Illegal firework complaints increase as July 4 approaches

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

All fireworks are illegal in Santa Monica and officials are again warning potential Independence Day celebrants to keep the illegal activity out of the city.

“All fireworks shall be illegal in the City of Santa Monica including California State Fire Marshal ‘Safe and Sane’ fireworks. No person shall possess, transport, sell or offer for sale, any such fireworks,” according to City of Santa Monica Fire code.

Fireworks may not be used in Santa Monica even if they are legal in the city in which they were purchased. Possession of fireworks is considered a misdemeanor and may be punishable up to a $1,000 fine, and/or 6 months in jail. Discharging firearms into the air is also illegal and is a felony and punishable by a year in state prison.

Illegal fireworks are a perennial problem in Santa Monica with complaints growing as July 4 approaches.

According to SMPD, every year the police department responds to dozens of complaints of fireworks around the 4th of July and while many of those complaints are reported as other kinds of calls, such as “shots fired,” they turn out to be fireworks.

Local officials say the problem is national in scope with more than 19,500 reported fires started by fireworks annually.

Local firefighters said they will be prepared and ready to respond to any fires or injuries should they occur and while the City of Santa Monica is more prone to structure fires rather than wildfires, neighboring areas like the Palisades, Santa Monica Mountains and Malibu are at significant risk.

The threat of injury from illegal fireworks is significant and long lasting.

A new report by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) found a 93.9 as-needed FTEs. The Capital Budget amounts to approximately $745 million for the respective years. The budget includes a total of 2,006 permanent full-time equivalent jobs (FTEs) and 93.9 as-needed FTEs. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is expected to slow significantly to about 3 percent a year. Steady growth will allow the city to rebuild its reserve fund to 15 percent of expenses by 2026/27 but it will take until 2027/28 to recover to prepandemic levels. Officials estimate the city will have lost about $250 million by that time in lost revenue growth.

The revised FY 2023-25 Citywide Budget amounts to approximately $745 million and $750.6 million for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25, respectively. The operating budget for the city is $641 million and $664.7 million for the respective fiscal years. The budget includes a total of 2,006 permanent full-time equivalent jobs (FTEs) and 93.9 as-needed FTEs. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) would result in money saved. It would also result in the end of any contractual work undertaken by existing Los Angeles-based law enforcement agencies.

“This approach will not only create a stronger and more efficient safety framework but also allows Metro to reallocate resources in a proactive and cost effective manner that aligns with agency safety priorities,” said Gina Osborn, Chief Safety Officer for the Los Angeles Metro, adding, “This will ultimately lead to a safer and more secure transit experience for riders.”

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Approval of $745M annual budget anchors Tuesday council meeting

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Council will meet Tuesday to concluded its annual budget cycle with a revised proposal that predicts the city’s financial footing is secure in the short term.

Santa Monica’s budget is relatively stable over the next five years with estimates showing a slight revenue surplus over the next three years and small shortfalls in years four and five. Staff said those losses represent about 0.1 and 0.3 percent of the total budget and are manageable over the three years of surpluses.

Revenues have seen explosive growth in recent years, spiking by 30 percent immediately following the pandemic and that rate of growth is expected to slow significantly to about 3 percent a year. Steady growth will allow the city to rebuild its reserve fund to 15 percent of expenses by 2026/27 but it will take until 2027/28 to recover to prepandemic levels. Officials estimate the city will have lost about $250 million by that time in lost revenue growth.

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Metro

From Page 1

and employees

Janice Hahn, Metro board member and LA County Supervisor, expressed concern for the move and ultimately abstained from the vote.

“I think I’m the most outspoken critic about public safety on our system and yet every time I would bring up issues or problems or concerns I felt like I got a lot of pushback with [remarks like] ‘we have a multi-layered approach’ or ‘it’s just a perception of crime’ or look at all the people that ride safely and don’t have anything happen to them’ and so on,” Hahn said, adding, “I kept getting all this pushback, so it’s very surprising to me that we have gone from ‘everything’s fine’ to what we are now basically voting to implement.”

The motion, as outlined by Chair Ara Najarian, was that the board directs the CEO to prepare a comprehensive implementation plan for board consideration to bring public safety in-house and present the plan to the board in January 2024. The implementation plan should reflect Metro’s commitment to building a new culture of public safety centered on a robust, multi-layered approach.

The motion was forwarded by Tim Sandoval and seconded by Paul Krekorian.

The public’s comments to this (agenda item 21) were plentiful and almost entirely against this plan, with numerous requests for Metro to instead invest in more trains, buses and a shared services model, claiming that extra police won’t actually reduce crime, only an improved mental health care program could do that.

In April, a Metro rider was violently beaten by eight teenagers at the Santa Monica station at 11:15 a.m. Eric Lewis had taken the Expo train from Downtown Los Angeles to his job in Santa Monica every day undisturbed for the past three years when one morning a group of juveniles caused a disturbance preventing the train from leaving the station. They attacked Lewis, hitting him repeatedly over the head with skateboards. He ended up with cuts, bruises, broken ribs and needed 14 stitches in his skateboards. He ended up with cuts, bruises, hitting him repeatedly over the head with leaving the station. They attacked Lewis, a disturbance preventing the train from one morning a group of juveniles caused a disturbance preventing the train from leaving the station. They attacked Lewis, hitting him repeatedly over the head with skateboards. He ended up with cuts, bruises, broken ribs and needed 14 stitches in his head. Two Metro bus drivers have been beaten by eight teenagers at the Santa Monica Police Department.

