2 **Budget update**
At City Council

3 **Cooling policy**
Would raise AC usage

5 **Rent Relief**
In LA County

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From Heal The Bay

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 136 TUESDAY 5/28/24 smdp.com

# Councilwoman Davis will not seek reelection

**MATTHEW HALL**
Daily Press Editor

Councilwoman Gleam Davis has said she will not seek reelection this year opening up the always competitive City Council race to at least one new face.

Four council seats are up for election this year. They are currently held by Davis, Mayor Phil Brock, Oscar de la Torre and Christine Parra.

While Davis is out of the race, the other three said they have not decided if they are running again.

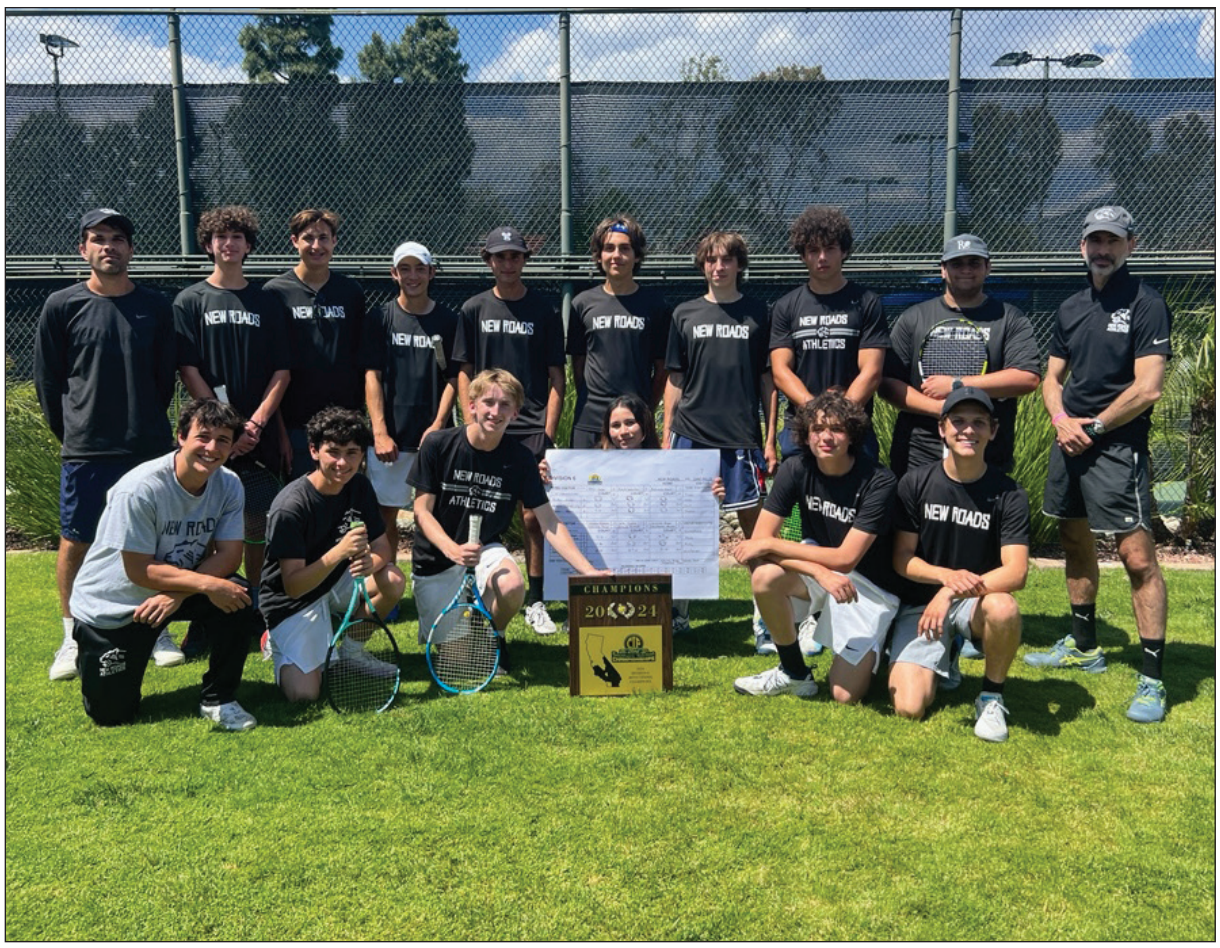
"The City of Santa Monica continues to need resident-focused leadership to increase public safety, support for renters, homeowners & local businesses alike." said de la Torre. "That being said, I haven't decided if I will run for office. After serving 18 years on the SMMUSD Board of Education and four on the SM City Council I have to assess if I can continue to make the sacrifices that are required and the impact this has on my family, my business and well being."

Davis has served on the council since 2009 when it selected her to fill the seat left vacant by the passing of Herb Katz and was elected to an additional two-year term in 2010. She was re-elected in 2012, 2016 and 2020. At the time of her initial appointment, Davis was a member of the Santa Monica Planning Commission and was the Co-Chair of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights.

Davis was the only councilmember to retain their seat in 2020 when riots and looting drove an anti-incumbency movement that brought Parra, de la Torre and Brock into office. Her most recent

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 7

# New Roads tennis team scores school's first CIF championship




Courtesy Photo

**JAGUARS:** The New Roads boys tennis squad won the first CIF championship in school history for any sport this month.

**THOMAS LEFFLER**
SMDP Staff Writer

The landscape of Santa Monica school athletics was significantly altered this month, as one local tennis unit served up a history-making performance.

On May 10, the New Roads Jaguars boys tennis squad ousted the previously-undefeated Oak Hills unit 11-7 to win the CIF Southern Section Division 6 championship. The monumental victory was the first CIF championship by any team in New Roads history, an affirmation of athletics' importance to the school's well-rounded educational efforts.

Led by head coach Kramer Waltke in his third season at New Roads, the Jaguars were boosted by senior leaders Aidan Miller and Cy Arato-Orlovski, who served as the squad's top two singles options.

"Having both of them on the team, I think it kind of gave our whole team a lot of confidence … I think it just kind of raised the level of everybody on our team and it made everybody have some confidence in their own game," Waltke said of his seniors.

Arato-Orlovski has stuck with the Jaguars through thick and thin, having his freshman season cut short from the lingering effects of

SEE **NEW ROADS** PAGE 7

# School board holds revenue sharing discussion in potential Malibu split

**THOMAS LEFFLER**
SMDP Staff Writer

After the City of Malibu had its discussion on the tentative revenue sharing agreement between Santa Monica and Malibu schools, it was the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education's turn to hold a public meeting on the fiscal topic.

On May 22, the board held a presentation of the property tax sharing agreement between SMMUSD, representing the interests of the future Santa Monica Unified School District, and the City of Malibu representing the future Malibu Unified School District. A process years in the making, the revenue sharing agreement is part of a term sheet adopted by the parties to separate SMMUSD into the two districts, which also includes operational and joint powers agreements.

While the two other portions of the agreement are yet to be crystallized, the revenue sharing agreement was previously discussed by Malibu City Council. The Wednesday board meeting was held with the goal of hearing from the community, with several public commenters mainly asking when a final agreement document can be expected for sharing with locals.

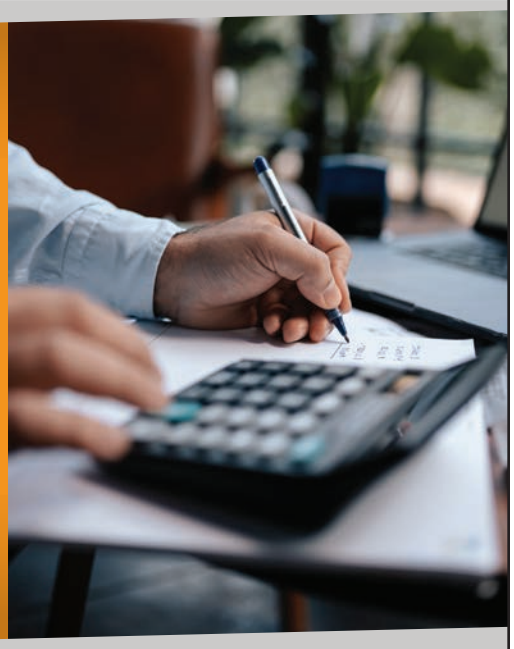
The board discussed when a final agreement, outside of a powerpoint presentation available on the district website, could be shared. After sufficient public input, which included the Malibu and SMMUSD meetings, a final document will be presented to both the board and Malibu council for final approval, and the final agreement would be

SEE **REVENUE** PAGE 6

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# Optimism and warnings during annual budget review

**MATTHEW HALL**
Daily Press Editor

At the mid-point of the city's two year budget cycle, the cost to operate the city has increased by just over 1% and while staff are cautiously optimistic about the future, resources remain tight for both ongoing expenses and special projects.

