



CITY OF SAN MARINO

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

Citywide commercial and residential water restrictions continue

Residents are reminded that all commercial and residential water restrictions remain in place until at least October 2016. In June 2015, customers in California American Water's Los Angeles District were mandated by the State Water Resources Control Board to reduce water use by 28 percent compared to the same period in 2013.

Enforcement shall continue and repeat violations will result in

finer. Among the most important violations to be aware of are excess runoff; washing down of driveways and sidewalks; washing a motor vehicle (unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle); not conforming to the citywide watering schedule, watering hour limits and watering durations; not correcting plumbing leaks, breaks or malfunctions; and irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following measurable rainfall. ■

City Manager's Message

(Continued from page 2)

Council has approved the 2016/2017 budget, in which expenditures were \$1.2 million dollars less than budgeted expenditures. This margin will allow the Council to designate additional funds to infrastructure projects like our Pavement Management Plan.

- As part of that budget the City Council voted and approved the restructuring of the Library and Recreation Department under the executive leadership of Assistant City Manager Lucy Garcia. Lucy has served as the Department Director over each of these areas in the past and did so with great success and professionalism. Lucy's areas of responsibilities

will now include oversight of the Recreation/Library Services Department, Human Resources and responsibilities associated with the City Manager's office. This became effective July 1, 2016.

- The Council had originally intended to reconsider the matter of Stoneman at a meeting on July 13, however, that was rescheduled to September to ensure the public has an opportunity to participate.

As I wrap up my time here in San Marino as Chief of Police and City Manager, I want to say thank you to the Community and Staff who have made my time here so memorable. I have learned things, worked with people, visited places and done things that I will never forget. ■

Caring for your trees during the drought

Don't forget about our trees during the drought! Trees add significant value to the properties in San Marino. Benefits include aesthetics, shade, carbon sequestration, cooling of the environment and more. Drought conditions affect our trees.

What Should I Look For?

Symptoms of drought injury to trees can be sudden or may take up to two years to be revealed. Drought injury symptoms on tree leaves include wilting, curling at the edges and yellowing.

Deciduous leaves may develop scorch, brown outside edges or browning between veins. Evergreen needles may turn yellow or brown, usually starting at the tips of the needles. Extended drought leaves may be smaller than normal, drop prematurely or remain attached to the tree even though brown.

Drought stress may not kill a tree outright, but it may contribute to serious secondary insect and disease infestations in following years.

How to Water Your Tree

Deep watering to a depth of 12 inches below the soil surface is recommended. Saturate the soil around the tree within the "dripline" (the outer edges of the tree's

(Continued on page 4)

SCE to perform annual power line clearing

The Southern California Edison (SCE) annual power line clearance tree-pruning program in San Marino will be performed during the months of August and September. SCE will notify residents several days in advance if they are planning to prune their trees.

The parts of the city that will be affected by the work are Areas 67 to 72 on the following streets: Lombardy Road between Santa Anita Avenue and San Gabriel Boulevard, Santa Anita Avenue between Winston and California avenues, Robles Avenue between Santa Anita and Sierra Madre avenues, Kenilworth Drive, Sierra Madre Avenue, California Avenue between Allen and Sierra Madre avenues, Oak Knoll Avenue between Huntington Drive and Monterey Road, Old Mill Road between Los Robles and El Molino avenues, El Molino Avenue between Old Mill Road and Wilson Avenue, Wilson Avenue between Granada and Los Robles avenues, Garfield Avenue between Huntington Drive and Monterey Road, Los Flores Avenue and Buena Vista Street.

SCE contractors sometimes clear power lines in excess of 10 feet. Very few tree species grow fast enough to require that much clearance. SCE contractors do not prune or shape the entire tree. SCE contracts out the pruning with Utility Tree Service.

Every year, City staff receives calls from residents who are unhappy with the pruning that SCE contractors have done on their trees. Some residents prefer to have their trees pruned by a tree-care company of their own choosing in order to meet required

pruning clearances.

Those who prefer to have their trees pruned by their own contractor can call SCE's Vegetation Inspector Rick Salmon at (626) 303-8430 for information on SCE requirements. Brochures are also available to customers regarding power line tree safety. For more information, visit SCE's web site at www.sce.com.