Chair Ramon Batista of the Santa Monica Police Department.

“Over the past few months we have been in close communication with the Director of Safety for LA County Metro along with LASD command staff who oversee the Sheriff’s Department deputies on the transit system,” Chief Ramon Batista of the Santa Monica Police Department told the Daily Press.

“We are encouraged by the meaningful steps those organizations have taken to address public safety on the system, including the buses and trains that travel in and around Santa Monica and the train platforms and bus layover points in our city. We believe that creating a dedicated police force for LA County transit would benefit all of us and we support their efforts to get this worthy project off the ground.”

This decision also comes only days after the board of Downtown Santa Monica voted to move forward with a private security company patrolling the Third Street Promenade and the City’s extension of private security in parking garages.

Scott Snowden@smdp.com

DininG in the Garden

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Using Spring Herbs: Fattoush Salad and a Lemon Balm Drink

By Salima Saunders

To me, the sight and smell of fresh herbs are a herald of spring. Give me a bouquet of herbs over flowers any day. When I pluck my nose into a splash of herbs and breathe in the fragrant mint, parsley, dill, cilantro, and lemon balm — a potpourri — I can’t stop sniffing. Fresh herbs can brighten a dish and add an unexpected pop of flavor.

Herbs that are currently in season, actually in Santa Monica’s Mediterranean climate all year-round, are cilantro, basil, mint, rosemary, lemon balm, dill, parsley and thyme. When I buy herbs or harvest them from a garden, I look for leaves that are unblemished and mostly green and store them upright in a glass of water covered with a plastic bag in the fridge. The plastic covering can keep the herbs from drying out too quickly. Before using the herbs, I take a few sprigs of what I need from the plant in the fridge, wash them under cold water, and give them a spin in my salad spinner. After a few rounds in the spinner, I take them out and let them dry a bit more on a clean towel. They are then ready to use. Soggy herbs are not ideal in a fresh salad or spread!

I was inspired to create a Lebanese fattoush salad in order to use as many herbs as possible! Traditionally, fattoush salad uses crisp veggies, mint, parsley, and fried day-old pita bread all tossed in a lemony sumac dressing. It reminds me of the Italian panzanella salad as it is a great way to repurpose leftover bread. Parsley is a source of vitamin A and C and can be planted indoors and outdoors. Mint is a very hardy plant that will grow easily in your garden, but watch out that it does not take it over! This fattoush salad is made scoopable piled on a pillowy bed of a feta spread and eaten with pita chips.

FATTOUSH SALAD

Ingredients:
1 English Cucumber
1 red pepper
3 tomatoes
3 green onions (green parts only)
¼ cup of mint leaves chopped finely
½ cup parsley leaves chopped finely
Pinch of salt and pepper
Handful of pita chips

Dressing Ingredients:
1 lemon
1 clove garlic (crushed)
½ cup olive oil
½ tsp sumac
Salt and Pepper to taste

Feta Spread Ingredients:
1 block feta
2-3 tablespoons of Labneh
2 TBS Olive Oil

Method:
1. Dice all vegetables for the salad.
2. Dice all vegetables for the salad.
3. Dice all vegetables for the salad.
4. Mix all ingredients together in large bowl. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Scoop your salad with pita chips and enjoy!

LEMON BALM DRINK

Recently, while buying my mint and parsley at the farmer’s market, I mistakenly picked up lemon balm. It looks similar to mint and is in the same plant family, but it has the most fragrant lemony smell. (It is called lemon balm after all!) When I brought it home, it just begged to be used in a refreshing beverage. I really enjoyed putting about 5 sprigs of lightly crushed lemon balm in a large 32oz mason jar with cold water. Refrigerate for 2-3 hours and enjoy! I would imagine this could also be delicious as a comforting tea with hot water and a splash of lemon juice, and a teaspoon of honey. Studies show that lemon balm acts as an antioxidant to reduce inflammation and can increase feelings of calm.

The magic of herbs! Gather your own or learn to grow your own at Ishihara Park Learning Garden. Herbs are very easy to grow in containers or pots, perfect for a balcony or backyard. Volunteer hours at Ishihara are from 9:30 - 11 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Basil: Herbs in the garden.

Set aside the pita chips for scooping.
2. Make the dressing by juicing the whole lemon into a jar; add the garlic, olive oil, and salt and pepper. Put the lid on the jar and shake vigorously.
3. Make the feta spread by mashing all ingredients using a fork or for a smoother spread, a food processor, and scooping the spread on to a plate.
4. Add the salad ingredients on top of the spread and top with as much salad dressing as you like.

Basil: Herbs in the garden.

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1. Mix all ingredients together in large bowl. Season with salt and pepper.
2. Scoop your salad with pita chips and enjoy!
Citywide

John Risatti Obituary

John Risatti was born in 1949 and passed away this spring, 2023. He lived in our building in Santa Monica since 1965. He was a lover of all things Hollywood glamour and watched every film he could get his hands on. He was a kind soul beloved by his neighbors and community and was always there for everyone with a story, prayer, a little gift or note and a smile. May he rest in peace and be free. He will be remembered and celebrated.

