New 17th Street bike lanes spark community debate

When the Santa Monica City Council approved the final design for protected bike lanes to be built along 17th Street at their July 24, 2018 meeting, Carter Rubin, issued a warning.

“You can do as much outreach as physically possible and beyond and as soon as it’s live and on the ground you will have hundreds of people calling... confused about how they’re supposed to use it and what the rationale was and lots of questions.”

A former senior program manager for the City of Los Angeles Greater Street Initiative, he said he had learned this lesson from previous projects.

“So I would encourage staff and council to be ready for that and to come up with innovative and engaging solutions to educate the public on how to use this,” he said.

Now, nearly five years later, the project – which relocated existing bike lanes on 17th Street to be between the curb of the sidewalk and parked cars, separated by a concrete barrier – is nearly complete and many residents are indeed confused and upset.

Posts about the project have popped up across local social media groups and a petition with a list of complaints about the lanes has received over 900 signatures.

While some see the pushback to the project as a clear cut case of resistance to changes to car-centric streets in favor of bike infrastructure, residents of 17th Street say that the reality is far more complex and that the City has failed to communicate throughout the process and address their concerns.

Eli Levitansky, who lives in the area and works on 17th Street said his concerns, which he said are shared by many of his neighbors, are indeed confused and upset.

Posts about the project have popped up across local social media groups and a petition with a list of complaints about the lanes has received over 900 signatures.

While some see the pushback to the project as a clear cut case of resistance to changes to car-centric streets in favor of bike infrastructure, residents of 17th Street say that the reality is far more complex and that the City has failed to communicate throughout the process and address their concerns.

Eli Levitansky, who lives in the area and works on 17th Street said his concerns, which he said are shared by many of his neighbors, are indeed confused and upset.

He and other residents said that the new design has created accessibility issues for people with disabilities and the elderly, made it more difficult for emergency vehicles to navigate, reduced the number of parking spaces, and increased traffic congestion.

Santa Monica Mobility Manager Jason Kligier acknowledged residents’ frustrations but said there had been significant positive momentum and outreach around the project when it was originally conceived.

“This is bubbling up in the community and many people are saying that they didn’t know about it, so clearly we could do better,” he said. “However, I do think it’s important to review all of the things that we did do, because we did a lot and there were quite a few touch points with the community about this project.”

He said this included knocking on doors, hosting public events and inviting the community to meetings and workshops throughout the planning process over several years.

However, the project was delayed several years. There were delays caused by some of the partner agencies, like Metro, or in receipt of promised funding from the state. The COVID-19 pandemic stymied construction due to government shutdowns and the massive reduction in city staff due to Covid-caused budget cuts also extended deadlines. The recent rainy season impacted construction as the work required streets to be completely dry before work could begin.

Residents said that there was little communication in the interim which left them feeling caught off guard when construction started.

Residents, including those with disabled family members, said they didn’t remember the initial outreach efforts and that they only became fully aware of the scope of the project when they received a fliers about the immediate start of construction.

One family learned the handicapped parking spot in front of their house was going to be removed for the new bike lane and there was nothing that could be done to alter the street.

“My opinions and feelings are not against bike lanes, we had bike lanes and it was very good,” he said. “The problem here is that they completely redesigned the streets with cement barriers.”

LANES: The bike lanes along 17th Street are now protected by concrete barriers with cars parking between bikes and traffic.
TSA is testing facial recognition at more airports, raising privacy concerns

REBECCA SANTANA AND RICK GENTILO
Associated Press

A passenger walks up to an airport security checkpoint, slips an ID card into a slot and looks into a camera atop a small screen. The screen flashes “Photo Complete” and the person walks through — all without having to hand over their identification to the TSA officer sitting behind the screen.

“It’s all part of a pilot project by the Transportation Security Administration to assess the use of facial recognition technology at a number of airports across the country.

“What we are trying to do with this is aid the officers to actually determine that you are who you say who you are,” said Jason Lim, identity management capabilities manager, during a demonstration of the technology to reporters at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

The effort comes at a time when the use of various forms of technology to enhance security and streamline procedures is only increasing. TSA says the pilot is voluntary and accurate, but critics have raised concerns about questions of bias in facial recognition technology and possible repercussions for passengers who want to opt out.

