Be Excited! Be Prepared: Santa Monica Constructs the Future

The new community outreach campaign called Be Excited! Be Prepared: Santa Monica Constructs the Future launched in September and is now in full swing. City staff is actively working with community partners to keep residents, businesses and visitors up-to-date and engaged on the progress of key capital improvement projects underway around Santa Monica.

Construction is already underway on some key projects. Here are a few highlights:

Expo Light Rail Line The groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Line was held on September 12, marking the beginning of Expo construction in Santa Monica. Once complete, the line will travel from Downtown Los Angeles to Downtown Santa Monica in approximately 46 minutes. Pre-construction work related to utility relocation took place throughout the summer and fall. Significant progress was also made on the design of the Expo Maintenance Facility, incorporating input from two community design workshops. An additional workshop on the design of the buffer area adjacent to the Maintenance Facility will be held in late November.

Palisades Garden Walk and Town Square Site preparation is underway at the park site across from City Hall. The surface parking lot material has been moved into mounds, making the site feel more like a park every day. A group of mature trees were moved to the sloped area between City Hall and the 10 Freeway; non-native palm trees were relocated to the Santa Monica Woodlawn Cemetery; and the Three Amigos ficus trees were relocated to the northeast corner of the park site where they will remain as part of the park.

Santa Monica Bike Center The new Bike Center is nearly complete and will be ready to open any day now! Located at the corners of Colorado Ave. and 2nd Street, and Broadway and 4th Street, the Center will provide various amenities for cyclists. In preparation for its opening, new bike lanes have been striped on surrounding blocks.

3rd Court Water Main Replacement The water main at 3rd Court between Broadway and Wilshire Boulevard is undergoing removal and replacement. The portion between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona is almost complete, and work will continue on the other blocks between now and early 2012, with a break over the holiday period.

Please email smconstructs@smgov.net with questions or feedback about the “Be Excited! Be Prepared” outreach campaign.
GETTING TO LIGHT RAIL

When the Expo trains begin running in 2015, Santa Monica will be ready to get passengers to and from the stations on foot, bicycle and connecting transit. More walkable and connected neighborhoods with housing, employment, and neighborhood services close to the new stations will be underway, based on the exciting plans that the city is developing with the community right now.

FIRST STOP: BERGAMOT STATION

The Bergamot Area Plan will provide more direct, comfortable and green pathways to and from Bergamot Station with a pedestrian-scaled street and improved connections. The regional bike path will connect with a bicycle network as described in the city’s new Bike Action Plan. Recreational and commuting cyclists will enjoy a range of services, like repair facilities and bike parking.

NEXT STOP: MEMORIAL PARK STATION

The Memorial Park Master Plan effort will begin next year, building around a transit hub with bicycle facilities and shuttles to Santa Monica College and the medical centers to provide a seamless car-free commuter experience to some of our busiest destinations.

TERMINUS STATION: DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA

Planning is now underway for the Colorado Esplanade, an inspired stroll from the 4th Street station into downtown and to the Pier. On October 26, community members walked Colorado with internationally renowned landscape architects Peter Walker Partners and brought their ideas to a workshop to redesign this pivotal public space and future city gateway.

Community participation is a vital part of the planning efforts. Visit www.bergamotplan.net and www.smgov.net/planning to find out more and sign up for the interest lists.

CityTV welcomes back Kena Chin as the new anchor of Santa Monica Update, your source for all local news. After taking time off to start a family, Kena’s back and is looking forward to bringing you the best local news coverage. Tune in to Santa Monica Update daily at 9 a.m., noon, 6 and 10:30 p.m. on CityTV channel 16 or watch on demand at www.citytv.org.
We’re In It Together: 
An Update on Homeless Issues

Looking for a way to become more hands-on and engaged in local efforts to address homelessness? Visit the city’s new Addressing Homelessness website at www.smgov.net/homelessness. You will find information on city initiatives and local and regional efforts on this complex issue, as well as volunteer opportunities and Action Plan updates. Stay informed!

Make a Real Difference this Holiday Season: Give Local

The holiday season presents many of us with renewed energy and a charitable spirit. Plan early and learn more about how you can assist those in need this winter. The city and partner service providers welcome the year-end rush of support! Our goal is to connect people to services to move individuals off our streets and into housing. To this end, we encourage you to contact local service providers directly to find out how you can support their efforts. You can make a financial contribution, find a volunteer service opportunity, organize a food or clothing drive at your office or place of worship and more. Please visit www.smgov.net/homelessness for information on how to contact a Santa Monica-based homeless service provider to discuss your idea and kick off the holidays by helping those in need.

A Resolution to Make and Keep

When 2011 has come to an end, keep the community spirit alive in 2012 by joining the city, community leaders and your neighbors on the evening of January 25 for the annual Homeless Count. Over 200 community volunteers will take to the streets to visually count homeless people in our community. The information gathered is used to gauge progress on this issue and allocate resources effectively. Make creating a difference in your community an early resolution for the New Year!

Visit www.smgov.net/homelessness for details and to RSVP.

Urban Forest Master Plan Update

Throughout the urban forest master planning process that took place last summer and fall, one thing was clear: the community is passionate about Santa Monica’s urban forest. Nearly 200 people participated in several public meetings covering everything from characteristics of different tree species to street tree selection. Over 600 people submitted comments online, over the phone, by mail and through a survey. Working with city staff, the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force incorporated community input into the draft plan. In October and November, the plan was reviewed by the Landmarks, Recreation & Parks, and Planning Commissions, as well as the Environmental Task Force. A draft Urban Forest Master Plan will be presented to City Council on December 13 for adoption. Once adopted, the policies and procedures in the plan will guide the long-term growth of city trees to ensure the continued health of this important community asset.

