

Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

In today's real estate climate ...
Experience counts!
garylimjap@gmail.com www.garylimjap.com

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
CalRE # 00927151

2 **Homelessness**
Drops in California Counties.

3 **California Colleges**
Another Education Bond?

4 **Shortage**
Nurses in California.

5 **Pharmacies**
Middlemen Are Pushing Them To The Brink.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 218 THE WEEKENDER 9/26-9/28 smdp.com

Santa Monica eyes major Parks expansion in new 'City as Habitat' Vision Plan

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The city is moving to dramatically expand its park system with a new vision plan that could more than double available parkland over the coming decades, replacing a nearly 30-year-old master plan with an ambitious 'City as Habitat' framework.

The 2025 Parks and Recreation Vision Plan, presented to the Planning Commission this month, calls for adding 134 to 165 acres of new parkland to the current 144-acre system — a potential increase of up to 115% to better serve the city's dense population.

"My recommendation based on all these considerations is that we want to target a number beyond the foreseeable future that aligns with the city's priorities and initiatives," said Tony Lopez, the city's senior park planner. "I don't think in the

SEE **PARKS** PAGE 15



Courtesy photo

PLAN: Parks and Recreation Vision Plan calls for adding 134 to 165 acres of new parkland to the current 144-acre system, a potential increase of up to 115% to better serve the city's dense population.

Businesses prepare to vacate 2500 block of Wilshire for new development

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Several businesses on the 2500 block of Wilshire Boulevard are preparing to close by the end of October to make way for demolition and construction of a major residential development project by Cypress Equity Investments (CEI).

The closures will clear the site at 2501 Wilshire Boulevard, located across from Douglas Park, where CEI plans to build an eight-story, 170-unit apartment complex with ground-floor retail space.

Businesses at the address, including a Starbucks, Relax the Back store and Pickleball center have been notified of the pending demolition. Some are closing as soon as this week while others will be vacating in the coming weeks.

CEI initially secured approvals for a smaller mixed-use building at the site that included a grocery

SEE **STARBUCKS** PAGE 6

Santa Monica ends free parking for clean air vehicles as Federal program expires

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Drivers displaying Clean Air Vehicle decals will no longer receive free parking at Santa Monica meters starting Oct. 1, ending a 23-year-old incentive program designed to encourage the adoption of low-emission vehicles.

The city's CAV decal program, which allowed vehicles with California Department of Motor Vehicles Clean Air Vehicle decals to park without charge at city-operated meters for posted time limits, expires Sept. 30 under Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 3.16.120.

Beginning Tuesday, all drivers must pay posted rates when parking at metered spaces within the city, regardless of their vehicle's emission status.

"Originally developed in 2002, the city's CAV decal program served as an enhanced incentive for the use of low and no emission vehicles," city officials said in announcing the program's end. "As the number of clean air vehicles on the road continues to grow across the region, the need for the incentive has declined."

The city's decision aligns with the expiration of the federal Clean Air

SEE **PARKING** PAGE 12









Homelessness is dropping in California counties. But funding cuts could derail that progress

California counties are reporting decreases in homelessness, suggesting the state is finally making progress in solving one of its most difficult and persistent problems.

But even as Gov. Gavin Newsom and local officials are celebrating, the money that made those wins possible is at risk of evaporating.

President Donald Trump's administration this month tried to block organizations that don't support its social agenda from accessing federal homeless housing funds — causing experts in the field to worry that politically liberal California could find itself blacklisted from crucial dollars.

Cuts to state homelessness funding are also on the horizon, and some local jurisdictions are pulling back funds as they struggle with their own budget deficits. That has counties, nonprofits and industry experts worried California's homeless counts will soon go right back up.

"I do think that we're doing something right," Sharon Rapport, director of California state policy for the Corporation for Supportive Housing, said of the recent decreases. "That all may come to a crashing end with a lot of concerns with what's happening at the federal level, federal policy changing and funding cuts happening."

Of the 29 places in California that reported an official homeless census this year, more than half saw a decrease compared to 2024, according to an analysis of point-in-time counts by the Hub for Urban Initiatives. That includes drops of about a quarter in Contra Costa and Sonoma counties, 20% in Santa Cruz County, 16% in Ventura County and 14% in Merced County.

San Diego and Los Angeles counties each saw a decrease of less than 10%. For LA County, this marks the second year in a row that homelessness is down.

But funding worries loom like a black cloud over those promising results. As purse strings tighten, service providers will have to cut staff, programs and bed capacity, meaning they can help fewer homeless people. For years, California cities, counties and nonprofits have been pushing the Newsom administration to provide an ongoing source of homeless funding, so service providers can plan ahead without worrying each year about how much money they'll get.

Some organizations already are feeling the squeeze.

From December through July, Union Station Homeless Services in Los Angeles County turned away 700 families who needed housing, said CEO Katie Hill.

"We just don't have anything available for them," Hill said.

The county cut housing vouchers as the city and county struggled with financial fallout from recent wildfires, falling property tax revenues and increasing legal payouts.

Other organizations are closing their doors for good. Downtown Streets Team, which helps unhoused residents in 16 California cities find housing while earning money cleaning up local streets, plans to close next month after two decades of service.

"The financial and political environment we operate in has shifted dramatically in recent months," CEO Julie Gardner said in an emailed statement. "During this time, (Downtown Streets Team) lost several significant contracts and grants, creating a multi-million-dollar loss in overall funding. When combined with other factors, including rapidly rising operational costs, these losses made it impossible to continue running the organization in a financially sustainable way."

'I JUST DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO SEE THAT FUNDING'

Congress in 2023 appropriated $75 million for something called the Continuum of Care Builds grant, which was supposed to help support the construction of new homeless housing. Former President Joe Biden's administration started the application process for those grants in 2024. When Trump took the helm in 2025, his administration re-started the process with new criteria, making applicants apply again.

Then, at the start of September, the Trump administration made everyone apply a third time — with a very different set of criteria seeming to disqualify organizations that support trans clients, use "harm reduction" strategies to prevent drug overdose deaths or operate in a "sanctuary city."

Applicants had to attest that they don't deny the "sex binary in humans or promote

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 15





Does another education bond stand a chance with voters? California colleges hope so

Aging buildings, failing infrastructure, earthquake safety issues, and a severe lack of campus housing are straining California's public higher education systems. As they face high-cost fixes, lawmakers have introduced a bond bill that ambitiously intends to fund both the modernization of academic facilities and the addition of affordable student housing throughout the state.

The College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2026, AB 48, would start to address a growing $17 billion maintenance backlog within California's university systems and the need for more affordable student housing in the state. The bill's lead author, Assemblymember David Alvarez, a Democrat from San Diego, said it likely won't include a dollar amount for the bond until it goes to the Senate next year to give the three public higher education systems in California time to report how much they need and a plan for spending it. If passed by the state Legislature, the bond would be placed on the November 2026 ballot for voters to decide.

If an education bond measure sounds familiar, here is why: In the November 2024 general election, Californians passed Proposition 2, which authorized $8.5 million in bonds for public K-12 schools and $1.5 billion for community colleges. Although lawmakers originally included the University of California and Cal State systems in the measure, they were later excluded to cap the total bond amount at $10 billion.

System leaders at the UC and Cal State were disappointed that they were removed from Proposition 2, according to previous reporting by CalMatters. The last time Cal State and UC benefited from a bond measure was in 2006, when both systems shared $3.1 billion for facility repairs and upgrades. Those funds were exhausted by 2012.

UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS ARE IN BAD SHAPE

A 2025 report by the Legislative Analyst's Office shows that public higher education facilities are aging, campuses have growing maintenance needs, and their conditions are generally poor.

The backlog of repairs needed for the system's facilities, known as deferred maintenance, has led to such issues as extreme indoor heat, outdated roofs and electrical problems. Since 2015, the state has provided deferred maintenance funding of just $689 million for UC, $784 million for Cal State, and an estimated $904 million for community colleges, according to the report.

However, CalMatters' reporting found the UC and Cal State systems would need around $9 billion each to address their deferred maintenance needs. Community colleges have nearly $2.2 billion in maintenance needs in their current five-year plan, according to Chris Ferguson, the executive vice chancellor overseeing the finance and facilities division.

Some of the bond bill's objectives are to prioritize safety issues and seismic deficiencies. Roughly 30% of UC and Cal State buildings and 20% of community college buildings were constructed before 1970.

According to the Cal State system's current five-year plan, priority projects include replacing Peterson Hall 1 at Cal State Long Beach, which currently houses health sciences and is on the priority list for not meeting California's building codes for earthquake safety. The building would consolidate other programs and replace two faculty office buildings from the 1950s, according to Paul Gannoe, an assistant vice chancellor in Cal State's business and finance division.

Cal State also plans to replace Sacramento State's engineering building, Santa Clara Hall. The infrastructure of the building, built in the 1960s, has exceeded its useful life, according to Cal State's previous five-year plan.

The UC system's six-year capital plan lists seismic safety, student housing, and facility restoration as its top goals. UC Berkeley, which opened in 1868, reports its highest priority for new funding is to add an academic building to house mathematics, economics, and other departments, moving them out of seismically unfit spaces. The campus also has plans for three future student housing projects.

At UC Davis, a $68 million improvement plan for the 86-year-old Hickey Gymnasium Building is on the unfunded priority list. One faculty member there, Carolynn Patten, has had to halt her stroke research due to rats chewing on cables and the extreme indoor heat compromising her equipment, she previously told CalMatters.

