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Ballot takes shape with contested races in all local elections

The field of candidates for Santa Monica's 2026 local elections is set after the deadline to file for office passed this week, with contests unfolding for City Council, the Rent Control Board, the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education.

According to city candidate filing records dated Aug. 12, 2026, multiple hopefuls pulled nomination papers in the weeks leading up to the deadline, though not all who took out papers ultimately filed, and some who filed later withdrew.

CITY COUNCIL

Three four-year seats are up for election. While some candidates have already qualified for the race, those that submitted paperwork by the deadline may still qualify in the coming days as their applications are verified. :

Ryan Blomberg
Phillip L. Brock — qualified
Lindsay Davis
Eli Gill — qualified
Daniel Ivanov — qualified



SMDP Photo

SEE CANDIDATES PAGE 6 **CANDIDATES:** Santa Monica 2026 candidate field set for City Council, Rent Control Board, SMC Trustees, and SMMUSD Board races.

Santa Monica Council advances \$9.2 million social services grant program amid pleas for more funding

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

The City Council on Aug. 11 approved new funding guidelines and authorized staff to seek

proposals for the next four-year cycle of the city's largest local grant program, even as residents and service providers warned that the money falls far short of a mounting crisis in need.

The 5-0 vote — with Councilmember Barry Snell recused and Councilmember Dan Hall absent — launches the Human

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 8

Santa Monica student launches program pairing teens with seniors to fight loneliness

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

When Kyleigh Belle Butler was little, her grandfather was the strongest person she knew — always

moving, always helping others, always there when someone needed him. As she grew up, she watched aging take its toll. These days, even

SEE TEEN PAGE 7

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California can prevent wildfires without abandoning safety, environmental protections

As a wildfire survivor, I'm passionate about reducing wildfire risk.

More than a year after I evacuated my house in the Palisades Fire, I remain displaced. My house survived the wildfire, but it's uninhabitable after fire retardant laden with toxic heavy metals was dropped onto our neighborhood.

Though I'm eager to see California adopt regulations that would reduce future fire risk, I've witnessed how rushing wildfire mitigation projects carries its own risks. These projects must be implemented responsibly and with protections for public health, the environment and biodiversity.

Newly introduced Senate Bill 1370, by state Sens. Henry Stern and Josh Becker, would do the opposite. It would waive most state environmental regulations for projects related to wildfire prevention.

Projects that involve herbicide spraying, tree or native species removal, and the clearance of up to 3,000 acres would no longer have to comply with state water and air quality laws, endangered species protections, the California Environmental Quality Act and other laws.

SB 1370 would codify in state law Gov. Gavin Newsom's temporary emergency proclamation that removed the requirements of most state environmental regulations for wildfire mitigation.

The potential for harm becomes clear when you examine the state's dashboard of existing projects receiving fast-tracked permitting by the Newsom administration. Most projects led by Southern California Edison, the electric utility that serves much of Southern California, describe applying herbicides to remove vegetation. Commonly used herbicides like Roundup, and its active ingredient, glyphosate, are toxic to a wide range of animals. Studies have linked them to cancer, respiratory disease and neurological disorders.

The bill, if passed, would waive state laws that protect against herbicide harm, including smoke minimization guidelines for burning, endangered species protections and water and air quality regulations. These protections have existed for years and prohibit spraying near drinking water supplies and trees.

Vulnerable ecosystems and neighboring communities will pay the price for waiving these safeguards. An example is the Blodgett Forest Fuel

Reduction Project in El Dorado Forest, which proposes using herbicides on up to 471 acres to achieve a reduction in shrubs. Blodgett Forest is a wildlife hotspot for more than 400 species of plants and 150 species of animals.

Waterways cross into the project site in El Dorado County, where about 42% of the population uses private wells. These wells rely on shallow water sources, which can be directly affected by the quality of nearby groundwater, especially if it's contaminated by herbicides.

The guidelines these fast-tracked projects follow are extremely lax. Projects have no requirement to be cost-effective or reduce wildfire risk, which is concerning given that was the original intent for relaxing the regulations.

The state's dashboard contains little to no information about what environmental protections were required or implemented for each project. There is little public transparency or accountability and few ways for communities to make their concerns known about potential project impacts on health and the environment. Also the Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan that projects have to abide by is weak and oftentimes optional.

This would all take place as the state regulation rollbacks would be happening at the same time protections are being gutted at the federal level. The U.S. Forest Service and timber corporations are set to spray record levels of glyphosate in California's forests. And the Trump administration recently finalized a rule that would gut the national Endangered Species Act, opening up habitat to mining and logging across the country.

California needs to stand up to federal rollbacks and keep our state protections strong, not waive them for risky projects. Instead it is waiving environmental protection for projects that could harm our ecosystems and expose communities to cancer-causing herbicides.

The state should invest in home hardening and the smart siting of structures. But SB 1370 misses the mark for ensuring a wildfire-resilient future.

By Wendy-Sue Rosen. Wendy-Sue Rosen is a land use and environmental policy consultant.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What California can learn from LA's hot mess era of governmental reforms

Los Angeles this summer is the epicenter of both sweeping municipal governance overhaul and stultifying governmental stasis.

The foot-dragging comes from the L.A. City Council, which shut down a series of broadly popular charter reforms in late June because, members said, the proposals hadn't been sufficiently vetted — despite nine grueling months of commission hearings and debates and, frankly, years of discussion over the biggest-ticket items, like expanding the council.

By contrast, the county Board of Supervisors is finalizing a clean-up measure for the November ballot after having moved too fast and broken too many things with a 2024 charter reform that created new offices and new official duties, but that threatens to wreck the county's signature justice reforms because of rushed and careless drafting.