The technology is currently in 16 airports. In addition to Baltimore, it’s being used at Reagan National near Washington, D.C., airports in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Orlando, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Jose, and Gulfport-Biloxi and Jackson in Mississippi. However, it’s not at every TSA checkpoint so not every traveler going through those airports would necessarily experience it.

Travelers put their driver’s license into a slot that reads the card or place their passport photo against a card reader. Then they look at a camera on a screen about the size of an iPad, which captures their image and compares it to their ID. The technology is both checking to make sure the people at the airport match the ID they present and that the identification is in fact real. A TSA officer is still there and signs off on the screening.

A small sign alerts travelers that their photo will be taken as part of the pilot and that they can opt out if they’d like. It also includes a QR code for them to get more information.

Since it’s come out the pilot has come under scrutiny by some elected officials and privacy advocates. In a February letter to TSA, five senators — four Democrats and an Independent who is part of the Democratic caucus — demanded the agency stop the program, saying: “Increasing biometric surveillance of Americans by the government represents a risk to civil liberties and privacy rights.”

As various forms of technology that use biometric information like face IDs, retina scans or fingerprint matches have become more pervasive in both the private sector and the federal government, it’s raised concerns among privacy advocates about how this data is collected, who has access to it and what happens if it gets hacked.

Meg Foster, a justice fellow at Georgetown University’s Center on Privacy and Technology, said there are concerns about bias within the algorithms of various facial recognition technologies. Some have a harder time recognizing faces of minorities, for example. And there’s the concern of outside hackers figuring out ways to hack into government systems for nefarious aims.

With regard to the TSA pilot, Foster said she has concerns that while the agency says it’s not currently storing the biometric data it collects, what if that changes in the future? And while people are allowed to opt out, she said it’s not fair to put the onus on harried passengers who might be worried about missing their flight if they do.

“They might be concerned that if they object to face recognition, that they’re going to be under further suspicion,” Foster said.

Jeramie Scott, with the Electronic Privacy Information Center, said that while it’s voluntary now it might not be for long. He noted that David Pekoske, who heads TSA, said during a talk in April that eventually the use of biometrics would be required because

Eric Uller at Police Activities League (PAL) sexually abused hundreds of children in the late 1980s – early 2000s

Santa Monica has paid almost $230 million to victims.

There may still be time to file a claim.

McGEE LERER & ASSOCIATES

Sexual Abuse + Personal Injury Attorneys

Free confidential case review
(310) 231-9717
www.mcgeelerer.com

Ad. No guarantee of outcome. Each case is different.
AI presents political peril for 2024 with threat to mislead voters

David Klepper and Ali Swenson  
Associated Press

Computer engineers and tech-inclined political scientists have warned for years that the rise of AI-generated images, videos, and audio in seconds, at minimal cost, when strapped to powerful social media algorithms, this fake and digitally created content can spread far and fast and target highly specific audiences, potentially taking campaign dirty tricks to a new low.

The implications for the 2024 campaigns and elections are as large as they are troubling: Generative AI can not only rapidly produce targeted campaign materials, texts or videos, it also could be used to mislead voters, impersonate candidates and undermine elections on a scale and at a speed not yet seen.

“We’re not prepared for this,” warned A.I. Nash, vice president of intelligence at the cybersecurity firm ZeroFox. “To me, the big leap forward is the audio and video capabilities that have emerged. When you can do that on a large scale, and distribute it on social platforms, well, it’s going to have a major impact.”

AI experts can quickly rattle off a number of alarming scenarios in which generative AI is used to create synthetic media for the purposes of confusing voters, slandering a candidate or even inciting violence.

Here are a few: Automated robocall messages, in a candidate’s voice, instructing voters to cast ballots on the wrong date; audio recordings of a candidate supposedly confessing to a crime or expressing racist views; video footage showing someone confessing to a crime or expressing racist messages, in a candidate’s voice, instructing voters to resist arrest, though their creator was quick to acknowledge their origin.

Legislation that would require candidates to label campaign advertisements created with AI has been introduced in the House by Rep. Yvette Clarke, D-N.Y., who has also sponsored legislation that would require anyone creating synthetic images to add a watermark indicating the fact.

