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Santa Monica Daily Press

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09.11.20
Volume 19 Issue 152

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Street sweeping Monday
Labor day delay.
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Losers and suckers
Trump's comments come back to haunt him.
Page 4

Fairmont Miramar project moves forward to City Council

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

The Fairmont Miramar project has moved to the next phase of the approval process and is set to be discussed by Santa Monica City Council following a 6-1 vote from local Planning Commissioners Wednesday night.

Commissioner Mario Fonda-Bonardi was the only dissenting vote.

If approved by council, developers would renovate the existing hotel, which opened in 1921, to include 312 new guest rooms, 60 for-sale luxury condominium units, complete with retail space and 14,000 square-feet of publicly-accessible open space. The project also intends to provide funding and land to build a minimum of 42

SEE **MIRAMAR** PAGE 5

Santa Monica's firefighters help combat raging wildland blazes







Courtesy photos.

FIRES: Local firefighters are traveling far from home to help fight an unprecedented fire season.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

While many Santa Monicans have spent this week looking at apocalyptic pictures of California's smoky skies from the safety of their homes, local firefighters are on the scene helping combat raging wildland fires. Around 30 of Santa Monica's firefighters have been deployed in mutual aid assignments over the past six weeks, including 15 team members fighting the Creek, Dolan, Bobcat and Valley Fires this week.

The Santa Monica Fire Department provides engines, firefighters, incident leadership, or other speciality fire services through the state's mutual aid system when fires exceed a community's capacity

SEE **FIREFIGHTERS** PAGE 10

Six month wait for report on May looting

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

Santa Monica residents will not see a report on the May 31 looting this year, let alone before this year's election.

Any company hired to complete an after action report will have about six months to complete the work with the option to extend that timeline if necessary according to recently posted documents.

"The selected firm will be asked to complete its independent after action report and evaluation on an expedited timeline with the goal of having a final written report and evaluation within 180 days," said a request for proposal (RFP) posted this week. "The selected firm may, however, extend this time frame if it determines that additional time is necessary for it to complete a

SEE **LOOTING REPORT** PAGE 10

Al fresco Dining - A Breath of Fresh Air

Advertising supplement

As we soak up the last moments of sun, you may have noticed that summer in Santa Monica looked a bit different this year. Warm nights spent with family occurred in our backyards, going out to dinner at our favorite restaurants quickly turned into fun kitchen experiments, and conversations with loved ones occurred six-feet apart. COVID-19 was sudden and unexpected, to say the least, causing this shift in everyone's lifestyle. As we learn to accept our new normal, the City of Santa Monica has worked diligently to embrace the change,

SEE **AL FRESCO** PAGE 6

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 274 CALLS ON SEPT. 9

Out Of Order Traffic Signals 2nd St / Broadway 2:23 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1600blk Appian Way 2:33 a.m.
Battery 400blk Santa Monica Pier 6:22 a.m.
Battery Main St / Pico Blvd 6:38 a.m.
Battery 700blk Broadway 6:43 a.m.
Auto Burglary 800blk 5th St 6:43 a.m.
Panic Alarm 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 7:00 a.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 7:57 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:01 a.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 2300blk 5th St 8:14 a.m.
Burglary 2300blk Pearl St 8:15 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:35 a.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 8:44 a.m.
Burglary 1400blk 6th St 9:01 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1400blk Berkeley St 9:01 a.m.
Grand Theft 2200blk 16th St 9:07 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 4th St / Idaho Ave 9:08 a.m.
Prowler 3000blk Delaware Ave 9:11 a.m.
Found Property 2200blk Virginia Ave 9:17 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Broadway 9:32 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 2nd St 9:40 a.m.
Found Property 1400blk 2nd St 9:53 a.m.
Fraud Suspect There Now 600blk Wilshire Blvd 10:02 a.m.
Encampment 2900blk Virginia Ave 10:02 a.m.
Burglary 900blk 5th St 10:26 a.m.
Battery 1400blk Euclid St 10:27 a.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2000blk Ocean Ave 10:40 a.m.
Burglary 1400blk 6th St 10:48 a.m.
Fraud 1200blk 5th St 10:52 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1200blk 17th St 11:06 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1100blk 5th St 11:17 a.m.
Battery Now 1100blk 5th St 11:21 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1500blk Harvard St 11:31 a.m.
Grand Theft 20th St / Montana Ave 11:48 a.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Lincoln Blvd / Wilshire Blvd 11:55 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk Ocean Ave 12:00 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 12:04 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk Harvard St 12:04 p.m.
Grand Theft 800blk 20th St 12:06 p.m.
Fraud Suspect Just Left 2700blk Wilshire Blvd 12:11 p.m.
Bike Theft 00blk Bay St 12:23 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1000blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:25 p.m.
Burglary 200blk Broadway 12:30 p.m.
Grand Theft 800blk Yale St 12:40 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk Franklin St 1:07 p.m.
Found Property 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 1:15 p.m.
Encampment 2300blk 4th St 1:25 p.m.
Auto Burglary 600blk San Vicente Blvd 1:37 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Euclid St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:38 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600blk Barnard Way 1:39 p.m.
Prostitution 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:46 p.m.
Battery 1500blk Broadway 1:54 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk Delaware Ave 1:57 p.m.
Panic Alarm 1100blk Pacific St 2:02 p.m.
Found Property 2300blk 4th St 2:05 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 20th St / Alta Ave 2:09 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Cloverfield Blvd / Pearl St 2:23 p.m.
Stalking 2600blk Kansas Ave 2:24 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 2700blk Neilson Way 2:31 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1700blk 16th St 2:54 p.m.
Identity Theft 600blk Broadway 3:14 p.m.
Found Property 2300blk 4th St 3:15 p.m.
Grand Theft 1100blk Harvard St 3:17 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1400blk 19th St 3:25 p.m.
Found Property 3rd St / Hollister Ave 3:31 p.m.
Grand Theft 900blk Stanford St 3:54 p.m.
Bike Theft 1400blk Euclid St 4:07 p.m.
Arson Berkeley St / Lipton Ave 4:29 p.m.
Encampment 2900blk Virginia Ave 4:37 p.m.
Fight 1800blk Ocean Front Walk 5:11 p.m.
Encampment 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 5:21 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 800blk 10th St 5:41 p.m.
Public Intoxication 2200blk Virginia Ave 5:46 p.m.
Battery Main St / Hollister Ave 6:05 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 6:08 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1400blk Montana Ave 6:21 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 19th St / Wilshire Blvd 6:29 p.m.
Burglary 1300blk 7th St 6:29 p.m.
Assault 1300blk Montana Ave 6:48 p.m.
Drinking In Public 14th St / Montana Ave 6:53 p.m.
Auto Burglary Now 1400blk 2nd St 7:51 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk California Ave 7:59 p.m.
Petty Theft 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:14 p.m.
Construction Noise 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 8:26 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:27 p.m.
Petty Theft 800blk 5th St 9:09 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:15 p.m.
Petty Theft 700blk Broadway 9:34 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 19th St / San Vicente Blvd 10:07 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 7th St / San Vicente Blvd 10:51 p.m.
Fight 1400blk Palisades Beach Rd 11:07 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle Lincoln Blvd / Ozone Ave 11:11 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 500blk San Vicente Blvd 11:12 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 35 CALLS ON SEPTEMBER 9

