



CITY OF SAN MARINO

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

Construction bids awarded for new San Marino Public library



The San Marino City Council has formally awarded bids to contractors for the construction of the new San Marino Public Library. Contracts have been signed by City Manager Matt Ballantyne and each contractor, and a temporary fence has been put up around the old library site. Demolition of the old building began in late September and is now complete.

Contractors awarded bids include:

- US Demolition - for hazardous materials abatement, site and

- building demolition
- Hayward Inc. - for site grading, excavation, building concrete, site concrete and asphalt paving
- Mariposa - for landscaping and irrigation
- Junior Steel - for structural steel and metal decking
- USS Cal - for roofing and sheet metal
- Lee's Engineering - for mill-work
- Versatile - for drywall, metal framing, door frames and hardware

- APEX - for lathe and plaster
- Stoneware - for hard tile
- Preferred Ceilings - for acoustical ceilings and walls
- Continental - for flooring
- Western Painting - for painting
- Southwest Fire Protection Company - for fire protection
- JM Farnen - for plumbing to the site and building
- PPC Air - for HVAC
- RA Electric - for electrical to the site and building
- Yamata - for shelving
- Otis - for elevators
- Pugliese - for a raised floor system
- Weidner Architectural Signage, Inc. - for signage

City launches Access San Marino

The City of San Marino has launched Access San Marino, a new on-line service request system designed to enhance communication and access to the City. The City has contracted for this service with Comcate, Inc., a Silicon Valley-based firm that provides customer relationship management solutions for local government. The system allows residents and the business community to submit requests and review their status 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Questions, suggestions, compliments and complaints can be submitted concerning a variety of

topics including building permits, City Council meeting agendas, business licenses, fire prevention, Library programs, Neighborhood Watch, landscaping, Recreation programs, street repair and more. Each Access San Marino message is routed directly to the City staff member who can best respond. The system enables managers to track messages and responses to ensure that citizens receive a speedy reply.

To use the new system, visit the City's homepage at www.cityofsanmarino.org, click on the "Access San Marino" link and follow the simple instructions. ■

"The City decided to use a multiple trade approach for construction of the library," explained Construction Manager Alex Main. "This generates bid competition in each trade rather than one large bid from a general contractor."

The City was specifically looking for evidence that each selected contractor had qualifications demonstrating a significant level of experience in its particular trade. Because multiple bids were received in each category, the City is confident that the bids accepted represent the current fair market value.

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Earthquake insurance policy holders may be eligible for refunds

On July 1, 2006, the California Earthquake Authority reduced rates by an average of 22.1 percent for approximately 85 percent of its 753,000 policyholders around the state. The rates were reduced based on new soil maps showing that most areas of the state are more seismically stable than previously thought. As a result, thousands of Californians



with earthquake insurance may be eligible for refunds.

Individual savings could range from \$50 to \$500, depending on when a policy was purchased, where a home is located, the type of construction and local seismic risks. To find out if you are entitled to reduced rates and policy refunds, contact the agent who sold you your homeowner and earthquake policies.

Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi stated that canceling and rewriting an earthquake policy may result in a “useful and significant refund - but it may not.” He advises policyholders to contact their insurance agency and compare overall prices before taking action. Consumers with questions are invited to contact his office at (800) 927-HELP. ■

GREEN CORNER

Why is My Tree Dropping Limbs?

A common cause of heavy branch breakage is commonly referred to as “Summer Branch Drop” or “Sudden Limb Drop.” This phenomenon has no real scientific explanation. Since it occurs on sound limbs on calm hot summer days, it appears to be caused by water stress. On a hot day, the limb maximizes the amount of water it holds in order to conserve water. The branch gets very heavy and may break. Limbs usually break 3 to 6 feet from the branch attachment.

Trees susceptible to “Sudden Limb Drop” include Liquidambar, Magnolia, Silver Maple, Valley Oak, Blue Oak and Sycamore, among others. Possible factors contributing to this occurrence are lack of wind, temperatures 70 degrees and higher, rain that broke a dry period, branches that extend outside the canopy, decay, the presence of brash wood, water stress, over maturity, a gap in the canopy, a heavy end weight on the limb and limbs that sweep upward with a more horizontal than vertical orientation. Often-times these limbs that drop appear to be sound. Contributors

to sudden branch drop are co-dominant stems, topped trees and decay.

