

Seascape

AN EXTRAORDINARY
CITY IN EXCITING TIMES

CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS BRING
IMPROVED ACCESS
AND SAFETY

CLUB 1527 THRIVES
IN NEW LOCATION
ON FOURTH STREET



HERE'S TO 2014!

A YEAR IN PROGRESS

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A YEAR IN PROGRESS

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: January 9 and 23, February 6 and 20, and March 6 and 20. City Hall will also be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 19 and Presidents' Day on February 16. Payment and permit services are available every Friday; please call 310.458.8411 for the counter hours of your preferred service.

VOTE FOR THE MOST-LOVED SANTA MONICA BUSINESSES Join the more than 1,000 residents who voted last year for Santa Monica's Most Loved Businesses! The contest opens February 1 and will run throughout the month. Share your most-loved coffee shops, farmers' market vendors, restaurants and more by visiting buylocalsantamonica.com. Winners will be published in a future issue of the Santa Monica Daily Press.

BEACH = CULTURE is a series of free concerts, readings, talks, artist residencies and exhibits taking place at the Annenberg Community Beach House. In the gallery, the photography exhibit *Mental Landscapes* is on view through February 22. The gallery is open daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., though subject to closure due to event bookings. For more information call 310.458.4904 or visit annenbergbeachhouse.com.

TRY BIKING TO BEAT THE WINTER BLAHS

The Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau has several self-guided bike tours available on its website, santamonica.com. You can also check out the comprehensive guide to "Smart Cycling in Santa Monica" created by the Santa Monica Police Department, Planning and Community Development, Bike Center and Perry's Café. Visit smgov.net/smartcycling.

FINDING CREATIVE WAYS TO HELP MANAGE THE WATER SHORTAGE

Never before has such an extreme drought affected the entire state of California all at once. In fact, despite many days of heavy rain in our region this past December, even if we receive many more days of rain they will make only a small dent in the current water shortage. This reinforces the importance of everyone—city government, individual residents and businesses—working together to conserve water.

Although final numbers are not in yet, it appears that there was less rainfall in 2014 than in 2013, which was the state's driest calendar year in 119 years. And with a drought that could last (in varying levels of severity) for the next 30 years, the City of Santa Monica is taking a head-on approach to managing the water shortage. We're asking everyone—residents, businesses and property owners—to do their part and reduce their usage by 20%.

Although the city had sought to reduce water usage by 20% between August and December 2014, only a 3% reduction was reported by December, reinforcing the need for stronger guidelines. Proposals have been presented to City Council in recent months addressing:

- comprehensive, sustainable measures to manage the drought at a local level;
- plans for long-term water self-sufficiency; and
- new water rates that may go into effect early this year.



Lake Don Pedro Reservoir near Modesto, CA— Photo by Shannon Day

City Council will also consider changes to and expansions of current resources and rebates for water-conserving appliances, landscaping and irrigation.

Of course, we're not alone in our efforts. Cities throughout California are working to conserve water. Some are looking at ways to increase the groundwater supply while others are considering desalination efforts. But all are focusing on conservation and reinforcing the idea that even small changes can make a big difference.

There's proof of this right here in Santa Monica. Approximately 42% of single-family water customers and 80% of multi-family water customers in Santa Monica have already been successful at conserving water. Given that these households have already met a conservation threshold, they would not be asked to make further cuts if new regulations take effect after Council approval.

What's most important to remember is that your water-use habits matter. Take advantage of current rebates, take shorter showers, and turn the sprinklers off during and after rainy days. Take steps every day to conserve where you can.

Additional water-saving tips and information about incentives can be found at smgov.net/water.

THANK YOU, BOB HOLBROOK

When Bob Holbrook thinks back over his 24 years as the longest-serving elected official in Santa Monica the memories come flooding forward. He talks about his years on the Santa Monica school board, the City Council and serving two terms as mayor. He's proud of what the city has been able to accomplish during that time—from building a number of new parks to strengthening and centralizing infrastructure.

“Seeing some of the public spaces come together was very rewarding,” Holbrook says, referencing the long commitment to bring Virginia Park to its full potential. “We kept working to make that park bigger and better, and now it’s beautiful and located right in the center of the city.”

Holbrook also speaks passionately about his efforts to create a Commemorative Wall at Woodlawn Cemetery dedicated to the memories of Santa Monica residents who lost their lives at war. He tears up when remembering the dedication ceremony on Memorial Day 2014. “It was a special day. I’m glad the families have a place where they can go to remember their loved ones.”



Another memory close to Holbrook’s heart was the opportunity for Santa Monica to come together to help after Hurricane Katrina. “I was dumbstruck by the collapse of the infrastructure in so many cities after Katrina,” Holbrook says. He spearheaded the movement to adopt a Gulf Coast community as a sister city to help it recover. “Everyone in City Hall was onboard and it felt great to be working toward a common cause,” he recalls.

In addition to traveling during his retirement, Holbrook says he’s looking forward to spending quality time with his family. “Most of our friends have grandchildren in college but ours are still tiny. We want to spend time with them now, while they’re still young. I’m very lucky to have that opportunity and I’m going to enjoy it.”

Your City Council



Santa Monica City Council
(Front Row, L-R) Mayor Pro Tempore Tony Vazquez, Mayor Kevin McKeown, Ted Winterer (Back Row, L-R) Gleam Davis, Sue Himmelrich, Terry O’Day, Pam O’Connor

Photo by William Short

We have a new first-time mayor and a new face on City Council!

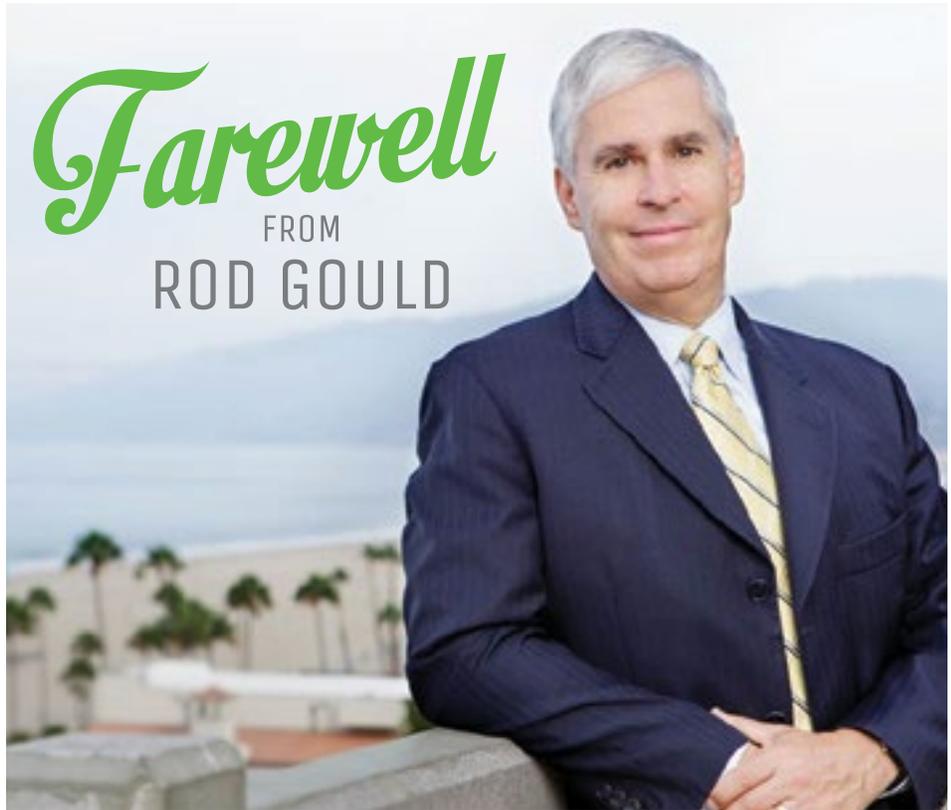
At the December 9, 2014 Council meeting, Kevin McKeown was sworn in for a fifth term and Pam O’Connor was sworn in for her sixth term. Sue Himmelrich took her first oath as a councilmember and opened the nominations for mayor, nominating Kevin McKeown as mayor and Tony Vazquez as mayor pro tempore. Following a unanimous vote, Mayor McKeown took the center seat on the Council dais.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CITY IN EXCITING TIMES

At the end of January I will bid farewell to the fair City of Santa Monica after five years of service as its city manager. The experience has been both a rare privilege and an honor.

