for collection between **December 28th and January 23rd**.

Remember to remove all decorations, tinsel, and stands so trees can be composted.

Curbside Collection Only.
 Please do not drop off trees at Parks.

Resource Recovery & Recycling Division
www.smgov.net/r3
recycling@smgov.net
 310.458.2223

HOLIDAY AQUADOPTION SPECIAL



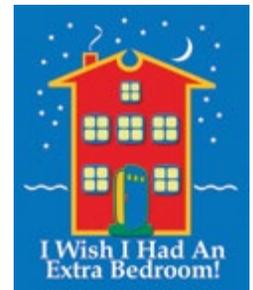
Want to take the sting out of holiday shopping? The Santa Monica Pier Aquarium has the answer! Every December, Heal the Bay’s marine education center offers one of its most popular marine creatures for adoption—Aquadoption, that is! This year, the featured animal is the round stingray, a very special creature indeed.

An Aquadoption provides all the benefits of adopting an animal while leaving its daily care to the Aquarium staff—no feeding, cleaning or exercising required. With a yearlong membership to Heal the Bay, free admission to the Aquarium for the full year and a plush toy version of the stingray, an Aquadoption is the perfect holiday gift. (Three other marine animals are also available for adoption year-round; the ray is featured only in December.)

Arrange an Aquadoption by filling out the form online at healthebay.org/santa-monica-pier-aquarium/meet-locals/aquadoptions, or stop by the Aquarium at 1600 Ocean Front Walk (beneath the Carousel building). You can also call 310.393.6149, ext. 114, for more information.

Round ray photo by Ari

"EXTRA BEDROOM" RETURNS JUST IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY VISITORS

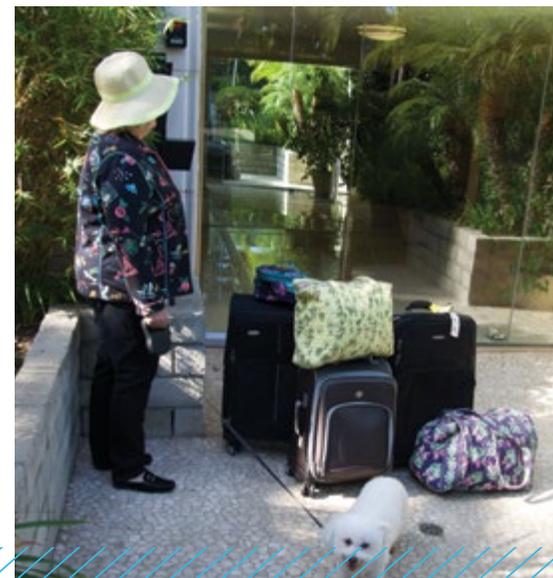


Does your home practically burst at the seams during the holidays when the kids come home from college and the East Coast relatives and friends decide to escape winter in our sunny coastal oasis? Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT) has just the answer to your overload, with its annual “Extra Bedroom” campaign offering Santa Monica residents deeply discounted hotel rates for their special visitors from November 16 to January 22. Santa Monica hotels participating in the campaign offer rooms at prices far lower than their standard rates, allowing residents to host their loved ones nearby without having to sacrifice their personal space or holiday budget.

To take advantage of these rates, just say “Extra Bedroom” when booking rooms and then show proof of your Santa Monica residency (California ID or driver’s license) when the visitors arrive for check-in. For more information on the program and a full list of this year’s Extra Bedroom participants and rates, visit santamonica.com/extrabedroom.

And remember that SMTT’s travel counselors are available to assist visitors with attraction and activity suggestions, itinerary development and public transportation options. Encourage your guests to make the most of their holiday stay by stopping by one of our four visitor center locations: on the Third Street Promenade, on the Santa Monica Pier, in Palisades Park, and at 2427 Main Street in the Edgemar Center.

