

SEASCAPE

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E C I T Y O F S A N T A M O N I C A

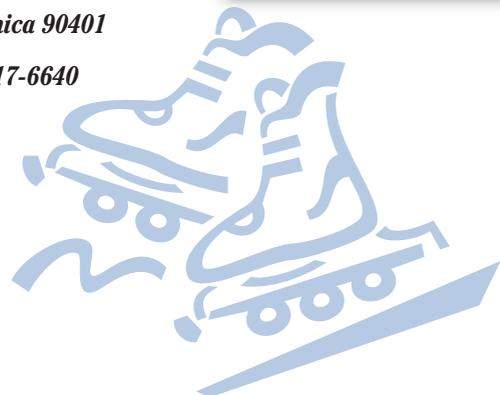


ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

As 2009 approaches, city staff is beginning to develop the Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget. This effort involves balancing expenditures against revenue sources that are under increasing pressure from current economic conditions. We will continue to focus on completing significant infrastructure projects, addressing key community priorities, and strengthening core services as resources allow.

The City Manager and staff are currently in the process of holding a series of neighborhood meetings that will continue through December 3. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss community priorities and how they are integrated into the City's budget process. We invite all who live and work in Santa Monica to help the City Council and staff plan for fiscal year 2009-10 by identifying the services, programs and projects you believe are essential to the City's continued progress. Submit suggestions in one of the following ways:

- ▲ Please visit the City Manager's page at www.smgov.net and click on the "Budget Suggestions" link for a budget priorities input form.
- ▲ Attend one of the remaining "Can We Talk?" meetings, Monday, Nov. 24, 2008 at the Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue or Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008 at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue. Both begin at 7 p.m.
- ▲ Speak at the public hearing on budget priorities at the Council meeting on January 27, 2009.
- ▲ Send regular mail to the City Council, 1685 Main Street, Room 209, Santa Monica 90401
- ▲ Fax your suggestions to (310) 917-6640



ICE ICE BABY!

The community's outdoor winter skating rink is back this year, with a lengthened season, larger rink and longer hours! Skaters of all ages can bring back childhood memories - and create new ones - as they slide, glide, spin and dance on the ice in a festive atmosphere filled with holiday cheer.

Skaters craving a little more spin space will be pleased with the expansion, as well as enhanced decorations and lighting, more space to sit and enjoy the festivities, and a HomeAid Project Playhouse Village for children. HomeAid is a leading national non-profit provider that builds and renovates housing for today's homeless. Every year they host "Project Playhouse," an event in which generous builder teams donate their time, talent and resources to construct fantasy play cottages. This year the Bayside district has partnered with HomeAid LA/Ventura Chapter to bring three playhouses, "Firehouse 10," "Nikki's Colorado Ranch House," and "King of the Crib Gym" to be displayed in a landscaped village setting designed to surprise and delight. Visitors are encouraged to participate in a \$2 raffle to win one of the playhouses at the end of the season. ICE is now open daily at the corner of Arizona and 5th Street from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The \$10 admission charge includes skate rental and, as a bonus from ICE's generous presenting sponsor Starbucks, a free tall beverage at any Southern California location when you show your wristband.

If you haven't found your edge yet when it comes to skating, there's plenty of other activities planned as part of the Winterlit season in Santa Monica's premier downtown shopping district. The popular Snow Hill event is back, along with educational and charitable opportunities, entertainment, and gift-wrapping services to help you get your holiday shopping done so you can relax and enjoy the season. See the list below and visit www.downtownsm.com for full details.

▲ CHARITY GIFT WRAP STATION

December 12-14 & 19-23, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. 1400 block of Third Street Promenade. Free shopping bags and free gift-wrapping available with a receipt from any downtown Santa Monica business.

▲ WINTERLIT "BEST GIFT EVER" CHALLENGE FOR PAL

November 7 – December 20. What was the "Best Gift Ever" that you received? Donate that fond memory gift for one of the kids at the local Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL). Get that happy feeling and drop off an unwrapped gift for a lucky child (ages 6-17) this holiday season. Donations accepted at:

- Police Substation: 1433 Second Street
- PAL: 1400 Olympic Boulevard

More Holiday Events on page 6 ►



Photos courtesy of Fabian Lewkowicz



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 – December 5 and 19 and January 2, 16 and 30. Payment and permit services available every Friday.