Santa Monica is blessed with many natural, physical and human assets and advantages that allow it to reach higher and farther than most cities in our nation:

- Our city is known worldwide for its gorgeous beach, first-class parks and vital downtown.
- More recently, it has become a hub for technology, adding to an already-strong economic base of entertainment, healthcare, hospitality and retail businesses.
- Our city partners closely with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and Santa Monica College, and provides unparalleled financial support to local schools.
- The city provides very high levels of traditional municipal services such as police, fire, emergency preparedness, library, recreation, parks, culture and arts, infrastructure maintenance and utilities, planning, building and safety, and code enforcement, not to mention the fifth largest bus service in the region.
- Santa Monica goes even farther by providing exceptional human services to youth, seniors and the homeless, affordable housing support (now lacking a revenue source), technology services, including commercial broadband and public Wi-Fi, sustainability-related projects, services and education, and is now busy developing the most comprehensive index of community wellbeing in the world to inform public decision-making.
- Every year, the city balances its budget, pays down future liabilities and maintains strong reserves and a AAA bond rating.



Yes, traffic congestion in town is a serious impediment, just as it is in the Los Angeles region and metropolitan centers around the world. The city is taking positive steps to manage the regional problem locally through aggressive development of alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle. Yet this inconvenience understandably rankles many of us daily.

The city is also committed to very carefully metering growth despite strong development interest in Santa Monica. The debate over just when, where and under what conditions to allow new development has dominated the political landscape for over a decade with no sign of abating ... largely because Santa Monicans are strongly attached to their city's physical and social dimensions and guard them zealously.

As the city charts its future, I hope that Santa Monica will consider all who live here (long-term and short-term residents, young and old, and all socio-economic groups) and those who will become the next generation of residents. In this way, you can live up to the ancient Athenian Oath of civic duty to " ... transmit this City, not only not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

Rod Gould
City Manager



WHAT'S NEW FOR 2015? BIKESHARE!



The bikes have been selected, the hub locations are being chosen, and 2015 is the year Bikeshare takes to the streets of Santa Monica!

Bikeshare is the city's newest form of environmentally friendly transportation. When the program launches later this year, it will allow people to pick up a bike from one location in Santa Monica and drop it off at another close to their destination.

For the last three months, community members have been using an online tool at <http://www.santamonocabikeshare.com> to suggest a spot for a bike hub. With 500 bikes at 65 to 75 locations, there should be one or more hubs close to most city residents and visitors.

The City Council is scheduled to select a name for the program in February and set the rates in spring based on input from the November 2014 study session. While riders will be able to pay per-use, monthly membership will be the best deal, allowing a maximum amount of daily free time.

Anyone 16 years or older will be allowed to use Bikeshare, provided that minors (16 and 17-year-olds) are registered by a parent or guardian and wear their helmets. In fact, the city and CycleHop, LLC, the system operator, encourage all cyclists to wear helmets regardless of age.

Santa Monica has chosen a cutting-edge "smart bike" system manufactured by Social Bicycles (SoBi). Each bike features eight speeds, GPS and onboard technology to let you find, unlock and ride a bike. When you're done, simply return the bike to one of the convenient hub locations. The SoBi apps allow you to see your rides and share your experiences, too.

Are 8.3 square miles not enough? The whole Los Angeles region is looking into Bikeshare, and neighboring cities are also investigating compatible systems. Visit smgov.net/bikeshare to keep up with the latest developments.

SANTA MONICA FEELS THE NEED FOR (INTERNET) SPEED

In an unprecedented move for a municipal network, Santa Monica has upgraded its fiber optic network (City Net) to speeds up to 100 Gigabits per second—the first city in the U.S. to do so. This is a 10-fold increase in network speed since City Net launched in 2006.

The upgraded network is the latest milestone in a long line of advancements Santa Monica has made in the broadband arena. The increased speed means not only that residents and visitors will be able to enjoy expanded free Wi-Fi throughout the city, but it also supports education, health care, public safety and overall quality of life for residents.

City Net's cutting edge service also helps stimulate the economy and foster the growth of local companies. In addition to helping an established network of health care and entertainment companies improve their efficiencies, Santa Monica's low-cost broadband has helped attract technology companies and start-ups that have established headquarters in Santa Monica since the area was branded "Silicon Beach."



PLANNING THE FUTURE OF THE SANTA MONICA CIVIC AUDITORIUM

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP 2: JANUARY 31 & FEBRUARY 1

Participate in a hands-on exploration of the site, potential uses, and budget

All community members are welcome.

Find more details online:

www.santamonicacivic.org

Save the Date: Workshop 3 will be held March 21

OWN YOUR SANTA MONICA HOME?

You May Be Eligible for Funding Assistance for Earthquake Retrofit

T The City of Santa Monica has been chosen to participate in the state-sponsored Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) program that awards selected homeowners up to \$3,000 to cover costs associated with retrofitting their homes and strengthening their foundations to lessen earthquake damage.



If your single-family home was built prior to 1979 and is wood-framed, you may be eligible to apply for assistance. Applications must be submitted between January 15 and February 15, 2015. Funds are available for 75 homes located in the 90401 and 90404 zip code areas. Eligible homeowners will be selected through a random drawing and notified by email. Additional zip code areas are planned for later in 2015.

This new program is separate from the city's Seismic Retrofit Program and is on a completely volunteer basis. More information about the program and how to apply can be found at earthquakebracebolt.com.

CURB APPEAL: CITY CREWS KEEP SANTA MONICA IN TIP-TOP SHAPE



Investment
IN INFRASTRUCTURE



Over the years, the City of Santa Monica has created a solid foundation of public infrastructure that serves residents, businesses and visitors—and the city protects this investment by keeping clean water flowing and streets, sidewalks, bikeways and alleys in excellent working condition. Maintaining these facilities is a big job, and city crews are up to the task—as illustrated by the following:

Streets

Over the past two decades, the street paving program has maintained nearly every one of the 155 miles of the streets in Santa Monica. City maintenance crews respond to 100% of pothole repair requests within three business days, deploying two asphalt patch trucks daily to respond to requests and conduct on-the-spot assessments of city streets and alleyways.

Bikeways

The investment in infrastructure has enabled the city to rapidly implement Santa Monica’s Bike Action Plan, which includes creating green bike lanes, striping for bike lanes and stenciled bike graphics for bicyclists’ safety. Santa Monica has been recognized both regionally and statewide for these efforts.

Parking Facilities

In addition to a dozen parking structures downtown, the city owns and maintains approximately three million square feet of surface parking area in 42 public parking lots throughout Santa Monica. This includes lots along Main Street and mid-city, as well as at Santa Monica airport, city parks, the beach, libraries, the animal shelter, City Hall, the Civic Auditorium and the Annenberg Beach House.

Sidewalks

Not only does the city conduct annual sidewalk inspections, but it also responds to 100% of sidewalk repair requests within five business days. Necessary work orders are issued within 24 hours and 100% of them are at least temporarily repaired within five days. To increase pedestrian safety, Santa Monica also utilizes alternative sidewalk materials to prevent the sidewalks from being uprooted by tree roots and to allow city crews to make necessary adjustments to individual sidewalk panels.

Alleys

Santa Monica has 739 alleys and crews resurface or seal approximately 25 of them each year. As part of the alley improvement program and the Clean Beach Initiative, street maintenance crews install gutters in some areas to help reduce runoff and increase drainage.

Water Resources

Santa Monica’s Water Resources Division oversees production of about nine million gallons of water per day and manages the maintenance of four distinct water systems: potable water, recycled water, wastewater and storm water. Because of the critical nature of the infrastructure, any emergency calls are typically responded to in a matter of minutes.





BIG BLUE BUS WANTS YOU TO “BBB MY VALENTINE”

You can receive a special Valentine’s gift when you visit the Big Blue Bus Transit Store from February 9 to 13. BBB will give away a free copy of the newly released Little Blue Book (not to be confused with your little black book)—the first portable bus schedule book with a large system map. Riders will also get a sweet treat with love from the BBB!