Some states have offered their own proposals for addressing concerns about deepfakes.

Clarke said her greatest fear is that generative AI could be used before the 2024 election to create a video or audio that incites violence and turns Americans against each other.

“It’s important that we keep up with the technology,” Clarke told The Associated Press. “We’ve got to set up some guardrails. People can be deceived, and it only takes a split second of People are busy with their lives and they don’t have the time to check every piece of information. AI being weaponized, in a political season, it could be extremely disruptive.”

Earlier this month, a trade association for political consultants in Washington condemned the use of deepfakes in political advertising, calling them “a deception” with “no place in legitimate, ethical campaigns.”
they’re more effective and efficient, although he gave no timeline.

Scott said he’d prefer TSA not use the technology at all. At the least, he’d like to see an outside audit to verify that the technology isn’t disproportionally affecting certain groups and that the images are deleted immediately.

TSA says the goal of the pilot is to improve the accuracy of the identity verification without slowing down the speed at which passengers pass through the checkpoints — a key issue for an agency that sees 2.4 million passengers daily. The agency said early results are positive and have shown no discernible difference in the algorithm’s ability to recognize passengers based on things like age, gender, race and ethnicity.

Lim said the images aren’t being compiled into a database, and that photos and IDs are deleted. Since this is an assessment, in limited circumstances some data is collected and shared with the Department of Homeland Security’s Science and Technology Directorate. TSA says that data is deleted after 24 months.

Lim said the camera only turns on when a person puts in their ID card — so it’s not randomly gathering images of people at the airport. That also gives passengers control over whether they want to use it, he said. And he said that research has shown that while some algorithms do perform worse with certain demographics, it also shows that higher-quality algorithms, like the one the agency uses, are much more accurate. He said using the best available cameras also is a factor.

“We take these privacy concerns and civil rights concerns very seriously, because we touch so many people every day,” he said.

Retired TSA official Keith Jeffries said the pandemic greatly accelerated the rollout of various types of this “touchless” technology, whereby a passenger isn’t handing over a document to an agent. And he envisioned a “checkpoint of the future” where a passenger’s face can be used to check their bags, go through the security checkpoints and board the plane — all with little to no need to pull out a boarding card or ID documents.

He acknowledged the privacy concerns and lack of trust many people have when it comes to giving biometric data to the federal government, but said in many ways the use of biometrics is already deeply embedded in society through the use of privately owned technology.

“Technology is here to stay,” he said.

---

### CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE

**INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

The Santa Monica City Council is now accepting applications for annual appointments of members to the following City Boards and Commissions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board/Commission</th>
<th>No. of Seats</th>
<th>Term End Date</th>
<th>Special Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airport Commission</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Reside in the City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural Review Board</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Commission</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Reside or work in the City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice and the Environment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Reside or work in the City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabilities Commission</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Two must be self-identified persons with a disability and reside in the City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Commission</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Two must be affordable housing program participant where one is 52-years or older and the other is unhouse or formerly unhouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services Commission</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Reside in Santa Monica.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Subcommittee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Reside in the City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Board</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Reside in Santa Monica or LA County that is employed within the City, own property or hold business licenses in the City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Reside in the City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>At least one shall be between 18-22 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and Parks Commission</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Reside in the City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Monica Library Board</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Reside in the City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Monica Travel and Tourism, Inc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Shall be from Santa Monica's community and business leadership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Forest Task Force</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6/30/2027</td>
<td>Three must be current or past certified arborist. All must reside, work or hold business licenses in the City.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, June 20, 2023.
Appointment to be made by City Council, Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

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 that may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter. In addition, this position will be required to complete two hours of Ethics Training (AB1234) biennially, as well as attend other city sponsored trainings deemed necessary by the city.

Applications are available on-line at: [www.smgov.net/boards](http://www.smgov.net/boards)

All current applications on file will be considered. Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.
Who benefits from Amazon’s immense sales taxes in California?

BY DAN WALTERS

Twelve years ago, after weeks of public saber-rattling and secret negotiations, then-Gov. Jerry Brown announced a deal to settle a high-stakes feud between online retail behemoth Amazon and retail stores, particularly Walmart, over taxation.

