Working together to define, measure, and actively improve wellbeing in Santa Monica
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The City of Santa Monica’s Office of Civic Wellbeing released findings from the second Wellbeing Index, a first-of-its-kind tool that uses data to assess community health and wellbeing to prioritize policy and programs based on residents’ most pressing needs. The Index was created through the City’s winning entry in the 2013 Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Mayors Challenge, an ideas competition for cities.

For 2017, the second Wellbeing Index was fine-tuned to increase usability, including data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, age, gender, zip code, and other factors. Additional focus was applied to the resident input component, with the participation rate doubling from 2015 to add 3,827 resident voices responding to the wellbeing survey. The narrative emerging from the findings indicates that Santa Monica is a community with many strengths, including a diversity of lived experiences; however, it is crucial that the City continues to provide equitable access to activities and opportunities that promote wellbeing.

“Overall, we’re in good health, feel engaged in our neighborhoods, and are happy most of the time, but there are clear areas of disparity, and the overall strength of a community is measured by its ability to help all members thrive, including its most vulnerable members. The latest Wellbeing Index tells us that we have work to do, and we want to enlist the entire community in bridging these gaps.”

– Mayor Ted Winterer

SANTA MONICA RELEASES NEW FINDINGS FROM WELLBEING INDEX
HERE’S THE LATEST

Here are a few highlights from the 2017 Index findings

Santa Monicans are fairly satisfied with life, but there are groups that experience significant stress and loneliness.

- 74% of residents are optimistic about the future.
- Nearly 80% feel that life is worthwhile, but residents ages 25–34 have less time to do things they love relative to other population segments,
- Nearly 40% of residents don’t feel a sense of belonging in their neighborhood.

Santa Monicans feel trust in their neighborhood, but they have less sense of social connection or ability to influence decision making in their city.

- 84% report they feel they can trust their neighbors.
- 74% plan to stay in their neighborhood for a number of years.
- Less than half stop and have informal interactions with neighbors.
- 29% feel they can influence decisions in Santa Monica.

Overall, Santa Monicans are healthy, but there is room for improvement.

- Residents have fewer chronic health conditions, like coronary heart disease and obesity, than the average American.
- An increasing number (62%) are not active on a daily basis or meeting basic nutrition goals (80%).

Santa Monicans reported being able to afford living here, but worry about housing security and future job opportunities.

- Nearly 50% of residents (both renters and homeowners) spend 30% of their income on housing.
- About 25% worry about paying their rent/mortgage, and the percentage of parents who worry that their children will not be able to live in Santa Monica on their own has increased to 62% from 52% in 2015.

“Santa Monica has found an inventive and effective way to understand resident wellbeing and measure progress in making it stronger,” said James Anderson, head of Government Innovation programs at Bloomberg Philanthropies. “This pioneering approach can be adopted by any city looking to get more rigorous in its efforts to improve quality of life for all.”

With this second round of findings, the City will continue its work and home in on partnerships as an effective path to addressing concerning aspects of community wellbeing. This will involve activating partnerships at multiple levels, including the launch of programs that drive citizen action with Bloomberg Philanthropies-led Cities of Services; intensive staff training on racial equity led by Center for Social Inclusion and Government Alliance on Race and Equity; and growing the network to get other cities replicating the Wellbeing Project.

Wellbeing 365: Stress Less and Thrive

Along with release of the Index, the City launched a partnership with Kaiser Permanente to create a new video series, Wellbeing365: Stress Less and Thrive. The series, offered in English and Spanish, highlights a range of everyday actions for individuals and local resources to support community wellbeing.

Be sure to check out all the Wellbeing 365 videos online at wellbeing.smgov.net/get-involved to learn how you can get involved. And for more information on the project, visit smgov.net/wellbeing.
Here’s the latest

The Wellbeing Index harnesses the power of data to provide a shared understanding of our community’s strengths and needs, encouraging collaboration among city leaders, local organizations, and residents to improve our collective wellbeing. We measure individual wellbeing (also called “outlook”) and five areas of community wellbeing for an understanding of both how well we’re doing as a city and how it feels to be a resident of Santa Monica.

All five of the dimensions directly affect outlook, which is about life satisfaction, flourishing, happiness, and autonomy.

- **Outlook**:
  - Mobility Options
  - Quality & Access
  - Pride in Place

- **Community**:
  - Strong Local Networks
  - Civic Engagement
  - Community Identity

- **Learning**:
  - Learning Status
  - Access to Learning
  - Learning Behaviors

- **Economic Opportunity**:
  - Affordability
  - Opportunity
  - Business Diversity

- **Place & Plane**:
  - Mobility Options
  - Quality & Access
  - Pride in Place

- **Health**:
  - Physical & Mental Health
  - Access to Resources
  - Behaviors

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Other data highlights:

- **50%** of Santa Monicans rate community gardens as the number-one amenity that they’d like to see more of in the city.
- **66%** live within a five-minute walk of goods and services.
- Only **29%** feel they can influence government.
- **40%** of Santa Monicans don’t feel like they belong in their neighborhood.
HERE’S THE LATEST

HOW ARE OUR CHILDREN DOING?

Third Edition Youth Wellbeing Report
Card Available

Santa Monica Cradle to Career is a collective impact initiative consisting of key institutions, community members, advocates, service providers, and stakeholders working together to develop a continuum of services and opportunities to ensure our children and youth are provided a system, resources, and the tools needed to thrive from birth to adulthood.

The updated data is more than a report card. It is a call to action. Learn how our children and young people are doing, where they need support, and how you can become involved at santamonicacradletocareer.org.

