



# CITY OF SAN MARINO

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### CITY HIGHLIGHTS

#### Senate Bill 415 and what it means to the City

On September 1, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law California Senate Bill No. 415 “Voter Participation,” which prohibits municipal governments from holding an election other than on a statewide election date if holding an election on a non-concurrent date has previously resulted in voter turnout for a regularly scheduled election in the city being at least 25 percent less than the average turnout within the city for the previous statewide general elections. In short, if a city holds its elections in an odd numbered year and voter turnout is significantly less in comparison to statewide elections, then the election date must be changed to coincide with statewide elections to help boost voter turnout. This

change in the election date would require the City to adopt a plan no later than January 1, 2018 in order to consolidate future elections with the statewide election cycle. The election dates must “officially” change by 2022.

An analysis of voter turnout was conducted to determine if San Marino will be required to change its election dates. Based on November voter turnout records (since 2012), San Marino is below the necessary threshold and will require an election date change in order to consolidate with the statewide primary election or the statewide general election.

A full report and analysis on Senate Bill No. 415 will be presented to the City Council at the December 14, 2016 meeting. ■

#### Citywide water restrictions continue

Residents are reminded that all water restrictions remain in place.

Code Enforcement staff will continue to monitor and respond to complaints. Violations will be issued to those who do not comply with the regulations.

Among the more important violations to be aware of are: no watering within 48 hours of measurable rain, watering is restricted between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., watering is limited to no more than 15 minutes per scheduled day, no watering that results in significant runoff onto the sidewalk or public property (street).

The **revised schedule for allowable watering days** is as follows: even-numbered residential addresses are allowed to water on Monday, Thursday and Saturday only; odd-numbered residential addresses are allowed to water on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday only. ■

#### City Manager’s Message

*(Continued from page 2)*

- City staff is continuing to work on the relocation of the cell towers located at Huntington Middle School and San Marino High School. The City Hall parking lot is being considered as an alternate location for the middle school tower. The tower at the high school will be relocated outside of the city.
- The City Council will begin the recruitment for a permanent City Manager early next year.

- The Huntington Drive street improvement project is nearing completion.
- The final streetlight conversion project will be completed in February.
- A city-wide sidewalk trip hazard elimination project will begin early next year.

I look forward to working with all of you and hope you will share with me any questions, concerns or suggestions that you may have about our city. ■

#### Save the Dates!

**Snow Day**  
Saturday, January 14

**Winter Class Registration**  
Saturday, January 7

See page 9 for details.

## Community Block Grant funds available for home rehabilitation

The City of San Marino, under the Home Improvement Program, provides financial incentives and assistance for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied, single family homes. Funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), examples of repairs and improvements include, but are not limited to, roof replacement, electrical systems, handicap accessibility, heating and electrical systems, plumbing, windows and doors.

A home inspection is required by City staff to qualify. In addition, grant assistance is income-eligible and/or based on family size and gross annual income. Applications are handled on a first-come/first-served basis with preference granted to health and safety home improvements.

For more information about the Home Improvement Program, please contact Paddy Taber at [ptaber@cityofsanmarino.org](mailto:ptaber@cityofsanmarino.org) or (626) 300-0791. ■

## Uninhabited Residential Property Ordinance to be considered

Many cities throughout the United States have been experiencing a rise in vacant properties. In response to this increase there has been a growing number of local governments enacting vacant property registration ordinances (VPRO).

In San Marino, it is believed there has been an increase in vacant properties due to a growing number of residential properties being purchased as investment assets. Oftentimes cities create vacant property ordinances to address the negative effects associated with abandoned or dilapidated properties. In San Marino this is not the case. The City's goal is to mitigate "public safety issues" that may arise

from an uninhabited residential property rather than an abandoned vacant property.

San Marino's ordinance would require a property owner to register if they plan on leaving their home uninhabited for 60 or more consecutive days. The annual registration fee will be \$50 unless you can provide proof of an existing alarm service contract.

The first reading of the Uninhabited Residential Property Ordinance is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14 in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 2200 Huntington Drive.

For more information, please contact Commander Richard Ward at (626)300-0732. ■

## City subscribes to Nixle community information service

In an effort to improve the Police Department's ability to share timely information with the residents of San Marino, the department recently subscribed to Nixle. Nixle is a community information service that is dedicated to helping people stay connected with the information that is most important to them and their family.

Nixle is used by more than 8,000 public safety agencies to notify the public about critical incidents that are occurring in their respective cities or regions. It will be used to notify the residents of San Marino about critical incidents such as evacuations, safety hazards and utility disruptions. The service can also receive anonymous tips and distribute press releases, missing and wanted bulletins, and community outreach information. Nixle enables real-time two-way communication via text, email and some social media outlets.