It's a surprising role reversal, at least in image, with the traditionally plodding, state-sized county government looking suddenly more urgent and creative (but accident-prone) than the smaller and comparatively scrappier City Hall.

Which of the two governments landed on the right formula? Is it better to be swift than certain? Should politics or policy set the pace?

These are questions other California municipal governments would be wise to consider over the coming months. Voters are restless and have shown a degree of volatility since 2020, a chaotic year in which the way we manage public resources and apportion public responsibilities and benefits came into serious question.

Cities and counties around the state have begun dusting off their charters to keep up. San Bernardino and Shasta counties sent their voters major reforms over the last four years, and San Francisco and San Diego County have charter measures on this November's ballot.

Los Angeles County moved at a speed somewhere between breakneck and reckless. Supervisors Lindsey Horvath and Janice Hahn presented their colleagues with a historic restructuring plan a day before the Fourth of July holiday in 2024 and were ready, immediately after the break, with some showbiz flash and pre-arranged testimony by academics, community leaders and, in a 1972 video, even Hahn's late father. Kenneth Hahn, for whom the county Hall of Administration is named, served on the Board of Supervisors for 40 years.

"You do not need to study, study, study," the elder Hahn said in the recording. "They've been studying county government since 1851, and there's time for change and the change and the time

is now."

The county proposal called for expanding the board from five members to nine, creating a new elected executive, establishing an independent ethics commission, and numerous other changes in procedure and administration. The stated goals were greater responsiveness, accountability and efficiency.

The board was to fill in the details after the fact, after hearing recommendations from an appointed task force. Voters passed the Measure G revamp in November 2024 by a little more than a sliver.

Then the task force began its work and discovered that the measure inadvertently overwrote a previous charter reform that set a spending floor for alternatives to incarceration. The task force also learned that the independent ethics commission would be impossible without a follow-up ballot measure. And members are grappling with various other items that probably should have been in the restructuring plan but were not. For example, the auditor's role is oversight. Shouldn't that office report to the board rather than to the elected executive?

The attempted fixes include a lawsuit and new ballot language. Each clean-up costs money and makes it more challenging to keep reformers' implied promise to keep implementation cost-neutral. (Measure G actually guarantees only that it won't result in new costs to taxpayers. The wording is open to interpretation.)

Meanwhile, down the street at City Hall, the L.A. City Council in June 2024 launched what it called a once-in-a-generation charter reform process to study how to modernize city government and rebuild the public trust that had been lost following a series of scandals and long-simmering dissatisfaction with the delivery of city services.

The city Charter Reform Commission was slow getting off the ground, in part because Mayor Karen Bass was slow in appointing members. But once the panel began its work last summer, it got the kind of news coverage and public participation that the county's task force can, so far, only dream of.

Many of the proposals the commission delivered in March were familiar, having been discussed for literally decades. For example, expanding the City Council was rejected by voters in 1999. Granting certain noncitizens the right to vote in city or school elections, lowering the voting age to 16 and implementing ranked-choice voting came before two charter reform commissions in the 1990s but did

SEE GUEST COMMENTARY PAGE 5



Weather

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 67.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2026/08/17	Mon	12:43 AM	4.26	H
2026/08/17	Mon	06:36 AM	1.39	L
2026/08/17	Mon	1:13 PM	5.15	H
2026/08/17	Mon	7:55 PM	1.49	L
2026/08/18	Tue	01:44 AM	3.49	H
2026/08/18	Tue	06:58 AM	2.04	L
2026/08/18	Tue	1:54 PM	5.00	H
2026/08/18	Tue	9:22 PM	1.56	L
2026/08/19	Wed	03:31 AM	2.94	H
2026/08/19	Wed	07:10 AM	2.60	L
2026/08/19	Wed	2:48 PM	4.84	H
2026/08/19	Wed	11:13 PM	1.37	L
2026/08/20	Thu	4:04 PM	4.76	H
2026/08/21	Fri	12:32 AM	1.00	L
2026/08/21	Fri	5:23 PM	4.88	H
2026/08/22	Sat	01:25 AM	0.62	L
2026/08/22	Sat	08:49 AM	3.63	H
2026/08/22	Sat	12:15 PM	3.27	L
2026/08/22	Sat	6:25 PM	5.14	H
2026/08/23	Sun	02:03 AM	0.31	L
2026/08/23	Sun	08:58 AM	3.79	H
2026/08/23	Sun	1:06 PM	3.00	L
2026/08/23	Sun	7:12 PM	5.46	H
2026/08/24	Mon	02:33 AM	0.07	L
2026/08/24	Mon	09:11 AM	3.95	H
2026/08/24	Mon	1:43 PM	2.67	L
2026/08/24	Mon	7:51 PM	5.76	H
2026/08/25	Tue	03:00 AM	-0.10	L
2026/08/25	Tue	09:26 AM	4.12	H
2026/08/25	Tue	2:16 PM	2.34	L
2026/08/25	Tue	8:25 PM	5.97	H
2026/08/26	Wed	03:25 AM	-0.19	L
2026/08/26	Wed	09:44 AM	4.33	H
2026/08/26	Wed	2:49 PM	2.02	L
2026/08/26	Wed	8:57 PM	6.06	H
2026/08/27	Thu	03:49 AM	-0.19	L
2026/08/27	Thu	10:03 AM	4.57	H
2026/08/27	Thu	3:23 PM	1.72	L



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Draw Date: 8/12
4 26 66 67 69
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 20 M



Draw Date: 8/13
9 11 13 27 36



Draw Date: 8/11
1 20 30 46 68
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 90 M



Draw Date: 8/13
EVENING: 9 4 8
Draw Date: 8/13
MIDDAY: 5 4 5



Draw Date: 8/12
3 4 14 35 40
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 46 M



