Santa Monica has community-wide sustainability in its sights, and due to careful planning and timely investments, the future promises to reach important sustainability milestones for years to come. This year will be a year to remember. There is the grand opening of City Hall East slated for April 22, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. City Hall East is a vital update to the Historic City Hall campus. It also happens to be the greenest municipal building in the U.S., and perhaps anywhere on the planet. We also come together in celebration of 25 years of Santa Monica’s Sustainable City Plan, a nation-leading effort that drives progress across the board. In the last year, we’ve seen 93% of all electricity customers converted to clean power, the most solar electric installations on record, and further reductions against single-use plastics. And the list of successes will continue to grow in the coming years as new investments on organics recycling and water projects come on-line, helping us to reach zero waste and water self-sufficiency goals.

Yet, our spirits are tempered by the change we see around us. The 2010s were the hottest decade in history, and the impacts human activities place on natural systems is now undeniable. The atmosphere, oceans, forest systems, and wildlife habitats in which we and all other species rely on is in a rapid state of change. As a community, we must redouble our efforts to slow the rate of change, to ensure a sustainable Santa Monica, for the sake of current and future generations. That’s what the Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan is all about, and now, we just have to make it happen.

For more information, visit SMgov.net/Departments/OSE.
n police work, we often compare crime from one year to the other. This helps create benchmarks so we can determine if crime is up or down. While it’s a great tool, it does not provide the entire picture of what is happening with crime in our community. I want to share the latest crime trends and get into the key details about those crimes. Overall, crime is trending downwards in Santa Monica, and has been for the last thirteen months. Now, this does not mean that crime is not happening. Even though it has been the lowest in has been, I understand, community concerns about the types of crime happening in our City.

As the graph below shows, crime has been rising steadily since 2015. In 2019, we made adjustments to our work force and the way we approach crime. These efforts have led to a substantial decrease. If we keep operating at the current level, we can bring our crime rates to the lowest it has been in six decades.

Now, let’s take a look into our numbers and put them into context. Part I crime is often discussed in two categories: Violent crime and property crime. Violent Crime is down this year by 16%. Our Violent Crime is comprised mostly of Aggravated Assaults and Robberies. In our Aggravated Assault category, 21% of those are crimes of Domestic Violence related. The remaining 79% are related to road rage, workplace violence, and alcohol involved issues. In the 318 aggravated assaults, SMPD made arrests in 80% of the cases.

In the robbery category, 22% were Estes Robberies, meaning they began as shoplifts from stores but the suspect used force trying to flee; 60% were “strong arm” robberies, meaning no weapon was used, and in the majority of those crimes the #1 loss was a cell phone.

Santa Monica experienced 16% fewer property crimes in 2019. Larceny of all types still drives crime in our City. The category of larceny includes shoplifting, bicycle thefts, and items stolen from unlocked vehicles. Bicycle thefts saw a particularly high increase in 2018, climbing to 632 incidents. In 2019, we saw that number reduce to 438 incidents of stolen bicycles. This is the lowest number of stolen bikes we have seen in the last five years. Still, bicycle theft makes up for 14% of all larcenies. Shoplifting, is just the opposite. For the past four years, it’s been consistent at about 350-380 incidents every year. But in 2019, we had 479 incidents. This category accounts for 15% of all larcenies.

The last big category is theft from motor vehicles. This is when a car is left unlocked and someone enters it and steals things. Theft from one’s car accounts for 37% of our larcenies. Keep in mind that in 38% of those cases, we found the car was left unlocked. When the car is locked and broken into, that crime that crime is now classified as a burglary. We’ve made progress in 2019 with 354 fewer incidents of thefts from vehicles and burglaries to vehicles. We found that backpacks are the #1 item stolen, followed by laptops and other electronics, so please don’t leave these items in your car; whether your car is locked or unlocked. In the burglary category, residential burglary accounted for 68% of all burglaries. This is, however, 44 fewer residential burglaries than the year before. Of the 387 residential burglaries, we found out that in 38% of all the cases, the homes were left unlocked.

In 2019, the Santa Monica Police Department handled 123,491 calls for service and made 3,840 arrests. We intend to work hard in 2020 to continue to decrease crime and increase our citizen’s sense of safety. And, you have a new cadre of leaders who have risen through the ranks of SMPD to serve you. I am pleased to announce that I recently promoted three captains, four lieutenants, and three sergeants.

As always, remember to secure your valuables, lock your cars and homes, be aware of your surroundings when out and about, report suspicious or criminal behavior. And please, get to know us. If you have some in-person time to spare, participate in our Community Police Academy. Let’s step into this new decade the right way: with a safer city built on strong relationships between all of us.