Visit www.santamonicatrees.com for more information on the urban forest and the master planning process.

STAY INFORMED – Sign up now for SM Alerts

The City of Santa Monica recently launched a new mass notification system called SM Alerts to keep our community informed in the event of an emergency. SM Alerts is capable of delivering the message within minutes of an event across a variety of platforms – including phone, email or text message. Just set up a profile and choose how you prefer to be reached. You can even select locations of interest to you, such as your home, a relative’s home or your child’s school. SM Alerts will also be used to recall essential city personnel in the event of an emergency, making sure the people you depend on are here when you need them the most.

SM Alerts utilizes the telephone companies’ 9-1-1 database to contact land-line telephone numbers, whether listed or unlisted. If the call is picked up by an answering machine, the system will leave a recorded message. If the number called is busy or does not answer, the system will redial the number in an attempt to deliver the message. While land-line numbers have been automatically included in the system, many residents and people who work in the city will prefer to be notified immediately via mobile phone, text or email, or on a non-traditional land-line such as a VoIP phone. Users must register alternate contact information at www.SMAlerts.net in order to ensure messages are received on their preferred device.

By taking a few moments to sign up, you’ll receive the most up-to-date information in an emergency situation. There’s even an opportunity to register for updates on items of community interest like construction, traffic, Big Blue Bus detours and more. People not able to use the online system may register by contacting the Office of Emergency Management at 310.458.2263. SM Alerts is free and available to all who live, work and play in Santa Monica.
TIME FOR CHANGE

The seasons are changing – it’s getting cooler, and we’ve already had our first rains. It’s time for one more change: adjust your garden watering schedule by cutting back the number of days and amount of time you water your plants. Visit www.sustainablesm.org/landscape and click on Watering Schedule for recommendations.

Want to make it even easier? We’re offering a $200 rebate towards irrigation controllers that will automatically figure it out for you by using real-time weather data and information about the plants, irrigation, shade, soil, and slope at your garden. Visit the website for more information.

Airport Avenue Demonstration Gardens Show the Way

Anyone can practice sustainable landscaping – and the new Airport Demonstration Gardens show you how. The demonstration gardens are made up of three custom designs that blend seamlessly into one another and are aptly named Play, Relax, and Entertain. Each design offers a unique feature that fits the Santa Monica lifestyle and climate conditions. They save water, filter rainfall and eliminate urban runoff, reduce air pollution and green waste and provide habitat for birds, bees, and butterflies. They also provide a place for residents and visitors to enjoy nature.

Through a companion website and support from local vendors, we provide the inspiration and tools you need to install similar landscapes at home with free designs, parts specifications, installation guidelines and long-term maintenance tips. Even shopping for plants and materials has been made easier with the development of a mobile website that has all the pertinent lists right at your fingertips. Scan the QR code below with your smartphone to go straight there.

And to help you get you started, there are a variety of rebates and funding available for your sustainable landscaping project. The City of Santa Monica was awarded $310,000 in grant funds from the California Department of Water Resources for these types of projects and has a total of $600,000 in funding available to help residents and businesses install their own sustainable gardens.

- Sustainable Landscape Grant: up to $5,000 to redo an entire landscape
- Parkway Cash for Grass Rebate: up to $2,000 to curb the sprinklers in the parkway
- Drip Irrigation Rebate: up to $1,000 to replace the sprinklers around shrubs and plantings with drip irrigation.

Get inspired at the new Airport Demonstration Gardens, located at 2200 Airport Avenue. For more information, questions and how to apply for rebates, visit www.sustainablesm.org/landscape or call 310.458.2213.

Leaf blowers pollute the air we breathe, posing multiple health risks for operators and residents alike.

- Leaf blowers are illegal – they’re noisy and blow pollutants and allergens into the air. Property owners, property and landscape management companies, individual operators and/or water customers can be fined for using them. When dealing with leaves this fall:
  - DO put your leaves to good use. Get a composter for your yard or place them in your green yard waste collection bin, and come spring they’ll be an excellent soil additive.
  - DO consider just “leave-ing” them. Leaves left in place help soil retain moisture and minimize irrigation needs. Or use them as mulch in your landscaping – they will decompose and enrich the soil.
  - DON’T use a hose to wash down paved surfaces or sweep debris into the gutter. It’s a waste and also violates city code.

For more information on Santa Monica’s Leaf Blower Ban and alternatives, or to report leaf blower use, visit www.sustainablesm.org/leafblower

Visit the Farmers Market’s NEW website: www.smgov.net/farmersmarket!
CELEBRATE REUSE THIS SEASON

Green Holiday Workshop and Textile Recycling Day
Saturday, November 19 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Drop-in workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue

Modernize your holiday wrapping and recycle old textiles at the Resource Recovery & Recycling Division's Holiday Workshop. We'll take all clean, dry textiles like clothing, shoes, towels, sheets, scarves, hats, bags and belts and find a new home for them. Clothing in good condition can often be used or resold by local charities. Some recovered fabrics become wiping and polishing cloths; old jeans can become wall insulation and cotton can actually be composted!

Bring a T-shirt (new or used) for the workshop and learn how to make a no-sew t-shirt bag for wrapping gifts – an awesome way to make your holidays a little greener!