All City offices will observe the following schedule through the winter holidays: Closed November 27 & 28, at noon on December 24 through December 25; at noon on December 31 through January 1, and closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

NEW IN TOWN? Call (310) 458-8411 for a new resident information packet or send a request to 411@smgov.net. Includes the city's 2008 Customer Services Directory, maps, parking and bus information, Family Guide and more. You can also pick one up at the Information Desk in the City Hall lobby.

NEW USER-FRIENDLY SSA WEBSITE If you haven't recently been to www.socialsecurity.gov, you'll be pleased and surprised at all the things you can do. You can save yourself a trip to an office by using the website to apply for retirement, spouse's or disability benefits, and you can find out the exact documents you need to bring to the Social Security offices if you need a replacement card.

SANTA MONICA

SEASCAPE

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 seascape@smgov.net or mail to:

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

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Diane Kuntz Design

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

FOCUSING ON "LIFE AFTER FIFTY" IN SANTA MONICA

In our community, one-third of Santa Monica residents are over the age of 50, and the percentage of adults 65 and older will increase dramatically over the next ten to 15 years. To prepare for this shift in demographics, the city recently completed The Evaluation of Services for Seniors, which outlines innovative ways to meet the needs of current seniors and the emerging needs and desires of the Baby Boom generation. The report includes recommendations for new or improved health and fitness programs, social services, and a strengthened connection to educational enrichment, community service and career transitions. A forum held at RAND in June 2008 explored ways to implement the report's recommendations. This long-range visioning process will continue over the course of the upcoming year.

In the short term, the city is moving forward with new offerings available at the Senior Recreation Center, plans to expand the Dial-A-Ride program with WISE & Healthy Aging, and improved coordination of services for older seniors, including development of a user friendly "Quick Reference Guide for Older Adults" in partnership with the Lifelong Learning Older Adult Task Force. In addition, the city's Library received a state grant to develop technology-based programs for Boomers.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE REPORT OR WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE 50+ COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION AT (310) 458-8701 OR EMAIL HUMANSERVICES@SMGOV.NET.



NEXT STEPS IN THE CITY'S LAND USE AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT

A synopsis of the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) Strategy Framework is now available for download at www.ShapetheFuture2025.net. This brief summary document describes the key principles of the LUCE and how they relate to the vision expressed by the Santa Monica community. The Strategy Framework is the first step in updating the City's General Plan, a conservation plan designed to preserve residential neighborhoods and maintain the City's character, integrate land uses with transportation and reduce new vehicle trips, establish and require significant public benefits for development, such as open space, parks, affordable and workforce housing and involve citizens fully in development review through a public engagement process.

Eighteen Planning Commission and City Council meetings occurred between May and July, 2008, with extensive community involvement, and City Council incorporated community input and provided direction for the Framework that will be evaluated during the next phase. The high level of community participation will continue to be the hallmark of the forthcoming LUCE process. We are looking for your involvement with the following next steps:

- ▲ **LUCE Refinement and Final Plan:** During the next several months the LUCE Framework will undergo intensive economic, environmental and transportation evaluation. The reports will be shared with the community, Planning Commission and Council to shape final direction.
- ▲ **Detailed Area Planning:** To guide the implementation of LUCE, the Framework calls for community participation in the creation of detailed area plans for Downtown, the healthcare area, and transit stations at Memorial Park and Bergamot Station. These plans will provide opportunities to create public open space and amenities, identify expectations for private development, and propose specific transportation and parking strategies.
- ▲ **Development Review Process:** The City is putting in place a redesigned development review process to ensure that future projects are evaluated on their ability to meet the city and community's identified objectives and expectations.



TO LEARN ABOUT FUTURE COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION AT WWW.SHAPETHEFUTURE2025.NET



SANTA MONICA CONNECT – “IT’S HERE FOR YOU.”