For more information please visit, SantaMonicaPD.org, and follow SMPD on @SantaMonicaPD.
SUSTAINABLE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Santa Monica Water is going hyper-local with a new advanced water project currently under construction in the Civic Center Parking Lot called the “Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project” (SWIP). SWIP, a huge underground collection facility, will bring new water resources into Santa Monica’s network by capturing and purifying rainwater and wastewater for non-potable uses, like irrigating plants and flushing toilets. SWIP is a key component in meeting the City’s goal of achieving water self-sufficiency by 2023.

SWIP’s 1.5 million gallon cistern will be fed by the Pico/Kenter Stormdrain during rain events, as well as by wastewater that has been purified through an advanced water treatment process by the sanitary sewer system. Water produced by SWIP will complement the existing recycled water distribution network for non-potable uses and to replenish vital groundwater resources.

City Hall East is designed to meet Living Building Certification standards which specifies net-zero energy and water, meaning the buildings must produce as much as they consume, in addition to other environmental criteria.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! APRIL 1ST IS NATIONAL CENSUS DAY

Starting this month, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin mailing information to households in preparation for the 2020 Census. That means very soon, Santa Monica — along with the Nation, State and County — will have an opportunity to do our part to ensure a complete count of everyone living in the U.S. regardless of citizenship status, age, or criminal history. Check out our FAQ to help prepare you, your family, and your friends to respond in April.

Q: What is the Census?  
A: The Census counts every living person in the U.S. every 10 years and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Census data is used to distribute more than $115 billion in federal funding to California and determine the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Q: How do I respond?  
A: You can respond to the Census by mail, telephone, or online.

Q: Will my information be protected?  
A: Federal law protects the data you give to the Census Bureau. It is against the law for anyone to share your information with other government agencies, courts, immigration enforcement, or the police. Your information is only used to generate statistics. There will be NO citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

Q: What happens if I don’t respond or if I skip questions?  
A: If you don’t complete the Census or skip too many questions, Census Bureau staff will first try to contact you by phone, then follow up with a home visit if you do not respond. Follow-up will start in May and end in July.

Help Santa Monica Reach a Complete Count! The City formed a Complete Count Committee with volunteers from the community to help spread the word about the 2020 Census. It’s not too late to help. Email Census2020@smgov.net to join!
**THE SUSTAINABILITY GAME**

**HOW TO PLAY**

1. Each player takes a turn rolling the die. The player that rolls the highest number goes first.
2. Player 1 rolls the die and moves their player disk the number of spaces indicated on the dice.
3. After Player 1 takes their turn, Player 2 rolls the die and moves their player disk the number of spaces indicated on the dice.
4. When a player lands on an icon square, they may move ahead or behind however many spaces indicated in the info slide.
5. The first player to reach the finish line wins.

**PAPER DICE ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Cut out the cube template along the dashed line.
2. Fold along the inside lines.
3. Apply eco-friendly adhesive on one of the tabs.
4. Apply eco-friendly adhesive to the tab behind the adjacent face.
5. Apply eco-friendly adhesive to the rest of the faces together along the tabs following Steps 5 and 6 to form a cube.

**1982**
Santa Monica rolls out curbside collection recycling program.

**1992**
Earth Summit in Rio. Economic development and environmental protection are integrated into goal of sustainable development.

**2006**
81% of non-emergency City fleet powered by clean fueled or zero emission vehicles.

**2007**
Single-use plastics ban adopted.

**2014**
Santa Monica publishes the Wellbeing index.

**2015**
Big Blue Bus converts fleet to renewable natural gas, becoming arguably the cleanest bus fleet.

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Paris Climate Accord approved by 195 nations.

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1994
Santa Monica becomes first city in the nation to perform a chemical inventory and launch a toxic materials reduction and green cleaning program.