Although community colleges already are receiving funding for facilities from Proposition 2, Assemblymember Alvarez said they are included in this new bill because their needs are still significant and they are important to the entire ecosystem of higher education.

"In order to maintain our competitiveness as a state, we need to make sure we're always investing in education, and we need to have the right facilities to do so," Alvarez said. "A very large percentage of our buildings and our universities and colleges are outdated, and technology has advanced, and so we make sure we have the right types of learning environments."

STUDENT HOUSING NEEDS ARE ALSO ON THE RISE

Despite California's generous financial aid programs, Kevin Cook from the Public Policy Institute of California said that due to the high cost of living in the state, trying to house students is an increasingly expensive task.

The average housing cost for independent students ranges from $1,400 to $1,520 per month, according to the California Student Aid Commission's 2023 Food and Housing Survey, which surveyed students who applied for financial aid for the 2022-23 academic year. The same survey found that 53% of student respondents experienced housing insecurity.

SEE **BOND** PAGE 12



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Modest surf sticks around, possibly peakier with more NW energy in the mix. Watching for S wind. SSW swell sticks around as NW windswell likely gets a nudge up. Knee-thigh high waves are easier to find with waist-high+ sets for better spots out west. A little peakier off the mix of swells. Decent confidence in light+ S wind first thing in the AM for textured conditions. Afternoon/evening window looks like the ticket at this point.

SATURDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Spot forecasts may come down a bit over the next few days. The GFS and Euro models put Narda in the SoCal swell window late on the 24th into the 25th as a strengthening TC. That'd result in meaningful swell building here over the weekend. The LOTUS model forecasts currently do look a bit hot - and are the higher end of the possible swell/surf scenario. The GFS model is really leaning in to the most favorable solution for SoCal surf, and we're hesitant to all in on that. LOTUS is also blending the tropical swell with some new SPAC swell Sun/Mon.

Weather

Friday: A 20 percent chance of rain before 11am. Patchy fog before 11am.
Friday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 65. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Saturday: Increasing clouds, with a low around 65. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/09/26	Fri	12:28 AM	3.48	H
2025/09/26	Fri	05:05 AM	2.40	L
2025/09/26	Fri	11:37 AM	5.18	H
2025/09/26	Fri	7:08 PM	1.07	L
2025/09/27	Sat	01:39 AM	3.05	H
2025/09/27	Sat	05:05 AM	2.74	L
2025/09/27	Sat	12:06 PM	4.95	H
2025/09/27	Sat	8:20 PM	1.26	L
2025/09/28	Sun	12:49 PM	4.69	H
2025/09/28	Sun	10:12 PM	1.25	L
2025/09/29	Mon	2:19 PM	4.46	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 9/24
15 31 45 49 53
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 145 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 9/24
11 25 26 33 35

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/23
13 24 41 42 70
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 474 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/24
EVENING: 2 5 6
Draw Date: 9/24
MIDDAY: 1 9 2

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 9/24
23 26 30 39 42
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 46 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/24
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:41.58

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

AWARD WINNER

WINNER

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.
Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

- **RFP # 455 MEDICAL DIRECTOR Submission Deadline Is October 16, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: 25ENT-0133 (Certificate of Appropriateness)
451 San Vicente Boulevard
APPLICANT: Derek Wilson
PROPERTY OWNER: San Vicente-Wilco, LLC

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

The Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness for the re-landscaping of the courtyard with new plants and lighting, new drip irrigation system, repaving walkways, and electrical panel upgrades at 451 San Vicente Boulevard, which was designated as a Contributor to the San Vicente Boulevard Courtyard Apartments Historic District in 2015. Consideration of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including an exemption under CEQA Guidelines 15331 (Compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards), and CEQA Guideline 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption).

DATE/TIME: **MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025 AT 7:00 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 City Planning, 1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

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

Address your comments to: **Stephanie Reich, Design and Historic Preservation Planner**
Re: **25ENT-0133, 451 San Vicente Boulevard Certificate of Appropriateness**
VIA EMAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Liku Abera by e-mail at Liku.Abera@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodation, please contact the City at (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 pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California faces a nursing shortage. Community colleges can help

The road to becoming a nurse in California has been paved with roadblocks, sharp turns and bottlenecks. Where that education is offered has a lot to do with it.

As someone who has lived every long mile and continued to drive forward, I believe the solution lies in expanding the ability for California's community colleges to offer bachelor of science degrees in nursing.

Community colleges are where many nurses start. They should be where we have the chance to finish as we shift into our careers.

Assembly Bill 1400, if passed, would enable some of California's community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees in nursing programs. Students could pursue their education in their communities, at a cost they could afford.

Before I earned my nursing license, I worked 15 years as a unit secretary in a busy hospital emergency department. I dreamed of becoming one of the nurses I watched delivering care.

I needed a program that was affordable, close to home and flexible enough so I could keep earning a living while studying. I chose Cerritos College and pursued an associate's degree in nursing, since that program is known for rigorous training and a high success rate — including my cohort, who all passed the licensing exam.

Despite my dedication and on-the-job experience, I knew I wouldn't qualify for the nursing position I sought without a bachelor's degree. But I faced a frustrating reality: I had to leave Cerritos College and take on the expense of a four-year university.

I completed my bachelor's at National University, which was a great opportunity, but it came with a high price tag and student loans. I managed the loans and the commute, but for many Californians who already work or have a family, a bachelor's program at a community college would be life-changing.

AB 1400 is ultimately about equitable access and building a health care workforce that reflects California's diverse communities. And it opens doors to health care careers that are desperately needed. Nearly 60% of California's population lives in an area with a nursing shortage. To meet California's projected need of 65,000 more full-time nurses by 2037, we need more than one solution.

Today I work as an emergency room nurse for the trauma center where I started my career. I also pay it forward as a success coach for nursing students at Cerritos College.

I've mentored many students who, like me, are the first in their families to enter a health care profession. I see their passion, their drive and, unfortunately, their fear of the next step. The tuition cost of a bachelor's nursing program is tens of thousands of dollars, putting it out of reach for many.

We need to meet students where they are by adapting to their work, family and financial situations.

Betty Limon is a registered nurse in the Los Angeles area and a Cerritos College student success coach.

INSIDE
THE DAILY PRESS
PODCAST
smdp.com/pod
ALSO AVAILABLE ON

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Corporate middlemen are pushing California's pharmacies to the brink

When I opened Ten Acres Pharmacy in Sacramento during the early months of the pandemic, I wasn't thinking about profits or policy. I was thinking about people. Our community needed a trusted place to ask questions, get tested, vaccinated and feel cared for, especially when health care felt out of reach or overwhelming.

Just five years later, I closed my pharmacy. It kills me to say that it no longer made financial sense to keep serving patients. While rising costs and inflation certainly played a role, the driving factor is harder to explain and much more troubling.

As an independent pharmacy, we paid out-of-pocket to stock the essential medications our patients needed, with the understanding that we'd be reimbursed for our costs. Unfortunately, we were routinely reimbursed by pharmacy benefit managers for less than what we paid — not just pennies less, but hundreds of dollars less.

I've taken $150 losses on a single prescription, and I've counted it a good day when I've made $1 on a $5 tube of cream. This is not a sustainable way to do business, nor is it a sustainable way to deliver care.

Independent pharmacies are closing across California and nationwide at an alarming rate. Chain pharmacies aren't far behind. Rite Aid and Walgreens have both announced widespread closures, forcing more communities to become pharmacy deserts. Patients, particularly those in predominantly Black, Latino and rural neighborhoods, are being left behind. Lifelines are being cut.

If California doesn't reform how pharmacy benefit managers operate, these powerful and largely unregulated middlemen will keep a chokehold on the way prescriptions are priced and reimbursed.

Pharmacy benefit managers dictate how much pharmacies are paid, which medications patients can access and whether community pharmacies can afford to stay open. Year after year, they've found new ways to cut costs on the backs of small pharmacies, while boosting their profits.

It's not just me saying this. It has been proven time and again, including by the Federal Trade Commission. Meanwhile, my staff and I are left to explain to patients — people we've known for years — that we can't fill their prescription because we'd lose too much money on it.

I didn't open a pharmacy to turn people away, but that's what pharmacy benefit managers are essentially forcing me to do. It's heartbreaking and it's wrong.

I'm urging Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature to stand firmly behind Senate Bill 41. This bill would bring much-needed transparency to pharmacy benefit managers' practices, stop their most exploitative reimbursement schemes and give community pharmacies a fighting chance.

When Newsom vetoed a similar bill last year, he said he believed pharmacy benefit managers must be held accountable but he wanted more data. We don't need more data. We know what we need to do. The pharmacy benefits bill is our chance to get it right, and it couldn't be more urgent.

If we don't act now, the map of California's pharmacies will keep losing pins.

Some may argue that the future of pharmacy is online, but I've seen firsthand what's lost when care is outsourced to algorithms. The elderly patient who relies on us to explain her new blood pressure medication doesn't take it as prescribed. The mom who walks in worried about side effects no longer feels reassured. The man picking up his first prescription for diabetes can't talk through the next steps after a scary diagnosis.

These are not just patient-provider interactions; they are human moments. This is what health care looks like in a community. These pharmacies might be the only accessible option for people without a car, a computer or the time to wait for mail-order medication.