44% of 11th graders report substance use

Disparities in graduation rate persist among African-American and Latino students

1/4 of youth report feelings of sadness and hopelessness

FITBIT PILOT BEGINS IN 90404

The City’s 2017 Wellbeing Index revealed that activity levels are going down in our city, especially in the 90404 area. In an effort to learn more about the health and fitness of our residents, the Office of Wellbeing is conducting an exciting new pilot program to learn all about you and your activity levels. We’re gathering data via a Fitbit Alta from two hundred 90404 residents to get better insight on your daily movements. All participants will receive a Fitbit Alta at no cost, and the data collected from your device will be kept secure and used only to understand health and fitness levels. Thank you, Fitbit, for this exciting opportunity!
MEET THE NEW CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE

Aft er open and competitive recruitments, City Manager Rick Cole recently welcomed Assistant City Manager Katie Lichtig and Deputy City Manager Anuj Gupta to the City of Santa Monica. Katie’s role will focus on ensuring the effective operations of the City’s eleven departments and nearly 2,300 staff, while Anuj will spearhead the development and implementation of policy initiatives focused on community wellbeing, environmental sustainability, economic vitality, and social equity.

Katie returns to Santa Monica, where she began her career in local government. She has served as City Manager for San Luis Obispo for nearly eight years and in leading positions with the cities of Malibu and Beverly Hills before that. As City Manager of San Luis Obispo, Katie saw the city through the recent recession, leveraged existing funding to expand open space, and worked with community partners to fund construction of homeless service centers and new infrastructure.

Anuj recently served as General Counsel to Mayor Eric Garcetti in the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs as well as Garcetti’s Director of Operations before that, spearheading key policy initiatives, including the U.S.-China Climate Leaders Summit. Anuj previously worked for the Obama White House and with the U.S. Department of Justice.

In the spirit of getting to know Katie, Anuj, and Rick better, we have asked them a few questions about their favorite places in Santa Monica and hopes for the community’s future as they endeavor to make the City more sustainable, inclusive, and thriving.

**Rick Cole, City Manager**

Where is your favorite place to hang out in Santa Monica?
I love Virginia Avenue Park! I get my hair cut across the street and usually find a reason to stop by Trader Joe’s nearby.

What’s your neighborhood park?
After Virginia Avenue Park, Palisades Park is an iconic gem. I’ll never get tired of looking out over the blue Pacific and our landmark Pier.

Do you have an early memory of coming to Santa Monica?
My father was born here, but that was long before me obviously. I have fond memories of coming to the 3rd Street Promenade starting back in 1989.

What’s your biggest priority in your new role?
The nature of my job is that my priorities reflect the City Council’s priorities. Right now, my highest priority is homelessness.

What’s your biggest hope for Santa Monica’s future?
In these dark and divided times nationally, I hope we can be a bright spot for vibrant democracy, constructive civic discourse and debate, and a model of 21st Century government.

Do you have any tips for how to get involved in Santa Monica?
Join a civic group or neighborhood council or volunteer for one of our many community nonprofits—or start one of your own and get others to join!

**Katie Lichtig, Assistant City Manager**

Where is your favorite place to hang out in Santa Monica?
An afternoon at the beach, relaxing and taking in the view of the Pacific. I used to go to Station 25 every weekend (and many weekdays) in the summer during my youth. On the weekdays, I would always take the Big Blue Bus!

What’s your neighborhood park?
They are all amazing. I cannot pick just one.

Do you have an early memory of coming to Santa Monica?
Who remembers POP (Pacific Ocean Park)?!! I was scared out of my mind anytime I rode that rollercoaster.

What’s your biggest priority in your new role?
Being of service to the City team as we work to implement our big vision to build on our past success and transform our services to enhance our positive impact on the Santa Monica community.

What’s your biggest hope for Santa Monica’s future?
That the community is knowledgeable, engaged, and thrilled with the service, programs, and operations of the City of Santa Monica.

Do you have any tips for how to get involved in Santa Monica?
Be optimistic and say “yes!” to new opportunities and possibilities.

**Your City, Your Voice**

We want to hear what’s important to you and how we can make Santa Monica even better. Take our survey at smgov.net/survey2017.
Anuj Gupta, Deputy City Manager

Where is your favorite place to hang out in Santa Monica?
My wife, young son and I are at the Virginia Avenue Park’s farmers market almost every Saturday morning. Plus, I’m a sucker for the Pier whenever we have visitors in from out of town.

What’s your neighborhood park?
Clover Park is my son’s favorite. Between the great playgrounds, the fields where he’s loving his toddler “Kick and Play” soccer classes, and watching the airplanes, Clover has so much to offer.

Do you have an early memory of coming to Santa Monica?
My father always loved coming to Santa Monica, especially when we had family or friends visiting, so our whole family would drive across town from the San Gabriel Valley, have lunch at his favorite Italian spot, I Cugini (now occupied by Meat on Ocean), and walk up and down the Promenade.

What’s your biggest priority in your new role?
Ensuring that all of our great City departments and staff are working collaboratively to develop and implement innovative and effective policy solutions to the challenges that face us as a city—from sustainability to homelessness to mobility to economic prosperity.

Do you have any tips for how to get involved in Santa Monica?
Don’t hesitate to speak up and take part, and no step is too small: attend a Council meeting, apply to join a Board or Commission, and stay tuned to our great social media channels for the latest on events, news, and opportunities to engage with everything that’s going on in our great city!

TACKLING CRIME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

City Manager Rick Cole

 bystanders, neighbors, and local residents were all horrified by the events that unfolded this past August in front of their eyes on Main Street—or through the media, including local television and Twitter.

The criminal investigation is unfolding, but we know this: Christopher Davis was charged with fatally gunning down an acquaintance after an argument on the well-travelled Main Street sidewalk near Strand. A few moments later, the suspect opened fire on responding officers and was wounded by return gunfire near Hotchkiss Park, a few blocks away from the first shooting.