Draw Date: 8/13
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:40.02

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26STCP02999. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill St Los Angeles, California 90012. Petition of Cate Woodson Schaberg for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Cate Woodson Schaberg filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Cate Woodson Schaberg to Jamie Woodson Schaberg. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 11/20/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: 529. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 08/10/2026. VIRGINIA KEENY, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/15/2026, 08/22/2026, 08/29/2026, 09/05/2026

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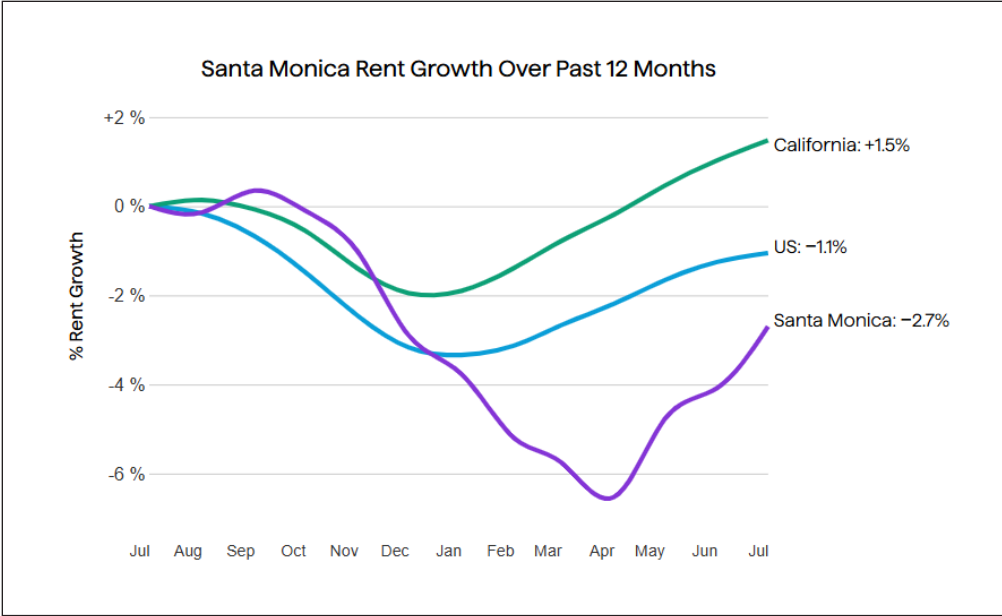
COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Santa Monica rents edge up in July but stay below year-ago levels

Santa Monica rents ticked up in July, though prices remain lower than they were a year earlier. The median rent in Santa Monica rose 1.4% over the course of July to \$2,405, according to Apartment List’s August 2026 rent report. The increase came in a market that has spent much of the past three years in retreat. Even with the gain, rents are down 2.7% from a year earlier, leaving Santa Monica behind both the state and the nation. Rents across California climbed about 1.5% over the past 12 months, while the national median slipped 1.1%, the report said. By unit type, Apartment List pegged the median one-bedroom in Santa Monica at \$2,276 and the median two-bedroom at \$2,729. The city’s rents have fared better in 2026 than in the same period a year earlier. Seven months into the year, rents have risen 1.1% — compared with a 0.2% decline through July 2025. The gains follow several down years. Santa Monica rents surged during the pandemic rebound, jumping 12.4% in 2021 and 9.8% in 2022 before reversing course. Prices then fell 6.4% in 2023, 0.9% in 2024 and 3.1% in 2025. The median also remains below its recent high. Apartment List’s city series shows it reached about \$2,527 in March 2025, roughly \$120 above July’s figure. Santa Monica remains one of the pricier corners of the Los Angeles area. Its \$2,405 median sits 9.6% above the metro-wide figure of \$2,194, according to Apartment List. Across the broader metro, rents were down 1% over the year — a shallower decline than Santa Monica’s, which fell faster over the past 12 months than the metro as a whole. Among the 29 Los Angeles-area cities the firm tracks, Newport Beach is the most expensive, with a median rent of \$3,396, while Inglewood is the most affordable at \$1,664. The fastest annual rent growth is in Aliso Viejo, at 6.3%, and the slowest is in Pomona, where rents fell 5%. The regionwide picture was mixed. Rents fell over the past year in nearby Culver City, down 2.8%, and Glendale, down 3.1%, while they climbed in cities such as Brea, up 4.2%, Calabasas, up 2.5%, and Fullerton, up 1.8%. Others were essentially flat, including Anaheim, down 0.2%, and Huntington Beach, up 0.3%. Over just the past month, several markets gained ground, among them Brea, up 1.9%, and Burbank, up 1.3%. The pullback in Santa Monica has come alongside a rise in empty units. Apartment vacancy in the city climbed to 5.3% in May, up 1.4 percentage points from a year earlier, according to Apartment List. The firm builds its estimates from Census Bureau data, projecting them to the current month using its own listing figures and a same-unit analysis, an approach it says tracks closely with government statistics. Whether July’s increase marks a turn or a brief pause, Santa Monica’s rents remain below where they stood a year ago, and well above the region’s median.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Apartment List
GRAPH: Santa Monica rents rise 1.4% in July to \$2,405 but remain 2.7% below last year, per Apartment List.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

LA County

LA County Launches ‘Path to 2028’ to Ready Businesses for Olympic Contracts

The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity has launched Path to 2028, a countywide initiative designed to help small businesses, workers and communities benefit from economic opportunities tied to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and other sporting events.

In partnership with cities and communities across the county, Path to 2028 events connect businesses with speakers, public-sector partners and resource providers. Attendees can learn about public contracting, vendor registration, business certifications, bid readiness, access to capital and technical assistance.