I shut my doors, but I'm speaking up in hopes that I can help prevent my peers from closing theirs. California has a chance to be a leader in protecting access, fairness and community-based care. The pharmacy bill is a necessary step. Our community pharmacies are counting on it.

Sonya Frausto is a pharmacist and owner of Ten Acres Pharmacy in Sacramento.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: 24ENT-0140 & 24ENT-0141 Landmark & Structure of Merit Designation Nomination
26 Arcadia Terrace
APPLICANT: David Kaplan, Kaplan Chen Kaplan Architects
PROPERTY OWNER: Luhanda Garvin

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

The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Designation applications 24ENT-0140 & 24ENT-0141 for the property located at 26 Arcadia Terrace to determine whether the residential structure in whole or in part, should be designated as a City Landmark OR Structure of Merit and, if designated a Landmark, whether an associated Landmark Parcel should be defined and described in order to preserve, maintain, protect, or safeguard the Landmark. The Landmarks Commission will consider the application based on whether the application, research and public testimony presented demonstrates that the building meets one or more of the required criteria for Landmark designation pursuant to SMMC Section 9.56.100(A) OR Structure of Merit Criteria 9.56.080.

DATE/TIME: **MONDAY OCTOBER 13, 2025 AT 7:00 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 Landmarks 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 Landmarks Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **Stephanie Reich, Design and Historic Preservation Planner**
Re: **24ENT-0140 & 24ENT-0141, 26 Arcadia Terrace, Landmark & Structure of Merit Designation Nomination**
VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Stephanie Reich at (310) 458-2200 extension 5460 or by e-mail at Stephanie.Reich@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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

ESPAÑOL: Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica sobre una solicitud para remodilar un edifecio que tiene valor historico importante. Para más información: planning@santamonica.gov

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

GET IT DAILY...

MOVIEPOSTERPRINTER.COM
MOVIE POSTER PRINTER WE PRINT MOVIE POSTERS

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email **cindy@smdp.com**

CLASSIFICATIONS					
Announcements	Pets	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services	Wealth and Success
Creative	Boats	Rent	Storage Space	Business	Lost and Found
Employment	Jewelry	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Opportunities	Personals
For Sale	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00486 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Youssef Akhlarzad for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Youssef Akhtarzad court for a decree of changing names as follows: Youssef Akhtarzad to Joseph Akhtarzad . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall 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 10/24 /2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 7125 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401. 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

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 08/8/25 20251169976 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as NOLOOK 533 BROOKS AVE APT 6 VENICE, CA 90291 Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are GOLDEN GRASSHOPPER LLC 533 BROOKS AVE APT 6 VENICE, CA 90291 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/2024 Registrant /Corp/LLC GOLDEN GRASSHOPPER LLC Title: CEO JULIA MONTGOMERY HAMMON . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 08/8/2025 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Esfir Khazan CASE NUMBER: 25STPB07255 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Esfir Khazan.A Petition for Probate has been filed by Jennifer Smilowitz in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles-Stanley Mosk Courthouse. The Petition for Probate requests that Jennifer Smilowitz be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: Oct 30th , 2025 Time: 8:30 a.m Dept. 11 Room _ Address of Court: Stanley Mosk Courthouse 111 N. Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90012 If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for the Petitioner: Robert B. Rosenstein/Paul N. Evenson Rosenstein k Associates 28600 Mercedes St Temecula, CA 92590Telephone: 951-296-3888 Fax: 951-29603888 Email: Robert@thetemeculalawfirm.com

Help Wanted

Manager, New Ventures (InVenture Capital Corp d/b/a Tala)(Telecommuting pos. – reports to Santa Monica, CA) Dsgn & implmnt AI-drvn & blkchn-bsd strtgs to enhnce Tala's fintech sltns, optmzng sclblty, efcncy, and finncl inclsn. Reqs bach deg or frgn equiv in Ops Rsrch, Data Anlytcs, Engg or clsly rel fld + 1 yr exp in a Data Anlytics Role. $60K-$132K/yr. Apply by email to princesa.choy@tala.co & ref: job title in subj line.

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

CALL TODAY
AND PLACE YOUR
CLASSIFIED

office **(310) 458-7737**

Santa Monica Daily Press

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

STARBUCKS

FROM PAGE 1

store space on the ground floor. However, following Santa Monica's Housing Element update in 2023, the Brentwood-based developer filed a major revision to more than double the unit count.

The revised proposal calls for 170 residential units, including 17 deed-restricted affordable units, in an eight-story structure that transforms the original four-story design into a much taller project. The plan retains a significant retail component, likely to include a market, according to project documents.

A dedicated project website outlines the updated specifications, and real estate publication The Real Deal reported in October 2023 that CEI was moving forward with the enlarged development plan. City hearings on the revised design took place in 2024, and CEI is expected to seek final approvals in 2025.

The 2501 Wilshire project is part of CEI's extensive development pipeline in Santa Monica, where the company has emerged as one of the city's most active builders over the past five years. The firm has completed several multifamily projects since 2020 and has proposed developments totaling more than 1,000 housing units across multiple sites.

CEI's active Santa Monica pipeline as of 2023-2025 comprises well over 1,000 new apartments across at least six sites, including projects along Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica Boulevard, and Pico Boulevard. The company has strategically targeted commercial boulevard locations for redevelopment, consistent with Santa Monica's planning goals to add housing along transit corridors and commercial zones.

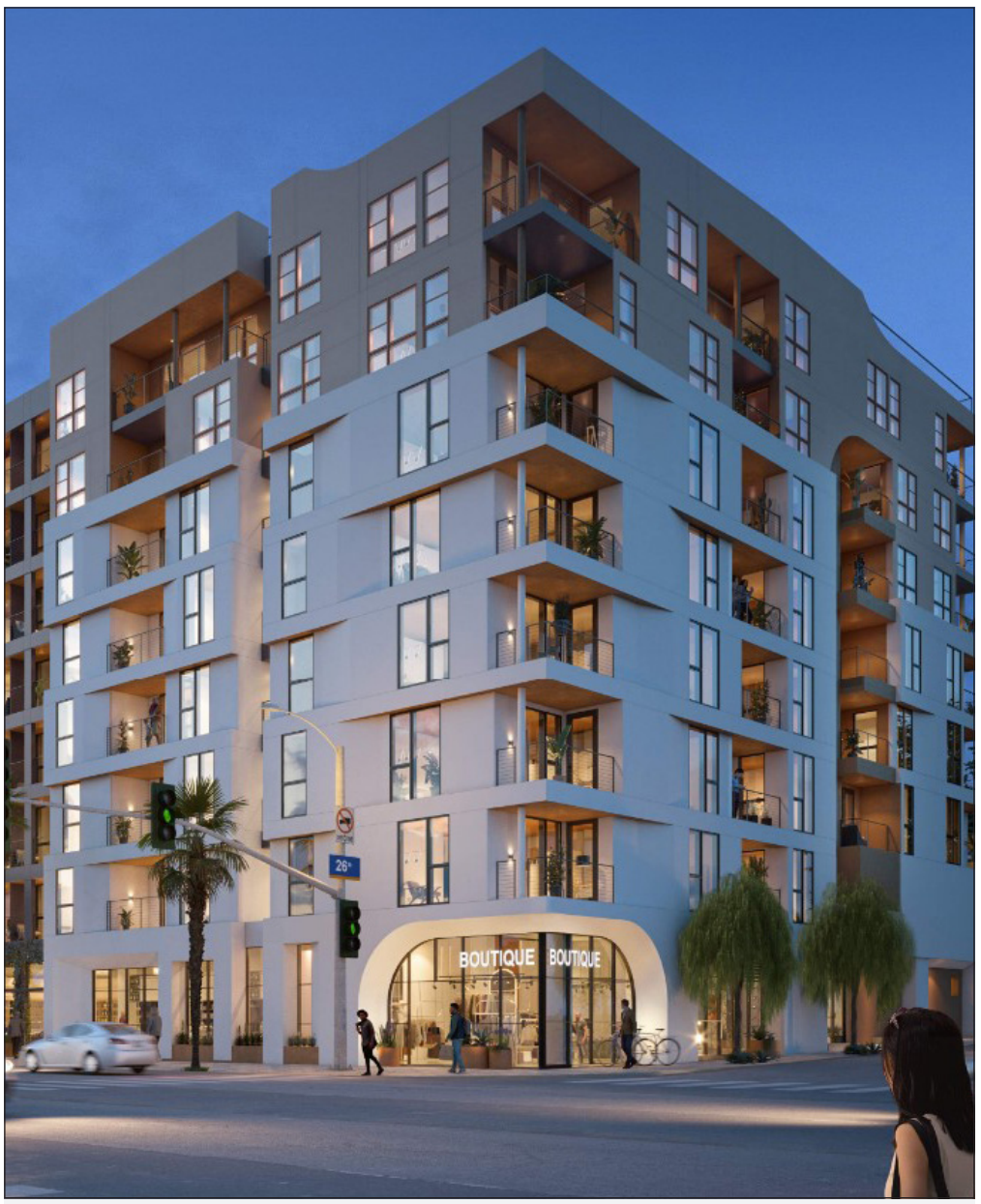
Most of CEI's projects seek or have utilized density bonuses under state law, allowing the company to build taller and denser than traditional zoning permits in exchange for including affordable units.