Quarterly Compost Giveaway
Saturday, January 21 | 7 a.m. until it's gone!
City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue

Compost has been recognized as a valuable soil amendment for centuries. Use of compost in gardens is an effective way to improve soil health, increase plant production, and reduce the use of water, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. To thank Santa Monica residents for participating in the city's green cart collection program, every resident qualifies for up to five large burlap coffee sacks of nutrient-rich compost, free of charge. Please bring a shovel, gloves and your own bags or containers if you prefer them to the burlap sacks.

WHAT'S NEW IN PARKS & AT THE BEACH

Seven old beach restrooms buildings have been completely replaced with ADA compliant facilities offering a safe and clean experience for users and an array of complimentary amenities. In addition to individual toilet stalls, sinks and hand-dryers, each restroom facility offers outdoor showers and foot washes with automatic shutoff; bike racks; drinking fountains; seating; and a perforated, anodized aluminum screen with large graphic image. These graphic images help distinguish and identify each restroom building, showcase information about each location and give the restroom a modern look whether seen from a distance or up close.

Each graphic image starts with the name of the street, thus locating the restroom within the larger city context. Next, we see a large photographic image, some that seem historic. These images and the stories behind them are part of Beach Stories, www.smbeachstories.com, a city web-based project about the people, places and events that shaped the iconic shore and gave rise to our beach culture. From a distance, you will see pixelated images of a grunion run, the “ink well” (a historic gathering place for African Americans), the Palisades cliffs, beach lifeguarding, beach volleyball and photography that evokes Tongva or Gabrieleno tale. On each screen wall is a plaque identifying the screened image which further explains the content and source material.

For more information on these events or other questions about the city's recycling programs, call the Resource Recovery & Recycling Division at 310.458.2223 or visit www.smgov.net/r3
4TH ANNUAL SENIOR & FAMILY ARTS FESTIVAL

On September 17, over 250 people of all ages participated in the 4th Annual Senior & Family Arts Festival at the Senior Center. Participants enjoyed performances by the a cappella group Westside Voices and the Pocket Jazz Trio. Zumba Gold and Healthy Cooking demonstrations provided a focus on wellness, and interactive activities included reusable bag decoration; creating a terrarium from recycled materials; and a card-making activity to express appreciation to our local veterans. Exhibits of art by local artists, members of the Senior Center, and students from the Santa Monica Alternative School House inspired many participants to create and display their own pieces with materials and advice from instructors on hand.

50+ & SENIOR PROGRAMS

1450 Ocean Ave | 310.458.8644 | www.smgov.net/seniors

Located in beautiful Palisades Park, the Senior Center offers an array of fun and worthwhile activities, SMC Emeritus classes, seasonal events, and free City Wi-Fi for adults aged 50+. Ongoing activities at the Senior Center for those aged 50+ include ballroom dancing, Zumba Gold, yoga, Tai Chi, health education, movies, group exercise, improv, cultural arts workshops and Bridge. These activities are complemented by WISE & Healthy Aging’s popular Healthy Lunch program at the Center. Keep an eye out this spring for WISE & Healthy Aging’s upcoming Cyber Café at Ken Edwards Center, which will offer food, computer access and classes as well as interesting activities in an updated environment. A current schedule of activities can be found on our new website: www.smgov.net/senior. Membership in the center is free.

HEALTHY LUNCH PROGRAM BY WISE & HEALTHY AGING Stay healthy with good nutrition. Fresh lunches are available to seniors 60+ at locations throughout the city at 11:45 a.m. Reservations must be made in person or by telephone one day in advance between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Suggested donation is $2.50. Mon – Fri: Senior Center 310.458.2219; Ken Edwards Center 310.395.8478; Reed Park 310.458.8315; WISE Adult Day Service Center 310.394.9871 ext 220. Thursday Only: Virginia Avenue Park 310.394.9871 ext 220

Additionally, a hearty box lunch is available on Saturdays on a first-come, first-served basis at the Senior Center from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SMC EMERITUS AT VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK

Check www.smc.edu/emeritus for the 2011 fall class schedule.

MEALS ON WHEELS Healthy meals and in-home visits are available daily to people who are homebound or unable to shop or cook for themselves. Call 310.394.5133, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. for info.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS WISE & Healthy Aging and other local service providers offer services including Dial-A-Ride; independent living and caregiver support; money management; health services, care management; housing assistance; volunteer opportunities; friendly home visiting and more. Call 310.394.9871 for info, or visit www.wiseandhealthyaging.org.

While you’re there, check out WISE Connection, a new membership-based program from WISE & Healthy Aging.

The Senior Resource Directory & Quick Reference Guide is available at www.smc.edu/emeritus. Hard copies are available at the Senior Center.

Santa Monica

Police Activities League

PAL provides educational, cultural and recreational programs for youth ages 6-17 at the PAL Youth Center. Activities offered this winter include classes in culinary arts, computer classes, basketball camp, acrobatics, indoor football, SAT prep classes and college tours. The PAL Fitness Gym at Virginia Avenue Park is open to youth ages 6 – 24. Activities include fitness classes, karate, boxing, sports training, weight training and open workouts. Coaches and instructors for the PAL program include Santa Monica Police Officers, staff from the Community and Cultural Services Departments, and volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, PAL is looking for volunteers to help with homework assistance, special events and field trips.

PAL YOUTH CENTER AT MEMORIAL PARK
1401 Olympic Blvd.
Hours: Mon-Fri noon-10 p.m., Sat noon-6 p.m.
Friday Nights w/PAL for youth ages 13-17, 6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Weekly signup required.