Santa Monica has so much to offer. How can you keep up with art openings, performances, special events, and volunteer opportunities? And where can you turn if you need help with childcare, employment, health programs, or other issues?

Santa Monica Connect is a free city-sponsored website that connects you with your city. The project links residents with the people and programs behind more than 40 nonprofit organizations supported by the City of Santa Monica. These organizations offer job assistance, health care, performing arts, artist residencies, museums and galleries, child care and assistance, and more.

The new website, www.SantaMonicaConnect.org, provides easy access to:

- ▲ Regular reports on the people and programs of Santa Monica
- ▲ The Palette, a free weekly arts-and-culture email newsletter
- ▲ The Connection, a free monthly social-services email newsletter
- ▲ Links to more than 40 of the city-funded organizations that help support our community.

Santa Monica Connect is a communication, marketing and youth education project of the City of Santa Monica, 18th Street Arts Center, Jewish Vocational Service, and marketing firm CounterIntuity. The website features blog entries written by local youth reporters that provide a close look at social services and arts resources offered by the city through program grantees. In turn, youth obtain marketable job skills in writing, research, computer word processing, email and blogging.

READ THE BLOG. SIGN UP FOR THE E-NEWSLETTERS. DISCOVER YOUR CITY.



M SUCCESSFUL PATHS TO ENDING LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS

Mary overcame 40 years of alcohol abuse and made the transition to permanent housing, completing her path out of homelessness. After years of living on the streets, using alcohol to suppress disturbing memories, Mary sought help at OPCC’s Daybreak Center in 2005. At Daybreak, Mary found the support she needed as she worked to overcome her addiction to alcohol.

Addiction wasn’t Mary’s only challenge. During her 13 years of homelessness in Santa Monica, Mary had accumulated a number of infractions and tickets known as “quality of life” citations. With the help of Daybreak staff, she enrolled in the Santa Monica Homeless Community Court, a collaboration between the City of Santa Monica, Los Angeles County Superior Court and the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office that offers to reduce or eliminate fines and penalties for homeless individuals that are willing to enroll in programs and make positive life changes. Mary met all of her court-mandated goals, leading to the dismissal of her citations.

While in recovery, Mary was able to reconnect with her family after an almost 30 year estrangement. Deciding that it would be in her best interest to live with her family, Mary turned to Project Homecoming, the city’s travel assistance program, for help with reuniting with her family in another state. Her family warmly welcomed her, which helped Mary develop a greater sense of connection to her life and those around her.

By using the city’s innovative programs, local service providers have helped many other people end their homelessness. Since May 2006, 235 people have used Project Homecoming to reunite with friends or family out of the area. Santa Monica’s Homeless Community Court has engaged 122 people in treatment; sixty-six (55%) people have completed the program since February 2007, with 13 (11%) entering permanent housing.

Project Homecoming and the Santa Monica Homeless Community Court are just a few of the city’s innovative projects offering long-term solutions to homeless individuals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO HOMELESSNESSACTION.SMGOV.NET.

NEW GIVE SANTA MONICA TRIBUTE PROGRAM

Mark a special day, honor a retiring colleague, or show someone you care by giving them Santa Monica! By purchasing a much-needed park amenity such as a bench, drinking fountain or bike rack, having a tree planted in a city-selected site, or simply making a contribution that will be used toward general improvements. Most items will be acknowledged with a certificate and certain items will be acknowledged with a plaque. Your gift will help enhance the city’s 27 parks, 245 acres of beach, and its community forest for years to come.

Santa Monica’s open spaces are special treasured resources for residents and visitors. By contributing to GIVE Santa Monica, the city’s new program to support the parks, beach and community forest, you’ll become a partner in our efforts to maintain and grow a first-class open space system for all to enjoy.

For details, please visit parks.smgov.net or call Open Space Management at (310) 458-8573.

