



# CITY OF SAN MARINO

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## CITY HIGHLIGHTS

### Prepare for El Niño

The City of San Marino’s new Fire Chief, Mario Rueda, would like to remind the community regarding El Niño that “we’ve only seen a taste of what may be coming. The predicted El Niño rains are here and being prepared for heavy rains is essential for all of our residents’ safety.”

Take the following precautions to prepare yourself for the El Niño rains.

Walk around your home and look for anything that might cause problems during a storm. Are any rooms showing any signs of leaking or damage? Are your gutters over-

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### Mario Rueda named City’s new Fire Chief

Mario Rueda has been appointed Chief of the Verdugo Cities Fire Command, which oversees the three independent fire departments in San Gabriel, San Marino and South Pasadena.

San Marino City Manager John Schaefer said, “The cities and the Fire Department are very fortunate to have attracted a fire service professional like Mario Rueda. Chief Rueda comes to the Fire Department with a wealth of fire service and emergency management experience, along with a passion for service. I believe our fire departments and our communities will benefit



*Mario Rueda is the new Fire Chief for the City of San Marino.*

from Chief Rueda’s leadership.”

Los Angeles native Chief Rueda  
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## UPCOMING RECREATION EVENTS



### Track Meet Registration

The 41st Annual All City Track Meet presented by the City of San Marino will be held on Friday, March 4 at San Marino High

School. Check-in begins at 4 p.m. and the first event starts at 5 p.m. Any student born between 2001 and 2009, who is a resident of San Marino or attends a San Marino school, is eligible to participate. Pick up a registration form at the Recreation Office or at your school’s main office. Registration forms and fees must be received by 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 11. Registration will not be accepted on the day of the event. The cost to participate is \$5 per event and fees are non-refundable.

### Senior Trip

Seniors are invited to attend the “Pageant of Our Lord” excursion on Sunday, March 13. Now in its 30th year, the “Pageant of Our Lord” is presented during the Easter season by Rolling Hills Covenant Church. Inspired by the world-famous “Pageant of the Masters” in Laguna Beach, the pageant depicts the Biblical history of the Old and New Testaments as told through great works of art. These master works of art are replicated

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## 2016 Upcoming budget public meeting dates

- Feb. 10** Review and Fine & Fee Schedule and Anticipated Revenues
- Feb. 26** Work Plans, Personnel Budgets and Comparison to Benchmark Cities – Police, Fire and Library
- Mar. 9** Work Plans, Personnel Budgets and Comparison to Benchmark Cities – Public Works, Planning and Building, Recreation, Administration, Council, Old Mill and SMTV
- Mar. 25** Review All Services and Supplies Budgets
- April 13** Review Overall Budgets for Police, Fire and Library
- April 29** Review Overall Budgets for Public Works, Planning & Building, Recreation, Administration, Council, Old Mill and SMTV
- May 11** Review Fund Balance Estimates, Proposed Capital Equipment Replacements, New Capital Equipment and Capital Projects
- May 27** Same as Previous Meeting
- June 8** Approve Appropriations Limit, Public Safety Tax Assessment, Fine & Fee Resolution and Budget Resolution

## UPCOMING RECREATION EVENTS

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live on stage with living models. Lunch, served family style, is included before the show at Buca de Beppo. The cost of the excursion is \$62 per person. The bus will leave at 11:30 a.m. and return at approximately 6:30 p.m. Reservations must be made by Monday, February 22.

### **Preschool Open House**

Please join us on Thursday, February 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. for our annual Open House for families of enrolled and prospective preschool students. This event will provide parents with an opportunity to tour the classrooms and meet the teachers. Children are welcome to attend!

### **Fall Preschool Registration**

Preschool registration for Fall 2016 will be held on Saturday,

March 19 from 8 to 10 a.m. for residents and on Tuesday, March 22 from 8 to 10 a.m. for non-residents. Residents must bring proof of residency.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

The City's annual Easter Egg Hunt event will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to noon at Lacy Park. Bring your baskets and your bunny ears! 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 and 10- to 12-year-olds.



Presale wristbands will be available starting Monday, March 7 at the Recreation Department (open Monday through Thursday from

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## **LIBRARY NEWS**

### ***Bilingual Chinese & English Storytime***

Attend this interactive story-time for speakers of Mandarin Chinese, English or both on Saturday, February 6 and 20 at 11 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays will be conducted in both languages. All ages are welcome, but program is designed for ages 3-5. Registration is not required.

### ***Thao Nguyen & Howard Le in Concert: Classical Guitar***

Thao Nguyen and Howard Le will perform classical and contemporary pieces on the guitar on Monday, February 8 at 7 p.m.

### ***Barks & Books***

Elementary school children are invited to practice their reading skills by reading to Spencer, a gentle Basset Hound, on Tuesday, February 9 at 3:15 p.m. This program is made possible by volunteers of the Pasadena Humane Society. Registration is not required.

### ***LEGO Club***

Join us on Thursday, February 11 at 3:15 p.m. for this program where children will use their imaginations to build with Legos! All materials will be provided; the only thing you have to bring is your creativity! Registration is not required. This program is for ages 3-12.

