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Volume 25 Issue 235

THE WEEKENDER 10/16-10/18

smdp.com

A year into Realignment Plan, Santa Monica beats budget forecast and turns to revitalization

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica finished its last fiscal year \$7.3 million better than projected and is on

track to balance its general fund operating budget by July 2027, city officials told the City Council on Tuesday in a one-year review of the city's Realignment Plan.

The council took three separate votes on

the item. It first voted 7-0 to approve a package of related actions, including a vendor contract and fee to launch a rent registry for about 15,000 apartments not covered by rent control and guidelines for a \$3 million

program meant to fill vacant storefronts downtown.

City Manager Oliver Chi said the

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 11

Pumpkin season takes over Santa Monica



PUMPKIN PATCH: Plump, ribbed and glowing in shades of orange, pumpkins steal the show at the Santa Monica Farmers Market this October. Local farmers stack their autumn harvest high as shoppers browse, pick and haul home the perfect gourd.

Fran Lyness

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Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident with a significant commitment to the public safety and wellbeing of the City and its community members and must have knowledge of, or experience with law enforcement, public safety policies and issues, or social services policies and issues

Applications due by noon, December 1, 2026

Appointments to be made by City Council, **December 8, 2026**

Applicants are encouraged to attend the meeting and speak about their qualifications during public comment.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/boards

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Santa Monica to study conservancy for Great Park at airport site

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday directed city staff to study how a nonprofit conservancy could help build and sustain the Great Park planned for the Santa Monica Airport site, which is scheduled to close at the end of 2028.

The council approved the item on a voice vote with no opposition or abstentions late in its Oct. 13 meeting. Councilmember Lana Negrete made the motion, and Councilmember Barry Snell seconded it.

The item directs City Manager Oliver Chi to return in spring 2027 with a study session on possible organizational models for a Great Park Conservancy, the range of city involvement in creating one and whether the city can and should seed an initial funding round.

control,” Hall said. “We want the public to keep its voice.”

Hall said private money is “ready to be committed” and the city wants to be able to put it to work from the park’s first day. He said the council would eventually explore other tools, including a Great Park Enterprise Fund and possibly an enhanced infrastructure financing district, but that Tuesday’s item was focused on philanthropy. Any conservancy, he said, should be designed alongside the park’s master plan rather than added afterward.

RESIDENTS PUSH FOR LASTING PROTECTIONS

More than 20 written comments were submitted on the item, most of them supportive. Many, however, asked the council to widen the study’s scope.

Alan Levenson, president of the group Measure LC Defense, wrote that the five-page motion never mentions Measure LC. He cited a January 2025 city attorney memorandum warning that, under the state Surplus Land Act, selling or leasing airport land long term could limit the city’s ability to restrict residential use despite the measure. He also wrote that the city had removed longstanding land-sale safeguards from its municipal code in March.

Levenson and more than half a dozen other residents, several using nearly identical language, asked the council to direct staff to study permanent protections such as formal park dedication, recorded deed restrictions and conservation easements, and to identify a dedicated funding source.

Airport Commission Chair Andrew Wilder, writing in his personal capacity, and resident Patti Braun pointed to the city’s existing Airport Fund as a model for an enterprise fund that would keep revenue generated on the 192-acre site in the park.

The council did not take up those requests during its brief discussion before the vote.

‘DAY ONE’ ACTIVATION

Torosis said she had taken part in a city design program for mayors focused on planning for the park, where participants spoke with experts around the country, including the person who led Brooklyn Bridge Park.

“The number one thing that we’ve learned in all of these discussions and study is that if the park is not activated on day one, we’re going to have a problem,” Torosis said.

She said she hoped the study session would look at using a conservancy both for the park’s opening and for the long term, saying the city must ensure “a robust series of activations on Jan. 1, 2029.”

COMMISSION SEEKS A ROLE

People involved with the city’s Recreation and Parks Commission asked that it be involved while staff prepares the study, not only at the session itself.

Karen Melick, who leads the commission’s ad hoc group on fundraising and naming rights, wrote that five minutes of public input after staff has made its recommendations

“They made it clear that the land at our airport belongs to the public, and that it should become parks and open space when we close it, unless the people vote otherwise

- Dan Hall, Councilmember

Councilmember Dan Hall, who brought the item with Councilmember Ellis Raskin and Mayor Caroline Torosis, tied the effort to Measure LC, the charter amendment voters passed in 2014.

“They made it clear that the land at our airport belongs to the public, and that it should become parks and open space when we close it, unless the people vote otherwise,” Hall said.

Hall said building the park is a capital program, but keeping it running is an ongoing operating challenge. Cities that solved the first problem and forgot the second “are cautionary tales,” he said, while those that planned for both have great parks.

He framed the study around three questions: “Who governs, who pays, and who answers to the public?”

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OPINION

UNMUTED

Devan Sipher

Send comments to
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Parsing the Santa Monica parcel tax

A funny thing happened on the way to balancing the city’s budget. Twelve million dollars annually given to the schools disappeared. There’s no need to send out a search party, because the funds fortuitously turned up as found money on the city’s balance sheet. But that doesn’t help the pillaged Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD). So it’s up to the voters to pay the ransom, I mean pass Measure ES.

Let me rewind. Almost exactly a year ago, the city initiated a Realignment Plan, or as the Mayor proudly calls it, a Renaissance Plan, although it’s worth noting the Renaissance mostly benefited the upper class and not the working class. Regardless, it’s a bold and meticulous plan, and the Council and City Manager deserve credit for the hard work invested and the political risks taken.

That’s why I chose not to initially write about the plan’s flaws, but chief among them was a clever accounting trick buried in the document. The city eliminated the aforementioned \$12 million payment to SMMUSD, and in its place suggested a tax on each “parcel” of land to replace the missing money.

Theoretically, it was a win-win. The city would get help digging its way out of its current financial hole, and the public would be okay with pitching in, as long as it was to support the schools. The city paid a strategic research firm to poll residents on the topic, but at a time when affordability is the number one concern for many voters, new taxes are a hard sell.

Initial positive response was as low as 42%, far less than the 66% required for a ballot measure to pass, but the number rose as high as 59% if residents were told that the money would be used to protect schools from state or federal government cuts. However, it wasn’t the state or federal government cutting funding, it was the city. And instead of communicating openly, the city did it through subterfuge, like a cartoon bandit tying the school budget to train tracks and counting on voters coming to the rescue.