CITY TV HIGHLIGHTS

CONNIE MARTINSON TALKS BOOKS *brings book author interviews to viewers, showing how an author develops characters were developed and takes a book from ideas to publication. You’ll love Connie because she always actually reads the book before doing the interview! Connie Martinson Talks Books airs weekdays at 10am and 3pm on CityTV Cable channel 16.*

CABLE CHANNEL 75 *CityTV is also pleased to present live and replayed coverage of Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor meetings on its new LA County Cable Channel 75. Meetings are broadcast live on Tuesday mornings beginning at 9:30 a.m. with replays on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. and Sundays at noon. Look forward to this channel’s expanded array of programming from Los Angeles County in the near future.*



WHAT'S NEW IN PARKS AND BEACHES?

- ▲ *Have you noticed that our **PARKS** and **BEACH** are looking spiffier? With camera and clipboard in hand, an interdepartmental team of city staff has begun inspecting every park and the beach on a monthly basis. They're keeping an eye out for issues related to maintenance, planning and policies that affect the look, safety, use and accessibility of our city's treasured open spaces! If you know of an area in need of attention, please call (310) 458-8974.*
- ▲ *Although **BEACH GREEN**, adjacent to 2030 south beach parking lot, will be closed until January for turf renovation, the adjacent asphalt area is open for use. Opened in May, Beach Green is a pilot project converting asphalt parking into turf to provide new recreation space while filtering stormwater and runoff before it reaches the beach and ocean. On the busiest of summer days, it opens up to provide needed parking.*
- ▲ *Dig, Set, Spike - The weathered wooden volleyball poles all along the **BEACH** are in the process of being replaced with sturdy galvanized steel poles.*
- ▲ *The newly resurfaced basketball courts at **CLOVER, MARINE** and **VIRGINIA AVENUE PARKS** are a slam dunk. They're available for use on a first-come, first-serve basis.*
- ▲ *Serve it up – on the freshly resurfaced tennis courts at **CLOVER PARK!** Call Community Programs at (310) 394-6011 to make a reservation.*
- ▲ *New coping and tile are in place in the bowl at **The COVE SKATEPARK** and ready to take a beating. Check it out today.*
- ▲ *Check out the newly-planted trees and foliage just outside of the **MARINE PARK** Auditorium. You'll also find reseeded fields and new grills in the BBQ area.*
- ▲ *Survey says...Visitors to **EUCLID** and **AIRPORT PARKS**, the City's newest open spaces, are impressed by the excellent amenities and safety at both parks, resulting in an overall positive experience. **EUCLID PARK** at 1525 Euclid Street is a small neighborhood park ideal for a quiet lunchtime break. **AIRPORT PARK**, located at the corner of Bundy & Airport Avenue, features a popular dog park, soccer field, strolling path, playground and BBQ area.*

A WALK IN THE PARK

CRESCENT BAY PARK

The fourth in a series of articles

about the history and facts of Santa Monica's prized open space system.

Located along Ocean Avenue just south of the Casa del Mar hotel, Crescent Bay Park is the perfect spot to have a picnic or catch one of our spectacular sunsets. When Carl Schader donated this parcel of land to the City of Santa Monica in 1910, it was known as "Seaside Park" and valued at \$100,000. It has also been known as "Sunset Park", "Southside Park", and "Crystal Beach Park."



Santa Monica Public Library Image Archives

Today its 2.7 acres feature a beautiful lawn, pergola, gazebo and benches. The pergola was damaged in the 1994 Northridge Earthquake and restored in 2001. Crescent Bay Park is just one of many features that make Santa Monica State Beach one of the American Planning Association's ten best "Great Public Spaces" for 2008.



W SOLAR STRATEGY FROM SOLAR SANTA MONICA

While the economy may not be all sunshine yet, the recent passage of the "bailout legislation" was good news for the solar world. Residents who are considering placing a solar system in service in the upcoming year may be eligible for a tax credit of up to 30% with no cap starting in 2009 – taking thousands of dollars off its price!

Here's an example of how the new legislation may work to your benefit. Santa Monica resident Fred Zimmerman bought a new home this year. After a "Solar Site Check" by Solar Santa Monica, he was referred to the program's Preferred Contractors. In September, All Valley Solar started on a solar hot water system, and California Solar Electric started on a solar electric (PV) system. (Fred also got rid of an ancient refrigerator, but that's another story!) Both solar systems are scheduled to be completed before the end of the year.