Founded 30 years ago, Cypress Equity Investments specializes in mixed-use apartment complexes, often featuring ground-floor retail. CEO Michael Sorochinsky, a former attorney, has emphasized the firm's "opportunistic" investment strategy, focusing on Class-A apartments in prime urban locations and adapting quickly to market cycles.

The company's aggressive growth strategy has drawn both praise for adding much-needed housing during a regional housing crisis and criticism from residents concerned about overdevelopment. CEI often highlights amenity-rich living in its Santa Monica projects, noting that many residents in its completed developments have opted for car-free commutes given the city's walkability.

However, public sentiment toward CEI in Santa Monica has been mixed, particularly following the company's opposition to Measure GS, a real estate transfer tax approved by voters in 2022-2023 to fund schools and homelessness programs.

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy of 2501wilshire.com

CLOSURES: CEI plans to build an eight-story, 170-unit apartment complex with ground-floor retail space.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Venice

Venice Community Housing Honors Rep. Waters at Jazz Brunch

Venice Community Housing will honor Congresswoman Maxine Waters with the inaugural Courage in Action Award at its 33rd Annual Jazz Brunch this October.

The Oct. 12 event will recognize Waters for her commitment to housing justice, equity and empowerment of underserved communities. The jazz brunch is a tradition that brings together local leaders, artists and supporters for live jazz, food and storytelling in the heart of Venice.

"We are thrilled to recognize Representative Waters, whose leadership has been instrumental in advancing housing policy and protecting the rights of our most vulnerable neighbors," said Erika Lee, co-executive director of Venice Community Housing. "Her legacy inspires our work every day."

The event raises critical funds to support VCH's mission of providing affordable housing and supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

Guests will enjoy performances by renowned jazz musicians, brunch and opportunities to connect with changemakers across Los Angeles. All proceeds will directly benefit VCH's housing programs, youth services and community initiatives.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Above the Block, 11301 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 301, Los Angeles.

Tickets are available at vchcorp.org/jazz.

> We are thrilled to recognize Representative Waters, whose leadership has been instrumental in advancing housing policy and protecting the rights of our most vulnerable neighbors
>
> - Erika Lee, co-executive director of Venice Community Housing

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

City of Santa Monica

Santa Monica Students Get Free Bus Rides During Eco-Friendly Transportation Week

Big Blue Bus will offer free rides to all Santa Monica K-12 students from Oct. 6-10, 2025, as part of the annual Bike It! Walk It! Bus It! Week initiative designed to encourage families to choose environmentally friendly transportation alternatives over driving.

The week-long program promotes walking, biking and public transit as sustainable options for getting to school. Big Blue Bus supports the effort by waiving fares for students throughout the participating period.

Students have two options for accessing free rides during the promotional week. Those enrolled in Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District schools can use their GoPass TAP cards, which provide free transit access on Metro, Big Blue Bus and 11 other Los Angeles County transit agencies year-round.

Students not yet enrolled in the GoPass program should contact their school administrators to obtain the free TAP card. More information about GoPass is available at metro.net/gopass.

Alternatively, students can show valid school identification to Big Blue Bus operators when boarding. The transit agency will also accept current report cards, class schedules or official school enrollment verification letters for students without school IDs.

The free ride promotion runs throughout the designated week, giving students multiple opportunities to experience public transportation as a viable alternative to car travel. The initiative aligns with broader environmental goals of reducing vehicle emissions and traffic congestion around schools.

Students and families interested in participating can plan their routes and find schedule information at bigbluebus.com. The website provides trip planning tools to help riders navigate the Big Blue Bus system effectively.

Bike It! Walk It! Bus It! Week represents a collaborative effort between the school district, Big Blue Bus and the broader Santa Monica community to promote sustainable transportation habits among young people. By offering free transit access, organizers hope to demonstrate the convenience and environmental benefits of public transportation.

The program encourages students to experience firsthand how alternative transportation methods can reduce their environmental impact while potentially saving families money on gas and parking costs.

Visit bigbluebus.com to plan your FREE Trip.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

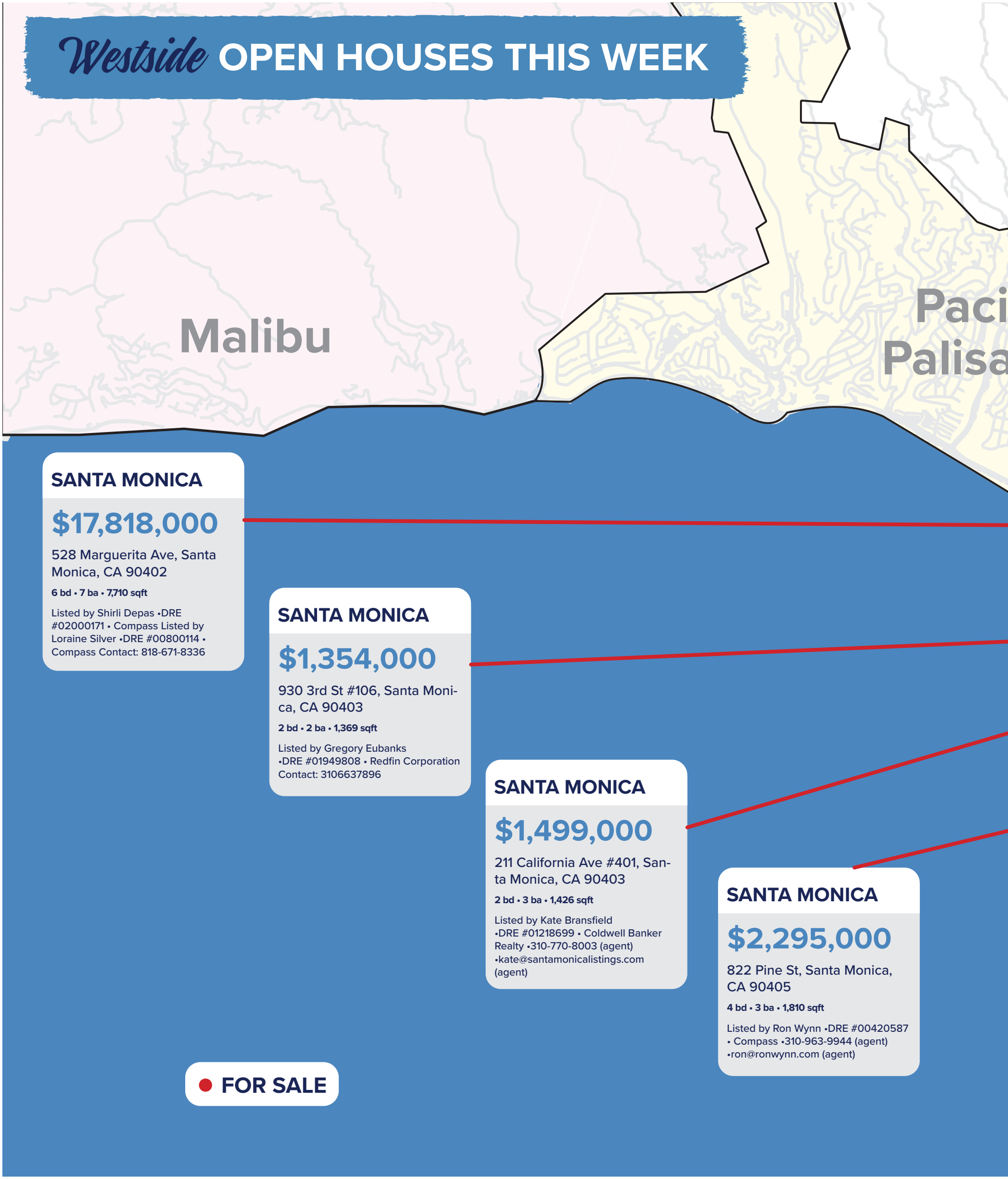
SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
YOUR CHOICE
If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge
DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!
WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
OR
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
AND OF COURSE WE DO
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more
SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 736-2589
WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM
WILSHIRE BLVD. 15TH ST. 14TH ST. ARIZONA AVE.

Gilbert's El Indio
Mexican Food Santa Monica
THANK YOU SANTA MONICA
for naming us your
MOST LOVED MEXICAN FOOD & FAMILY DINING RESTAURANT!
We're honored to have served this community since 1974!
MOST LOVED 2025 Santa Monica
2526 Pico Blvd,
Santa Monica, 90405
(310) 450 8057

Westside OPEN HOUSES THIS WEEK



SANTA MONICA

$17,818,000

528 Marguerita Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90402

6 bd • 7 ba • 7,710 sqft

Listed by Shirli Depas •DRE #02000171 • Compass Listed by Loraine Silver •DRE #00800114 • Compass Contact: 818-671-8336

SANTA MONICA

$1,354,000

930 3rd St #106, Santa Monica, CA 90403

2 bd • 2 ba • 1,369 sqft

Listed by Gregory Eubanks •DRE #01949808 • Redfin Corporation Contact: 3106637896

SANTA MONICA

$1,499,000

211 California Ave #401, Santa Monica, CA 90403

2 bd • 3 ba • 1,426 sqft

Listed by Kate Bransfield •DRE #01218699 • Coldwell Banker Realty •310-770-8003 (agent) •kate@santamonicalistings.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$2,295,000

822 Pine St, Santa Monica, CA 90405

4 bd • 3 ba • 1,810 sqft

Listed by Ron Wynn •DRE #00420587 • Compass •310-963-9944 (agent) •ron@ronwynn.com (agent)