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

PAL FITNESS GYM @ VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK
2200 Virginia Avenue
Hours: Mon-Fri noon-8 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

1401 Olympic Blvd | 310.458.8988 | www.smgov.net/pal

Volunteer Santa Monica

The holidays are a great time to share your talents and interests by volunteering in the community. The city’s Animal Shelter, Santa Monica Public Library, Westside Special Olympics, Farmers Market and Senior Center are on the lookout for volunteers. Get started today by calling 310.458.8300 ext 5265, or email vol@smgov.net.

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK VOLUNTEERS

We’re always in need of tutors, reading partners, event support or Saturday Kidz Zone helpers. Please call 310.458.8688 for more info.
Don't let cold winter days keep you away from Virginia Avenue Park! Youth ages 6-24 are welcome to sign up for free educational, recreational and cultural arts programs at Virginia Avenue Park. Homework assistance and tutorial programs are available for students from elementary school age through college. Be sure to check out VAP's field trips, seasonal camps, cultural arts workshops and classes in dance, fitness, martial arts and boxing.

**Saturday Kidz Zone**
Drop in every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for arts & crafts, outdoor games and much more. Youth up to age 11 are welcome to the Saturday Kidz Zone each week throughout the season – no registration required. All programs are free.

**Teen Center – Ages 12-24**
Come and see what the new Teen Center is all about – it's free and open to all youth ages 12-24 that live or attend school in Santa Monica. Is art your thing? Whether you like to draw, paint or DJ, the Teen Center has an art class for you. The center also offers sports programs, social groups, field trips and academic support for college students.

In addition to academic and college preparation, we also offer urban art, digital media, oil painting, silk screening and DJ classes. If you are looking to get together with others with similar interests – join the Men's Group, Book Club, Leadership Group, Women's Group and Semillas de Pio Pico, a college group.

We are also connected – the Teen Center partners with agencies that provide employment and mental health services. Jewish Vocational Services, Chrysalis, St. Johns and CLARE Foundation have office hours to provide services. Parents are encouraged to attend monthly meetings to learn more about what is going on at the Teen Center. Stop by and check us out.

**Other Ongoing Winter Programs**
SMC's Emeritus Program offers classes for seniors here at Virginia Ave Park. Check [www.smc.edu/emeritus](http://www.smc.edu/emeritus) for more scheduling and more information.

Connections for Children, Santa Monica College and Westside Family Health Center offer child development activities for children up to 5 years old Monday through Friday mornings. Contact the park or visit our website.

In partnership with local nonprofit agencies, Virginia Ave Park continues to offer assistance with employment searches and workshops for youth, parent education workshops, mental health counseling, childhood obesity prevention and other community resource services.

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**City Partnership With School District Opens More Doors to Fitness!**

*Santa Monica is an active community. Our parks, beach, recreation facilities and fields are some of the most popular amenities offered by the city. Now, an exciting new partnership with the School District creates even more opportunities for fitness and recreation. Through this agreement, facilities at Santa Monica High School are now available for use by city programs and the community during specified non-school hours. This includes the brand-new synthetic turf field, as well as the Drake Pool and Natatorium, dance studio, wrestling room and south gymnasium – all available for permitted use. The track, outdoor basketball courts and tennis courts are open for drop-in and permitted use.*

**Field and track**
Visit [www.smgov.net/recreation](http://www.smgov.net/recreation) or contact joyce.locke@smgov.net or 310.458.8300 ext 1.

**Outdoor tennis courts**
Visit [www.smgov.net/recreation](http://www.smgov.net/recreation) or call 310.394.6011.

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**Memorial Park Fitness Room Returns**

- Outdoor basketball courts, swimming pool, dance studio, wrestling room, and gymnasium
- Contact the School District Facilities Office at facilitypermits@smmusd.org or call 310.395.3204 ext 71586.

*Looking for an easygoing gym experience with top-notch equipment? Head to the Memorial Park Fitness Room. Open Monday – Friday, noon – 9 p.m., and on weekends noon – 7 p.m. Daily entry is $3 for residents or $4 for non residents. Four-week passes are available at just $24 for residents or $32 for nonresidents.*
HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN SANTA MONICA

Light up the spirit of the season and celebrate throughout Santa Monica! This season will see the return of the popular ICE at Santa Monica skating rink, Winterlit™ in Downtown Santa Monica and spirited holiday events throughout the city.

ICE Grand Opening Community Celebration
Tuesday, November 15 – 5 p.m.; 5th & Arizona
Downtown Santa Monica is proud to present the 5th Anniversary of ICE at Santa Monica with a Grand Opening Community Celebration. Get into the spirit of the season in a unique outdoor setting under the stars. The evening will feature a night of free skating, special guests, skating performances and a DJ after the ceremony.
ICE at Santa Monica will be open to the public daily starting November 11, 2011 through January 16, 2012. Admission and skate rental is $12. Fun events take place all week long, such as Lil’ Tot Time, Wacky Hat Wednesdays, Wednesday After Hours Broom Ball, Thursday College Nights, Friday Rock ‘n’ Skate, and more. The popular LA Kings Hockey Clinics return on Sunday mornings, and skate lessons are available on Saturday mornings.
ICE Hours of Operation:
Monday-Thursday: 2 p.m. – 10 p.m.,
Friday: 2 p.m. – Midnight
Saturday: 10 a.m. – Midnight
Sunday: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
*Holiday hours may vary.

Santa’s Little Savers
Friday, November 25
Shop Downtown Santa Monica, Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Place on Black Friday and one of Santa’s Little Savers may surprise you by paying for your purchase, up to $100.