But when the news of the new tax credit came out, Solar Santa Monica contacted Mr. Zimmerman and suggested he renegotiate the payment schedule for his solar electric system. If all now goes as planned, he will save more than \$10,000 just by timing the date that the system is "placed in service."



Fred Zimmerman's new home will be solar-powered starting in 2009!

**NEED A SOLAR SITE CHECK OF YOUR OWN?
CONTACT SOLAR SANTA MONICA AT (310) 458-4992
OR VISIT WWW.SOLARSANTAMONICA.COM**



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holiday season and the onset of the heating season is a prime time for home fires. The Santa Monica Fire Department offers these tips to help you and your family stay safe this holiday season:

▲ **HOLIDAY DECOR** Choose a fresh Christmas tree – one that isn't dry or shedding its needles – and place it in a deep, non-tip stand. Be sure your tree always has water. When your tree becomes dry, "Park It!" with the city – see ad below!. Artificial trees should be labeled fire-retardant. Make sure you set up your tree away from exits, fireplaces and any other heat sources. Replace any light sets that have cracked and frayed cords, or any loose connections. Don't overload outlets or run extension cords under carpets, across doorways or under heaters. Use a surge protector to help prevent shorts and shocks, and unplug all decorative lights before leaving home or going to bed. Never use electric lights on a metal tree.

Use common sense with and around candles. Put them in a non-tip candleholder and do not burn candles near decorations, curtains, doors and windows; and never leave candles burning unattended or within reach of small children.

▲ **FIREPLACES AND SPACE HEATERS** Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from furniture, bedding, clothing, walls and other things that can burn. Have your chimney inspected at least once a year and cleaned if necessary. Always use a fire screen and burn only materials appropriate for a fireplace. Never burn trash or paper in a fireplace; burning paper can float up a chimney and onto your roof. Remove ashes in a metal container, and never store them in your home or on a wooden surface such as a deck or porch.

▲ **TURKEY FRYER SAFETY** Don't cook your goose frying your turkey! Turkey deep-fryers can be dangerous – some units easily tip over, spilling the five gallons of hot oil within the cooking pot. Some have no thermostat controls, so the units can overheat the oil to the point of combustion; also, accidental spillovers onto the heating element can cause a fire. If you must have a deep fried turkey, choose a sturdy flyer and use it outdoors only, a safe distance from buildings and any other flammable material.

IN GENERAL . . . Make sure you have a working smoke detector on every level of your home, and test them monthly to make sure they are working and in good condition. Practice your escape plan so every family member knows what to do in case of a fire – minutes can mean the difference between life and death.

THE MEMBERS OF THE SANTA MONICA FIRE DEPARTMENT WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A FIRE-SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!

PARK your TREE!

Recycling your Christmas tree is just a trip to the park.



WHEN: During the month of January

WHERE: Trees may be brought to any of the following Santa Monica parks:
Clover Park
25th & Ocean Park Blvd.
Douglas Park
Chelsea & Wilshire
Christine Emerson Reed Park
Lincoln & California
Los Amigos Park
5th & Hollister

PLUS: **City of Santa Monica Transfer Station**
2401 Delaware Avenue (next to Recycling Center). During the month of January, Christmas trees may be brought, free of charge, to the city's Transfer Station.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 6:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



CYBERNEWZ

SANTA MONICA EARNS "BEST OF THE WEB" STATUS

The Center for Digital Government recently acknowledged the City of Santa Monica's

website as a finalist in its annual



Best of the Web competition. This

places the city website among the top ten on-line city portals in the country. "Best of the Web" recognizes the most innovative, user-friendly state and local government portals.

With an online presence since February 1989, the City of Santa Monica has often been recognized as being among the leaders in electronic delivery of government information and services. The City of Santa Monica's website is a portal connecting users to agencies and services that best suit their needs, anywhere in the city.