Recipients can “share the love” by posting a selfie with their Little Blue Book on social media using the hashtag [#BBBMyValentine](#). Drivers will also receive a tasty treat and special note of thanks from the BBB marketing team. Now that’s a sweet ride!

BBB DRIVER RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS

In 1974, Santa Monica resident Tim Giroux reported for his first day of work as an employee of the Big Blue Bus (BBB). Little did he know that, 40 years later, he would retire as the company’s longest-tenured motor coach operator, with some two million miles under his belt.

Working for BBB is a family affair for the Giroux. Tim’s father, Vincent, was a coach cleaner who worked his way up to mechanic foreman when the company was still known as the Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines. “My father cried when he found out I had been hired by Big Blue Bus,” Tim recalls. “He was thrilled that I would be continuing the Giroux legacy.” And Tim’s done an admirable job with that legacy, earning the BBB’s Employee of the Year award in 2004 for good measure.

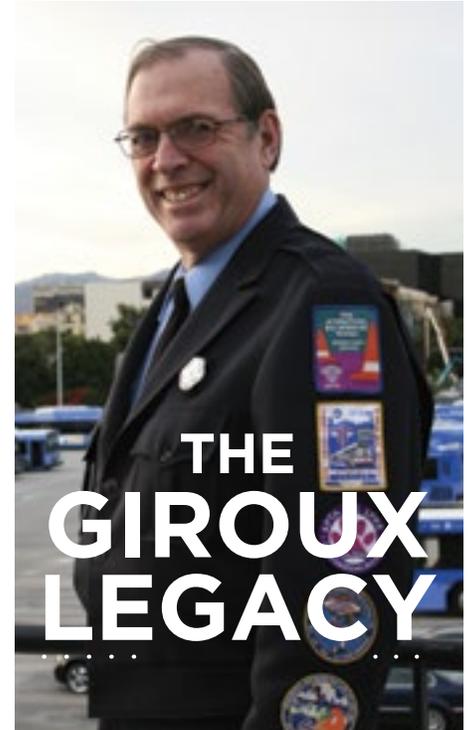
Reflecting on his many years on the job, Tim says the passengers are what he’s most enjoyed.

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“I was able to develop relationships with some customers from the time they were in high school. I’ve watched them become adults and start their own families. You get to know them well and come to care about them.”

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During his tenure, Tim participated in seven International Bus Rodeos, an obstacle-course competition organized by the American Public Transport Association to



Big Blue Bus driver Tim Giroux proudly displays the patches he’s won in seven International Bus Rodeo competitions. Tim retired in December after 40 years of service.

encourage professionalism and build camaraderie and sportsmanship among bus operators and mechanics. In fact, he has won the internal Big Blue Bus Rodeo—which qualified him to attend the national competitions—seven times in his career. No other BBB operator has won more than twice.

Since retiring in mid-December, Tim is enjoying the extra time he now has to spend with his wife and two daughters, relaxing as well as staying active with bowling and golfing. He also enjoys occasional rides on the BBB as a passenger these days, so he can stay in touch with his former colleagues and passengers!

2014 WAS AN AWARD-WINNING YEAR FOR SANTA MONICA!

Through creativity, innovation, community support, meticulous planning and a devoted core of civic leaders and city staff, 2014 was a year of accolades and awards for the City of Santa Monica.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

City TV's Metro Motion: Union Station 75th Anniversary Emmy Award, Academy of Television Arts & Sciences

City TV's Metro LIVE Public Affairs show Star Award, States of California and Nevada, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (SCAN NATOA)

City TV's "Share the Road" PSA Star Award, SCAN NATOA

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Santa Monica Farmers' Markets The Best Farmers' Markets In the U.S., *Condé Nast Traveler*

Wednesday Santa Monica Farmers' Market Best Farmers' Market Los Angeles 2014, *LA Weekly*

Buy Local Santa Monica Envision Award, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Youth Technology Program Elite 100 Innovation Award, *Information Week*

Enterprise Asset Management System for Big Blue Bus Digital Solutions Award, Public Technology Institute (PTI)

Web 2.0 People's Academy Website Award for Leadership in Government Use of Web Technologies, PTI

Information Technology Department Top 10 Digital Cities Winner, Center for Digital Government

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY

5-Star Rating, *Library Journal* Index of Public Library Service

Best Library, *The Argonaut* "Best of the Westside"

Main Library Best Library Spots for Kids in L.A., CBS Los Angeles

Pico Branch Library Merit Award, American Institute of Architects (AIA) California Council

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Palisades Park's Camera Obscura Preservation Award, Santa Monica Conservancy

Parking Structure #6 Parking Facility of the Year, National Parking Association

Merit Award, Design Build Institute of America (DBIA)

Award of Excellence, International Parking Institute

Project of the Year, American Public Works Association (APWA) Southern California Chapter

Design Award, AIA Los Angeles Chapter

Outstanding Achievement in Excellence in Concrete Construction, Southern California Chapter of the American Concrete Institute

Pico Branch Library Merit Award, AIA California Council

Tongva Park/Ken Genser Square Honor Awards, AIA California Council and AIA Los Angeles Chapter

Award of Excellence in Urban Design, American Planning Association (APA) Los Angeles Chapter

Project of the Year, APWA

Merit Award, American Society of Landscape Architects' New York Chapter Design Awards

Frontline Parks, City Parks Alliance
Design Excellence Award, DBIA

Regional Award, DBIA Western Pacific Region

Public Open Space/Los Angeles Architectural Award, LA Business Council & Architectural Awards Jury

Audience Award and Design Award, Western Urban Forum

Outstanding Project Special Award, California Association of Park & Recreation Commissioners and Board Members

City of Santa Monica Silver Level of Achievement as a Bicycle Friendly Community, League of American Bicyclists

Santa Monica City Administration Gold Level of Achievement as a Bicycle Friendly Business, League of American Bicyclists

Bike Santa Monica/Bike Action Plan Sustainability Award/Excellence in Active Transportation, Southern California Association of Governments

Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Greenway LA Chapter and California Chapter Awards, APA



Santa Monica Police Officers Robert Sparks and Jason Salas received several honors for their heroism during the active shooter incident on June 7, 2013.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Santa Monica Police Officers Robert Sparks and Jason Salas
Governor's Medal of Valor; Attorney General's Medal of Valor;
Award of Valor, California Peace Officers' Association

Office of Emergency Management's Paul Weinberg

Special Recognition Award,
California Emergency Services Association

Award of Excellence,
Business and Industry Planning and Preparedness

PUBLIC WORKS

Santa Monica Pier Replacement Project
Creative & Innovative Project of the Year, APWA

Santa Monica Bike Action Plan
Traffic, Mobility & Beautification Project of the Year, APWA

Parking Structure #6
Facilities Project of the Year, APWA

Ocean Park Blvd. Complete Green Street Project
Community Enhancement Excellence in Transportation Award, CALTRANS

Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Award, League of California Cities/California State Association of Counties/County Engineers Association of California

SUSTAINABILITY

Policy work on climate change
The 2014 Cool Planet Award,
Southern California Edison and The Climate Registry

ACCESS AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS EN ROUTE

BE EXCITED! BE PREPARED!
Santa Monica Construction Projects

In just over a year, the commuter landscape of the Southland will be drastically changed as the Expo Light Rail will begin service connecting our beach city with Downtown Los Angeles and already established options for public transportation. In 2015, Expo Light Rail construction will be wrapping up the construction phase and will move to testing. Currently 85% of the rail, from Culver City to Santa Monica, has been installed and most of the utility work has been completed. A significant milestone was reached at the end of last year with the connection of the communications systems between the now-running Culver City line and the extension in progress. Also significant, the dead-end bumper at the Culver City station was removed in anticipation of testing and the opening in 2016.

In March, the California Incline Bridge Replacement and Bluff Stabilization project will begin. The current bridge structure, built in 1930, does not meet current seismic standards. The new structure will not only meet those seismic standards, it will also be widened five-and-a-half feet to better accommodate bikes, pedestrians and vehicles. Demolition and reconstruction of this iconic roadway structure and associated work will require a full closure from Ocean Avenue to Pacific Coast Highway for approximately 14 months. The city successfully acquired federal Highway Bridge Program funding to pay for most of the cost to rebuild this key gateway into Santa Monica.

