



# CITY OF SAN MARINO

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### CITY HIGHLIGHTS

#### San Marino City Council adopts 2011-2012 fiscal year budget

The San Marino City Council has adopted the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget. The document provides a complete financial and policy framework for all planned City activities for the next 12 months. Some of the notable items include:

- The General Fund balance is estimated to be at \$16.5 million at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2012). This is a decrease of \$983,000 due to the \$2 million lease payment to the San Marino Unified School District for Stoneman School.
- No cost of living increases for employees
- No increase in the Public Safety Tax Assessment

- Six-month delay in the appointment of fire chief position
- Friday Library closures
- Continued elimination of subsidized special events in Recreation with the exception of the Fourth of July and Memorial Day

“Overall, this is a conservative budget,” commented City Manager Matt Ballantyne. “This is especially true in light of the renewal of the Public Safety Tax Assessment that sunsets at the end of this fiscal year, and our ongoing payments for Stoneman School.” ■

#### Recreation Department takes care of all your day care needs

Let the San Marino Recreation Department take care of your day care needs at Stoneman School. Kindergarten Care offers both before and afterschool care for morning and afternoon kindergarten. Elementary Day Care offers before and afterschool programming. Transportation is provided to and from school for Kindergarten Care and to Stoneman for Elementary Afterschool Day Care. Afterschool activities include homework assistance, crafts and organized outside play that is supervised by trained and caring staff. Monthly and drop-in rates are available.

In addition to day care programs, the Recreation Department offers independent classes for children ages 2 to 5 years old and Parent and Me classes for children ages 1 to 3 years old.

These programs are designed to assist in the development of children physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially through age-appropriate play, music and pre-academic interactive activities. The Recreation Department strives to provide a safe and nurturing environment where students feel welcome, confident and ready

to have fun. Pre-academics are taught as well as art and science based projects. Outside playtime provides plenty of running, climbing and outdoor fun.

Also offered are extended day care hours in the Fun Club program. This program offers optional rest time, crafts and games as well as additional outside playtime.

For more information, please refer to the Fall Recreation Guide or call the Recreation Office at (626) 403-2200. ■



#### West Nile Virus confirmed in the San Gabriel Valley

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) recently confirmed West Nile Virus positive dead birds in the San Gabriel Valley.

The virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Residents are reminded to take measures to decrease their risk of infection by avoiding mosquito-infested areas at dawn and dusk; wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever outdoors; utilizing repellents containing DEET, picaridin or oil of eucalyptus; repairing any holes in window screens; eliminating all standing water around the home; and cleaning and chlorinating swimming pools.

Those at highest risk for severe cases of West Nile Virus are the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

To report a dead bird, call the GLACVCD Dead Bird Hotline at (877) WNV-BIRD (968-2473). ■

#### Purchase a piece of City history

The City of San Marino is replacing street name signs and has made the old signs available for sale. The cost to purchase a sign is \$65. Quantities are limited. For available street name signs, please contact Mica Olmos at (626) 300-0781. ■

#### Library presents “Delicious Destinations” in November

Travel to the exotic ports of Venice, Barcelona, Shanghai and the Caribbean and sample their delectable foods, wines and cultures without ever leaving San Marino.

SAN MARINO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION'S



On Saturday, November 5 at 6 p.m., the San Marino Public Library Foundation hosts “Delicious Destinations” at the Crowell Public Library. A silent auction and entertainment will be part of the evening. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Crowell Public Library.

Tickets are available at the library, at the event or online at [DeliciousDestinations.org](http://DeliciousDestinations.org). ■

#### Community invited to Second Annual San Marino Day Out

Join us for a day of Neighborhood Watch and disaster preparedness as the City of San Marino holds its Second Annual San Marino Day Out on Saturday, October 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Marino Police and Fire Station.

The entire community is invited to attend and participate in a Police and Fire open house, various safety displays, paper shredding services and a free hot dog lunch. The event will begin with a presentation by the Police and Fire departments on crime and disaster preparedness at 10 a.m. in the Fire Station.

