On Saturday, November 16, 2019, the City of Santa Monica will launch its first Wellbeing Summit. It’s a free, interactive event for the community designed to engage, inspire, and cultivate action by Santa Monicans for their own personal wellbeing and the wellbeing of their larger community. Santa Monica College’s stunningly remodeled Center for Media and Design will host local residents, business leaders, government officials, and non-profit partners, in order to share their insights and help develop new strategies to address some of the more serious challenges to the community’s overall wellbeing.

Santa Monica’s commitment to wellbeing began in 2015, when the City won the Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge award for its idea of a Wellbeing Index. The Index is a measurement tool that provides a data-driven understanding of how Santa Monicans are doing, and highlights areas where the City and community can work to improve community wellbeing. The City’s efforts to put resident wellbeing at the center of decision-making have led Santa Monica to win the Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Prize in 2016 and to be the only North American city to win the 2019 Wellbeing Cities Award.

The Wellbeing Summit will feature global experts, innovative workshops, and interactive experiences to bring the concept of wellbeing to life, and is intended to be the start of renewed commitment on every level to improve wellbeing. Individuals can apply for $500 microgrants to take action in their neighborhoods, and organizations are invited to take the lead on new initiatives that impact wellbeing. The City stands ready to partner with all who are interested in creating innovative solutions to local challenges.

For more information and to register, visit SantaMonica.gov/WellbeingSummit.
A NEW SPORTS FIELD FOR ALL TO ENJOY

Santa Monica's Civic Center is currently undergoing a transformation. We're linking major water infrastructure, continuing investments and to early childhood education, and increasing sports field space for Santa Monica's active residents and young athletes.

The City's newest sports facility, the Civic Center Multipurpose Sports Field, broke ground this summer with about 150 community members attending the ceremony. Slated to open in summer of 2020, the community sports field will serve Santa Monicans of all ages, with space to play soccer, rugby and lacrosse.

In conjunction with the construction of the field, the City is conducting an arts-driven community engagement project to commemorate the history of the site, once the center of Santa Monica's historic African-American community known as the Belmar neighborhood. For this project, the City is working with key community leaders, artists and Dr. Alison Rose Jefferson, a prominent historian on the history of the African-American community in Santa Monica. This group is collaborating on the development of a significant community engagement process and subsequent education strategy, with the goal of increasing awareness of the legacy of the Belmar neighborhood and the impact of the forced displacement of African-American community members on the greater Santa Monica community. The result will be an inspiring series of public artworks that commemorate the history of the Belmar neighborhood, with additional artworks to be developed for surrounding areas in the future.

More information about Civic Center construction can be found at santamonica.gov/civiccenter.

DELIVERING SAFE, HIGH-QUALITY WATER TO SANTA MONICA

We all know water is a critical resource that none of us can live without. What you may not know is that Santa Monica's Public Works Department works around the clock to ensure residents and businesses receive safe, reliable and high-quality water. In order to effectively do this, we must continue to invest in our water and wastewater system.

Santa Monica has set out on a five-year water and wastewater rate study to evaluate cost alternatives, to ensure Santa Monica has a well-maintained water system, keep water bills low over time, and confirm we can achieve our 2023 water self-sufficiency goal established by City Council.

While the Santa Monica community has done an amazing job conserving water and decreasing our reliance on imported water, we need to continue to invest in the City’s water system to ensure reliable water delivery, prevent infrastructure failures and achieve water self-sufficiency. This not only diversifies and protects Santa Monica against the risk of service interruptions in the event of an earthquake or other disaster, but it allows us to have more control over the cost of water.

We invite you to learn more about Santa Monica’s efforts to achieve water self-sufficiency, as well as the five-year water and wastewater rate study. The water rates project team has tentatively scheduled two open house meetings for November 2019. For details about the date and location, please visit santamonica.gov/waterrates.

BIG BLUE BUS’ FIRST-EVER BATTERY ELECTRIC BUS HAS ARRIVED

The Future of Sustainable Transportation

Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus (BBB) has a responsibility to connect people to opportunities that enhance the wellbeing of the communities we serve. The preservation of people, place and planet fuels the City’s commitment to the adoption of a clean energy bus fleet. This pledge, along with state and local goals for zero emissions buses, has guided our mission of strengthening our commitment to sustainability and the environment.