The Council will discuss the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-25 on Tuesday night. According to the staff report, the budget for the year totals $763.5 million, with $462.5 million allocated to the General Fund. This reflects a 1.3% increase over the previous year in what staff said was a careful balance between necessary expenditures and fiscal prudence.

The budget assumes the long-term economic outlook is positive but acknowledges limited resources in the short term. The city is still grappling with slow revenue recovery, a challenging labor market, deferred maintenance needs, and potential legal liabilities. Staff said the issues underscore the need for careful financial management to ensure continued progress.

The operating budget has a slight increase of $4.8 million and the General Fund increase of approximately $1 million, or 0.2%, is driven by equity adjustments required by bargaining agreements, staffing funded by consumer protection and enterprise funds, and new revenues from recreational programs. Other funds see an increase of $3.8 million, or 1.3%, supporting staffing for the City's water and wastewater infrastructure and enhanced event programming at the Annenberg Community Beach House.

City efforts to maintain and enhance critical infrastructure are also constrained by a lack of funding.

"Planning efforts for large projects, such as the Airport Conversion project, require project funding as well as future ongoing funding to cover the operating costs once these projects have been completed," says the staff report. "Capital improvements at the Beach and Pier that cannot be supported by the Beach and Pier Fund revenues, compete for limited General Fund allocations. In addition, staff anticipates needing infrastructure upgrades in preparation for the 2028 Olympics to accommodate the anticipated increased number of visitors."

The city's reserves remain lower than pre-pandemic levels and the city is working to restore savings spent to make up for pandemic related shortfalls.

> "Planning efforts for large projects, such as the Airport Conversion project, require project funding as well as future ongoing funding to cover the operating costs once these projects have been completed
> - Staff report

## FUTURE OF TRAPEZE SCHOOL IS UP IN THE AIR

Also on the agenda for Tuesday is the future of the trapeze school on the Santa Monica Pier. The 10,000 square foot site at 370 Santa Monica Pier, located between Pacific Park and Playland Arcade, is currently operated by Trapeze School New York (TSNY), which has been functioning on a month-to-month basis since its license expired in April 2017.

Staff are recommending Santa Monica Amusements (SMA), which operates Pacific Park for EPR Parks, LLC.

SMA plans to develop a multi-attraction space with rope courses, a climbing tower, an outdoor Pier history exhibit, and a refreshment/souvenir stand. The City is set to award SMA a 3-year license with a minimum annual fee of $300,000 plus percentage rent participation.

## REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS

Several property sales or leases are on the agenda.

City staff are in negotiation with two companies regarding the operation of the Civic Auditorium. The City previously asked for options for a private partner to help revitalize the property and the closed session includes two potential partners. Revitalization Partner Group LLC and Sugar Monkey Live are listed as interested companies.

Former Councilman Greg Morena is threatening legal action against the city over the lease terms of Rusty's Surf Ranch. Morena, who owns the Albright, has a contract to operate Rusty's and has a dispute with the city over lease terms for the property.

## PAYING COUNCILMEMBERS

The list of discussion items includes a request from Councilmembers de la Torre and Vice Mayor Negrete that the city undertake a study of various cities to determine appropriate compensation for councilmembers. They say the study is needed to make the Council positions accessible to residents with lower incomes.

Other discussion items include reducing the fees for outdoor dining on the Promenade and protecting trees on public streets.

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# *Proposed cooling policy would cause air conditioning usage to rise, risking blackouts*

**HYE MIN PARK AND FLANNERY DOLAN**

In order to protect vulnerable renters from unsafe heat, Los Angeles County's Board of Supervisors is currently considering a policy that would establish a temperature threshold for rental units. A year ago, the Public Health office suggested having two temperature limits, each based on the type of cooling: 82 degrees for rentals with air conditioning; 86 degrees for units with evaporative cooling or no cooling system at all. Earlier this year, County Supervisors decided instead on a single, to be determined limit in order to simplify the law and make it easier for landlords to follow.

While the details of this new policy, including the temperature threshold, will not be finalized until July, before the proposal becomes law it is crucial that the Board of Supervisors and other policymakers assess whether or not this new temperature requirement will actually help the people it intends to help, and whether or not the sudden use of so many new air conditioning units might strain the grid and lead to more blackouts.

Instead of picking a single temperature limit as a one-size-fits-all approach, policymakers should prioritize protecting high-risk locations and populations. A "safe" temperature would look very different across different groups of people—the elderly, infants, and those with certain chronic health conditions are at particular risk—and in different types of buildings that handle hot days quite differently. Policymakers should also prioritize promoting cooling strategies that perform well under extreme conditions, even without power.

As it stands, the policy gives little in the way of guidance or support for how landlords should go about keeping units cool. What most landlords will likely end up doing, then, is simply what is quick, easy, and not particularly costly: they will buy an AC unit. But ACs use more energy than almost any other cooling system during extremely hot days. This is because, when outdoor temperatures are very high, AC units must run for longer periods to keep the space cool. At unprecedented high air temperatures, the probability of every AC unit in the region getting turned on approaches 100%, which in turn causes a surge in energy demand, a surge that can exceed the capacity of L.A. County's current infrastructure. To make matters worse, the heat emitted from running AC units actually intensifies urban heat island effects, thereby increasing cooling demand. It is a vicious cycle: a heat-driven, energy-sucking feedback loop.

Last month, California passed cooling standards for indoor workers. Once approved by the state's Department of Finance, the rules will become law, and will likely lead to many more AC units in commercial buildings. AC units already account for 60-70% of summertime peak demand within residential buildings in L.A. County, and extreme heat has been a primary driver of electricity demand and reliability needs in California for decades. Most recently California grappled with energy shortages amid record-breaking heatwaves, leading to rotating power outages in 2020 and a near miss during a 10-day heatwave in the summer of 2022.

Rather than landing on a single temperature threshold, and leaving landlords to decide how they will keep their units cool, the protection policy should prioritize solutions such as passive cooling strategies—cool roofs, shades, and better insulated windows—which can be very effective in cooling indoor spaces without also increasing energy demand. Implementing these strategies could also reduce AC loads by up to 70%, as AC units in old and under-insulated units work longer and harder, using more energy to achieve the same comfort level that a well-insulated building can have.

As climate change intensifies, more frequent, severe, and prolonged heat waves are to be expected. We need solutions that will effectively address the threat of climate change while protecting our communities. The LA County Board of Supervisors is expected to approve the temperature mandate this summer. Before they do so, however, they have the opportunity to make it far more effective. First, by making changes that will better protect those who mandate is intended to protect—shifting its emphasis to prioritize locations and populations at higher risk during heat waves. And second, by implementing resilient and sustainable cooling strategies, the Board would lessen the strain on the power grid when power is needed most, like during periods of extreme heat.

Hye Min Park is a Ph.D. student at the Pardee RAND Graduate School and an assistant policy researcher at RAND. Flannery C. Dolan is an environmental engineer and hydrologist at RAND.

**LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION**

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



## Surf report

WATER TEMP: **61.0**

TUESDAY
***POOR TO FAIR***
**SURF:** 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Minor surf most of the day, then a little new SW swell looks to inch up in the PM. It should at least be clean in the AM.

WEDNESDAY
***POOR TO FAIR***
**SURF:** 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Maybe just enough to grovel on with a minor mix of SW and NW swell. It should at least be clean in the AM.