The initiative supports LA28’s commitment to achieve 75% local and 25% small-business spending targets under its Impact and Sustainability Plan. By helping businesses get certified, registered and contract-ready, the county aims to build the supplier pipeline LA28 needs. Officials note the county purchases many of the same commodities and services LA28 expects to procure, offering local businesses multiple revenue streams.

“Path to 2028 is not only about creating meaningful opportunities for local businesses and our economy, but also about expanding economic mobility and advancing inclusion across our communities,” said Board Chair and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis.

“We are not just preparing for a global event—we are building pathways to economic mobility, expanding opportunity, and investing in a more inclusive future for Los Angeles County,” said Kelly LoBianco, director of the department.

The first event was held May 26 in partnership with the City of Pico Rivera. The next will take place Thursday, Aug. 20, with the City of Torrance. Registration and event details are available at opportunity.lacounty.gov/pathto2028.

The department is also advancing workforce training programs, including Youth@Work and High Road Training Partnerships, to prepare residents for jobs connected to the Games.

Cities, organizations and partners interested in co-hosting an event can apply at opportunity.lacounty.gov/pathto2028.

“Path to 2028 is not only about creating meaningful opportunities for local businesses and our economy, but also about expanding economic mobility and advancing inclusion across our communities”
- Hilda L. Solis, Board Chair and First District Supervisor

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

not proceed to the ballot.

Nearly 30 years later, the City Council delayed each of those proposals for further study. The council also rejected a plan to give it more direct authority over Police Department policy, and a host of other reforms.

A smattering of proposed changes will proceed to the November ballot, including things like contracting rules and meeting schedules. None constitute the broad city government reform that was promised, nor are they likely to cause excitement at the ballot box. Their relative puniness may in fact exacerbate anger at City Hall’s perceived resistance to change and play a role in the run-off campaigns of Bass and challenger Nithya Raman.

The City Council, with its look-before-you-leap — and maybe never leap — strategy, comes off as unresponsive. The county’s vote-in-haste, repent-at-leisure attitude appears for the present to be politically smarter, given that county voters (many of whom are also city voters)

may be only too happy to vote for ethics reforms one more time.

But it’s not yet clear which approach makes the soundest local government policy. The county reforms are still in the midst of a multi-year rollout, and we’re a long way from learning whether they will work.

The city, meanwhile, has another chance to “study, study, study” its proposals and meld them into a more comprehensive and internally consistent package than the somewhat scattershot reforms proposed by the charter reform commission.

The city needs to keep taking the political temperature of its constituents. This is Los Angeles, birthplace of the voter initiative and home to periodic voter revolts. If the council doesn’t want to change how it operates, its members may find change imposed without their input.

By Robert Greene CalMatters Contributor. Robert Greene is a Los Angeles-based journalist. He was a member of the Los Angeles Times editorial board for 18 years, and previously was a staff writer for LA Weekly and associate editor of the Metropolitan.

GET IT DAILY...



City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Planning Commission recommendation to the City Council regarding amendments to the Santa Monica Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE), Bergamot Area Plan (BAP), Downtown Community Plan (DCP), and Text of the City’s Zoning Ordinance for consistency with existing State law, to modify the Community Meeting requirement for Housing Projects, and to make other minor changes, corrections, and clarifications as necessary.

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider recommending to the City Council that the Council adopt amendments to the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) of the City’s General Plan, Bergamot Area Plan (BAP), Downtown Community Plan (DCP), and Zoning Ordinance (1) for consistency with State law; (2) to modify the community meeting requirement for housing projects, and (3) making other minor changes, corrections, and clarifications.

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 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:

Rachel Kwok
Re:
VIA E-MAIL:
VIA MAIL:

Environmental Planner
2026 State Law Update
planningcomment@santamonica.gov
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about these amendments, please visit the [Planning Commission webpage](#). 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 normativa revisada en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431.

CANDIDATES

FROM PAGE 1

Wade Kelley — qualified
 Ericka Lesley — qualified
 Brett Morrow — qualified
 Lana Negrete, incumbent — qualified
 Ashley Oelsen
 Caroline Torosis, incumbent — qualified
 Derrick Townsend
 Douglas Byron Trussler

Two candidates withdrew from the race:
 Nathaniel I. Jones and Angela D. Scott.

Four prospective candidates who pulled papers did not submit them: Autumn Dubra, Erik Kramer, Jonathan Louis Mann and Charles A. Mokuolu. Virginia Reese also pulled papers for City Council but did not file for the seat, instead filing for a College Board seat.

RENT CONTROL BOARD

Three four-year seats are up for election.

Kurt Gonska, incumbent — qualified

Sue Himmelrich — qualified

Soledad Marcial — qualified

Zoë Muntaner

Heather Thomason — qualified

No candidates withdrew or failed to file for the Rent Control Board.

Santa Monica College Board of Trustees

Four four-year seats are up for election.

Luis Barrera Castanon, incumbent — qualified

Kera Blades-Snell — qualified

Oscar de la Torre
 Thomas Peters, incumbent — qualified
 Sion Roy, incumbent — qualified
 Brahim Boumakh — did not qualify
 Virginia Reese filed for the College Board after initially pulling papers for City Council, but later withdrew her candidacy. No prospective candidates failed to file for the College Board.

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Four four-year seats are up for election.

Harry Leshner

Laurie Lieberman, incumbent — qualified

Alicia Mignano, incumbent — qualified

Stacy J. Rouse, incumbent

Robert "Robbie" Staenberg — qualified

Brahim Boumakh initially pulled papers for the School Board but instead filed for the College Board, where he was ultimately found not qualified. No candidates withdrew from the School Board race, and none who pulled papers failed to file.