Downtown Santa Monica Winterlit Holiday Celebration & Concert starring Andy Grammer & Savannah Outen
Saturday, November 26, 6 p.m.; Third Street Promenade & Wilshire
Celebrate Black Friday weekend and kick-start the Downtown Santa Monica holiday shopping season with the annual Winterlit Holiday Celebration and Concert starring break-out recording artist Andy Grammer who is headlining this year’s concert! Bring the entire family for a special evening holiday concert when Grammer returns to the Downtown Santa Monica, where he was discovered singing on Third Street Promenade. Andy will be taking a break from touring with Colbie Caillat to headline the Winterlit Holiday Concert, an event close to his heart! Opening for Andy will be YouTube sensation, Savannah Outen. You won’t want to miss this show!

Chanukah Menorah Lightings
Tuesday, December 20-27, Sundown; Third Street Promenade Center Court
Downtown Santa Monica will celebrate the Chanukah season with a traditional menorah lighting every evening at sundown. Come celebrate with local synagogues and temples throughout the week.

Main Street Tree Lighting
Saturday, December 3, Begins at 6 p.m.
Meet the neighbors for a toast at Main Street’s delightfully unconventional holiday event with music and a traditional tree-lighting at California Heritage Square, and continuing with a candlelight walk to the Edgemar Center’s famous shopping-cart tree, special events in participating stores, and strolling carolers. And don’t miss the Main Street Holiday Sidewalk Sale, all day December 3 & 4! www.mainstreetsm.com

Do You Have Family Visiting for the Holidays?
Is space an issue in your home when family visits for the holidays? Do you worry you won’t have enough time to entertain and show them all the sights? The Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau (SMCVB) is here to help! From mid-November through late January, SMCVB and its hotel partners show their appreciation and lend a hand through the Extra Bedroom Program, a special program exclusive to Santa Monica residents. With proof of residency, you can take advantage of discounts at participating hotels. For a full list of hotels, events and special holiday offers from local businesses, visit www.SantaMonica.com/extradorm

Looking for a special Santa Monica-themed gift? SMCVB has unique gifts at our four visitor information centers on Main Street, the Third Street Promenade, the Santa Monica Pier and in Palisades Park. Or, check out our new mobile visitor center, the “I Love Santa Monica” mobile at holiday events throughout the community. To find out where the I Love Santa Monica mobile will be next, visit www.santamonica.com/escape2SM.
MAKE A DATE WITH THE BEACH HOUSE THIS WINTER!
The pool may be closed for the winter, but it’s the ideal time to enjoy the many dimensions of the Annenberg Community Beach House. Back on the Beach Café is open throughout the year, and guests are welcome to spend time in the historic Guest House during public hours. Here’s three itineraries guaranteed to deliver a great day at the beach.

A Relaxing Day...
Start with breakfast at Back on the Beach Café, strolling yummy breakfast pasta, French toast with bananas and Nutella and fresh baked croissants. Grab a favorite read and choose a spot on the Guest House veranda, oceanfront courtyard or view deck; or bring your laptop or iPad® and catch up on emails and surf the Internet on free City Wi-Fi. Finish your day with a walk along the beach – take in the ocean, air and sky, and promise to do it again soon.

A Cultural Experience...
Reserve tickets for one of the free Beach=Culture events, and arrive early to enjoy a picnic in the courtyard, a walk down to the ocean, or a visit to the Marion Davies Guest House to discover a fact (or is it folklore?) about the fascinating woman who was the original inhabitant of the Beach House. Then, take in an outstanding concert, lecture or performance that will inspire scintillating water cooler conversation or impress your best friend.

Get Active
Make the Beach House a part of meeting your fitness goals, or get healthy while the kids play. You can check out beach tennis equipment, a volleyball or soccer ball from Guest Services, or bring your own age-appropriate toys and play in the sand, at the splash pad or on the courts.

For directed activities, try one of our drop-in classes: adult yoga, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 –10 a.m. or YogaBuddies for kids ages 5-11 on Sundays, 9 –10 a.m. Both are $15.

Outdoor grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. –5:30 p.m. Call 310.458.4904 or check www.annenbergbeachhouse.com for Gallery and Guest House hours.

BEACH=CULTURE
Beach=Culture events are free and reservations are required. Reserve your spot at www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/beachculture or call 310.458.4904.

Pacific Standard Time event: Telling Stories: the Woman’s Building Writers Workshop
November 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
As a part of their exhibit, DOIN’ IT IN PUBLIC: FEMINISM AND ART AT THE WOMAN’S BUILDING, Otis College of Art and Design in partnership with the New Short Fiction Series present WOMAN’S BUILDING WRITERS WORKSHOP AUTHORS featuring work by Bia Lowe, Deena Metzger and Terry Wolverton, performed by Jesse Holcomb, Barbara Keegan and Sally Shore. The evening includes a panel moderated by Cheryl Klein, director of Poets & Writers West.

More exciting winter Beach=Culture events include swing dancing with dance lessons, Quality Street, a silent film starring Marion Davies with live accompaniment by Maria Newman, Dance (a Pacific Standard Time event), and contemporary opera by The Industry.

LET’S STAY IN TOUCH!
We invite you to receive up to date information on pool openings, new programs, classes and opportunities. Like us on Facebook and sign up for the Beach House e-newsletters!

For information on seasonal hours, classes, parking and more please visit us at www.annenbergbeachhouse.com, call us at 310.458.4904 or email beachhouse@smgov.net.

The Annenberg Community Beach House is wheelchair accessible and ADA compliant. For disability related accommodations, please call Guest Services at 310.458.4904.