Since 2014, BBB has led the way in the adoption of clean fuel buses, reducing nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by more than 70 percent over the past three years. BBB now plans to purchase and deploy 19 zero emissions buses by 2021, and transition to a completely clean energy fleet by 2030.

On August 21, 2019, the City unveiled its first-ever battery electric bus during a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Guests had the opportunity to get a first-hand look at the technology, design features and power capabilities, while also experiencing the quietness and smooth ride of the bus. During the ceremony, Mayor Gleam Davis encouraged everyone to take a ride on the bus to reduce their carbon footprint. BBB partnered with Gillig of Livermore, California and Cummins of Columbus, Indiana, to develop a cutting-edge bus that uses state-of-the-art battery electric technology and meets the high standards customers have come to expect. Equipped with six onboard batteries, the 40-foot bus is powered by 100% renewable energy, and can be fully charged in under four hours. The bus uses a regenerative braking system that helps it reach a travel range of up to 150 miles on a single charge. In addition, the bus offers reduced noise pollution for residents and businesses, and a quieter, more relaxing ride for customers.

Customer features include:
- Seating for 38 passengers
- Onboard complimentary Wi-Fi
- Onboard complimentary Wi-Fi
- Q-POD wheelchair securement system

Catch the BBB battery electric bus on the street and tag us with #BBBzero. Watch the unveiling at bit.ly/2mi65k8, and for more details, visit bigbluebus.com/zero.
**NORTH BEACH TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY**

**See What’s Coming in 2020**

As part of the North Beach Trail Improvement Project, the City is upgrading the trail to enhance safety and circulation at the popular beach destination. Enhancements include widening the existing bike path, adding a separate walking path, and renovating Ocean Front Walk north of the Santa Monica Pier.

This project will enable the area to be enjoyed by more residents, and it’s anticipated to be completed in November 2020. To minimize disruption to the public, construction is being conducted in phases, beginning at the northern limits of Santa Monica. The good news is the Pier and surrounding businesses will remain open and accessible throughout the duration of construction. Signage will be posted throughout the process to provide directions for pedestrian detours and make the public aware of any closures.

There will also be a temporary path for cyclists and pedestrians in the construction zone, though cyclists must dismount and walk their bikes on the temporary path. Please be aware that Parking Lot 4 North (1060 Pacific Coast Highway) will be used as the construction staging area and will be closed for the duration of the construction. We can’t wait for you to begin enjoying the new North Beach Trail next November!

You can view the construction map and learn more about the project at santamonica.gov/northbeachtrail.

**GET COOKING WITH FALL FLAVORS**

All is in full swing and the Santa Monica Farmers Markets are brimming with gorgeous fruits, vegetable and more. What better way to kick off the season than by preparing meals with fresh, seasonal products!

Try this recipe from our Market Chef Kim Vu, owner of Vucacious Catering in Santa Monica.

**Skillet Asian Pear Crisp**

**Ingredients**

- 6 tbsp. (3/4 stick) butter, divided
- 1/2 cup of your favorite chopped nuts: walnuts, pecans, hazelnuts, almonds, etc.
- 1 tsp. grated lemon zest
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1/4 cup shredded unsweetened coconut
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- Salt
- 2 lb. Asian pears, unpeeled but trimmed, cored and chopped

**Instructions**

Put 5 tbsp. butter in large skillet over low heat. When butter is melted, add nuts, lemon zest, oats, coconut, packed brown sugar, cinnamon and a pinch of salt; toss to coat. Cook, stirring frequently, until topping is golden and crisp, 6 to 8 min. Remove from the pan; no need to clean the pan out. The topping can be made ahead and stored in an airtight container up to a day or so in advance. Put 1 tbsp. butter in the skillet over medium heat. When it’s melted, add fruit and cook, stirring occasionally until pears are soft but not mushy, 10 min. Scatter the topping over the warm fruit and serve. This recipe can be made with any fruit you like, including berries, apples and mangoes. Adjust cooking time based on firmness of the fruit.

Reminder! Chef Vu hosts seasonal cooking demonstrations the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Main Street Farmers Market at 10 am, 11 am, and noon. On November 10, the theme will be Healthy Eating Through the Holidays and feature Suncoast Farm.