EMS 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:13 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 9th St 2:12 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 2:44 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 14th St 4:23 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Pico Blvd 5:14 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 6:35 a.m.
EMS 400blk Pier Ave 7:14 a.m.
EMS 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:54 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk 15th St 10:00 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 14th St 10:16 a.m.
EMS 2200blk 24th St 10:16 a.m.
Wires Down 700blk Grant St 11:32 a.m.
EMS 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:33 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 1:08 p.m.
EMS 800blk 16th St 1:25 p.m.
EMS 14th St / Arizona Ave 1:26 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Broadway 1:59 p.m.
EMS 20th St / Alta Ave 2:09 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:20 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:24 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 2:25 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 200blk California Ave 2:43 p.m.
EMS 00blk Sea Colony Dr 3:35 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 11th St 3:44 p.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 3:49 p.m.
EMS 900blk Wilshire Blvd 4:28 p.m.
EMS 3000blk 3rd St 4:33 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 16th St 4:42 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Marine St 4:46 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:09 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Ocean Ave 6:32 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 25th St 6:34 p.m.
EMS 6th St / Broadway 10:00 p.m.
EMS 00blk Village Pkwy 10:11 p.m.
EMS 900blk 21st St 10:19 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

By Arthur Jeon Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I just plowed through the "Recommendations of the Santa Monica Public Safety Reform Advisory Committee" and I truly am astounded by it. In response to our city being mercilessly looted on May 31st (and narrowly avoiding another attack last week), in response to rising crime and drug-addicted homelessness, the recommendations of this committee read like woke satire.

The report says 70% of all calls handled by the police arise from the public and over-index in accusations of people of color, "including suspicious person, trespassing, disturbance of the peace, and homeless calls." This report's conclusion? "All members of the Santa Monica community need to proactively reexamine their own explicit and implicit racial biases." That's right, Santa Monica, the most liberal city in the country, with famously the most highly trained and restrained police force, must all stop believing their eyes and start looking inward the next time we reach for the phone to call 911.

Oh, and after acknowledging most SMPD will never fire their gun in their entire career, even more than the nationwide of 70% who won't, our police should stop refreshing their perishable gun skills. Yes, because that's what we want, less-skilled officers around the one tool that can end a life in a high-stress situation. Because what we have is too many people of any color getting shot by SMPD. Really?

Believe me, I could go on and cite endless examples of this committee drawing the wrong conclusion in the city's haste to out virtue-signal Brooklyn, NY. The report refers to and did a lazy lift of Campaign Zero's entire platform, without apparently thinking if it applies to Santa Monica. But the City Council is misunderstanding the mood of Santa Monica residents right now, who don't feel beleaguered by the police, but are beset by a sense of lawlessness on the street.

The average citizen wants safe, clean streets. They don't care if the addict in the alley breaking into their car, or stealing their bicycle, or defecating on their lawns and parks, or burning priceless books in our library cum homeless shelter, is Black, Asian, Hispanic, or White. We want a police force that's quick, responsive and professional. Oh wait, with the exception of the inexplicable stand down watching our city get looted (now that was some police restraint), we have one.

We also want our police to be backed by a City Council that will enact ordinances that SMPD can use to enforce a return to order. Oh wait, hopefully we'll have that after the upcoming election.

I've lived here 25 years and as a runner and dog owner, I'm on the streets all the time and have seen hundreds of Police interactions, including being in a couple myself. In not one have I even heard a raised voice from a SM police officer interacting with a suspect. They don't need any more use-of-force de-escalation training. If anything, the inmates are running the asylum because they know the police don't have the tools or desire to handle them. We are all carrot, no stick, and are patting ourselves on the back for our compassion, while self-flagellating with the other hand for our racism. Sorry, neither are true.

Time to wake up and see the reality of what Santa Monica is right now. A small town beleaguered by big-city problems that are only going to get worse if we keep spending money trying to solve problems that don't exist. Social workers teamed with cops? Sure, I saw that work in a ride-along with Erika Aklufi. Endless struggle sessions that leave cops feeling unsupported and misunderstood? No thanks. Hiring more "consultants" to state the obvious? Please. Spend the money on hiring another social worker or cop.

Time for some new leadership. This team is clueless. Four City Council seats are up in November. Vote.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Field Space Opens Sept. 12 as Part of Playground Partnership

In May, the City of Santa Monica and Santa Monica-Malibu School District (SMMUSD) announced their commitment to continue the Playground Partnership program despite unprecedented budget constraints brought on by COVID-19. With the school year now underway, the City and SMMUSD are bringing back field space through the Playground Partnership scheduled to launch this week, based on what is permissible under LA County Public Health guidelines.

Scheduled to resume September 12, while distance learning is in place, SMMUSD will open three elementary school sites for field and schoolyard access on weekday afternoons and on weekends, now that youth sports have been cleared on LA County's Roadmap to Recovery. These sites are Franklin, McKinley, and Rogers elementary schools. On September 19, the remaining elementary schools: Edison, Grant, and Roosevelt will open. The Muir / SMASH field has remained open to the public and will continue to remain open during non-school hours.

While play equipment must remain closed until the State of California and LA County clear them for use and issue guidance for safe reopening, fields will be available for youth sports practices and open spaces in school yards will be available for community access. The City began permitting City fields for youth sports access on September 8. SMMUSD will continue permitting district fields through September 13, with the City taking back permitting responsibilities on September 14. When on-campus learning resumes, all six Playground Partnership sites are anticipated to be available on weekends, district holidays, school breaks, and during the summer, except for sites where summer school or other school programming is planned.

Through the new Playground Partnership model agreed to in May, the City will reimburse SMMUSD in the amount of $95,456.40 annually beginning in FY20/21, adjusted annually by CPI, to cover the cost of SMMUSD's roaming Sports Facility Attendants who will monitor, clean, and close the restrooms and facilities, as well as remind users of current public health rules. Shifting responsibilities to SMMUSD staff results in an annual savings to the City of approximately $50,000.

"We are excited that school is back in session, but we know it comes with unique challenges for our children and families this year. Now that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has cleared field use for certain activities, we hope our continued partnership with SMMUSD will provide the Santa Monica community much-needed access to outdoor recreation as we look together for ways for children to stay active during distance learning," said Interim City Manager Lane Dilg.