Additional candidates can still enter local races with write-in status. Qualifications for write-in candidates are the same as those who qualified for the ballot but write-in candidates do not appear on any voter materials and when it comes time to vote, their names must be physically written on the ballot by the individual voter. The write-in nomination runs from Sept. 7 to Oct. 20.

editor@smdp.com

Local acupuncturist bets on habit-building over quick fixes with new wellness programs

LILA VICTOR

Special to the Daily Press

Awaken Now, a one-stop acupuncture and wellness practice, will launch three new 12-week programs in September led by founder Marina Dabcevic, aimed at addressing different health issues across the body.

Each group is capped at 15 participants so members can build relationships and a sense of community, Dabcevic said. She was intentional about the 12-week timeline.

"It takes about 66 days to create a habit, and each week I'm trying to teach you a new habit to implement so you're not overloaded all at once," she said.

The final four weeks focus on reinforcing those habits. The programs are held online but are not asynchronous — participants meet for weekly Zoom calls, have one-on-one consultations with Dabcevic and join a group chat for daily support.

The Whole Body Reset targets systemic inflammation through diet, nervous system regulation, stress management, sleep, environment and body awareness. The program treats symptoms "not as something to manage or to fix" but as "a signal from your body that's telling you something's going on," Dabcevic said.

The Resilient Brain is designed for people with cognitive decline, Parkinson's disease, early-onset Alzheimer's disease, long COVID or other conditions that affect memory and brain function. The program aims to slow disease progression through movement, nutrition, functional medicine and community support.

"People with specifically cognitive decline really do isolate themselves, so my goal is to bring them together and go, 'Hey, you're not the only one,'" Dabcevic said.

The Metabolic Reset Blueprint was created for people struggling with weight, Type 2 diabetes and other metabolic conditions. Rather than a short-term diet, the program takes a holistic approach to

weight loss and metabolic health, teaching participants about the body's functions — from building muscle and reducing inflammation to stabilizing blood sugar and improving insulin sensitivity.

Awaken Now opened 11 years ago, offering acupuncture, cupping, massage, herbal medicine and red light therapy. The practice also has a hyperbaric chamber, an infrared sauna and a cold plunge, and offers one-on-one consulting and retreats around the world.

Dabcevic's path into functional medicine began with a homeopathy bachelor's degree in Australia. She later moved to the United States, where she earned a master's degree in traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture and a doctorate in acupuncture and Oriental medicine, specializing in oncology and chronic pain management.

The idea for the new programs grew out of Dabcevic's reflections on her retreats and one-on-one consulting work. She found that individual sessions offered a personalized approach but lacked the structure of group work, while retreats made a strong impact through their communal nature. The 12-week programs were designed to combine both.

For Dabcevic, functional medicine represents the intersection of Eastern and Western medicine. Her goal with the new programs is to help participants build lasting habits while fostering the kind of community she believes is central to healing.

"I hope that they get that village, which would then bring them confidence, joy and laughter, and even that changes the chemistry in the body," she said.

Awaken Now is located at 1410 Second St., Suite 302, Santa Monica, and is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon Friday. More information is available at awakennowhealth.com, with details on The Whole Body Reset, The Resilient Brain and The Metabolic Reset Blueprint.



Courtesy photo

AWAKENING: An acupuncture session with Awaken Now founder Dr. Marina Dabcevic.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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TEEN

FROM PAGE 1

walking is hard for him, and though he does not like asking for help, he lets her step in.

“His trust in me made me realize just how important it is for older adults to have someone who genuinely cares about them,” Butler said.

That realization became Belle’s Moments, a student-led organization Butler founded to connect teenagers with retirement home residents through monthly visits, activities and friendships. This fall, the 15-year-old New Roads School sophomore will launch the program at two senior living communities — Ivy Park Santa Monica and Westmont Culver City — pairing student volunteers with residents in an effort to reduce loneliness among older adults.

Butler, whose middle name is Belle, credits her grandparents — whom she calls her Grandma and Papa — as the inspiration for the organization.

“It breaks my heart knowing that not every senior has grandchildren, a friend, or family member to spend time with them or remind them that they’re loved,” she said.

The idea did not begin as a formal program. Butler said Belle’s Moments started as a passion project for Pretty Brown Girls, a summer program that asked participants to turn something they cared about into something meaningful. She considered many causes before returning, again and again, to older adults.

“Senior citizens have spent their lives contributing to their families and communities yet they’re often overlooked,” Butler said. “That was the moment I realized this wasn’t just about my own grandparents, it could become a program that actually brings joy and meaningful friendships to seniors and teenagers.”

The organization’s mission, as Butler describes it, is to bridge generations by empowering young people to build relationships with older adults through service, compassion and shared experiences. Her vision is a world where every older adult experiences meaningful connection and every young person discovers the power of service.

Butler said the program has not yet held its first official monthly visit, but she and others involved have spent considerable time planning what those gatherings will look like. The goal is for each volunteer to spend about an hour building a genuine friendship with a resident rather than simply stopping by for a quick activity.

A typical visit will likely begin with everyone gathering for a few minutes before students pair off with residents, she said. From there, pairs might talk about life, play cards or board games, do a craft, listen to music, or celebrate birthdays and holidays. Some visits may feature performances or special activities.

“The most important part isn’t the activity, it’s making sure each resident has something to look forward to every month,” Butler said.

For Butler, a student with a full schedule, the potential impact made the commitment worthwhile.

“Knowing that even one friendship could

brighten someone’s life reminded me why this work matters and motivated me to keep going even with my busy schedule,” she said.

She said her family has been a driving force. When she told her grandmother about Belle’s Moments, “she couldn’t stop telling me how proud she was,” Butler said, and her grandfather has been sending her resources about nonprofits to help her prepare.

