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Volume 25 Issue 229

THURSDAY 10/8/26

smdp.com

Homelessness: RAND finds Santa Monica's homeless count stable, but concentrated downtown

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Editor's Note: A new RAND study puts empirical data behind several longstanding assumptions about Santa Monica, confirming some and complicating others. Researchers found the city's economy has declined more sharply over the past decade than those of Beverly Hills, Culver City and West Hollywood, with tourism, retail sales and other business indicators lagging most peer cities. Concerns about crime and homelessness hold up in specific parts of the city, chiefly downtown and along the beachfront, but not citywide. The report also found Santa Monica built less housing per resident from

SEE HOMELESS PAGE 6

Alcohol permit hearing signals Trader Joe's plans for former Rite Aid on Wilshire

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Trader Joe's is scheduled to go before city officials next week seeking permission to sell alcohol at 1331 Wilshire Blvd., the clearest sign yet that the grocer plans to open a store in the former Rite Aid building it bought last year.

SEE TRADER JOES PAGE 6

Veteran broadcaster brings live interview series to the Santa Monica College quad



Courtesy Image

CAMPUS: Celebrity interviewer John Kerwin returns to SMC as a student and launches live quad talk show.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

John Kerwin has built a broadcast career interviewing famous names. Now, he is turning his microphone toward a different kind of guest: his fellow students at Santa Monica College.

Kerwin, a longtime Santa Monica resident enrolled at SMC as a Media Production student, will launch "Kerwin at SMC: Live on the Quad" from 11 a.m. to 1

p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20. The live outdoor interview series will place two armchairs and broadcast gear directly on the campus grass for unscripted, real-time conversations with Gen Z students.

"It boils down to real human connection," Kerwin said. "We live in an era dominated by screens and digital distraction, so taking the production onto the main quad brings us face-to-face."

Kerwin is the author of "Talk Big: How to Interview Celebrities

and Make Them Love You," a book on the craft of interviewing. He has interviewed national figures ranging from Olivia Rodrigo to Steve Wozniak and Dick Cavett, and he has been featured in the Los Angeles Times and LA Weekly.

This time, he said, most of the people in the opposite chair will be new to the experience.

"I'm naturally curious, and my job as a host is simply to listen," Kerwin said. "Throughout my broadcast career, I've interviewed

celebrities who had been questioned a million times, but for almost all of these students, it's their very first time being interviewed. That raw, unscripted vulnerability in an open-air setting is extraordinarily powerful to watch unfold live."

According to Kerwin, the set will be surrounded by live campus music, dance, theater and art.

Being decades older than his classmates, Kerwin said, has turned

SEE VETERAN PAGE 8



LET'S FIX SANTA MONICA
VOTE DOUG TRUSSLER NOV 3



SEE MORE



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TOURNAMENT

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Vote No on Measure ES: The city is walking away from its commitment to our schools

As a longtime Santa Monica resident and homeowner, I urge you to vote NO on Measure ES on the November 3 ballot.

The story behind Measure ES is plain and simple. The City Council and City Manager Oliver Chi are desperate for revenue. They found \$12 million in the City budget, the City's longstanding contribution to our public schools, and decided to shift it permanently onto local property owners.

In his October 5, 2026 opinion piece in the Santa Monica Daily Press, City Councilmember, Barry Snell, wrote that "Measure ES is the only way to ensure our public schools continue to receive a reliable and essential funding stream - funding in the amount of \$12 million a year that has kept our schools among the best in California as state and federal funding have diminished".

But Measure ES is not the only way. The City already pays that \$12 million out of its existing budget. Measure ES does not create any new money for our schools. It just moves the bill from the City to property owners.

Snell is right that "for two decades, the City has allocated significant funding to our school district," and we can all acknowledge that "the City is in the midst of a serious financial crisis". But the \$12 million is still in the City budget. The real questions are whether the City should walk away from the funding, and whether the school district even needs the money.

Consider SMMUSD's own numbers. The district just released the unaudited financial report for 2025-26. In June, SMMUSD projected it would finish the fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2026, roughly \$3.7 million in the red. Instead, it ran a \$6 million surplus. Its unrestricted general fund balance came in about \$9.85 million higher than expected, at a record \$68.6 million. The district took in about \$6.1 million more revenue than projected, including about \$1.3 million more than expected from the Measure R parcel tax.

Meanwhile, SMMUSD's staffing has held steady at 1,280 employees, even though enrollment, now 8,520 as of October 2025, has fallen roughly 19% over the past decade. The City's population has also declined since 2020. The district's total spending budget for 2026-27 is \$237.9 million, so the City's \$12 million is roughly 5% of the

district's budget. I find it odd the district's budget and any future revenue needs to potentially be funded by the City were not fleshed out at City Council meetings.

Santa Monica residents and property owners already carry most of the load. About 59% of SMMUSD's revenue comes from local property taxes. And look at what we already pay:

Property owners pay Measure R, a parcel tax passed in 2008 that costs \$496 per parcel a year, and, since 2023, has no expiration date.

Property owners, condominium owners included, also pay for Measure QS, approved in 2024, which lets SMMUSD issue \$450 million in bonds repaid at 3 cents per \$100 of assessed value. For my family, that's more than \$1,000 a year. Add Measure R and we're over \$1,500.

Residents and visitors also pay for our schools through the half-cent sales tax voters approved in 2016, half of which was earmarked for education. And Measure GS, the transfer tax on high-value property sales that took effect March 1, 2023, sends a share of its revenue to SMMUSD as well.

Now add Measure ES at \$495 per parcel, and my family will be paying more than \$2,000 a year to SMMUSD. How much will the City contribute from its general fund going forward? Nothing.

Parcel taxes like Measure R and the proposed Measure ES are also regressive. A condominium owner pays the same flat amount as a large business park, which puts a disproportionate burden on lower-income residents. Together, Measure R (\$14.5 million) and Measure ES (\$12 million) would collect about \$26.5 million a year for SMMUSD from Santa Monica property owners. Roughly 70% of that would come from individual owners.

The City has the \$12 million in its budget today. If it must truly cut, it should reduce its contribution gradually over several years while it shores up its finances. Instead, the City has chosen not to honor its decades-long commitment to the schools and to send the bill to property owners in perpetuity.

Snell calls Measure ES as "an inexpensive way for residents to secure our children's future." It isn't. It's an expensive, permanent and unfair burden on Santa Monica residents and property owners. Vote no on Measure ES.

Jeff Peak, Santa Monica

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Oops, SMMUSD did it again: A big surplus instead of a big deficit

Oops, SMMUSD Did it Again: A Big Surplus Instead of a Big Deficit; and Spent \$16 Million More than Allowed on Non-classroom Expenses

At the May 19, 2026 Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board meeting, the District predicted a \$9 million deficit for the 2025-26 school year ending in 2 months. On September 9th, they presented the 2025-26 unaudited actuals. The District ended up with an \$8 million surplus of unrestricted and restricted funds. Why were they off by \$17 million? Gerardo Cruz, the Chief Financial Officer, wrote: "The District uses conservatively estimated revenue and allocated expenditures during budget and interim reporting processes."

With this conservative strategy, the District predicted an average \$5 million deficit over the previous 5 years, yet ended with an average \$14 million surplus. For the next 3 years, they are predicting an average deficit of \$10 million. This current year's deficit of \$12 million has already been reduced by the announcement of an additional \$11 million in revenues. Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. I no longer believe your deficit projections.

These projected deficits are why the District says it needs a very high level of reserves: 33%, or \$79 million. With all the past surpluses, reserves for the unrestricted and restricted funds are now \$89 million, \$10 million over that high target.