The Annenberg Community Beach House at Santa Monica State Beach is operated by the City of Santa Monica. The Beach House is made possible by a generous gift from the Annenberg Foundation, at the direction of Wallis Annenberg, and in partnership with the City of Santa Monica and California State Parks. Additional funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

On exhibit through December 4 at the Gallery
Cultural Abstraction, Contemporary Figurations: the work of seven contemporary figurative painters in Santa Monica

Constant movement in delicate balance between figurative and abstract representations – Francisco Cabas, Quinne Larson, Abdul Mazid, Kathleen Melian, Jessica Nicol, Elizabeth Weber and Elena Wolek from the Santa Monica College Art Mentor Program spin the narrative in their work into a thread that joins seemingly incongruent concepts in a visual dialogue, investigating and reporting ideas about cultural identity, gender empowerment, dislocation, consumption and human regeneration.

THE SAND & SEA FITNESS ROOM has moved to its off-season location at Memorial Park.

THE SAND & SEA FITNESS ROOM has moved to its off-season location at Memorial Park.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOURS AND FEES, PLEASE CALL 310.458.4939.
BIG BLUE BUS Getaways!

When you enjoy a hassle-free trip to the Rose Parade or bowl game on the Big Blue Bus, you’re with the winning team no matter who you root for!

ROSE PARADE AND ROSE BOWL GAME
Monday, January 2

The 123rd Rose Parade, themed Just Imagine … will feature majestic floral floats, high-stepping equestrian units, and spirited marching bands from throughout the nation, while the 98th Annual Rose Bowl hosts the most tradition-steeped game in college football. Trip options include transportation to the parade and game, with grandstand seating at the parade. Please note Big Blue Bus does not sell tickets to the Rose Bowl Game. Transportation to/from the parade OR game only: $40 per person. Transportation to the parade AND the game (no seating): $75 per person. Transportation to/from the parade with grandstand seating: $75 per person. Transportation to/from the parade with grandstand seating plus transportation only to the game: $100 per person.

TICKET INFO
Tickets are on sale now. For more information go to www.BigBlueBus.com and click on Getaways, call 310.451.5444 (TTD: 310.395.6024) or visit Blue: the Transit Store & Customer Service Center, 223 Broadway (just west of the Third St. Promenade) in downtown Santa Monica.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Montana Avenue Holiday Walk
Friday, December 2, 5 – 9 p.m. Kick the Holiday season off with Montana Avenue’s annual Holiday Walk. You and your family are sure to find the perfect holiday gifts walking down twinkling streets filled with live music and festive fun! And of course, Santa will make an appearance. www.visitmontanaavenue.com.

Pico Boulevard Holiday Art Walk
Friday, December 2, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The eastern end of Pico Boulevard opens doors to celebrate the holidays and spotlight local, creative enterprises. Participating merchants will have arts and crafts exhibits, special discounts, live performances and raffle prizes. www.picopassport.com.

Seventeenth Annual Candy Cane Drive
Saturday, December 3 Santa Claus is coming to town early this year, escorted by Santa Monica Police and Firefighters. LISTEN for sirens and LOOK for him on the bright red fire engine – candy canes for all! Santa’s scheduled stops are as follows:
- 10:30-10:50 a.m. Douglas Park @ California Avenue & 25th Street
- 11:00-11:15 a.m. Christine Reed Park @ California Avenue & Lincoln
- 11:25-11:50 a.m. Third Street Promenade & Wilshire
- 1:15-1:30 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park @ 2200 Virginia Avenue
- 1:45-2:00 p.m. Marine Park @ Marine & 17th Streets
- 2:15-2:30 p.m. Clover Park @ Ocean Blvd & 25th Street

For more information, call the Santa Monica Police Department Community Relations Office at 310.458.8474.

ARTIFACTS

YOUR WEEKLY DOSE OF ART: THE PALETTE is a weekly email sent each Wednesday highlighting a handful of art and cultural events happening in Santa Monica every Thursday through Sunday. To sign up, visit www.smgov.net/arts

Want to see your art featured in The Palette? Each week The Palette features an image of art that reflects Santa Monica. Images of all mediums are accepted. Selected artists will be featured for one to two weeks and will include credit to the artist. Images must be horizontal (6” w x 2” h) and high resolution (300 dpi jpg). Please send one or two images along with the title of the work, artist's name and website, and photo credits if applicable to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net.

ON STAGE @ THE MILES The historic Miles Playhouse presents family-friendly performances year-round. For a schedule, visit www.milesplayhouse.org or call 310.458.8634.

- BOOM KAT DANCE THEATER PRESENTS STATIONS – NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 30
  An Original Holiday Dance / Theater Production.
  Story and music by Parmer Fuller and developed by Boom Kat Dance

It’s Los Angeles in December, but the holiday spirit eludes the characters in stories that unfold near five bus stops around the city. A young, hip Lakers’ fan loses his prized autographed basketball, an arthritic Santa is overworked and under-appreciated, a baker woman has quit her job rather than sacrifice her nutritional and environmental standards, and a homeless woman has only one wish: her own Christmas tree. One by one, they happen by a young family with nowhere to go, and ignoring their own problems, respond to the sight of the helpless, innocent baby with acts of generosity and selflessness. The music combines features of dance music and film music, and five sections feature the a cappella group Sonos, appearing on the NBC show The Sing-Off this fall.

For schedule, ticket prices and reservations, visit www.boomkatdance.org or call 310.202.9229.