## Weather

**Tuesday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 67.
**Tuesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.
**Wednesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 69.
**Wednesday Night:** Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

| Date | Day | Time (LST/LDT) | Predicted (ft) | High/Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2024/05/25 | Sat | 05:41 AM | -0.91 | L |
| 2024/05/25 | Sat | 12:26 PM | 3.20 | H |
| 2024/05/25 | Sat | 4:09 PM | 2.48 | L |
| 2024/05/25 | Sat | 10:41 PM | 5.94 | H |
| 2024/05/26 | Sun | 06:28 AM | -0.86 | L |
| 2024/05/26 | Sun | 1:26 PM | 3.16 | H |
| 2024/05/26 | Sun | 4:50 PM | 2.66 | L |
| 2024/05/26 | Sun | 11:25 PM | 5.74 | H |
| 2024/05/27 | Mon | 07:18 AM | -0.73 | L |
| 2024/05/27 | Mon | 2:31 PM | 3.22 | H |
| 2024/05/27 | Mon | 5:47 PM | 2.84 | L |
| 2024/05/28 | Tue | 12:17 AM | 5.41 | H |
| 2024/05/28 | Tue | 08:13 AM | -0.53 | L |
| 2024/05/28 | Tue | 3:37 PM | 3.44 | H |
| 2024/05/28 | Tue | 7:09 PM | 2.96 | L |
| 2024/05/29 | Wed | 01:21 AM | 4.97 | H |
| 2024/05/29 | Wed | 09:11 AM | -0.30 | L |
| 2024/05/29 | Wed | 4:29 PM | 3.80 | H |
| 2024/05/29 | Wed | 9:02 PM | 2.86 | L |
| 2024/05/30 | Thu | 02:40 AM | 4.47 | H |
| 2024/05/30 | Thu | 10:08 AM | -0.04 | L |

## Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

**POWERBALL**
Draw Date: 5/22
5 16 18 26 67
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 120 M

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 5/21
2 5 8 28 69
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 453 M

**SuperLotto Plus**
Draw Date: 5/22
2 6 13 23 32
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 38 M

**Fantasy 5**
Draw Date: 5/23
3 11 26 35 38

**Daily 3**
Draw Date: 5/23
EVENING: 5 3 1
Draw Date: 5/23
MIDDAY: 2 9 4

**Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 5/23
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:43.32

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City of Santa Monica

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**
**BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION**

**SUBJECT:** 23ENT-0199 (Development Review Permit)

**1645 Euclid Street**
APPLICANT: 1655-57 Euclid Owner, LLC
PROPERTY OWNER: 1655-57 Euclid Owner, LLC

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

Development Review Permit to allow a new Tier 2, three-story, 45-foot tall, 38,995 square foot creative office building with a roof deck and two levels of subterranean parking at a 22,542 square foot site consisting of three parcels in the Industrial Conservation (IC) zone. Pursuant to SMMC Chapter 9.40.020(B)(1), projects exceeding Tier 1 maximum limits require Development Review Permit approval.

**DATE/TIME:** **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 AT 6:00 PM**

**LOCATION:** City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

**HOW TO COMMENT**
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Planning Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **David Eng, Associate Planner**
**Re: 23ENT-0199**

**VIA E-MAIL:** planningcomment@santamonica.gov
**VIA MAIL:** City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

**MORE INFORMATION**
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact David Eng by e-mail at david.eng@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

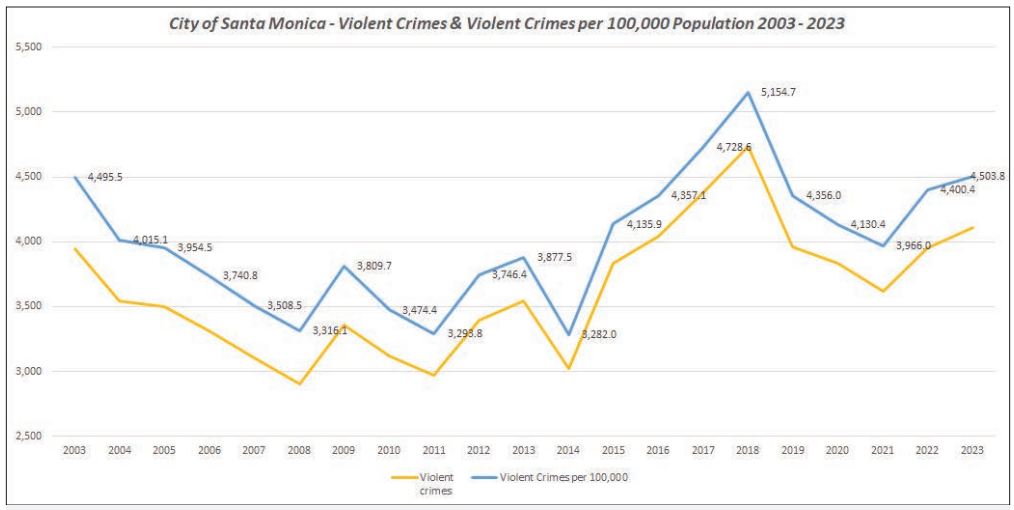
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

**ESPAÑOL**
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 5547.

## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# *Public Safety – Government's Number One Priority, ALWAYS*




Courtesy image

**CRIME:** Citizens are concerned about rising crime rates in the city.

**JOHN MEDLIN, SANTA MONICA RESIDENT, OCT 1996 - PRESENT**

Public safety refers to the well-being and protection of everyone in the community. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure that people are safe from harm and danger. This includes things like preventing crime, responding to emergencies, and making sure that buildings and roads are safe to use. Public safety is important for everyone, and it helps to create a peaceful and secure environment for people to live in. (https://www.lsd.law/define/public-safety)

If the citizens and residents in a block, neighborhood, village, town, city, state, or country are not or do not feel they are safe from harm or danger, how can they conduct business, attend school, vote in elections much less speak or worship freely? Without safety, i.e., basic survival, one must use one's energy and resources to protect oneself and family from threats by others. This is the first and primal instinct of all living creatures, human or otherwise.

I first became aware of the priority of Public Safety in 1970 when I worked as a U.S. Army Civil Affairs Officer with Vietnamese Refugees in I Corps, Republic of Vietnam. While we tried to improve their food, health, farming, and education, we failed because the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese would come in at night and shoot the local government officials, teachers, or nurses.

Is there a public safety crisis in Santa Monica? In looking at the most recent annual data from the Santa Monica Police Department, Jan – Dec 2023, there was a slight rise, 2.2%, in Violent Crimes from 667 in 2022 to 692 in 2023 – Murder, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. Property Crimes were up 3.9%, from 3,956 to 4,112 – Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft. Violent Crimes and Property Crimes are both down 13% from the 2018 highs of 797 and 4,732, respectively, https://www.santamonica.gov/crime-statistics.

However, in the last month the belief that crime is declining has been shattered with the recent stabbing of German tourists in Parking Structure 7 by an illegal homeless immigrant and the assault and attempted rape of a young woman jogging on a beach path at 7:15 AM by a homeless man on parole for assault with a deadly weapon. In July of last year, Phil Brock, now Mayor of Santa Monica and then City Council Member, was attacked in broad daylight on the 3rd Street Promenade by a mentally disturbed, homeless man.

I was recently in the shop of the 3rd Street Promenade merchant around 7 PM when four young teenage, male Caucasians blatantly shoplifted an item from his store. His response, it's a cost of business as it would take too long for the Police to respond, and the amount was less than $200. These young males weren't homeless. They were simply thieves, stealing because they could get away with it. Some merchants don't file police reports because their insurance costs would go up. Some merchants are reluctant to use the Parking structures for themselves or their female employees. Carrying Mace spray or gel becomes a necessity just going to and from work. Working here now requires combat pay.

Such factors add to the disappearing small businesses on the 3rd Street Promenade as if the massive disruption by online Retail and COVID weren't enough. At the same time, however, some traditional shopping areas are recovering. The Grove in West Los Angeles and Century City Mall are booming. Crowds are filling the shops and restaurants rather than shoplifters and the mentally unstable.

Thus, for some of our City Council members and other civic leaders to "shrug-off" our current situation because of the homeless or belief it will eventually get better, is another form of hiding one's

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11

# COMMUNITY NEWS

**Downtown**

## Shore Hotel recognized by TripAdvisor users

The Shore Hotel has been awarded TripAdvisor's No. 1 Hotel in the U.S. in the 2024 Best of the Best Traveler's Choice Awards.

The Travelers' Choice Awards Best of the Best title celebrates the highest level of excellence in travel. It's awarded to those who receive a high volume of above-and-beyond reviews and opinions from the Tripadvisor community over a 12-month period. Out of their 8 million listings, fewer than 1% achieve this milestone.

Praised for its stylish atmosphere and accessibility to nearby attractions, the LEED certified Shore Hotel offers eco-friendly and pet-friendly accommodations with spacious suites featuring private balconies and most with oceanfront views. Additional amenities include an outdoor pool with a view, a fitness center, ample meeting spaces and indoor/outdoor event space, complimentary bike rentals, and concierge and valet services. This summer, the hotel will also debut a buzzy new restaurant and bar, Shoreside.