The District's finances are in great shape, despite the story they are telling to justify passing a new \$495 parcel tax, Measure ES. It was put forward by "citizens" who are the school board president, a past school board president and current State Senator, and the chair of the School's PAC, to get around the Prop 13 two-thirds vote required to increase property taxes. This loophole would be closed if Prop 43 passes in November. Most of the \$300,000 raised to get this measure on the ballot came from District and City vendors and 24 individuals.

Measure ES transfers the \$12 million the City has been paying the District for the Joint Use Agreement for the last 24 years, to Santa Monica residents. The District doesn't get more money; it frees up \$12 million for the City to spend with no restrictions. Measure ES is a tax for the City disguised as a tax for the schools. They want us to prioritize the schools, so the City can de-prioritize the schools, parks, and recreation. The City gets \$12 million by being called an unreliable partner.

The City's CFO said that if Measure ES doesn't pass, the City may need to cut services. That implies they would continue to fund the schools. What doesn't make sense to me is why they would need to make cuts if they are just not getting extra

money.

Even though Measure ES funding replaces the Joint Use Agreement payments, the agreement for the City to manage the after-school programs and access does not continue. The fate of the after-school programs the City provides at the elementary and middle schools for our youth is in jeopardy. To continue City programming, another Joint Use Agreement needs to be put in place. Most likely the District will want the City to pay for this new Joint Use Agreement. We'd be paying twice for this access, to replace the funding and then through the City's new agreement.

The proponents of Measure ES and the City are tone deaf to the financial situation of the Santa Monica residents who are struggling financially. This includes almost a third of the District's students who come from lower-income families. Affordability is the number one issue for Californians. They say it's just a little more, but we're getting hit with just a little more from everywhere, including the City's recent increases in water rates; parking, user, and credit card fees. These are regressive taxes and fees that disproportionately affect lower-income residents. Supporting this measure makes it harder for families to put food on the table for the District to continue its surpluses.

District bond property tax payments increased by 58% last year, up \$432 for each \$1 million of assessed value. Santa Monica's median property tax bill of \$14,328 is the third highest IN THE NATION, higher than Beverly Hills! Now they want to add another \$495 on top of that.

Another argument for supporting this measure is that good schools increase property values. That makes it harder for families to live here. It affects homeowner and rental affordability, and school enrollment. The District's enrollment has declined by 23% in the past 10 years. As a Basic Aid District, funding is not based on enrollment. Revenues have increased by 53%, beating the 34% inflation rate and moving the per-pupil spending from 23rd to 8th place in the County.

If Measure ES doesn't pass and if the City decides not to fund the District, a \$12 million decrease would not be devastating. The year-end surpluses, like the average surplus of \$13 million over the last 6 years, would cover most if not all of the decrease. Since the reserves are above the target, there's no need to add to the reserves, saving \$7 million. What happened to the additional \$10 million the District started getting 3 years ago from Measure GS, the property transfer tax? What are they doing with the projected increase of \$15 million this year in Basic Aid excess taxes, which are projected to increase from \$20 million

SEE GUEST COMMENTARY PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: 75.2

THURSDAY
FAIR

SURF: 4-5ft
Chest to head

Rachel's leftovers as stronger SPAC swell builds. A touch of mid period NW late week. The first in a series of long period SW/SSW swells will fill in through the day as Rachel's leftovers help overall consistency at the summer exposures. A little bit of mid period NW swell mix blends in through the end of the week - not much on its own but opening some corners for the combo breaks out west. For now wind looks light in the mornings but we'll have pesky deep AM high tides (pushing 5.6-6' even without the kelvin wave impacts).

FRIDAY
FAIR TO GOOD

SURF: 4-6ft
Chest to overhead

Mix of southerly swells provides continued fun waves ahead of the weekend. There will be several southerly swells running which will continue to favor the summer exposures. Swell from Rachel lingers, mixing in with overlapping pulses of Southern Hemi. A little bit of NW swell sticks around and helps the cause at the beachbreaks but won't contribute to any additional size. Overall it should be pretty consistent with the summer breaks going head high or so on the sets. Keep in mind the deep AM tide if targeting a session then.



Weather

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable after midnight.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 67

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/10/08	Thur	02:18 AM	0.10	L
2026/10/08	Thur	08:36 AM	5.54	H
2026/10/08	Thur	02:40 PM	0.70	L
2026/10/08	Thur	08:40 PM	5.39	H
2026/10/09	Fri	02:47 AM	0.43	L
2026/10/09	Fri	09:02 AM	5.83	H
2026/10/09	Fri	03:20 PM	0.30	L
2026/10/09	Fri	09:23 PM	5.11	H
2026/10/10	Sat	03:14 AM	0.84	L
2026/10/10	Sat	09:27 AM	6.01	H
2026/10/10	Sat	03:59 PM	0.05	L
2026/10/10	Sat	10:04 PM	4.73	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>



Draw Date: 10/5
16 23 32 36 54
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 485 M



Draw Date: 10/6
9 10 14 29 32



Draw Date: 10/6
26 32 42 51 54
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 364 M



Draw Date: 10/6
EVENING: 2 8 5
Draw Date: 10/6
MIDDAY: 0 9 0



Draw Date: 10/3
14 19 23 26 33
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 61 M



Draw Date: 10/6
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:42.76

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026182039. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MEL BERGMAN & ASSOCIATES, 1223 WILSHIRE BLVD PMB 422 PMB 422, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): ANESTA PASCH, 1223 WILSHIRE BLVD PMB 422 PMB 422, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 08/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ ANESTA PASCH, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/24/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious 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 before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/24/2026, 10/01/2026, 10/08/2026, 10/15/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026202164. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DREAM PLATEAU, 2621 6TH STREET UNIT 3, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): COLIN MITTS, 2621 6TH STREET UNIT 3, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ COLIN MITTS, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 09/22/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious 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 before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/08/2026, 10/15/2026, 10/22/2026, 10/29/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026168005. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: NEMO METHOD, 1800 ABBOT KINNEY BLVD. SUITE #160, VENICE, CA 90291, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): LA TRESE NEMO MAGIER, 1800 ABBOT KINNEY BLVD. SUITE #160, VENICE, CA 90291. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ LA TRESE NEMO MAGIER, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/05/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious 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 before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/16/2026, 09/23/2026, 09/30/2026, 10/07/2026

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for On-Call Emergency Facilities Repair Services Program for Stormwater Maintenance Division (BRC0000677) will be received by Los Angeles County Public Works on October 21, 2026, by 5:30p.m. To access RFP documents, visit the link at <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/aspx>. For additional information, call (626) 300-2362.10/8/26CNS-4083441#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for On-Call Geotechnical Professional and Technical Services for Federally Funded and Non-Federally Funded Projects (BRC0000661) will be received by Los Angeles County Public Works on November 10, 2026, by 5:30p.m. For information, visit <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/aspx> or call (626) 458-2584.10/8/26CNS-4083609#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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AROUND TOWN

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Brats, Blues & Block Parties

SMDP’s Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes a Off-the-Hook Pier seafood festival, Oktoberfest at the Miramar, Evan Funke at Rustic Canyon, and much more!