But 59% of the vote isn’t enough for a rescue. So more cleverness was needed. There’s a loophole in California election law that allows tax measures to pass with only 50% of the vote as long as they’re proposed by citizens, rather than elected leaders (though Proposition 43, also on the November ballot, aims to end this loophole).

So abracadabra, the parcel tax was removed from the Council’s agenda, eliminating any need for public discussion, and a citizens group sprung to life to sponsor Measure ES. While the group verbally denies any collaboration with City Hall, there’s little effort otherwise to hide

the appearance of it. The group is led by two former Mayors, and it was the current Mayor, Caroline Torosis, who spoke on behalf of the group when seeking the measure’s endorsement from the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

Torosis said that without the parcel tax, the school system will have to make drastic cuts, including 73 classroom teachers. Councilmember Barry Snell has suggested an even worse scenario if the city is forced to come up with the money: cuts to police, firefighters and library hours.

Opponents dismiss such talk as hyperbole and point to the millions of dollars in annual budget surpluses SMMUSD keeps having, despite repeatedly forecasting millions in deficits. They also say that if the city’s maneuver is meant to solve the current fiscal crisis, then the ballot measure should have a sunset clause, but it doesn’t. Claiming long-term structural deficits in SMMUSD’s finances, as supporters have done, seems like a bait and switch, and it’s belied by the continual surpluses.

However, opponents aren’t acknowledging that those surpluses aren’t sufficient to offset a \$12 million annual loss. Instead, some are criticizing SMMUSD for having surpluses, but no organization can precisely predict at the beginning of a year what its income and expenses will be at year-end. There are only two options: ending up in the red or in the black. And not ending up in the red is a good thing.

Still, it’s hard to defend the financial choices of a school district that paid \$150 million for a state-of-the-art building that lacks working air conditioning. In our convoluted system, building projects are funded by school bonds, not tax revenue, and the former can’t be used for most other school needs. So it’s apples and oranges, even if there’s a lot of missing accountability, particularly from the three school board members running for re-election.

There’s missing accountability on many fronts, but that’s part of the purpose of the Realignment Plan. Instead of wringing our hands about our fiscal crisis, there’s an attempt to do something about it. Some say that residents shouldn’t be the ones responsible. But if not us, then who?

Measure ES is a clumsy effort that has lacked transparency from the start, but if we reject it, we will be denying responsibility for our financial situation and risking repercussions. I resent the poor choice we’ve been given. The people elected to protect us are instead blackmailing us, putting a metaphorical gun to our heads and saying “your money or your schools.” And they’re asking us to pull the trigger.

Devan Sipher can be reached at Devan@smdp.com.



Surf report WATER TEMP: 70.0

FRIDAY FAIR SURF: 3-4ft
Waist to chest

Declining size with leftover head high sets at best summer standouts. Possible offshore flow. Less size than earlier in the workweek, but there will still be plenty of rideable SSW swell at the summer exposures. Good spots likely see consistent chest-shoulder high surf while summer standouts continue to go head high, especially during the morning tide push. More robust Santa Anas looking likely, maybe too strong for spots west of Dume in the morning. Afternoon window worth watching as they could mellow out, maybe a light seabreeze east of Dume.

SATURDAY FAIR SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder

Mellow start, size creeps up through the day. Beachbreaks get punchier in the afternoon. Morning window looks clean, mellower size than what we had during the workweek if that’s what you’re after. The mix of smaller size and likely 4+ tides out of the gates makes for softer, user-friendly surf for most of the region, especially the points. beachbreaks out west get punchy again as new long period energy creeps up. Light offshores still in the forecast for the AM window. Lower confidence than Fri they’ll stick around for the afternoon.



Friday: Sunny, with a high near 90. North northeast wind around 10 mph becoming east in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 72. North wind around 10 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 85. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast in the afternoon.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 68.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2026/10/16	Fri	12:21 PM	4.78	H
2026/10/16	Fri	09:10 PM	0.97	L
2026/10/17	Sat	01:31 PM	4.42	H
2026/10/17	Sat	10:39 PM	0.95	L
2026/10/18	Sun	07:30 AM	3.70	H
2026/10/18	Sun	10:06 AM	3.64	L
2026/10/18	Sun	03:29 PM	4.23	H
2026/10/18	Sun	11:38 PM	0.81	L
2026/10/19	Mon	07:07 AM	3.92	H
2026/10/19	Mon	11:46 AM	3.21	L
2026/10/19	Mon	05:00 PM	4.31	H



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 Draw Date: 10/14 3 34 37 42 46 Power#: 20 Jackpot: 600 M	 Draw Date: 10/14 24 31 34 36 37
 Draw Date: 10/13 11 12 15 40 66 Mega#: 17 Jackpot: 403 M	 Draw Date: 10/14 EVENING: 3 0 7 Draw Date: 10/14 MIDDAY: 0 0 0
 Draw Date: 10/14 7 18 23 46 47 Mega#: 12 Jackpot: 64 M	 Draw Date: 10/14 1st: 08 - Gorgeous George 2nd: 11 - Money Bags 3rd: 01 - Gold Rush Race Time: 1:45.87

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26NNCP00597. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 150 West Commonwealth Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91801. Petition of TESS JONES for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner TESS JONES filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: TESS SUSAN MARIE JONES to TESSA KINSKI JONES. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 12-11-2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: X. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: OCT 0 2 2026. Roberta Longoria, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/16/2026, 10/23/2026, 10/30/2026, 11/06/2026

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Prop 38 asks: Should California take on more debt to fund a single field of medical research?



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

HOLLISTER: A lab specialist looks through a microscope in a medical lab in Hollister on March 30, 2023.

Three decades ago, as the 20th century was winding down, a culture war erupted over the use of human embryos in researching stem cell cures for dreaded diseases.

It was a subset of the nation's never-ending conflict over abortion. After Republican George W. Bush won the presidency in 2000 his administration barred the use of embryos in genetic research, a policy President Barack Obama later revoked.

In 2004, Robert Klein, a wealthy Bay Area real estate developer whose son suffered from Type 1 diabetes, launched a campaign to stimulate genetic research in California that didn't rely on federal funds.

Actors Michael J. Fox and Christopher Reeve, who were dealing with their own chronic medical conditions, starred in ads promoting Proposition 71, a 2004 ballot measure creating the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. The measure also authorized \$3 billion in bonds that the new state agency would distribute to research projects.