For more information about the event, please call (626) 300-0720. ■

#### New senior programs improve quality of life and increase skills

Seniors are invited to participate in two new programs designed to improve their quality of life and increase valuable skills.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker Joanna Mary Saporito will lead several “Quality of Life - Life Review” classes beginning in October. These interactive classes will focus on improving a person's quality of life, increasing social interaction and clarifying life issues. The course is geared toward older adults to help them identify factors that have been found to contribute to a more satisfying life. These factors include maintaining a positive attitude, personal independence and appropriate interdependencies and being realistic and resilient.

The classes will be held at the Crowell Public Library in the Barth Community Room on Thursdays, October 13 and 27, November 3 and 10 and December 1, 8 and 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The class fee is \$29. Registration is taken at the Recreation office or in class.

New senior computer lab hours will be available just for seniors beginning Wednesday, September 14 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Crowell Public Library Computer Lab. This is a great opportunity for seniors to learn or sharpen their computer skills at their own pace. Eric Gomez of the Community Services Department will be on hand to answer questions and assist with computer issues.

Some of the topics seniors are invited to explore in the lab are how to get started, how to send and receive email, how to use the internet, how to write a letter using Microsoft Word and how to download and share photos.

The cost to use the lab is \$3 per day. Pre-registration is recommended, but drop-in attendance is available. For more information, call the Recreation Department at (626) 403-2200. ■

#### Green Corner



##### Garden Maintenance

Lawns are still growing in September and October even though Fall is in full swing. Gardening experts suggest that you still mow your lawn once a week during this time. If you have a cool season grass such as Kentucky bluegrass and fescues, now is the best time to fertilize as this type of grass grows rapidly during this season. You should also consider aerating or coring your lawn with an aerator that can be rented at local equipment shops.

This allows for better nutrient penetration to the roots.

##### Highlight on Trees

The best time to plant trees is when they are dormant in the Fall or early Spring. To reduce transplant shock, dig a hole for planting at least three times the size of the plant's root base width, but only as deep as its roots. To allow for settling, don't plant the tree too low in the ground. Firmly pack the soil around the tree to eliminate air pockets. Cover the soil with mulch to keep in moisture and help moderate extreme soil temperatures. The mulch should be one to two inches away from the tree trunk. ■

## Protect yourself with women's self defense courses

The San Marino Police Department is offering its "Basic Physical Defense for Women" course on Saturday, September 17, October 22, November 26 and December 10 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The September 17 class is full. The classes will be held at the San Marino Center located at 1800 Huntington Drive.

The three-hour class teaches self defense and personal safety. One hour is dedicated to a presentation on safety and two hours are dedicated to teaching hands-on physical defense moves.

The course is casual and physical training clothing is recommended. Aerobic or cross-training shoes are suggested over running shoes.

Space is limited. To enroll, please call (626) 300-0720 or email [pbyrd@smpd.us](mailto:pbyrd@smpd.us). ■

## San Marino updates Tree Preservation Ordinance

The City of San Marino recently updated the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance (SMCC 23.06.15) to be more user-friendly and to make it easier to re-landscape properties without damaging the visual character of the city's beautiful neighborhoods. Highlights of the ordinance include the following:

- The City no longer requires a permit for the removal of an established tree from the rear or interior side yard, with the exception of Oak trees.
- Council approval is required before removing an Oak tree as part of a landscape plan for rear yards.
- Tougher fines are incorporated for persons who irreversibly damage trees or remove them without a permit from the front yard or street side yard, or remove Oak trees from any yard. Fines range from \$5,000 to \$25,000.
- The Ordinance recognizes the need to update and re-landscape properties.

For more information regarding the Tree Preservation Program, residents should contact the Planning Department at (626) 300-0700. ■

## Two exciting senior day trips planned for upcoming months

Exciting day trips for seniors are being offered by the San Marino Recreation Department in September and October.

On Tuesday, September 13, the "Born to be Wild" excursion includes a trip to the new Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey. The 20,000-square-foot learning center is dedicated to space science and features the Challenger Learning Center.