The retailers had complained that while they had to collect sales taxes from their customers, Amazon didn’t collect such taxes and therefore had an unfair competitive advantage.

The issue came to a head when the Legislature passed and Brown signed a bill requiring Amazon and other online sellers to collect sales taxes. Amazon, which had been planning to build huge fulfillment centers to serve California customers, threatened to abandon the state and spent several million dollars to qualify a referendum that would overturn the new law.

The political duel was averted when Brown brokered a deal under which Amazon would begin collecting sales taxes on items that it packaged and delivered for independent sellers, allowing it to quickly fulfill the first of three-dozen distribution centers and become a dominant retail presence in the nation’s most populous state and spend several million dollars to avoid a practical matter very few use taxes are voluntarily paid by consumers.

Critics see that as a loophole that costs state and local governments untold billions of dollars and gives online sellers an advantage over stores selling the same items. One critic, Fresno camera store owner Stanley Grosz, filed a lawsuit in 2019 aimed at forcing Amazon to collect taxes on sales from their independent affiliates.

So far Grosz has failed to persuade the courts that state tax officials – now in the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration – have failed to do their duty. A Superior Court judge blocked the suit, agreeing with the department that designating who qualifies as a tax-collecting retailer is something the agency can decide however it wishes.

Rebuffed at that level, Grosz took his case to the state Courts of Appeal, which in January issued a decision upholding the trial court’s ruling. Grosz, however, has not given up. He’s petitioning the state Supreme Court to take up the case.

Grosz is not the only one unhappy with how Amazon’s sales are taxed – or rather who benefits from its taxes. Many local government officials complain that the share of sales taxes meant to go to their coffers are instead given to jurisdictions that have fulfillment centers or made back-scratching deals with Amazon.

The cities and counties that make such deals agree to kick back a chunk of those taxes to the seller. Four years ago, the Legislature passed a bill to end such kickbacks, but Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed it, declaring that rebates are “an important local tool that captures additional economic activity, particularly in rural and inland California cities that continue to face significant economic challenges like high unemployment rates.”

This article was originally published by CalMatters.
Fava Beans and Greens: A Food that Spans Cuisines, Cultures and Time!

Fava beans, also called broad beans, have been grown by humans for around 10,000 years in Israel. They are widely used in Egyptian, Iranian, North African, and Middle Eastern cuisines. But I was surprised to learn that in Columbia, China, Japan, and Ethiopia, the fava bean is a staple in cooking as well. The fava bean has recently received the royal treatment as a key component in King Charles’ Coronation Quiche!

The first time I tasted a fava bean was in the Persian dish, Baghali Polo, where white rice and dill make a fluffy base for the light green bean. It felt a bit like an Easter egg hunt to pick out the beans and be rewarded with a chewy, almost meaty bean. It was not until I was an adult living in Santa Monica that I saw what a fava bean plant looked like!

At the Ishihara Park Learning Garden, the gardeners identified the fava plants and explained their benefits. Fava bean plants are nitrogen-fixer plants and can improve soil health. They do this by pulling nitrogen from the air and storing it in their roots until the plants die and decompose, releasing the nitrogen into the soil for the benefit of the plants and crops that are planted after them. The fava plants at the garden stand as a 6ft bushy tower, easily the tallest plants in the garden, with large oblong leaves that dripped with pods of beans as long as my finger. I have learned that the best way to harvest the beans and leaves is to simply pluck them from the plant. I find the biggest pods I can and leave the smaller ones to grow out and incubate the tiny bean inside. I do the exact opposite for harvesting the beans themselves. For preparing the leaves for cooking, I fill a bowl of cold water and submerge the leaves for a few minutes, drain the water, and repeat. I separate the leaves from the stems as the stems can taste a bit woody, and I use a salad spinner to drain the excess water and lay the leaves out to dry on a dish towel. For preparing the fava beans, I choose to simply crack the pods in half and squeeze out or pluck out the large beans. I think there may be a more official way to do it with slicing them open with a paring knife, but there is something so playful about opening them this way. I get into a rhythm of breaking and snapping, and enjoying the gentle plink of the beans hitting the bowl. I use the fava bean greens to create a pesto that hopefully leaves you with the taste of spring on your tongue, with a little hint of garlic of course. I simply roast the fava beans with olive oil, salt, and pepper in a 400 degree oven for 15 minutes to use as a meaty topper for salads, pastas, and toasts (bonus points for using the fava beans and fava pesto in one meal).