Klein contributed heavily to the Prop. 71 campaign, raised money from others and served as the first chairman of the agency's board. The campaign's pitch to voters was not only that dread diseases

would be cured but that California would reap the economic benefits of taking the lead.

Voters endorsed the measure over the opposition of religious anti-abortion groups, and the agency began awarding grants to researchers, many of whom had ties to members of the new agency's board of directors.

Over the ensuing years it has touted several successes, but there has been no independent analysis of results. As the initial \$3 billion was running out, advocates wrote a 2020 ballot measure, Proposition 14, that authorized another \$5.5 billion in bonds. It won voter approval.

Now the willingness of California voters to again float bonds for medical research underlies Proposition 38 on the Nov. 3 ballot. And it raises questions about whether its sponsors would have the inside track for its \$8.4 billion in proposed bond money.

CalMatters delved into the very specific language of the measure and determined that the California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy, founded and headed by billionaire Gary Michelson, would be the only organization that would qualify

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
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DESTINATION DISHES

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica's Culinary Bucket List



Courtesy Image

FOOD: Chef Stefano De Lorenzo brings his Dolomites childhood to Santa Monica with beet-root casunziei at Colapasta.

Forget full menus—this week we're ranking the legendary sandwiches, wood-fired showstoppers, and mouth-watering sweets that are the single items worth crossing town for.

Santa Monica has no shortage of great restaurants. But sometimes you're not looking for the best restaurant—you're looking for the thing to order.

Every city has those dishes. The sandwich locals insist you try. The burger people have been arguing about for years. The pastry worth standing in line for. The ridiculous pasta that somehow tastes even better because someone tossed it around inside a giant wheel of cheese.

For the inaugural edition of Destination Dishes, I'm looking at the Santa Monica plates, bites, sandwiches and drinks that are worth making a special trip for. Some are legendary. Some are relatively new. Some are fancy enough to require a reservation, while others are best eaten standing up with a pile of napkins nearby.

The common denominator? You should try them at least once.

THE ICONIC STAPLES

The Godmother with The Works — Bay Cities Italian Deli (1517 Lincoln Blvd.)

The undisputed king of Santa Monica sandwiches.

The Godmother piles prosciutto, ham, capicola, mortadella, Genoa salami and provolone onto Bay Cities' famously crusty Italian roll. Order it "with The Works" for the hot or mild peppers, dressing and all the glorious mess that comes with it.

It is not a small sandwich. It is not a delicate sandwich. It is barely a sandwich you can eat without looking like you've been attacked by an Italian deli.

And that's exactly the point.

The Office Burger — Father's Office (1018 Montana Ave.)

This is the burger that helped put chef Sang Yoon and Father's Office on the national culinary map—and it remains one of Santa Monica's most recognizable dishes.

Dry-aged beef gets topped with caramelized onions, bacon, Gruyère, Maytag blue cheese and arugula, all tucked into a crisp baguette.

There is also the famous Father's Office rule: no ketchup and no substitutions.

They've been enforcing that policy for years, so don't be the person who walks in expecting to negotiate.

Classic Corn Dog & Fresh Lemonade — Hot Dog on a Stick (1633 Ocean Front Walk)

This is pure Santa Monica nostalgia on a stick.

The original Hot Dog on a Stick opened here in 1946, and the Ocean Front Walk location still serves hand-dipped corn dogs and its famously fresh lemonade just steps from the beach.

It's the kind of meal that tastes even better when you're wearing flip-flops and have sand in places sand should never be.

Chinese Chicken Salad — Chinois on Main (2709 Main St.)

Wolfgang Puck helped redefine California cooking at Chinois on Main, and the restaurant has produced a number of dishes that became part of the local culinary canon.

The Chinese Chicken Salad is arguably the most recognizable.

It may not have the theatrical appeal of a flaming entrée or a duck being pressed tableside, but longevity counts for something. A dish that remains closely associated with a restaurant decades after its debut has earned its place on this list. Since you are here, you might as well double down and get another signature: the Shanghai Lobster, prepared with a rich ginger curry sauce and served over a bed of crispy spinach.

SHOWSTOPPING RESTAURANT PLATES

Egg Caviar — Mélisse (1104 Wilshire Blvd.)

If you're going to put a caviar dish on a Santa Monica bucket list, this is the one.

Egg Caviar is one of Josiah Citrin's signature creations, pairing a delicate egg with luxurious caviar and refined French technique. It's an appropriate representative for Mélisse, Citrin's intimate, two-Michelin-starred tasting-menu restaurant, where the kitchen and dining room essentially become one culinary theater.

It's a tiny dish with a very big personality—and a good reminder that "showstopping" doesn't necessarily mean enormous.

Dalla Forma Pasta — Forma Restaurant & Cheese Bar (1610 Montana Ave.)

There are two kinds of people in the world: people who think there is such a thing as too much cheese, and people who have eaten pasta tossed inside a giant wheel of cheese.

At Forma, freshly cooked pasta is finished inside large wheels of cheese tableside just before being served. The exact pasta preparation changes, but the spectacle remains the same.

Not for the lactose intolerant.

Casunziei — Colapasta (1241 Fifth St.)

Some dishes are destination dishes because they're extravagant. Casunziei is a destination dish because there isn't much else like it.

These half-moon-shaped ravioli are made with roasted beetroot, giving the pasta its striking red color, then finished with brown butter, Parmigiano and poppy seeds.

The combination sounds unusual until you take a bite: earthy-sweet beets, nutty brown butter and the tiny crunch of poppy seeds.

Casunziei comes from the Dolomites of northern Italy, and Colapasta chef Stefano De Lorenzo grew up in Cortina d'Ampezzo, right in the heart of casunziei country. His version is based closely on the pasta he grew up eating.

It's beautiful, unusual and decidedly not another bowl of red-sauce pasta.

Corn Ravioli with Truffle — Capo (1810 Ocean Ave.)

Capo has been doing elegant Italian dining near the beach for decades, and its Corn Ravioli with Truffle is exactly the sort of indulgence that belongs on this list.

Sweet corn and rich truffle flavors come together in a dish that manages to be both refined and seriously comforting.

Pair it with a bottle from Capo's enormous wine cellar and suddenly Tuesday night feels like an occasion.

Raw Oyster & Crudo — Crudo e Nudo (2724 Main St.)