SUBMITTED BY LAURIE SEARLE

Los Angeles

Attorney General Bonta, Retailers, Online Marketplaces Sign Collaborative Agreement to Better Combat Organized Retail Crime

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, with retailers and online marketplaces representing some of the largest share of retail and online business, signed a first-of-its-kind agreement committing to specific actions aimed at helping address the growing issue of organized retail crime. Organized retail crime refers to large-scale theft and fraud by individuals or groups that steal retail goods from the retail supply chain with the intent to resell, distribute, or return stolen merchandise for financial gain. In some cases, resell may occur through third-party online platforms. California and states across the country have seen a pattern of organized retail crime. According to a 2020 national survey, U.S. retailers lose approximately $700,000 to organized retail crime per every $1 billion in sales. In the agreement, the parties agree to take certain steps aimed at increasing the detection and reporting of organized retail crime, as well as improved collaboration on information sharing and investigation of organized retail crime in furtherance of prosecutions.

“The fact is, we are stronger when we work together as a united front,” said Attorney General Rob Bonta. “Organized retail crime costs businesses, retailers, and consumers — and puts the public at risk. This new partnership signals a robust and genuine commitment shared by the retail marketplace and law enforcement to crack down on these crimes. Today’s announcement demonstrates California’s resilience and tenacity in tackling these challenges within our state. Whether it is law enforcement, online marketplaces, or retailers — we will not tolerate organized retail crime in our state.”

“The Home Depot applauds Attorney General Bonta for committing to this agreement and the passage of SB 301 and AB 1700, legislation that will fight organized retail crime and help stop dangerous criminals from stealing from our stores,” said Scott Glenn, Vice President of Asset Protection, The Home Depot.

eBay is committed to providing a secure online shopping experience to millions of people globally and has been very serious about battling stolen goods,” said Zhi Zhou, Chief Risk Officer, eBay. “We have zero tolerance for criminal activity on our platform and are proud to support Attorney General Bonta and other online marketplaces in this effort to curtail organized retail theft and support criminal prosecutions against those who try to use our platform to sell stolen goods. This will compliment eBay’s Partnering with Retailers Offensively Against Crime and Theft (PROACT) program, a collaboration with Retail Loss Prevention departments in North America seeking assistance with investigations related to Organized Retail Crime.”

“Organized Retail Crime is a prevalent issue for all retailers, online and physical, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution,” said Anthony Williams, Director of California Public Policy, Amazon. “For us, customer trust is central to everything we do. To that end, we strongly support legislative efforts and collaborative partnerships, like Attorney General Bonta’s Statement of Principles, to stop bad actors from harming consumers.”

“We are pleased to join Attorney General Bonta and our retail, marketplace and law enforcement partners in this effort to combat organized retail theft,” said Jeffrey Zubricki, Head of Advocacy and Public Policy, Etsy. “A huge credit to the California Department of Justice and the stakeholders who have worked tirelessly to get this done. These commitments will help achieve our shared goal of protecting consumers from bad actors and keep marketplaces like Etsy a safe place for small honest sellers across America to run their creative businesses.”

“OfferUp strongly supports this initiative and believes that the California principles can serve as a model for other states,” said Nathan Garnett, General Counsel, OfferUp. “We appreciate the hard work of the California Attorney General’s office and the collaboration of the other signatories.”

“Organized retail crime not only jeopardizes consumer safety, but costs businesses billions annually,” said Lia Nitate, Deputy Executive Director of California & the Southwest, TechNet. “Our members have invested significantly in technologies, personnel, and processes to help stop bad actors from harming consumers and businesses. The Joint Statement of Principles is a continued commitment to address the issue across California. We thank the Attorney General for his leadership to combat organized retail crime.”

The agreement today will help advance information-sharing and detection regarding loss of items from various stages of the supply chain, including cargo and retail goods, that may end up for sale in online marketplaces. Additionally, today’s announcement highlights Attorney General Bonta’s efforts to improve reporting of retail crime, with a new online reporting form that will be linked and available at online marketplaces doing business in California. The online portal for the public to submit complaints and tips can be found at oag.ca.gov/retailtheft.

In 2022, California passed into law a package of legislation to address retail crime. This new organized retail crime agreement advances the intent and purpose of this legislation, which includes:

- Senate Bill 301, which provides threshold requirements for marketplaces to collect and store information related to third party high-volume sellers and is consistent with California privacy laws, and requires online marketplaces to report; future sales activities of high-volume third-party sellers who are not in compliance with these reporting requirements.

- Assembly Bill 1700, which creates an online reporting tool managed by the Attorney General’s Office that provides the public with a mechanism for reporting organized retail theft.

SUBMITTED BY CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE

COMMUNITY NEWS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Traffic Stop Data to Stop to Be Presented to the Community July 11
Are traffic stops in Santa Monica racially discriminatory? Thanks to the CA Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA), we now have data from SMPD to help answer this question.

The data will be presented at the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission’s July 11 meeting at City Hall, starting at 6 p.m. SMPD Chief Ramon Batista has invited the community to attend and participate: https://www.santamonicaga.gov/events/smpd-racial-and-identity-profiling-act-data-report

RIPA requires California police officers to collect specific information on each stop they make, including elements of the stop circumstances and the perceived identity characteristics (e.g. race/ethnicity of the individual(s) stopped.

Pretextual stops are a particularly concerning type of stop. Conducting such stops has been SMPD policy for decades. A pretextual stop occurs when an officer stops someone for a lawful traffic violation or minor infraction, intending to use the stop to investigate a hunch regarding a different crime that by itself would not amount to reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

Many community members have years of lived experience enduring frequent pretextual traffic stops. Too many other community members are unaware of how many people unlike themselves are more frequently subjected to these stops. At present, pretextual stops are legal. However, if passed, CA Senate Bill 50 – Pretextual Stops for Low-Level Violations – would limit them in California.