Friday Night Jazz Returns to SMC: Jazz fans have a couple of good reasons to head to Santa Monica College this fall. The college’s long-running Friday Night Jazz Series returns Oct. 16 with the Marvin “Smitty” Smith Octet, led by the veteran drummer who spent 15 years behind the kit on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. The series continues Nov. 13 with an all-star benefit concert celebrating more than 40 years of Friday night jazz at SMC. Friday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m., SMC Music Hall, 1310 11th St. smc.edu/tickets

Navigate the Stars—Even After the Zombie Apocalypse: Looking for something a little more out-of-this-world? Santa Monica College’s Planetarium is hosting live astronomy shows throughout October, exploring everything from exoplanets and the life cycles of stars to the latest happenings in space. The month wraps up with “Stellar Navigation (for the Zombie Apocalypse),” a look at how ancient navigators crossed oceans without GPS—because you never know when that skill might come in handy. Fridays in October, 6 and 7 p.m., plus a Sunday Family Matinée Oct. 11, SMC Planetarium, 1900 Pico Blvd. <http://smc.edu/planetarium>

Wilmont Movies in the Park: The Wilmont is wrapping up its free Movies in the Park series with a family-friendly night featuring live music, picnicking and a screening of The Lego Movie. Free popcorn is included, because apparently we’ve finally found a movie night with the right priorities. Saturday, Oct. 10, 6 p.m., Reed Park, 1133 Seventh St. Free. wilmont.org

Bouquets, Bottles, & BENZz Autumn Social: Looking for a unique Saturday date night? Head to goodboybob on Broadway for a neighborhood block party featuring showcase cars, live music, and local vendors. Sip on wine, beer, or matcha while grabbing smash burgers, floral bouquets, and specialty cakes from Atelier Pistache, plus live screen-printed merch. Saturday, Oct. 10, 4 – 8 p.m. [goodboybob](http://goodboybob.com) coffee roasters, 2058 Broadway goodboybob.com

Halloween Block Fest: Third Street Promenade is turning into a giant Halloween party for the latest edition of Santa Monica Block Fest. The free, all-ages festival takes over all three blocks with multiple stages of live DJs, a food night market, vendor village, pop-up bars and plenty of Halloween atmosphere. There’s also an official after-party that keeps things going until 2 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, 5 p.m.—midnight, Third Street Promenade. <https://posh.vip/e/santa-monica-block-fest-vol-viii-free-halloween-music-festival>

Inspired Art: Paired Visions: This exhibition showcases work from multiple artists in a free evening event at bG Gallery. Sunday, Oct. 11, 4–9 p.m., bG Gallery, Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave., Space A2 Free. RSVP at instagram.com/inspiredart_shows

Celebrating Belmar History & Black Santa Monica: Historic Belmar Park will come alive with “Continuum”, a free, all-ages celebration honoring the history and legacy of Black Santa Monica. The afternoon features live music, KCRW DJs, a vendor village curated by Black Market Flea, art and historical exhibits, and conversations about Belmar’s history with journalist Sam Sanders and historian Alison Rose Jefferson. There will also be a Bloom Bar, family-friendly art activities and more. Sunday, Oct. 11, noon–5 p.m., 1650 Seventh St. Free. santamonica.gov/events/42vb7kgkxxhxr8csyyh45m2mt/202610111200

Off the Hook Seafood Festival: Seafood lovers, prepare to get shucking. This signature event returns to the Santa Monica Pier for its eighth annual celebration, featuring tastings from more than 20 local chefs and restaurants, wine and beverage tastings, live yacht rock, and oyster shucking and slurping competitions. The event also raises funds and awareness for Heal the Bay, making it a pretty good excuse to eat your way through a Sunday afternoon. Sunday, Oct. 11, 4–7 p.m., Santa Monica Pier. 21+. offthehookseafoodfest.com

Western Wednesday Returns: Dust off those boots and head to Santa Monica Place for Western Wednesday, a free weekly line-dancing night with professional instructors leading lessons for beginners and seasoned dancers alike. Stick around for happy-hour specials at participating restaurants, and don’t miss the Halloween-themed finale on Oct. 28—costumes are encouraged. Every Wednesday in October, 6–8 p.m., Center Plaza at Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Place santamonicaplace.com/events

ONGOING: Museum of Illusions; The CUBE VR; Splatter Studio; Wellness & Waves (Saturdays through 10/17); Locals’ Night Third Thursdays; Perrys Beach House DJ Event (Saturdays and Sundays in Sept.); “Into the Woods” at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC
SMC Foundation’s ‘Launch the Future’ raises \$166,500 for STEM students

The Santa Monica College Foundation raised \$166,500 toward its \$175,000 goal at “Launch the Future,” a Sept. 26 celebration of STEM at Santa Monica College. The event drew more than 150 community leaders, philanthropists, educators, students and supporters.

The money will help expand opportunities for SMC students pursuing STEM pathways.

The event was held throughout SMC’s new 110,000-square-foot Math + Science Building. From the outdoor atrium to the rooftop, guests took part in interactive experiences and experiments led by students, explored specialized laboratories and met the students and faculty who use the building. Guests also visited the SMC Planetarium & Observatory, including a dozen research-grade telescopes, before gathering on the rooftop for panoramic views, food and drinks.

“‘Launch the Future’ provided our community with a firsthand look at the incredible work happening at Santa Monica College and the students at the center of it,” said SMC Foundation President Lizzy Moore. “This evening was a wonderful reminder of what is possible when our community invests in the next generation of STEM leaders.”

“People assume a community college is all lecture halls and intro courses, but SMC put real instruments in my hands and rewired my sense of the possible,” said Jaxon Smith, a materials science and engineering major.

Many SMC STEM students are the first in their families to attend college and often juggle multiple life responsibilities. The campaign will support them through hands-on research, labs equipped and maintained with industry-standard technology, and access to scholarships, conferences and professional networks.

“Philanthropic support helps us create opportunities beyond the classroom that can make a meaningful difference in a student’s academic journey,” said SMC Foundation Development Director Katie Moe.

The Math + Science Building opened in November 2025. The LEED Gold-certified facility features specialized laboratories, collaborative learning spaces, a planetarium and an observatory equipped with research-grade telescopes.

The foundation thanked its sponsors and supporters. Visionary-level sponsors were SMC Board President Margaret Sohagi and her husband, SMC alum Lauren Reager; Recharge; and the SMC Emeritus Program. Ava MD was a Catalyst-level sponsor, and many other donors contributed.

The campaign remains open, with \$8,500 left to reach the goal. To make a gift, visit foundation.smc.edu/STEM.

“Launch the Future’ provided our community with a firsthand look at the incredible work happening at Santa Monica College and the students at the center of it

- Lizzy Moore, SMC Foundation President

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Keats Elliott / Santa Monica College Foundation

SMC: Guests at the fundraising event enjoy nitro-artisan ice cream, where liquid nitrogen meets the science of freezing.

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

Santa Monica Airport Measure A Planning & Pre-Design Park Project
Project No. SP2809

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in SP2809 - Santa Monica Airport Measure A Planning & Pre-Design Park Project.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to further advance the planning and pre-design of the Park by focusing on connectivity improvements along 25th Street and Airport Avenue as well as pre-design of the Immersive Nature District.

RFP questions to be submitted to via OpenGov, no later than 5:00PM. on October 27, 2026.

Proposers shall upload RFP via OpenGov, no later than 5:00PM. on November 5, 2026.

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City’s bidding website at: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>.

5TH ANNUAL VOLLEY-WEEN

Santa Monica CARES
TOURISM SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

COSTUME PARTY & BEACH BBQ

3 PM-6 PM / WED OCT 28TH

GAMES, PRIZES & FUN COSTUME CONTEST

TRICKS, TREATS AND TOURNAMENT HEAT
Fundraiser to support local nonprofits during the holidays.

PERRY’S CAFE & BEACH RENTALS
2400 OCEAN FRONT WALK, SANTA MONICA
Sign up or more info email cares@santamonica.com or scan here.

TRADER JOES

FROM PAGE 1

The hearing is set for Oct. 13 when “Trader Joe’s Company” is scheduled to request a Minor Use Permit to allow the sale of a full line of alcohol for off-premises consumption in conjunction with a 17,633 square foot grocery store.

Trader Joe’s paid \$22 million, about \$1,236 per square foot, for the 17,800-square-foot building in December 2025. The Rite Aid closed in June of that year and while the site is adjacent to a still operating Pavillion’s store, the Rite Aid side of the lot has been fenced off since closure. The location did require a small zoning update which was approved in September of 2025.