If Santa Monica has a restaurant that tastes like the Pacific Ocean without resorting to clichés, it's Crudo e Nudo.

The tiny Main Street restaurant focuses on sustainable, locally sourced seafood, with oysters and crudo changing with what is available.

The presentation is simple and beautiful: excellent seafood, carefully chosen oils, citrus and just enough seasoning to let the fish do the talking.

Wood-Fired Garlic Knot — Milo & Olive (2723 Wilshire Blvd.)

Somewhere along the way, the garlic knot went from humble pizza-shop side dish to something worth making a trip for.

Milo & Olive's Wood-Fired Garlic Knot is a perfect example. The dough gets baked in the restaurant's wood-fired oven, then finished with an immense amount of garlic, herbs, Parmesan and butter. The result is crisp and charred on the outside, soft and chewy inside, and unapologetically garlicky.

It's technically an appetizer but it's also very easy to convince yourself that ordering several counts as dinner.

Tableside Pressed Duck — Pasjoli (2732 Main St.)

This may be the ultimate Santa Monica dinner-party flex:

"You know that restaurant where they press an entire duck at your table?"

Pasjoli's pressed-duck dinner is a full-on culinary production, with the duck transformed into multiple courses and a special sauce crafted tableside using the whole bird. The restaurant describes it as a limited experience that must be reserved in advance.

It is elaborate, old-school French, gloriously excessive and almost impossible to replicate at home—which is exactly what you want from a destination dish.

BREAKFAST & BRUNCH

Oatmeal Griddle Cakes — Breakfast by Salt's Cure (714 Montana Ave.)

Forget everything you think you know about pancakes.



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

DATE/TIME: Monday, October 19, 2026, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 250

PUBLIC HEARING:

1325 6th Street (26ARB-0057): Multi-Unit Residential
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of an 8-story, 85’-tall, 81,079 square-foot multi-family residential project consisting of 110 market rate units above 3 levels of subterranean parking in the Neighborhood Village Zoning District of the Downtown Community Plan (NV-DCP).

1323 5th Street (26ARB-0065) Multi-Unit Residential (100% Affordable “Receiver Site”)
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of a five-story, 55’-tall, 25,250 square foot multi-family residential project consisting of 35 affordable units and no vehicle parking on site in the Neighborhood Village Zoning District of the Downtown Community Plan (NV-DCP).

More information is available online at <https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/> (en Espanol tambien at (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431#).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

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.

TRANSLATION SERVICE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. Please contact planning@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

SERVICIO DE TRADUCCIÓN DISPONIBLE A PEDIDO. Comuníquese al planning@santamonica.gov al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión programada.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

Malibu Moves Running Festival Adds More Medals and Rewards for October Event

Malibu Moves, the only running event featuring a course within the city of Malibu, will return for a two-day running festival that starts and ends at Zuma Beach on Oct. 24 and 25.

As the event marks its third year, organizers have announced three new ways for participants to bring home more medals: the Coastal Quest Challenge, the California Double and the Zuma Legacy Club. Those interested in the half marathon, 10K, 5K, one-mile Zuma Dash or 1K Kids Run are encouraged to register soon, as the event is expected to sell out.

The Coastal Quest Challenge lets participants experience both days of the festival. Those who complete one distance on Saturday and one on Sunday will receive an additional medal on top of the two they earn for each day’s event, along with two race shirts and unlimited access to the post-race beer garden on Sunday.

The California Double brings together two scenic Southern California runs in the spring and the fall. Participants who complete one distance at both the Mountains 2 Beach Marathon and Half and Malibu Moves in the same calendar year will be awarded an exclusive challenge medal at the Malibu Moves finish line, in addition to their finisher medals from each event.

Through the new Zuma Legacy Club, loyal runners who return in 2026 and in the years that follow can start a locally focused medal collection. With any distance counting toward club rewards and the ability to take a gap year between races, the medals will come together over six years of participation to spell “Malibu.” Each medal holds a letter, with “M” available to those who participated in 2024 or 2025.

“These finisher medals are so much more than medallions and ribbons. They are the physical reminder of your accomplishments, your memories and the moments that brought you to the finish line,” said Erica Segel, founder and race director of Malibu Moves. “Here, we care about those finish lines so much more than finish times.”

Participation grew more than 60% from 2024 to 2025, and this year’s 3,000-person field is expected to reach capacity across all distances. The event features five charity partners for 2026 and has donated more than \$110,000 to local organizations in its first two years.

For more information, visit www.malibumoves.com and follow the event on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00388. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of David Christopher Fox-Powell for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner David Christopher Fox-Powell filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: David Christopher Fox-Powell to David Fox. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 10/30/2026, Time: 08:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 08/13/2026. Lawrence Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/25/2026, 10/02/2026, 10/09/2026, 10/16/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00347. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of MONTE'VION DE'JOH VALENTINE for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MONTE'VION DE'JOH VALENTINE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: MONTE'VION DE'JOH VALENTINE to MONTE'VION TAHJ DE'JOH VALENTINE. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 10/23/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 07/28/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/25/2026, 10/02/2026, 10/09/2026, 10/16/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00429. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401.. Petition of Adrien Marley Kosinski Coly for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Adrien Marley Kosinski Coly filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Adrien Marley Kosinski Coly to Adrien Marley Kosinski. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 10/23/2026, Time: 8:30 am, Dept:K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 09/25/2026. Lawrence Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/25/2026, 10/02/2026, 10/09/2026, 10/16/2026

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa

Santa Monica Fire Department joins regional agencies in launching AwareCA app

The Santa Monica Fire Department has joined AwareCA, California's statewide public safety information app, the department announced Oct. 14. The app gives residents another direct source of information from fire departments and other public safety agencies.

The department is participating alongside fire agencies across the Los Angeles region. The effort is supported by the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association, which brings together leaders from 29 departments.

The free app provides incident information, wildfire activity, evacuation details and agency updates on a common statewide platform. It contains no advertising and does not solicit donations.

"Our community trusts us to provide accurate information when it matters most," Fire Chief Matt Hallock said. He added that "emergencies don't stop at city boundaries, and neither should access to trusted public safety information."

Users can save up to 10 locations, such as a home, workplace, child's school or relatives' homes, and set notification areas around them. The app can also use a phone's location to identify nearby incidents. Users choose what they are notified about and how often. Updates from participating agencies can reach them within seconds.