This is a frightening occurrence no matter where it happens—and in today’s society, it is possible that it could happen anywhere. But Santa Monica residents worry that the feeling that they live in a safe community may be slipping away, punctuated by incidents of violence like this one, the brutal home invasion robberies north of Montana, and the recent brawl at the McDonald’s near the Pier, which was captured and widely distributed on video.

Crime is up. That’s true here in Santa Monica and throughout much of California. In general, while thefts and other property crimes are on the rise, the overall level of crime, particularly violent crime, are still near historic lows that haven’t been seen since the 1950s.

None of that is comforting to anyone who has been a victim, witnessed a crime, or heard about a crime near their homes or businesses. Nor is it comforting for any of us to see far more people on our streets recently engaging in various anti-social behaviors or exhibiting disturbing outward signs of mental illness. Government’s number-one job is the safety and security of residents—and with trust in government eroded across the board, our fragile sense of security is fraying as well.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?
Clearly, ignoring what’s happening is indefensible. Read the rest of Rick’s post at santamonica.gov/tacklingcrime.

Rick Cole, our City Manager, welcomes your feedback and invites you to help host a discussion in your home, house of worship, organization, or local park, library, or fire station. You can also contact him directly at rick.cole@smgov.net.
In September 24, the California Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) named Downtown Santa Monica as one of three 2017 “Great Places in California” at its annual conference held in Sacramento. This distinction honors our Downtown as a place that’s "memorable to the community and to individuals and creates a strong sense of place," recognizing its unique, visually interesting environment that encourages human contact and social activities. More than 100 years of effort by multiple generations of City leaders and partners in the community has made Downtown Santa Monica a true town center, even as it has become a popular regional and international magnet. Recognition by the leading California planning professionals as a “Great Place” is a credit to their vision and hard work. Congratulations, Downtown!
Thanks for coast-ing with us!

Last month, Santa Monicans and visitors ditched their cars and rode, walked, and danced their way through our city. The festival opened two miles of Santa Monica for imaginative uses, including roaming musicians, dance workshops, interactive art, and so much more. Check out our favorite sites and scenes from COAST.

Save the date for next year October 7, 2018.
The City of Santa Monica is proud to announce that the Santa Monica Fire Department has again been awarded a Class One Rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Out of 27,198 fire departments in the U.S., Santa Monica Fire is one of only 241 departments to receive this rating. Through the Public Protection Classification (PPC) Program, the Insurance Service Office evaluates municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. The ISO is a nationwide rating service used by insurance companies to help establish local business and residential property insurance rates.

The Class One rating is the highest possible rating that can be given to any fire department nationwide and is given only after a careful analysis of all fire departments operations, the city’s water system, and emergency 911 communications system. The program provides an objective, countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training. During our recent evaluation, the SMFD received 93.2 out of 105.1 possible points, the highest the department has ever achieved.
25th Annual Candy Cane Drive

Saturday, December 9, 2017
Santa Claus is coming to YOUR neighborhood!

10:30-11:15 a.m.  DOUGLAS PARK
2400 California Avenue

11:30-12:00 p.m.  CHRISTINE REED PARK
California Avenue & 7th Street

1:30-2:15 p.m.  VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK
2200 Virginia Avenue

2:30-3:00 p.m.  MARINE PARK
Marine & 17th Streets

3:15-3:45 p.m.  CLOVER PARK
Ocean Park & 25th Street

Santa will be escorted by Santa Monica police cars and motorcycles. LISTEN for sirens and LOOK for him and the bright red fire engines! Cancy canes available for ALL!

NEW INTERIM POLICE CHIEF

City Manager Rick Cole selected Kenneth Semko, former Captain of the Santa Monica Police Department’s (SMPD) Operations Division, as interim Chief of Police, effective September 29, 2017. Captain Semko serves in the role while an internal and external recruitment effort is conducted to replace Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks, who retired September 28. Captain Semko is a 26-year veteran of SMPD and has held positions throughout the organization, including the Homeless Liaison Program, patrol, SWAT, and K-9 handler.

“The public safety challenges in Santa Monica don’t stop while we select a successor to Chief Seabrooks,” said City Manager Rick Cole. “Captain Ken Semko has the right character, experience, and values to step immediately into the role of leading the Department. With a talented Department behind him, Captain Semko will continue to fight the rise in property crime, respond to the regional homeless crisis, and advance our efforts to be a model of 21st Century policing.”

Read more about Chief Semko santamonica.gov/interimchiefofpolice.
WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BREEZE BIKE SHARE AND METRO BIKE SHARE?

In September, you may have seen Metro Bike Shares appearing in Santa Monica and neighboring Venice: 13 locations in Venice and at two of their Expo Line stops: 17th Street/SMC and Downtown Santa Monica. Santa Monica Breeze Bike Share will continue to provide great service, with 500 bikes conveniently located at more than 88 hubs in Santa Monica and Venice, including all three Expo Stations.

We understand this could be confusing, so here are some tips:

**Metro Bikes are not compatible with the Breeze Bike System**
- Metro Bikes will not lock to Breeze Stations. If you are riding a Metro Bike, you will need return the bike to one of the Metro Bike Share Stations.
- The systems require separate sign-up. Your memberships do not transfer across systems.
- Your TAP card can be linked to either or both accounts to unlock the bike.

**Where you can ride and where you can lock**
- Metro Bike share is dock-based, which means bikes can be rented and returned only to the Metro Bike Share stations, including only two locations in Santa Monica.
- Breeze Bike Share can be rented at stations, or anywhere a bike is located. You can lock a bike anywhere (fees may apply), find/reserve bikes on the web or mobile app in real time, and return and lock to a Breeze station, or a rack within 100 feet if the station is already full. The Breeze System Area still extends from San Vicente to I-405 to Venice Blvd. to Washington Blvd. in Venice.