The company has not formally announced

any plans for the location but the regulatory hearing is evidence the plan is ongoing. A store at 1331 Wilshire would be the fourth Trader Joe’s in Santa Monica provided all three of its current stores remain open.

For decades, the store on Pico Boulevard at 32nd Street was the city’s only Trader Joe’s. A second location opened at 2300 Wilshire in 2019 and a third opened downtown in 2022.

Meanwhile, a Venice location at 620 S. Lincoln Blvd. is moving through Los Angeles’ approval process.

The company filed an application in April of this year for a 12,585-square-foot store in the former Fox Venice theater. A Los Angeles zoning administrator approved full-line alcohol sales from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

editor@smdp.com

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

2018 to 2025 than any comparison city except Beverly Hills, and that substantial policy reforms by the city’s new leadership may improve its trajectory.

Santa Monica’s homeless population has held relatively steady for a decade but it remains heavily concentrated downtown, where it has more impact on businesses and visitors, according to a new RAND Corporation study.

The report, “Santa Monica’s Recent Economic and Social Trends: A Case Study with Regional Comparisons,” found that homelessness in the city has been stable since 2017, both overall and among people living unsheltered. The highest count in that period came in 2019, before the pandemic, at 1,026 people. Counts rose again from 2020 to 2023. The lowest came in 2026, at 793, though the 2026 data are preliminary, the authors wrote.

RAND’s totals come from its own analysis of Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority data and differ from LAHSA’s published count. The researchers counted each tent, vehicle and makeshift shelter as 1.7 people, roughly the average weight LAHSA has used in recent years.

The researchers also found homelessness is not new to Santa Monica. A 2006 city-funded Urban Institute report estimated the city hosted 2,000 of the roughly 66,000 people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County, suggesting a meaningful decline over two decades, though counting methods may have changed.

While the numbers have remained relatively steady, the city’s homeless population is consistently concentrated in a single census tract covering downtown, RAND found, and that tract drives much of the change in citywide counts.

However, other tracts together contain more homeless people than downtown, while areas near the airport and toward Brentwood have essentially none. Among comparison areas, only Venice had similar levels. Culver City, Beverly Hills and West Hollywood counted far fewer people, and Culver City’s increase from 2020 to 2022 has faded.

The authors concluded that business concerns may have more to do with the severity of individuals’ problems than with their numbers. Business owners pointed to unsheltered people with serious mental illness or untreated substance use disorders and the frustration of dealing with serial offenders who were not handled by public safety services. Every private-sector interviewee who was asked ranked disorder and crime tied to homelessness as the top problem downtown.

RAND said it is unlikely those perceptions are “entirely imagined.” Although it lacked data to measure acuity, the report said problem behavior may have worsened even as numbers held steady or fell. Separate RAND research in Los Angeles found acuity stayed constant as unsheltered numbers declined.

The report cited several pandemic-era factors: a more permissive tent policy adopted over virus concerns, the Metro E Line’s “end of the line” policy at its Santa Monica terminus and encampment policies used extensively in neighboring Venice. Officials in Beverly Hills and Culver City told researchers their cities are more inclined to move homeless people out of commercial districts, which they acknowledged simply shifts the problem. RAND said it could not verify that. Local interviewees also cited county decisions on siting facilities and harm reduction, over which the city has little control.

Researchers Jason M. Ward, Roland Neil and Lizhong Liu analyzed LAHSA point-in-time counts at the census tract level from 2017 to 2026, excluding the canceled 2021 count, and compared Santa Monica with Venice, Culver City, Beverly Hills and West Hollywood. They interviewed 14 of 19 people invited, including city staff, elected officials, business owners and development professionals, between March and August 2026. The authors note that the study did not include people with lived experience of homelessness or police representatives, relies on an annual count subject to measurement error and cannot establish causation.

LAHSA’s own 2026 count found 718 people experiencing homelessness in Santa Monica, down 11.6% from 812 in 2025 and the lowest since LAHSA took over the count. Unsheltered homelessness fell 18.7%. Over the same year, homelessness rose 3.4% to 45,194 in the city of Los Angeles and 1.2% to 73,040 countywide. Culver City’s raw count fell from 105 to 74, and Beverly Hills’ unsheltered count rose from 17 to 30, according to LAHSA.

Santa Monica has ended its contract with LAHSA or counts and will now pay for a monthly count administered by RAND.

A separate RAND report released in October 2025 found LAHSA’s count was 26% too low in 2024 and 32% too low in 2025 in Hollywood, Venice and Skid Row.

City policy has shifted sharply in recent years. The council declared a local emergency in February 2023 and has alternated between counting sleeping bags and bedrolls as evidence of illegal camping and allowing them. This year, the council voted to close the SaMoShel shelter, run by The People Concern, and build a city-controlled “Housing Focused System of Care.” The SaMo Bridge diversion hub, funded by a nearly \$8 million state grant, was designed to serve about 260 people a year but logged 462 referrals in its first year.

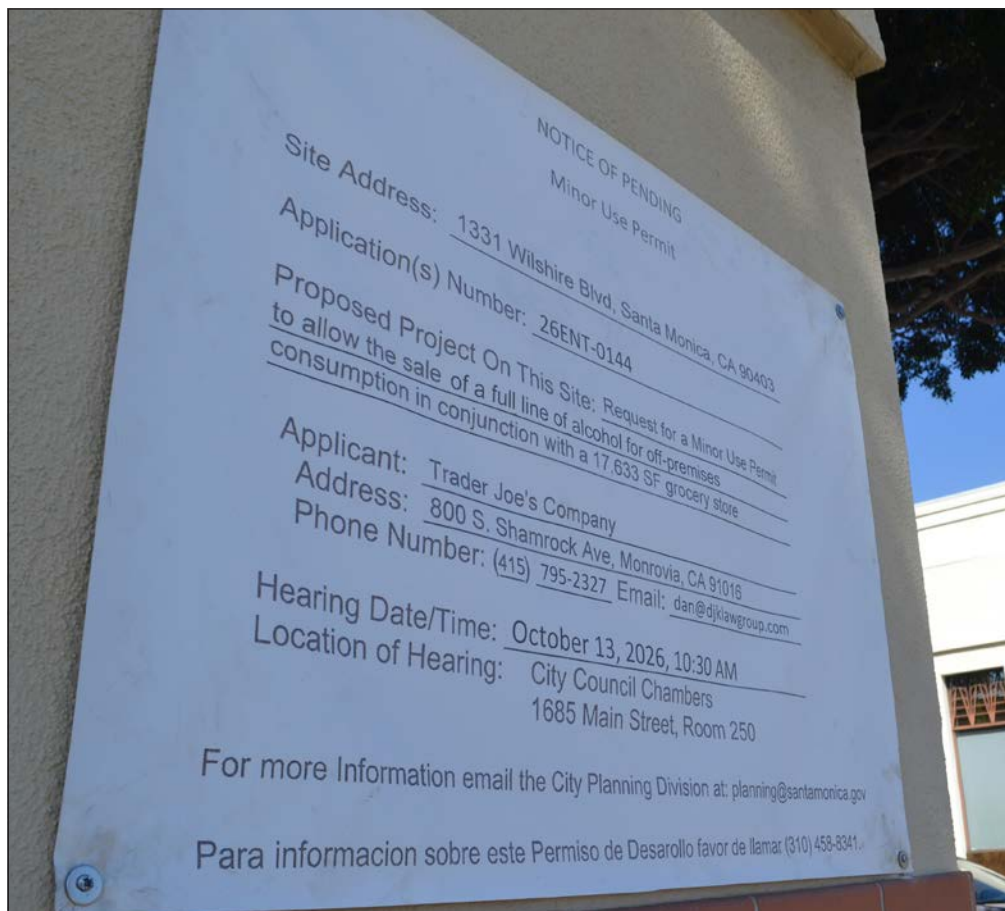
The city publishes no current total of homelessness spending across departments. The last one, a Moss Adams LLP audit of fiscal 2020-21, found \$42.5 million a year, including \$25.4 million in public safety costs. SMPD has historically reported about 70 of its arrests involve homeless victims or suspects.