"We are pleased with our ongoing partnership with the City of Santa Monica regarding use of our fields outside of the school day," said Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent of SMMUSD. "It is very important for our students and families to have access to outdoor spaces, particularly with students' home for distance learning on devices for hours each day. While our students do have interactive activities and physical education built into the distance learning curriculum, being active in a safe outdoor space provides an added benefit to their physical and mental health."

The same public health practices that keep us safe everyday are essential to follow to safely use fields in Santa Monica: Wear a face covering, maintain physical distance of six feet or more, do not gather with people outside your household, if you or your child are sick, stay home and wash your hands frequently.

Field permitting inquiries for youth sports can be sent to communityrecreation@smgov.net.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL

Citywide

Beauty Bus Foundation to Honor Philanthropists

Beauty Bus Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides beauty and grooming services to seriously ill people and their caregivers will be honoring Annette Shapiro and Lisi Teller at Beauty Drive Live, their

premier event of the year, to be held virtually on September 13, at 4 p.m.

Beauty Bus Foundation, the brainchild of Wendy Marantz Levine, who founded the organization in 2009 following the death of her sister, visits patients in private homes, hospitals, and social service agencies.

Beauty Drive, which is traditionally held in the spring at the Skirball Cultural Center, had to be quickly reimagined due to the global pandemic. "It was important to us that nothing stand in the way of honoring these two women who have done so much for the community," said Cathy Sleva, Executive Director of Beauty Bus Foundation. "While it will not be the typical Beauty Drive Event that we put on every year, it will be a fabulous afternoon of family-friendly entertainment as we honor Annette Shapiro and Lisi Teller."

Since the spring, Beauty Bus Foundation has refocused their activities by distributing more than 1,000 Bags of Beauty to frontline healthcare workers, organizing parades at social service agencies and clients' homes, and moving their signature Pop-Up Salon service to the virtual space, allowing anyone with an internet connection to learn about facials, makeup, and hairstyles.

There is no cost to participate, and registration is available on the organization's website www.beautybus.org.

SUBMITTED BY AMY STRAUS

Citywide

Monday Street Sweeping is September 14

Due to the Labor Day holiday, if your normal street sweeping day is Monday, please move your car on Monday, September 14 for street sweeping. Citations will be issued for cars that are not moved. To get street sweeping days through the end of the year, visit www.santamonica.gov.

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Losers and Suckers

During the greatest world pandemic in over 100 years, this past Sunday one presidential candidate went to church. (And no one was tear gassed for a photo-op.) And then he visited the gravesite of his late son who had been a Bronze Star recipient for his heroic military service in Iraq.

Playing golf, was draft dodger "Cadet Bone Spur," whose five children never served and whose father didn't either. (Apparently rotten apples never fall far from the tree.)

After golf (at which he's a notorious cheater) Cadet B.S. rage tweeted. Perhaps because he wasn't able to cheat enough? And then his campaign cruelly mocked the other man for visiting his son's grave. (But enough for parables, let's do some math.)

Currently 193,253 Americans have died from Covid-19 with predictions of 314,000 by year's end. But carnival barker Trump promises there will be a vaccine released on or before November 3. (I only hope it's more efficacious than bleach.)

The Trump administration received its first formal notification of the corona-virus in China on January 3. Within days, U.S. spy agencies alerted Trump in the first of many Daily Briefs which, unfortunately, he never reads. Add to that, in 2018, Trump disbanded Obama's pandemic research team, saying, "If we ever need them we can always get them back." (That's like boarding up windows AFTER the hurricane hits.)

The U.S. And S. Korea discovered their first case of Covid-19 on the same day, January 20, 2020. The S. Korean government immediately created instituted testing, contact tracing and mask wearing. (While Trump referred to Covid-19 as a "hoax," and later compared it to the "sniffles.")

But now we learn via Trump on audio tape of 9 hours of interviews with Bob Woodward, the shocking news that on February 7, Trump knew how deadly Covid was. But he "played it down" because "I didn't want people to panic." (Meaning a stock market plunge and he loses the election.)

To date, S. Korea has had 336 Covid deaths. Total! Since the U.S. is six times larger, per capita we should have 2016 deaths. It's estimated that if Trump had advocated masks and social distancing 83% of Covid deaths would have been avoided. (Trump didn't want people to panic, he preferred they just die.)

Trump still calls the virus the "Kung Flu." But since he's been lying about Covid since February 7, it should be called the "Trump Virus." And since we're 4% of the world's population but have 22% of Covid deaths, the disparity should be called the "Trump Death Gap."

This brings us to Trump's reaction to a lead article in The Atlantic magazine about his disparaging American soldiers who died in battle as "losers" and "suckers." The story has been confirmed by CNN, MSNBC and even Fox News' Jennifer Griffin, a former war correspondent. Not a "fan" of the 1st Amendment, Trump insists she be fired.

Calling the article a "hoax," (his go-to for anything or anybody who dares to disagree with him) Trump vehemently denies the accusations. Then again, he also denied he called John McCain a "loser," when it's on video and his Twitter feed.

President John Quincy Adams said, "Facts are stubborn things," to which Trump might respond, "Maybe, but I get better ratings." Speaking of ratings, Biden's convention numbers beat Trump's 54% to 45% despite all the fireworks and illegally staging the RNC at the White House. Just sayin'.

As reported in the book "A Very Stable Genius," Trump called his Generals, "Dopes, babies and losers." More like a mob boss than a president, Trump infamously said, "I know more than they do." In fact he has often said he would have been a great general. (Picture him watching the troops go into battle from his golf cart.)

Trump loves military parades. But multiple sources report that he insisted wounded vets, such as amputees, be kept out view. "Nobody wants to see that."

In 2017, Trump reportedly tried to "console" Myeshia Johnson, mother of two and pregnant widow of Army Sgt. La David Johnson who died in Niger. "He knew what he signed up for," Trump said. Crying harder, Myeshia told reporters, "He didn't even know my husband's name!"

Today is 9/11/2020. To understand Trump's malignant narcissism consider that on 9/11/01, he shamelessly (and incorrectly) bragged, "I guess now my building is the tallest in lower Manhattan." Trump doesn't comprehend public service or love of country. Whereas JFK said, "Ask what you can do for you country," to Trump the only question is, "What's in it for me?"

However, occasionally Trump tells the truth. In responding to the Atlantic article listing his horrific quotes about fallen soldiers, "Only an animal would say such things." He's right about that.

If we allow Trump to cheat his way to re-election, we'll be the losers and suckers.

This Sunday on "60 Minutes" Bob Woodward will play more Trump tapes. Please Google "They all knew video" to see what GOP leaders really thought of Trump and did nothing to stop him. Jack is at jackdailypress@aol.com.

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MIRAMAR

FROM PAGE 1

affordable housing units, located in a five-story apartment building across 2nd Street that would be developed by Community Corporation of Santa Monica.