Palm Pruning 101

City-owned palm trees are scheduled to be pruned in October before the arrival of Santa Ana winds. Following is a brief introduction on how to prune palm trees.

Generally, only dead fronds (palm leaves) should be removed. The removal of live fronds should be limited to those that are broken or severely chlorotic. Fronds should be removed carefully to avoid damage to living tissue. This practice helps to avoid transmitting disease-causing organisms that may eventually kill certain varieties of palm trees.

The varieties most susceptible to the potential damaging Fusarium wilt and Diamond Scale outbreaks are the Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) and the California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*). The majestic Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*), which grow over 100 feet tall, have not been affected by these two diseases and may be pruned more aggressively.

For more information, please contact Park Manager Ron Serven at (626) 300-0790 or rservern@cityofsanmarino.org. ■

What is being built over there?



Construction projects are “popping” up everywhere lately. While this certainly is good news for property values, you may be wondering, “What is being built over there?”

The best way to find out is by

calling the Planning & Building Department at City Hall. Another way is to visit the public counter at City Hall. Building permits are public records, and all permit information is available for viewing.

Contact Permit Technician Jenny Claypool at (626) 300-0712 to inquire about building permits. If no permit has been obtained, please refer the matter to Code Compliance Officer Bill Johnson at (626) 300-0784 or Building Inspector John Holman at (626) 300-0753. ■

Move made to “Cottage Library”

If you've been away over the summer or your summer plans haven't included a visit to the San Marino Public Library, you may be surprised when you drop by to find that the former library has been demolished.

The library is now temporarily located just next door to the San Marino Center, in what was once the San Marino Woman's Club. City Librarian Carolyn Crain fondly refers to the new site as the “Cottage Library.”

“The space is smaller,” said Crain. “But we're very well organized and everything is set up very library-like. All the services, programs and resources that the public has come to expect from the San Marino Public Library are once again available.”

Patrons have access to roughly one third of the library's vast collections – currently numbering more than 95,000 volumes – at the temporary facility. The remainder of the collections will remain in permanent storage until the new facility opens in 2008.

The temporary facility is open during the following hours: Monday through Thursday from noon to 5 p.m., closed on Friday, Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and closed on Sunday. Tours are available.

The book drop is located on the west side of the temporary library, parallel to Huntington Drive. Books can be dropped off in the book drop at anytime, on any day.

For more information about the San Marino Public Library, the temporary facility, and the services and programs it provides, call (626) 300-0777 or visit the library's web site at <http://sanmarinopl.org>. ■

LIBRARY NEWS

Barks and Books

Elementary school children are invited to practice their reading skills at the San Marino Public Library by reading a book to a live, gentle dog. This special program is made possible by volunteers from the Pasadena Humane Society, and will be held on Saturday, November 18 and December 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Space is limited, and reservations are required and must be made in person. For more information, call (626) 300-0777.

Toddler Story Time

Toddler Story Time is a fun way to introduce your 2-year-old to group experiences. Activities include reading stories, singing songs and finger play. Registration is required and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis, in person or by phone. Each session will be limited to 15 children, who must be at least 2 years old to participate. Story

Times are held on Mondays now through November 13 at 10 a.m. Registration is currently under way.

Preschool Story Time

Story Times are a wonderful way to prepare preschoolers for kindergarten. Children are encouraged to sit quietly, listen to stories, and sing and dance to favorite songs. Each session will end with a simple craft activity. Story Times are held on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended, but not required.

Food for Thought

Children ages 4 to 12 years old are invited to participate in the In-N-Out Burger Food for Thought Reading Program. Participants must pick-up a reading log at the library and read five books or have five books read to them. They can then visit the Children's Department at the library to receive an achievement award certificate, which is good for one hamburger or cheeseburger at In-N-Out. ■

New on-line library catalog installed

Over the summer, the San Marino Public Library installed a new on-line library catalog. To access the catalog, do the following:

- Starting from the library's homepage at <http://sanmarinopl.org>, click on “Search for books in the Library” on the left-hand side of the page.
- In the “Search” box, type in words from the title or the author of the book that you are looking for. Click the orange arrow to start the catalog

search.

- The next screen will show a list of search results. Click on the title of the book that you want. You will get a page with information about how to find the book in the library, along with a picture of the cover, a table of contents, a summary and reviews.