Teenagers interested in volunteering can complete an application on the organization’s website, bellesmoments.org, or email Butler

“

His trust in
me made me
realize just
how important
it is for older
adults to have
someone who
genuinely cares
about them

- Kyleigh Belle Butler

”

directly at bellesmomentsca@gmail.com. The time commitment is minimal — just one visit each month, with the length depending on the activity. Students who cannot volunteer because of sports, clubs or other activities can still help by sharing the mission with their communities, she said.

Butler calls Belle’s Moments a movement, and she has ambitions well beyond a single home. She hopes to expand nationwide, bring the program to schools where students lack access to service opportunities and, eventually, offer scholarships to students committed to giving back.

But the ultimate measure of success, she said, is not the number of visits.

“Success means the friendships continue long after the program ends with teens and their resident partners staying connected because they genuinely care about one another,” Butler said.

Her larger dream, she said, is “to build a movement that bridges generations, inspires young leaders, and ensures every older adult feels seen, valued, and loved.”

More information about Belle’s Moments is available at bellesmoments.org.

maaz@smdp.com



Courtesy Image

STUDENT: Kyleigh Belle with her grandparents, Belinda Fulton and William Collins.

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 6255

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

Services Grants Program for fiscal years 2027-31. Operating for more than 50 years, the program is the city's single largest source of funds for local nonprofits and underwrites a social safety net serving residents from infancy to old age.

"This truly is a city of contrasts," Councilmember Ellis Raskin said before moving to approve the staff recommendations. "In a place of such affluence, we are still met with extreme need."

The first-year budget for the new cycle is projected at about \$9.2 million, down from the roughly \$11.2 million the current cycle is ending at. Nicole Liner-Jigamian, the fiscal administrator for the city's Human Services Division, told the council the drop is not a cut but a relocation: interim housing funds historically routed through the program will now be funded separately, moving about \$2 million outside the grants program while still supporting that need.

Staff said they expect to recommend an increase when they return in spring 2027 with proposed awards. "We really do expect to get higher funding requests than we have in the past, and we expect it to exceed that \$9 million," Liner-Jigamian said, noting that in the last cycle the city funded programs at about 85% of what they requested.

Mayor Caroline Torosis pressed staff to find more. Citing roughly \$180 billion in federal cuts to nutrition assistance, proposed elimination of Older Americans Act programs and a \$303 million deficit at the county homeless services department, she directed staff to identify additional local dollars. "We have to hold the line at the local level," Torosis said, asking staff to find "at least \$2 million somewhere to add to this program."

Staff responded that they are collaborating with the city's Measure GS committee to allocate eligible tax revenue toward housing and homelessness prevention, and anticipate that a significant share of future applicants will qualify.

The new guidelines mark a shift toward a more "prescriptive" approach, replacing the previous open call with a finite list of 19 eligible services across three areas:

housing and homelessness prevention, health and wellness, and financial stability. New or expanded priorities include domestic violence services, immigration support, community violence and gang intervention, dental care, intergenerational programming and expanded case management for the newly unhoused.

The cycle also introduces a wage option aimed at reducing burnout among low-paid frontline workers. Agencies may either provide a 30% cash match, as historically required, or agree to pay staff billed at least 90% to a program the city's minimum wage — \$25 an hour for fiscal 2026-27 — and have the match waived.

Public testimony was dominated by calls for more investment. Connections for Children, a current grantee, reported that the average cost of licensed child care in Santa Monica has climbed to \$1,755 a month, roughly 80% of the average gross monthly income of a two-person household using its subsidies. The nonprofit said 30 children sit on its eligibility waitlist and estimated that closing the gap would require about \$631,800 more in annual funding.

Others urged the council to restore a five-day congregate senior meal program at Reed Park's WISE Diner, which closed in July, and to keep neighborhood-based meal programs eligible for funding.

Council members repeatedly emphasized prevention, particularly for youth. "When we invest in our youth, we are investing in our future," Councilmember Natalya Zernitskaya said, requesting a future analysis of the program's return on investment.

Councilmember Lana Negrete, who described years of PTA involvement, said early intervention saves money later. "What we end up dealing with in the end is so much heavier when we don't address it" early, she said.

Staff plan to release the request for proposals in September, hold a bidders' conference and close it in December. Funding recommendations are due back to the council in spring 2027, with awards finalized in the June 2027 budget. The new cycle begins July 1, 2027.

maaz@smdp.com

Current HSGP Cycle: July 2023 - June 2027

\$11 million budget

18 agencies, 21 programs

Social Safety Net



Courtesy Image

GRANT: Santa Monica Council approves new Human Services Grants cycle starting at \$9.2M, with increases expected.

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

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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 7035

Fancy dress party

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

Aladdin	Convict	Goose	Puck
Ancient	Decorative	Grimm	Roman
Ariel	Disney	Hansel	Rumpelstiltskin
Ball	Dragon	Hobbit	Sinbad
Beast	Dwarf	Humorous	Spider
Black cat	Elves	Imps	Story
Boxer	Fantasy	Lost	Swan
Cher	Flapper	Ogre	Weird
Chicken	Frog	Pixy	Witch
Clown	Goblin	Princess	Wizard