For additional information, please reach out to Jodi Low with the City of Santa Monica at jodi.low@smgov.net.
A total of $200,000 in one-time General Funds and $4 million of Housing Trust Funds over two years is allocated to initiatives furthering the goals of the Affordability Framework Priority. It will fund a new pilot program to help people who live or work in Santa Monica meet credit requirements for City-funded affordable housing. The funding will also be allocated to the Preserving Our Diversity (POD) pilot – which provides low-income seniors with financial assistance – expanding it from 22 households to a range of 200 to 400 households.
Supporting the Climate Change Framework Priority, operations and maintenance costs associated with new City Services Building, and a restructuring of Water Resources staffing to implement and maintain new and existing infrastructure that is helping the City reach water self-sufficiency by 2023. Additionally, six capital projects are furthering the goals of the Climate Change priority through an expansion of our EV charging ports, the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Urban Water Management Plan, expansion of the non-potable water system, and equipment updates at the City’s water facilities.

Changes to two existing positions in the Mobility Division will further the City’s Framework Priority of Mobility and Access and facilitate more effective inter-departmental collaboration and strategic project implementation. In addition, provide divisional leadership and supervision, and a study focused on traffic engineering, traffic management, and curb management to improve Big Blue Bus travel time and reduce delays for buses traveling in the City. Also, 11 capital projects are underway to further Mobility and Access goals, such as safer bike and pedestrian amenities, replacement of bus equipment and new technologies to enhance the BBB customer experience, and improving our streets, sidewalks and crosswalks.

Wellbeing work is at the heart of the Council’s Engaged and Thriving Community Framework Priority, under the Community Outcome Area. This Priority focuses on Santa Monica being a city that engages community members with opportunities to effectively partner with local government to promote a thriving community. It emphasizes investing in our human capital, particularly in preventative programs that allow people to flourish. Activities included in this plan are designed to ensure that every member of the Santa Monica community can participate in decision-making and shared efforts to improve community and individual quality of life.
During the holiday season, PAL hosts an extraordinary Thanksgiving celebration for youth and their families to experience the excitement of the holidays. PAL Staff and Board Members are joined by officers from the Santa Monica Police Department in serving families a full Thanksgiving meal. In 2018, PAL served over 200 delicious meals to the youth of Santa Monica and their families.

This year’s PAL Family Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on November 26, starting at 6 p.m. at the PAL Youth Center located at 1401 Olympic Boulevard. For more information visit smpal.org.

8TH ANNUAL WOODLAWN CEMETERY DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

This family-friendly event celebrates the cycle of life and the remembrance of ancestors with altars, musicians, dancers, craft workshops, face painting and food trucks. For its 8th year, the event will feature a new format that was informed by a multi-year community engagement project.

The festivities will spill out onto Delaware Avenue, west of 17th Street which will be closed to traffic and connect directly to the cemetery at 1847 14th Street. This new format will provide designated areas for both the sacred and secular activities of this celebration. It will feature a variety of Día de los Muertos traditions and perspectives, represented by both local and regional performers, craft vendors and altar makers.

Everyone is invited to participate and explore the meaning of this special day, as well as the variety of ways this special day is celebrated. Admission is free, as is bike valet and bike parking.

This year, Día de los Muertos will be held on November 2, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery, Mausoleum & Mortuary at 1847 14th Street.

For more information visit smgov.net/dia.

A PLAN FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The City of Santa Monica is updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, originally adopted in 1997 by City Council. The Draft Plan will be released on November 18, 2019, and present analysis, goals, and actions to achieve the Plan’s 20-year vision.

Over 3,000 community members provided input through the process to date. Stay engaged by reviewing the Draft Plan, completing the online comment form, and attending one of the upcoming presentations.

To view the Draft Plan and comment online, visit santamonicaparks.org/samoparksmasterplan

Attend a presentation (subject to change):
- Task Force on the Environment – December 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Architecture Review Board – December 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission – December 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Recreation and Parks Commission – January 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council review of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update is tentatively scheduled for early 2020. This date is subject to change. Please visit the project web page above for up-to-date information.

#SaMoParksMasterPlan
Each January, community volunteers take to the streets of Santa Monica to count some of the City’s most vulnerable individuals—those experiencing homelessness on the streets. In 2019, volunteers counted 985 individuals experiencing homelessness in Santa Monica, an increase of 3% from the year prior. Countywide, 58,936 individuals were reported, an increase of 12%.

Each year, the City of Santa Monica looks at these numbers as an indicator of how Santa Monica’s local strategies, in collaboration with LA County regional strategies, are working. Changes in the count offer opportunities to pilot new interventions or reinforce effective approaches.