The RIPA Board supports SB 50 as well as CA Assembly Bill 93 – Criminal Procedure: Consensual Searches, which would prohibit warrantless searches of a vehicle, person, or their effects, based solely on a person’s consent. The California NAACP and over 50 other groups also support these two bills.

The Santa Monica-Venice NAACP unanimously approved a motion requesting Santa Monica to convene a Traffic Enforcement Safety and Reform Task Force with representatives from the NAACP, SMPD, the Santa Monica College Police Department and other relevant organizations to examine the 2022 RIPA data and determine what it tells us about how to make reforms in local traffic stops.

THE MOTION SPECIFIES THAT THE TASK FORCE SHOULD:
1. Examine the 2022 SMPD and SMPD data on traffic stops and searches mandated by RIPA,
2. Evaluate the utility of pretextual traffic stops, based on a reasonable balance between their actual crime prevention benefits, on the one hand, and their disparate burden on Black and Latino vehicle drivers, on the other;
3. Consider changes that would decrease racial disparities in traffic stops without compromising traffic safety, and
4. Evaluate the feasibility of training non-police government employees to conduct certain types of traffic stops, as specified by SB 50.

The Santa Monica Coalition for Police Reform supports a similar proposal. Together, these organizations urge the PSROC to initiate a robust community process for reforming traffic enforcement policy in Santa Monica. Please attend the July 11 PSROC meeting at 6pm to participate in the discussion or send your comments in advance to: publicsafetyreform@santamonicaga.gov

Darrell Goode, President, Santa Monica-Venice NAACP; Michele Wittig, Convenor, Santa Monica Coalition for Police Reform

SUBMITTED BY CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE

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Los Angeles

Simple Steps Can Help Prevent West Nile Virus and Other Mosquito-Borne Disease

As spring days become warmer - and mosquitoes more common - the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health advises all residents to take precautions now to help prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

Illnesses such as West Nile virus and Saint Louis Encephalitis virus can be spread through the bite of an infected mosquito here in Los Angeles County. Public Health recommends the following actions to reduce the risk of West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne disease infections:

TAKE STEPS TO CONTROL MOSQUITOES INDOORS AND OUTDOORS:

- Use screens on windows and doors. Check for, and repair, holes in screens to keep mosquitoes outdoors.
- Stop mosquitoes from laying eggs in or near standing water. Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pet bowls, flower pot saucers, rain barrels, or other containers. These are places where mosquitoes lay eggs.
- Empty and wash bird baths and wading pools weekly.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools; drain any water collecting on pool covers.
- Stock garden ponds with fish that eat mosquitoes such as mosquitofish, goldfish, or koi. These feed on mosquito eggs and larvae.
- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and during warm mosquito season when mosquitoes are most active.

Use insect repellent. Choose Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-methane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Find the right insect repellent for you by using EPA’s search tool.

Cover up. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when you are outdoors, particularly at dusk and dawn, and in areas where more mosquitoes are present, such as ponds with stagnant water.

Report stagnant swimming pools or “green pools” to the Public Health Environmental Health Environmental Health Bureau at (888) 700-9995, or to a local vector control agency.

Dead birds should be reported to the California West Nile Virus Dead Bird Hotline at (877) 968-2473 or online: https://westnile.ca.gov/report.php

"The best ways to prevent West Nile virus infections and other mosquito-borne diseases is to take steps now to eliminate mosquito breeding spots and to protect our families from bites,” said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed., Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

"Because there are no vaccines to prevent West Nile, or a treatment to cure this disease, we can all follow simple steps to reduce the risk of West Nile virus including removing standing water around our homes and avoiding mosquito-infested areas at dawn and dusk."

SUBMITTED BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Malibu

City of Malibu Planning Commission Will Begin Hybrid Remote and In-Person Meetings at City Hall Starting July 17

The Malibu City Council voted on June 12, 2023 to have the Planning Commission begin holding its meetings in a hybrid in-person and remote format starting July 17, as Los Angeles County continues the trend of low COVID-19 conditions.

The Planning Commission meetings will follow the same procedures as the City Council meetings, which began holding hybrid meetings as a pilot program on March 27. The hybrid format allows the public to watch or give public comment both in person at City Hall and virtually via Zoom. The City’s other Commissions, Committees and Boards will continue meeting virtually.

Planning Commission meetings will take place at Malibu City Hall, located at 23825 Stuart Ranch Road, and will simultaneously be held remotely using the Zoom Webinar tool. Members of the public may make public comments during the meetings either in-person or in the remote meeting.

The City Council and staff discussed how the hybrid meeting pilot program for the City Council has impacted logistics, staffing, technology and budgetary resources, and public participation. The hybrid meetings have been conducted pursuant to state law (AB 361), which was passed during the pandemic in 2021, allowing local government bodies to hold public meetings remotely during a state of emergency, or if necessary to protect public safety.

Viewing and commenting instructions will be included in Planning Commission meeting agendas and posted on the City’s website at www.malibucity.org/agendacenter. To sign up to receive notifications by text message or email whenever an agenda is posted, amended or canceled for the Planning Commission or any other City body, visit www.MalibuCity.org/News, scroll down to Agenda Center, and select the desired meeting body.

Written comments may be sent to the Planning Commission at PlanningCommission@MalibuCity.org.