March will also bring the start of the Colorado Esplanade project, which will incorporate sidewalks four times wider than the norm on the south side of Colorado Avenue, from 4th Street to Ocean Avenue, to accommodate the expected additional pedestrians. The project creates an iconic entrance to Santa Monica, enhanced with trees, landscaping and festival lighting.

More information about these projects can be found at smconstructs.org.



- COMPLETED PROJECTS**
See list on the right.
- CURRENT PROJECTS**
 1. Parking Structure 2, 4, 5 Elevator Replacements
 2. Expo Light Rail Stations
 3. Exposition Corridor Bike Path
 4. Expo Maintenance Facility
- FUTURE PROJECTS**
 1. Storm Water Quality Improvement Projects - Various locations
 2. California Incline Replacement
 3. Park Improvements - Reed Park, Ozone Park, Ocean View Park, Douglas Park, Clover Park
 4. Fire Station #1 Replacement
 5. Fire Station #3 Structural Retrofit
 6. Colorado Esplanade
 7. Beach Parking - Various locations
 8. Fairview Branch Library Remodel
 9. Buffer Park

BE EXCITED! BE PREPARED!

Santa Monica Construction Projects

- 1** The Pico Branch Library, the first new branch since the 1960s, opened in April at Virginia Avenue Park.
- 2** The Santa Monica Pier Renewal Phase 4 project, involving replacement of a 36-foot-wide and 365-foot-long portion of the existing century-old timber pier, was completed in April.
- 3** The Woodlawn Cemetery Memorial, honoring Santa Monica's war veterans who lost their lives while serving our country, was completed in May.
- 4** A new segment of Olympic Drive between Main Street and Ocean Avenue opened in June, breaking up the superblock and improving circulation in the Civic Center area.
- 5** Roadway improvements to Moomat Ahiko Way, enhancing the structural stability, smoothness and drivability of the street, were completed in June.
- 6** Renovation of the restrooms at Mary Hotchkiss Park and Marine Park was completed in September.
- 7** Renovation of the Animal Shelter Feline Building was completed in October.
- 8** Construction of new ADA-compliant beach restrooms at 2400 Ocean Front Walk was completed in October.
- 9** LED lighting upgrades to reduce maintenance and energy costs at the Civic Center parking structure, Ken Edwards Center garage and the Main Library garage were completed in June.

MAP NOT TO SCALE
Photos by William Short

CALENDAR

WRITER IN RESIDENCE AT THE BEACH HOUSE

Engage with a local author by visiting the winter Writer in Residence during open office hours at the Guest House from January 13-February 17th. You can also follow the residency blog and attend public “Beach = Culture” series events. Visit beachhouseair.blogspot.com for more information.



FIRESIDE AT THE MILES PERFORMANCE SERIES

January 16th (see next page).

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION

A weekend of activities (January 16-19th) concludes with a celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 19 at 9 a.m. at the SGI-USA World Peace Auditorium (525 Wilshire Blvd.). This 30th annual event will feature keynote speaker Gabriella Rosco of CLUE-LA, vocalist Linda Alvarez, the Aztec Dancers, and the Academy of Visual Performing Arts of Culver City High School. Immediately following the main event, at 606 Wilshire Blvd., there will be refreshments, information and conversation with representatives from a variety of community organizations. Call 310.570.9475 or visit mlkwestside.org for a list of other events planned to honor Dr. King's legacy.

BEACH WALK & SKETCH WITH THE L.A. AUDUBON SOCIETY

On January 18th, the Annenberg Community Beach House will provide binoculars, drawing boards and newsprint for sketching the birds. From 9-10:30 a.m. annenbergbeachhouse.com

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP: REED PARK LAWN REDESIGN

Updating the lawn will be the last in a series of phased improvements. On January 24th, share your input on how to better connect the lawn with the rest of this active park. santamonicaparks.org

USED OIL RECYCLING

On January 24th, recycle at City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue. smgov.net/r3

HOMELESS COUNT

Stay up late to help the most vulnerable in our community—volunteer for the 2015 Homeless Count on January 28th (see page 21).

CIVIC AUDITORIUM PLANNING WORKSHOP

Be part of this two-day (January 31st & February 1st) interactive workshop. You'll have the opportunity to explore the facility and the site, and discuss uses proposed by the community. Can't make it but have a great idea? Use #FutureSMCivic to share ideas on social media or visit smgov.net/departments/ccs/civicauditorium.



IT'S A WHALE OF A WEEKEND!

Celebrate the annual migration of the Pacific gray whale with themed activities from 12:30 to 5 p.m. at Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium on February 14th and 15th. Feel the heft of a whale rib, check out bristly baleen and try on a layer of (simulated) whale blubber for warmth. Learn more by calling 310.393.6149 or visiting healthebay.org/event/whale-weekend-day-one.

PAPER SHREDDING

On February 21st, shred at City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue. smgov.net/r3.

JULIA MORGAN LEGACY TOURS AT THE MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE

On March 1st, take a trip through time with the Annenberg Community Beach House docents as they celebrate the contributions of architect Julia Morgan from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. annenbergbeachhouse.com.

NAVIGATING DOWNTOWN ON FOOT JUST GOT A LOT EASIER



You may have noticed that the aging map cases in Downtown Santa Monica have been replaced with new, upgraded maps and marking posts throughout the Third Street Promenade. The new cases help pedestrians more easily identify their location and navigate the Promenade and the downtown area. Local businesses, restaurants and attractions are noted on each map, highlighting the areas between Lincoln Boulevard and Palisades Park, and from Wilshire Boulevard to Colorado. A mast rises above each case to identify the cross streets and directional arrows have been added to their sides. These not only point visitors toward city landmarks but also indicate approximately how many minutes it will take to get there on foot.

DOWNBEAT 720 LETS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHINE!

Is your high school student looking for an outlet to express his or her performing arts passion? We've got just the place. Every second and fourth Tuesday (January 13 and 27, and February 10 and 24), Miles opens its doors to high school students who want to sing, dance, play an instrument (solo or with a band), perform poetry, or act. Or they can come to watch. All styles and skill levels are welcome.



Downbeat 720 is always FREE to perform and FREE to enter.

Now in its 13th year, Downbeat 720 is produced by Santa Monica's Cultural Affairs Division and hosted by Emmy Award-winning HBO Def-Jam poet Joe Hernandez-Kolski. Music is provided by Emmy Award-winning DJ Jedi. Sign-ups are 6:45 to 7:15 p.m. with performances from 7:20 to 9:30 p.m. Parents may drop off and pickup their children, but are asked to honor Downbeat's "for kids only" policy. To perform, or to be inspired and entertained, visit milesplayhouse.org/downbeat720.



LIGHTING UP THE MILES WITH THE FIRESIDE SERIES



Time to cozy up by the fire! Enjoy a series of unique performances at Santa Monica's historic Miles Playhouse on Friday and Saturday nights from January 16 to February 28.

Fireside at the Miles recalls the spirit of community gatherings held at this Reed Park institution in the 1930s and 40s, with the period fireplace a perfect backdrop for the much-loved, soul-warming series. Visit milesplayhouse.org for the complete lineup and ticket information.

LIVING THE CALIFORNIA DREAM, THANKS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Grateful is the sentiment that Ann Avila-Hengasthorn feels when she thinks about her family's new home. Hers was one of the families selected out of the hundreds vying for an apartment at the brand-new Belmar Apartments. The community of 160 homes offers everything from live-work studios to three-bedroom apartments. It is one of the city's affordable housing locations, for which preference is given to those already living or working in Santa Monica. Situated alongside Tongva Park between Ocean Avenue and Main Street, the apartments are blocks away from the beach, Pier and Third Street Promenade. But even more meaningful for the Avila-Hengasthorns is that this new home supports their children's success in Santa Monica schools.



Besides the attractions and amenities found nearby, Belmar's own amenities are big hits with the family, too. For Sophia, the onsite computer lab is the perfect spot for doing homework and

studying, while her younger sister enjoys being close to the beach and the cool breezes. Meanwhile, their father enjoys the opportunity to put his rib-grilling skills to the test on the community barbecues.

The Avila-Hengasthorn family knows they would never be able to live the California dream without Santa Monica's affordable housing program. To find out more about it, please visit smgov.net/affordablehousingopportunities.