The prospective hotel expansion has received mixed reactions from community members. Though there was no opportunity for public comment this week, commissioners noted they shared the community's concerns as they dissected the project's size and repeatedly emphasized its needs to be completed in a timely manner.

While he described the hotel as a big fortress that he doesn't like, Commissioner Richard McKinnon said deciding to approve the project is probably the toughest decision he's had to make in nearly a decade.

"I would probably vote against this if it had come up six months ago or asked for considerable reductions. And if that didn't happen, I would have voted against it. And in fact, this goes to the reason I'm supporting it tonight," McKinnon said. "At this moment, the health crisis across this country and around the world is out of control, and it's very clear that the next few years are going to be extremely distressing and difficult ... And I can assure you that our economic impact is nowhere near as bad, yet, as it's going to be. Things have happened that haven't played out; jobs are being lost; businesses are going under, and you can't lose 30 or 40 million people to unemployment."

"That leads to a crisis of confidence," McKinnon added. "And I believe that we're in the worst economic crisis for 100 years. We just haven't quite seen it yet but the issues around the world are there. This (renovation) is something which says to people, 'There is an investment. There are jobs. There is a future,' and we need it to begin. That's why I want it to be on a timetable."

The commission mostly agreed with McKinnon and voiced a need to get the process underway as soon as possible.

"There (are) always hurdles in this process that we don't anticipate and we do this on a regular basis," commissioner Jim Ries said. "So, let's do the best we can to put a schedule together but I just don't think that we can hold their feet to the fire too much."

Fonda-Bonardi said action from city councilmembers could come months from now and it could be four years from then until construction is started.

"You can chop it up any way you want but I don't want to be sitting there at 6.9 years and saying, 'Oh my god, they're showing up and asking for an extension,'" he said.

Commissioners said they were confident this wouldn't be the case, before Commissioner Shawn Landres added, "We may be voting for something that is highly aspirational — I want to caution that I think that we have certainly loaded up this set of recommendations and I'm mindful that the ultimate negotiations will be conducted by the City Council — but I think we've done a good job here, given the project before us, of addressing the really key issues."

Landres said he believes the commission has set the project up for success and he believes it's an improvement over the previous two iterations that will bring a great deal to the community, including jobs and more.

"There's some good things about this," Fonda-Bonardi said, "but in my mind, it's still quite not what we want at this time so I would have to vote against it."

Ries said the project is consistent with municipal zoning codes so maybe the commission should analyze the height restrictions that are currently in place.

"But at this point, the project is well designed. It's got a beautiful design," he said.

Ries said it could be a little smaller but there are benefits that outweigh the size.

"I think it's a good project. I don't think it's a perfect project," Commissioner Elisa Paster said as she detailed her excitement for the project's affordable housing aspect and how she expects the renovation to be a benefit to the city.

Brennon@smdp.com

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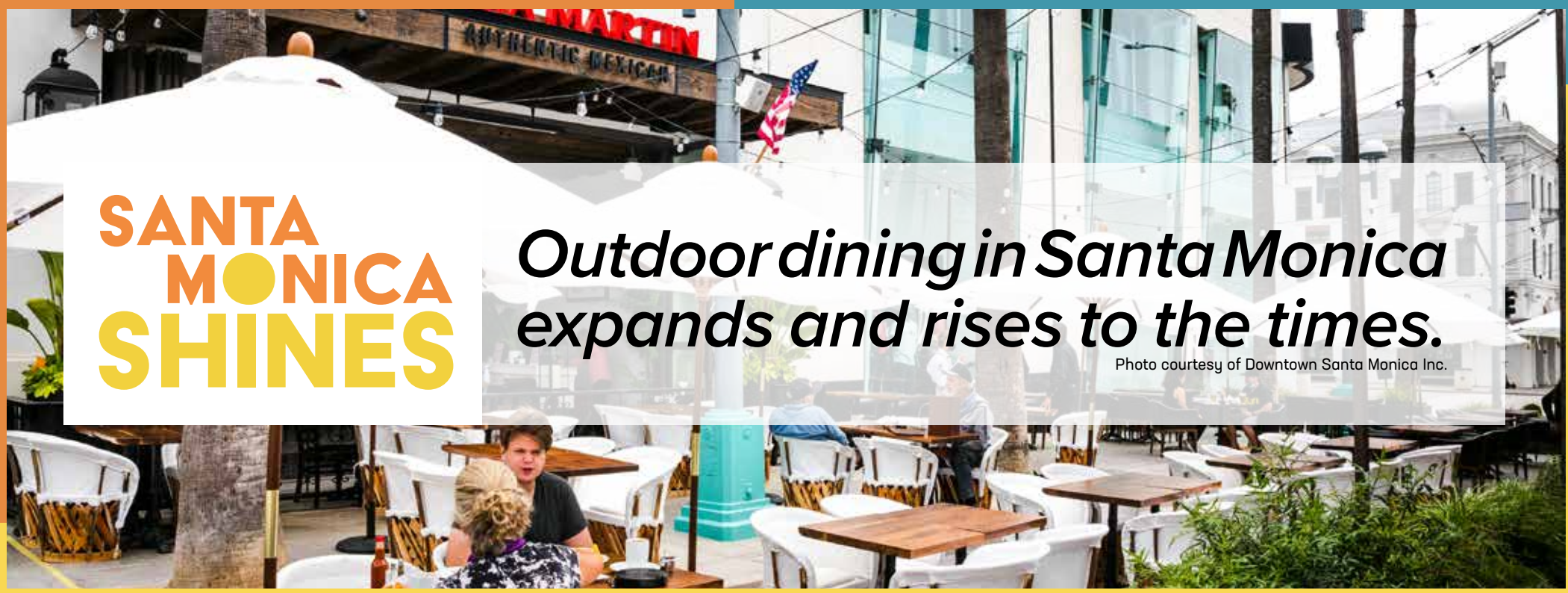
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SANTA MONICA SHINES

Outdoor dining in Santa Monica expands and rises to the times.

Photo courtesy of Downtown Santa Monica Inc.

AL FRESCO

FROM PAGE 1

starting with the new al fresco dining options.

Santa Monica is no stranger to patio dining, but in recent months we have seen outdoor dining grow in popularity. The City's serene, beachy ambience and world-famous weather provide for the perfect outdoor experience. This popular trend has taken root at some iconic Santa Monica eateries such as Urth Caffé on Main Street, known for their abundance of organic, plant based options, and The Upper West on Pico Blvd. where you can dine on gourmet cocktails and meals sourced from the farmers market.

We first saw this al fresco explosion occur on Main street, which houses an eclectic variety of locally owned establishments. For the past three years, Main Street has focused on producing more outdoor dining options, creating small parklets - sidewalk extensions used for seating - to allow visitors and locals to take advantage of outdoor dining and seating. Three "pilot" parklet locations were set up on Main Street and they proved to be a success. When COVID-19 threatened to close many businesses, the Main Street Business Improvement Association, with help from the Ocean Park Association, kicked into high gear and spearheaded the movement to create more parklets so restaurants can quickly and safely abide by the state and county's COVID-19 regulations and remain open.

