



# IN FOCUS

An Official Publication of the City of Beverly Hills August 2016

## Managing Today While Moving Towards the Future

Not since the early days of cityhood has Beverly Hills seen an investment in infrastructure of the scale taking place over the next few years. The reconstruction of Santa Monica Boulevard will begin this fall, bringing improved mobility, drainage and lighting to one of the City's main arteries. (See page 2.)

The City also will be installing fiber optic cable to bring high-speed access to every business and resident in the City.

The recently approved Water Enterprise Plan is in the first phase of implementation; wells are being drilled and historic water rights reactivated to identify local sources of water that will increase the City's water independence and reliability.

The renovation of Beverly Gardens Parks is moving forward, with fundraising assistance from the Friends of Beverly Gardens Park. The dog park is nearly complete. (See page 3.) Numerous other less-visible capital projects will keep our roads smooth, our trees healthy and our water clean.

In addition to the City projects, there are several large-scale private developments under construction or in the pipeline, such as the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and the One Beverly Hills developments at the City's western border.

The L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is building the Purple Line Extension underneath the City with two stops at La Cienega/Wilshire and Wilshire/Rodeo. Utility relocation is almost complete. The above-ground portion of the La Cienega Station construction, installing piles and decking, is set to begin in early 2017. (See page 4.)



When the dust has settled, Beverly Hills will be in an excellent position to handle the projected regional growth and the demands for improved communications and transportation. *[Go to page 6 to read about the City's autonomous vehicle program, and how it could help ease traffic and create a truly multi-modal City.]*



However, there is no fast-forwarding the future. While all of these projects are under construction, there will be disruptions to the everyday lives of residents, businesses and visitors. Traffic congestion, loss of parking and noise are all possible byproducts of large construction projects.

In anticipation, the City is developing a comprehensive traffic mitigation program with extensive outreach to advise residents, businesses and visitors of upcoming lane and road closures, noise mitigation and changes to parking.

Go to [www.beverlyhills.org/future](http://www.beverlyhills.org/future) to learn more and stay in touch.

# Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction

**O**n most days, North Santa Monica Boulevard (NSMB) traffic volume can climb as high as 50,000 to 60,000 vehicles. Many local residences, our businesses, the greater metropolitan shopping community and commuters depend upon this vital transportation corridor.

**However, you are probably aware that the roadway is deteriorating and requires extensive repair to function properly.**

With the community in mind, comprehensive traffic studies were conducted to better understand the traffic patterns, especially during peak hours. The collected data has helped the City develop a reconstruction plan, with a focus on reducing the impact to the community.

Currently, a detailed traffic control plan and a multi-phased approach is being finalized so that specifics will be available to everyone as we begin construction in the Fall 2016.

The NSMB Reconstruction Project will:

- Rebuild the roadway with a rubberized asphalt surface to provide a smoother, quieter and safer ride.
- Upgrade the drainage system
- Create new curbs and gutters
- Widen the south side between Cañon Drive and Wilshire Boulevard
- Install a standardized street-lighting system along the north side

**Keeping the public safe and informed are top priorities of the project. Outreach plans include public meetings, distribution of informational brochures, flyers and announcements in local newspapers and on social media sites.**

- Install ADA compliant ramp
- Replace sidewalks
- Construct low impact drainage landscaping (grass swales) that complies with urban water quality regulations
- New landscaping on the south side of the boulevard.

Keeping the public safe and informed are top priorities of the project. First and foremost, emergency access will



NOT be reduced during construction. Noise impacts will be minimized by best construction practices and strict dust control measures will be implemented to maintain air quality.

Outreach plans include public meetings, distribution of informational brochures, flyers and announcements in local newspapers and on social media sites. Changeable message boards will be displayed in numerous locations to better inform motorists of work areas and lane closures.