Each participating agency controls what it publishes through its established incident command and public information processes. AwareCA does not replace existing emergency communication systems. The department will continue to use its current notification systems, website and social media.

"We aren't asking residents to rely on a single source during an emergency," Hallock said. "We are asking them to make sure one of their sources is the agency responsible for managing the incident. AwareCA makes that easier."

The regional approach is particularly important in Los Angeles County. Residents there often live, work and have family in different jurisdictions, and an emergency such as a wildfire can quickly move from one agency's area into another's. Users can follow the places that matter to them without knowing which fire department serves each address.

The department encourages residents to download AwareCA before the next emergency. Residents should add their home and other important locations, select the types of incidents to follow, set notification areas and enable notifications.

AwareCA was developed by Intterra with California fire service and public safety partners. It is available free for iPhone and Android at aware.ca.gov.

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SANTA MONICA

FROM PAGE 2

"is not adequate participation." She also wrote that she was concerned about waiting until spring, saying fundraising requires a nonprofit that can begin accepting pledges now.

Commissioner Sonam Makker, writing in an individual capacity, asked the council to have staff weigh a citywide parks foundation alongside a Great Park-only conservancy. Makker warned that a single-park entity

could draw donor dollars away from the city's other parks.

In his remarks, Hall said the difficult questions should be asked both at the council and at the commission.

Not every comment backed the park plan. Katie Lee, a Mar Vista resident who lives on a hill overlooking the airport, urged the council to keep the airport open and to avoid "rushing toward closing the airport."

maaz@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

for half of the money. Michelson is one of the major backers of Prop. 38.

The other half of the bond issue would be distributed as grants to research applicants by a new council selected by representatives of seven University of California campuses, and each grant recipient will be linked to a member of the council.

At this juncture, it's important voters understand something about state general obligation bonds: They are not free money, even if sponsors often imply that they are. Bonds are loans from banks and other investors and, like all loans, must be repaid with interest.

The Legislative Analyst's Office has estimated the state budget would have to appropriate about \$500 million a year for 25 years to service Prop. 38's bonds, or about \$12.5 billion total. Bond repayments have the highest legal priority in the budget, so they displace funds that could otherwise be spent on education, healthcare or other services.

Issuing bonds to support one avenue of medical research is a questionable activity regardless of cost. If the state has a legitimate role to play in such research, all potential fields should be explored, not merely pet projects and organizations that some billionaire patrons have chosen to the exclusion of others.

Nevertheless, immunology is not the last field that voters will be asked to support.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed new legislation, Senate Bill 895, that creates another new agency to award scientific research grants, the California Foundation for Science and Health Research. The measure places a \$7.5 billion bond issue on the 2028 ballot to provide the new foundation with funds to distribute.

By Dan Walters. This story is part of California Voices, a commentary forum aiming to broaden our understanding of the state and spotlight Californians directly impacted by policy or its absence. This article was originally published on CalMatters and was republished under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives license.



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DESTINATION DISHES

FROM PAGE 5

Salt’s Cure’s signature oatmeal griddle cakes are crispy around the edges, soft in the middle and substantial enough that they don’t require a lake of syrup. They’ve become the restaurant’s calling card—and, honestly, the reason many people are willing to wait for breakfast.

Millionaire’s Bacon — Sweet Maple (1705 Ocean Ave., Suite 110)
Sweet Maple’s signature bacon is cut a hefty 3/8-inch thick, coated with brown sugar, paprika, black pepper and chili flakes, then baked until the edges caramelize and the bacon becomes a gloriously sweet, salty, smoky and slightly spicy slab of pork candy. It’s so popular that Sweet Maple serves it as a standalone order, or you can add it to eggs, scrambles, Benedicts, burgers or even ramen. The restaurant also offers a Millionaire’s Flight, featuring four variations: Citron, Original, Cinnamon and Rosemary. In other words, Sweet Maple has somehow turned bacon into a food group.

Gravlax Works — Jyan Isaac Bread (1620 Ocean Park Blvd.)
The Westside bagel wars have gotten serious, and Jyan Isaac Bread has earned its seat at the table. The naturally fermented sourdough bagel is excellent on its own, but the Gravlax Works takes it into destination-dish territory, adding house-cured and smoked Patagonian salmon, cream cheese, tomato, red onion, capers, dill, olive oil and lemon. It’s a fairly compelling argument for getting out of bed.

Sweet ‘n Salty Caramel Iced Coffee — Dogtown Coffee (2003 Main St.)
There are plenty of places to get a good iced coffee in Santa Monica. There are fewer places where your iced coffee comes with a little piece of local history. Dogtown Coffee occupies the former Jeff Ho Surfboards and Zephyr Productions space at Main and Bay, connecting the café to the surf and skate culture that helped put Santa Monica on the map. The Sweet ‘n Salty Caramel Iced Coffee adds caramel and sea salt to the mix, making for a sweet, creamy, slightly salty pick-me-up that feels right at home stumbling distance from the beach.

BAKED GOODS
Butter Croissant — Bread + Butter (2645 Main St.)
Bread + Butter’s Butter Croissant is the reason this tiny Main Street bakery regularly draws morning lines. The laminated pastry has a deeply buttery flavor, a crisp, crackly exterior and the airy, layered interior you want from a great croissant. The bakery also makes chocolate, walnut, and ham-and-cheese versions, but the classic is the place to start. And if you arrive early enough to get one warm from the oven, even better. Just don’t be surprised if you suddenly start questioning every croissant you’ve eaten before.

3-Baton Pain au Chocolat — Petitgrain Boulangerie (1209 Wilshire Blvd.)
A great pain au chocolat is one of life’s simpler pleasures: buttery, flaky pastry wrapped around a couple of pieces of chocolate. Petitgrain Boulangerie takes that formula and basically says, “Why stop at two?” The bakery uses three chocolate batons in its pain au chocolat, surrounded by beautifully laminated pastry that gets crisp and crackly on the outside while staying tender inside. It’s big, buttery, flaky and loaded with chocolate without becoming a chocolate delivery system. It’s the sort of pastry that makes you understand why people will stand in line before 9 a.m. for baked goods. And if you somehow manage to leave without three or four items, I admire your restraint. You are a stronger person than me. Three batons. Zero regrets.