“We are so very fortunate,” says Ann. “Our new apartment is beautiful and we feel safe here.” For her daughters, the new apartment has other advantages. “We are right by the beach and the Pier, we can walk over there, we don’t even need to get in the car,” explains seventh-grader Sophia.

Addressing Homelessness: Be Part of the Solution

Moving people off the streets and into housing is a year-round collaboration between the city and service providers. Support from the community is vital, whether it's through donations of money, time or goods. Find out how you can be part of the solution:

Visit smgov.net/homelessness for a list of service providers that need donations or volunteers, or both. Thank you!

HELP COUNT SANTA MONICA'S HOMELESS ON JANUARY 28

Each winter, more than 200 volunteers join Santa Monica police, fire, and city staff to canvas the city at night to count the number of people living on our streets. This Homeless Count helps in assessing how well our action plans are working. It's also a great way to get involved and make a difference!

Are you ready to count this year? If so, sign up online at smgov.net/homelesscountvolunteer.aspx, email humanservices@smgov.net or call 310.458.8701.

The Place for Seniors



CLUB 1527 THRIVES IN NEW LOCATION ON FOURTH STREET



Fitness instructor Shifra Raz first volunteered to teach classes at the former Senior Center when it was located at 1450 Ocean Avenue. The program, which is managed by WISE & Healthy Aging, relocated to the Ken Edwards Center (1527 Fourth Street) 18 months ago and Raz says her classes have been thriving—as are many other activities and programs.

“There are 50 to 60 people in the Total Fitness class,” Raz says, “some with physical challenges, such as multiple sclerosis, and some perfectly healthy. We even have a 98-year-old member who is still exercising!” Raz’s classes aren’t the only ones thriving. Participation and membership at Club 1527, the new name for the former Senior Center, has nearly doubled since moving to the new location in April 2013.

“The Center has become even more of a social gathering place,” says president and CEO of WISE & Healthy Aging, Grace Cheng Braun.

She points to the annual Taste of 1527 potluck, which invites members from various international backgrounds to share the food and music from their culture, as just one example of year-round activities planned for Club-goers. “It’s a big party with dancing and a lot of social interaction, and they really enjoy it,” Braun adds.

In addition to Club 1527—which offers classes and organized outings for those 50 and over—WISE & Healthy Aging is a one-stop resource for seniors. It offers an adult day service center, in-home care management services, caregiver training, counseling services, mediation, support groups and a senior lunch program.

For more information about these services and membership in Club 1527, visit wiseandhealthyaging.org or call 310.394.9871.

COMMUNITY CLASS SPOTLIGHT

Mama Mia! Let’s Cook Italian!

Learn to cook authentic southern Italian cuisine from the traditional culture of farmers, fishermen and craftsmen, where meat is optional and vegetables are the star of the show. Sandra Catena will teach this hands-on, three-week class to adults of all skill levels. Class starts in January.

Register or find out more about this and other winter session classes at smgov.net/reserve.

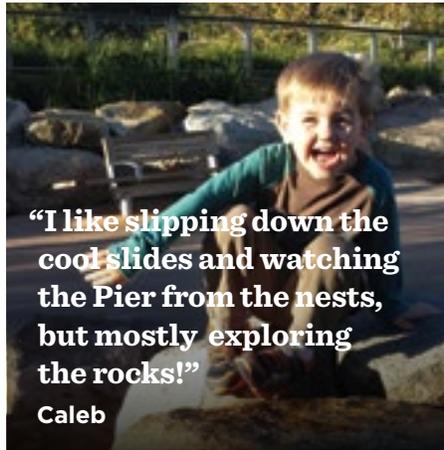
KIDS ON PARKS: THE PLAYGROUND REVIEW

We asked kids what they like about the amazing recreation spaces available in our city. Here is what they had to say:

Tongva Park

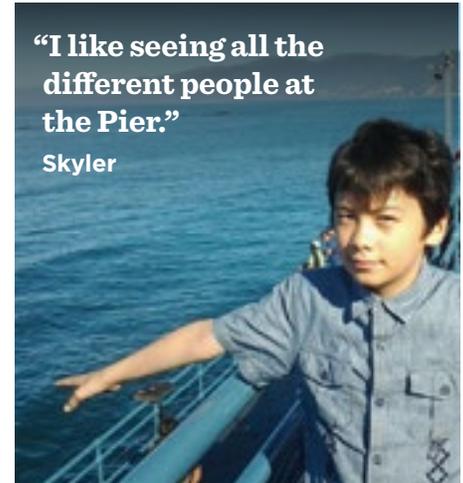


"I love the bumpy slide and the yellow house to climb."
Cotton



"I like slipping down the cool slides and watching the Pier from the nests, but mostly exploring the rocks!"
Caleb

Santa Monica Pier



"I like seeing all the different people at the Pier."
Skyler



"I like splashing in the water!"
Quinn

Pacific Park



"We love the rides the most!"
Augie and Sadie Tucker-Maxy

Hello, Reed Park Users!
Let's work together to redesign the lawn to better meet your needs.

Community Open House Workshop
January 24
10 am - 12 pm @ Reed Park
Drop by and share your thoughts.

More Information
www.santamonicaparks.org

THE AIR IS COOL BUT THE WATER'S WARM!

With two heated outdoor pools, you don't have to let cooler weather stop you from enjoying the Santa Monica Swim Center. If 2015's the year you've decided you'll learn how to swim or improve your technique, take advantage of our drop-in fitness classes for adults.

The cost for residents is \$5.50 for adults and \$2.75 for seniors and students. Non-residents pay \$11 per adult and \$5.50 for seniors and students. Discounts are also available by purchasing a 10-workout pass. More information is available at smgov.net/swim or by calling 310.458.8700.



Photo by William Short

SANTA MONICA FARMERS' MARKET

LEMONY CHICKEN SOUP WITH ORZO

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp. olive oil, divided
- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch chunks
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 leeks, sliced in half and then into ½-inch dice
- 3 carrots, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- ½ tsp. dried marjoram or thyme
- 2 zucchini, chopped, or 2 handfuls chopped spinach or kale
- 5 c. chicken stock (preferably homemade)
- 2 bay leaves
- ¾ c. uncooked orzo pasta
- 1 sprig rosemary
- Lemons, quartered
- 2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley leaves



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat 1 tbsp. olive oil in a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Season chicken thighs with salt and pepper, to taste. Add chicken to the stockpot and cook until golden, about 2-3 minutes; remove from pot and set aside.
2. Add remaining 1 tbsp. oil to the stockpot. Stir in garlic, onion, carrots and celery. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 3-4 minutes. Stir in marjoram or thyme until fragrant, about 1 minute.
3. Add chicken stock, bay leaves and 1 c. water; bring to a boil. Stir in orzo, rosemary, zucchini (or spinach/kale) and chicken; reduce heat and simmer until orzo is tender, about 10-12 minutes.
4. Portion into bowls, top with parsley and place 1/4 fresh lemon on the side to squeeze on top.



FIREFIGHTERS TRAINED TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SUPPORT FOR SWAT OFFICERS



Santa Monica Firefighters and TEMS team (L to R): Captain Eric Himler, Engineer Justin Crosson and Engineer Matt Recore.

Access to emergency care in dangerous situations is now closer than ever for the Santa Monica Police Department's SWAT officers. In the past, firefighters trained in emergency medical care would have to wait blocks away until the scene was safe. Three Santa Monica firefighters have completed extensive training and will now be embedded with the SWAT team as the first members of the city's Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) team.

"We'll be equipped with the same protective gear as the SWAT team and trained to work in the midst of the crime scene, which will allow us to render care a lot sooner," says Justin Crosson, a Santa Monica fire engineer and one of the founding TEMS members.



In addition to the recent TEMS training, the city's firefighters have also participated in enhanced "active shooter" training to prepare for situations similar to the June 7, 2013 shooting incident in Santa Monica.

"We want to provide the best care possible and save lives. And we can do that by being on the scene with victims."

WHY HYDRANT FLUSHING IS IMPORTANT

In a time when we are all taking steps to conserve water, it may seem incongruous for city crews to be opening up hydrants and spraying this precious resource into streets and gutters. But they are conducting required water system flushing tests, which are essential to ensure fire safety, water quality and a properly functioning water distribution system. Water that flows to the hydrants is the same as that which flows to homes and businesses.