The issue weighs on the city’s reputation. In a 2025 visitor survey 19.2% of repeat visitors said the city had gotten worse, and 60.8% of those cited homelessness.

RAND recommended more frequent and detailed measurement of homelessness, including public-facing key performance indicators, noting that existing data give “only a minimal portrait” once a year. Because homelessness and crime are concentrated downtown, the authors said proactively engaging high-risk people there is likely a resource-efficient way to improve safety and reduce disorder, pointing to the new police substation at Santa Monica Place and the Homeless Liaison Program as steps in that direction.

The authors also urged the city to consider restarting its Homeless Community Court, which began in 2007 and ran for more than a decade. The voluntary court used progressive plea bargaining and flexible, non-carceral sentences to steer participants with the most severe mental health needs into treatment and reduce repeat offenses. Research and interviews point to a small number of people who use an outsized share of public services and criminal justice resources, the report said, and a similar county program now operates in Los Angeles.

editor@smdp.com



SMDP Photo

PERMIT: The permit hearing scheduled for next week is evidence that Trader Joe’s is serious about opening a new store on Wilshire.

Explore your neighborhood.
Support your community.

Buy Local
SANTA MONICA



It makes a difference!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

Journey to LA28 Olympic Torch Relay begins in Atlanta, with flame set to visit all 50 states

The journey to the 2028 Olympic Torch Relay kicked off Sept. 29 in Atlanta, home of the 1996 Games and the last U.S. Summer Games, as LA28 prepares to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The relay will make history by traveling to all 50 states. Organizers said it will be one of the largest in Olympic history, passing iconic landmarks, stopping at major cultural and sporting events and hosting festival celebrations in select cities.

The flame will be lit in Olympia, Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Games, before traveling through all 50 states in spring 2028. The full route will be announced in 2027.

The Paralympic Torch Relay will follow the conclusion of the Olympic Games in August 2028, with the flame originating in Stoke Mandeville, United Kingdom, the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement. Its U.S. starting location will be announced later.

“Every Olympic Games begins with a single flame, and carrying that flame to Los Angeles is an honor and privilege that we’ll share with every corner of the country,” said Casey Wasserman, LA28 chairperson and president.

The flame will return to Atlanta 32 years after the 1996 Games’ flame was extinguished.

“Atlanta was proud to carry that flame in 1996. We will be proud to welcome it back,” said Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens.

The relays will be powered by four presenting partners: Coca-Cola, JPMorganChase, Allstate and Xfinity. They represent the deepest level of commercial partner investment. Partners will designate select torchbearers and host stops at partner locations along the route.

Coca-Cola has partnered with the Olympic Movement for nearly a century and first served as a presenting partner of the Olympic Torch Relay at the 1992 Barcelona Games.

“As the journey to LA28 begins, it’s meaningful to welcome the flame to Atlanta, the hometown of Coca-Cola for nearly 140 years,” said Henrique Braun, CEO of The Coca-Cola Company.

Jennifer Roberts, CEO of Chase Consumer Banking, said supporting the relay reflects the firm’s commitment to the customers, clients and communities it serves. Allstate’s role builds on more than 20 years of supporting athletes. Comcast, an LA28 founding partner, will showcase Xfinity’s broadband and mobile services along the route.

More information on torchbearer nominations and additional partners will be announced in the coming months. For more information, visit <https://la28.org/en/torch-relays.html>

“Every Olympic Games begins with a single flame, and carrying that flame to Los Angeles is an honor and privilege that we’ll share with every corner of the country

- Casey Wasserman, LA28 chairperson and president



Courtesy Image

OLYMPICS: LA28 kicks off Olympic Torch Relay planning in Atlanta, with flame set to visit all 50 states in 2028.



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Development Agreement 26ENT-0124
1355 3rd Street Promenade/301 Santa Monica Boulevard

A public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Santa Monica to consider approval of a Development Agreement for the installation and operation of a new, approximately 1,000 square-foot full-motion LED digital display that would be installed at the corner above the ground floor of the existing Landmark commercial building located at 1355 Third Street Promenade. The digital display will display paid on-premise and off-premise advertising and community content including civic announcements, community interest content, public safety information, public art programming, events information, and local business spotlights. The proposal also includes installation of a reconstructed historic blade sign for on-site branding/identification of the existing building’s tenants.

The City Council will review Planning Commission’s October 7, 2026 recommendation and comments on the Development Agreement, and also consider adopting findings of categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities), Section 15303 (Class 3 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), Section 15311 (Accessory Structures), and Section 15331 (Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation) of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026 AT 5:30 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 councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, 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 City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: 26ENT-0124 Development Agreement
at 1355 3rd Street Promenade/301
Santa Monica Boulevard

VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Rachel Kwok by e-mail at Rachel.Kwok@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at (310) 458-8211 or (310) 917-6626 TDD at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. 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 público sobre una nueva señalización en Santa Mónica. 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



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: 26ENT-0218 (Appeal of Landmark Designation Denial 26ENT-0089)
1921 20th Street
APPELLANT: Jack Hillbrand
APPLICANT: Santa Monica Conservancy
PROPERTY OWNER: Lydia King

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Appeal of the Landmarks Commission denial of designation application 26ENT-0089 for the property located at 1921 20th Street determining that the residential structure, in whole or in part, should not be designated as a City Landmark. The City Council will consider the Landmarks Commission denial, and whether the record demonstrates that the building does or does not meet one or more of the required criteria for Landmark designation pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.56.100(A). If the City Council finds the property does meet one or more of the required criteria, the Council will also consider whether an associated Landmark Parcel should be defined and described to preserve, maintain, protect, or safeguard the Landmark. Council will also consider compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including an exemption under CEQA Guideline 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption).

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, October 27, 2026, AT 5:30 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 councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, 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 City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to: **City Clerk**
Re: 26ENT-0218 (Appeal of 26ENT-0089)
VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
 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 by e-mail at stephanie.reich@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 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).

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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.

VETERAN

FROM PAGE 1

out better than he expected.

"To be honest, I've been pleasantly shocked by how accepting and open they've been," he said. "When I was 18, if a 61-year-old walked into my college classroom, back then it would have been like something straight out of 'Back to School' with Rodney Dangerfield. But today's Gen Z students at SMC have been remarkably kind."

He credits that reception to not putting on an act.

"I don't try to dress like them, use their slang or pretend to be something I'm not," Kerwin said. "I just show up as myself and respect them as peers. Because I don't try to fake it, a genuine mutual respect naturally forms."

For Kerwin, it is also a hometown project. His first television show was taped in Santa Monica, he said, not far from the Civic Auditorium, where the Academy Awards were held in the 1960s. He now lives within walking distance of the campus.

"It feels completely right," he said. "I have immense affection for Santa Monica — it's an absolute jewel of a city with an incredible history."

Returning as a student, he said, connects him directly to the college's legacy.

"Look at SMC alumni like James Dean, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Ryan Seacrest," Kerwin said. "By the way, you rarely hear those three names in the same sentence, but it shows the extraordinary talent that has passed through these halls."

"Being able to bring my broadcast background here and give back to the campus community as a current student is a true full-circle moment," he added.

Kerwin sees the smartphone as the latest in a long line of technologies that older generations have worried about.

"When I was growing up, the prevailing warning was that television was going to rot your brain; for my father's generation, people worried that listening to the radio too much was the threat," he said. "Now it's just a smaller screen in everyone's hand."

