



CITY OF SAN MARINO

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

San Marino water conservation update

On February 8, the State Water Resources Control Board extended its existing water conservation regulations, which prohibit wasteful practices. The water supply will continue to be monitored and re-evaluated in the spring to determine how the state will proceed as it relates to drought restrictions.

In the meantime, in San Marino, all watering restrictions remain in place, including the winter watering schedule, which allows for a maximum of two days of watering a week for all residents and commercial customers. The winter schedule will be in place through Friday, March 31.

Residents and commercial customers can choose which two days

of the week they water based on their address. Even addresses can water Mondays, Thursdays or Saturdays. Odd addresses can water Tuesdays, Fridays or Sundays. No watering is allowed on Wednesdays. The restrictions are consistent with those of California American Water. ■

Memorial Day service and call for veterans

The community is invited to join the City in honoring its military veterans in a patriotic Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 29 at 9 a.m. at Lacy Park. The ceremony will include recognition of veterans, special guest speakers and patriotic music. For more information, call the Recreation Department at (626) 403-2200. ■

City Manager's Message

(Continued from page 2)

Improving the efficiency and operations of City services is also very important to the Mayor and Council. The Mayor and Council will review and determine implementation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee recommendations. They will also review the Tri-City Fire Command Agreement and determine the service level of the Fire Department. Consideration of a Historic Preservation Ordinance and permanent

Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance will also occur this year. The City will continue to be mindful of Water Conservation issues.

Lastly, working with the Council, the Mayor will implement community programs, including emergency preparedness education and a military banner program to honor our active duty service members and veterans.

I look forward to working with the Mayor, Council and the community to achieve these goals. ■

City plans for annual Easter Egg Hunt

It's time for the City's annual Easter Egg Hunt! Bring your baskets and your bunny ears to the celebration at Lacy Park on Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to noon.

This fun-filled event will include Easter crafts, pictures with the bunnies and a giant egg hunt!

Children will be grouped in appropriate age divisions for the hunt to ensure fun for all. The first egg hunt begins at 10 a.m. in the following order:

- 2-year-olds and under
- 3-year-olds
- 4-year-olds
- 5-year-olds
- 6- to 7-year-olds
- 8- to 9- year-olds
- 10- to 12-year-olds

How to Get Your Wristbands

Pre-sale wristbands will be available starting Monday, March 27 at the Recreation Department, which is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wristbands can be purchased for children ages 2 to 12 years old for \$4 each. On the day of the event, wristbands will be \$6. Children age 1 and under and adults are free.

The event will be held rain or shine. For more information, call the Recreation Department at (626) 403-2200. ■

A message from Police Chief John Incontro **626 Golden Streets, NHW and new ordinance**

The Police Department recently provided information through this newsletter about crime prevention and holiday safety. In this issue, I would like to spend time addressing three topics or issues we have been working on the past few months.

The first item is the 626 Golden Streets event that was postponed last June and rescheduled to Sunday March 5, 2017. Modeled after the thousands of other “open streets” or “ciclovía” events that have been organized around the world and across the United States, 626 Golden Streets will temporarily open stretches of roadway from South Pasadena to Azusa for people to walk, jog, skate, bike and more. Organizers are excited to bring this concept to seven San Gabriel Valley cities for the first time. In San Marino, we will be closing the north side or westbound side of Huntington Drive from San Gabriel Boulevard to Garfield Avenue. Several streets will be available for passing north and south across Huntington Drive. For more information visit 626GoldenStreets.com.

One of the most important components of crime reduction is the involvement of the community working together to reduce the potential for crime, along with improving our safety. One of the best tools we have is the Neighborhood Watch Program (NHW).

**If you have a comment,
question or idea
for the newsletter,
please send an email
to Recreation Manager
Rosa Pinuelas at
rpinelas@sanmarinoca.gov.**

The Police Department and the community have approximately 48 Neighborhood Watch groups. Over the next few months we will be meeting with all of the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains to schedule meetings, discuss agendas and plan for the future. Our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator is Sergeant Candice Torres (CTorres@smpd.us) and the officers assigned to the NHW program are Kenric Wu (KWu@smpd.us), Vanessa Golden (VGolden@smpd.us) and Jeremy Bestpitch (JBestpitch@smpd.us). They can be contacted at the email addresses above or at (626) 300-0720.