● FOR SALE

SANTA MONICA

$575,000

1040 4th St #108, Santa Monica, CA 90403

1 bd • 1 ba • 674 sqft

Listed by Sandra Miller •DRE #01446377 • ENGEL & VÖLKERS Santa Monica •213-364-9815 (agent) •sandra.miller@evrealestate.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$799,000

934 19th St #5, Santa Monica, CA 90403

2 bd • 2 ba • 935 sqft

Listed by Brian Layne •DRE #02044629 • Redfin •310-505-4678 (agent) •brian.layne@redfin.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$1,089,000

2508 Arizona Ave #3, Santa Monica, CA 90404

3 bd • 3 ba • 1,228 sqft

Listed by Dana Cataldi •DRE #01758948 • Compass •310-804-9207 (agent) •dana@gatherhomes.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$2,475,000

2131 Virginia Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90404

3 bd • 3 ba • 2,090 sqft

Listed by John Meraz •DRE #02015103 • Coastal Pacific Realty Contact: 949-836-8055

SANTA MONICA

$2,100,000

2821 Delaware Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90404

3 bd • 2 ba • 1,411 sqft

Listed by Gillian Shigematsu •DRE #02180484 • Compass •818-209-9024 (agent) •gigi.wooller@compass.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$2,149,000

3002 3rd St #203, Santa Monica, CA 90405

2 bd • 2.5 ba • 1,914 sqft

Listed by Todd Miller •DRE #01389620 • Keller Williams Los Angeles •310-923-5353 (agent) •toddmiller22@gmail.com (agent)

Brentwood
Santa Monica
Ocean Park
Venice Beach
Marina del Rey

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press

German American Club of Santa Monica

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 5th 1:00PM

Oktoberfest

Loosen up your Lederhosen & don your Dirndl to head to the best Oktoberfest on the Westside.

Saturday, November 8th 5:00PM

Denim & Diamonds Night Out

Be ready for a boot scootin' good time at our annual Western night!

Saturday, November 8th 5:00PM

Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market)

Bring the whole family for shopping, eating, drinking & dancing!

German American Club of Santa Monica
www.germanamericanclubsantamonica.com





FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 26

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-09-26T18

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 27

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS AT PICO BRANCH LIBRARY
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. Enjoy light refreshments, connect with neighbors, and learn about SMPL's Community Mapping initiative! Share your feedback through a brief survey or join a guided discussion with library staff. Your input will help us map our library's future. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/community-conversations-at-pico-branch-library/16220810/2025-09-27T10

PIÑATA PARTY
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. Make a small piñata and fill it with treats in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Materials will be provided. For ages 5 - 10. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pi-ata-party/16455902/2025-09-27T11

ROOTS & WELLNESS: A CULTURAL AROMA BLENDING EXPERIENCE
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. Roots & Wellness is an immersive, interactive art and aroma installation designed to engage the public in a multi-sensory exploration of scent, memory, and cultural connection. Created by sensory artist Parisa Parnian, this experience invites participants to discover how natural botanicals and aromas can serve as a bridge between personal history, nature, and emotional well-being. At the installation, visitors will have the opportunity to interact with beautifully designed, themed aroma-blending stations, each featuring a curated selection of dried flowers, herbs, spices, and essential oils. These elements are inspired by diverse cultural traditions, local landscapes, and the universal connection between scent and memory. Participants will be encouraged to create their own custom aroma blends, filling small sachets with botanicals that resonate with them personally. Registration is required. This project is made possible through a grant from the Art of Recovery initiative by Cultural Affairs of the City of Santa Monica. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/roots-wellness-a-cultural-aroma-blending-experience/16455903/2025-09-27T14

MULATTO MATH: SUMMING UP THE RACE EQUATION IN AMERICA
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th Street Santa Monica. It's Monique DeBose's edgy one woman show, part of the exciting "Black History [every] Month" 2025 project. "Very entertaining, cool, and enlightening...poignant and humorous!" LOS ANGELES BEAT. Through original music and stories of her family's history, this mixed race woman (from an African American father from the segregated south and Irish American mother from upstate New York) shares her most precious, vulnerable stories of her exploration of family, race and identity. As an audience member, you get the have the experience of being a fly on the wall for some of the most potent and real conversations from 'the other side.' The show is heartfelt, funny and an intimate look at race and the implications of race consciousness in America. Yes, it's one woman's story...but audiences from all backgrounds have found themselves and heard their own voices in Monique's story. Live music and multi-media, too! $25.50 to $29.50—Post-show wine and nibbles reception included. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/mulatto-math-summing-up-the-race-equation-in-america/16638092/2025-09-27T19

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 28

THE WATERFRONT - SUNDAY REAL FUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Waterfront 205 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy a bottomless brunch buffet Sundays at The Waterfront! The Waterfront Venice is a full-service restaurant celebrating Californian cuisine with views of the Pacific Ocean. Situated between Rose and Navy on the famous Venice Beach Boardwalk, our food & beverage menus celebrate California with carefully selected seasonal produce from local farms. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-waterfront-sunday-real-funday-brunch-buffet/14894114/2025-09-28T11

MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 29

CITIZENSHIP CLASS
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. An ongoing series of citizenship classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. The classes help students study the 100 civics questions, practice the dictations, review the citizenship application, and prepare for the interview.Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/citizenship-class/16220806/2025-09-29T10

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. TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED @ https://ci.ovationtix.com/34923/production/1126449?performanceId=11576550. $10.00 Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2025-09-29T19

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 30

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2025-09-16T10

TECH & TASKS
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes and more. Assistance provided on a drop-in, first arriv. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tech-tasks/16225799/2025-09-16T16

TUESDAY OPEN MIC
10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2025-09-16T22

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 1

MAKERSPACE AKA CRAFTERNOON
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Makerspace aka Crafternoon Join us for a shared DIY space. Feel free to bring your own crafting project, or just come for inspiration and community. We provide button maker, sewing machine, and basic craft. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/makerspace-aka-crafternoon/15748880/2025-10-01T15

CINEHAUS MOVIE NIGHTS
7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The Eden Hotel 1301 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. CineHaus presents: Sunset Screenings at The Eden Step into old Hollywood charm as CineHaus transforms the courtyard of The Eden Hotel into a dreamy open-air cinema. Grab a cocktail or a hot drink, settle under the stars, and lose yourself in iconic films the way they were meant to be seen — together. From hot popcorn and candy to s'mores, we've got everything you need for the perfect movie night. Cozy, timeless, unforgettable — only at CineHaus. Dates vary — check our lineup! Doors 7:30 PM | Movie 8:00 PM | Tickets - buytickets.at/cinehaus | First-come seating Drinks, snacks, s'mores & good vibes every time Bottle service inquiries: nikita@nolongernetwork.com Gift certificates: tickettailor.com/events/cinehaus/store. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/cinehaus-movie-nights/16585124/2025-10-01T19

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 2

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TVirginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2025-10-02T11

TECH & TASKS
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes, and more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tech-tasks/13932094/2025-10-02T14

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 3

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-09-26T18

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 4

REPAIR CAFÉ AT MARINE PARK
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Marine Park 1406 Marine St Santa Monica. Join us for the Repair Café held at Marine Park on October 4th, 2025 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. This event is open to anyone - not just Santa Monica residents. Bring your items to be repaired by volunteers. Please be prepared to wait for volunteer availability and repairs. The final list of items accepted for repair will be posted closer to the date of the event. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/repiar-caf-at-marine-park/14544553/2025-10-04T11

PARKING

FROM PAGE 1

Vehicle decal program, which also ends Sept. 30. Similar parking programs in San Jose, Sacramento and Hermosa Beach have already been phased out, leaving Santa Monica as one of the last cities to offer the benefit.

Santa Monica's commitment to electric vehicle adoption has shown dramatic results since the program began. The number of registered zero-emission vehicles in the city increased from 1,003 in 2015 to 6,495 in 2023, rising from 1.4% of all registered vehicles to 10%.

The municipal code allowed multiple categories of vehicles to park for free, including those displaying current and valid CAV decals, Neighborhood Electric Vehicle decals issued prior to 2011, and various colored CAV decals issued in different years. All of these exemptions expire Sept. 30, except for vehicles with special recognition plates.

City Council had extended the program in February 2019 to include drivers with expired White and Green CAV decals, responding to early electric vehicle adopters who lost HOV lane access when their decals expired. The extension was set to run through Sept. 30, 2025, coinciding with the federal program's end.

A recent ordinance clarified that all CAV decal holders would lose their free parking privileges, including those with Purple CAV decals that were unintentionally omitted from earlier expiration language.

Despite ending the parking incentive, city officials said Santa Monica remains committed to transportation electrification and continues expanding charging infrastructure throughout the city.

The federal CAV decal program's termination will have broader impacts beyond parking. Starting Oct. 1, vehicles displaying CAV decals will no longer be allowed to travel in High Occupancy Vehicle lanes with a single occupant or receive reduced toll rates in some areas.

California DMV Director Steve Gordon expressed disappointment with the federal decision, noting the state has issued more than one million decals since the program's approval.

"This is a great program for climate-conscious Californians," Gordon said. "Californians are committed to lowering their carbon footprint and these decals helped drivers be good stewards of our highways and environment. By taking away this program, hundreds of thousands of California's drivers will pay the price."

The federal program, which first authorized HOV lane access for single-occupant clean vehicles in California in 1999, received its most recent reauthorization in 2017. The California DMV began issuing decals under the current program on Jan. 1, 2019, and stopped accepting new applications Aug. 29.