1999
Santa Monica is the first city in the nation to purchase green power for municipal operations.

1994
Santa Monica adopts the Sustainable City Plan, the first in the nation.

1996
UCLA opens Santa Monica Pier Aquarium.

1997
Kyoto Protocol. Developed nations agree to limit greenhouse gas emissions to levels emitted in 1990.

2001
URRF comes on-line, the first water treatment facility in the world.

2017
U.S. pulls out of the Paris Climate Accord.

2018
Santa Monica community hits carbon emissions 29% below 1990 levels.

2019
Big Blue Bus purchases first full-size all-electric coach, with plans to electrify the fleet.

2019
Paris Climate Accord approved by 195 nations.

2020
City Hall East expands City Hall campus with greenest municipal office building in the nation.

2019
Clean Power Alliance launches, and 93% of electricity customers switch to green power.

2019
Sustainable City Plan celebrates 25 years of success.
As you make your way around Santa Monica, chances are, you will pass by or go under one of the city’s over 118,000 trees. Some are smaller, younger trees planted in the last few years, while others are older, larger sprawling trees. When you look up at them, you see what we usually associate with trees: branches and leaves. These aspects of trees are called urban tree canopy, or UTC. Also known as tree cover, UTC is the layer of branches, stems, and leaves of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above. UTC has several environmental benefits, such as improving air quality, providing wildlife habitat, reducing the temperate on a hot summer day, capturing stormwater, and can also help a community attract businesses and residents and increase property values.

In 2014, City staff used UC Davis and the U.S. Forest Service to assess Santa Monica’s total UTC (both public and private trees) and found that it covered 21% of the City and varies across neighborhoods. To put this figure into context, one study several years ago estimated that tree canopy in urban areas across the U.S. averages 27%. This year, the staff aims to do another study, but with the goal of separating and learning more specifics about the tree canopy of private and public trees, which number over 35,000, while again looking at changes by neighborhood and land use. The results of this exciting study will be shared in the future.

For more information about Santa Monica’s urban forest and to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter, please visit SMgov.net/Landscape.

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women’s constitutional right to vote. And for the 10th year now, the Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) is collaborating with the City and local partners to commemorate, and highlight Women’s History Month. The theme for 2020 is “Valiant Women of the Vote”, which will be celebrated throughout the month of March.

The Commission on the Status of Women works to ensure that Santa Monica is a place where women and girls can fully realize their potential and have a strong voice in all aspects of the community, including elections and the Census. This year, for the first time, look for the purple, white and gold colors of the suffrage movement lighting up Santa Monica City Hall the entire month of March. Simplified, the tri-colors signified loyalty, purity, and life.

Join us at the Opening Reception & Mayor’s Proclamation Tuesday, February 25, 6 p.m. at East Wing of the Civic Auditorium

We also invite you to participate in all Women’s History Month events and activities at the public libraries, Chamber of Commerce, Memorial Park, Virginia Avenue Park and many others. For more information and the complete COSW’s Women’s History Month events calendar visit SMgov.net/COSW.

Los Angeles Marathon
Santa Monica is the Finish Line

SUNDAY
March 8

Support Local

Join us for a special cooking demonstration in celebration of International Women’s Day and the City’s focus on Place and Planet. Market Chef Kim Vu will be cooking up plant-based recipes from famous female chefs, featuring produce from Anna’s Family Farm (a female-owned and operated farm in Santa Paula, CA). Demonstrations take place at the Main Street Farmers Market, at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12 noon in the education tent, and include delicious samples for you to try and recipes for you to take home.

Free parking with proof of purchase and info booth validation at Parking Lot S5, and 2600 Barnard Way (at the beach). Free bike valet always available on Main Street.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Do you love food, farmers and fun? We have just the job for you! Volunteer with the Santa Monica Farmers Markets. Volunteers help with running the markets, youth “Veg-U-Cation”, outreach, and seasonal events. For more information and to apply, visit SMgov.net/FarmersMarketVolunteer.

MORE THAN BRANCHES AND LEAVES: URBAN TREES

CELEBRATING WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

PLANT-BASED FOOD DEMO

SUNDAY
March 8
7 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT VOTING IN 2020

1. California Primary Elections were moved up from June to Tuesday, March 3, 2020.
2. The process for No Party Preference voters to request a party’s primary ballot remains the same. More information can be obtained from the Los Angeles County Clerk’s Office.
3. Voting by mail (VBM) remains the same. Ballots may be:
   • Turned in at a VBM drop-off location such as Santa Monica City Hall, Santa Monica Main Library or Fairview Library;
   • Mailed with no postage necessary.
   (NOTE: In California, ballots postmarked by Election Day and received within 3 days by the LA County Clerk’s Office will be processed, verified and counted.)

4. The I Voted Sticker remains the same. It will continue to be enclosed with VBM ballots or given at voting locations.
5. The 10-Day Early Voting Period (in-person) remains the same. It will be offered at select voting locations such as the Santa Monica Main Library, Joslyn Park, Marine Park, and Virginia Avenue Park.
6. Vote Centers (formerly Polling Places) can quickly accommodate any voter registered in L.A. County. Electronic rosters allow election workers access to real-time voting data to look up pending/casted ballots or to process conditional voter registration forms. More Vote Centers will be available from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Election Day throughout LA County.
7. New Ballot Marking Devices will now offer accessible and multilingual features. Voters will be able to use the device based on their needs and vote privately and independently.