The new catalog will let you check your library account to see how many books you currently have checked out, when they are due and if you owe any library

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Fundraising efforts continue for War Memorial

The San Marino War Memorial Committee is seeking contributions to support the new San Marino War Memorial in Lacy Park.

The new War Memorial will honor those individuals from San Marino who were killed in service to our country. Upon completion, the memorial will include seven engraved granite panels, a statue of a kneeling soldier, appropriate service recognition, an attractive plaza and landscaping.

The Veterans' Walk will recognize those who served in the Armed Forces with an etching in the walk curving around the memorial.

The fundraising goal for the War Memorial and Veterans' Walk is approximately \$150,000. To date, the Committee has raised \$130,000. Twelve donors have contributed at the \$5,000 and above level, 45 at the \$500 and above level, and 35 at other levels. Contributions for 40 etchings in the Veterans' Walk have also been

made. All contributors are recognized in the San Marino Tribune, and those donating \$500 or more will have their names engraved on a bronze plaque located at the memorial site.

To make a donation to the War Memorial fund or to purchase an engraving on the Veterans' Walk, contact Dennis Kneier at (626) 578-1109 or Gene Dryden at (626) 449-2037. All contributions are tax deductible.

Fundraising will conclude on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, 2006, culminating in a groundbreaking ceremony at 2 p.m. that same day. The new War Memorial will be dedicated on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, 2007. ■

New on-line library catalog installed

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fines. To access this information, you will need to type in the 14-digit barcode number found on your library card (with no spaces), along with your new PIN number, which has been reset to the last four digits of your telephone number. Once you have logged in to your account, you may change your PIN, and add or change an e-mail address that the Library can use to contact you.

The new catalog will also let you make a list of books in the library that you want to remember. You can use this feature to make a bibliography for a report, or to make a list of books that you want to read. ■

Construction bids awarded for new library

(continued from front page)

"When we did see a problem with a bid, whether because of the contractor's qualifications or the bid price, we recommended that the City either select the second lowest bidder or re-bid," added Main. "Multiple trade bidding allows construction to move forward, utilizing those contractors we know are good, rather than having to postpone the entire project as you would have to with a general contractor bid."

City Manager Matt Ballantyne further explained, "Currently, the City has awarded all bids except for glazing, which was re-bid to try and achieve a greater cost savings for the City. After re-bidding for signage, we experienced a \$100,000 cost savings."

Awards were offered to the lowest bidders except in two cases, where the lowest bidder was either

disqualified or withdrew its bid. In those cases, the second lowest bidder received the award. The total construction cost is \$11.87 million, which brings the total program cost to \$17.1 million, which includes a 3 percent construction contingency.

Based on these numbers, the San Marino Library Foundation still has \$3 million to raise before concluding its capital campaign for the new facility. For more information, or to make a contribution, contact Director of Development Maureen Micklich at (626) 300-0779, or e-mail her at mmicklich@ci.san-marino.ca.us.

Floor plans of what the finished facility will look like are available for viewing at <http://brandnewlibrary.org/floorplans.html>.

Weekly updated construction photos are also available on-line at <http://sanmarinopl.org/>. ■

Public invited to Open House

The Library Board of Trustees invites the public to attend an Open House at the temporary library on Saturday, November 4 from noon to 4 p.m. Guests will be invited to tour and use the facility. Floor plans and furnishing plans for the new library will be on display, and refreshments will be served. A half-price sale will also be held in the Friends Book Shoppe. ■

Edison proposes additional customer rate relief

Utility recommends assistance for hard-hit customers and further postponing rate changes

To help customers deal with high summer electricity bills, Southern California Edison (SCE) has recommended that regulators further postpone the utility's previously approved 6 percent residential rate increase.

The increase, originally scheduled to take effect August 1, 2006, would instead occur January 1, 2007. SCE previously proposed, and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved, delaying the rate change until November. The new rates were approved earlier this year by the CPUC to fund stepped-up replacement and expansion of the region's electricity infrastructure.

The utility estimates the postponements will benefit residential customers as shown in the chart below.

"We have been very concerned about the impact of this summer's heat and high electricity usage on customer bills," said Lynda Ziegler, SCE senior vice president of customer service. "The steps we are taking are modest but provide some measure of relief for customers."