To subscribe, text "SANMARI-NOPD" to 888777 or visit [smpd.us](http://smpd.us). For more information, please contact Commander Rich Ward or Corporal Brian Wong at (626) 300-0720. ■



### 2017 Track Meet

Friday, March 10

Registration takes place  
Tuesday, January 17 - Thursday, February 9  
at the Recreation Department

### Save the Date! Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15  
10 a.m. to noon  
Lacy Park



## Tips for caring for your trees during the drought

**D**uring the drought, it is important to still care for your trees. 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, or brown outside edges or browning between veins. Evergreen needles may turn yellow or brown, usually starting at the tips of the needles.

An extended drought may cause leaves to be smaller than normal, drop prematurely or remain attached to the tree even though they are brown. Drought stress may not kill a tree, but it may contribute to serious secondary insect and disease infestations in the 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 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 trees 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 (using spray heads).

Under the City’s current water restrictions, irrigation systems designed to water turf do not sufficiently water the trees. During the drought, trees should be given a higher priority than lawns. Lawns can be quickly replaced, 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.

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## LIBRARY NEWS

### **Open House**

**Sat., Jan. 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Join the Crowell Public Library as it celebrates its ninth anniversary with an open house. Stop by to see the variety of services the library has to offer, including programs for seniors, teens and kids, cultural programs, passport acceptance and even test proctoring. The announcement of the annual bookmark contest winners will be made at noon. Crowell Library has something for everyone in the community!

### **Delicious Destinations a Success**

On October 15, the library Foundation staged its annual Delicious Destinations

fundraiser featuring food and drinks from Mexico and Japan. Silent auction items were offered while Folklorico dancers performed and musicians played traditional Japanese music. The Foundation supports the library by giving funds for new technology. It also hopes to build a library endowment. The library is grateful to the Foundation, whose volunteers staged the gala, and to the members of the community who came out in support of the event.

### **Did You Know ...**

... that you can borrow eBooks and audiobooks through the Crowell Library website? Visit [crowellpubliclibrary.org](http://crowellpubliclibrary.org) and click “eBooks” and then “Overdrive”. From there, sign into the Southern California

Digital Library, our eBook consortium. Download up to five books for two weeks at a time. The best part is that you don’t have to return them. After 14 days, the books simply disappear from your device. ■



*Musicians performed traditional Japanese music at this year’s Delicious Destinations event.*

**A message from  
Police Chief John Incontro  
Holiday tips to stay  
safe this season**

**H**appy holidays to all from the San Marino Police Department.

With the holidays in full swing, the Police Department would like to remind residents of our House Watch service, and provide everyone with a few tips to ensure that they stay safe and secure during this time of year.

The Police Department will provide extra patrol service through the House Watch Program while you are away on vacation. Please call the station at (626) 300-0720 or visit the front desk to submit and process a request.

As we have done the past two years, we will suspend the issuance of overnight parking citations from Friday, December 23, 2016 through Tuesday, January 3, 2017. If you have relatives or guests visiting there will be no need to obtain an overnight parking pass during this time period. We will begin citing violators on Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

The Police Department uses a variety of methods to communicate with the San Marino community. One of our newest methods is Nixle. (See the article on page 4 of this newsletter.) Nixle is a text-based system where a subscriber will receive alerts and information about criminal activity, traffic issues, missing persons or local events. All you need to do is text "SANMARINOPD" to 888777. Once you are logged into the system you can visit nixle.com to log in and set your preferences and alert priorities.

Have a safe holiday season. ■

**A message from Fire Chief Mario Rueda  
New lifesaving app now available**

**H**appy holidays from all of the members of the San Marino Fire Department.

Residents in the cities of San Gabriel, San Marino and South Pasadena can now sign up for the lifesaving mobile app "PulsePoint Respond."

PulsePoint notifies subscribers when someone in a public place near them suffers a sudden cardiac arrest and is in need of CPR. The alert tells the user the address, location or business name and shows a dynamic map so they can easily find the person in need of help. The notification is sent to the app at the same time as emergency responders are dispatched to the incident.

Users can customize the app to control the type of notifications they receive. Those that are proficient in using an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) can add the skill to their profile and be notified of the nearest AED to their location.

The idea behind the app is to empower local residents to help save a person's life by performing CPR in the crucial moments before emergency responders arrive. Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States, killing nearly 1,000 people a day. Survival rates nationally for those who suffer sudden cardiac arrest are less than eight percent. More than half of U.S. adults have had training in CPR and most say they would be

willing to use it to help a stranger. The app can help bridge the gap between those that are ready to help and those that need it, increasing chances of survival.

In addition to helping save lives of those suffering sudden cardiac arrest, the PulsePoint app also aims to increase transparency and community engagement by allowing users to see a real-time log of all the incidents in the community to which fire personnel are dispatched.

The PulsePoint app has been implemented in communities across the nation with successful results, including many cities in Southern California. For more information and to download the app, visit [pulsepoint.org](http://pulsepoint.org). ■

**Caring for trees  
during drought**

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All size trees should be watered April through September. All trees should also receive adequate water during the winter months if rainfall is scarce. 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.

***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 3/4" 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. ■

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