After lunch at the Elephant Bar Restaurant, a "Born to be Wild" 3-D movie experience awaits at the California Science Center. The featured movie will be about orphaned orangutans and elephants and the extraordinary people who rescued and raised them.

This amazing adventure begins at 8:45 a.m. at Lacy Park and concludes at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$45 per person. Make your reservations by Tuesday, August 30.

On Thursday, October 6, enjoy an "Apple Country Jamboree" and spend the day in Oak Glen's historic Riley's Los Rios Apple Ranch. Riley's is a working apple orchard and living history farm where you can pick your own fruit. Devon and Shelli Riley are your hosts as you enjoy a day of clean mountain air, a country lunch and entertainment. Enjoy fresh snacks as you learn about the ranch's history, be entertained by the Riley's Mountaineers while singing Country and Bluegrass tunes, browse the apple orchards, see a vintage 1932 cider press and more.

This excursion begins at 10:15 a.m. at Lacy Park and concludes at 5 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person. Make your reservations by Friday, September 16.

For more information, call the Recreation office at (626) 403-2200. ■

### City Council

Dr. Allan Yung, Mayor  
Dr. Richard Sun, Vice Mayor  
Dennis Kneier, Councilmember  
Eugene Sun, Councilmember  
Richard Ward, Councilmember  
Matt Ballantyne, City Manager

(626) 300-0700

[www.cityofsanmarino.org](http://www.cityofsanmarino.org)

## LIBRARY NEWS



### New Library Hours

The library is now closed on Fridays, but online resources are available 24 hours, seven days a week. Visit the library website for details. Please do not return items in the book drop if it is full. Patrons are responsible for lost or damaged items.

### Used Book Sales

Used book sales will be held on Saturday, September 10 and December 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the library patio.

### Go Green

By providing an email address when you check out materials, the library can email you notices of when your materials are due. You can also renew and reserve materials online.

### Tales for 2's and 3's

Bring your 2- and 3-year-old toddlers to enjoy stories, songs and finger plays on Mondays or Wednesdays beginning Monday, September 12 at 10:30 a.m. Participants can come either day. Registration is not required.

### Preschool Storytime

Preschool Storytime for children ages 3 to 5 will be held on Thursdays beginning September 15 at 10:30 a.m. Storytimes are an excellent way to teach your children the skills they need in kindergarten as they enjoy stories and participate in fun activities. Registration is not required.

### Barks and Books

Elementary school children are invited to practice their reading skills by reading aloud to Eleah, a gentle Labrador retriever, on Tuesday, September 27, October 25 and November 22 at 3 p.m.

### Tween Scene

Youths in grades four through six are invited to participate in Tween Scene on Thursdays, September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15 at 3:15 p.m.

### Children's Origami

Children are invited to learn about origami and Japanese culture on Saturday, September 17, October 8 and November 12 at 2 p.m. Participants will learn to make a paper dog, fox, crane and more.

### Bilingual Storytime

Stories, songs and finger plays are presented in Mandarin Chinese and English at Bilingual Storytime on Saturdays, September 10, 17 and 24; October 8, 15 and 22; November 12 and 19; and December 10 and 17 at 11 a.m.. All ages are welcome, but the program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 years old.

### Saturday Surprises

Put a little suspense in your weekend afternoons with Saturday Surprises at the library on October 22, November 19 and December 17 at 2 p.m. Participants will be treated to exciting, high quality family entertainment programs. Check the library flyers, online calendar and website for more details.

### Teen Anime Club

Free screenings of popular anime shows and feature-length films will be held on Tuesdays, September 20, October 4, November 8 and December 6 at 3:15 p.m. Free membership is required. Visit the library's website for more details.

### Teen Food Fear Factor

Teens in grades 6 through 12 are invited to try such delicacies as "Kitty Litter Cake" and "Stuffed Roaches" on Tuesday, October 25 at 3:15 p.m. The names may be alarming, but the food will please even the most discerning palate.