These tests ensure that hydrant operation and water flows are adequate to meet or exceed both firefighting needs and federal drinking water standards. Every effort is made to minimize water waste during testing and, when feasible, the water is captured and reused.





1450 OCEAN MADE-BY-HAND PROJECT: FELT “LOG SLICE” COASTER



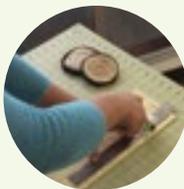
Everyone who cares about their furniture needs coasters. Not only are they a necessary home accessory, they also make great housewarming gifts! Try this fun project that takes only about an hour.

Supplies for two coasters:

- Cutting mat and rotary cutter or sharp sewing scissors
- Ruler (try a metal cork-backed one)
- Fabric glue with pointed applicator
- Wool/rayon felt: 1/8 yard each of cream or beige, fawn or tan, and brown or walnut color; to make additional coasters, purchase extra cream-colored felt



Join us at 1450 Ocean, Santa Monica’s new Art and Community Center, offering arts, crafts and movement classes for adults in the Camera Obscura building just north of the Pier. Every second Saturday, enjoy the free Craft Lounge, share your ideas and work on your projects with tea and friends. Visit smgov.net/1450ocean, call 310.458.2239 or email communityclasses@smgov.net for more information.



STEP 1: Cut eight cream, three fawn, and two brown strips of felt, 19” long by 1/2” wide. Eyeballing the strips should be fine, just try to keep the widths consistent. If using a rotary cutter, watch your fingers, use a mat, and cut in one long movement rather than back-and-forth.



STEP 2: Start in the center by taking a cream strip, applying a bead of glue down the center of the strip quite close to the end, and start to roll. You may get a little glue on your fingers but try not to spread it on the front of the coaster—the edges are fine! You want a continuous application of glue as you wrap—just a small line down the center that shouldn’t spill over to the sides.



STEP 3: Once your center is less than 1/2” wide, take a small piece of fawn-colored fabric and lay that in with a line of glue so it wraps about once around the center. It may be easier not to cut your center cream strip but rather glue the fawn colored-strip and add glue on top of it to continue with the cream color. When it looks right, add another piece of fawn so it wraps around the center once, and keep doing this as you build up the “wheel.” Don’t worry if the strips are overlapping, aren’t quite reaching around, or are otherwise not matching because you’re going for the organic look of growth rings interspersed with the light color of the wood.

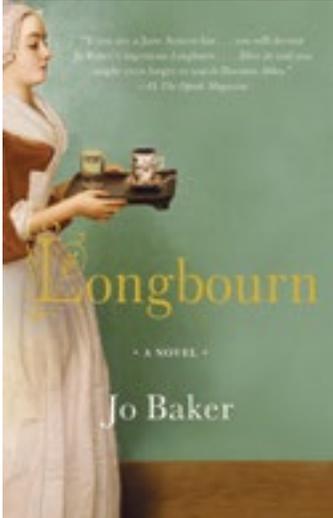


STEP 4: Continue gluing a long bead down the center of the felt strips as you wrap. Again, try not to let the glue pool or spill over the edges. As you wrap, you’ll use more cream than fawn. The cream will wrap around several times with the fawn only once or a little less. Go with what looks good to you!



STEP 5: Once your coaster is about 3 1/2” in diameter, take a strip of brown felt and glue it around the outer edge as the “bark.” You can also take shorter pieces of brown felt and randomly glue those along the edge to add texture. Let the coaster dry overnight before using. That’s it. You’re done!

SANTA MONICA READS EXPLORES THE WORLD OF JANE AUSTEN WITH *Longbourn*



Celebrating its 13th year, Santa Monica Reads steps back in history with the featured novel *Longbourn* by Jo Baker. *Longbourn* is the compelling story of the servants working in the Bennet household, made famous in Jane Austen's classic novel *Pride and Prejudice*. The servants and

their stories provide a seldom-seen glimpse into the lives of the working classes of Regency England and offer parallels to the class divisions that still exist around the world today. Join discussions and events between February 14 and March 21, 2015. For a complete listing, pick up a resource guide at any Santa Monica Public Library branch or visit smpl.org/Longbourn2015.aspx.



Jo Baker photo by Michael Lionstar.

Movie screenings based on Austen's work or the theme of domestic workers:

- Gosford Park* Thursday, Feb. 19, 6 p.m., Ocean Park Branch
- Austenland* Wednesday, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m., Montana Ave. Branch
- Pride and Prejudice* Thursday, March 5, 6:30 p.m., Fairview Branch
- Bride and Prejudice* Tuesday, March 17, 6:00 p.m., Pico Branch
- Sense and Sensibility* Thursday, March 19, 6:30 p.m., Fairview Branch

SPECIAL EVENTS

Kickoff Celebration

Saturday, Feb. 14 at 2 p.m.
Main Library, North Entry Courtyard
Celebrate the launch of the 2015 Santa Monica Reads program with live music, English country dancing, refreshments and a Valentine's Day-themed craft. Pick up a book while supplies last.

Bookmaking with Lace

Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m.
Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Boulevard. Crafter Debra Disman teaches a bookmaking workshop using beautiful lace.

The Lizzie Bennet Diaries

Saturday, Feb. 28 at 3 p.m.
Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium
The cast and crew of this multimedia sensation (produced by Santa Monica-based Pemberley Digital)

discuss their contemporary variation on *Pride and Prejudice*.

Nickel & Dimed with Cheryl Spector

Tuesday, March 3 at 7 p.m.
Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium
CSUN Professor Cheryl Spector ties *Longbourn* together with Barbara Ehrenreich's timely portrait of minimum wage workers in *Nickel and Dimed*, exploring the ways in which those in the service professions struggle to get by even today.

Austen Variations Author Panel

Saturday, March 7 at 2 p.m.
Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium
A panel of authors of various Jane Austen prequels, sequels and alternate takes—including Syrie James and Diana Birchall—discusses the fertile world of Austen's characters and settings.

A Jane Austen Education with William Deresiewicz

Thursday, March 12 at 7p.m.
Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium
Former Yale English professor William Deresiewicz discusses his recent book, which explains how Austen's literary work taught him to be a man.

An Afternoon with Jo Baker

Saturday, March 21 at 2 p.m.
Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium
Author Jo Baker presents an engaging discussion of *Longbourn*, followed by a book sale and signing.

Book Discussions

Dates and locations for book discussions, which are open to readers of all ages, are listed at smpl.org.

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:

- January 13, 27**
- February 10, 24**
- March 10**

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, over-the-air on new digital broadcast channels 20.2 and 20.5, 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, Rm 209
Santa Monica, California 90401
Phone: 310.458.8201 | Fax: 310.458.1621
Email all Council members: council@smgov.net

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).

WATCH SANTA MONICA'S HAZMAT RESPONSE TEAM IN ACTION



Santa Monica fire units recently dealt with a three-vehicle accident involving a rail car leaking chlorine, a burning tanker truck (also leaking) and a passenger vehicle. On top of all that, the drivers of both the tanker and passenger vehicle needed rescuing. SMFD extracted the victims, stopped the chlorine leak and followed emergency decontamination procedures as needed.



It sounds dramatic—and it was. Luckily, it was only a drill, one of many that the Santa Monica Fire Department participates in regularly to ensure personnel are prepped and ready for any disaster or situation that may arise in our community. This inter-agency exercise simulated a large earthquake resulting in multiple rescue and hazardous materials incidents, including the one described above.

And now you can see all the action on YouTube, as the Santa Monica Hazardous Materials Response Team takes part in a dynamic and complex mobilization and deployment exercise in Santa Fe Springs. Scan the QR code or go to <http://youtu.be/ykGla3r8ubA>.

SEASCAPES PAST

The new Expo Light Rail is just the latest transit project designed to improve traffic flow in and around Santa Monica. This photograph shows the McClure Tunnel under construction in 1935. Originally known as the Olympic Tunnel, the 400-foot structure joined Lincoln Boulevard with Roosevelt Highway, later renamed Pacific Coast Highway. The

dedication ceremony for the tunnel took place on February 1, 1936, when state and city officials described the new tunnel as “the greatest highway project completed in the state.” In April 1970, it was renamed McClure Tunnel after Robert E. McClure, a longtime editor of the *Santa Monica Evening Outlook* and member of the State Highway Commission.