The City will continue to broadcast Planning Commission meetings live on Malibu City TV Channel 3, and live and on-demand on the website at www.MalibuCity.org/TV and the City’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/CityofMalibu/videos.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any member of the public who needs special assistance to participate in an in-person meeting at Malibu City Hall may contact Environmental Sustainability Director/Building Official Yolanda Bundy at 310-456-2498, ext. 229.

Notification 48 hours prior to a meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure ADA accessibility to the meeting.

Requests to show an audio or video presentation during a Council meeting should be directed to Media Analyst Alex Montano at 310-456-2489, ext. 227 or amontano@malibucity.org by 12:00 PM the day of the meeting.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF
Pet of the Week: Mel

Hi, I’m Mel! A 2-year-old male Pitbull Husky Mix, ID#A063528. Some say I’m a whole lotta dog, and they would be right! I’m big, with a larger-than-life smile and personality. But when my interest is peaked, my jumping can be a tad over the top, and I’m well aware that my mounting can be perceived as nothing less than obnoxious! Anyway, my conventionally desirable qualities are plentiful! Despite being in residence at the Santa Monica Animal Shelter for almost a year now — a travesty, I know — no one can rain on my parade! With a “glass is half full” attitude, I’m quiet and polite in my kennel, my enthusiasm to play and socialize with people is limitless, and I’m pleasant on leash. Naturally, I would be best suited with adopters who not only have experience handling a pup as mighty as me, but also have the willingness to offer me behavior modification to curb my sizable quirks. Which, you will find, is the true key to my success!

The Santa Monica Animal Shelter is located at 1640 9th Street in Santa Monica. Walk-in adoptions may be accommodated, but appointments are preferred and can be made by calling (310) 458-8595, Tuesday through Saturday, between 8 pm and 5 pm. For a full list of their adoptables, and more information about the shelter and animal control, visit santamonica.gov, and go to Animal Services. To learn about ways to donate, visit the Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation at smasf.org.

PET TIP: KEEPING PETS SAFE AND REDUCING THEIR STRESS ON THE 4TH OF JULY

The 4th of July is one of the busiest times of the year for impounds of pets to animal shelters because while fireworks may be spectacular to us, they can be distressing for pets. More than often, they escape, becoming lost, with lasting negative impacts on their behavior. There are many ways to prepare for Independence Day so that you can keep your pets safe, reduce their chances of stress, and create their own fun!

Start preparing now! Make sure your pet’s microchip and dog license are up to date, and they should be worn and visible at all times.

If your pet has a history of anxiety, contact your veterinarian for calming medical alternatives.

- Establish a safe zone in a quiet area or room in your home where they can be on the 4th of July. If your dog is fully crate trained, include their crate. Use a pet gate, or close the room door to keep the area secure.
- Create a positive association to this area prior to the 4th of July, and maintain those dynamics so that the safe zone becomes a desirable place that they look forward to.
- Provide bedding and water to keep them comfortable. Pick times during the day where they are in this area enjoying time with you, meals, and high value treats, toys, fun games, and activities. Limit these to the safe zone so that they may hold their value.
- To drown out outside noises, play familiar music and soothing sounds from an android device, TV, or radio.
- On the 4th of July, provide them with plenty of stimulation and exercise before you anticipate fireworks so that they have less adrenaline which can aid in reducing anxiety later. Cats are at their prime at dusk and dawn and are stimulated by playtime and grooming. Play games with your dog, and take them on longer active walks.
- Eliminate escape routes! Close windows, doors, and anything that provides access to the outdoors.
- If your dog will be accompanying you to outside events, keep your dog secure on a shorter leash at all times to keep them closer to you. Reflective dog walking equipment makes it easier to see them at night. To avoid illness and injury, supervise them if they are around food, barbecue grills, and keep the area clear of any food scraps, and debris.
- If they escape, act fast! Report your pet missing to Santa Monica Animal Control at (310) 458-8595, or Santa Monica Police Department’s 24-hour dispatch line at (310) 458-8491. Search outside of your home or in the area that they were last located. Small pets will typically hide around the home, and cats are known to stay within a two-block radius of their home, while dogs can venture long distances. Make flyers to

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BUDGET
FROM PAGE 1
Budget for FY 2023-24 is proposed to be around $104.1 million, while the FY 2024-25 budget plan is approximately $85.9 million. The projected revenues for the city amount to $750.9 million and $782.5 million in FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25, respectively.

Staff said the budget is designed to align with community-driven priorities and focuses on rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing the community. It begins with a baseline budget that maintains current services and addresses council priorities, which is then supplemented with enhancements identified during workshops. These enhancements are funded through various sources such as voter-approved measures, partnerships, rate adjustments, reallocated funding, and successful grant applications. The budget is balanced for FY 2023-24 and utilizes working capital reserve funds in FY 2024-25 to maintain service levels as general fund revenues continue to recover.

Council has already held workshops and meetings on the proposed budget with the June 27 document incorporating feedback. Some of the notable changes and initiatives included in the revised budget are:

- Monthly meetings for the Landmarks Commission and waiving application fees for non-profits and Landmarks Commissioners for certain applications.
- Restoring the City Traffic Engineer position to improve mobility projects and traffic safety.
- Investing in technology to enhance community safety.
- Supporting funding for the CREST program to expand its operations in elementary schools.
- Adjustments to the unfunded project list, including adding projects like the Reed Park Dog Park and Promenade Kiosk Improvement while removing others like the Bergamot Station Connectivity Phase 2.
- Additionally, city staff have made adjustments to the proposed budget based on council direction, grant receipts, funding for the Human Services Grant Program, and technical corrections. The revised budget represents a difference of approximately $4.2 million in FY 2023-24 and $4.1 million in FY 2024-25 compared to the initial proposed budget. These adjustments primarily affect non-General Funds, with only a minimal impact on the General Fund.