CAV decals were typically valid for up to four years, but the federal government's decision makes all decals invalid as of Oct. 1, regardless of when they were issued.

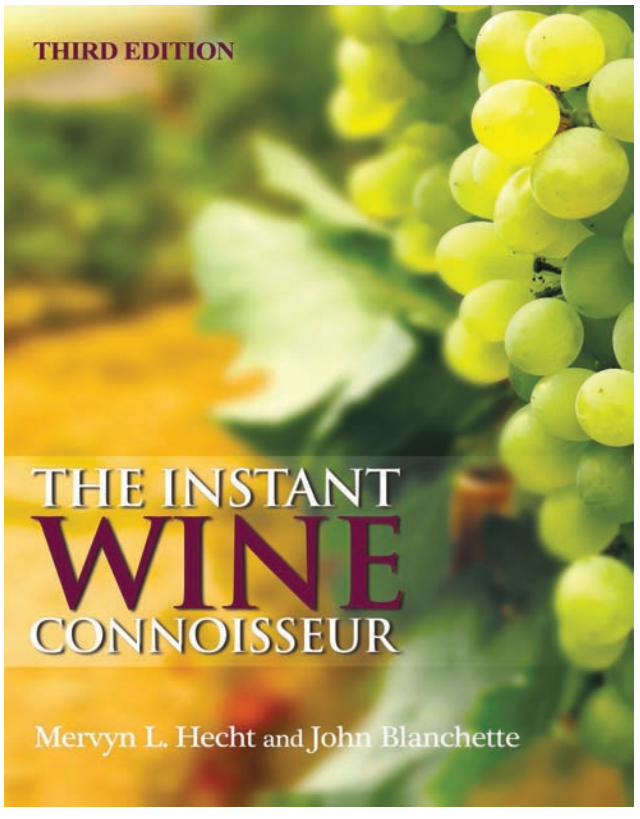
To inform drivers of the change, Caltrans will post messages on electronic road signs reading "CLEAN AIR DECALS NOT VALID STARTING OCT 1."

The DMV is notifying customers with email addresses on file and posting information at offices and on social media about the program's expiration.

All vehicles must now meet posted occupancy requirements to travel in carpool lanes, and drivers who violate the law may receive citations.

editor@smdp.com

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

available at amazon

BOND

FROM PAGE 3

A separate 2020 study by the Center for the Transformation of Schools at UCLA found that about 1 in 5 community college students, 1 in 10 Cal State students, and 1 in 20 UC students experience homelessness. Although the Legislative Analyst's Office warns of limitations on both of these surveys, it does point out the noteworthiness of the number of students experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness.

The location of a campus can greatly impact student housing costs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that the average off-campus rent for two-bedroom apartments near UC Merced was $1,465 per month in 2024, while for UC Santa Cruz it was $4,297 per month.

For Cal State students, the average rent per month for a two-bedroom apartment is $1,807 near Cal State Bakersfield, while the average is $3,014 per month near San Francisco State.

Aditi Hariharan, president of the UC Student Association, said the bond bill aligns with the association's priorities, though they have not yet taken an official vote on whether to support the bill.

"Students are constantly struggling to stay in university and be enrolled, find housing, and that's a significant cost of living barrier," Hariharan said.

Chris Chandler, vice president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, said his association supports the bill because they understand how important housing is for their student body. Chandler is studying business administration at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, where students struggle to find affordable housing.

"You might hear students say, 'Well, you know, I'm couch surfing with a friend', or, 'I'm about that van life' and things like that," Chandler said. "But you know, if we're being really fair, those are homeless students, and they're just looking for alternatives, to find a place where they can lay their head at night."

Southwestern College does not offer on-campus housing to its students. However, 14 out of 116 California Community Colleges do. The proposed bond funding would help community colleges continue to develop affordable housing for students.

FACILITIES FUNDING HAS EVOLVED FOR UNIVERSITIES

Traditionally, funding for university facilities has come from two sources: The state budget, for funding academic buildings such as classrooms, labs and faculty offices, and fees charged by the universities for self-supported facilities, such as housing, parking and campus dining.

In 2013 and 2014, in an effort to reduce state debt, then-Gov. Jerry Brown gave the UC and Cal State systems the authority to issue their own bonds. The university systems began selling revenue bonds to fund facility projects.

For revenue-generating projects such as student housing, universities use the proceeds from the bond as well as fees and rent paid by students to repay the bond and interest, said Robert Eaton, an assistant vice chancellor in Cal State's business and finance division.

Academic facilities, such as a science building, do not generate revenue and have to be repaid through the system's central budget. While Cal State trustees have the ability to set aside funds to service debt, they haven't done so since 2018 due to an inadequate budget, Eaton said.

About five years ago, as housing and construction costs were sharply increasing, the state decided to start putting money toward affordable student housing. In 2021, the state Legislature approved allocating $2 billion over three years to public colleges and universities for the construction and renovation of student housing through the Higher Education Student Housing Grant. Gov. Gavin Newsom then took back that funding in 2023 to help close a state budget deficit, with the state instead agreeing to pay the principal and interest on bonds the colleges and universities issued themselves. That saved projects already in the works, but the state's community colleges and public university systems still have many more student housing plans in need of funding.

A statewide bond that would fund both academic facilities and affordable student housing would address both deficits troubling California's public higher education systems. However, the inclusion of student housing in the bond bill is "a big departure from historic state practice, and it's raising a new tension with how to deal with academic facilities and improving the condition of those facilities, while also addressing student and faculty housing needs," said Jennifer Pacella of the Legislative Analyst's Office.

WOULD A BOND HAVE A CHANCE WITH CALIFORNIA VOTERS?

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office report, voters approve most state bonds for higher education facilities. From 1986 to 2016, voters approved 10 out of 12 state bond measures that benefited higher education. The only higher education bond measure to fail in the past 30 years was in 2020, when voters rejected Proposition 13, a $15 billion bond measure for K-12 schools, community colleges and universities.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association opposed that bond, and now opposes the new bill's proposal. Susan Shelley, a spokesperson for the association, says that she looks at it from the perspective of the taxpayers who will be paying for the interest rate of the bond.

"Every couple of years, there's a request for another bond to be added on top of that," Shelley said. "We want to make sure that bonds are always funding something that will still be giving value to the people who are paying for it 30 years from now, and that it's not just being used for current expenses or maintenance expenses or anything that won't give value to the people who have to pay for it."

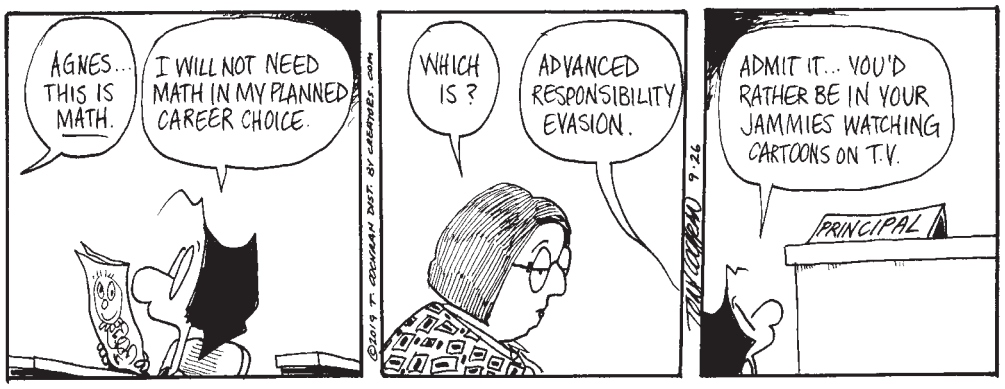
Darien Shanske, professor of law at UC Davis, argues that the state subsidizing the cost of public education is a good investment. Although a state bond initiative would need public polling to determine its ability to pass, "there seems to be a fair amount of support for public higher education," Shanske said.

An August 2025 poll by UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies shows that out of 6,474 registered California voters who responded, 58% believe state funding should be increased for the UC system.

Mercy Sosa is a contributor with the College Journalism Network, a collaboration between CalMatters and student journalists from across California. CalMatters higher education coverage is supported by a grant from the College Futures Foundation.