SUBMITTED BY COURTNEY PERKINS

**Sacramento**

## California Retail Theft Reduction Act Advances to Senate

Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) has announced that AB 2943, the California Retail Theft Reduction Act, has passed the Assembly with no "No" votes, and advances to the Senate. AB 2943, jointly authored with Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas (D-Salinas) is a primary component of the Californians Against Retail Theft bipartisan bill package, which includes six additional bills that have also advanced to the Senate.

"We know that retail crime is an emotional issue for many of our constituents. Business owners fear for their livelihoods, workers fear for their wellbeing, and members of the public worry it may no longer be safe or convenient to frequent their neighborhood stores," said Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur. "In developing these proposals, we have worked hand in hand with the Speaker's office, the Governor's office, the Public Safety Committee, and key stakeholders - including retailers, workers, criminal justice reform advocates, and law enforcement - to find effective solutions to address retail crime, while preserving reforms that have kept our communities safe. I believe the California Retail Theft Reduction Act achieves this goal, and I am grateful for the strong leadership of Assembly Speaker Rivas, Governor Newsom, the Assembly Select Committee on Retail Theft, and all stakeholders for their dedication and engagement."

> We know that retail crime is an emotional issue for many of our constituents. Business owners fear for their livelihoods, workers fear for their wellbeing, and members of the public worry it may no longer be safe or convenient to frequent their neighborhood stores
> - Rick Chavez Zbur, Assemblymember

Key Elements of the California Retail Theft Reduction Act

· Places great emphasis on stopping organized crime rings by creating a new crime targeting "serial" retail thieves, advancing key recommendations released by Governor Newsom's office.

· Specifically defines how the value of thefts from different victims can be aggregated to charge grand theft, clarifying the law that the intent standard can be met by evidence that the acts involve the same defendants, are substantially similar, and occur within a 90-day period.

· Expands the tools for police to make arrests for shoplifting using videotape evidence and sworn statements.

· Protects businesses from having nuisance actions brought against them for simply reporting legitimate retail crime incidents.

· Addresses the root cause of theft by expanding the use of diversion and rehabilitative programs, offering the opportunity for early discharge if the program is complete.

AB 2943 now moves to the California State Senate, where it will be heard in the coming weeks.

SUBMITTED BY VIENNA MONTAGUE

**SMC**

## Santa Monica College Presents "Duke Ellington: From the Sacred to the Secular" June 6-7

The Santa Monica College (SMC) Music Department presents the SMC Jazz Ensemble, SMC Chamber Choir, SMC Concert Chorale, and SMC Jazz Vocal Ensemble in "Duke Ellington: From the Sacred to the Secular." The ensembles — under the direction of Keith Fiddmont and Jeremiah Selvey — will perform on Thursday, June 6, and Friday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. in The Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street (at Santa Monica Boulevard), Santa Monica.

The collaboration of two conductors and four music ensembles showcases performances from each of the ensembles, using excerpts from Duke Ellington's three Sacred Concert settings as the centerpiece to celebrate the merging of music from the jazz club with the profundity of sacred ideals. Situated within the context of the civil rights movement, Ellington's jazz voice is infused with the sounds of the Black church and layered in subversive texts and subtexts.

The evening features performances by guest soprano soloist and USC student Victoria Lowe and guest tap dancer and SMC alum Sarah Reich.

Tickets are $15 general admission (plus a modest service charge); free for all students with any student I.D. Advance tickets can be purchased online at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005 (Monday-Friday; limited hours). Tickets may also be purchased — starting 45 minutes before the performance begins — at The Broad Stage Box Office at the SMC Performing Arts Center. Free parking on premises. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

**Countywide**

## Los Angeles County Re-Launches Rent Relief Program with $68 Million in Grant Funding

The Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) began accepting applications for a second round of the Los Angeles County Rent Relief Program this week. The deadline to submit applications is Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 4:59 p.m. PDT. Spearheaded by the LA County Board of Supervisors as an effort to reduce evictions of tenants for non-payment of rent, the program will distribute over $68 million in financial support to qualified landlords adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program will provide up to $30,000 per rental unit to landlords for unpaid rent and eligible expenses dating from April 1, 2022 to the present. To qualify, units must still be occupied by impacted tenants, and eligibility will be prioritized based on the following factors.

Affected units located in the high and highest need geographies as defined and identified in the LA County Equity Explorer Tool.

Landlord or tenant whose household income is 80% or below LA County Area Median Income (AMI).

Landlords who can fully satisfy tenants' debt for the eligible period upon receipt of rent relief grant.

Landlord owns no more than four rental units.

Landlords who do not meet all four factors may apply but will have lower priority.

Note: If an applicant has already submitted a complete application, the County is advising not to submit another application for the same impacted rental unit/tenant. If an applicant has already been awarded a grant under this Program, the existing application will be reviewed for additional rental arrears and if eligible, will be notified by the Program.

Those interested in applying for the LA County Rent Relief Program can review the full eligibility requirements and access the application directly by visiting the program portal at lacountyrentrelief.com. Submission of a completed application is not a guarantee of funding.

Free technical assistance in multiple languages is available daily from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Early submissions are strongly encouraged.

SUBMITTED BY TATI SIMONIAN

**Sacramento**

## Zbur Bill to Eliminate Barriers to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advances to Senate

Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) has announced that the California State Assembly has passed AB 2704, a bill to eliminate barriers to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), and now advances to the California State Senate. This bill, sponsored by the United Domestic Workers/American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 3930, alleviates the financial burden on IHSS providers by shifting the responsibility of covering the costs associated with criminal background checks from the individual providers to the Department of Justice.

"The IHSS program is a vital lifeline for over 740,000 Californians, providing essential domestic long-term care services, and ensuring that low-income Californians can remain safely in their homes, receive life-saving care, and age with dignity," said Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur. "It is an unjust practice — and a barrier to providing needed care — to unfairly burden workers who will be making just over minimum wage with the costs of these background checks. Promoting growth in this vital workforce and eliminating those financial barriers should be a priority for the state of California."

"As co-sponsors of Assembly Bill 2704, UDW is proud to see the bill has made its way off of the Assembly floor with legislators from both sides of the aisle recognizing the need to build up the home care provider workforce to care for the growing population of IHSS recipients," said Doug Moore, Executive Director of UDW/AFSCME Local 3930. "We know there is still work to do, but we're trending in the right direction. We look forward to working with the Senate to ensure that California upholds its duty to our most vulnerable populations by reducing financial barriers for future IHSS workers looking to provide life-saving care for these communities."

"The In-Home Supportive Services program is the backbone of California's long-term care system and provides the state a cost-effective alternative to institutional care," says Alia Griffing, Political and Legislative Director for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. "With the current supply of care providers unable to meet the demand, AB 2704 is a common-sense solution to encourage and attract more providers to provide vital home care services for our aging family members and disabled loved ones so that they can live independently and with dignity."

IHSS providers, including registry providers, play a crucial role in supporting home-bound aged, blind, and disabled individuals in California. The current law, Section 12305.86 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, mandates providers to pay for their criminal background checks, creating an inequitable burden on low-income workers. These background checks can amount to as much as $75, the equivalent of working 4 -6 hours as an IHSS worker for free. AB 2704 proposed an amendment to the Welfare and Institutions Code to shift the responsibility of covering criminal background check costs to the county and away from job applicants.

SUBMITTED BY VIENNA MONTAGUE

# REVENUE

FROM PAGE 1

made public through the publishing of council and board agendas.

Board Member Maria Leon-Vasquez made a suggestion based on typical Santa Monica City Council action, saying that the revenue sharing agreement should have a first and second reading, so that the final agreement could be posted in a meeting agenda for when the first reading is ready. Fellow board member Jon Kean noted that the finish line on the agreement is near, and that with children's educational futures on the line, something as important as fiscal matters shouldn't be rushed.

"We're going to get it done right, I am very confident we will get this done and it'll be a document that both our communities will be proud of," Kean said.

> We're going to get it done right, I am very confident we will get this done and it'll be a document that both our communities will be proud of
>
> - Jon Kean

A presentation on the agreement was provided by SMMUSD legal counsel David Soldani alongside Eastshore Consulting, LLC Principal Shin Green. Soldani said the creation of the revenue sharing formula, broken down into a "base year calculation" to be determined once in the first year separation and an "annual calculation" for each subsequent fiscal year until agreement termination, was made to devise a "steady, predictable amount of revenue growth" for both hypothetical educational entities.