Our extensive website goes far beyond the traditional array of information and transactions for residents, businesses, and visitors that is common to most of the better local government websites. Recent additions to the site include RSS feeds; real-time parking availability application; and SantaMonicaConnect.org, a new site offering social and cultural service listings, a blog written by student reporters and online sign up for free e-newsletters that keep you connected with the community. Visit www.smgov.net to see what makes Santa Monica one of the ten best!





BIG BLUE BUS Getaways!

▲ DECEMBER 6 – SHOPPING AND SLOT MACHINES!

Enjoy the picturesque Danish village of Solvang, with more than 350 charming shops, bakeries hotels, and restaurants and the annual Christmas Parade. As an alternative, visit the Chumash Indian Casino Resort for the most popular slot machines, a slew of table games like Blackjack and Poker, a full-service spa and award-winning restaurants. Buses will leave Santa Monica College Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd., promptly at 8 a.m. and leave Solvang to return at 5 p.m. \$35 per person. Meals not included.

▲ JANUARY 1, 2009 – ROSE PARADE!

Our most popular getaway, the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl has become a family tradition for hundreds of college football and Big Blue Bus fans. The 120th Rose Parade, themed Hats Off to Entertainment will feature majestic floral floats, high-stepping equestrian units, and spirited marching bands from throughout the nation. Following the Parade, the 95th Rose Bowl hosts the best in collegiate football. Forget the traffic, the cost of gas, the parking, and join us for a stress-free, fun-filled day to kick-off the New Year!

Trip options include transportation to the parade and game, with grandstand seating at the parade. Tickets are available NOW and selling quickly! Transportation to/from the parade only, \$35.00 per person. Transportation to/from the parade with grandstand seating, \$75.00 per person. Transportation to/from the game only, \$40.00 per person. Meals not included. The Getaway does NOT provide game tickets.

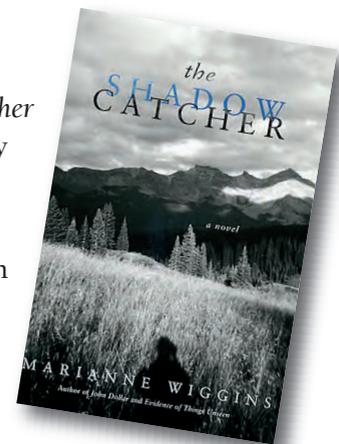
Call 310/451-5444 (TTD: 310/395-6024) for a brochure or visit www.BigBlueBus.com for more information. Tickets can be purchased at Blue: the Transit Store & Customer Service Center, 223 Broadway (just west of the Third St. Promenade) in downtown Santa Monica.



SHOWCASING "THE SHADOW CATCHER" IN CITYWIDE READS

The Santa Monica Public Library's CITYWIDE READS, a community reading program that invites everyone to read and discuss the same novel in book clubs and other events held around the city, will showcase *The Shadow Catcher* by Marianne Wiggins as the featured book for 2009, the seventh anniversary of the program.

The Shadow Catcher is two stories of family history, personal loss, and landscape intricately woven together. One narrative follows Wiggins as an author who is writing a book on photographer Edward Curtis when she is called to the death bed of her father, a man who she knows died years ago when she was a child. The other narrative follows Edward Curtis himself and his family, who traveled across North America to photograph Native peoples at the turn of the twentieth century. Photographs from the Curtis archives and the Wiggins family album add to this reflection of myths and truths. Carol Jago, incoming president of the National Council of Teachers of English and member of the Citywide Reads Advisory Committee, states, "*The Shadow Catcher* is a compelling story that explores – among other things – how photographic images shape the way we remember the past. I could not put it down." *The Shadow Catcher* was named a Best Book of the Year by the *National Book Critics Circle*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Publisher Weekly*.



Santa Monica Citywide Reads will take place in March and April 2009, and will feature free public book discussion groups led by volunteer facilitators and held in libraries, bookstores, coffeehouses, and other venues. Related special events are being planned, including a presentation by the author.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CITYWIDE READS,
VISIT WWW.SMPL.ORG/CWR, WWW.SANTAMONICACITYWIDEREADS.BLOGSPOT.COM,
OR CALL THE SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY AT (310) 458-8600.