Photo courtesy of Imagine Santa Monica (digital.smpl.org), home of the digital collections of Santa Monica Public Library.

A YEAR IN PROGRESS

We have ushered in a new year—and with it new plans, projects and hopes for Santa Monica’s future. We are taking the time to look back and reflect on the many things we’ve accomplished in 2014. It was a year that saw strengthened community involvement, numerous cultural celebrations, the construction or rehabilitation of public parks and civic facilities, and the introduction of new services and programs. Our finances went up, crime went down, and great strides were made to make city information more accessible and enhance the city’s long-term sustainability. In this edition of *Seascope*, readers can review last year’s accomplishments in a month-by-month timeline and take pride in this remarkable city we call home!



JANUARY 2014



CityTV Celebrates Its Silver Anniversary!

Last year marked CityTV’s 25th year of providing award-winning programming to the community, from live broadcasts of City Council meetings and summer concerts at the Santa Monica Pier to election-season candidate interviews and voting results, educational shows, community programming, news updates and on-air chats with city officials. The station’s range expanded in 2014 and it’s now available to a much larger audience on two digital broadcast channels. Watch CityTV on cable channel 16, over-the-air on KSCI-TV LA 18, on channels 20.2 and 25.2, or stream it live at citytv.org.

FEBRUARY 2014



The First Stop on Your Vacation Should Be the City Clerk’s Office

Planning a trip abroad got a lot easier in 2014 as passports are now available at City Hall from the City Clerk’s office. The new service allows travelers to get their first-time passport or passport card, passport photos, and expedited processing in one convenient location with parking just steps away at the Civic Center Structure. To make an appointment, call 310.458.8211 or visit smgov.net/passports.

Finding Love With Buy Local Santa Monica

February 2014 was more heartfelt than usual as residents and visitors declared their love for local businesses. They voted for “Buy Local Santa Monica’s Most Loved Businesses” in categories from Most Loved Farmers’ Market Vendor to Most Loved Happy Hour, and even Business with Best Santa Monica Vibe! See the 2014 winners at buylocalsantamonica.com/most-loved, then be sure to show your love in 2015 by casting your vote this February!



Shaping the Future of Downtown

Early in 2014, a draft of the Downtown Specific Plan was released for public review. The plan will implement the *2010 Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE)* for Downtown through actions that address the physical environment, circulation, open space, arts and culture, economic sustainability, housing and historic preservation. Over the past two years, the process has included more than a dozen workshops and public hearings. There have also been stakeholder interviews and discussions with various boards to develop an action plan to achieve a community vision for the future of Downtown. The Draft Downtown Specific Plan will be reviewed by the Planning Commission this year. Find out more at smgov.net/dsp. The draft Environmental Impact Report will also be coming out in 2015.

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS TIMELINE

THE BIG READ

MARCH 2014



Reading Big With SMPL!

The Santa Monica Public Library put its annual Santa Monica Reads on hold to present a National Endowment for the Arts-sponsored program, *The Big Read!* Over five weeks, nearly 1,000 residents read Luis Alberto Urrea's *Into the Beautiful North* and took part in author talks, poetry readings, performance art, live concerts, movies, puppet shows, Mexican cooking demonstrations and discussions. *The Big Read* is designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. Santa Monica Reads returns this year. You can find all the program information on the back cover of *Seascape*.

APRIL 2014

New Training Props for SMFD



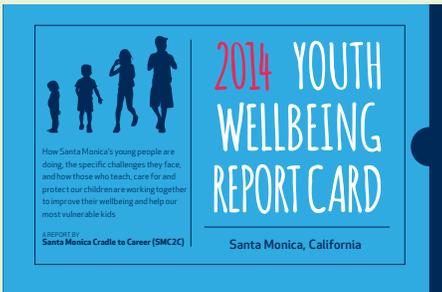
The Santa Monica Fire Department was awarded more than \$250,000 by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency's Urban Area Security Initiative. The grant funds were provided specifically to purchase training props and equipment to support regional homeland security goals and for development of a training satellite site in Santa Monica. One of the first training props to be acquired for this satellite site was a 43-foot training tanker that replicates a hazardous materials tanker. The system is designed to accommodate training that reinforces the rule of "safety first" while also allowing for realistic scenarios.

Santa Monica Businesses Think Green

Businesses need green (the money to sustain them) *and* greening (environmental strategies that help sustain our community) and—with the right tools—they can successfully focus on both. Toward that end, the City of Santa Monica, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, SMC's Small Business Development Center, Arts Earth Partnership, and Sustainable Works have joined together to encourage and recognize green businesses in our community. In 2014, 704 Santa Monica businesses participated in the Buy Local program, 82 earned a Green Business Certification while another 237 were working toward it, and 124 local businesses have been honored with Sustainable Quality Awards. Want to turn your business green? Find out how at sustainable-sm.org/business.

MAY 2014

Santa Monica Cradle to Career Collaborative: Using Data to Drive Action



Two tragic incidents in 2013 that involved local youth—a highly visible suicide and a fatal shooting—were a call to action for Santa Monica. The city, SMMUSD, SMC, service providers, and concerned citizens came together to ask two key questions: "How are children and families in this community really doing?" and "What can we do to help them thrive?" The resulting Cradle to Career Collaborative has taken a holistic approach to answering these questions by seeking hard data on youth wellbeing and using that information to drive action. Cradle to Career released Santa Monica's second Youth Wellbeing Report Card along with two powerful new tools for parents, caregivers, teachers and anyone who works with children: an interactive version and a searchable services finder.

Findings in the second report card confirmed what the first revealed: that diving into the data shows some major areas of concern. The report card is a practical tool that has fueled action, inspiring Santa Monica's Wellbeing Project and the forthcoming Local Wellbeing Index, an in-depth study that will harness the power of data to provide a genuine understanding of who the community is and how it's doing. The 2014 Youth Wellbeing Report Card and tools can be found online at santamonicyouth.net.

MAY 2014 (CONT.)



Civic Engagement Taken to a New Level With the People's Academy

Santa Monica residents had a new way to learn and connect in 2014. The inaugural class of the People's Academy—a behind-the-scenes look at local government, partnerships and operations—graduated in May. During the free, seven-week course, students met with leaders of different civic institutions including city department heads. They took tours highlighting city infrastructure, discovered new tech tools, created new, sustainable habits, participated in budgeting exercises and much more. By the end of the year, 40 residents had taken part in the academy. You could be next! Sign up at academy.smgov.net.

If It's Broke, Learn to Fix It!

Taking a big step toward keeping items out of our landfills, those creative folks at the city's Resource, Recovery & Recycling Division launched the Repair Café. Held twice in 2014 at 1450 Ocean, the Repair Café brought together expert volunteers known as "Fixers" and community members with broken items. The Fixer electricians, seamstresses, carpenters and others shared valuable tips and lent a helping hand in repairing and repurposing items. The Repair Café is just one of the innovative steps being taken toward the city's Zero Waste Strategic Plan. More Repair Cafes will be coming in 2015 so don't throw away those broken items just yet! Information will be posted on the Public Works website, smgov.net/r3.

Code Enforcement Extends Service Hours and Locations

The services of the city's Code Enforcement Team are now available seven days a week and have been extended to the Pier and beach. This team helps maintain and improve the quality of city neighborhoods by conducting outreach programs to achieve compliance with the Santa Monica Municipal Code. They also respond to complaints of potential municipal, building, zoning and health and safety code violations and initiate appropriate enforcement action. For more information, please visit the Code Enforcement Team's website: smgov.net/departments/pcd/about-us/code-enforcement.

JUNE 2014

The Nifty Fifty Helps Tenants With Disabilities

The Consumer Protection Unit of the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office launched a unique website to serve tenants with disabilities and their landlords. Its goal is to offer 50 real-life stories of accommodations and modifications that have been made to improve access to and enjoyment of housing for tenants with disabilities. Many such stories have already been posted on The Nifty Fifty and it's expected the 50-story goal will be reached by National Fair Housing Month in April. Check out the stories—or add yours using the site's submit-your-own-story feature—at reasonableaccommodations.org.