Base year calculation first identifies the amount of revenue per pupil of SMMUSD, then adding $600 to the per pupil revenue to adjust for the additional cost to serve Malibu students. The $600 figure is a recognition that Malibu schools cost more for operations, as Malibu would be a smaller district as a standalone with less efficiency than a district with a higher population density. The adjustment of the per pupil number is to make a "balance" by ensuring adequate revenue for Malibu while not negatively impacting Santa Monica programs.

The adjusted per pupil funding amount is multiplied by the number of students enrolled in only Santa Monica schools, creating a base year "funding target." This target number is then compared to the unrestricted general fund revenues of a Santa Monica Unified district, and if the revenues are less than the funding target, Malibu would make up the difference through a base year property tax transfer amount. Per the agreement, unrestricted general fund revenues narrowly focus on basic operational funding of the district, not including restricted revenues like supplemental funds for English learners and fundraising revenues from the Santa Monica Education Foundation.

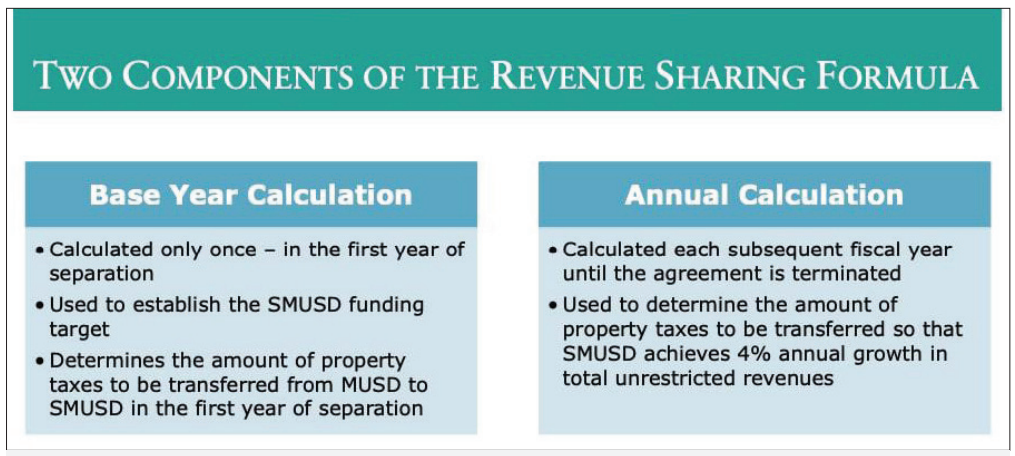
Revenue sharing past the base year starts with the Santa Monica Unified funding target being escalated by 4 percent each year. The inflated Santa Monica funding target would also be subtracted by the district's unrestricted revenues, and whatever shortfalls would be made up by a transfer of Malibu property taxes. If Santa Monica revenue growths in funding levels exceed the target number, Malibu would not be required to provide a transfer for that year.

The 4 percent number was determined by historical background finding out what was necessary to "support the normal growth in operational expenditure for the general educational program of the district," and the number is what is needed to cover normal raises and inflation costs for general education services. The number was also a round one, making it easier to calculate in subsequent year formulas.

"This agreement is the result of mediated negotiations with the City of Malibu and reflects hundreds of hours of work by both sides," Soldani said. "As is the case with all negotiated agreements, there is some give and take, and that is reflected in this agreement ... both sides were guided by the following principle, to ensure that students in both communities have sufficient funds to continue the exceptional educational opportunities and programs that the combined district currently enjoys."

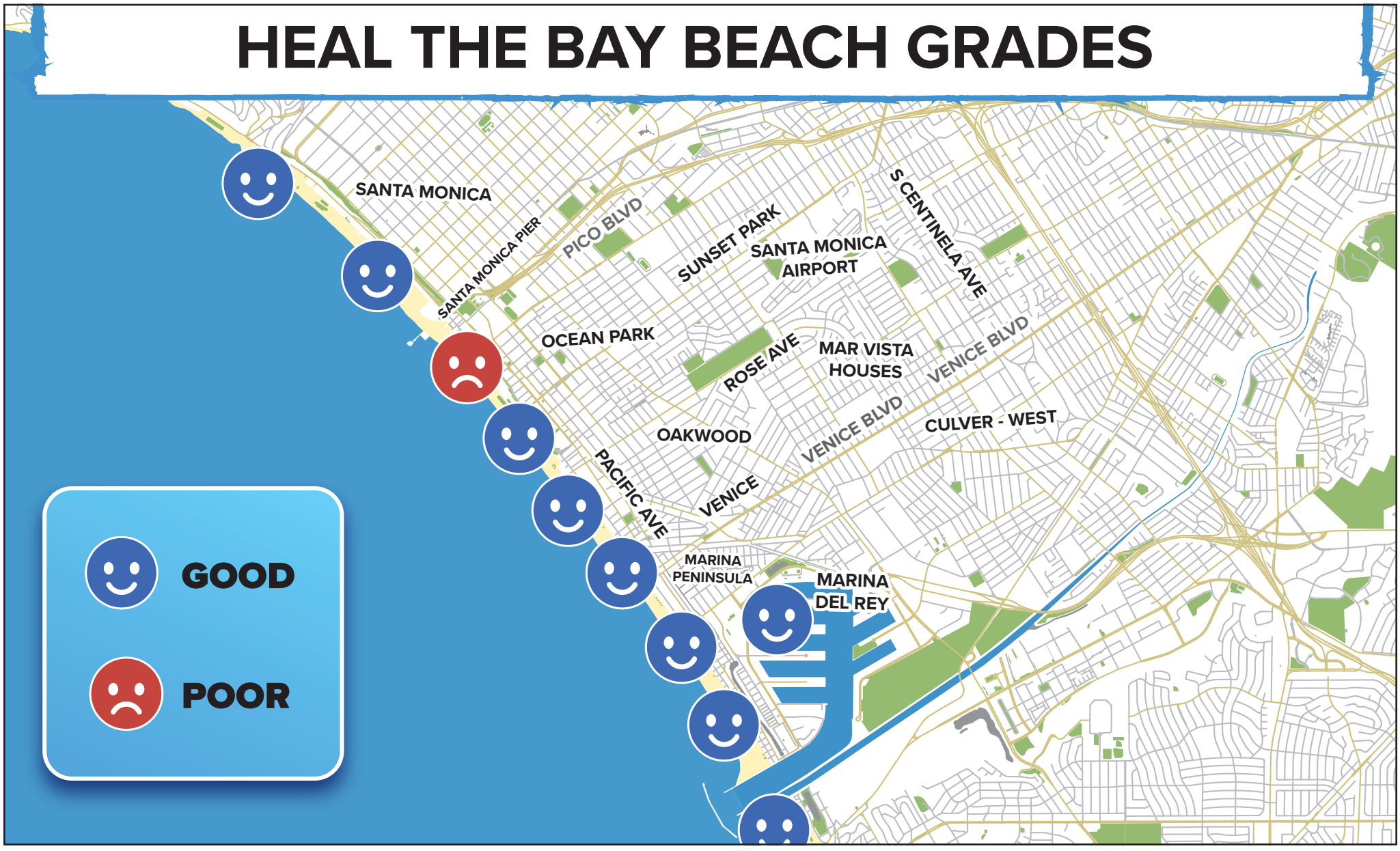
Annual revenue sharing would continue in this manner until an agreement termination, which could occur if there is no Malibu property tax transfer for three consecutive years, or the 2041-42 fiscal year if a property tax transfer does not occur at that time. If Malibu's transfer is greater than zero, but less than $5 million in 2041-42, Malibu payments would be tapered off through agreement termination in the 2046-47 fiscal year. If the 2041-42 transfer amount is more than $5 million, payments will taper off until a 2051-52 fiscal year termination.

thomas@smdp.com




Courtesy Graphic

**REVENUE:** The revenue sharing agreement between potential Santa Monica Unified and Malibu Unified school districts was presented to the SMMUSD Board of Education this past week.



## NEW ROADS

FROM PAGE 1

the COVID-19 pandemic before arriving to a New Roads campus bereft of a proper practice setting.