The systems have different fee structures
- Breeze Bike Share Pay-as-you-go members pay only for the minutes they use at a rate of $0.12/minute. Annual ($99/year), Monthly ($25/month), and Student ($7/month) memberships give you 90 minutes of ride-time every day and count only the minutes you use.
- Metro Bike Share charges in 30-minute increments. Annual members pay $40/year + $1.75/30-minute trip, and Monthly members pay $20/month with no additional charge for trips 30 minutes or less, but an additional $1.75 for each additional 30 minutes thereafter. Walk-up rentals are charged $3.50/30 minutes.

For more information about Santa Monica’s Breeze Bike Share, visit breezebikeshare.com or call 310.828.2525. For more information about Metro Bike Share visit bikeshare.metro.net or call 844.857.2453.
SEISMIC RETROFIT PROGRAM UNDERWAY

The City’s Seismic Retrofit Program is well underway. To date, nearly 800 notices have been sent to building owners, informing them that their properties may need to be retrofitted based on age and type of construction.

Roughly 500 of the notices that have already been sent are for soft-story buildings. These are typically multi-family residential buildings, at which residents park in open car ports that have residential units supported above them.

The City is hosting four informational meetings intended for soft-story building owners and tenants. These meetings will address what is involved in retrofitting a building, tenants’ rights during construction, cost considerations for building owners, and tips on selecting design professionals to evaluate these structures.

The first informational community meeting will be held in the East Wing of the Civic Auditorium on Monday, November 13, 2017. Three additional community meetings will follow in various locations throughout the City on March 6, May 29, and August 21 of 2018, as additional soft-story notices are issued. Locations for the remaining meetings are yet to be determined.

For more information on the Retrofit Program, including an interactive map of buildings on the list, visit smgov.net/seismic. Updates to the program will also be available on the site, including locations for upcoming community meetings. If you have questions, call or email Building and Safety staff at 310.458.8355 or seismic@smgov.net.

STAIRWAY TO HEAVENLY VIEWS

What was old is new again! Staff from the Public Landscape Division of the city’s Public Works Department recently coordinated the refurbishment of the decades-old footpath near Montana Avenue that leads down the bluff from Palisades Park to the beach. The project began in August and completed in mid-September. Renovations included replacing steps, rungs, and railings; laying down decomposed granite instead of natural soil on the landings to minimize erosion; patching asphalt; raising the retaining wall on the bluff nearby; repainting the railings; and adding additional steps for safety. The end result? Updated aesthetics and improved walkability between two of Santa Monica’s most popular attractions in the heart of the city.

Next time you’re in the area, take the stairs!

The Public Landscape Division maintains and enhances the city’s parks, landscapes, urban forest, downtown, and Santa Monica State Beach. You can learn more about recent, ongoing, and upcoming Public Landscape Division projects around the city by visiting smgov.net/landscape or @cityofsantamonica on Facebook and Instagram.
Plan Ahead for Martin Luther King, Jr., Events

Join fellow community members in celebration of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his ideals. The main festivities on the national holiday—January 15, 2018—will feature keynote speaker Tommie Smith, a civil rights icon. Immediately following the main event, stop by the Community Involvement Fair for refreshments, information, and conversation with representatives from a variety of community organizations.

National Holiday Celebration
January 15, 2018, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
SGI-USA World Peace Ikeda Auditorium
525 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica 90401
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Immediately following:
Community Involvement Fair
10:30 a.m. to noon
St. Monica Church—Grand Pavilion
701 California Ave., Santa Monica 90403
Door prizes provided.
Please bring a new pair of socks to donate to The People Concern (formerly OPCC)
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Additional festivities leading up to the national holiday:
NEW FOR 2018:
Thursday, January 11, 2018, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Santa Monica Library,
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Auditorium
6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Voter registration
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Viewing of the documentary film “Still… Fighting for the Dream,” centered on the Fannie Lou Hamer story
7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Panel discussion about voting rights, past, present and future
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Westside Interfaith Prayer Breakfast
Friday, January 12, 2018, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
1343 Ocean Park Blvd, Santa Monica, 90405
Tickets $25 per person.
Checks should be made payable to:
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
For information: 310.452.1116 or office@mtolivelutheranchurch.org

Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Concert
Saturday, January 13, 2018, 2 p.m.
Guido Lamell, Conductor
SGI-USA World Peace Ikeda Auditorium
525 Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica, 90401
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The 2018 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., celebrations are presented by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Westside Coalition and sponsored by the City of Santa Monica, SGI-USA, Santa Monica College Associates, Santa Monica College, Rand Corporation, City TV, Santa Monica Library, and a variety of other individuals, organizations, and corporate contributors.

For more info:
Facebook: mlkwestside.org
Instagram: MLKWestside; Twitter: @Westsidemlk
Website: mlkjwestside.org
Email: mlkwestside@icloud.com
Phone 818.207.3934
Downtown Santa Monica is your home for the holidays with a full slate of winter festivities, including the return of everyone’s favorite outdoor ice-skating rink, the official City of Santa Monica tree lighting ceremony, and the unveiling of new, totally immersive holiday-themed art installations from Australian duo DABSMYLA that will transform the Third Street Promenade into a scene straight out of a Dr. Seuss tale.

Produced by Downtown Santa Monica, Inc., these December events cover the full range of holiday cheer. Many of the events are free, and all are family friendly.