**Fava Bean Green Pesto**

**Method:**
1. Place all ingredients in a high speed blender or food processor and blend.
2. Enjoy as a sandwich spread, dip, or sauce on pasta.

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 2-3 large handfuls of cleaned and dried fava leaves
- ½ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup toasted walnuts
- ½ cup lemon juice
- 2-3 cloves garlic
- Pinch of salt, pepper, and optional red pepper flakes

**FAVA BEANS.**

**INFORMATION:**
- Developed from the Persian dish, Baghali Polo
- Widely used in Egyptian, Iranian, North African, and Middle Eastern cuisines
- Nitrogen-fixer plants
- Popular in Chinese, Japanese, and Ethiopian cuisines
- Used in Egyptian, Iranian, North African, and Middle Eastern cuisines
- Widely used in Egyptian, Iranian, North African, and Middle Eastern cuisines
- Plant is edible, from the beans to the leaves to use in cooking. Most of the young leaves and fava beans are used in the garden, with large oblong leaves that drip with pods of beans as long as my finger.

**Fava Bean Green Pesto**

1. Place all ingredients in a high speed blender or food processor and blend.
2. Enjoy as a sandwich spread, dip, or sauce on pasta.
BIKE LANES
FROM PAGE 1

project at that point.
With parked cars now separated from the sidewalk by the bike lane and concrete barrier, disabled residents said it is difficult to get into cars without the dedicated spot in front of their homes. A neighbor whose son is in a wheelchair has had similar challenges because there is no longer space for the ramp he previously used to get into vehicles.

Jacqui Schwartz, the acting principal transportation planner for the City, said they have been working with residents to find solutions in these cases by altering the curb and adding accessible “blue zone” parking areas.

“We worked with a resident to figure out a solution…so instead of installing the concrete curb element, we switched it to plastic bollards so that there were gaps spaced out between where they parked their car and exit the vehicle,” she said. “We’re also adding another blue zone at a new location where there wasn’t one before near the intersection of 17th and Broadway.”

Rubin, who spoke at the 2018 meeting about the project, is now the senior transportation lead for the Natural Resources Defense Council, said that while he thinks it is important for the City to take issues like this into account and find ways to address them, from his experience on other bike lane projects, some of the general dissatisfaction is a matter of residents needing time to adjust to the new layout.

“I think it’s really natural for people to experience a change in our community – especially something like this, where we don’t really have a lot of local examples of protected bike lanes like this – I think it’s very normal that in the community there are some initial questions and concerns and reactions,” he said.

Ultimately, he said he thinks the lanes will serve as a benefit to the city and that the design will make the street safer.

“This is sort of the gold standard for the kind of bike infrastructure that you need to build to really protect the people who do ride and encourage new riders,” he said. “I think the evidence is that these projects work, they make the streets safer, they encourage more riders, especially when they’re built as a network, which is really what is happening in Santa Monica.”

Cynthia Rose, director of the non-profit bike advocacy group Santa Monica Speake, has been a staunch supporter and advocate for the project since its inception, citing public health and environmental benefits.

“This is a system level change connected to the work of transportation justice and climate change,” she said. “The more options that we can give people to get out of their cars if they’re able to, then the better chance we have at meeting our climate goals, meeting our sustainability goals, having a healthier and more active population and visitors.”

She said that while does not ride down 17th Street often, she now feels safer when she does than she did before.

Seventeenth Street resident Fred Darr said he bikes almost every day and is a strong proponent for bike infrastructure, feels that the new lane design has actually made the street less safe for both bikes and cars because they are no longer able to see each other over the parked cars between them, which he said is especially a problem when cars cross the bike lane to turn into driveways or alleys and cannot tell if a bike is coming or vice versa.

“It’s really hard to see them,” he said. “I’ve almost been hit at least three times.”

He said he preferred the previous design of green-painted lanes running alongside cars and that he wished the City would have installed plastic bollards as was done on Broadway instead of the concrete curbs.

Kligier said bollards are less permanent, can’t stop vehicle from entering the lane and easy to be removed or stolen.