"We used to pretty much just swing our rackets in the parking lot and pretend that we were hitting it over a net, which is crazy that we've come that far," he said.

After finding courts at the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center and gaining a leader in Waltke, the squad began on the uptick but truly found its championship footing once adding Miller. The senior joined the Jaguars for 2024 after years of competitive play outside of the school, immediately increasing his own skill and the talents of those around him.

"I spent a lot of time working on my shots, working on my footwork, working on strength, and I think this year everything kind of came together for me," Miller said.

Arato-Orlovski added that Miller has been a "big game changer" both in raising the team's collective confidence and helping fix his serve, which became "a weapon" for the Jaguars' number-two option. Miller was forced to miss the first part of the playoff run due to studying for final exams, but came out swinging in key victories like the semifinals win over Rosemead and the championship tilt against the then 19-0 Oak Hills squad.

Coach Waltke said that the Jaguars took each round of the playoffs as they came, keeping expectations low until the boys truly believed they could win it all.

"I think it was sort of shocking for the New Roads community," Waltke said. "I think we knew we had a good team, but this is the first time New Roads (has) ever made a championship match in any sport, and the first time we were able to win, so I think it was a lot of excitement."

Adding that the "whole community" came out to support the Jaguars, the title was the latest success for New Roads athletics. The Jaguars baseball squad advanced all the way to the CIF Southern Section Division 8 quarterfinals, its deepest playoff run since 2016, while the boys volleyball unit also achieved a CIF-SS playoff berth. Arato-Orlovski stated that the school's new athletic director, Richard Jenkins, "really cares about the program" and that he hopes the championship will keep talented athletes at New Roads rather than transferring.

"I think athletics are extremely important in (a) high school career if you're able to participate," Waltke added. "They can teach you a lot of lessons that you can take with you the rest of your life. So I hope this championship kind of (proves) the value in it. I think our team got a lot of valuable experience from this run."

The team's stars still kept an academic mindset along with their athletic exploits, as Arato-Orlovski will be attending Brown University on a biomedical engineering pathway, while Miller will be going to Stevens Institute of Technology. Both top players will be melding their academic pursuits with their tennis prowess, including Arato-Orlovski's intention to play club tennis along with attempting to walk on to the Brown basketball team.

"I think I've been improving a lot, so I think I just want to keep improving … maybe there's something after (college)," Miller said of his future.

thomas@smdp.com

## ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

stint as Mayor was in 2023.

Santa Monica councilmembers are limited to 12 years (three terms of four years each) over the course of their lifetime after voters instituted term limits in 2018. However, the count on years in office was not retroactive, meaning Davis could have continued to seek office for two more terms.

"I decided several months ago not to run," she said. "A number of outstanding individuals let me know they were interested in running and I felt like it was an opportunity to pass the baton to a new generation of leaders."

City Council elections traditionally draw far more candidates than available seats. There were 12 candidates for three seats in 2022 and 21 candidates for the four seats available in 2020. While incumbents did lose in 2020, such losses are incredibly rare in local races and an open seat can draw more candidates into a race as it is easier to fill an already vacant seat rather than defeat an entrenched councilmember.

While individuals are already stating their intent to run for office, no one can actually become a candidate for several more weeks.

According to the City Clerk's office, candidates may be nominated for any of the elective offices of the City only during the Nomination Period (between the 113th day and the 88th day) before a municipal election. That period will open on or about July 15.

Eligible candidates must be: 1) a United States citizen; 2) 18 years old on or before Election Day; and 3) a registered voter living in the jurisdiction at the time Nomination Papers are issued.

During the nomination process candidates must attend an educational workshop, fill out various forms, pay fees and gather 100 signatures from registered voters. While it is rare for candidates to fail to qualify for a lack of signatures, it has happened.

Upon completion of the nomination process, individuals become official candidates and will appear on the ballot. Individuals who wish to run for office after the nomination process closes have to fulfill similar requirements but are not listed on the ballot and are write-in candidates.

Santa Monicans will also elect candidates for the Rent Control Board, SMC Board and SMMUSD Board this year. The nomination process is the same for those offices as it is for City Council.

For more information on running for local office, visit https://www.santamonica.gov/process-explainers/how-to-run-for-public-office.

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## GRAD CLASS OF 2024

# 2024

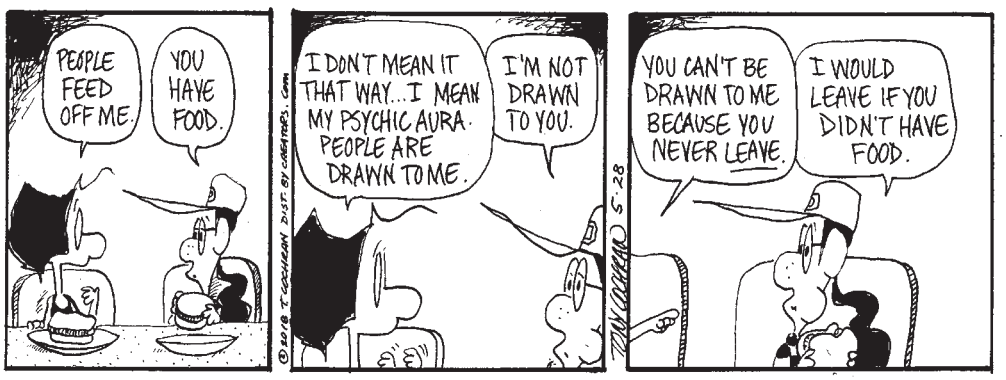


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**SCAN ME**

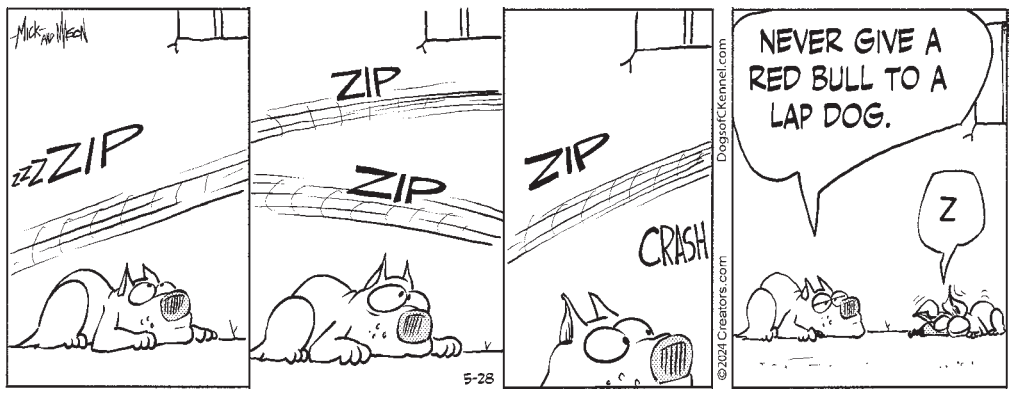
## Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN




## Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



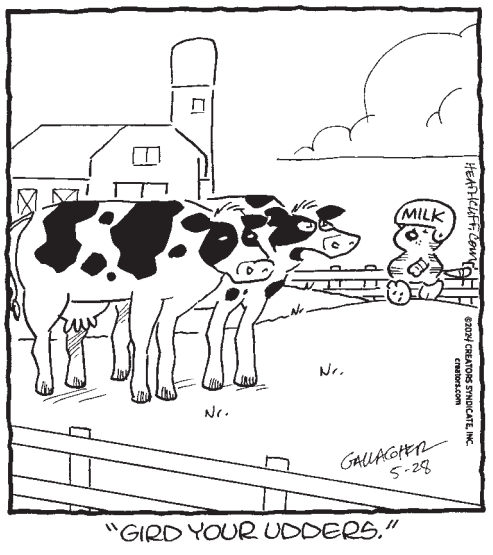

## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE




## Heathcliff

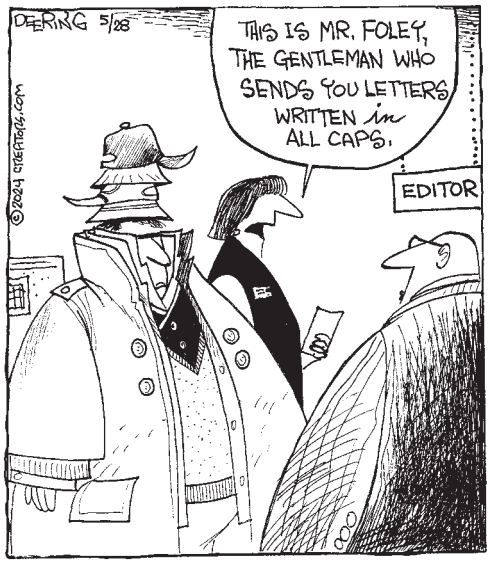
By PETER GALLAGHER




"GIRD YOUR UDDERS."

## Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING




# FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6224

**Welcome to Norfolk Island**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | I | Q | U | E | U | R | S | N | O | R | K | E | L | B |
| G | L | A | D | E | N | O | P | D | I | V | E | R | S | Y |
| R | E | G | N | A | D | E | E | P | F | R | U | O | T | Y |
| A | U | T | E | A | N | F | I | Y | R | I | M | N | P | F |
| N | U | C | C | A | I | T | P | A | U | H | U | E | L | E |
| E | O | O | L | S | C | A | A | B | S | O | E | B | E | R |
| V | V | C | H | A | P | E | L | N | B | L | S | I | R | U |
| A | R | I | I | I | S | T | M | O | S | I | U | R | O | T |
| H | N | R | N | B | W | H | I | S | T | D | M | D | L | L |
| G | N | E | O | R | I | G | I | N | S | A | H | L | P | U |
| B | S | A | U | K | M | R | S | A | Y | Y | E | I | X | C |
| E | T | R | E | E | F | E | R | N | S | V | D | F | E | O |
| A | T | R | O | P | I | C | A | L | O | E | V | E | A | W |
| C | O | N | V | I | C | T | S | N | A | H | I | L | L | S |
| H | I | S | T | O | R | Y | L | L | H | G | I | L | B | E |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Anson Bay | Explore | Origins |
| Avocados | Fishing | Palm |
| Beach | Glade | Penal |
| Birdlife | Haven | Pines |
| Bligh | Hike | Pitcairn |
| Boat | Hills | Sleepy |
| Bounty | History | Snorkel |
| Chapel | Holiday | Surf |
| Convicts | Ideal | Swim |
| Cows | Liqueurs | Tiny |
| Culture | Museum | Tour |
| Danger | Novel | Tree ferns |
| Divers | Ocean | Tropical |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 28)

This year teaches you that many limits are actually illusions that disappear when you believe harder and charge forward. More highlights: You'll attract connections that align with your values and aspirations and cherish your existing relationships, savoring the beauty and love they bring to your life. You'll be paid well for work that lets you be authentically yourself. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 1, 3, 33 and 19.

## HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It appears everyone is following along with an established structure, but these proceedings are more flexible than they seem. Whether you require other accommodations or you just want them, go ahead and ask.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are grateful for all your lessons, though not right away! That would be odd and probably false as the discomfort of growth typically is the kind of thing humans appreciate in retrospect, not in real time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You do not need to be daring in order to complete the work of the day, and yet all it takes is about 10% more courage to launch you out of the orbit of the ordinary and into a full-fledged adventure.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your activities have gotten so entwined with the needs of your loved ones that you can't even remember when you last had a whole day doing exactly what you wanted to do. You can remedy this with some planning ahead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Is it really worth it to succeed in the eyes of others? Sure! But only if their idea of success just happens to match your own. The only prosperity that brings satisfaction happens on the journey of fulfilling your intentions for yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Since people want what you contribute, and there's a limited supply of it, it only makes sense that you should raise your price. This probably doesn't have to do with money. There's a more subtle exchange here.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The sweet energy you're radiating makes it easy for others to connect with you. The best part is you're not even trying to have a positive aura; you get there by enjoying yourself. You'll attract like-minded individuals and strengthen your relationships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some of the things that are now a part of your daily life are ongoing pursuits that will never stop being a lot of work for you. In that light, resisting or resenting them doesn't make sense. Everything you accept helps to conserve your energy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your emotions may seem too intense or different from what the other people seem to be experiencing, but they are exactly right for you. It is not productive to try and manage them. Instead, regard them as strange gifts to cherish.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People don't always behave in the expected way, but there's always something to gain from the experience -- if nothing else, then tolerance. The more you can accept, the more powerful you become.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The beat demands motion, and the motion demands a beat. Marching to the beat of your own drum is not difficult for you. The only time it gets complicated is when there are other rhythms going on. This is why you'll find your own field today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A burning need to confide is part of the astral alchemy for you now. It's still difficult to know who is trustworthy. Even your own diary, if left unprotected, could reveal you. Be judicious.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | C | R | E | ■ | O | A | K | T | A | G | ■ | W | E | B |
| L | I | A | R | ■ | F | R | E | S | N | O | ■ | I | C | E |
| A | N | G | I | ■ | F | I | N | E | A | R | T | F | O | R |
| S | Q | U | E | A | K | S | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | B | O | I | N | G |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | T | E | E | S | ■ | W | Y | O | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| T | H | I | R | T | Y | N | I | N | E | ■ | K | A | L | E |
| H | E | M | E | N | ■ | ■ | G | O | T | ■ | A | L | E | X |
| E | D | A | M | ■ | C | E | N | T | S | ■ | C | A | P | T |
| U | G | G | S | ■ | A | M | I | ■ | ■ | C | A | M | E | O |
| K | E | E | L | ■ | W | O | N | D | E | R | B | O | W | L |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | L | S | ■ | G | O | G | O | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
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| T | U | P | P | E | R | W | A | R | E | ■ | A | L | O | T |
| E | L | M | ■ | C | H | I | L | L | S | ■ | Z | I | N | E |
| M | P | S | ■ | H | O | N | E | Y | S | ■ | Y | E | O | W |

## Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | | | | 8 | | 3 | 7 |
| 9 | | 3 | | 4 | | | | |
| | | | | | 5 | 6 | | 9 |
| | | 9 | | 6 | | | | 1 |
| 8 | | 1 | | 5 | | 9 | | 6 |
| 6 | | | | 2 | | 5 | | |
| 1 | | 2 | 3 | | | | | |
| | | | | 7 | | 1 | | 2 |
| 4 | 6 | | 5 | | | | 9 | 8 |

## Newsday Crossword

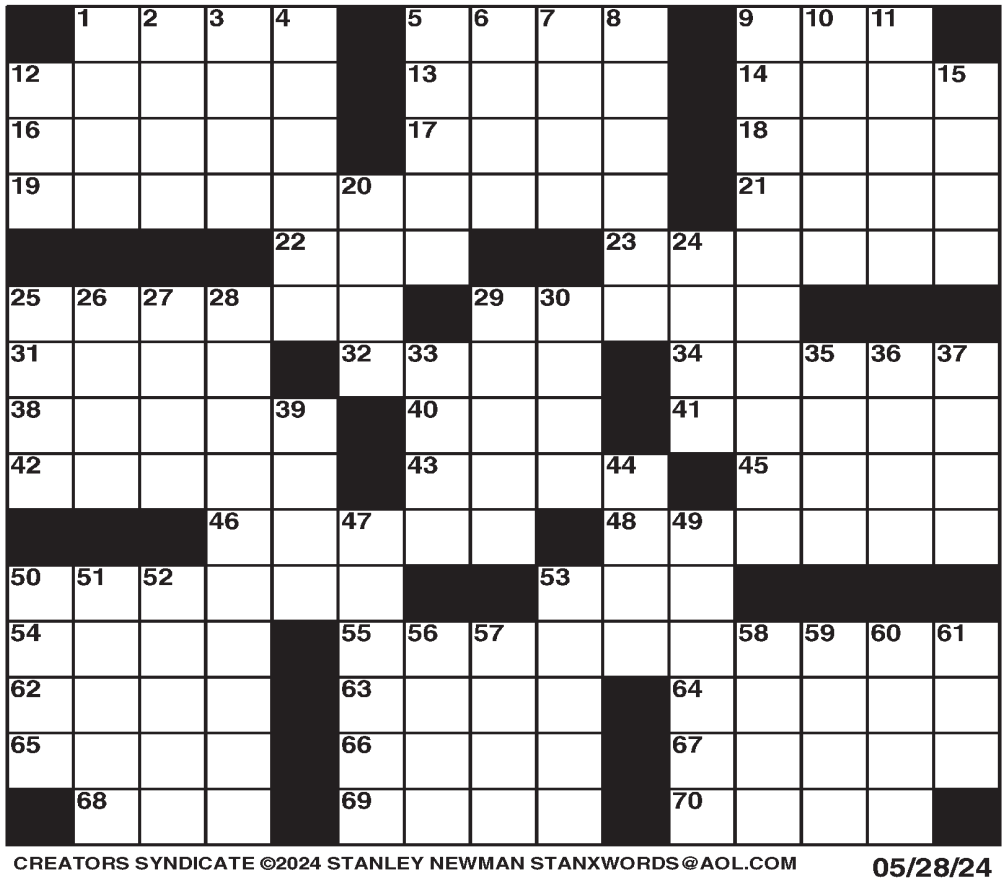
**SHOW AND TELL** by Jerry Clarkson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