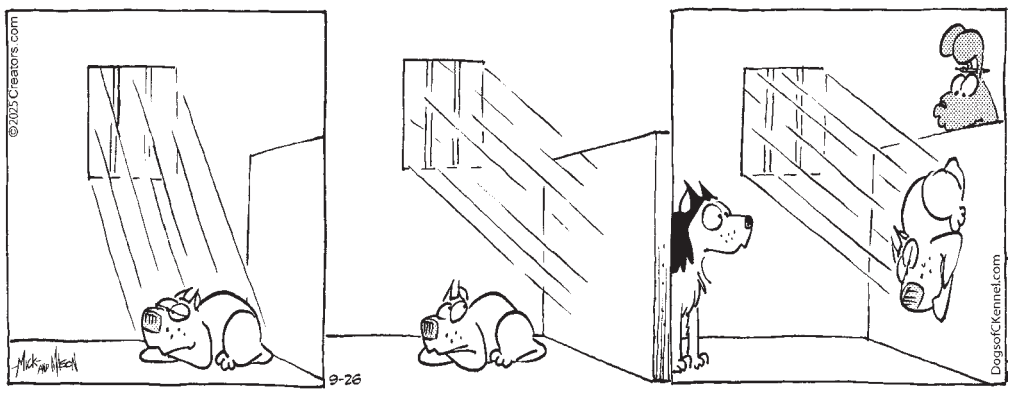
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



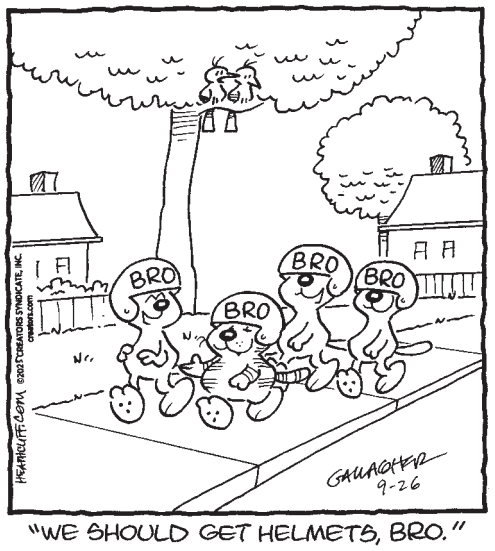
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

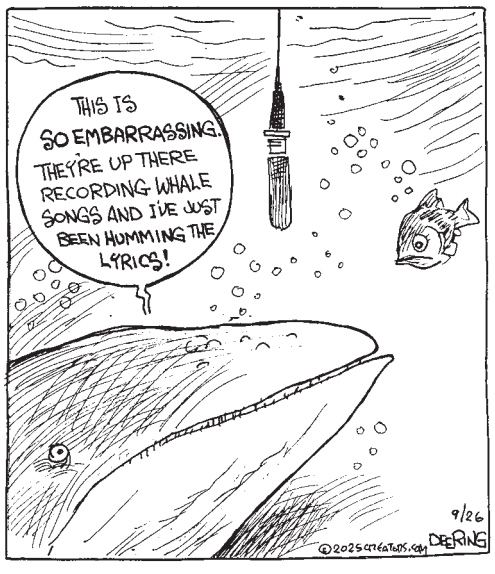
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WE SHOULD GET HELMETS, BRO."

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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6710

Bucket list attractions

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

Agog	City	Hike	Miner	Steps
Alawa	Colo	Idea	Noosa	Suntan
Axes	Daily	Kimba	Olgas	Theme
Beat	Dampier	Kudla	Omeo	Town
Blyth	Devils	Laura	Onslow	Trip
Bronte	Dive	Look	Ouse	Trout
Busy	Eden	Lord Howe Island	Plain	Uluru
Calves	Eldon		Roma	View
Cars	Eucla	Lost	Rush	Walking
Ceduna	Feed	Manly	Site	Water
Cheese	Fish	Maya	Snow	West

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
A sustainable resource

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 26)

Welcome to your Year of Genius. Intellectual sparks fly, and you'll win with ideas - in boardrooms, studios, classrooms and competitions. The world is your arena, and your wit is your superpower. More highlights: Super sweet relationships, one that will sparkle season after season, a journey you weren't planning on that opens an entire new chapter and a life hack that becomes a cornerstone of health. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 16, 28, 39 and 10.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's true that your road hasn't exactly been an easy one. But however you got here, it made you stronger and more unique. Let the story of your challenges fortify and fuel you instead of sour you against those who had an easier time of it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Mental rehearsal will make the day feel more familiar, doable and within your control. You'll pause before starting your adventure. You'll picture specific scenes. Be sure to imagine not just the actions, but also how success feels.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Love is risky, awkward and endlessly worthwhile. The odd compliment or ask, laughter shared in nervous voices - these are treasures. You're brave enough to risk embarrassment for connection, and that courage will echo back to you in admiration.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The longing for rest is real, but you're not running on empty. Small refuels will sustain you more than you expect. And you can be refueled by a smile, a stretch, a song or just a pause. Your soul finds the replenishment it needs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Joy doesn't have to be huge or constant to count. It arrives in flashes. It's a private laugh, a stranger's compliment, a beautiful sky. Collect those sparks. Together, they are enough to set your spirit alight and carry you forward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In certain kinds of encounters, timing and confidence matter more than preparation. Such a moment is coming your way, and you can win without trying too hard because the winning instinct is already in you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sometimes feeling confident takes work, but not today. It's much easier to keep yourself in high regard when the people around you are doing the same. The enthusiastic belief people have in you will play like a tailwind assisting your progress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your body aches from effort, but it's also alive with fire. Listen to your muscles, give them kindness and know that no state is permanent. The recuperation will happen when you rest. Healing will come just as surely as fatigue does.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're easy on the senses, speaking in the tones that comfort and assure, looking the part, offering what's useful and convenient. Because of this, you're offered as much work as you need and the kind of fun you most enjoy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've already done the work. There's no need to defend or explain it in any way. Respect and admiration are coming to you, and all you have to do is remember not to deflect them when they do. Receive your due.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you were younger, you blurted the feeling, the answer, the need. You're no longer tempted to flood the space with information. Now your communication is measured. Others lean in and pay closer attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). We stand in circles of feeling. Pride and shame, joy and grief, regret and gratitude are all bound up together until they almost overlap. That's the human condition. You're emotionally alive and holding the paradox of life.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

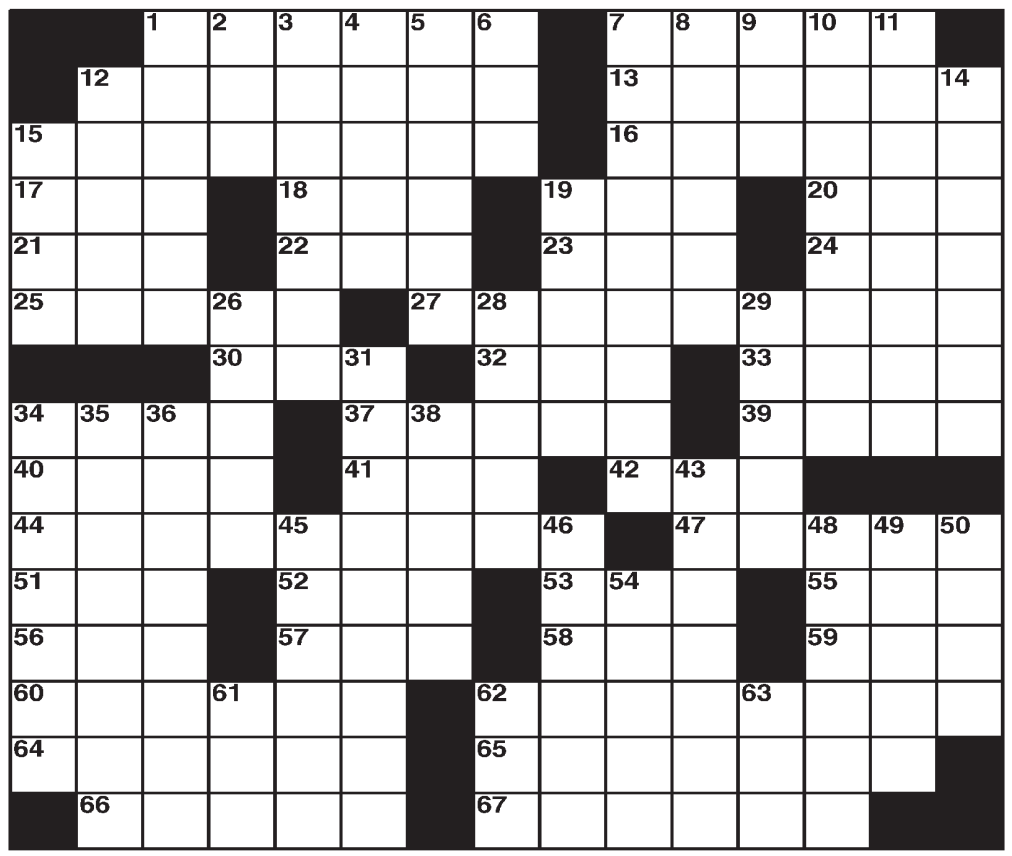
SEE 15-ACROSS by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Showy flower
7 Loved ones
12 Principal performer pairs
13 "It's a deal!"
15 Theme of the starred clues' answers
16 Push over
17 Alias of Aurora
18 Came upon
19 Yokohama "yes"
20 Insurgent, for short
21 Plank on powder
22 *Minero*'s strike
23 Hollow center
24 RN assignment
25 Fundraising runs
27 *They have happy expectations
30 Capture
32 Molasses product
33 Wee wooden platforms
34 Tough college chem course
37 Giraffe cousin
39 It's a small whirl
40 Rodeo Drive retailer
41 Take a chance
42 Certain fowl
44 *Extremely happy
47 MIT major
51 Macy's retail partner Toys __
52 Road warning word
53 Lyrical writing
55 Thornton Wilder, as a collegian
56 *Aladdin* prince
57 Grain receptacle
58 Outperform everyone
59 House holder
60 One of a smart set
62 *"To keep happy seems like walking __": Yeats
64 Begin with gusto
65 Unscrambles, say
66 Campus contingent
67 Get the __ (have an advantage over)

DOWN

1 Swindles
2 Fall pumpkin-flavored product
3 Beautiful, in Barcelona
4 Plywood section
5 "Ditto"
6 Mule parent
7 Phone plan restriction
8 Self-absorption
9 French abstractionist
10 Performed again
11 Chose
12 Have stage fright
14 Ravel contemporary
15 *"__ magnifique!"*
19 Agitated
26 Big name in small cubes
28 Idle chatter
29 News briefs
31 Meadowlark cousins
34 Scratch-and-sniff film gimmick
35 Small streams
36 Starts discussing
38 Stress as important
43 What many a tour bus has
45 Baroque music byline
46 Dispiriting experience
48 2010's Fed head
49 Turns to curds
50 See 54-Down
54 With 50-Down, numerous '70s #1 songs
61 Useful part of aloe vera
62 Quirky
63 Rite answer



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

09/26/25

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

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 2

the notion that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic." They had to promise not to distribute drug paraphernalia or allow the use of drugs on their property.