Lower natural gas costs and higher electricity sales made

possible the proposed rate relief. Unlike other businesses, regulators predetermine utility revenues. Rates are set in advance based on forecast costs and customer usage. Through July, utility costs were lower than forecast and customer usage higher. Normally, such fluctuations would benefit customers when rates are reset at the beginning of the following year by reducing the costs that would otherwise be reflected in rates.

This year, because of the struggle many face paying summer bills, SCE proposes immediately using a portion of this benefit to postpone an approved residential rate increase.

To further assist customers, SCE has proposed to regulators that \$10 million, approximately 8 percent of above-forecast collections, be used to help those most in need of financial assistance to pay high summer bills. SCE recommended one-time bill payments of up to \$150 to qualifying customers. With CPUC approval, the utility would begin dispersing funds through its Energy Assistance Fund (EAF) to those with household incomes within 400 percent of federal poverty guidelines. For

more information, customers can go to www.sce.com/eaf or call (800) 205-8596.

"To help customers manage their energy use and costs, SCE is offering a wide variety of cash rebates on energy-efficient devices for homes and businesses," said Ziegler. "We encourage customers to check out rebate details as well as the practical tips on energy conservation available at www.sce.com."

Related Facts

- By law, baseline and tier 2 rates are currently frozen. Utility cost increases must be added to the other tiers.
- SCE rates rose approximately 15 percent overall at the beginning of 2006 due to higher costs for natural gas, the fuel used to generate more than half of California's electricity.
- SCE submitted to the CPUC on August 1, 2006, its 2007 fuel and purchased-power cost projections. The utility forecasts lower costs next year. The projection will be updated in November, and then regulators will reset rates for the New Year. ■

Customer Usage	Estimated Total Savings	Tiered Rate Structure	Dec. '05	Current	Authorized Deferred
Lower-use	\$0 to \$5	Tier 1 <i>Baseline allotment*</i>	11.8¢	11.8¢	11.8¢
		Tier 2 <i>1%-30% more than baseline</i>	13.7¢	13.7¢	13.7¢
Mid-use	About \$60	Tier 3 <i>31%-100%</i>	16.6¢	22.3¢	22.8¢
Higher-use	About \$400	Tier 4 <i>101%-200%</i>	19.8¢	31.2¢	35.2¢
		Tier 5** <i>More than 200% over baseline</i>	19.8¢	31.2¢	47.5¢

*The baseline kilowatt-hour allotment is set by the CPUC and varies by climate zone.

**Authorized but postponed.

New Recreation classes offered

The San Marino Recreation Department is offering several new classes this fall for children, teens and adults.

Among the new classes offered are:

- Organizing Fundamentals – Two professional organizers will teach students everything they need to achieve a clutter-free life and home.
- Drawing & Painting for Adults – A professional teacher/artist will teach students how to make art using different media

and techniques.

- Tennis for Kids – These tennis classes for kids will be taught by the tennis professionals of Tennis in a small group setting.

For details about a specific new class or to register, please refer to the Fall 2006 issue of the San Marino Recreation Guide, or call the San Marino Recreation Department at (626) 403-2200. A copy of the Recreation Guide is also located on-line at www.cityofsanmarino.org. ■

Seniors invited on Little Italy - San Diego excursion

The San Marino Recreation Department invites seniors to enjoy a taste of Old World Italy in San Diego on Tuesday, December 12. Seniors will explore turn-of-the-century homes, historic grocery stores and bakeries, and back alleys where wine and spirits were made during the Prohibition era. A Sicilian tour guide will share his insider access into this fascinating area. A meal of ravioli, lasagna or Italian breaded chicken cutlet is included.

The fee for this excursion is \$63 person. There is an additional 10 percent fee for non-residents. The bus will leave the San Marino Center at 8:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 6 p.m. Reserve your spot by Friday, November 10 by calling the Recreation Department at (626) 403-2200. ■

City of San Marino's Teen Center reopens

The City's Teen Center has reopened and is now located at 1800 Huntington Drive, directly behind the San Marino Center/temporary Library. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from

3 to 6 p.m., excluding school holidays. All students/teens are invited to drop by, participate in activities and meet the staff. For more information, contact the Recreation Office at (626) 403-2200. ■

City of San Marino

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Postal Customer