1 Resorts with hot springs
5 Donated
9 Keogh plan alternative
12 Pet canine, slangily
13 UCLA part: Abbr.
14 Heavy weights
16 Fragrance
17 "Small" suffix for kitchen
18 Behind schedule
19 __ SHOW (sitcom, for example)
21 "That's clear now"
22 EMT's destinations
23 "Naughty, naughty!"
25 Guys who've graduated
29 Magazine edition
31 __ story (autobiography)
32 Of sound mind
34 Buffalo's close cousin
38 Cat complaints
40 Pub beverage
41 Theater platform
42 Japanese raw fish
43 Scarlet and crimson
45 The Emerald __ (Ireland)
46 Very skilled
48 Shoved
50 "__ your seat belts"
53 Fabric tear
54 Plenty (of)
55 __ SHOW (elaborate presentation)
62 Forbidden thing
63 Metal in barbells
64 Seaweed
65 Urge to action
66 Clean and orderly
67 Waterproof coverings
68 Move to and __
69 Attend, as a show
70 Centers of hurricanes

**DOWN**

1 With achy muscles
2 Motel's swimming spot
3 Apex
4 Clean-__ (with no beard or mustache)
5 Estimate that might be "wild"
6 Prefix for freeze
7 *Godfather* patriarch __ Corleone
8 Major happenings
9 TELL __ (be candid)
10 Cook on a barbecue
11 Poker pot fees
12 Small portion of butter
15 Search for
20 Spring flower
24 Undersea vessels, for short
25 Charitable donations
26 In __ of (instead of)
27 Sci-fi saucers, for short
28 "TELL __" (request for instructions)
29 Small cove
30 Edible sunflower bit
33 Group for people 50+
35 Wide belt
36 Stare at
37 Require
39 __ dish (rice or beans)
44 Twirl around
47 Show's possibly "happy" conclusion
49 Tell the newest info to
50 Cobra's tooth
51 Not at all interested
52 Underwater tracking device
53 Charged at
56 Black-and-white cookie
57 "Billy" beast
58 Broadway show
59 Fairy tale meanie
60 Short snoozes
61 "Sure"



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**MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords**

## GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

head-in-the-sand and waiting for the "problem" to go away. If we and our leaders simply wait for it get better, by the time it does, the 3rd Street Promenade will have 70% vacancy, far worse than the 30% today.

What can be done? First, instead of declaring a state of emergency because of the homeless, declare a state of emergency because of Public Safety. Second, rather than spend millions on programs for the homeless and diversity, equality, and inclusiveness projects which don't have any quantifiable, measurable goals, make a $5 million emergency allocation for the next 15 months to the Police Department to hire fifty sworn, patrol officers. Have these officers frequently walk the 3rd Street Promenade and Tongva, Reed, and Palisades Parks, and actually staff the small kiosk on the 3rd Street Promenade near Santa Monica Blvd. Re-create a sense of safety for not just the shoppers, businesses and tourists on the 3rd Street Promenade but also us "local Santa Monicans" and the people working here. That sense of safety can become a tide of safety spreading throughout Santa Monica. It becomes even more practical to staff up now as the 2028 LA Olympics will be here in 1,512 days. Third, write County and State Government officials to cease the distribution of needles at Public Parks in Santa Monica and request changes in other laws and policies that support Public Safety for ALL Californians.

All of the above actions take time, money, effort, and most importantly a commitment to a change in attitude, a change in perspective, a change in priorities. Again, and Again, and Again – PUBLIC SAFETY MUST BE PRIORITY ONE FOR ALL GOVERNMENTS, especially in SANTA MONICA.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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## TUESDAY | MAY 28

### SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Virginia Avenue Park, in partnership with Providence St. John's Community Health Program, resumes Social Service Assistance from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Help with facility nutrition and health care access from trained community health workers. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal or Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310-458-8688. Drop-ins are also welcome.

### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION

Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, beginning at 10:30 a.m., taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Maria Barajas at (310) 664-6222, ext.76205 or mbarajas@smmusd.org to enroll.

### SPEED NETWORKING NIGHT

Unlock a world of new professional connections with a Los Angeles Speed Networking Night at Weary Livers, 2819 Pico Blvd., beginning at 7 p.m. Welcomes individuals 21+ from all industries and career stages. Whether you're seeking to expand your professional network, find new career opportunities, or simply meet like-minded professionals, the event is designed to maximize your networking potential in a dynamic, fast-paced setting. Please arrive by 7:20 p.m. at the latest. Tickets $10, purchase at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/speed-networking-night-santa-monica-tickets-898257752117.

## WEDNESDAY | MAY 29

### DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs. Enjoy Santa Monica's downtown farmers market from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. between 4th St. and Ocean Ave. Widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheese, delicious foods, live music and more.

### COFFEE WITH A COP

Join the Santa Monica Police Department for Coffee with a Cop at Capital One Cafe, 401 Broadway, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in your neighborhood.

## THURSDAY | MAY 30

### SILICON BEACH TECH MIXER

LA's premiere tech networking event with one of the largest membership groups in Southern California continues to grow every month, with companies like Google and Sony often in attendance. The Silicon Beach Tech Mixer's purpose is to help members forge strong, lasting relationships, combining Fortune 500/1000s with Entrepreneurs and Startups. Starts at 6 p.m. at LouLou Santa Monica, 395 Santa Monica Place #300, snacks provided for free for the first 30-45 minutes (first come first serve). Tickets $12, $30 at the door. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/silicon-beach-tech-mixer-tickets-896552421427.

### VENICE TECH HAPPY HOUR

Part of the L.A. Tech Happy Hour collection, Startup Coil presents LA Tech Happy Hour in Venice Beach, starting at 6 p.m. at The KINN, 150 Horizon Ave. Join LA's best tech and startup networking for refreshing drinks and stimulating conversations. Refreshments are included with your ticket. Capacity is limited, early registration is recommended. General admission tickets $40. To purchase: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/venice-tech-happy-hour-tickets-888488130917.

### DISCO QUEEN

LouLou Rooftop Restaurant and Lounge, 395 Santa Monica Place #300, hosts the hottest new disco and drag party on the Westside beginning at 6 p.m. Disco Queen pays homage to Disco Queen nights in Paris filled with disco balls, smooth grooves and over-the-top talent. The top drag queens on the planet will host the hottest night out with resident DJ ARA playing classic disco hits. The launch event will feature a special performance by RuPaul's Drag Race veteran and Emmy-nominated actor Willam. For more information, visit loulousantamonica.com.

### 4TH STREET RECORDING PRESENTS

4th Street Recording Presents a concert with psychedelic rock band Wig Wag, LA based singer-songwriter Soklo and alternative rock band Blind Mirror, starting at 9 p.m. at Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets $15. For more information, visit santamonica.harvelles.com.

## FRIDAY | MAY 31

### JONATHAN BEACH CLUB JOB FAIR

Join the Jonathan Club, 850 Palisades Beach Road, for a fantastic opportunity to explore potential job openings at the club. Whether you're looking for a summer job or a new career path, this event is the place to be. Meet with the team, learn about available positions and showcases your skills. Goes from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more, contact Krystal Ocampo at hr@jc.org or 213-312-5249.

### ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

Santa Monica College Opera Theatre and the SMC Symphony Orchestra present a fully staged production of "Orpheus in the Underworld," Offenbach's satire of the Orpheus myth, in which the character of Public Opinion prods the reluctant Orpheus to rescue his wife, Eurydice, who would rather party in the underworld. Featuring the famous "Can-Can." Performed in French with English supertitles. Directed by Janelle DeStefano and Mercedes Juan Musotto. Starts at 7:30 p.m. at the BroadStage, 1310 11th St. Tickets $25, $10 for students with ID. For more information, visit https://www.smc.edu/calendar/tickets-music.php.


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