A project helpline has been initiated and an informational kiosk will be available

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Wednesday, August 31 at 8:30-10 a.m.**

**Chamber of Commerce Board Room**  
9400 S. Santa Monica Blvd., 2nd floor  
Beverly Hills

**Wednesday, August 31 at 6-8 p.m.**

**City Hall Municipal Gallery**  
455 N. Rexford Dr., 2nd floor  
Beverly Hills

to the familiarize the community with the project. Updates to the City's web-site will include construction schedules, detours and images of the project.

The first two public meetings have been scheduled for **Wednesday, August 31**, morning and evening. The content of the meetings will be identical; please choose the most convenient time and place. Please refer to the box in this column for details.

## Questions?

The City of Beverly Hills offers additional information and resources. There are several ways to stay in touch:

**Website:** [www.beverlyhills.org/future](http://www.beverlyhills.org/future)

**Email:** [smbld@beverlyhills.org](mailto:smbld@beverlyhills.org)

**Helpline:** (424) 339-9033

**Public Works Customer Service:**  
(310) 285-2467

**Mail:** City of Beverly Hills  
Public Works Civil Engineering  
345 Foothill Rd.  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

# The Dog Days of Summer Are Coming to Beverly Hills

*Register now for a free permit to use the Beverly Hills Community Dog Park*

**H**ere's some tail-wagging good news for our four-legged friends in Beverly Hills: Our community's first off-leash dog park is set to open at the corner of Foothill Road and Alden Drive on Sept. 6.

The half-acre Beverly Hills Community Dog Park will be open to dogs owned by Beverly Hills residents, employees who work in Beverly Hills, and visitors staying with residents or in Beverly Hills hotels. All breeds are welcome in the park, which will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The City of Beverly Hills is currently accepting online applications for permits to use the dog park. To qualify for a permit, your dog must have a valid license in your local community; for Beverly Hills residents, that is the City of L.A. This ensures that the dogs in the park are healthy and current on their rabies vaccinations.



Local dog lovers are continuing their grassroots fundraising effort to enhance the park with additional benches, trees, landscaping, art and agility features. Go to [www.beverlyhills.org/dogpark](http://www.beverlyhills.org/dogpark) and click on the Donate link.



Dog owners are encouraged to register their dogs as soon as possible to avoid any delays after the park opens. Permits are free and the online process makes it fast and easy to apply.

The community dog park includes a fenced area, shade trees, night lighting, and separate areas for small and large dogs. Park amenities include water stations, dog bag dispensers, drinking fountains, waste receptacles, benches and CCTV for the safety of guests and their dogs. In the first six months of operation, a ranger will be on duty during park hours.

**Mark your calendars for the ribbon cutting on Sept. 6 at 1 p.m. Beverly Hills pooches—and their human companions—are in for a treat!**

To apply for a permit, make a donation and find the most recent info about the Beverly Hills Community Dog Park, go to [www.beverlyhills.org/dogpark](http://www.beverlyhills.org/dogpark); visit [www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com) for license information.

# Saving Water and the Bottom Line

Exceptionally dry weather still grips Southern California – the fifth straight year of drought with an unknown future. Although the State Water Board has eased its drought restrictions, the City of Beverly Hills is looking to surpass its monthly average of 22% reduction in water consumption.”

*Not only is efficient use of water good citizenship, it can contribute significantly to the bottom line.*

Installing water-saving devices is an excellent way to conserve; especially for high-water users such as hotels, restaurants, salons and spas. Installing low flow toilets, waterless urinals, low flow showerheads and aerators on sinks is a wise investment. The City offers some of these devices at no cost and rebates on other



devices. There are also rebates on large devices like water efficient food steamers, ice machines and cooling towers. For details, visit [www.Socalwatersmart.com](http://www.Socalwatersmart.com).

Water leaks at commercial and residential properties are more common than most people imagine and a major source of water loss. Quickly identifying and repairing leaks is one of the most effective ways to reduce consumption. Leakage in toilets, pipes, swimming pools, fountains, and water heaters can go undetected for months or even years, losing gallons every minute! This can add up quickly!