If you have your own trees pruned, it is necessary to prune the trees back far enough to maintain required clearances the entire year, taking into consideration the annual growth of the branches. The work must be performed by a contractor that is state-certified to work within 10 feet of power lines. The contractor must also have a City of San Marino business license and a state contractor's license appropriate for tree pruning.

Trees must be pruned in such a manner that there is at least 18 inches of clearance between the branches and the power lines at all times, with the exception of the Enhanced Fire Protection Zone. In this area, a minimum of 4 feet is required. If you are uncertain whether or not you are in the Enhanced Fire Protection Zone, call Mark Phillips at (626) 300-0738.

If you have had your trees pruned and SCE notifies you that they are planning to prune your trees, call SCE immediately and let them know that you believe your trees have been adequately pruned. If you are unable to resolve the issue with SCE, call Environmental Services Manager Ron Serven at (626) 300-0789 to request assistance. ■

Trees and drought

(Continued from page 3)

branches) to disperse water down toward the roots. For evergreens, water 3 to 5 feet beyond the dripline on all sides of the tree.

The objective is to water slowly, dispersing the flow of water to get the water deep down to the tree roots. Watering for short periods of time only encourages shallow rooting, which can lead to more drought damage.

Avoid digging holes in the ground in an effort to water deeply – this may dry out existing roots. A soil root feeder attached to a hose is acceptable to insert into the ground if your soil is not too hard and compact.

Watering at ground level to avoid throwing water in the air is more efficient (spray heads).

Amount of Water Needed

During our current water restrictions, irrigation systems designed to water turf do not sufficiently water your trees. Throughout the drought, trees should be given a higher priority than lawns. Lawns can be replaced in a matter of months whereas a 20-year-old tree will take 20 years to replace.

How much water your tree should receive depends upon the tree size. A general rule of thumb is to use approximately 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for each watering. Measure trunk diameter at 4 feet 6 inches from the natural grade – the general formula is: Tree Diameter x 5 minutes = Total Watering Time.

All trees should be watered April through September, and should receive adequate water during the winter months too if rainfall is scarce. Water should be distributed

(Continued on page 5)

Trees and drought

(Continued from page 4)

evenly under the dripline of the tree.

Small trees (1 to 7 inches diameter) should be watered three times per month from April through September. Newly planted and smaller trees can get adequate water within the existing watering restrictions by hand watering with a soft spray hose attachment as a separate zone on your designated day.

Medium trees (8 to 15 inches diameter) and large trees (16 inches+ diameter) should be watered three times per month from April through September.

Methods to Use

Use a soaker hose or in-line drip tubing wrapped several times under the dripline of the tree.

A soft spray attachment can be placed on the end of the hose to disperse the flow – use a medium pressure.

Deep Root Feeder - Work the spike into the soil at an angle to a depth of 8 inches. Use the spike at low to moderate water pressure. Water the area under the branches in at least 12 sites. Scatter the sites around the area bordered by the drip line. For new trees and those planted within five years, place the needle at least three feet from the trunk. Water a minimum of four sites around young trees.

Adding Mulch Around Your Tree

Add mulch to the base of your tree by removing any grass within a 3 to 10 foot area depending on the size of your tree. Install natural mulch such as wood chips or processed $\frac{3}{4}$ inch mulch at a depth of 2 to 4 inches deep within the circle. Keep the mulch from touching the trunk of the tree – approximately 4 to 6 inches away. ■

LIBRARY NEWS

East Meets West

Parent Education Club

Join us for this multicultural parent education club on Saturday, August 20 at 1 p.m. as professionals share their knowledge and pass on skills to local parents on how to raise their children in an international and competitive world. Topics include positive discipline, teenage issues, special education and internet safety. The program will be presented in English, however, Mandarin speakers will be on hand to translate.

Baby and Me

Lapsit Storytime

Crowell Public Library is pleased to announce the arrival of baby storytime on a new day and time beginning September 8 through October 20. Designed for children ages 4 through 18 months, this storytime on Thursdays at 11 a.m. features activities that will promote early literacy through songs, bounces, fingerplays and books. One child per guardian. Registration is not required.