Darr and other residents on the street said another safety issue they have is that the new lanes make it more difficult for emergency vehicles like firetrucks and ambulances to access buildings. He said the numerous convalescent and senior living homes on the street mean that there are multiple emergency calls a day.

He added that because they no longer have room to pull up to the curb they end up blocking an entire lane and cousin traffic.

Kligier said the police and fire departments tested whether the lanes would pose an issue for their vehicles by actually driving through mockups of the new lanes and no issues were flagged at that time.

He said the City plans to continue monitoring the situation and also to begin to collect data on the number of bikes, cars and other vehicles that use the street as well as collisions and other incidents.

As it stands today, both sides interpret incidents to support their cause as was the case when a photo widely circulated on social media shows a car flipped on its side next to the concrete barrier of the bike lane.

While many commenters said the bike lane was the cause and that they will result in increased crashes, Kligier said it was actually due to another car running a red light and hitting the one that flipped and that no one was seriously injured. He added that he thinks the concrete barrier prevented any bikers from being hurt by the incident and said the City believes the new lanes will help decrease future traffic collisions.

“It was a driver who broke the law and did something unsafe that caused that crash,” he said. “When I look at that picture, I see that the facility is doing what it was intended to do and keep people safe from those dangerous situations.”

The City of Santa Monica has a plan to create a network of protected bike lanes throughout the City in coming years.

Even with the negative reception from some residents, Kligier said he still thinks it is a worthwhile and overall beneficial endeavor.

“With two thirds of greenhouse gas emissions in Santa Monica coming from the transportation sector, we really need to do something different than the status quo,” he said. “We need to radically change how we get around this community so that our planet will be here in future years.”

Levitansky said he thinks it is necessary to rethink the design before moving forward with installing additional concrete curb-protected lanes.

“The city council should recognize that the idea was a good idea in thought, but it’s not in reality and that has been shown both in practice and in the voices of the residents and the businesses, whether they be pedestrians, bicyclists, and most importantly, handicapped, disabled individuals and the emergency personnel.”

He said that the City has gained valuable lessons from the 17th Street project that they will keep in mind going forward.

“We’ve learned from this project and we’ll do better next time,” he said.

grace@smdp.com

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing- Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author’s Guide 1-877-538-9554 or visit http://dorranceinfo.com (Cal-SCAN)

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. $0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote -Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-439-5545 (SCAN)

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation - Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1653 (Cal-SCAN)

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation - Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1653 (Cal-SCAN)


ON AN UNWANTED CAR??? Your car donation to Patriotic Hearts helps veterans find work or start their own business. Fast free pick. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1-877-529-0495. (Cal-SCAN)

Tiene un vehiculo no deseado? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rapida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llame ahora: 1-844-244-5641 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)

DONATING YOUR CAR TO KIDS Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation - Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1653 (Cal-SCAN)


Donating your vehicle? Get more! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Plus a $200 restaurant voucher and a 2-night/3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations. Call Heritage for the Blind to donate your vehicle today. CALL 1-844-491-2884 (Cal-SCAN)

Donating your vehicle? Get more! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Plus a $200 restaurant voucher and a 2-night/3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations. Call Heritage for the Blind to donate your vehicle today. CALL 1-844-491-2884 (Cal-SCAN)


Book Publisher looking for a working partner/investor. I have written 1 adult horror & 3 Young Adult horror books. Looking to bring them & others to market & option/sell to film industry, connections to film companies very helpful. Mtbbpublishing@gmail.com 619-396-3460 (Cal-SCAN)

DID YOU KNOW Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it’s taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 918-288-6011 or email cecelio@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

TrueCar, Inc. seeks Software Test Engineer 3s in Santa Monica, CA to work on a team that collaborates on common problems across all products and areas of focus and helps to ensure quality is an integral part of the development process. $80,122-$130,000 per year. Telecommuting permitted. Apply @ www.jobpostingtoday.com Ref#2771
Aries (March 21-April 19). Danger has its allure to your warrior heart. You'll seek novel experiences. It's essential to balance this desire with a responsible and mindful approach to risk-taking.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Worry is a natural response to uncertain situations. You'll alleviate your trepidation by focusing on what you can influence. What part of this is within your control? Turn it into a goal and actively work toward it.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). There are different names for people who will spread the word quickly. They are gossipers, broadcasters, publicity agents... Use their strengths. Give them the information you want everyone to know.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). What is the appropriate amount of effort you should be putting in? Exerting yourself demonstrates strength, but pushing yourself excessively is unnecessary if you have the right support around you. Do you?