The City is also investing in homeless service grants and an aggressive and continuous Action Plan, which has included:

- Increased clinical capacity of local outreach teams by launching the new C3 Homeless Outreach Multidisciplinary Team and expanding case management slots for the Homeless Multidisciplinary Street Team.
- Santa Monica Public Library deployed outreach staff and strategies to mitigate anti-social behaviors, including a no-wrong-door approach to service connection.
- Helped shape emerging policies such as best-practice street-engagement strategies for cities, 2019-20 priorities for Measure H funding allocation, and the passage of an interim housing facilities standard.
- Launched an online curriculum providing tips to help Santa Monicans more effectively engage people experiencing homelessness.
- The We Are Santa Monica campaign shared practical advice on how residents can get involved in the City’s efforts to help those experiencing homelessness.

Through doubling down on outreach efforts, staff and partners made over 34,520 contacts with people experiencing homelessness, connecting them to housing and supportive services when resources were available. In 2020, the Homeless Count will continue to provide vital data on how we’re doing. Volunteers are needed to help with this very important work. Sign up today at santamonica.gov/homelesscount.

### How Permanent Supportive Housing Gave Les A New Start

If you ask Les where he gained his wealth of wisdom and insight, he’ll say, “I learned it in the school of hard knocks.” And Les does indeed know what it means to go through hard times. Before he found his way to permanent supportive housing, Les had spent more than half his adult life homeless. The struggle against homelessness is an increasingly common story—one that Santa Monica is working hard to bring to an end.

Les says of that time: “I just didn’t know how to handle things. I didn’t know what was wrong. I went through a lot of turmoil trying to figure out why I didn’t fit into this thing called ‘life.’ I spent most of my life feeling like I was separated from everyone. And I just wanted to belong.”

In 1994, Les got a phone call from his sister in Houston. In her warm Texas drawl, she encouraged Les to find services that could help address his mental health needs. She truly believed that if he got the treatment he needed, he could get off the streets. At the time, Les felt too stigmatized by the idea of “mental health needs” to take his sister seriously. It took him another six years before he actually followed through on his sister’s gentle encouragement and walked into a Santa Monica mental health facility.

**STEP UP ON SECOND**

Les’ caseworker referred him to an organization called Step Up On Second, a non-profit devoted to permanent supportive housing, vocational training, and health services for homeless individuals. It was a community that welcomed Les with open arms. As Les said, “I realized for the very first time in my life, I belonged.” Not only did he belong, he was also getting the mental health attention he needed and was on the road to becoming permanently housed.

Something bigger was happening, too. Les was becoming hopeful. He began to realize that he was worthwhile, and that his life could mean something. Les has transformed that hope into helping others as they transition out of homelessness. At Step Up On Second, Les leads a weekly gratitude group and runs a learning center for those looking to expand their skills.

**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: BRINGING HOPE TO MANY**

In talking with Les, it becomes clear how transformative supportive housing can be. “Housing...is so very, very important. It’s the foundation you need to let your life take off,” Les says. When individuals are given the safety and stability of a roof over their heads, they can begin to address other issues that may be holding them back.

And the holistic approach of supportive housing means it doesn’t end at providing permanent shelter. It also encourages mental health, vocational skills and self-respect. All this adds up to a real chance at starting a new chapter in life. Our very own Santa Monica resident Les is living proof of that.

If you’re interested in volunteering with or donating to Step Up On Second, visit stepuponsecond.org. There are also many other organizations doing their part. For a full guide of available resources, and to learn more about how Santa Monica is encouraging supportive housing for all members of our community, visit weare.santamonica.gov.
City Council Meetings

The Santa Monica City Council meets regularly. Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. Upcoming Council meetings:

- **Tuesday, November 5**, 5:30 p.m.: Civic Auditorium East Wing
- **Tuesday, November 12**, 5:30 p.m.: City Council Chambers

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 fax to:

City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 209  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
Phone: 310.458.8202 | Fax: 310.458.1621  
Email all Council members: council@smgov.net

Winter RecScape Registration

Resident Priority: Wednesday, November 6, 6 a.m.
Non-Resident: Wednesday, November 13, 6 a.m.

Enroll at: SantaMonica.gov/escscape

Citywide Events

- **November 2**, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.: AltCar Expo and Ride & Drive  
  Santa Monica College  
  SMC Bundy Campus  
  3171 S Bundy Dr  
  Los Angeles, CA 90066

AltCarExpoSantaMonica.com

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