Council has previously debated ways to fund more police and/or security officers throughout the city. Citizens also came to a past meeting arguing that more needs to be done to address crime and homelessness throughout the city.

Council can ultimately modify the current budget proposal in any way and staff have been asked to provide cost estimates on some proposals.

The budget already includes $200,000 to develop a Homelessness Strategic Plan. Staff said the estimated cost of adding four Public Service Officers would be $2.2 million over five years. The cost to increase the number of private security guards operating in city-owned garages from four to six is estimated at $876,440.

Council will meet on Tuesday, June 27 in City Hall, 1685 Main Street. Closed session begins at 5:30 p.m. and other business will not be heard before 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Santa Monica
SMC’s Drescher Planetarium Continues Free, Live Virtual Shows in July

Featured Topics: The Vera C. Rubin Observatory, Mars Exploration Survey, and The Perseid Meteors of 2023

Santa Monica College’s John Drescher Planetarium continues its Friday evening events in July 2023 with free, live virtual shows presented online at smc.edu/planetarium. This month’s friendly presentations will cover the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, a survey of Mars Exploration, and the Perseid Meteors of 2023. The Friday evening shows are at 8 p.m. and are preceded by a streamlined virtual digest of the popular Night Sky Show at 7 p.m., offering the latest news in astronomy and space exploration. The shows include the chance to chat with the planetarium lecturers and ask questions.

Planetarium lecturers are currently using the Zoom platform to present shows while the actual on-campus planetarium remains closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To attend the shows, the Zoom software must be installed on the viewer’s computer. A free download is available atzoom.com.

THE JULY 2023 SHOWS ARE:

- Friday, July 7, at 8 p.m. (following The Night Sky Show at 7 p.m.): “The Vera C. Rubin Observatory” — Senior Lecturer Jim Mahon. The Vera Rubin Observatory, an 8-meter-class survey telescope, will perform daily all-sky surveys at extremely high resolution, producing over 20 terabytes of data each night and making data management as challenging as optical design and execution. Tonight’s show investigates the intricacies of this ingenious machine for capturing a motion picture of our universe. Free. Zoom at smc.edu/planetarium.

- Friday, July 14, at 8 p.m. (following The Night Sky Show at 7 p.m.): “Solar System Exploration Survey: Part 4: Mars, Chapter 1” — Senior Lecturer Jim Mahon. The Solar System Exploration Survey continues with a look at Mars, the Red Planet, which has long intrigued humanity, and has naturally attracted a large number of space probes and robotic emissaries. Tonight’s show will cover the first era of Martian exploration, culminating with the Viking orbiters and landers in the 1970s. [Note: July 21 show will cover the second era of Mars exploration.] Free. Zoom at smc.edu/planetarium.

- Friday, July 21, at 8 p.m. (following The Night Sky Show at 7 p.m.): “Solar System Exploration Survey: Part 4: Mars, Chapter 2” — Lecturer Sarah Vincent. Tonight’s show will look at the second era of Mars exploration, starting with the arrival of the Mars Pathfinder Mission in 1997. This heady era saw the MER rovers and their descendants, plus a whole international fleet of orbiters, still going strong. Free. Zoom at smc.edu/planetarium.

- Friday, July 28, at 8 p.m. (following The Night Sky Show at 7 p.m.): “Fire in the Sky – The Perseid Meteors of 2023” — Senior Lecturer Jim Mahon. This year’s Perseids will be ideal for observing from a dark-sky site on their peak night of August 12-13. Tonight’s show will discuss the origins of this annual celestial spectacle, provide tips for observing the shower, and even point viewers to a group (not associated with SMC) they can join at a dark camping site to enjoy the meteor shower. [Note: The site offers only very basic, primitive camping. Food, beverages, and all camping and other equipment must be carried in.] Free. Zoom at smc.edu/planetarium.

More information is available online at smc.edu/planetarium or by calling 310-434-3005. All shows are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Santa Monica College is a California Community College accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

PET
FROM PAGE 5
post around your community and on social media. Canvas your neighborhood, and give neighbors your contact details so that they can notify you of any leads.

Preparing your pets for the 4th of July can not only manage and even prevent the impending stress of fireworks, but keep them safe, and positively engaged!

Pet of the Week is provided by Carmen Molinar. A longtime volunteer at the Santa Monica Animal Shelter and founder and CEO of Love At First Sit®, a pet care and dog behavior & training company in Santa Monica. Learn more at loveatfirstsit.net and Instagram.com/loveatfirstsit.
From Page 1

significant upward trend in fireworks-related injuries. Between 2006 and 2021, injuries with fireworks climbed 25% in the U.S., according to CPSC estimates.

Last year, at least nine people died, and an estimated 11,500 were injured in incidents involving fireworks. “It’s imperative that consumers know the risks involved in using fireworks, so injuries and tragedies can be prevented. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch the professional displays,” said CPSC Chair Alex Hoehn-Saric. In addition, he said, “CPSC’s Office of Compliance and Field Operations continues to work closely with other federal agencies to prevent the sale of illegal consumer fireworks.”