Ice Skating in Santa Monica
November 1, 2017–January 15, 2018 @ Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue

Every holiday season, Downtown Santa Monica brings a little ice to our beachside community, transforming the corner of Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue into the winter wonderland known as “ICE at Santa Monica,” an 8,000-square-foot ice-skating rink.

Skate rental and all-day admission: $15
Locker rentals: $5

General 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.

For more information and holiday hours, call 310.260.1199 or visit santamonica.com.

Grand Opening and Community Celebration
November 8, 2017, at 6 p.m.–10 p.m.
@ Corner of Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue

You’re invited to help kick off the 11th season of “ICE at Santa Monica” at this free celebration, complete with a performance by some of California’s elite skaters, DJ dance jams, food from local restaurants, and swirling snowfall. The event is free to the public, and guests are invited to bring a new unwrapped gift or gift card to support the PAL Best Gift Ever Toy Drive, which provides presents to Santa Monica children who are less fortunate than most. For more information, visit santamonica.com. We’ll see you there!
ENJOY YOUR CITY

Santa’s Lil’ Savers
November 24, 12 p.m.–3 p.m. @ Third Street Promenade

A handful of lucky Black Friday shoppers in Downtown Santa Monica will be treated to a holiday shopping spree, courtesy of Santa Claus and his band of jolly elves. St. Nick will be making the rounds in Downtown Santa Monica all afternoon, surprising shoppers by paying for their purchases (up to $100), just for shopping in the neighborhood! To learn more about the benefits of shopping local, visit the Buy Local Santa Monica website: buylocalsantamonica.com. Post or tweet about the event using the hashtag #BuyLocalSM.

Official City of Santa Monica Holiday Tree Lighting
Thursday, November 30, 6 p.m.
@ Third Street Promenade

Join Santa and City officials as they light the Official City of Santa Monica Holiday Tree on the world-famous Third Street Promenade. Sing classic Christmas carols with some of Santa Monica’s most talented vocalists, while the little ones get creative with custom coloring books created by DABSMYLA that feature Downtown Santa Monica’s exciting new holiday decorations.

Menorah Lightings
Sundown, December 12–Sundown, December 19
@ Third Street Promenade

Join local synagogues and community groups to celebrate the Festival of Lights this Hanukkah on the world-famous Third Street Promenade. Lighting the menorah will begin shortly after sundown each evening. Shalom!

Mayor’s Bike Ride

SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
Follow us @santamonicaplanning for more details about our December ride.
ENJOY YOUR CITY

HEAL THE BAY’S SANTA MONICA PIER AQUARIUM BEGINS WINTER HOURS

It’s winter time at the aquarium, which is open 2–5 p.m. on Fridays, open 12:30–5 p.m. on weekends, and closed to the public Monday through Thursday for school programs. Friday afternoon is feeding time for many of the 100+ species on exhibit, and guests are invited to help feed the sea stars in touch tanks. Check the aquarium’s events calendar at healthebay.org for new, exciting activities and special programs offered during the winter months. And walk off that Thanksgiving turkey November 24 with a trip to the aquarium, which will be open special holiday hours, 12:30–5 p.m.

WHERE WILL BLUE TAKE YOU?

Need a ride to LAX during the holidays? Getting to the airport can be frustrating, expensive, and confusing. Big Blue Bus saves you the stress and the high costs of driving to the airport or taking a taxi or an Uber. Our Route 3 and Rapid 3 services can take you to the airport for just $1.25 in less than an hour. Route 3 and Rapid 3 services run every 20 minutes, so you can rest assured to arrive on time!

Once you arrive at the Transit Center, disembark, and simply follow the “Free Shuttle to LAX” signs, which will take you across the parking lot to the depot building, where you can board Shuttle C directly to your terminal. Shuttle C operates 7 days per week, every 15 minutes. So, sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride to LAX.

Please note that fareboxes take only exact change. For a cashless way to board, download the Token Transit app on your smartphone and purchase a single ride.
he Santa Monica-Malibu School District’s (SMMUSD) Facilities Improvement Project (FIP) team worked around the clock during summer and into autumn on modernization projects at multiple campuses in Santa Monica and Malibu.

Districtwide window, paint, floor, and door projects, first initiated in 2016 at three schools (Cabrillo, Grant, and Rogers), continued at two more schools (Webster and Roosevelt) this summer. The projects were funded by bond measure ES.

Samohi also installed new basketball courts during the summer, and modernization is in progress of the Sealy baseball and softball field. The Sealy Field project includes new field lights, backstops, dugouts, and scoreboard. This project is expected to be ready for spring sports.

Lincoln Middle School is getting a new synthetic turf field with cork infill, reconstruction of the track, upgraded restroom facilities, and the return of field lights. The project is expected to be complete by January 2018.

Olympic High School is undergoing a multi-phase modernization project to update classrooms, administrative offices, the library, and the multi-purpose room, as well as to complete some exterior work. The current phase of the project is expected to be completed by January 2018. The next phase is scheduled for summer/fall 2018.

“We’re pleased with all that has been accomplished on our campuses recently as we work to improve indoor and outdoor environments for our students and staff,” said Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati. “We appreciate the ongoing support in our communities to fund these projects through our bond program.”

For more information, visit smmusd.org, follow SMMUSD on Twitter @SMMUSD, or like SMMUSD on Facebook.
HELP THE SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As the seasons change and families gather to enjoy the holidays, let us remember those less fortunate in our community. Here are three ways to focus on generosity this holiday season:

If you prefer to give your time during the holidays, or if you’re considering making a New Year’s resolution to become more involved in our local community, consider taking part in the annual Homeless Count. The Santa Monica Homeless Count is part of a nationwide effort to collect information on the number of individuals and families who are living in shelters or on the streets.