At the January, 11, 2017 City Council meeting, the Council approved the City of San Marino Uninhabited Residential Property Ordinance. This ordinance will enable the Fire and Police departments to identify vacant homes in the City and to arrange for the response of a responsible party to the residence if there is a public safety emergency. That emergency could be a fire, flood or a crime occurring on the property. The Police Department will be coordinating the program and soliciting the voluntary registration of any vacant house in the City. An uninhabited house is defined as a residential property in which no person has lived on a day-to-day basis for a period of 60 consecutive days. We will be sending letters to all residents explaining the ordinance, process and how anyone can register their homes to meet the requirements of the ordinance or provide responsible party notification to the Police Department. All information will remain confidential. ■

Heed warning signs of falling trees

The City advises residents to be aware of the following signs that indicate a tree may be in danger of falling:

- A hole in the trunk, formed when a tree prunes itself by dropping a branch. This can lead to decay inside the tree.
- Missing bark or deep cracks, which could be indicative of a weak point in the tree.
- Dead or falling branches.
- Leaning trunk. A tree that's leaning more than 15 degrees due to wind or root damage usually needs to be removed.
- Losing leaves out of season or from the interior foliage. This could indicate an unhealthy root system, which is where the tree gets its nutrients and water.
- Rotten roots. Mushrooms growing around the base of a tree may be a sign that root or trunk decay is present.
- Tight branch growth, which can lead to limb failure as the tree grows in size.
- Construction. Excavation in the root zone of a tree might weaken the root system enough to cause the tree to fall over.
- Storms and severe wind can cause many trees to fall.

It is recommended that trees on your property be inspected, pruned and maintained by a professional. Pruning must be done by a state license contractor with either a C61/D49 or C27 credential as well as a current City of San Marino business license. Tree pruning must be consistent with ISA (International Society of Arboriculture)/City standards and best management practices. Visit isa-arbor.com to find an arborist in the area. ■

Metro's 626 Golden Streets event to be held Sunday, March 5

Metro presents its historic 626 Golden Streets event on Sunday, March 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event was originally scheduled for June 2016, but was cancelled due to wildfires in the area.

626 Golden Streets is modeled after other popular "open streets" events and temporarily opens stretches of roadway from South Pasadena to Azusa for people to walk, jog, skate, bike and more. San Marino is one of the hubs that is part of the event.

To experience the 626 Golden Streets event, participants may join and depart the route anywhere they wish. Along the way, they are invited to check out the many local businesses, organizations, community groups and more. The goal of the event is to raise awareness about the Gold Line Foothill Extension and future plans; encourage local residents to walk, bike, skate and scoot to the new Gold Line stations; and allow local residents of all ages and abilities to experience streets from a unique perspective.

The San Marino hub will be located at Stoneman Recreation Center (1560 Pasqualito Drive). Activities will include professional chalk artists, a public chalk zone and booths featuring Safe Moves, Relay for Life, the San Marino Chinese Club, San Marino Community Church, HDR, Inc., Ecuadorian Cultural Group and Jones Bicycles.

Other hubs include South Pasadena, Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Irwindale and Azusa. Each hub will include free water, a first-aid booth, an information booth with free city stickers, portable restrooms and hand-wash stations.

From 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the

day of the event, all 17+ miles of the 626 Golden Streets route will be closed to traffic. No vehicles or on-street parking will be allowed on the route. Cars will be allowed to cross the route at various major intersections. Expect delays on nearby streets if you must drive or travel by bus that day. Streets will be reopened to cars by approximately 4 p.m. If you live or work on the route, you will need to park your car elsewhere before the event. All driveways on the route will

be blocked. Vehicles will not be allowed to enter or exit the route during the event hours except at designated crossing points.

In San Marino, street closures will take place on Huntington Drive between Garfield Avenue and San Gabriel Boulevard.

For more information about the 626 Golden Streets event or for a map of street closures, visit 626GoldenStreets.com, call (626) 566-8302 or send an email to 626GoldenStreets@gmail.com. ■

LIBRARY NEWS

Dakim BrainFitness

Patrons age 50 and above are invited to try the library's Dakim BrainFitness program, which runs on a touch screen computer. Keep your noggin in top condition. Contact Lynda Lyons at (626) 300-0777, ext. 537 to arrange an orientation.