County officials reiterated that message. “Personal use of fireworks is illegal in Los Angeles County and children should not be allowed to handle or ignite fireworks,” said the County’s Department of Public Health. “Never hold a lit firework and do not try to reignite a firework that does not go off or malfunctions. To safely enjoy a firework show, grab a blanket or chairs and enjoy one of the many public displays being held throughout Los Angeles County.”

In Santa Monica, there is only one legal fireworks show:

Santa Monica College (SMC) will host its show, “Celebrate America 2023” on Saturday, July 1, at Corsair Field on the main SMC campus at 1900 Pico Blvd. Admission to the popular entertainment area from throughout the Southland. Plan to arrive as early as 1 p.m. and stay in the Marina area from throughout the Southland. Plan to arrive as early as 1 p.m. and stay in the Marina for safety, there will be no pre-show entry to parking lots after 8:15 p.m., or to Corsair Field after 8:45 p.m. The event is free (donations are welcome), and parking is $5.

There are two other nearby options for fireworks on July 4.

There will be fireworks on July 4 in Marina Del Rey. The fireworks show on Tuesday, July 4, starts at 9 p.m. and lasts 20 minutes. This is a popular event, with visitors traveling to the area from throughout the Southland. Plan to arrive as early as 1 p.m. and stay in the Marina to avoid traffic.

An evening of fireworks and music will also be held at Palisades Charter High School. Advance purchase tickets are required for entry to the music and fireworks show. All sales will be made via the online ticketing platform available at https://palisades4th.com/. Fireworks begin at 9 p.m. Entry gates will close at 8:45 p.m. (for fire safety reasons.) Any ticket holders arriving after the gates close will not be admitted and no refunds will be given.

Regardless of legality, all fireworks are dangerous for pets and more animals go missing at this time of year than any other. Pet owners should keep their animals inside and use white noise such as radios, TVs, fans or air conditioning units to help drown out any disturbing booms.

Make sure your pet has an updated and secure collar with an ID tag, in case they become frightened and escape. Pet owners can also speak to their vet and help make a plan prior to Independence Day Weekend.

Additional Information:

- Report the use of illegal fireworks to SMPD’s non-emergency line (310) 458-8493.
- Report any fires or medical emergencies to our emergency line 9-1-1.
- The Humane Society also provided an online resource for pets who are skittish around loud noises: www.humanesociety.org/resources/pets-fear-thunder-loud-noises.
- Additional Celebrate America details are available online at smc.edu/CelebrateAmerica.

Visit https://palisades4th.com/ for more information on the Palisades fireworks shows or https://visitmdr.com/events/july-4-fireworks-marina-del-rey for information about the Marina Del Rey show.

editor@smdp.com

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Bike Tuneups only $59

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2400 Main Street. Santa Monica, CA 90405 - Across from Urth Cafe
FICITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER 2023131630 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/23/23. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Libera; By Nature X 925 Wilshire Blvd Suite 700 Santa Monica, CA 90401 The full name of the registrant(s) is/are RUS CPC Compassion Inc 1628 Cravens Lane Carpenteria, CA 93033f corporation or LLC- Print Statement of Incorporation/ Organization CA This Business is conducted by: A Corporation The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) N/A Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name Is: /s/ Erin Carachillo This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 05/23/23 NOTICE: THIS FICITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law. A copy of the 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.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 23SMCP00296 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Rogger Anthony Montes for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Rogger Anthony Montes filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Rogger Anthony Montes to Anthony Montes The court orders that all persons interested in this matter should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 07/14/2023 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401A 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.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 23SMCP00295 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Nicole Rose Lewis for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Nicole Rose Lewis filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Nicole Rose Lewis to Nik Lewis The court orders that all persons interested in this matter should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 07/14/2023 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401A 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.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 23SMCP00185 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Britney Rose Lewis for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Britney Rose Lewis filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Britney Rose Lewis to Britney Lewis The court orders that all persons interested in this matter should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 07/14/2023 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401A 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.
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S SUDOKU

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Regretted
5 Beginning reader’s lessons
9 Bulletin board
13 Country music
14 Chicken noodle
15 Have sore muscles
16 President since 2021
17 Vanish thin air
18 Dental image
19 Time keeper with an AM/FM tuner
21 Sales agents, for short
22 Pekoe or Earl Grey
23 Nebraska, sight, or hearing
25 Pellets in air rifles
28 12-month periods: Abbr.
30 Couches in living rooms
33 Fencing weapon
35 Sicilian volcano
38 Clean shelves with a rag
40 Bed cover that’s plugged in
43 One-on-one instructor
44 Actor’s assignment
45 Star soprano
46 Submarine detector
48 Corn-on-the-cob serving
50 Tennis court barrier
51 Nebraska’s largest city
54 Fraction of a minute: Abbr.
56 Con game
59 Wooden stand for a bedroom lamp

DOWN
1 Train track
2 Loosen, as a knot
3 Pop out, as a DVD
4 “Hee-haw!” horse relative
5 India’s continent
6 Stocks and (investment options)
7 Adorable infant
8 Cereal eaters’ utensils
9 Money back from the IRS
10 Flural measure
11 British fellow
12 Black and white parts of pianos
13 London TV channel
20 More uncommon
24 Cola or root beer
25 Red root vegetable
26 Grade just under an A
27 Take care of, as duties
29 Mix, as cake batter
31 Invite past the doorstep
32 Actor Carell or Jobs of Apple
34 Field involving supply and demand