He said he hopes people who watch the

“When I was growing up, the prevailing warning was that television was going to rot your brain; for my father’s generation, people worried that listening to the radio too much was the threat

- John Kerwin

live conversations walk away with “a real sense of community.”

"Watching these unscripted conversations happen live on the quad shows us that we're all in this together," he said. "Whether we're navigating new technology, the future, relationships or career uncertainties, Gen Z and older generations are far less different than we think."

"My hope is that a student, a community member or a viewer watching the interview sees a segment and thinks, 'Hey, I'm going through that exact same thing,'" Kerwin said.

maaz@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

to \$35 million, money regular school districts do not receive?

While enrollment declined by 23% in the past 10 years and classroom teachers decreased 14% from 572 to 494, non-teacher staff and administrators have increased by 9% from 703 to 768 positions. Teachers are only 39% of District staff. The state average is about 48%.

At the October 1 District board meeting, the District revealed it did not meet the election code requirement that at least 55% of expenditures were spent on classroom expenses last year. The District overspent on non-classroom expenditures by \$16 million. For the PAC supporting Measure ES to continue to say that up to 73 teachers "are on the chopping block"

is just fear-mongering. It's the excessive administrators that need to be cut.

Another way to make up a potential deficit is to reduce the number of permit students. Of the 8623 students in the District, about 1000 are permit students who do not live in Santa Monica. Because funding is not based on enrollment, not only is the District not getting additional money for these students, it's taking money away from struggling LAUSD.

I support our public schools. I went to public schools, and our son went to Grant, JAMS, and Samohi. I'm against using our schools to pass a tax that benefits the City. A City poll a year ago showed that if this were put on the ballot as a City tax, it would not have the needed support. Don't let them pull a fast one on us.

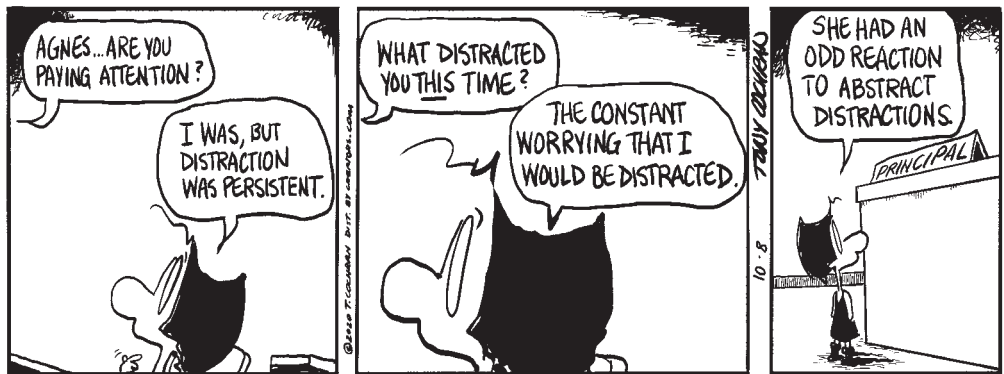
Karen Melick

GET IT DAILY...



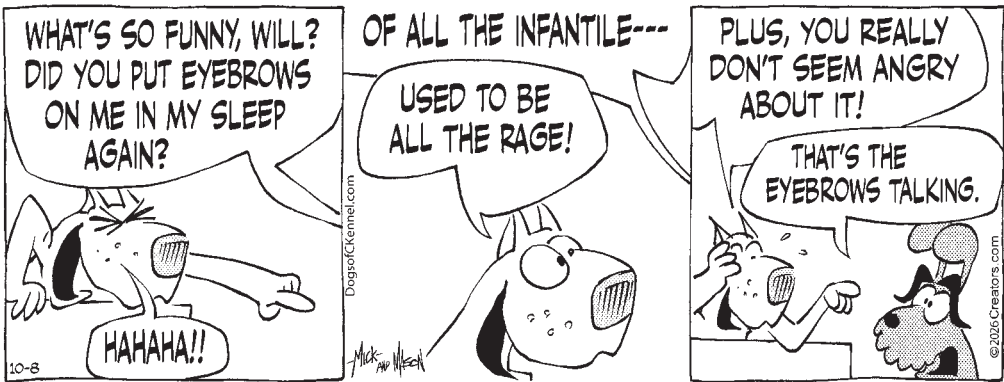
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



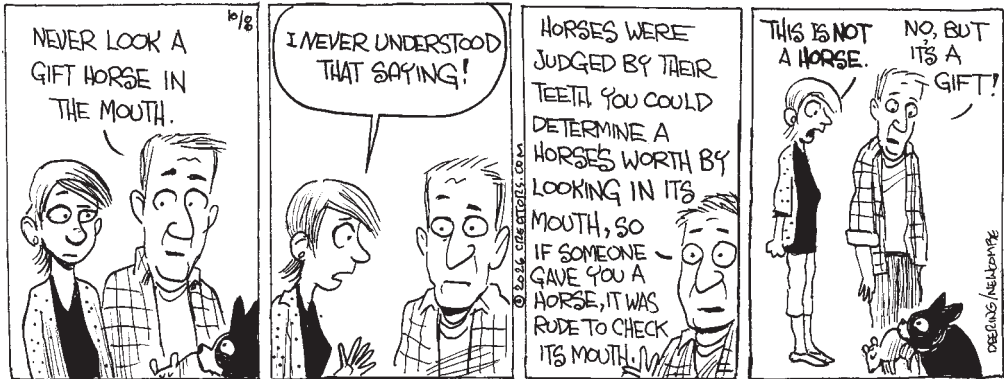
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



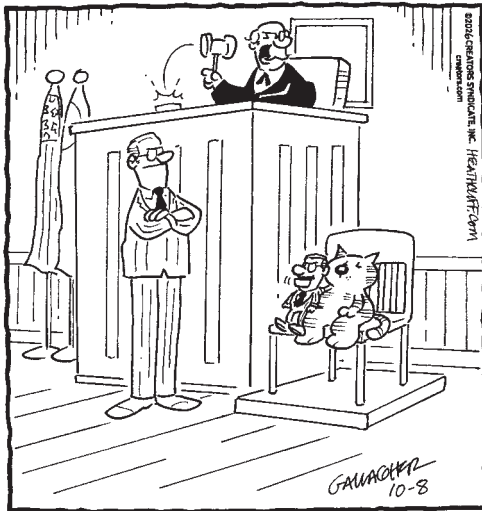
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



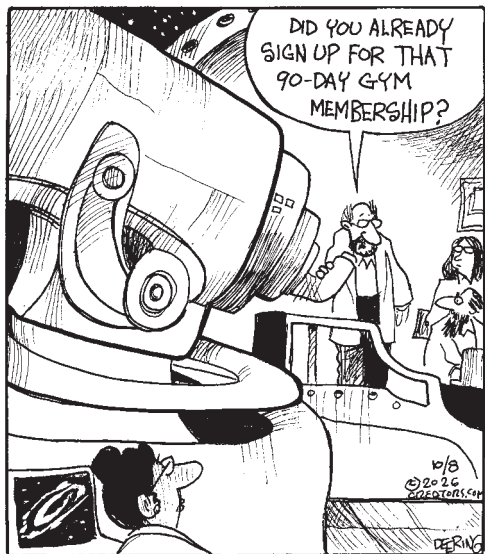
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 7087

Because it's there

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

Achievement	Crampons	Ice cold	Shelf
Alps	Crest	Leader	Slide
Anchor	Crimp	Massive	Snow
Attempt	Descend	Mountaineer	Solo
Axes	Down	Peak	Sport
Base	Fluke	Posts	Steep
Boots	Gaps	Precarious	Struggle
Cams	Goal	Ridge	Summit
Caution	Haul	Rock	Upward
Climb	Heave	Rope	Wall
Cool	High	Scale	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