SMTT also offers an official *Santa Monica Visitors Guide* free of charge. To obtain a copy, write to us at 2427 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405, call 800.544.5319 or 310.393.7593, visit santamonica.com, or email a request to info@santamonica.com.



LIVE AND LEARN

BUILDING COMMUNITY AT VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK



Photography by William Short

Virginia Avenue Park is more than just a park. It's a place where community comes together. It's where people meet their neighbors, roll up their sleeves and work together to shape events and programs that reflect the diversity of the Pico Neighborhood. Committees at the park give residents and park staff an opportunity to work together on projects of common interest, creating a strong connection to the community.

Parents are some of the most active committee members, which is not surprising given the range of free programs for children and families at Virginia Avenue Park. These programs are open to all, emphasizing the importance of our community's diversity and culture.

When Janeen Jackson moved to Santa Monica with her husband and two sons, she wanted to find a way to connect with her new neighborhood and get involved. She found what she was looking for at Virginia Avenue Park when she joined its Parent Connection Group. The group is one of two parent committees that develop community-oriented programs and activities at the park. As a committee member, Janeen has helped bring to life programs that celebrate diversity and African-American culture, including a year-round African dance class and summertime family movie nights. "We're committed to improving the lives of our children and the Pico community through cultural programs that draw families from all backgrounds together," says Janeen.

David Perez found himself getting more involved when his three tween-age daughters started taking advantage of Virginia Avenue Park's free after-school homework program. He began attending meetings of the Parent Staff Association, the Spanish-language counterpart to the Parent Connection Group. This led David to expand his involvement into even more park activities, including community meetings with representatives from the city, and participation in the police department's Spanish-language Community Police Academy. Through interacting directly with civic leaders, David has found a way to not only learn what's happening in the city, but also to feel closer to his neighbors and more secure in his community.

Virginia Avenue Park committees are continually looking for opportunities to bring their fellow community members together through events that celebrate the culture and diversity of the Pico Neighborhood. For example, the Parent Staff Association planned the beautiful Dia de Los Muertos event held on November 1, and is now working on the annual, traditional Posada on December 18. And, the Parent Connection Group is planning activities to recognize Black History Month next February, including a greens cook-off at the park. As always, residents are invited to explore different cultures and traditions through Virginia Avenue Park's free, public events.



New Health and Wellbeing Services Offered at Virginia Avenue Park

Help with family nutrition and health care access is here! A new outreach worker from the LA County Department of Public Social Services will be at Virginia Avenue Park every Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This office can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods (formerly known as Food Stamps). The office also helps with enrollment in MediCal and Medicare, the primary programs for accessing medical services.



If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310.458.8688. Drop-ins are also welcome.



Virginia Avenue Park offers a variety of free educational and recreational programs and activities for Santa Monica families of all ages and abilities. They include after-school homework help for students ages 6 to 24, early childhood programs, Teen Center, senior programs and more. Visit smgov.net/vapark to learn more about the park's programs, activities and services.

MADE BY HAND AT THE CAMERA OBSCURA ART LAB: STRING ART



We're inspired by the many examples found in public spaces of beautiful installation art made with string. If you'd like to bring a little of that flavor inside, how about creating a wall-mountable piece of string art?

You will need:

- a flat piece of wood—pine or other semi-soft wood is best. Your local craft store will carry wood plaques with many options for size, edge bevel and shape. And hardware stores often have “furniture board” which can be cut to your specifications.
- wire brads, veneer pins, linoleum tacks or other small nails. Consider copper, brass or other types, and small heads or large heads—lots of room for personalization.
- paper and pencil or computer printout.
- thread, embroidery floss or yarn.
- *optional*: clear drying glue, needle-nose pliers, and felt, solid-color cotton or velvet wood covering or paint.

STEP 1 First, consider the kind of design you'd like to try. You can either fill-in your design with string, or “fill-out” the background (which requires more nails), leaving the inside design blank. Words or images? Plain or multi-colored? A background that's wood, fabric or painted? For our example, we chose a filled-in star on a solid painted-wood ground, but used metallic embroidery floss for an extra-retro effect.