Because indoor dining is currently not allowed under LA County Department of Public Health's health and safety requirements, these parklets and sidewalk dining areas have sprung up all over Santa Monica and have created a new and unique dining experience. Restaurateurs are also taking advantage of their new spaces by getting a little creative and designing gorgeous, upscale dining landscapes right in their own front yards and back parking lots. To support these efforts, the City created a free Temporary Use of Outdoor Space permit program that has helped local businesses safely open up outdoors citywide.

Say goodbye to the days of being cramped in a small restaurant, unable to hear your partner from across the table, or stuck with the worst seat in the house. The ability to move the dining experience from indoors to outdoors provides a breath of fresh air that is a much needed break from our at-home routine.

Ashland Hill is the sight of one of the three original parklets established in 2017 along Main Street. The craft beer and wine garden has taken advantage of the extra space provided by the city and is now able to seat their customers in four different areas: the existing parklet, a newly built parklet, their back patio space, and on weekends they are able to set up seating in the parking lot.

Co-Owner of Ashland Hill, Mark Verge, owns five restaurants in and around Santa Monica, including The OP Cafe, Margo's and Art's Table. Verge says that "these {the outdoor patios} have really saved our businesses." According to Verge, the ability to seat customers outside has actually increased business for the OP Cafe; a small brunch cafe located on Ocean Park Blvd. in Sunset Park. The business was "not doing very well" before the spread of COVID-19, says Verge, but the ability to place tables on the sidewalk out front, as well as the new patio area set up next to a few classic cars at Ed's Airport Auto Service has brought new attention to the family-friendly cafe.

The success of outdoor dining is not limited to Main Street or Ocean Park, many outdoor dining set-ups are popping up in other popular locations like Montana and Ocean Ave.

Iconic Ocean Ave. staple, Chez Jay, known for their nautical "dive bar meets classy joint" ambience has created the perfect outdoor escape. The 61-year-old, historical landmark "really struggled" during the first few months following the outbreak of COVID-19, according to manager Chris Anderson. With regulations changing every few weeks, their quaint establishment was surviving off of The Backyard at Chez Jay, their brand new patio space located in the back of the restaurant. It was not until mid-July that they decided to extend their dining area to their parking lot as a substitute for their indoor dining space.

Anderson wanted to maintain the cozy, intimate feel of their indoor dining area, while still being practical. They set up a fence made of reclaimed wood to act as a partition between the sidewalk and the outdoor setting, a few space-area rugs scattered across the floor with string lights above tables. Six tables are placed six-feet apart and are decorated with a white and red checkered tablecloth, a basket of their famous bar nuts and a small candle.

Each patio serves a different selection of plates and cocktails; Their new al fresco setting serves their traditional menu items, while The Backyard at Chez Jay serves happy-hour bites and cocktails. They are currently serving a limited menu, but Anderson assures that their most popular items weren't going anywhere. Some of the house favorites include their Butter Steak which is "by far our most popular item," according to Anderson, as well as the Sand Dabs Saute Almondine. As for their Backyard menu, sit down and enjoy their loaded Southwest Steak Nachos or their Crispy Chicken Sandwich.

Hunter Hall, Executive Director of the Main Street Business Improvement Association, believes that the al fresco experience will continue to grow "as the public psyche has changed" in favor of outdoor dining. He credits California's beautiful weather, and the ability for restaurateurs to become more creative with their use of their outdoor dining space, especially as fall approaches.

Director of Marketing and Communication for Downtown Santa Monica, Mackenzie Carter, says that businesses on Third Street and those surrounding the Promenade district are getting "extremely creative" with the ways that they are decorating their parklets "that have helped bring downtown and the Promenade back to life." According to Carter, "Residents and visitors have enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to experience some normalcy" and enjoy their time outdoors.

If you would like to support your local restaurants and their hard-working staff, bring your mask and take a stroll through any neighborhood. If you choose not to dine out, many establishments have take-out , curbside pickup and delivery options available. It can be hard navigating our new lives behind plexi-glass and face masks, but we will navigate this stage in our lives together as a community. #EatLocalSM

DINING SAFETY

To protect yourself and others, follow this advice from the LA County Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Wear a face covering to and from the restaurant. Please make sure to cover your mouth and nose.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer after contact with frequently touched surfaces.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from people when outside your home. Remember that people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus.
- Do not gather in groups. Gathering of people who are not part of a single household or living unit continue to be prohibited by the Health Officer Order.
- Stay at home when you are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

OUTDOOR DINING OPTIONS

Santa Monica Pier/Ocean Avenue
1 Pico at Shutters on the Beach
Back on the Beach
Big Dean's
Blue Plate Oysterette
Blue Plate Taco
Blue Streak at Loews Hotel
Bruno's Italian Restaurant
Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
Bungalow at the Fairmont
Capo Restaurant
Casa Martin Mexican Restaurant
Cha Cha Chicken
Chez Jay
Coast at Shutters on the Beach
Cora's Coffee Shoppe
Del Frisco's Grille
Earth Bar
Fig Restaurant
Georgian Hotel
Go Greek Yogurt
Hot Dog on a Stick
Hotel Casa del Mar
Hotel Shangri-la
Ivy at the Shore
L.A. Desserts
Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel
Meat on Ocean
Ocean Juice
Perry's Café
Pier Burger
Rakkan Ramen Santa Monica
Rustys
Seaside on the Pier
Shutters on the Beach
Sushi Roku + Robata
Terrazza at Casa Del Mar
The Albright
The Lobster
The Veranda at the Georgian Hotel
Water Grill