The smell of excitement



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 8)

In your Year of the Healing Touch, you've a nearly miraculous gift for restoring both physical and emotional vitality. People (including you) feel better because of your work and presence - remarkably so. Your profound impact will be celebrated and rewarded. More highlights: Collaborations with unique results, temporary access to different lifestyles, two items checked off the bucket list. Capricorn and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 1, 19, 24 and 6.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). “Don’t judge a book by its cover” was said in simpler times when covers were either expensive or not. These days the countless artistic choices that go into packaging are often an accurate indication of what’s inside. Judge away.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Things have occurred that you didn’t deserve to have happen to you. Acknowledge this truth, and if there was a lesson in it, assume you already learned it - no need to keep processing, digging, ruminating. Onward - ever onward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You decide who to trust by noting how they show up over time. This is no time to be distracted by ideas about core goodness, soul ties or anything too mystical. Look at the hard data. Facts won’t lead you astray today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Even genuinely remarkable people may be living inside a curated identity. People choose their words and angle toward their best light. Tune into the intent behind the words, the vibe behind the visuals and the energy behind the smile.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What seems like a bad mood is actually just stuck energy. To find it, do a body scan. Locate the tension and touch it. You intuitively know how to release the bind and open so joy can circulate once more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A lot of mundane maintenance comes with just existing. The people who are actually “into it” have the most opportunity for joy. Enjoy the challenges in cooking, cleaning, fitness, emotional hygiene or finance? Then today will be a blast.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A lucky change of circumstance calls for a fun rewrite of your plans. You can keep the heart of it and adjust around that. A good outcome has many possible routes, and today’s detour will be more interesting than the original idea.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The stability of your closest relationships has given you a secure base, and now you’re ready for someone or something less predictable. The challenge ahead will feel stimulating and manageable - enough to wake you up without overwhelming you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You’ll be among those with fragile egos and high sensitivities. Too bad it’s so risky to be honest. Though the truth happens to be an uncomfortable one, it’s time to either share it or distance yourself from this scene.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Someone falls outside the official borders of your responsibility, yet their welfare matters to you. You’ll step in because your conscience has a wider jurisdiction than any job description. What you give changes their path and strengthens your own.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You used to think about the day you would finally win at a particular game, get to a number on the scale or restore the balance in a difficult relationship. Today you may remember the era in which this mattered so much to you and note the current level of importance; zero.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You give love as you feel it. But you also give love in acts of care that do not read as particularly emotive. Giving someone a ride or filling their plate count. Walking a dog counts. Doing the dishes counts, too.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

F	A	B	L	E		G	L	O	M		S	P	A	M
A	U	R	A	L		L	O	W	E		T	A	D	A
C	R	O	S	S	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y	R	U	N
T	A	S	S	E	L	S		S	E	A	M	I	L	E
					U	S	B				M	I	S	T
E	S	T	A	T	E		O	B	E	S	E			
C	H	I	N	A		O	D	O	R			S	I	S
H	U	N	D	R	E	D	Y	A	R	D	D	A	S	H
O	N	E				L	I	A	R		U	N	C	L
					R	E	F	E	R		S	N	A	K
L	O	N	E	R			T	E	A					
O	C	U	L	I	S	T		A	N	A	G	R	A	M
T	H	R	E	E	L	E	G	G	E	D	R	A	C	E
T	E	S	T		O	R	A	L		D	I	G	I	N
O	R	E	S		W	I	S	E		S	T	U	D	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	7	3	1	6	2	9	4	5
1	6	9	5	4	8	2	3	7
5	4	2	3	7	9	8	6	1
2	3	8	4	9	1	5	7	6
7	5	4	6	2	3	1	9	8
6	9	1	7	8	5	4	2	3
9	8	6	2	1	7	3	5	4
4	1	5	9	3	6	7	8	2
3	2	7	8	5	4	6	1	9

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

Newsday Crossword

OPTIMIST'S CLUB by Clive Probert
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Derby, for one
- 5 December candy shape
- 9 Spot for a yacht
- 14 Name on the cover of *Roots*
- 15 Farmer's team
- 16 Representative
- 17 Sort of skirt
- 18 Single-minded expert
- 19 Cymbals sound
- 20 With 58-Across, optimist's credo
- 23 Verbal contest
- 24 Crusty concoction
- 25 Bumbler

- 28 Small portions
- 31 Bounce (off)
- 33 On-tap offerings
- 37 With 43-Across, exhibits optimism
- 39 Antiseptic acid
- 41 Bearded antelope
- 42 Went boating, perhaps
- 43 See 37-Across
- 46 Moves of agreement
- 47 A perfect-game spoiler
- 48 Essence
- 50 Toe preceder
- 51 Caustic cleaner
- 53 Go by
- 58 See 20-Across
- 62 Crammed, with "up"
- 64 Texter's preface

- 65 Much-cherished
- 66 Southwestern shrine
- 67 Claim on property
- 68 Basic French verb
- 69 Former baseball commissioner Bud
- 70 Bambi's dad
- 71 Snow melter
- 8 Eventually become
- 9 Part of BA
- 10 City near New Delhi
- 11 Certain sitcom DVD set
- 12 Follower of walk- or write-
- 13 Utmost degree
- 21 Pay-stub abbr.
- 22 Researches in depth
- 26 Pined
- 27 Will fully nourish
- 29 Cranberry sources
- 30 Of sound waves
- 32 Quotation citation
- 33 Monk's boss
- 34 Doone of fiction
- 35 1820s navigational

DOWN

- 1 Leafless, as some fall lawns
- 2 Animated
- 3 Show-biz luminary
- 4 Added attraction
- 5 Keep under wraps
- 6 Rink jump
- 7 Claudius successor

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
23								24				25	26	27
				28		29	30		31		32			
33	34	35	36		37			38						
39				40		41				42				
43					44				45		46			
47							48			49				
50				51		52			53		54	55	56	57
			58	59				60	61					
62	63					64					65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

(through 10/18)

WHAT'S NEW & DELICIOUS?

Oktoberfest at The Miramar: Forget Munich. Oktoberfest is coming to Santa Monica. The Fairmont Miramar is transforming The Bungalow into a Bavarian beer garden with Paulaner and Sam Adams Oktoberfest beers, bratwurst, roasted chicken, pretzels, apple strudel, traditional games, polka and live bands. Admission is free, and lederhosen are presumably encouraged. Thursday–Saturday, Oct. 8–10, 5–10 p.m., 101 Wilshire Blvd. fairmont-miramar.com/events/oktoberfest-at-the-miramar-2

Wine Night at La Petite Monique: Looking for a cute excuse to drink wine by the beach? Venice Beach Wine Club is taking over La Petite Monique for an intimate evening of wine, bites and good company at the Oceana. Expect a relaxed night of tasting and mingling in a beautiful Santa Monica setting. Thursday, Oct. 8, 7:00 pm, La Petite Monique at the Oceana, 849 Ocean Ave. tickpick.com/organizer/event/wine-night-at-the-oceana-69669890

Biscuits, Blues & Sweet Tea: Fresh-baked Southern biscuits with vanilla-spiced honey butter, strawberry jam, sweet tea and live blues? Say less. This Santa Monica gathering brings together all the ingredients for a very good afternoon: buttery biscuits, cold sweet tea, live music and a little Southern hospitality. Sunday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m., 2421 Michigan Ave. instagram.com/p/Ddr06dKEo41

Rustic Canyon 20th Anniversary: “The Funke Years” Dinner: Acclaimed chef Evan Funke (Felix, Mother Wolf, Funke) returns to the kitchen he led from 2008 to 2012, where he first crafted his signature approach to regional Italian cooking. Funke collaborates with the current kitchen team on a multi-course prix-fixe menu, accompanied by pours from former Rustic sommelier Jenna Isaac and Red Car Wines co-owners Richard and Allison Crowell. Tuesday, Oct. 13 Rustic Canyon, 1119 Wilshire Blvd. resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/rustic-canyon