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Wardrobe makeover

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 17)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You know better than to act on every feeling just because you have it. Feelings are information, not instructions. Today, you'll notice your feelings and hear them out, but you won't let any one of them have absolute authority.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Just as another person's good fortune doesn't cancel yours, the hardship of others doesn't erase your own difficult experiences. But not everyone is mature enough to know this. Be careful who you share with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Teamwork is crucial today, and you'll love working with people of different talents. Your role in this is vital, as you're the one who recognizes and acknowledges what people do well. You're the one they work to impress.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A missing piece of information can grow into a very elaborate story with fantastical implications. Before you settle on an explanation, give the other person a chance to supply one. A simple question can save hours of guessing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your relationship with yourself sets the tone for every other relationship. Good thing it's in mighty fine shape. You can spend time in your own company without rushing to fill the silence. Self-companionship informs that confidence that follows you everywhere.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A carpenter measures before cutting. A cook tastes before serving. Every craft has a moment for checking the work before moving ahead. Take a walk. Let your mind wander for a while. You'll return with better eyes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). One person wants excitement. Another wants consistency. The same quality can charm one person and bore another. So there's no point trying to appeal to everybody. You're looking for the people who appreciate your natural way of being.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Figure out how long you have to do the job, then stick to that. Every task has a point where more effort adds very little. You're learning to recognize it. Finishing on time will produce your strongest work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Good relationships don't eliminate life's frustrations. They give you someone to text, call, laugh with or lean on while you find your footing again. Today's burdens weigh less when shared.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It can be pretty easy to break your own promises, especially if no one else knows about these secret goals, plans and oaths. That's what makes an accountability partner so useful. It promotes the habit of making your own wishes a top priority.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Love has a funny habit of disguising itself as errands, reminders, rides across town and meals on the table. Those who have given this kind of care recognize the effort. Others need help seeing the love inside ordinary acts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Before you move on, give your work one more thoughtful pass. A second look catches details that your initial enthusiasm missed. The extra few minutes can spare you hours of revisiting this later.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Car's ___-view mirror
- 5 Natural bandage
- 9 Walk heavily (on)
- 14 Woodwind instrument
- 15 Money of France
- 16 Lake boat
- 17 Wood-smoothing sheet
- 19 Vision-related
- 20 Hurricane's center
- 21 From China or Japan
- 22 Question again
- 23 Lost traction
- 24 Entices
- 25 Compelled (to do)
- 28 Retail shop
- 30 "...happily ___ after"
- 31 Lauder of cosmetics
- 33 Smartphone programs
- 37 Person from Denmark
- 38 Metal-filled rock
- 39 Travel by boat
- 40 Very gradual
- 41 Backup strategy
- 43 School near Hollywood: Abbr.
- 44 Sag
- 46 Seldom
- 48 Slept noisily
- 51 Instinctive feeling, for short
- 52 Subject being discussed
- 53 "Humble" home
- 55 Small amount of sugar: Abbr.
- 58 ___ and kicking (robust)
- 59 Small rods placed into power tools

- 61 Sources of coal or gold
- 62 Board-game cubes
- 63 Pub beverages
- 64 Social equals
- 65 Looks at
- 66 Company division: Abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Valentine flower
- 2 Auction website
- 3 Top-rated
- 4 Stop sign color
- 5 Coastal region
- 6 Archer on Valentine's cards
- 7 Neighborhood
- 8 ___ yesterday

- (gullible)
- 9 Athlete making a goal
- 10 Flexible, retractable ruler
- 11 Ready to serve from a keg
- 12 Slightly wet
- 13 Quick kisses
- 18 Nearly colorless
- 23 Tool for inserting threaded fasteners
- 24 Tip of a sock
- 25 Government agents, for short
- 26 Egg-shaped
- 27 Nevada gambling city
- 28 Purse handle
- 29 Adolescent
- 32 Perform alone

- 34 Walk back and forth
- 35 Medicinal tablet
- 36 Defeat, as a dragon
- 41 Pea holder
- 42 Parts of horses' harnesses
- 45 Elementary school break
- 47 Eve's second son
- 48 Piece of postage
- 49 "It's true!"
- 50 State your views
- 51 Singer's "instrument"
- 53 Calculates a sum
- 54 Soft French cheese
- 55 Kitchen flooring piece
- 56 Ladder rung
- 57 Soft "Hey you!"
- 60 Wicked

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
				23					24					
25	26	27					28	29						
30					31	32				33	34	35	36	
37						38				39				
40					41				42	43				
				44	45				46	47				
48	49	50						51						
52						53	54				55	56	57	
58						59					60			
61						62					63			
64						65					66			

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



MONDAY | OCTOBER 17

WEEKLY PALISADIANS GATHERING IN SANTA MONICA

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Bardonna 1601 Montana Ave Santa Monica. Displaced Palisadians are welcome to join for connection and discussion. No formal agenda. No RSVP necessary. Organized by Stephanie Kana of Oasis Palisades. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-palisadians-gathering-in-santa-monica/18461166/2026-08-17T08>

COMMUNAL GARDENING @ ISHIHARA PARK

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd Santa Monica. Communal Garden Program Work Days @ Ishihara Park Learning Garden - Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Free Come get your hands dirty in the Communal Garden Program at Ishihara Park Learning Garden, a communal spot to learn and acquire gardening skills. Seasoned as well as new gardeners of all ages are welcome. Free drop in activity, no reservation needed. Visit the Ishihara Park Learning Garden site for More Information. Subject to cancellation due to weather. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/communal-gardening-ishihara-park/18461167/2026-08-03T09>

MY LAWYER IS AN ANGEL – CHASING THE AMBULANCE CHASERS OFF THE ROAD!