Downtown Santa Monica/3rd Street Promenade
1212 Restaurant
800 Degrees Woodfire Kitchen
Azulé Taqueria
Backyard Bowls
Bangkok West Thai
Barney's Beanery
Bay Cities Italian Deli
Blue Daisy Café
Bluestone Lane
BOA
Bodega Wine Bar
Britannia Pub
Bru's Wiffle
Bruxie
Cabo Cantina
Cafe Bella
Cafe Demitasse
Calabra at the Proper Hotel
California Pizza Kitchen
Carlo's Bakery
Casa Martin
Cassia
Cava
Chipotle Mexican Grill
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
Colapasta
Crimson
Demitasse
Dialogue
Élephante Beach House
Espresso Cielo
Esters Wine Shop
Flower Child
Fritto Misto
Fuku
Greenleaf Chopshop
Gyu-Kaku
Heroic Italian
Hillstone
Hummus Bar Express
The Independence
Interactive Café
Interstellar
Jamba Juice
Jinky's Café
Johnny Rockets
Kappo Osen
KazuNori
Lanea
Lemonade
Little Ruby
Mainland Poke
Massilla
Mel's Drive-In
Mercado Cocina Mexicana
Mendocino Farms
Michael's
Nekter Juice Bar
Ninjin
North Italia
One Stop Shop
Orto Santa Monica
Pono Burger
Promenade Café
Rita's Gate of India
Seasalt Fish Grill
Silver Lake Ramen
Simply Salad
Solidarity
Sonoma Wine Garden
Starbucks Coffee Company
Steak N Shake
Stefano's
Stout Burgers and Beer
Sugarfish
T's Thai Restaurant
Taco Libre
Tar & Roses
Tender Greens
Thai Dishes
The Cheesecake Factory
The Craftsman Bar
The Curious Palate
The Gallery Food Hall
The Hive
The Independence
The Misfit Restaurant
The Penthouse Restaurant at the Huntley Hotel (seating at the Regal Terrace)
Trastevere
Trimana
True Food Kitchen
Ts Thai Restaurant
Tumbi Bar & Restaurant
Uovo
West 4th Jane
Ye Olde King's Head
Yogurtland
Wally's Wine

Main Street
Ashland Hill
Chinois on Main
Dogtown Coffee
Ensoku Ramen
Greens Up!
Holy Guacamole
Jameson's Pub
Jinya Ramen
Kafe K
Lula Cocina Mexicana
Manchego
Pasjoli
Pblc Trde Pizza
Poke Ceviche
Rick's Tavern On Main
Samosa House
Shoop's European Deli & Café
Starbucks Coffee Company
Stella Barra Pizzeria & Wine Bar
Sunny Blue
Thai Vegan
The Library Alehouse
The Shores Kitchen
Tsukiji Sushi Sen
Urth Caffe
Via Veneto

Mid-City
A Cut Above Butcher Shop
Bergamont Café
Big Jo's Burgers
Birdie G's
Blueys Kitchen
Busby's
Cafe De Mundo
Chomp Eatery & Juice Station
Daily Grill
El Pollo Loco
El Texate
Holy Cow BBQ
LA Draught
Milo SRO
Nonstop Sushi & Sake Bar
Pita house
Poncho's Tacos
Rize Thai Sushi
SanSai Fresh Japanese Grill
Satdha
Socalo
Star of Siam
Tartine Santa Monica
Thai Vegan II
The Rooster
Tiato

Montana Ave.
Art's Table
Groundwork Coffee Company
Breadblok
Caffe Luxxe
Erin McKenna's Bakery
Father's Office
Forma Restaurant
Horchata Mexican Food & Bakery
Kreation Organic Kafe
Kye's Montana
Locanda Portofino
Margo's
Marmalade Café
Panda Express
Peet's Coffee
Prima Cocina
R&D Kitchen
Rosti Tuscan
Spumoni
Starbucks Coffee Company
Sweet Lady Jane
Sweetgreen
The Courtyard Kitchen

Ocean Park Blvd/Airport
Blossom
Cafe Bolivar
Crimson
El Torito
Fast Taco
Il Forno Trattoria
Juice Crafters
Local Kitchen & Wine Bar
Shaka Shack Burger
Society Kitchen
The Counter
The OP Cafe
Thyme Cafe & Market
Vito Restaurant
Zabie's Café

Pico Blvd
Campos Famous Burritos
Gilbert's El Indio
Grey Block Pizza
Lares Restaurant
Lazy Daisy Café
Lunetta
Rae's Restaurant
Tandoor India
The Brixton Restaurant
The Hungry Pocket
Upper West
Viet Noodle Bar
Z Garden

Wilshire Blvd
Bagel Nosh
Belcampo Meat Co.
Benny's Tacos & Rotisserie Chicken
Bread & Porridge
Cafe Zella
California Chicken Café
Casa Escobar Wilshire
Chandni
Citrin
Dagwoods
Earth Wind & Flour Restaurant
El Cholo Santa Monica
Estate 1519
Fia
Fromin's Restaurant & Delicatessen
Huckleberry
Ingo's Tasty Diner
Izzy's Deli
Kanpai Santa Monica
Kimuya
La Monarca Bakery
Luna Grill
Milo and Olive
New York Bagel & Deli
Noma Sushi
O'Brien's Irish Pub & Restaurant
Olea Garden at The Proper Hotel
Posh Café
Rock'n Pies Pizza
Rustic Canyon
Santa Monica Seafood
Senator Jones
Snug Harbor
Sonny McLean's
Super Food Café
Surfer Rose
The Habit Burger Grill
Tocaya Organica
Veggie Grill

Email cindy@smdp.com to add your restaurant to the list.

This special section was made possible through a partnership with the Santa Monica Economic Recovery Task Force, City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism, and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

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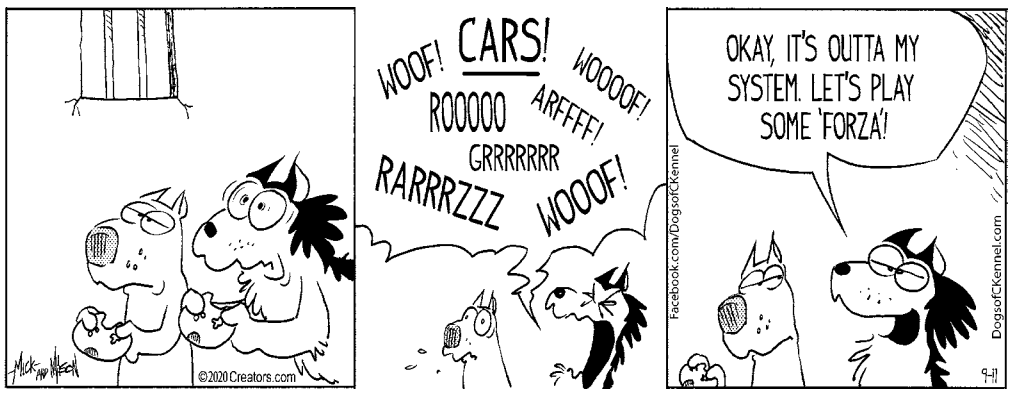
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



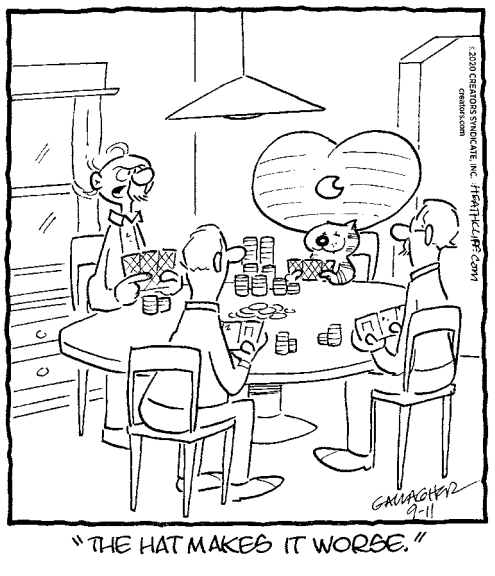
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 68.7°