For more information on the new voting experience, visit the LA County Clerk’s Office at LAVote.net.

USING DATA TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Santa Monica's women and girls are making positive strides in economic freedom and wellbeing, according to a new report produced by the City of Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) and Mount Saint Mary’s University. The report also meets the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) resolution adopted by City Council in 2015.

Women and girls are a majority of Santa Monica’s population. Employment rates are high, and the gender wage gap has shrunk. Girls are graduating high school at higher rates than boys. The number of women-owned businesses in Santa Monica rose, and those 7,900 businesses generated $1.26 billion for the City’s economy.

But many gender gaps persist. Santa Monica women still earn 78 cents for every dollar male peers earn, with women of color earning significantly less, and 23% of Santa Monica’s homeless population are women.

Santa Monica has worked to improve the lives of women and girls and the report recommends attention on housing, sexual assault and gender-based violence responses, and root causes of unequal opportunity in male-dominated fields. The report also recommends more robust and inclusive data collection practices.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

For updates, go to SMgov.net/Clerk or call 310-458-8411.

City Council Meetings
March 10 and 24, 5:30 p.m.
Civic Center East Wing
April 14 and 28, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Airport Commission
March 23, 7 p.m.
Civic Center East Wing
April 27, 7 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Architectural Review Board
March 2 and 16 / April 6, 7 p.m.
Civic Center East Wing
April 20, 7 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Arts Commission
March 16 / April 20, 6:30 p.m.
Ken Edwards Center

Commission for the Senior Community
March 18 / April 15, 1:30 p.m.
Ken Edwards Center

Commission of the Status of Women
March 11 / April 8, 7 p.m.
Ken Edwards Center

Disabilities Commission
March 2 / April 6, 6:30 p.m.
Ken Edwards Center

Housing Commission
March 19 / April 16, 4:30 p.m.
Ken Edwards Center

Landmarks Commission
March 9, 7 p.m.
Civic Center East Wing
April 13, 7 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Library Board
March 5 / April 2, 7 p.m.
Main Library

Planning Commission
March 4 and 18 / April 1 and 15, 7 p.m.
Civic Center East Wing

Recreation and Parks Commission
March 19 / April 16, 7:30 p.m.
Thelma Terry, Virginia Avenue Park

Social Services Commission
March 25 / April 27, 7 p.m.
Ken Edwards Center

Seacape is a publication of the City of Santa Monica, designed to inform residents about City programs and services. Please email comments to communications@smgov.net or mail to:

Seacape
City of Santa Monica
1685 Main Street, PO Box 2200
Santa Monica, CA 90407-2200

Seacape is printed on recycled paper. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Seacape is available in alternate formats by calling the City Manager’s Office at 310-458-8101 (TDD/TTY 310-458-8162).

Santa Monica, CA 90407-2200
The City of Santa Monica offers more than a hundred events each month. Check out the entire list at SantaMonica.gov/Events and subscribe to the City’s newsletter at SMgov.net/Newsletter.

### MARCH/APRIL 2020 EVENTS

#### SUNDAY
- **Julia Morgan Legacy Day**
  - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. @ Annenberg Community Beach House
  - 310.458.4904

#### MONDAY
- **New Poems for a New Decade with Dinah Berland**
  - 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. @ Camera Obscura Art Lab
  - SantaMonica.gov/Camera

#### TUESDAY
- **English as a Second Language**
  - 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. @ Fairview Library
  - Pico Library
  - 310.458.8683

#### WEDNESDAY
- **Spanish Language Book Fair**
  - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. @ Main Library
  - Fairview Library
  - 310.458.8683

#### THURSDAY
- **Mindful Meditation**
  - 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. @ Main Library
  - Fairview Library
  - 310.458.8683

#### FRIDAY
- **Music and Movement at the Library**
  - 3:30 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. @ Main Library
  - Fairview Library
  - 310.458.8683

#### SATURDAY
- **Eggstravaganza**
  - 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. @ Annenberg Community Beach House
  - SantaMonica.gov/Camera

### APRIL

#### SUNDAY
- **New Poems for a New Decade with Dinah Berland**
  - 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. @ Camera Obscura Art Lab
  - SantaMonica.gov/Camera

#### MONDAY
- **Peter Murphy**
  - 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. @ Miles Playhouse
  - SantaMonica.gov/Miles

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