ICE *Continued from page 1*

▲ DRUM CIRCLE

December 6-7; Noon – 2:30 p.m. FREE. 1300 block of Third Street Promenade, center court. Children are welcome to participate in a drum circle and create exciting in-the-moment music!

▲ MEET ME UNDER THE FIG TREE

December 7; 3 p.m.-7 p.m. FREE. Fairmont Miramar Hotel, 101 Wilshire Blvd. Enjoy complimentary tasty treats and hot cocoa under the beautiful Moreton Bay Fig Tree. This annual community event features a silent auction benefiting the Chrysalis Foundation, music entertainment and a gingerbread city! For more information call 310.576.7777 ext. 3235 or visit www.fairmont.com/santamonica

▲ TIDE POOL CRUISER

December 20-21; 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. FREE. 1200 block of Third Street Promenade. Experience the Travelin' Tide Pool touch tank! Make a physical connection with some of the creatures from the sea, including live sea stars, hermit crabs, kelp, sea urchins and sea cucumbers displayed as an example of what constitutes a marine ecosystem.

▲ SNOW HILL

December 13-14; 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. FREE. 1400 block of Third Street Promenade. Come frolic in real snow and participate in games and contests!

▲ CAROLERS

December 19-21, 24; 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. FREE. Carolers dressed in Dickens-style costumes with a repertoire of almost 80 songs will share their gift of music this holiday season. Enjoy the finest Christmas Carolers in the Los Angeles area as you shop in Downtown Santa Monica.

▲ MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY

December 21-28; Sundown FREE. 1200 block of Third Street Promenade. Local synagogues will host our community Menorah Lighting Ceremony each of the eight nights of Chanukah.



DON'T GET SHAKEN WITHOUT YOUR SEVEN!



The City of Santa Monica participated in the Great California Shakeout on Thursday, November 13th, a statewide earthquake exercise to help California and municipalities like ours practice emergency response procedures. At 10:00 a.m. on November 13, all city employees and several businesses and community groups participated in a "Duck, Cover, and Hold" earthquake drill. City staff and our community partners then practiced additional procedures including a rapid damage assessment of affected areas, public information dissemination exercises, communications plans for employees, businesses, students, residents, and other partners in Santa Monica. One of the city's partners, the American Red Cross of Santa Monica, participated in the exercise as an emergency sheltering operation.

The more each person does to prepare, the better off we will all be when a real natural disaster occurs. The annual "I've Got 7" Emergency Preparedness Pledge Drive can help you get ready by providing information on the seven basic steps for preparedness. Residents who complete the "I'm prepared!" pledge card during the month of November will be eligible for prizes in a drawing, offered valuable discounts or other incentives for being prepared. Visit www.smgov.net/ivegot7/ for more information and to pledge online, or pick up your pledge cards at city facilities, Red Cross offices and the Trader Joe's store at 3212 Pico Blvd.



RIGHT THIS WAY...

Ocean Park Boulevard was restriped this past winter between Lincoln Boulevard and 25th Street to provide for one lane of traffic in each direction and a center turn lane. The pilot project was designed to increase safety for drivers and pedestrians on this busy street.

The City has spent the past several months measuring the impacts of the restriping and evaluating whether the changes have addressed Santa Monicans' concerns. Are there fewer accidents? How is bus service affected? What changes have occurred on neighborhood streets?

Transportation Management staff would like your opinion and is surveying residents, visitors, business owners and employees on the redesigned street. Take the survey online at www.smgov.net/opbsurvey or call 310/458-8291 for a hard copy.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: SUSTAINABILITY

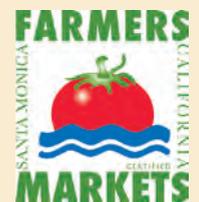
Santa Monica has released its fourth annual Sustainable City Report Card, marking the end of a very productive year towards achieving our sustainability goals. The 2008 Report Card highlights improvements in almost every sustainability goal area over the last year, showing examples of the benefits of collaboration between government, non-profit groups and the community. Some of these include:



- ▲ **GREEN BUILDINGS:** The Civic Center Parking Structure, which includes a solar photovoltaic roof canopy that generates 181 kilowatts of solar electricity, received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.
- ▲ **SOLAR SUCCESS:** Solar capacity in the city has doubled since the launch of Solar Santa Monica. There are 139 grid connected solar projects in the city representing 926 kilowatts of solar capacity.
- ▲ **MARKET MANIA:** More than 1 million people annually visit our four thriving farmer's markets, purchasing fresh, locally-grown organic produce.
- ▲ **HOUSEHOLD HELP:** Residents using the Household Hazardous Waste Center kept more than 137,000 pounds of hazardous materials and almost 19,000 pounds of batteries out of landfills.
- ▲ **BIKING IS BIG:** Lots of residents and visitors are biking around town. More than 20,000 bikes were valet parked for free this year, 36,000 to date.
- ▲ **TOTAL TREES:** The number of trees in the community forest grew 2% this year.
- ▲ **OUTSTANDING OPEN SPACE:** Santa Monica's open space system now includes 245 acres of state beach and 27 community parks.
- ▲ **PEOPLE PARTICIPATE:** More than 15,000 people participated in this year's Santa Monica Festival, 20,000 people attended the AltCar and AltBuild Expos, and attendance at GLOW was 200,000!

TO VIEW THE SUSTAINABLE CITY PLAN, OUR PROGRESS TO DATE AND THE WORK TO BE DONE, GET A COPY OF THE 2008 REPORT CARD AT CITY HALL OR VISIT WWW.SMEPRD.COM

Be sustainable this season and do your holiday shopping locally at the Santa Monica Farmers' Markets. Not only are the Farmers Markets the perfect place to seek inspiration and ingredients for all of your winter meals, but also a great place to find the perfect gifts from almond brittle and tasty nuts, to handmade soaps and beeswax candles and of course olive, walnut or pistachio oils and fresh fruit jams and jellies, to name a few.



SANTA MONICA FARMERS MARKETS:

WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:30 am – 1:30 pm, 3rd St. at Arizona Ave

SATURDAY DOWNTOWN MARKET

8:30 am – 1:00 pm, 3rd St. at Arizona Ave

SATURDAY PICO FARMERS MARKET

8:00 am – 1:00 pm, Virginia Ave Park, Pico & Cloverfield

SUNDAY MARKET

9:30 am – 1:00 pm, 2640 Main St at Ocean Park

NOTE: THE SATURDAY DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET WILL BE CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 29, 2008.

SEASCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

<i>Santa Monica on ICE</i>	1
<i>Budget Cycle Begins</i>	1
<i>Homeless Services Success Story</i>	2
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<i>Holiday Safety Tips</i>	5
<i>Citywide Reads Announces 2009 Selection</i>	6
<i>Sustainable City Report Card Release</i>	7
<i>RecScape</i>	Insert



LONG-RANGE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

MAJOR MATTERS EXPECTED TO COME BEFORE CITY COUNCIL IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY:

- ▲ Measure V review, update and financial plan
- ▲ Study session on the operations plan for the Annenberg Beach House
- ▲ Review of LUCE Update and Ocean Park Boulevard Streetscape Project
- ▲ Ordinance banning single-use plastic bags in Santa Monica retail establishments.
- ▲ Ordinance regarding solar energy design standards

The long-range nature of this list means that some items may not be heard in the month originally scheduled, as new matters emerge and agendas are adjusted. No item will come to Council before the date originally published. Check the status of upcoming agenda items at www.smgov.net.

 City of **Santa Monica**
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[RecScape Community Programs Guide / Winter 2008/2009](#)

To comment on this issue mail to: seascape@smgov.net

[SeaScape Archive](#)

ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE OPENING SPRING 2009



The Annenberg Community Beach House, a five-acre oceanfront beach facility located at 415 PCH, will open to the public this spring! For more information on the Beach House, please visit us online at www.beachhouse.smgov.net, or send an email to beachhouse@smgov.net to be added to the project's interest list.



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