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
SSW swell mix continues, but down from previous days – not great but should be worth a look. Minor WNW mixing in. Light AM winds and clean, moderate onshores for PM with bump.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Easing mix of SSW and WNW swells. Should still be clean in the morning with enough energy to push a bigger board.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 74.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/09/12	Sat	12:54 AM	0.63	L
2020/09/12	Sat	07:59 AM	3.75	H
2020/09/12	Sat	12:05 PM	3.03	L
2020/09/12	Sat	6:07 PM	5.28	H
2020/09/13	Sun	01:34 AM	0.16	L
2020/09/13	Sun	08:18 AM	4.05	H
2020/09/13	Sun	12:57 PM	2.62	L
2020/09/13	Sun	7:00 PM	5.75	H
2020/09/14	Mon	02:09 AM	-0.22	L
2020/09/14	Mon	08:39 AM	4.38	H
2020/09/14	Mon	1:41 PM	2.12	L
2020/09/14	Mon	7:46 PM	6.16	H
2020/09/15	Tue	02:43 AM	-0.48	L
2020/09/15	Tue	09:04 AM	4.73	H
2020/09/15	Tue	2:24 PM	1.59	L
2020/09/15	Tue	8:31 PM	6.43	H
2020/09/16	Wed	03:16 AM	-0.57	L
2020/09/16	Wed	09:32 AM	5.10	H
2020/09/16	Wed	3:07 PM	1.09	L
2020/09/16	Wed	9:14 PM	6.47	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:09/09
27 52 55 60 64
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 85 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 09/08
7 10 15 31 57
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 108 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 09/09
8 22 34 37 39
Mega#: 22
Jackpot:8 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 09/09
1 14 15 27 29

Daily 3
Draw Date: 09/09
Evening: 7 3 3
Draw Date: 09/09
Midday: 4 4 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 09/09
1st: 03 - HOT SHOT
2nd: 10 - SOLID GOLD
3rd: 05-CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
RACE TIME: 1:43.19

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (SEPTEMBER 11)

You find the group in which your particular skill set is very valuable, and you make the most of that. This is the true gift of living – to contribute powerfully at what you do best. You will soar. Sweet music comes in many forms: relationships and finance particularly. It's all about doubling down on what's working. Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 20, 11, 4 and 17.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You may feel sympathetic to someone's plight but try not to indulge the emotion of pity. When you see strength in people, you help them to see the strong parts of themselves.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you undervalue your contribution, then you could get into a situation in which you're doing and giving more than is sustainable or healthy for you. That's a recipe for resentment. Be generous but cautiously so.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Small gestures often mean more than anyone realizes at the time. There are exchanges that occurred over a decade ago that you still think about today. Your mind is a beautiful mystery.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll build up the people around you. It's different for everyone. You have to feel out each situation as a standalone, and this is why you're excellent at relationships. You know how much work they really are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can afford to be honest and direct. Some cannot do this without the requisite amount of charm. Some have too much baggage to do it without causing harm with the impact. Not you. You're light today. Just say what you mean.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Opportunities will come to you in the form of complaints. Wherever there is an unhappy person, there is a chance at providing something lucrative, useful or healing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You take nothing and no one for granted. Unlike most people, you don't have to lose something in order to recognize the value of it. You realize what you have, and you do what it takes to keep it perfectly intact.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The thing about peace is that it can't be peace all the time or it wouldn't be peace. Peace, like all things, needs a contrast. Is this any comfort — knowing that times of disharmony help you spot peace when it comes?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People who are actively on their way to other places do not have the capacity to sit and enjoy one another, which is the glory of being a passenger and the magic of road trips and airplane rides. Someday.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The Snow Patrol song asks, "What if this all the love you ever get?" and though you can be assured that it's not, posing the question could make you dig in a little deeper.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Does it seem like an agreement you made is turning into a much larger responsibility than you bargained for? Stand up for yourself. Your actions need to show that you know your own value.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are helpers around and the job gets done. As long as there is good communication, all goes well. And if there's not, then it still might go well, but who's going to know?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

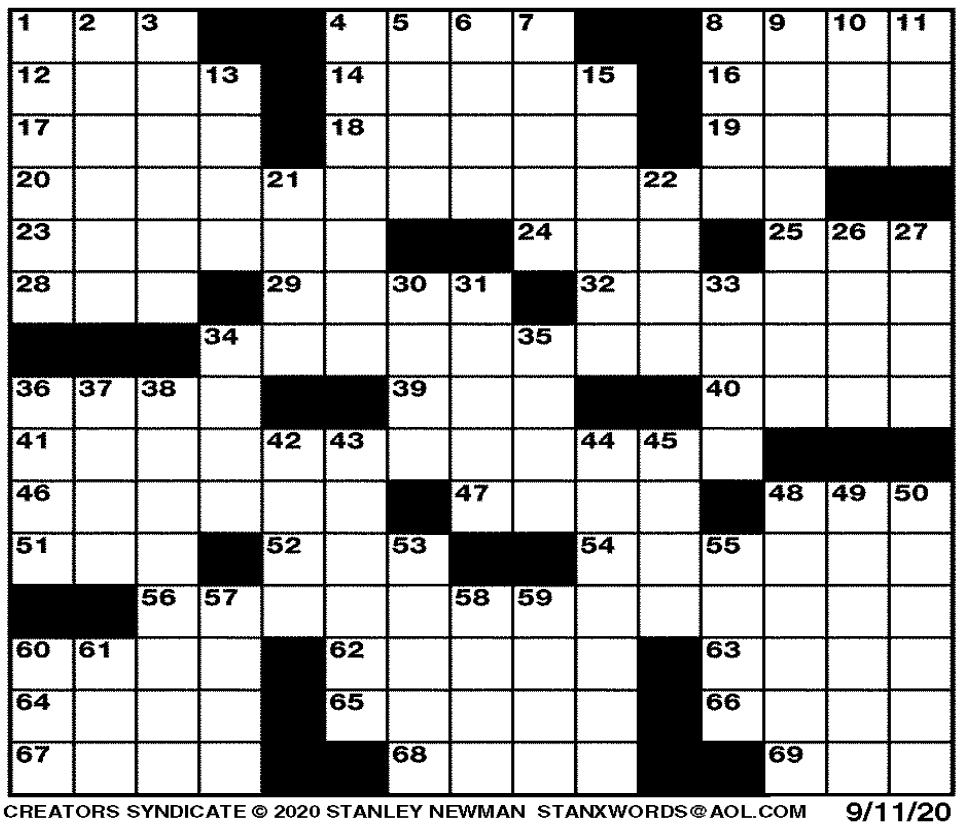
	5			6		2		
					2		4	
2			4		5		6	1
		1					5	7
	3		1	7	6		2	
7	4					9		
5	9		6		7			4
	6		9					
		4		5			7	