### LA Opera Talks

Speakers from Los Angeles Opera will discuss and play excerpts from current productions at the Los Angeles Opera on the third Sunday of the month at

2 p.m. On Sunday, September 18, learn about Mozart's comic masterpiece "Cosi Fan Tutte." On Sunday, October 16, join the discussion of French composer Charles Gounod's adaptation of William Shakespeare's "Roméo et Juliette."

### Brain Aerobics & Lip Reading

Francine Hokin Katz, MA, SLP, CCC invites you to focus on lip-reading skills to ease the burden of hearing loss. Classes for beginning and intermediate students will start on Monday, September 19 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. An intermediate and advanced student class will begin on Tuesday, September 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This class is free and preview visits are welcome.

### The Doctor Is In

Join us on Monday, September 26, October 17, November 7 and December 12 at 6 p.m. for lectures on a variety of medical topics. Visit the library or website for lecture topics and more details.

### Movie Classics

Start your mornings with movie classics at 10 a.m. On Thursday, September 15, the library presents the 1953 movie classic "Roman Holiday." On Thursday, October 20, discover "The Secret of Roan Inish," a 1994 independent film set in Ireland. Enjoy the 2003 film "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" on Thursday, November 17. Screenings are free and complimentary popcorn will be served.

### Crain Art Gallery

The Crain Art Gallery, established in 2009 in honor of City Librarian Carolyn Crain, presents two upcoming exhibits of original artwork. The drawings and oil paintings of local area artist Belita William will be featured September 6 through October 7. Vintage travel posters will be on display October 17 through November 11.

### Meet the Author: Irene McDermott

Meet "The Internet Book of Life" author and Crowell librarian Irene McDermott on Tuesday, September 6 at 7 p.m. McDermott's book is a guide to web sites and mobile phone applications that help people make decisions in many aspects of modern living.

### Glaucoma: The Silent Thief of Sight

Join Vikas Chopra, M.D. on Monday, September 12 at 6 p.m. for an evening of insight into a disease that robs thousands of people of their sight. Learn how glaucoma may show no symptoms and why early detection is vital to stopping the progress of the disease.

### Books Online

On Saturday, September 17 at 10 a.m., dabble in social networking on the Internet while indulging in your favorite hobby of reading. Participants will be introduced to the shelfari.com website. Computer novices are welcome and registration is required.

### Introduction to Email

Learn the basics of email and set up a free email account that can be used from any computer with an Internet connection. This two-class series will be held on Tuesday, October 4 and 11 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is required.

### Estate Planning

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 4 at 7 p.m. when attorney Elizabeth Botsford J.L.M. Tax (Hons) will discuss the importance of having a named conservator, a springing durable power of attorney and an advance healthcare directive as part of your will or trust. Botsford will answer your estate planning questions on wills and trusts, estate planning for parents and estate planning for international families.

### Ikebana Demonstration

Ikebana is the centuries old Japanese art of flower arrangement. Theresa Lin has studied the art for more than 15 years. Join her on Tuesday, October 11 at 7 p.m. for an informative demonstration. ■

## City reminds residents to obtain permits for property improvements

San Marino residents are reminded to obtain permits when pursuing improvements to their property. The fines for working without permits are as follows:

Charge double the permit fee plus \$500 for:

- Plumbing, electrical, mechanical, pool and roofing permits
- Fence and wall permits for side and rear yard walls that do not require DRC or Planning Commission approval
- Interior remodeling that occurs entirely within existing walls and results in no exterior changes

Establish a penalty fee equal to the greater of 5 percent of the valuation of the job or \$2,500 for the following projects:

- The modification, addition, removal or replace-

ment of window openings or sashes

- All additions of livable or non-livable area to the main house or accessory structures
- The construction of any accessory structure, including patio covers
- Any other project which would otherwise require DRC or Planning Commission approval
- Grading ■

## Parkway Ordinance adopted

The City of San Marino recently adopted an ordinance regarding vegetation and the obstruction of said vegetation within the right of way. Property owners are requested to cut back their vegetation to allow public use of sidewalks. ■