The City will conduct our homeless count on the evening of Wednesday, January 24, 2018. This team effort helps our city measure progress toward ending homelessness and gives a snapshot of who is experiencing homelessness and where they are located. It’s a great way to volunteer with friends, family, or a group. Instructions, training, and materials will be provided in this community effort. To register, visit santamonicahomelesscount.com.

This team effort helps our city measure progress toward ending homelessness and gives a snapshot of who is experiencing homelessness and where they are located.

Sign up for emergency alerts from the City of Santa Monica at smgov.net/alerts.
Santa Monica Public Library is offering all qualified community members, ages 19 and older, the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and credentialed career certificate through Career Online High School. As part of the world’s first accredited, private, online school district, Career Online High School is designed specifically to re-introduce adults to the education system and prepare them for post-secondary education or the workforce.

After students enroll, Career Online High School pairs them with academic coaches, who assist with developing individual career plans, offer ongoing guidance and encouragement, evaluate performance, and connect learners with the resources they need to demonstrate mastery of the course material. Classes are supported by board-certified instructors, and students have 24/7 access to the online-learning platform. Coursework is available in eight high-growth, high-demand career fields across a wide spectrum—from child care and education to certified transportation—before progressing to core academic subjects.

Interested? Learn more about Career Online High School at smpl.org/cohs or by calling 310.458.8308.
Reducing Food Waste during the Holidays

The holidays are approaching, and with them comes all the food individuals prepare to celebrate these special occasions. Large meals around the holiday season are common, and literally tons of food waste is created as these meals are being prepared or when thrown away afterward. For Thanksgiving alone, individuals are expected to throw away approximately 200 million pounds of turkey.

In order to decrease the food that ends up in landfills, consider the following tips when planning your holiday meals:

1. **Take a look in the fridge first:** Avoid buying too much food while shopping for meals by checking what food items are already at home. Create a list of food items you do not have at home, so that you purchase only what is necessary. Not only does this reduce the possibility of throwing out food, but also saves money on groceries.

2. **Smaller plates and utensils:** Using smaller plates will encourage guests to get seconds or thirds instead of piling food on larger plates. Larger plates encourage food waste because guests do not always finish the food they place on their plates, and leftovers from the plates are usually thrown away rather than saved.

3. **Donate food:** Have some non-perishables left over? Donate food to the Westside Food Bank. To find more information on food donations visit westsidefoodbankca.org or call 310.828.6016.

4. **Save leftovers:** Leftovers can be stored for after the holidays. Store leftovers in small, individual containers to make grabbing a quick meal more convenient. Also, leftovers can be made into new meals after the holidays.

5. **Compost food items:** Food scraps created when cooking the meals can be composted rather than thrown out. If you would like to compost at home, compost bins can be purchased from Resource Recovery and Recycling. If you want to easily compost food scraps, put scraps from the meals in a green organics cart to keep the food from reaching a landfill.

Taking these tips into consideration when planning for holiday meals can reduce the amount of food waste produced in Santa Monica. This, in turn, not only moves Santa Monica one step closer to Zero Waste but also keeps more money in your pockets this holiday season!

For more information on green organics carts or purchasing compost bins, call Resource Recovery & Recycling at 310.458.2223 or visit online at smgov.net/r3.
UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SANTA MONICA FARMERS MARKETS

Chef Demos
November 12 and December 10
Chef in Residence Kim Vu of Vucacious Catering will demonstrate how to make delicious recipes for you to try at home. She’ll be using items found at the Santa Monica Farmers Markets. These demos occur on the 2nd Sunday of every month at the Main Street Market.

Preserving
November 18 and December 16
Join Slow Preservers Los Angeles for Preserving Classes at our Virginia Avenue Park Market. These classes are open to the public, but require an RSVP smgov.net/fmevents.
• November 18: Golden Gossip Apple Chutney
• December 16: Pears in Mulled Spiced Syrup or Wine

Live Bands and Kids Activities
Sundays are a family affair at the Main Street Market, with live music and kids’ activities, like face painting. Here’s the fun and festive band line up:
• November 12: BEVERLY BELLS
• November 19: DEL REY COMMUNITY JAZZ BAND
• November 26: MAYAZTEK
• December 3: MASANGA MARIMBAS
• December 10: BAILA BAILA
• December 17: CHELSEA WILLIAMS
• December 24: Christmas Eve with THE STANDARDS
• December 31: New Year’s Eve with TEDDY BANG TRIO

As we move into the holiday season, consider doing your shopping at the Santa Monica Farmers Markets to support your local community and economy.

Sign up to get SaMoNews, the City’s email newsletter. Go online to: www.smgov.net/newsletter
Roasted Sunchoke & Apple Salad

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

INGREDIENTS
1 honey crisp apple, chopped
1 tbsp. basil, chopped
1 tbsp. mint, chopped
1 tbsp. cilantro, chopped
1–2 tbsp. chopped walnuts
1/4 c. black beans, rinsed
2–4 eggs
2–3 oz. jalapeño goat cheese or cotija cheese
1/2 lime
1 tbsp. olive oil
S & P to taste

DRESSING
2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
1 tbsp. white wine vinegar
1–2 tsp. samba olek or harissa paste
1 tsp. honey
Salt and pepper to taste
Red pepper chili flakes (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Preheat oven to 350˚F. On a large rimmed baking sheet, toss sunchokes with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast until tender, about 25–30 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, whisk dressing ingredients in a medium bowl until well combined and set aside.
3. Add in sunchokes, apples, herbs, and chopped walnuts and toss to combine.