- GET READY FOR THE RETURN OF FIRESIDE AT THE MILES
Six weeks of intimate performances beside the historic fireplace. Come in and shake off the cold, settle into a cushioned seat, order an organic coffee or tea from the indoor beverage bar and enjoy! For a full schedule of events, please visit www.fireside.milesplayhouse.org.
Santa Monica a Government Innovator

The city's 25 Wi-Fi hotspots, numerous economic development opportunities, educational activities in our schools and libraries and even our traffic signals are all supported by bandwidth available through the city's cutting-edge broadband initiative, Santa Monica City NetSM. And lately it's been getting some well-deserved recognition. In September, InformationWeek, a leading news source for information technology professionals, honored Santa Monica City Net with its prestigious Government Innovator Award. Santa Monica's broadband initiative was nominated for the network's ability to provide speeds of 10 Gigabits per second, achieve a 67% cost reduction, and support economic and technological growth opportunities by offering companies a leading edge broadband infrastructure.

For more information on broadband for business, visit www.smcitynet.com

Citizen-Engaged Community Designation

The Public Technology Institute, a national, non-profit research organization focused on technology and policy trends impacting local government, recently designated Santa Monica as a Citizen-Engaged Community. This award recognizes the city's use of web, telephone, and mobile technologies to connect residents, businesses, and guests with city services. Santa Monica is the only city of its size to receive this designation for 2011-13.

PTI's Citizen-Engaged Communities Designation Program challenges local governments to achieve high standards in citizen participation, seamless service delivery and democratic accountability. The centerpiece of Santa Monica's application was the city's use of a centralized customer relationship management system called Government Outreach, or GO system. Using GO, residents can report issues, request a service or find more information about an array of city services through the website or a mobile app available for iPhone® and Android™.

A complete list of services can be found at www.smgov.net/go.

SANTA MONICA CIVIC AUDITORIUM EVENTS

NOVEMBER
24    Thanksgiving Dinner
      Admission is free and all are welcome.
      www.westsidethanksgiving.org

DECEMBER
2-4    International Gem & Jewelry Show
      www.intergem.com
10     Santa Monica Symphony
      Open to the public, admission is free.
      www.smsymphony.org

JANUARY 2012
13-16  photo la
12     Opening Night Reception
      www.photola.com

The Civic Auditorium is served by Big Blue Bus lines 1, 3, 7, 8 and 10. Please call 310.458.2288, or visit us at www.santamonicacivic.org for more information. All events are subject to change without notice.

It’s Never too Late to Start a Garden – Even in Winter!

Calling all property owners and gardeners...now is the perfect time to start that garden you've been thinking about. Southern California's year-round growing season means you can start planting the vegetable and herb garden of your dreams anytime, even during winter. Find help through the Garden Sharing registry to make those dreams a reality. By joining the Garden Sharing Registry, homeowners are able to pick from a list of avid and experienced gardeners in need of room to grow. From garden type to length of commitment, you will work together to structure a winning partnership that makes sense to you. Then, you'll share in the bounty!

Visit www.smgov.net/communitygardens for more info or call 310.458.8573 ext 1.
ADULT PROGRAMS WINTER

MAIN LIBRARY
Green Living Workshop 101 A special three-hour workshop to help you educate and empower yourself to save our environment and you money. Sat 12/3, 10 a.m. Multipurpose Room
Los Angeles Clarinet Choir in Concert A 16-member choir performs favorites as well as new compositions. Sat 12/3, 3 p.m. MLK Jr. Auditorium
An Evening with Daphna Edwards Ziman The author discusses and signs her novel The Gray Zone. Wed 12/7, 7 p.m. MLK Jr. Auditorium

Charles Fox: Killing Me Softly Grammy® & Emmy® award winning composer discusses and sings about his life in music. Sat 1/14, 3 p.m. MLK Jr. Auditorium
Quality of Life Forum Fashion designer Taryn Rose discusses ways to improve your quality of life. Thu 1/19, 7 p.m. MLK Jr. Auditorium

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY
Classic Film & Discussion Series Film scholar Vivian Rosenberg screens and discusses Body and Soul. Mon 12/5, 2 p.m.
Mystery Book Group The Drowning Pool by Ross MacDonald. Wed 12/14, 7 p.m.
Montana Avenue Branch Book Group Wednesdays at 7 p.m. 11/16 The Hare with the Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal; 12/21 Nuns Behaving Badly by Craig A. Monson

FAIRVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY
Mindful Meditation Refresh yourself by paying attention to your senses, feelings, and thoughts. Tue 12/14, 7 p.m.
Seed Library Workshop Venice High School’s Learning Garden, an educational nonprofit, lends seeds to gardeners. Sat 1/28, 11 a.m.

OCEAN PARK BRANCH LIBRARY
History of Film Series Presented by documentary filmmaker Elaina Archer. Saturdays at 2 p.m. 12/3 It’s a Wonderful Life; 1/7 Singin’ in the Rain
Pulitzer Prize Winners Book Group Saturdays at 11 a.m. 12/17 The Fixer by Bernard Malamud; 1/21 Andersonville by MacKinlay Kantor
Young Adult & Young Adult at Heart Book Group Saturdays at 11 a.m. Thursdays at 7 p.m. 12/22 The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins; 1/26 Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

YOUTH PROGRAMS

MAIN LIBRARY
What Does It Mean to Be Safe? Award-winning author Rana DiOrio will help children and adults learn skills that will assist when encountering real-life situations. For children ages 4-8, with parents & caregivers. Wed 11/9, 1:45 p.m.
Creative Kids Club: Books for Cooks Enjoy a Thanksgiving-themed story and make a tasty seasonal treat with the chefs from Kitchen Kid. Space is limited. Sign-ups begin 11/1. For ages 4-8. Wed 11/16, 3:45 p.m.
Winter Break Family Fun Week! Spend your winter break enjoying quality family time at the library! For ages 2 and up. Family Winter Crafts Tue 12/27, 2 p.m. Family Flicks: Cars 2 Wed 12/28, 2 p.m. Family Musical Story Time Thu 12/29, 10:15 & 11 a.m.