Butter & Salt Doughnut — Sidecar Doughnuts (631 Wilshire Blvd.)
Santa Monica has plenty of doughnut options, but Sidecar has been doing its own thing since long before doughnuts became Instagram bait. The Butter & Salt is deceptively simple: a vanilla-bean cake doughnut finished with brown-butter glaze and fleur de sel. Sweet, salty, buttery and just substantial enough to make one doughnut feel like a legitimate breakfast. It’s also a useful reminder that sometimes the best doughnut is the one that doesn’t have 14 toppings and a name longer than the ingredient list.

Caramel-Pretzel-Chocolate Chunk — Cookie Good (2448 Wilshire Blvd.)
There comes a point when a chocolate chip cookie simply isn’t enough. Cookie Good’s Caramel-Pretzel-Chocolate Chunk cookie takes the basic formula and throws restraint out the window, combining gooey caramel, salty pretzel pieces and generous chunks of chocolate in a soft, chewy cookie. It’s sweet, salty, crunchy, gooey and just a little ridiculous—in other words, exactly what you want from a destination cookie. The hardest part is deciding whether to eat it immediately or take it home. The correct answer is immediately.

Fresh Mint Chip Ice Cream — Sweet Rose Creamery (225 26th St.)
Yes, I realize ice cream is not a baked good. But this is my list, and I make the rules. This list simply wouldn’t be complete without Sweet Rose Creamery’s Fresh Mint Chip Ice Cream. It’s made with real organic spearmint and house-made chocolate chips, giving it a fresh, minty flavor without the artificial green-food-coloring vibe of the stuff you probably ate as a kid. It’s creamy, bright, packed with chocolate and bursting with flavor. The first time I tried it, it completely changed my idea of what mint-chip ice cream could be. So yes, it’s technically in the wrong section. I stand by the decision.

COCKTAILS
The Countess — Pasjoli (2732 Main St.)
Pasjoli is known for its serious French cooking, but the cocktail menu deserves some attention, too. The Countess combines gin, basil, St-Germain and fennel pollen into a drink that somehow manages to be both sophisticated and extremely drinkable. It’s herbal, floral and refreshing, with just enough French flair to fit right in at one of Santa Monica’s most ambitious restaurants. Consider it the cocktail equivalent of wearing a blazer to dinner but leaving the tie at home.

Urfa Mezcalita — Calabra at the Proper Hotel (700 Wilshire Blvd.)
Cocktails taste better when you’re drinking them on a rooftop overlooking the Pacific. This is not a scientific fact, but I’m comfortable standing behind it. Calabra’s Urfa Mezcalita combines mezcal, honey, blood orange, lime, sage, Urfa pepper and salt. The result is smoky, citrusy, spicy and slightly savory—the kind of drink that makes a standard margarita feel like it needs to step up its game. And then there’s that rooftop Ocean view.

Miss Monique — La Monique (1411 2nd St.)
Leave it to a French brasserie to turn a Cosmopolitan into a science project. Miss Monique starts with Tito’s vodka and gets clarified and coconut-oil washed before being finished with house-made cherry-nutmeg foam and a mist of rose water. It sounds elaborate because it is elaborate, but the result is still recognizably a Cosmo—just one that has spent some time at a French finishing school.

Pacific Cooler — Circle Bar (2926 Main St.)
Not every destination cocktail needs to be served in a room with velvet banquettes and a \$30 bar snack. The newly reopened Circle Bar brought back one of Santa Monica’s legendary watering holes in 2026, along with a refreshed cocktail menu. The Pacific Cooler combines tequila or mezcal with yuzu and pamplemousse, making it a bright, citrusy drink perfectly suited to Main Street—and considerably more sophisticated than the dive-bar setting might suggest.

WHAT DID I MISS?
Of course, this isn’t the definitive list. It’s Santa Monica. By the time you finish reading it, someone will probably have opened a new restaurant, created a new signature dish or convinced me that I’ve committed some unforgivable culinary omission. That’s part of the fun. The goal isn’t to name the “best” dishes in town. It’s to find the dishes that make you say, “You have to try this.” The legendary ones. The ones you occasionally dream about between meals. The new ones that might become legendary. And the neighborhood favorites that some locals would prefer to keep secret. So now it’s your turn: What did I miss?

Send your suggestions to sean@smdp.com. If enough of you disagree with me, there's always the second edition.

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Albany	Gold	Nikau	Tekapo
Bay of	Gorge	Otago	Thrills
Plenty	Jade	Patea	Tidy
Bluff	Keas	Picton	Tiki
Bungy	Kiwi	Rainforest	Tourist
Dollar	Lakes	Remarkables	Travel
Eltham	Levin	Ross	Visit
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TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 16)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You love your friends, and you also want different things from them. Because as much as you belong to a group, you don’t always fit your original place in it. Let both be true while you make plans that reflect where you want to go next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though you care very deeply about someone, you also remain ambitious for yourself. So you’ll honor a relationship while making a professional choice the other person wouldn’t make. Mull it over this weekend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can believe strongly in an idea and remain willing to learn something that changes it. You can know plenty and still be a beginner. Follow your curiosity. Let experience add to what you already know.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can trust someone and still protect yourself. You can share money, information or responsibility and still have a domain that’s all yours and only yours. You can better enjoy what you share when you don’t share it all.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can love someone and want the relationship to change. You can appreciate what you have shared while asking for something different now. Say what you want without turning the past into evidence for or against the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can take excellent care of other people and need time for yourself. You can be dependable without doing everything people want you to do. Being careful about what you agree to makes it easier.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can have it all now - a feeling of security while still spending money on pleasure. You appreciate what you own and still enjoy getting something new. Indulgence gives you genuine and well-deserved enjoyment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can become someone new and still love where you came from. You can change your appearance, habits or direction without rejecting your history. Past-you will always be in there. Let your choices suit who you are now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can know what you think without saying it. You can value honesty and value discretion. Before you speak, ask what you hope your words will accomplish. Choose the truth that serves the situation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You can want more and appreciate what you already have. You can save for the future and enjoy your money today. Let the numbers reflect both the responsible person and the pleasure seeker.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can change your direction and still have feelings about the road you’re leaving. You can know what comes next while grieving what ends. Take the practical step anyway. Emotions will catch up on their own schedule.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can release an old belief and still understand why you once held it. You can change your mind without rewriting your history. Give your former self credit for getting you this far. Act on what you know now.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Criticisms, so to speak
- 5 Not that much
- 9 Like, with “to”
- 13 Scarlett O’Hara, e.g.
- 14 What Lindbergh flew to Paris
- 16 Newman/Field film
- 18 Sub on a set
- 19 Strong denial
- 20 LSU award
- 21 Widespread US chain
- 24 Amalgamate
- 25 Pale pink
- 30 For fun, for short
- 32 Trattoria staple
- 33 Accessorizes
- 34 Health care VIPs
- 35 Ferry stops, at times
- 37 Ocean State sch.
- 38 Garb for Gandhi
- 40 Night school subj.
- 41 Harpist’s ritual
- 44 Vivacity
- 45 Fixed beforehand
- 46 Anywhere you go
- 48 Word on macadamia cans
- 50 Polished off
- 51 Previous
- 52 Vicksburg victor
- 54 Fish’s propulsion aid
- 58 Where Fort Wayne is
- 62 Extraneous ingredient
- 63 Emissary