INGREDIENTS WERE PURCHASED AT THE SATURDAY VIRGINIA PARK FARMERS MARKET FROM THE FOLLOWING VENDORS:
Apples: Cuyama Orchards
Sunchokes: Weiser Farms
Herbs: Kenter Canyon Farms
Walnuts: Kennedy Farms

See You at the Farmers Markets!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>Arizona Ave @ 2nd St</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturdays</td>
<td>Virginia Avenue Park</td>
<td>8 a.m.–1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays</td>
<td>2640 Main St</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.</td>
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GET INVOLVED

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

One way to combat and prevent diabetes is with a healthy diet. Here are some tips to get more fruits and vegetables into your diet:

- Add fruit to your oatmeal, yogurt, or cereal for breakfast. Better yet, go for a full-on fruit smoothie to start your day.
- For picky kids, sneak veggies into their dishes: if your kids like spaghetti, just blend some added veggies into the tomato sauce.
- When deciding what to make for dinner, try making vegetables the highlight of the meal.
- Eat what’s in season and local. You may find that you like tomatoes better when they were actually picked when they were ripe. There’s no better way to get seasonal and local than by purchasing your produce from the Santa Monica Farmers Market.

TAILOR MADE: POP UP ALTERATIONS SHOP MEETS FASHION ACTIVISM

Former textile worker turned superhero Frau Fiber illuminates the pins and needles in “fast fashion.” Frau provides tailoring services in a pop-up alterations shop at the Camera Obscura Art Lab, located at 1450 Ocean. Beginning Black Friday, November 25, through Saturday, December 2, residents and visitors can drop in with goods that need mending, alteration, or tailoring services. Fees for service vary and depend on the Wheel of Wages, a spinning wheel divided into countries (and respective wages) that produce the bulk of fast fashion garments. The cost of the alteration is directly tied to the wages of workers across the globe*, bringing to light the backstory of how fashion goods are created. Check smgov.net/camera for hours of operation.

*Plus the cost of materials. Please provide between 1–24 hours for service.
GET INVOLVED

BEACH = CULTURE | A YEAR-ROUND SERIES OF FREE ARTS AND CULTURE EVENTS AT THE ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE

NATURALIST OUTINGS ON SUNDAY
DECEMBER 17

Your inner naturalist will revel in a morning of discovery at the Annenberg Community Beach House.

8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. The Santa Monica and Los Angeles Audubon Societies will lead the Snowy Plover Beach Walk, a free guided walk exploring the habitat and life cycle of the small, white snowy plovers that make Santa Monica Beach their winter home.

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Family Field Trip is a great way for families to discover little natural treasures. From grebes to beach hoppers to sand crabs, you never know what you’ll find on this sandy field trip to the beach! Ages 5+ with a parent/guardian.

Binoculars will be provided for both the Snowy Plover walk and the Family Field Trip . . . or bring your own! Comfortable clothing and sun protection are recommended. Both walks are free, but reservations are requested. RSVP at annenbergbeachhouse.com.

In cultural offerings this winter, strong female artists lead the way. Santa Monican nonagenarian Luchita Hurtado’s artworks nestle into the gallery, while Sakae Manning’s fierce storytelling takes up office in the Marion Davies Guest House. Both artists open their worlds to the curious and the inquisitive.

LUCITA HURTADO EXHIBIT THROUGH JANUARY 4
Opening reception – November 16

In the gallery, a half century of historical artworks by 97-year-old artist Luchita Hurtado will be on display through January 4, 2018, providing a glimpse into her private and personal world. Observe how Hurtado uses a sinewy line that alternates between bold, dashing, and quick strokes. Discover a world of androgynous, alien-like subjects and see how Hurtado uses icons like animals, tarot, symbols, text, and other bold forms. The exhibition was developed by Hurtado, Ryan Good, and Paul Soto. The opening reception is November 16, 2017.

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE SAKAE MANNING THROUGH DECEMBER 12
Open door and readings

Meanwhile, Writer-in-Residence Sakae Manning has been typing away to the sounds of crashing waves, as she creates words, ideas, and chapters for Kimono Blues, a work narrated, in turn, by two women who share a bond as family truth seekers. Manning sees storytelling as a means of forging alliances among women of color, shining light on individual journeys around race, ethnicity, and class. Come knock on Manning’s door and bring quips, questions, and discussions from your own writing, teaching, and voyaging during her office hours (Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through December 12). Manning will also lead other conversations in support of female voices and writings, including Reading Identities (November 14), a discussion around identity expression, and Marketing and Promotion for Writers (December 5), where a panel will provide methods that women writers of color (and others) can use to build a fan base and community in the publishing world.

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Sign up to receive the Beach House newsletter, and you’ll never miss another opportunity to catch a Pop-Up Pool Day, attend a reception for a newly installed gallery exhibit, or enjoy one of the many Beach = Culture events from an eclectic range of artists and performers. Go to annenbergbeachhouse.com and click “Sign Up for email updates.”
DO YOU TRAIN OTHERS TO REACH THEIR FITNESS GOALS? CONSIDER TRAINING IN REED PARK

Santa Monica Community Recreation is for older adults

Alex is in his 60s and newly retired. His wife, Marnie, works part-time at a local nonprofit. As their daily grind shifts into an open format, Alex and Marnie look for new ways to continue to spend time together, enjoy the outdoors, and keep healthy and active.

Alex has recently discovered the fitness room at the Memorial Park gym. Memorial Park has easy and free parking, and the monthly $12 Santa Monica Senior resident fee fits his budget. Alex enjoys the top-notch cardio and weightlifting equipment in a low-key environment. On the weekends, Alex returns to Memorial Park to enjoy the pickleball courts. Sometimes, Marnie likes to join in on the fun, and the couple plays a few rounds of doubles with other couples from the community. Pickleball is played on a similar—but smaller—court than a tennis court, and uses paddles like those used for ping-pong to serve airy, lightweight balls that catch the stroke just right. Alex and Marnie have formed great bonds with other pickleball players and never imagined being drawn to the game!