Applicants also had to attest that they operate in a city, county or state that cooperates with federal immigration enforcement. Newsom has resisted Trump's immigration crackdown at a state level, and recently signed a set of bills intended to further check ICE.

And applicants were required to operate in a city, county or state that prohibits public camping and enforces that rule. That one could be an easier lift: Arrests and citations for camping-related activities have soared in some California cities over the past year, after the U.S. Supreme Court gave cities more leeway to crack down, and Newsom encouraged cities to ban camping. But two recent statewide attempts to ban homeless camps from near schools and other areas fell flat.

The new funding rules were a major blow to Contra Costa County-based Hope Solutions, which was initially selected to receive $5.5 million to build 15 tiny homes for homeless 18-24-year-olds in Pittsburg. After staff spent at least 100 hours completing the project proposal, they learned this month that they'd no longer qualify because of the new criteria. The Pittsburg Police Department says it does not participate in immigration enforcement. In addition, the new program rules specify the money must go to buildings that serve elderly residents — an about-face that takes Hope Solutions' youth project out of the running.

"It felt like a gut punch," said CEO Deanne Pearn, "and really disheartening to know that we had spent so much time and asked so much of our county partners and others, and that time could have been spent elsewhere."

Hope Solutions is still moving forward with the project, which Pearn hopes the organization can fund with its own financial reserves. But that means the nonprofit won't have that money for its next project.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness recently sued the Trump administration over the new grant conditions, claiming that all projects in California and three dozen other states would be ineligible for funds. Earlier this month, a federal judge sided with the Alliance, and temporarily barred the federal government from distributing those funds.

Now, that $75 million is frozen as the case moves forward.

While the new conditions at issue in the lawsuit apply only to one specific federal homelessness grant, experts worry it's an ominous sign for California. Service providers expect applications to open this fall for the main source of federal homelessness funding — the Continuum of Care Program — which funneled about $600 million to California counties in 2023.

If that application poses similar requirements, California could be in trouble.

"Personally, I just don't think we're going to see that funding," said Hill, of Union Station Homeless Services in Los Angeles County.

In a separate lawsuit, San Francisco and Santa Clara Counties sued the Trump administration over contracts that prevented recipients of federal homeless funds from using the money to promote "gender ideology," "elective abortions" and "illegal immigration." The counties won an early victory last month, when a judge temporarily blocked the administration from imposing those conditions.

Other federal cuts are looming, too. The Emergency Housing Vouchers program, which launched during the COVID-19 pandemic and now helps more than 15,000 Californians pay their rent, is expected to run out of money next year.

That's not even counting the cuts to housing vouchers and other federal housing and homelessness programs Trump proposed in May, which are still being negotiated in Congress.

CALIFORNIA TURNING A CORNER ON HOMELESSNESS

California appears to be decreasing its homeless population, according to the Hub for Urban Initiatives, a California organization that helps local communities shape their homelessness policy, apply for grants and survey their homeless populations.

The 29 California communities that counted and reported their homeless populations this year tallied a total of 131,209 people — a 4% decrease from what those same communities reported last year. That's a significant step for a state where the homeless population has been stubbornly rising for years.

That data comes from the federally mandated homeless point-in-time count, where teams of volunteers count the unhoused people they see on the street on one night in January. The counts are imperfect, as volunteers can overlook people sleeping in out-of-the-way places, and different counties use different methods — while some places count every year, others count every other. Of the 44 "continuums of care" required to count in California (some small, rural communities combine multiple counties into one continuum of care), 14 didn't count this year.

The federal housing department will release an official total for the state later this year.

Newsom trumpeted the initial decreases, taking credit for pouring money into homeless housing and other services. He's not wrong.

Contra Costa County, which saw the state's biggest drop in homelessness this year, attributes its success largely to the recent boost in state funding, said Christy Saxton, director of Health, Housing and Homeless Services for Contra Costa County. Over the past two years, the county increased its homeless shelter and housing capacity by more than a third.

A big piece of that was the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention program, which Newsom launched in the 2019-20 budget year to fill what until then had been a void of state homelessness funds. For the past few years, that program gave cities and counties $1 billion each year.

Those funds support programs such as Contra Costa County's Delta Landing temporary housing site in Pittsburg, which opened 172 units in 2021. Until then, that part of the county had about 20 beds for its unhoused residents, Saxton said.

But instead of making that state funding ongoing, Newsom's administration opted to dole it out in one-time grants each year, leaving cities and counties continually guessing what next year's budget will bring.

This year, that state program will get no new funding (because of the glacial pace at which the state distributes these funds, cities and counties have yet to receive money from the last round). Next year, the amount is set to shrink to $500 million.

"We are significantly concerned about the cuts that are coming," Saxton said, "because it has taken an influx of money in order to see those decreases, and we need that to continue on now more than ever."

by Marisa Kendall, CalMatters

PARKS

FROM PAGE 1

history of Santa Monica we've ever felt that we are average."

Santa Monica currently provides just 1.55 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, well below the Los Angeles County average of 3.3 acres and national recommendations of 6 to 10 acres per 1,000 residents for cities of similar size.

The shortfall is particularly acute given that 71% of Santa Monica residents live in multi-family housing without yards, according to a recent community survey that drew more than 1,600 participants.

COMMUNITY DEMAND DRIVES PLANNING

The comprehensive community assessment revealed strong support for expanding the park system, with walking trails and loops topping residents' wish lists, followed by community parks, large regional parks and neighborhood parks. A new aquatic facility and community gardens also ranked high among priorities.

Lopez noted that the assessment confirmed the city needs more park acreage and amenities, though residents appreciate existing programming.

The plan's 'City as Habitat' vision represents an evolution from the 1997 plan's 'City as Park' concept, emphasizing habitat creation for people, plants and animals while supporting the city's climate goals.

AMBITIOUS ACTIONS, STEEP COSTS

The vision plan outlines 32 specific actions organized under eight principles, ranging from enhancing existing parks to creating entirely new parkland through innovative approaches.

Key proposals include expanding Memorial Park by 2.9 acres, studying the feasibility of capping sections of Interstate 10 to create park space above the freeway, and establishing "park streets" by removing vehicular traffic from select street segments in each neighborhood.

The plan also calls for evaluating the potential conversion of Santa Monica Airport's 192 acres for park use, which could significantly boost the city's park inventory if the airport closes as planned.

However, the expansion comes with substantial financial commitments. A recent parks condition assessment estimated $42 million in maintenance costs over five years for existing facilities alone, with additional 10-year and 20-year costs of $30 million and $24 million respectively.

The costs could "increase exponentially if not addressed," with amenity lifespans decreasing due to overuse, according to the plan.

COMMISSIONERS RAISE KEY CONCERNS

Planning commissioners raised several important considerations during the study session, including how to balance parkland acquisition with housing needs in a city facing a severe affordability crisis.

Commissioner Shawn Landres questioned how the plan would accelerate progress toward carbon neutrality goals, suggesting stronger ties between specific actions and climate targets.

Commissioner Nina Fresco highlighted social justice concerns, noting that some areas of the city remain severely park-deficient. "I think we always have a tendency to do that with the problem of the day and I just want to remind us all to remember to always think holistically about all of our problems including housing and the airport and everything else," Fresco said. "All of these things have to fit holistically into the long-term function of our city."

> I think we always have a tendency to do that with the problem of the day and I just want to remind us all to remember to always think holistically about all of our problems including housing and the airport and everything else
>
> - Nina Fresco, Commissioner

The commissioners also discussed innovative approaches like encouraging community gardens and open space in new housing developments through zoning incentives, and utilizing underused medians and parkways for community amenities.

NEXT STEPS

The plan will move through additional city commissions over the coming weeks, including the Arts Commission and Santa Monica Aquatics Advisory Committee, before reaching the City Council for potential adoption on October 28.

The seven-year planning process, which began in 2018 but was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, represents one of the most comprehensive updates to the city's parks strategy since the original master plan nearly three decades ago.

If adopted, the vision plan would guide park development and maintenance decisions for the next 25 years, positioning Santa Monica to significantly expand recreational opportunities for its approximately 93,000 residents.

maaz@smdp.com

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!
Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

American Cancer Society®

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER®

MATCH ALERT
LIMITED TIME
9/22 - 9/28



Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Santa Monica

Thanks to a generous $10,000 Matching Donation, every dollar you raise from September 22 to September 28 will be matched in $100 increments, up to $1,000 per participant.

Sign up or donate
MakingStridesWalk.org/SantaMonica

Saturday, October 25, 2025
8:00 AM
Santa Monica Pier
200 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Thank You to Our Sponsors

SUMMER FRIDAYS · OPositiv Health · The NaturalSKN Company

©2023, American Cancer Society, Inc.