Making Inroads on Violent Crime

According to numbers reported for 2013 (the most recent year available as *Seascope* goes to press), safety is up and crime is down! The Santa Monica Police Department reported a decline in incidents of violent crime from previous years. Defined as rape, homicide, robbery and aggravated assault, these crimes were down by 18% in 2013, with a total of 324 incidents reported compared to 395 in 2012. This is the lowest reported number since 1963. Reported robberies in Santa Monica fell 20.5%, from 151 in 2012 to 120 in 2013. Reported assaults dropped 22.4% over the same two-year period, from 219 to 170. While initial crime statistics for 2014 are not likely to be released until the summer of 2015, preliminary information suggests this downward trend has continued.

JUNE 2014 (CONT.)



Photo by William Short

Five Libraries Strong!

June was an exciting month for our community with the grand opening of the fifth branch of the Santa Monica Public Library (SMPL) at Virginia Avenue Park. The Pico Branch Library offers 25,000 new materials for adults, teens and children. In addition to popular books, movies, music, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers, the collection includes materials in Spanish and large-print books. The 8,690-square-foot branch features a children's space, three group study rooms, reading areas, public computers, early literacy computers, a copy center, and self-service check-in and check-out that uses an automated materials handling system. The Annex, a separate community room connected to the main building by a roofline trellis with solar panels, offers space for story time, after-school activities, summer reading programs, book clubs, film screenings, do-it-yourself activities, and special programs. The Annex is available for public rental. Check out the Pico Branch Library for yourself at 2201 Pico Boulevard.



Reading Success

Our warm summer months brought with them the stellar reading programs offered by SMPL. Nearly 5,000 kids took part in the Youth Summer Reading Program, an impressive 20% increase from 2013 and nearly triple the number from ten years ago. And the kids weren't the only ones cracking the books! The Adult Summer Reading Program attracted nearly 850 participants with a full slate of author talks, film screenings and staged readings.

JULY 2014



Robin Gee, Cable TV and Public Info Manager

Another Emmy Win for CityTV

The awards shelf at CityTV is getting very full since the station scored its landmark 13th Emmy Award in 2014 with the video program "Metro Motion: Union Station 75th Anniversary." The story of the last of the great rail stations, "Metro Motion" explored Union Station's history, its important role as a transit hub anchoring today's expanding transit network, and its future as the center of mobility for our region.

Progress on Affordable Housing

Two affordable housing developments were completed in 2014: the Belmar Apartments and High Place East. These two communities provide affordable homes for 205 low-income, working families. The creation of these communities played a critical role in the city's receipt of over \$2.1 million from the California Housing-Related Parks program that rewards cities for creating new affordable housing opportunities. The funds will allow for the creation of a buffer park on Exposition Boulevard (south of Stewart Street). While the opening of these communities represents an important milestone, the state-mandated dissolution of the Santa Monica Redevelopment Agency in 2012 means that there is little funding available to continue the city's affordable housing production and preservation program. Additionally, Santa Monica will lose the opportunity to generate additional funding for other programs such as the California Housing-Related Parks program.



AUGUST 2014

New Green Bike Lanes



Our city got even greener in 2014 with the addition of more than three miles of green bike lanes on Broadway, Main and 2nd streets. The bold green paint creates a highly visible contrast on the street, raising motorists' awareness of the space cyclists need for safety. Watch for more green lanes popping up this year.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Prepared, Trained and Ready to Help!

A total of 215 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members are now trained and ready to spring into action if (and when) disaster strikes. CERT volunteers have completed a federally recognized, comprehensive training course taught by local public safety personnel and first responders. It details ways to assist family, friends, neighbors and the community in emergency situations. If you're interested in taking part in this free program, visit smgov.net/cert.

Community Comes Together to Talk Civic Auditorium



The first of three community workshops was held to launch a community-wide discussion of the future of Santa Monica's historic Civic Auditorium. Organized by the Civic Working Group, appointed to advise City Council on options for the facility, this interactive workshop provided participants—a broad cross-section of residents—the opportunity to learn about the history of the building, explore the site and discuss its potential. Future workshops will investigate ways to fund capital upgrades at the aging facility and assess the feasibility of various programming ideas and operating models. The next workshop is scheduled for January 31 and February 1, with a final workshop to be held on March 21. For more on the Civic Working Group, visit santamonicacivic.org.

OCTOBER 2014

Tongva After Dark Brings Cultural Programming to the City's Newest Park



Photo by William Short

Events both intimate and informal at Tongva Park offered attendees an opportunity to experience this major addition to Santa Monica's park system from a variety of perspectives. A range of cultural programming—from live bands to family-friendly puppetry—was included in the series, with a final performance that merged a specially-choreographed dance with live music. Dancers moved throughout the park, taking advantage of its unusual topography which includes exquisitely shaped, small spaces designed by James Corner Field Operations.

City Launches Open Data Initiative

Want to learn more about our city? Love drilling down through data? Then data.smgov.net is the site for you! The Santa Monica Open Data Portal, launched in October, offers a wealth of city information at your fingertips—city finance, permits, licenses, public assets and services, public safety, and transportation—with more being added on a regular basis. The information can be downloaded for technical use, but is also easily shared through user-created charts and easy-to-understand illustrations. If you're interested in exploring the budget, log on to SantaMonicaCA.opengov.com to access interesting visuals and interactive tools that help communicate city finances in a simple, intuitive manner.

OCTOBER 2014 (CONT.)

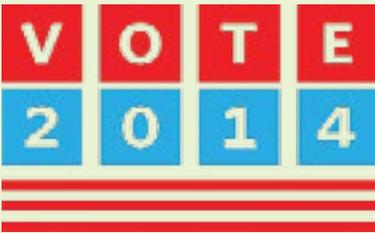
A Strong Fiscal Year

From a financial perspective, it was a good year for our AAA-rated city. Revenues were up over projections, led by an increase in hotel and utility taxes, parking revenues, fees and charges while city departments underspent their operating budgets. Final numbers for fiscal year 2013-14 are still coming in; look for them in the city's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report that will be presented to Council in February. Santa Monica continues to be among the top California cities in assessed property value, and our well-diversified economy is thriving, allowing us to maintain strong financial reserves and provide high quality services to the community.

NOVEMBER 2014

Election 2014: It's a Wrap!

The Santa Monica City Clerk's Office wrapped up another successful election season. In early fall, two candidate workshops were held and the comprehensive election website smvote.org was re-launched in partnership with CityTV and the League of Women Voters. To help "get out the vote," City Clerk staff visited the Farmers' Markets to speak to shoppers about the election process and to register new voters. By the end of the season, 38 candidates had been assisted, while five ballot measures, 33 new campaign committees and 561 campaign statements were processed.



Policing the Shopping Surge

Throngs of holiday shoppers converged on Santa Monica to take advantage of the city's world-class shopping districts. Always prepared, the Santa Monica Police Department stepped up its presence in Downtown to provide safety and security during the holiday shopping surge. New signs were posted in parking structures reminding shoppers to lock their vehicles and avoid leaving gifts, bags and boxes visible from the outside.



Photo by William Short

DECEMBER 2014

Honing in on Zoning

Major progress was made in 2014 toward the city's Zoning Ordinance Update as the first round of the draft ordinance review with the Planning Commission was completed following 20 hearings. A Redline Public Review Draft Zoning Ordinance, based on commission discussions, public feedback gathered at meetings and public reviews, and continued staff analysis, is now available at all Santa Monica library branches and at the Planning counter in City Hall. Opportunities for public comment will continue throughout the commission's review of the redline document, as well as during the City Council's review of the draft Zoning Ordinance Update next spring. A Zoning Ordinance cross-reference chart and a public correspondence chart are also available for review. For more information, please visit smgov.net/departments/pcd.

Big Blue Bus: on Track and on Time

BBB has made significant progress in improving its on-time performance across the system, with numerous adjustments to the route schedules made over the last year. BBB has also implemented new procedures in its operations division to manage and track on-time performance and schedule adherence. This, together with continued driver commitment, continues to improve service.



The City of Santa Monica wishes you and yours a very a happy and prosperous 2015!