Travel E-Books

The library now offers the latest e-books about travel. Visit libgateway.com/site/sanmarinopl/travel to download entire chapters of "Eyewitness Travel" books at a time. North American titles include comprehensive guides to Canada and Las Vegas. Explore Kenya or Istanbul on the Middle East and Africa bookshelf. Dream of Barcelona or the Czech Republic in the section on Europe. How about a jaunt to Cambodia or Australia? Start planning your trip today!

"America's Newspapers"

Patrons can find articles from newspapers over the last 25 years from the library homepage. Click on the "Research" tab at the top of the library homepage and choose "America's Newspapers." Enter your library card number and your pin (usually the last four digits of your home phone number). Now you are free to search U.S. news content from local, regional and national sources. This is a valuable resource for high school research papers.

E-Books and Audiobooks

E-books and audiobooks are available through the library's web site. Go to crowellpubliclibrary.org and click on "eBooks" and then "Overdrive." From there, sign into the Southern California Digital Library, our e-book consortium. Download up to five books for two weeks at a time. After 14 days, the books simply disappear off of your device. ■

Be prepared: When and how to turn off utilities

You're sure someone showed you how to do it at one time, but now you're frantically running around the house and trying to remember. "Water! Gas! Electricity! Where is the shut-off valve?!" If you don't know, now is as good a time as any to revisit this important information. Let's quickly review where the valves and switches are located for these important utilities, as well as when and how to turn them off.

Natural Gas

Natural gas leaks can occur even without the help of a natural or man-made disaster. When they occur inside a home or building, they can cause deadly fires and explosions. If you suspect a gas leak, here's what to do:

- If you smell or hear gas escaping, suspect a leak or discover a broken gas line, shut off the main valve and quickly open all doors and windows.
- The main shut-off valve is located on the gas line leading into your gas meter, normally located in the side yard or backyard of your home, or possibly in an outside closet. This valve, about 6 to 8 inches above the ground, runs parallel with the meter pipe.
- With a sturdy wrench, give the valve a ¼ turn in either direction until the valve is crosswise to the pipe.
- Do not attempt to turn the gas back on. Instead, contact the Gas Company.
- Never use candles or matches if you suspect a leak, and do not turn on electrical switches or appliances as this can cause an explosion or fire.

Electricity

We often take electricity for granted. During the last rain storms that impacted our area, several trees that came down also brought with them high voltage electrical wires. Electrocutation and fire are very real hazards that can occur when electrical wires or outlets malfunction or when they're damaged or misused. Sometimes it's necessary to shut off your electricity in the following circumstances:

- You smell burning insulation.
- There is a fire or major water leak.
- You suspect a gas leak.
- Arcing or burning occurs in electrical items.
- Switches or plugs become blackened or hot.
- Power loss, accompanied by a burning smell.

Electrical safety should be elementary to every homeowner. Even children should be taught the potential dangers, and adults should know where a home's electrical panels are located. When you do suspect an electrical problem, here's what to do:

- Locate the main electric box, normally located in the garage or on the exterior of the home.
- If your home has circuit breakers, open the metal door of the breaker box and turn the electrical switch to "Off."
- If your house has fuses, there should be a pullout fuse marked "Main." Remove all the small fuses, and then remove the "Main" fuse.

Water

Water ... we love to drink it, swim in it, refresh our lawns and clean our cars with it. But the min-

ute it starts leaking, it's an entirely different story. Water leaks can cause extensive property damage and create electrical hazards as well. When a major disaster strikes, leaks can turn into something much bigger and costlier. After events such as major earthquakes, it's smart to temporarily shut off your water supply to protect it from contaminants and from bursting through cracked pipes. Whenever you have to turn off your water, follow these simple steps:

- Locate your water shut-off valve, usually located in your garage or outside next to the side or rear of your house where the water line enters the home.
- The water shut-off is usually a wheel located on a riser pipe. Turn this wheel clockwise to shut it off.
- You can also turn off the water to specific appliances such as dishwashers, refrigerators and sinks. These are usually located on attached lines to the appliances and can be turned off with a clockwise twist of the valve or wheel.

Tools of the Trade

To help turn off a utility, consider storing a large crescent wrench, pliers, a cloth rag and gloves in your emergency kit.

The above information is a refresher for every homeowner in the event you encounter a problem with your utilities.

If you ever have a serious problem with your gas, water or electricity, don't hesitate to call the San Marino Fire Department. Our firefighters are well trained in utility emergencies and are here to respond to eliminate hazards and assist residents when they have a problem that is beyond their control. ■