### ***Linda O. Johnston: Knock on Wood***

In this second of the Superstition Mysteries series on Thursday, February 11 at 7 p.m., pet boutique manager Rory Chasen welcomes her friend

Gemma to town. When one of Gemma's boyfriends is found dead, Rory must try to clear her name. Johnston is the author of more than 50 romance and mystery novels. This presentation is part of the Meet the Authors series sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

### ***Valentine Craft Day***

February is Library Lovers' Month! Come make a special craft on Saturday, February 13 at 2 p.m. to give to someone you love. Registration is not required.

### ***Intentional Parenting: Decoding the Cultural Myth***

Join us on Sunday, February 14 at 2 p.m. for this Joyful Living/Happy Life speakers series presented entirely in Mandarin by the United Charity Foundation.

### ***Teen Alternative Valentine's Day***

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to enjoy for some treats and a little bit of anti-Valentine's Day fun on Tuesday, February 16 at 3:15 p.m. Registration is not required.

### ***New SAT Practice Test***

The new SAT is coming in the Spring of 2016. This free practice test on Saturday, February 20 at 10 a.m. for students in grades 9-12 will be proctored by C2 Education. C2 Education will provide results within a few days. Space is limited and registration is required.

### ***LA Opera Talks: "The Magic Flute"***

On Sunday, February 21 at 1 p.m., soprano Anne Gholson, baritone Cody Lowry and tenor Roberto Esquivelzeta will perform selections from "The Magic Flute." A Los Angeles Opera speaker will talk about the story, the composer and the music. The musician appearances are sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

### ***Before the Colors Fade: World War II Vets – San Marino Historical Society***

The San Marino Historical Society Speaker Series presents quarterly history talks focusing on topics especially selected for our town. Learn about World War II veterans on Monday, February 22 at 7 p.m. No reservations are needed.

### ***Movie Classics***

"Picnic" (1955) will be screened on Thursday, February 25 at 12:30 p.m. Emotions are ignited in a small Kansas town when a charismatic drifter arrives and catches the eye of the town beauty queen. William Holden and Kim Novak star. Complimentary popcorn will be provided at this free screening.

### ***Helping Hands with Hand-Held Devices***

Students from San Marino High School will sit down with folks who have questions about their smartphones and tablet computers on Saturday, February 27 at 2 p.m. Each class is independent and informal. Registration is required by calling (626) 300-0777.

### ***"How to Tell Your Story" With Harris Gaffin***

Freelance photojournalist Harris Gaffin will teach the basics of storytelling on Sunday, February 28 at 2 p.m. His concepts can apply to any media format. Participants will create and deliver their own one-minute story. Storytelling improves speech delivery, helps with creating movie treatments and improves overall English language skills. ■

**City Council**

Dr. Allan Yung, Mayor  
Dr. Richard Sun, Vice Mayor  
Dr. Steven Huang, Councilmember  
Steve Talt, Councilmember  
Richard Ward, Councilmember  
John Schaefer, City Manager

**(626) 300-0700**

*cityofsanmarino.org*

**Postal Customer**

**Lacy Park Playground Improvement Project**

The Lacy Park Playground was closed starting January 25 for the Lacy Park Playground Improvement Project. Closure will take about 4 to 5 weeks, weather permitting. For more information, please call the Park & Public Works Department at (626) 300-0781.

**Prepare for El Niño**

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flowing with leaves? Does water drain off your property?

Trim any trees that might fall over during a storm. (If you use a contractor, don't get scammed. Be sure to check their license before starting work.) Clear out gutters and secure any loose items in your yard that might clog storm drains and cause flooding.

Flooding can be a result of lack of good storm preparation. If you are concerned about flooding, stock up on sandbags before the storm arrives. Quality sand bagging can help reduce the possibility of flooding by redirecting water runoff.

The City is providing free sandbags at three locations. The primary location for San Marino residents and business owners to

acquire sandbags is the parking area of Stoneman School at 1560 Pasqualito Drive. This area is open 24 hours a day and is a self-bagging station. The two additional locations for sand bags are located at Lacy Park and the Public Works Department. To obtain sandbags at these two locations, contact the Public Works Department at (626) 300-0793 during business hours. ■

**Recreation events**

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8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) for ages 2- to 12-years-old for \$4 each. On the day of the event, wristbands will be \$6. Children 1 and under and adults are free.

For more information about the above activities, call the San Marino Recreation Department at (626) 403-2200. ■

**New Fire Chief appointed**

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began his career more than 35 years ago with the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). He has significant experience in emergency operations, administrative duties, training and special operations.

Chief Rueda is excited to join the communities of San Marino, South Pasadena and San Gabriel. "This is an excellent opportunity to work with the professional firefighters who commit themselves to providing outstanding fire and rescue service in the three cities, and have a passion for making the fire and rescue services the finest in the San Gabriel Valley."

Chief Rueda succeeds Interim Fire Chief Kirk Summers, who oversaw operations of the three fire departments. ■

**Look for the next newsletter  
in the Recreation Guide.**