Programs for Teens:
Food Fan Club Eat and learn about the food you eat with the Santa Monica Farmers’ Market. Thu 12/1 & 1/5, 4 p.m.
ACT Practice Test For grades 10-12 only. Sign-ups begin 10/17. Sat 11/19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
‘Racy Reads’ Teen Book Group Munch on snacks and talk about books and issues that matter to YOU at this monthly book club. For grades 8-12. Mon 11/28, 12/12 & 1/23, 5:30 p.m.

FAIRVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY
Jewelry Workshop Make your own beaded ring or bracelet. Space is limited – registration begins 11/7. For ages 8 and up. Sat 11/9, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Mad Science Program A science-themed show designed to amaze and entertain children and adults alike. All ages welcome. Sat 12/10, 2:30 p.m.

Swazzle Dream Carver Bilingual Musical Puppet Show Based on the children’s book Dream Carver, and the life of Oaxacan woodcarver Manuel Jiménez. All ages welcome. Sat 1/14, 2:30 p.m.

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY
Lego Club Have fun with Legos and build something amazing. All ages welcome. Sat 11/19 & 12/17, 3-4:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving Fun Stories about Thanksgiving and a craft after for ages 3 and up. Sat 12/5, 2 p.m.
Preschool Club: Holiday Stories Stories and crafts for 2-5 year olds. Tues 12/13 & 1/10, 3 p.m.
Vacation Special! Join us each afternoon for something special! Check with the branch for details. 12/19-12/22, 3:45-4:30 p.m.

OCEAN PARK BRANCH LIBRARY
Holiday Hoopla! Celebrate the winter holidays with a fun puppet show. Ages 3-7. Tue 12/6, 3:30 & 4:30 p.m.
Youth and Family Chess Every Wednesday from 3-6 p.m. All levels and ages are welcome, and parents too!
Thanksgiving Holiday Film Fun Join us for a screening of Disney’s Pocahontas. All ages welcome. Sat 11/19, 2 p.m.
Enjoy the Holidays with The Grinch We’ll be showing the animated How the Grinch Stole Christmas and other fun holiday programs. All ages welcome. Sat 12/10, 2 p.m.
Ocean Park Young Adult & Young at Heart Book Group A new monthly Young Adult Book Discussion Group open to adults and teens. Thu 12/22, 7 p.m.

SANTA MONICA MAIN LIBRARY
AND BRANCH INFORMATION
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 310.458.8600
Fairview Branch
2100 Ocean Park Blvd., 310.458.8681
Montana Avenue
1704 Montana Ave., 310.458.8682
Ocean Park Branch
2601 Main St., 310.458.8683

Library Hours
Main Library: Mon-Thu 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri/Sat 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m.
Branch: Mon-Thu 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Closed Fri and Sun.

Big Blue Bus Routes
Main Library: Lines 1, 7, 8, 10
Fairview Branch: Lines 6, 8, Sunset Ride and Crosstown Ride
Montana Avenue: Line 3 and Crosstown Ride
Ocean Park Branch: Lines 1 and 8
Bike parking available.

All city libraries are wheelchair accessible. To request a disability-related accommodation for events, call the library at 310.458.8600 (TDD 310.395.8499) at least three business days in advance.
The Santa Monica City Council regularly meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month in Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 1685 Main Street. Upcoming City Council meetings are scheduled for:

- November 22
- December 6 & 13 (December 6 is a special meeting – the regular meeting which would normally be held on December 27 is cancelled.)
- January 10 & 24

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

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

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

Check the status of upcoming agenda items at [www.smgov.net/council](http://www.smgov.net/council).

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**Check out the new Santa Monica Annual Report**

We invite you to browse our newest publication: the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Year End Report. This new report captures the city’s busy and productive last fiscal year. Major civic enhancement and renewal projects were completed while others began. Each city department’s significant work efforts are detailed. Here are a few highlights:

- Total number of synchronized traffic lights: 50
- New housing units developed: 261
- Amount of time cut from Fire Department’s response time: 30 SECONDS
- Percentage drop in serious crimes: 6%
- Gallons of water saved through conservation efforts: 123,000,000 (and the Santa Monica Water Treatment Plant reopened!)
- Number of trees we began adding to the urban forest: 1,000

View the report online at [www.smgov.net/YearEndReport](http://www.smgov.net/YearEndReport). To conserve paper and resources, and in keeping with Santa Monica's commitment to sustainable practices, printed copies are limited. If you would like a hard copy, you may pick one up at the City Hall information desk or email your address to 411@smgov.net to request a mailed copy. Comments may be directed to manager@smgov.net.

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**Santa Monica Airport Open House Tours, Art, Planes & Recreation**

You are invited to take a self-guided tour of the Santa Monica Airport campus. Get to know the airport a little better, whether you're visiting for the first time or coming back to see the latest changes. Drop in for a moment or stay for a while. Learn about the Phase II public process regarding the future of the airport that begins in January 2012.

**Saturday, December 10, 2011 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Free parking and check in at the Airport Administration Building**

3223 Donald Douglas Loop South

For more information, please call 310.458.8221.