1

STEP 2 If you want to prepare your board, try staining or painting the wood, or cut a piece of velvet of a color that contrasts with your nails and string, then wrap the edges around the board and staple taut.

STEP 3 Print or draw your pattern on a sheet of paper, and temporarily

affix it to your board with double-sided tape, a dab of glue or your first nail. If you're using lettering, consider finding a big, bouncy font with lots of heft—it will translate better as string.



3

STEP 4 Outline your image with nails spaced an even 1/2” to 1” apart. Place nails close together for more detail and far apart for a spaced out effect. If your design is lettering, remember the interior spaces of letters like A and R. If you're “filling-out,” you will also need to hammer in some nails all around the



4

edge of your background, at least a 1/2” away from the edge. For close nails, you may want to use the needle-nose pliers to hold the nail in place while you hammer. Then remove the paper.

STEP 5 Tie the end of your string to a corner of the piece, and add a drop of glue to secure it. Begin to wrap in any way you like. Try wrapping around each nail twice for stability. If you are using different colors of string, consider how they will overlap in the finished piece. When you've reached the last nail, make another knot and add a drop of glue to fix. Hang and enjoy.



5

The Camera Obscura Art Lab at 1450 Ocean offers arts, crafts and culture classes for all adults, year-round. Learn printmaking, polish your writing, whip up a batch of soap, knit, draw and find your community of artists and makers. This winter we're featuring our 27x48-inch printing press—learn how to make a poster by hand! We're also hosting a materials swap and DIY holiday decoration party, as well as literary roundtables, artist resource workshops and more. Drop by—parking is a breeze at Structure 6, just around the corner (\$1 for 2-1/2 hours).

Visit us at smgov.net/1450Ocean or 1450 Ocean Ave at Broadway. Contact communityclasses@smgov.net or 310.458.2239. View and register for classes at facebook.com/1450Ocean/events (click on the “tickets” link for individual workshops) or search by keyword at smgov.net/reserve. Join our email list at smgov.net/artsignup.

CONNECTING WITH OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is reaching out with multiple communications tools to keep parents and community members informed of everything going on within the 16-campus district.



- The district and each school site maintain up-to-date websites featuring important information for parents, including listings of special events, school news, PTA and Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation activities, fundraising and programs for parents and students. Visit smmUSD.org to access all of this information.
- *Blackboard Connect* allows us to communicate with parents through voicemail and email, including reminders, updates on issues affecting a school site, important announcements and in emergencies. Changes to parents' phone numbers and email addresses should be reported to the appropriate school office to ensure receipt of this information.
- *Illuminate* is an online portal for parents to stay involved with their students through information posted by teachers, including grades, assignments and homework reminders. If you are a parent of a SMMUSD student currently not signed up for this portal, please contact your school office for instructions.

We use social media, too! Please follow us on Twitter [@SMMUSD](https://twitter.com/SMMUSD), and "Like" our recently launched Santa Monica-Malibu USD Visual and Performing Arts Facebook page to keep up with all the terrific student shows and performances. Information is as close as your smart phone with the new *ParentLink* mobile app. Visit your app store to download *Santa Monica-Malibu USD* and select the schools to follow. Though this new app is still under development, it currently includes dozens of social media links—just one more way we are continuing to strengthen SMMUSD's communications toolbox to stay in touch.

MICRO-FESTIVALS, CONTEST ADD UP TO FRESH TECH IDEAS



Are you—or do you want to be—a Silicon Beach rock star? Are you passionate about your community?

Would you like to develop innovative solutions that are relevant to Santa Monica and cities across the globe? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we've got the perfect event series for you. Hack the Beach is a newly introduced series of micro-festivals that brings together Santa Monica's best tech innovators with local civic leaders—to build on the success of the Hack the Beach technology meet-up held in the city early last summer.