SUDOKU

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your network is something to be proud of. You’ll find it hard to avoid name-dropping, but your instinct to do so isn’t totally self-based. After all, you must first impress people in order to influence them and get them to follow you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can learn through your own experience, or you can learn by reading or listening to the experience of others. The first way is comprehensive; the second is efficient. It just depends on what you have time for.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You assume that people think more or less like you do, but of course every skull is its own kingdom and culture. An interaction will illustrate an interesting difference in thinking styles.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It will be tempting to believe you are the living, breathing culmination of your own choices. Of course it’s absurd, considering how much of your current circumstance can be attributed to things you have absolutely no control over whatsoever.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Take advantage of this celestial high by focusing on your top priority. Pour all you have into a single purpose and your energy will magnify, multiply and lift all that’s around it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). “No” isn’t always negative, and it can in fact be the very word that keeps you from inconvenience, stress or harm. Whether saying or hearing it, today’s “no” will be an act of cosmic grace.

An amazing year for growing your power. You’ll have several wins, and with each one you’ll turn the victory into an opportunity to help and promote others. You stay grounded as your influence reaches the sky. More highlights: an exciting ride to ordinary places, an invitation to an exclusive circle, and whimsical love. Taurus and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 37, 8 and 16.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (June 26)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You’d like to think that your feelings are self-generated and contained within you, but you’re sensitive and connected to the whole, so what the people around you are feeling will affect you. Get to the lighter atmosphere.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Music and math are related, but it’s hard to dance to math. Your stars highlight your ability to intellectualize what’s natural, or go the opposite direction and take concepts into a most practical and applicable realm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You’ll either do the work with a smile on your face or not do it at all. It can be a challenge to find something to like about a thing that you can’t inherently find anything to like about.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don’t mind problems, as long as they are new problems. The same old problems are a reminder of what you haven’t or can’t solve. Lean into the frustration today because you’re on the brink of a breakthrough.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It will take training to get where you want to go. You’re ready to put in the hours and you will surely get there, one small hurdle at a time. Make sure you have a good teacher, a place to work and some kind of accountability system.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don’t mind problems, as long as they are new problems. The same old problems are a reminder of what you haven’t or can’t solve. Lean into the frustration today because you’re on the brink of a breakthrough.

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**FIND THE WORDS**

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

© australianwordgames.com.au  5887

**At the bowling alley**

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**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.**

This sport is not for me

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**Agnes**

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

**Dogs of C-Ken nel**

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

**Zack Hill**

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

**Heathcliff**

By PETER GALLAGHER

**Strange Brew**

By JOHN DEERING

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Covering the city by the bay since 2001.

To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
**MONDAY | JUNE 26**

**AIRPORT COMMISSION**
The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in matters pertaining to the administration of Santa Monica Municipal Airport and other aviation matters affecting the City. The Airport Commission meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, except in August and December when the Commission is in recess. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica, CA 90401 City Council Chambers.

**LOVEBUG & ME MUSIC**
In this musical storytime for little ones, we’ll sing songs, dance and play along with Lovebug & Me Music! For ages 0-2. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

**COMPOST CONNOISSEUR JON REED TOURS LOCAL WHOLE FOODS STORES**
From New Zealand, Jon’s start-up Compostic is leading the efforts to reduce kitchen usage of plastic with a product that can be directly added to your compost pile. Your garbage is still on today! 3 – 7 p.m., 11666 National Blvd, Los Angeles. Event repeats at the Venice Whole Foods, 225 Lincoln Blvd on Tuesday, June 27 and Wednesday, June 28.

**THURSDAY | JUNE 29**

**WOMEN’S MORNING BEACH DANCE**
Join other women as they dance or simply move our bodies. It’s a gorgeous way to start the morning. Freedom, nature and community. This isn’t a dance class and there’s no experience necessary. You’re free move how you choose. You’ll bring your own music and ear buds. So everyone will be together but also be in our own musical worlds. This time is for self-care and freedom. Follow your energy levels - be as still or wild as you please. All ages are welcome. Women and girls including trans women and gender fluid/non-binary female folk are wholeheartedly welcome. Annenberg Community Beach House 415 E. Pacific Coast Highway Santa Monica, CA (310) 458-4904 https://www.meetup.com/dancing-women-meetup-group/

**ACTIVE AGING APPY HOUR**
Bring your questions about purchasing transit fares and planning a trip using technology and get hands-on support. (Coffee will not be provided, but feel free to purchase your own.) Goodboybob Coffee Roasters (2058 Broadway, Santa Monica, CA 90404 inside the Broadway Place)2 - 3 p.m.

**FRIDAY | JUNE 30**

**COMING OUT WEST: LGBTQ+ ELDERS SHARE THEIR STORIES**
Santa Monica History Museum and The Outwords Archive present an exhibition of oral histories, ephemera and historical objects from LGBTQ+ elders with ties to Los Angeles and the Santa Monica Bay area. Santa Monica History Museum 1350 7th Street 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**SATURDAY | JULY 1**

**POSITIVE PARENTING: BEHAVIORAL STRUGGLES IN CHILDREN**
Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. United/Mental Health Promoters presents this free, confidential and educational conversation for parents, grandparents and caregivers. UMHP aims to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness by increasing awareness, removing barriers, engaging families with children and improving timely access to culturally- and linguistically-appropriate resources. A light breakfast is served and childcare provided. To register, email library@santamonica.gov or call (310) 458-8600.

**WEATHER**
Monday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 70.
Tuesday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 70.
Wednesday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

**DAILY LOTTERY**

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