- 64 Novelist Gerritsen
- 65 Capital symbol, on maps
- 66 Out in the open

DOWN

- 1 Unpaid balance
- 2 She’s told, “We’ll always have Paris”
- 3 City near Los Angeles
- 4 Mail source
- 5 Strong assent
- 6 Show displeasure
- 7 Beethoven’s Pastoral Symphony ___ major
- 8 Pig purloiner of rhyme
- 9 Let pass
- 10 Popular burger holder
- 11 Secondary
- 12 Poetic adverb
- 13 LSU awards
- 15 Criticism, so to speak
- 17 Health care giant
- 21 Older laptop component
- 22 Opticalm alternative
- 23 Wintry-looking, in brand names
- 25 Educational octet
- 26 Erstwhile pie filling
- 27 Battle cry
- 28 Mag space for sale
- 29 Cancel
- 31 CBS series, 2004-13
- 36 Alphabetic trio
- 39 Lead the cast
- 42 Italian article
- 43 Show displeasure
- 47 Crime lab purchase
- 49 Those opposed
- 52 Airborne pest
- 53 Tweet of gratitude
- 54 Stratum
- 55 Top choice, for short
- 56 Not shut out from
- 57 One opposed
- 59 GRE developer
- 60 Treadmill, so to speak
- 61 Org. once led by Heston

	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
58						59	60	61						
62											63			
64						65					66			

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

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

plan's first year was about stabilizing city operations. The next phase, he said, will focus on revitalizing the local economy and drawing private investment back to Santa Monica.

"I think certainly we've achieved a measure of stability the last year," Chi said. He added that "there is a ton to be proud of in terms of the work that we've done, and there's so much more work to do moving ahead."

The council adopted the plan Oct. 28, 2025. At the time, the city faced a projected structural deficit of about \$30 million, and its unobligated cash reserves had fallen from \$436 million to \$98 million, much of that because of childhood sexual abuse settlements. The plan compressed \$60 million in reserve spending, originally planned over four to five years, into 24 months, organized around five priorities including public safety, clean streets, economic growth and housing.

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, the city used \$26.7 million of those reserves to balance its budget instead of the \$34 million it had planned. Excluding \$22.5 million in general fund transfers to capital projects, the operating budget ran a \$4.3 million deficit.

Chi said the results came even though most of the plan's new revenue sources, including a city-run ambulance program, higher parking rates and a credit card convenience fee, were in effect for only part of the year. Officials project those measures and other changes will add about \$28.8 million a year in recurring revenue and savings, beating the plan's \$24 million target.

General fund revenue reached \$483.3 million, up 8.6% from the prior year. Hotel tax collections rose 8.5% to \$68.7 million, property taxes grew \$5 million and sales tax grew \$1.8 million.

Chi said the visitor economy is recovering, with hotel occupancy near 80% this spring compared with about 75% a year earlier. "There's still a long way to go," he said.

Police Chief Darrick Jacob said the department, fully staffed for the first time in more than two decades, has shifted to more proactive policing. From January through September, violent crimes and burglaries fell 11.2%, to 751 from 846 in the same period last year. That followed a 12.5% drop in Part I crimes in 2025.

Over the same nine months, officer-initiated activity rose 21% and total arrests rose 62%, to 4,097. Traffic citations more than doubled. Drug-related arrests rose about 119%, which Jacob attributed to officers being present to see offenses rather than to more drug activity.

"Santa Monica is a welcoming community, but crime and unlawful behavior will not be tolerated," Jacob said. "If you come to Santa Monica to commit a crime, our officers are looking for you."

He acknowledged that statistics alone do not ease residents' concerns. "Knowing that crime is down doesn't automatically take away that fear," he said.

Mayor Caroline Torosis asked how many unhoused people who are arrested are diverted to services such as the SaMo Bridge program or the city's STEP Court. Deputy City Attorney Jenna Grigsby-Taggart said prosecutors do not track housing status. Torosis asked for clearer reporting on diversion outcomes. "How do we evaluate whether this is working?" she said.

The city's path to a balanced budget assumes the end of its roughly \$12 million annual payment to the Santa Monica-Malibu

Unified School District under a facilities use agreement that expires June 30, 2027. The city and district agreed to that expiration in 2022.

City contributions to the district total about \$40 million a year across several agreements. Chi said the two sides are discussing an extension, and the outcome of Measure ES, a school parcel tax on the Nov. 3 ballot, will shape those talks. If voters approve it, staff expects to return with a new agreement reflecting that revenue. If it fails, staff plans to let the payment lapse, though the council could keep it and identify cuts elsewhere.

Chi said the district has indicated it would like the payment to continue. Options will go to the council at a budget study session in March, ahead of a two-year budget that takes effect July 1, 2027.

Looking ahead, officials outlined three efforts aimed at downtown. The council approved guidelines for a Downtown Catalyst Incentive Program that would offer forgivable loans of up to \$1.5 million for two or three high-visibility projects, favoring restaurants and entertainment that draw people on evenings and weekends. Each award would require a separate public hearing.

A design team is also preparing concepts for a refresh of the Third Street Promenade, with a plan due to the council in early 2027 and a first phase planned before the 2028 Olympics.

In a second vote, 6-0, the council authorized pilot programs with parking operator Metropolis Inc. to upgrade three downtown garages and launch curbside valet service near the Promenade by Black Friday, at no cost to the city. In a third vote, also 6-0, it cleared staff to pursue a license letting Zoox, the Amazon-owned robotaxi company, stage up to 150 electric vehicles in the underused Main Library garage. Chi said the deal could bring in about \$500,000 a year.