Hack the Beach: The Contest is an annual challenge that invites anyone in the community to

submit proposals for apps, ideas, processes, and/or technology to help Santa Monica improve its sense of community, its mobility, and its civic engagement. *Hack the Beach: The Contest* kicked off in early October at General Assembly and was attended by more than 100 people, including Mayor Kevin McKeown, City Manager Rick Cole and state Sen. Ben Allen. Social events are now being organized every month to allow participants to mingle, learn more about others' projects, and interact with city subject-matter experts.

Hack the Beach is a partnership of the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Cross Campus, Expert DOJO, General Assembly, and WeWork. Check it out at hackthebeach.com or follow us on Twitter [@hackthebeach](https://twitter.com/hackthebeach).



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Santa Monica City Council regularly meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month in the Council Chamber, located at City Hall, 1685 Main Street. Upcoming Council meetings are scheduled for:

November 24

December 8 and 15 (special meeting—please note that 12/22 regular meeting is canceled)

January 12 and 26

Visit smgov.net/council for more information or to check the status of future agenda items. City Council meetings are broadcast live on CityTV cable channel 16, and streamed at citytv.org. Regular meetings air on 89.9 KCRW from 8 p.m. to midnight.

All Council meetings are open to the public. Public comment may be made in person at any meeting, or prior to the meeting via regular U.S. mail, email or by fax to:

City Hall, 1685 Main Street,
Room 209
Santa Monica, California 90401
Phone: 310.458.8201
Fax: 310.458.1621
Email all Council members:
council@smgov.net

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

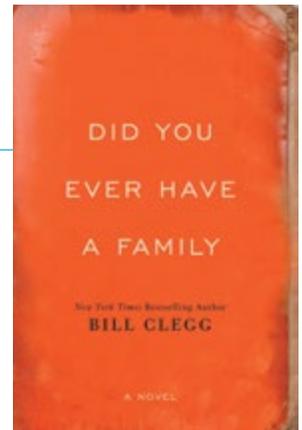
Carrie Lujan
Santa Monica Seascope
City of Santa Monica
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

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 310.917.6626).

LIBRARY LINES

SMPL SUGGESTS "BEST BOOKS OF 2015"

Books make great holiday gifts, and it's right about now when announcements of the year's national book awards are being rolled out, so we thought—why not ask our librarians to name their best books of 2015? The following titles are suggested for your gift list:



Fiction

Did You Ever Have a Family by Bill Clegg – The story of a woman who loses her entire family to an unexpected tragedy and travels across the country, trying to pick up the pieces along the way. Short-listed for numerous awards this year, and it's no wonder!

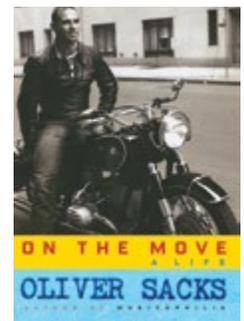


Graphic Novel

The Sculptor by Scott McCloud – Written and illustrated by one of the masters of the graphic novel form, this sumptuous and intelligent novel is a reframing of the Faustian bargain storyline, this time with an artist who risks everything to become the most celebrated sculptor of his time.

Nonfiction

On the Move: A Life by Oliver Sacks – Faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis, noted neurologist Sacks turned out one of the most exquisite and uplifting biographies of recent years. In a narrative that moves along as speedily as the title implies, Sacks keeps readers enlightened and entertained by his life story.



Young Adult

Everything Everything by Nicola Yoon – You don't reach #1 on the best-seller lists with your debut novel if it isn't something special, and this one is just that. It's a John Green-esque tale about a teen girl with "baby bubble" disease who is challenged to step outside of her world when she falls in love with the boy next door.

Kids

The Marvels by Brian Selznick – The author and illustrator of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* returns with this sumptuous dual novel that tells two stories—one entirely in gorgeous illustrations, one entirely in words—which then wind together at the end into a single illustrated story.