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a rush of adrenaline that comes from skillfully navigating precarious situations. You’ll be enticed by the chemical alterations involved in taking risks and pushing oneself to the limits. Novelty and stimulation are basic human needs.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Anyone can wrap their had around a pleasant moment they wanted, planned and expected. It’s how people behave in the unexpected moments that tell a fuller story about their character.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). There is no point in rushing anxiously through the mundane parts of the day to get to the good stuff because one can never tell which part of the day that will be. Today it will be hidden between experiences, for instance in the line at the grocery store or the hold music on the phone.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21). If you perform and pretend too much, you will come away from an experience feeling that the one receiving the praise and applause was someone else. Instead of being who you think they want, be yourself and see what happens.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). While fairness matters, life can be so complex and ambiguous that it’s hard to know exactly what’s fair. Relatedly, a soft approach is not always practical or fruitful. Quick and resolute action will be necessary.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It’s easier to improve your skills when you accept that mistakes are just part of the process. You’ll let go of the fear of looking foolish. You’ll fall down a few times before you get the hang of this—that just means you’re learning to stand.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The kinship you feel makes you want to help. You will eventually teach others, but first figure out what works for you. Hone your process. To give yourself to your own aims is necessary—the gateway to your future generosity.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). People are disarmed by your friendliness. In fact, you could call your charm a defense. You catch people off guard and derail their plans. They can’t behave the same way with you as they do with everyone else.

New and impactful friends come into your life. Love will make time elastic. Beauty will connect you to the moments. More highlights: cycles of abundant money and fun, and a firm footing when life is more about work. Respect other generations and you’ll be celebrated by them too.

Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 3, 1, 19 and 30.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 20)

Solutions to Yesterday's Sudoku

Newspaper Crossword
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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © africanwordgames.com.au 5650

The game of chess

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

Active
Advantage
Alert
Black
Board
Bust
Capped
Chase
Coffeehouse
Cook
Defence

Draw
Fast
Hauptturnier
Hole
Hush
Indoor
King
Learn
Lost
Move
Nerves

Outsmart
Pawn
Piece
Plan
Quiet
Relax
Resign
Rows
Sacrifice
Safety
Skilful

Solutions to yesterday's words puzzle.

Exciting extended rallies
20 Questions Trivia is like no other trivia show, because you’re a part of the show. Wrong answers count for partial credit if they’re funny. Every week the show has a theme, and all the questions and answers revolve around that theme. That makes it possible to figure out the answer even if you don’t know it. And every question is followed by a song, which is usually an additional clue to the correct answer.

O’Brien’s Irish Pub & Restaurant, 2226 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 310-829-5303

TUESDAY | MAY 23

**GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB**

SMC Library book club that meets monthly to discuss graphic novels. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA

**LAVIAILLE CAMPBELL AND ROBIN MITCHELL EXHIBITIONS**

Join us at the gallery on May 20th from 5-7pm for the opening reception of Laviallle Campbell: Disruption & Robin Mitchell: Spellbound Craig Krul Gallery 2525 Michigan Avenue, BLD. B 3 Santa Monica, 90404

**WEDNESDAY | MAY 24**

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**

The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica: Housing Authority, Parking Authority, Public Financing, Redevelopment Successor Agency, Audit Subcommittee Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica, CA 90401 Council Chamber, Room 250

**THURSDAY | MAY 25**

**EXHIBITION: JIM JENKINS, “CURRENTS”**

Kinetic sculptor, Jim Jenkins’ most recent works are inspired by the state of the world, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the destabilization of the economy. He sculpts inanimate objects from metal, wood, and plastics and brings them to life with motors and counterweights, carefully orchestrating the movement of each object. Lois Lambert Gallery 2525 Michigan Ave, #E3 Santa Monica, CA 90404

**FRIDAY | MAY 26**

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, LOW**

Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405

For help submitting an event, contact us at 310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com