Penfolds & La Monique 75th Anniversary Dinner: Celebrate a pair of major milestones as La Monique marks its first anniversary while teaming up with legendary Australian estate Penfolds for the 75th anniversary of Grange. Hosted by Penfolds Chief Winemaker Peter Gago, the intimate evening features rare library vintages, the new 100-point Grange and the 50-Year-Old Rare Tawny, paired with a curated menu by Chef David Fricaud featuring dishes like Beef Wellington and Butternut Squash Agnolotti. Thursday, Oct. 15, 6 p.m., 849 Ocean Ave., \$500 per person. opentable.com/r/la-monique-santa-monica

Multiple SaMo Spots on The Infatuation’s Best Happy Hours In LA List: Fig, Rustic Canyon and Pacific Catch prove you don’t have to cross the 405 to find a good happy hour. Fig offers 50% off its food and drinks during “Fig at 5,” Rustic Canyon has \$10 cocktails and wines plus discounted snacks, and Pacific Catch offers \$9 cocktails and wine, \$6 beer and \$10 ceviche. Because sometimes the best way to celebrate making it through the day is to make your wallet slightly happier, too. theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/best-happy-hour-deals-la

Kogen Omakase Brings High-End Sushi to Santa Monica: There’s a new omakase option in town—and this one is not exactly a casual Tuesday night sushi run. Kogen Omakase, a 10-seat sushi counter just steps from the ocean, features a seasonal 20-course experience from Chef Yasu Iwai, who previously worked at Taikun at the Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel. Expect fish from Tokyo’s Toyosu Market, seasonal California ingredients and plenty of high-end touches, including caviar and truffle. 109 Santa Monica Blvd. The 20-course experience is \$295. la.eater.com/restaurant-news/307254/kogen-omakase-santa-monica-openings

Further Afield: CHAIN Takes Over Topanga Social: B.J. Novak’s CHAIN has opened a six-month residency at Westfield Topanga’s Topanga Social, bringing together exclusive creations from chefs Roy Choi, Calvin Eng, Mason Hereford and Mei Lin. The menu mixes nostalgic chain-food favorites with a decidedly chef-y spin, alongside CHAIN classics and a new General Mills-inspired snack and dessert menu featuring Lucky Charms, Reese’s Puffs and Cinnamon Toast Crunch. Through March 2027, Westfield Topanga, 6600 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Canoga Park.

More Further Afield: 130 Musicians, 10 Arts Organizations & One Big Experiment: Experimental music collective Wild Up launches the inaugural Democracy Sessions, bringing together 10 of L.A.’s leading arts organizations for a month of performances exploring music as a collective practice. Now through Nov. 4, various locations locations.wildup.org/series/democracy-sessions-2026

Looking Ahead: Main St. Day of the Dog Festival (10/18); LA Times Food Bowl (10/23-24); Montana Avenue Halloween Hop (10/31); Día de los Muertos at the Pier (10/31)

Know something I missed? Send tips, events and questionable culinary decisions to sean@smdp.com or instagram.com/seanbesser.



THURSDAY | OCTOBER 8

PACIFIC PALISADES FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS JUST COFFEE

10:00 a.m. The Penmar 1233 Rose Avenue Pacific Palisades, CA. A relaxed morning coffee gathering for friends and newcomers, with fresh air, open views, and easy conversation. Pacific Palisades Friends and Newcomers hosts “Just Coffee” on the second Thursday of each month. Come start your morning with friends, fresh air and good coffee. Open-air fairway views and great company in a relaxed outdoor setting. This month’s Just Coffee will take place at The Penmar, 1233 Rose Avenue, Venice. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pacific-palisades-friends-and-newcomers-just-coffee/19945553/2026-10-08T10>

SMC GLASS PUMPKIN SALES

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, CA. The SMC Glass Pumpkin Sales are wonderful opportunities to buy handcrafted glass pumpkins. Each pumpkin is a truly unique work of art that can enhance fall-season home and office decor, as well as satisfy holiday and year-round gift needs. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the SMC Art Department. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/smc-glass-pumpkin-sales/19944713/2026-10-08T10>

LOW IMPACT GROUP EXERCISE CLASS

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan - Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Power up your Thursday with our free, low-impact group exercise classes — open to all members of the Legion Family, designed for every fitness level, and held from 10:30am to 11:30pm at Palisades Post 283. Come move, recharge, and feel great heading into the rest of your day! Sign up here to receive emails about upcoming exercise classes and cancellations: [post283.com/exercise](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-10-08T11). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-10-08T11>

REACH PROGRAM APPLICATION SUPPORT

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Main Library, Lobby. Office of Sustainability staff answer questions about the city’s Renter’s Energy and Cooling/Heating Program, which offers free appliances for income-qualified Santa Monica renters.

COMPUTER PRACTICE: OPEN LAB

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Main Library, Computer Classroom. Build computer skills at your own pace through guided online lessons. Support is available if needed.

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 9

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ocean View Park 2701 Bernard Way Santa Monica. A 45-minute fully guided mindfulness meditation outdoors, open to all experience levels; bring a chair or cushion and settle in by the ocean. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a view

of the sparkling ocean. (Tuesday and Thursday offered via zoom). Free— Any contributions are accepted and appreciated. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/19479748/2026-10-09T10>

FIX-IT FAMILIA STORYTIME

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. / Pico Branch, The Annex. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and enjoy a special storytime featuring Lucky Diaz’s, Fix-It Familia, followed by a craft inspired by the book. For ages 5 - 11.

BUNDY TRIANGLE NIGHT MARKET

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Bundy Triangle 1500 S Bundy Drive Los Angeles. Cayton Children’s Museum offers free hands-on activities for families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market every Friday through October. Cayton Children’s Museum will offer free, weekly hands-on activities for children and families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market in Sawtelle every Friday from March 27 through the end of October, the museum announced. The programming, offered in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. each Friday at the Bundy Triangle, a public space at Ohio Avenue and Bundy Drive. The broader night market, presented by Raw Inspiration, runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bundy-triangle-night-market/18490079/2026-10-09T17>

SUNSET SESSIONS

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Penmar 1233 Rose Avenue Los Angeles, CA. Live music at The Penmar as the sun sets. A weekly series of outdoor evening concerts with a relaxed vibe. Music and good vibes as the Sun sets. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sunset-sessions/18537173/2026-10-09T17>

CHRISTY CARLSON ROMANO WITH MARA WILSON! ONCE UPON A TRAINWRECK!

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Zibby’s Bookshop 1113 Montana Ave Santa Monica, CA. Disney Channel alum Christy Carlson Romano talks with Mara Wilson about childhood fame, resilience, and memoir, in a candid author-event conversation. \$34.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/christy-carlson-romano-with-mara-wilson-once-upon-a-trainwreck-/19783889/2026-10-09T18>

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 10

ONCE UPON A GARDEN: A STORYTIME

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main Street, Santa Monica 90405. Join us for a garden-themed story time surrounded by nature! We’ll enjoy stories about flowers, plants, and growing gardens. Along with garden-inspired songs, and fun movement activities and songs. Come explore, read, and learn as we celebrate all the wonderful things that grow in the garden. “Once Upon a Garden: A Storytime” will be led by librarians from the Santa Monica Public Library. Story time begins at 10 am. Join us at 9 am to grab a cup of coffee, kid friendly snacks and wandering around the gardens to see what’s growing, pick up seed packets and chat with gardeners. Limited seating, please bring blankets or chairs. For more info: [SANTAMONICA.GOV/Events](https://www.santamonica.gov/events).



*Grazie mille
for voting us*
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