Besides pickleball, Marnie also enjoys exploring group classes like yoga, Zumba, or other dance workouts. Recently, Marnie learned about a unique class at her neighborhood park called Hoopfit’s Holy Hooping + Yoga. She decided to give it a whirl and loved the way the class fused yoga poses with hula hooping. It was unusual at first, but she had tons of fun! You’ll find Marnie at the November 26 and December 17 workshops in Reed Park. She may end up bringing a friend or two.

Fitness and class offerings are available all year round through Santa Monica Community Recreation. For more information about group class offerings like Holy Hooping + Yoga, visit smgov.net/classes. For info about the Memorial Park fitness room and pickleball courts, drop by the Memorial Park gym, located at 1401 Olympic Boulevard for a tour of the facilities, or visit smgov.net/adultsports and look for “Drop-In Sports & Fitness.”
The Westside is an Open Landscape
By Mike Sonksen

L.A.’s westside started as an open landscape of wetlands before it became agricultural now it’s built environment is cityscape where the foothills and ocean place-make beautiful people who are multicultural.

The westside began as an open landscape today Santa Monica is a digital space where companies are countercultural

Venice’s built environment is a beach state local residents do their best to stay in shape through eating organic and staying natural.

the westside was once an uncut landscape wetlands stretched from tar pits to Playa del Rey the architects made it horticultural

Now Westchester is a concrete cityscape layers of coastal fog make for perfect days the ocean breeze keep the locals hopeful the westside is where all things are possible.

Originally published by The Argonaut.

Mike Sonksen, aka Mike the Poet, is a 3rd-generation LA native and acclaimed poet, journalist, historian, teen mentor, and literary bridge-builder. He is a contributor to the LA Review of Books, KCET, and more. His best-known work “I AM ALIVE IN LOS ANGELES!” is part of the curriculum of many universities, and his recent publication Poetics of Location was published by Writ Large Press, a local independent publishing house and curator of the 90x90LA presentations at the Annenberg Community Beach House earlier this year. Mike recently led poetic tours as part of the 2017 Coast Art Zone at the Camera Obscura Art Lab.

EVENT PLANNERS: BREAK OUT OF THE BOARD ROOM

The Annenberg Community Beach House is the perfect place to break out of the board room. In addition to serving as a welcome escape from the office, it is a unique space to celebrate life’s milestones. Treat yourself and your guests . . . come to the beach! Contact Event Services at 310.458.4934 or email beachhouseevents@smgov.net.
WASH YOUR HANDS after using the toilet

1,000,000,000,000 germs can live in one gram of poop
(That’s the weight of a paper clip!)
Organized by the LA County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs in partnership with the City of Santa Monica Economic Development and Finance Departments, the City is holding the following:

**Small Business Resource Fair**
Thursday, November 16, 2017, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon
Santa Monica Main Library (Santa Monica Boulevard/7th Street)

**Small Business Saturday/Shop Small Sidewalk Sale**
Saturday, November 25, 2017
Montana Avenue
More info coming soon at buylocalsantamonica.com.

**Community Boutique: An Alternative Gift Fair**
Sunday, December 10, 2017, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
SM Bay Women’s Club, 1210 4th Street
Organized by the SM Service Club Alliance in partnership with Buy Local

If you’re a Santa Monica small business owner and would like to submit a Small Business Saturday offer, download free marketing materials at americanexpress.com/us/small-business.
The Santa Monica City Council regularly meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month in the Council Chamber, located at City Hall, 1685 Main Street. Upcoming Council meetings are scheduled for:

November 14
November 28
December 5
December 12

Meeting dates are occasionally changed; please visit smgov.net/council to confirm the schedule or to check the status of future agenda items. City Council meetings are broadcast live on CityTV cable channel 16, and streamed at citytv.org. Regular meetings air on 89.9 KCRW from 8 p.m. to midnight.

All Council meetings are open to the public. Public comment may be made in person at any meeting, or prior to the meeting via regular U.S. mail, email or by fax to: City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 209, Santa Monica, California 90401
Phone: 310.458.8201 | Fax: 310.458.1621.
Email all Council members: council@smgov.net.

All communications regarding City Council agenda items will now be available for public viewing online at smgov.net/council/agendas.

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**CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING**

Resource Recovery & Recycling (RRR) is making Christmas tree disposal easier for residents by collecting trees from December 26 to January 20 on regularly scheduled collection days. Beginning the day after Christmas, RRR will collect Christmas trees during a neighborhood’s designated collection day. Have alley collection? Place your undecorated Christmas tree in the alley on collection day. Have curbside collection? Just place your tree on the curb. Please make sure to remove any decorations and tree stand, and RRR will ensure the tree is composted, not landfilled. For more information or questions regarding Christmas tree collection, contact Resource Recovery & Recycling at 310.458.2223 or visit RRR online at smgov.net/r3.

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**Santa Monica Public Library Info**

**smpl.org**

**Main Library**: 601 Santa Monica Blvd. | 310.458.8600
**Fairview Branch**: 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. | 310.458.8681
**Montana Avenue**: 1704 Montana Ave. | 310.458.8682

**Ocean Park Branch**: 2601 Main St. | 310.458.8683
**Pico Branch**: 2201 Pico Blvd. | 310.458.8684

**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.
**Branches**: Mon–Thu noon–9 p.m. | Fri noon–5:30 p.m. | Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Closed on Sundays

Bike parking available. All city libraries are wheelchair accessible. To request a disability-related accommodation for events, please call the library at 310.458.8606 (TDD 310.395.8499) at least one week in advance.