Newsday Crossword

DON'T MISS THE BOAT by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Bit of a bustle
4 Where the world's tallest building is
8 Greeting in Oz
12 Brainy introvert
14 Dining room item
16 Make a call
17 Constantly
18 Creepy and strange
19 Rush deadline
20 All-male program that ended in 1973
23 "You're not going to like this . . ."
24 Farm mom
25 Roy of physics fame
28 Cedar Rapids campus
29 Farm youngster
32 Table salt additive
34 Easy chair for a pair
36 Defense statement
39 Erstwhile orbiter
40 Key opener
41 Cook's sauce-melting vessel
46 Narrow passages
47 Notes visually
48 Louisville's Muhammad __ Boulevard
51 __-mo replay
52 Audiophile's array
54 Aggravation, informally
56 Largest European metro area
60 Indiana-Kentucky separator
62 "Really?"
63 Ending like -let
64 Quaff akin to sambuca
65 With the group
66 Name related to Margaret
67 Stocking stuffers
68 Within, at first
69 Word after race or pace

DOWN
1 Short on strength
2 Schwarze-negger's twin (!) in *Twins*
3 Bully's parting words
4 Leading
5 Certain plaintiff
6 Humble response
7 Sour-tasting stuff
8 31-time Grand Slam singles finalist
9 Glasgow garbage cans
10 According to
11 Informal approval
13 Insignificant amount
15 Extraordinarily bold
21 Food truck fare
22 Certain USAF absentee
26 Innovation initiation
27 Adverbial intensifier
30 Youngster on a farm
31 10+ Beethoven chamber works
33 Chanel contemporary
34 Kemo __ (Western sidekick)
35 Northwestern-most Pennsylvania county
36 Smartphone forerunners
37 Take it easy
38 Praise highly
42 Singing Lovett
43 *Nación ibérica*
44 Demand in melodramas
45 Petrol station brand
48 Bitingly cold
49 DeNiro's *Goodfellas* pal
50 "Really?" response
53 Sneaked away?
55 Tech support beneficiary
57 Fundamental source
58 Big name at SpaceX
59 Melon part
60 Sound after "Pow!"
61 Decorator's selection



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LOOTING REPORT

FROM PAGE 1

thorough independent report and evaluation. The selected firm will be required to provide bi-weekly updates regarding progress on the gathering of information and the preparation of the report and evaluation."

On May 31 large groups of criminals flooded Santa Monica following a peaceful protest for racial justice. While significant looting occurred in the Downtown area, SMPD deployed officers to confront ongoing protests including the use of tear gas and rubber bullets. Eventually, National Guard troops were called in to restore order.

"A number of Santa Monica's residents have criticized the preparation for and handling of the protest, looting, and violence that occurred on May 31, 2020 by the Santa Monica Police Department ("SMPD")," said the RFP. "That criticism has extended to the City Council, Interim City Manager, and SMPD Chief. That criticism has also extended to statements made by various City representatives to the media and the community on May 31 and subsequently to actions taken by the City in the days following May 31."

Santa Monicans were initially promised two reports about the incident. The first would be an after-action report listing the timeline and facts. The second would provide analysis of the facts. City officials said publicly that the first report would be finished in August of this year but the police department said it was unable to prepare the document and handle regular police work. In response, council has authorized staff to hire a third party company to combine both reports into a single document.

"The firm selected will be provided with initial materials gathered by the SMPD and other City Departments, including in particular the Fire Department and Emergency Operations Center. Additional materials gathered by the SMPD and other City Departments will be provided on an ongoing basis," said the RFP.

The selected firm will be responsible for independent conclusions and recommendations.

"The firm selected will also be responsible for developing and implementing procedures to provide community members and local businesses an opportunity to provide documents and information and their views regarding the City's response," said the RFP.

Companies interested in the project have until Sept. 24 to apply for the work.

FIREFIGHTERS

FROM PAGE 1

to respond.

This week four SMFD firefighters were deployed to the Dolan Fire in the Los Padres National Forest. On Saturday night they hiked four miles to rescue a trapped firefighter and belay him down steep and treacherous terrain.

Currently, nine firefighters are combating the Creek Fire outside of Fresno, one Incident Commander is working on the Valley Fire east of San Diego, and one Equipment Manager is assigned to the Bobcat Fire in the San Gabriel Mountains. The four members participating in a Rapid Extraction Unit on the Dolan Fire were demobilized yesterday.

"We are in a West Coast wide fire siege that has drained resources nationally, caused us to exercise international mutual aid agreements, and we still are resource poor," said SMFD Deputy Chief Tom Clemo. "We have seen significant rapidly growing fires that have consumed hundreds of thousands of acres. There has been a loss of life, loss of homes, and it has really stretched the system."

SMFD has been participating in ongoing mutual aid wildland assignments since Aug 4, rotating team members out every 14 days. Earlier this month firefighters were deployed to the LNU Lightening Complex, August Complex, Apple, Stagecoach, Red Salmon Complex and Lake Fires.

This series of fires is unusually high for summer and is a result of a series of factors including extremely hot temperatures, a lack of rain, and hundreds of lightning strikes on fuel beds. Major wildfires are currently blazing across California, Washington and Oregon.

"Mutual aid has been going on for about a month and a half now and it appears we have no end in sight," said Clemo. "October, November and December is when Southern California starts to get the Santa Anas and we start to see some significant fires. That forecast is pretty grim."

2020 has already been a record breaking fire season. Not only have 3 million acres burned so far, but six of the largest 20 wildfires in California's history have occurred this year, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

This is predicted to worsen as Southern California enters its peak fire season this fall.

"It's taxing, it's taxing on families, it's taxing on your work-rest ratio, especially some of the conditions we put people in are very difficult positions, so the duration of it is pretty substantial," said Clemo. "You lump on COVID and the several months we've been dealing with that, being the tip of the spear when it comes to responding to medical incidents in a pandemic, the stresses in the fire service are the most I've seen in my career."

COVID-19 protections are particularly challenging in fire camps as there can be hundreds of personnel working on a fire at one time. There are extensive measures in place to prevent the virus's spread including video briefings, electronic plans, social distancing at bases, twice daily temperature checks and frequent sanitation.

Of the incidents Chief Clemo has worked on, only two people tested positive for COVID-19 and they are believed to have brought the virus from another state. Despite the extreme pressure this fire season has delivered on top of the pandemic, Clemo reports that the Santa Monica Fire Department feels well supported and appreciated.

"We have incredible community support for our fire department in Santa Monica," said Clemo. "Not a day goes by that there isn't a donation, offers of help, offers of assistance, or banners thanking the firefighters. That means a lot to us; it always has."

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