3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. It's the world premiere of acclaimed playwright Jerry Mayer's serious comedy about ambulance chasers, those predators whose faces leer down at us from every billboard in town, and the angel of an attorney (yes, there is such a thing) who's on a mission to chase them off the road. The internationally acclaimed team that brought you Jews R2 Much Fun, Almost Perfect, Aspirin & ELEPHANTS, You Haven't Changed a Bit and Other Lies and more, reunites renowned playwright Jerry Mayer with veteran (and frequent Mayer) director Chris DeCarlo. Original music is by Steve Mayer. The stellar cast features DeCarlo (Author! Author!, Mistakes Were Made), Michael Brunino (The Italians, Tracy Kelly: Siblings Gang), Summer Moran (The Last Spark of Us, Strings Attached), Elena Rosa (The Dropout, L.A.'s Finest). \$25.00 to \$35.00— USE Code SMDP for \$10 off each ticket (phone or email only). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/my-lawyer-is-an-angel-chasing-the-ambulance-chasers-off-the-road-/18922943/2026-08-10T15>

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-08-03T18>

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons

Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months! Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2026-08-17T19>

CASTANEA SICILIAN CAFE - EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Castanea Cafe 1307 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy 50% OFF all coffees at Castanea Venice Beach ?? Early Bird special every Mon–Thu from 9–10am. Start your morning with premium coffee at a special price – limited time offer! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/castanea-sicilian-cafe-early-bird-special/18847307/2026-08-03T21>

LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR AT MARELLE - NIGHT CAP MENU

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Marelle at Sandbourne Santa Monica 1740 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Marelle will be launching a late-night happy hour menu called 'Night Cap' starting Monday, April 6th. Guests can order from this menu exclusively at Marelle, bar and bar lounge only. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/late-night-happy-hour-at-marelle-night-cap-menu/18409321/2026-08-03T21>

TUESDAY | AUGUST 18

LADIES GOLF CLINIC

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Four Wood Golf 828 Pico Blvd, Suite 5 Santa Monica. Join us every Tuesday from 9:30–11:00 AM for a relaxed, social golf experience designed for women of all skill levels. Whether you're picking up a club for the first time or looking to build confidence in your game, Matchas & Mulligans is all about learning, connecting, and having fun in a welcoming, pressure-free environment. Led by our in-house golf pros, you'll learn new skills each session. Blend of light instruction with a social atmosphere — the ladies' clinic is perfect for improving your skills while meeting like-minded golfers. \$60.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ladies-golf-clinic/19572527/2026-08-18T09>

ACRYLIC/OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP TUESDAY

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Paint Lab 1453 14th St Santa Monica. In this workshop each student will work on their own project with guidance from an instructor. The adult acrylic/oil workshop is \$48.00 plus the cost

of canvas (canvas available for purchase in studio). Workshop cost includes easel set up, paint, brushes, apron, 2 hours of instruction and clean up. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/acrylic-oil-painting-workshop-tuesday/19429773/2026-08-11T13>

WALK-IN TUTORING WITH LAURIE

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Walk-In Tutoring With Laurie Walk-in tutoring is available for any adult who needs help with internet searches, filling out forms, English conversation, reading, writing, resumes, and applications. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walk-in-tutoring-with-laurie/17128550/2026-08-04T14>

ELEMENTARY ART STUDIO 3:30-4:20PM

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Open to all skill levels, sparking creativity through drawing, color work, collage, and mixed-media techniques. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/elementary-art-studio-3-30-4-20pm/18825639/2026-08-04T15>

WEEKLY WALKING CLUB

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Near Palisades Recreation Center Toyopa Drive and Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades. A weekly walking club will meet on Tuesdays for approximately one hour to walk 1.5 to 2 miles. The group will meet at the corner of Toyopa and Alma Real. All levels are welcome. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-walking-club/19106860/2026-08-04T16>

LET'S BINGO AGAIN TUESDAYS 7-10 PM

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Ace Hotel Los Angeles 929 S Broadway, Los Angeles. Show up. Eat good things. Mark squares. Win things. It's that simple. Bingo at King's Highway hosted by our sparkly girl Vanity Halston this Tuesday 12.27.25. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/let-s-bingo-again-tuesdays-7-10-pm/18565296/2026-08-11T19>

SHESPEAKS

8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Ave #Unit F4 Santa Monica. A comedy and storytelling community for women with open mic, hosted by Tergel Purevdorj and Amy Jin. Stories. Community. Connection. \$28.45. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/shespeaks/19518096/2026-08-18T20>

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 19

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Santa Monica. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness

meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a stunning view of the sparkling ocean. Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early and be ready to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/19479748/2026-08-05T10>

TODDLER STORYTIME AND SONGS

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Toddler Storytime and Songs Join us for storytime on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. We share stories, songs, and movement activities to build early literacy skills for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/toddler-storytime-and-songs/18526513/2026-08-05T10>

PALIBU RIBBON CUTTING

1:00 p.m. Swarthmore Avenue Pacific Palisades, CA. Malibu Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting for the return of the Pacific Palisades Farmers Market. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palibu-ribbon-cutting/19481194/2026-08-19T13>

MIDDAY YOGA ON WEDNESDAYS

1:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Free Community Yoga created with care for those impacted by the Palisades Fire In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pcrsm.org/event/midday-yoga-on-wednesdays-b7af2> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/midday-yoga-on-wednesdays/19509303/2026-08-12T13>

MAHJONG OPEN PLAY AT HOMESTATE SANTA MONICA X MAHJONG LOS ANGELES

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. HomeState 720 Wilshire Boulevard #Suite 101 Santa Monica. You're invited for a night of mahjong, friends + food. Play BIG..... with The BIG Card or your NMJL card. You're invited to GO BIG and practice with the 2026 NMJL Card. Each ticket includes - Food/Drink ticket for 1 cocktail + 2 vegetarian tacos Exclusive 2026 NMJL Card Overview from The Mahjong Line Ambassador, Carolyn of Mahj Los Angeles. Mahjong sets from The Mahjong Line used for play. Experienced players only. Book as group of 4 OR book as an individual to be matched with a group. Additional food & drinks available for purchase. \$55.20. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mahjong-open-play-at-homestate-santa-monica-x-mahjong-los-angeles/19545752/2026-08-19T17>



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