Councilmember Barry Snell sat out the Metropolis vote, citing a nonprofit he leads that receives Metropolis funding. Councilmember Dan Hall sat out the Zoox vote because he owns Amazon stock.

The rent registry, set to open in January, will charge \$52.35 per unit a year, and landlords may pass up to half of that on to tenants. Officials said the first phase will stress registration over penalties.

Officials cited an independent RAND Corp. report released Oct. 1 that called the city's reforms "a meaningful break with the past." They noted that RAND recommended restarting a homeless court the city has already run as STEP Court since 2024. "Maybe RAND should have decided to talk to any of us before publishing what they publish," Torosis said.

The city's first employee survey found 74% of respondents proud to work for the city, but only 39% agreed management is transparent about decisions. "You don't ask employees how they feel unless you're going to do something about it," Human Resources Director Dana Brown said.

Not everyone was satisfied with the accounting. In a written comment to the council, resident Karen Melick asked for a detailed breakdown of how the \$60 million in reserves has been spent. She argued that much of the plan's new revenue comes from fees on residents rather than economic growth.

"Where's our return on our investment?" she wrote. Melick also said the city denied her public records request for the estimated cost of a city winter closure. "We need more financial transparency," she wrote.

maaz@smdp.com



FRIDAY | OCTOBER 16

BEACH WALK MEDITATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Santa Monica Lifeguard Tower 27 2700 Ocean Ave Santa Monica, CA. A guided silent walking meditation along the beach, led by Stacey Polacco, offering a chance to practice mindfulness in nature; RSVP recommended. Meditation isn't something that needs to happen only in a quiet room without any distracting sights or sounds. In fact we can develop our mindfulness while in nature; walking on the shore feeling the warmth of the sun on our face, the cool ocean splashing around our feet. \$20 Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/beach-walk-meditation/18828982/2026-10-16T08>

PALISADIAN COFFEE AND CHAT

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Palisades Garden Cafe 15231 La Cruz Dr Pacific Palisades, CA. An informal coffee gathering for residents back in the neighborhood or planning to return, with no set agenda or formal program. An informal hello run by Palisadian resident Rebecca Martin. No Agenda, no powerpoint, just a chance to say hello for those who have moved back to the Palisades, or are working on it. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisadian-coffee-and-chat/19242128/2026-10-16T09>

LOWE FAMILY YMCA PUMPKIN PATCH

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Simon Meadow 15551 W Sunset Blvd Pacific Palisades, CA. A seasonal pumpkin patch with a hay maze, photo-worthy props, an art installation, and pumpkins in all sizes. A family-friendly stop for fall. The Lowe Family YMCA Pumpkin Patch returns to Simon Meadow Monday to Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the playful hay maze, snap photos with festive photo props, enjoy an art installation and shop pumpkins of all sizes. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/lowe-family-ymca-pumpkin-patch/20059545/2026-10-16T15>

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 17

WELLNESS & WAVES RETURNS TO SANTA MONICA PIER, FREE SAT. MORNING FITNESS

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica, CA. Free Saturday morning fitness at Santa Monica Pier with group runs and yoga. Open to all levels, no membership required. April through October. The Santa Monica Pier Corporation invites the community to move, stretch, and recharge by the ocean as Wellness & Waves returns for its 2026 season. Taking place every Saturday from April 4 through October 17, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m., this free, all-ages wellness series transforms the iconic Santa Monica Pier into an open-air fitness destination at the most iconic outdoor setting in Southern California. With the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, Wellness & Waves offers a welcoming, energizing way to start the weekend—no membership required. Each Saturday morning begins at the top of the Santa Monica Pier at the intersection of Colorado and Ocean with an easygoing group run from 8 to 9 a.m., open to all levels. Guests can then head to the west end of the Pier for yoga and yoga-pilates fusion classes from 9 to 10 a.m., led by top local instructors. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wellness-waves-returns-to-santa-monica-pier-free-sat-morning-fitness/18475500/2026-10-17T08>

OH MY GOURD!!!

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd, Santa Monica, 90404. Join us for a day celebrating the diversity of the gourd family. Knuckleheads, Warty Goblins and a 4 foot Trombetta Squash will take Center Stage. Many of these are considered decoration and then simply discarded (hopefully in the green bins). We'll be cutting 'em up, and by that I don't mean telling squash jokes, and doing some bragging, maybe some pumpkin puree pancakes, and if lead artist is around, perhaps even get some light tempura pumpkin going on. Pancakes and Planting, what could be better. We'll have plenty of art supplies for young and young at heart to help decorate Ishihara with the creatures of the night! Come dressed in your scariest or funniest outfit. Watch out for the Werewolf, it's been rumored to appear on and around Halloween at Ishihara Park. For more info: SANTAMONICA.GOV/EVENTS

\$5 COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES!

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica, CA. A \$5 community dog training class in the park, with pay-what-you-can options after the initial fee. Sign-up required. People's Dog Training®, A Love At First Sit® Program host ongoing \$5 ongoing Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Sign-up at <https://www.peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training>. \$5.00 — General \$5.00 then Pay-What-You-Can Summary. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/-5-community-dog-training-classes/11981844/2026-10-17T10>

SNEAK PEAK OF MUSIC BIO-PIC OF LEGEND BRUCE LANGHORNE

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The UnUrban Cafe 3301 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405 Sneak preview of the feel-good music bio-pic Invisible Legend: Bruce Langhorne. This Sing-Along Screening features great tunes from the '60s folk/folk rock scene. Langhorne was the influential guitarist who inspired "Mr. Tambourine Man." This film features performances by Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Judy Collins, Tom Rush, Odetta, Richard & Mimi Fariña, and Peter, Paul and Mary. Join us for a joyful sing-along, celebrate Langhorne's enduring spirit, and experience the remarkable story of a hidden musical giant. See the film trailer at InvisibleLegend.com to guarantee seating, and get copies of the lyrics and music.

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 18

WATER SAFETY WORKSHOPS

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House. The city of Santa Monica and Surf Bus Foundation will provide two water safety workshops for youth across the Los Angeles region on Oct. 11 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Annenberg Community Beach House. The workshops welcome youth who have historically faced greater barriers to accessing these resources. A longtime city partner for more than 20 years, Surf Bus Foundation is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit dedicated to connecting underserved youth to the ocean through surfing, swimming and ocean education.

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