Toddler Storytime

Toddler storytime for children ages 18 through 35 months is a great way to introduce your little one to a group experience. Held on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. from September 8

through October 20 (duplicate storytime on Thursday), this storytime features activities such as stories, singing songs, fingerplays and coloring. Registration is not required.

Preschool Storytime

Calling all preschoolers ages 3 to 5! Come to the Library on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. September 7 through October 19 for stories, songs, finger plays and a simple craft activity. Storytime is an excellent way to teach young children skills such as listening quietly and following instructions, which they will need in kindergarten. Registration is not required.

National Alliance

on Mental Illness:

“In Our Own Voice”

Designed to shatter negative stereotypes against people with mental illness, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI): “In Our Own Voice” will be offered on Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. This is a unique presentation in which two trained speakers share their compelling personal stories of living with mental health challenges and achieving recovery. Presenter Emily Wu Truong is an award-winning advocate for mental health awareness who serves on the Board of Directors of NAMI, San Gabriel Valley, and as Chair of the Asian Coalition. ■

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

**A message from
Police Chief John Incontro**
**Be extra vigilant
during the summer**

The San Marino Police Department and I hope that all of our residents, businesses and visitors are having a wonderful summer. With the summer vacation season we are reminding everyone to be more vigilant about protecting their property. Please be sure you are using your alarm and video systems, that they are in good working order and that you know how to use them properly. When the weather gets hot we sometimes open our windows in the evening to enjoy the cooler breeze. Remember to lock and secure these open windows and doors when you leave or in the evening while you are sleeping.

Recently we have had a few incidents in the City where people suspected something was wrong, but chose not to call the Police Department. If you “See Something, Say Something.” Give us a call and we will respond to the area and determine if there is any criminal activity occurring. Information from the community has been invaluable and resulted in the arrest of criminals.

The Police Department has recently begun using a text-based communication system called Nixle, through which we will send advisories, alerts, information and traffic messages. To sign up, text 888777 and reply with your zip code when prompted. You can also download the Nixle OneBridge app, which is available for IOS and Android users. Working together is how we can reduce and eliminate crime in San Marino

Have a great summer and be safe. ■

A message from Fire Chief Mario Rueda
Clear your brush before it's too late!

With evidence of an early fire season upon us, the San Marino Fire Department reminds all residents to clear brush and overgrown vegetation from their property. The Fire Department has already begun to inspect properties to ensure proper clearance is maintained and that dead and dying vegetation is removed from around structures.

Our City's natural vegetation that intermixes with residential areas presents a very real challenge in terms of fire and life safety. In addition to the native vegetation on our hillsides, other fire hazards exist in the form of ornamental vegetation. Additional hazards for all of us may include limited access for Fire Department apparatus, steep terrain and large, difficult to access homes. All property owners should clean leaves and other debris from roof gutters, prune trees properly and keep their property free of accumulated combustibles such as dried vegetation.

Successful prevention of the spread of vegetation fires requires a partnership between the community and the Fire Department. Time and time again, homes are spared only because the fire spread was limited due to adequate clearance facilitated by diligent homeowners. Fire intensity will greatly decrease upon reaching an area of less fuel, and gives firefighters a fighting chance to save a home. Maintaining the required clearance of vegetation to a residence has proven to save property and is critical to the overall effort of preventing further fire spread.

Please refer to the Fire Department's vegetation codes and safety ordinances for specifics on required clearances of hazardous vegetation from around structures. These tips are on the City's website. Any questions concerning brush clearance requirements may be referred to the San Marino Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau at (626) 300-0738. Have a safe summer! ■



RECREATION HAPPENINGS!



Free Rec Day

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to meet our staff at their school's lunch court after school and ride the bus to the Recreation Department on Wednesday, August 24. Try out a variety of classes for FREE provided by the City of San Marino Recreation Department. The afternoon will be filled with fun classes, free food and music. The event will last until 6 p.m. Visit the Recreation office to register.

Fall Registration

Fall Recreation registration begins Saturday, August 20 for residents and Tuesday, August 23 for non-residents and online.

Fall 2016 Senior Trips

“Take Me Out to the Ballgame!” on Sunday, September 25; “OUE Skyspace LA and Griffith Observatory” on Tuesday, October 18; “Brunch at the Magic Castle” on Saturday, November 12; “Anaheim White House and Nixon Library” on Sunday, December 4. ■