**Did you know that the majority of outdoor water waste happens in the Fall? When the weather cools down and the days are shorter, many gardeners do not adjust the irrigation controller to compensate for the reduced needs. September is the perfect time to turn down your water use. Make a note to reduce it again in October.**

Fortunately, the City is here to help our businesses and residents quickly identify leaks, but it's a team effort:

- Sign up for the City's Water Tracker program and check it regularly. This powerful tool will tell you when you have a "continuous flow" in your system, which is usually the sign of a leak. Water Tracker will also tell you if you are meeting your water conservation goals and alert you if you are using more than you plan.
- If you are alerted about a continuous flow, call a plumber or leak detection company immediately so they can locate and fix the problem. City staff has information on how you can potentially locate the leak yourself.
- Contact the City's Water Conservation Administrator, Debby Figoni, at [dfigoni@beverlyhills.org](mailto:dfigoni@beverlyhills.org). She is a trained conservation expert, who can look at your overall water usage and recommend ways to use water efficiently.

For more information, go to [www.beverlyhills.org/waterconservation](http://www.beverlyhills.org/waterconservation).

# Purple Line Extension Construction

Major construction activity for the Purple Line Extension station at La Cienega and Wilshire boulevards is scheduled to begin in early 2017. The work involves installing drilled piles and decking to support Wilshire Boulevard traffic while the underground station is being built.

The City of Beverly Hills is in the process of negotiating a draft memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) that limits construction hours, lane and street closures and the amount of noise generated from the construction.

Community meetings were held prior to MOA negotiations to seek community preferences on work hours. The draft

agreement balances the desire to complete the work as quickly as possible with the need to minimize disruptions from traffic congestion and noise, particularly at night. The draft MOA likely will be considered for approval by the Beverly Hills City Council and the Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) in September.

Two meetings to update the community on the draft MOA were held on Aug. 22. Another meeting is scheduled for Sept. 7 from 6-8 p.m. in the City Hall Municipal Gallery.

A draft MOA is available on the City's website at [www.beverlyhills.org/future](http://www.beverlyhills.org/future).

The main components of the MOA are:

- **Restriction of workhours.** Specific work hours were developed for each portion of the work to minimize impacts. Approved work hours will vary depending on each phase of the work.
- **Mitigation of noise, light and other impacts.** Impacts due to construction noise and lighting will be strictly monitored and enforced by the City. An independent compliance monitor will be onsite at all times during construction activities.
- **Construction traffic restrictions.** Measures include minimum traffic lanes open during peak traffic periods and approved hauling routes and timeframes.
- **Business and Residential Access.** Access to driveways, building entrances, streets and sidewalks will be maintained unless Metro is granted prior approval.

# Purple Line Extension Construction (continued)

- **Parking loss replacement.** Metro will provide equivalent overnight parking replacement for removed residential parking and will mitigate loss of metered parking with adjacent off street parking.
- **Business mitigation assistance.** Metro will provide business mitigation assistance to local businesses through advertisement, signage, parking assistance, communications and outreach,

marketing and through their Eat, Shop, Play program.

Metro has established a 24-hour hotline (213) 922-6934 and maintains a website [www.metro.net/purplelineext](http://www.metro.net/purplelineext) with extensive information about the project. In addition, you may sign up to receive Metro's construction notices of upcoming construction activities.

The City of Beverly Hills offers additional information and resources. If you have questions or need more information, there are several ways to stay in touch:

**Website:** [www.beverlyhills.org/future](http://www.beverlyhills.org/future)

**Email:** [purpleline@beverlyhills.org](mailto:purpleline@beverlyhills.org)

**Public Works Customer Service:**

(310) 285-2467

**Mail:** City of Beverly Hills  
Public Works Civil Engineering  
345 Foothill Rd.  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

## Beverly Hills Teens in the Zone

*Teen-oriented programs offer a friendly, safe and fun environment for Beverly Hills students*

**D**o you know a Beverly Hills teen who is bright, motivated and cares about making a difference? These programs listed below, offered through the City of Beverly Hills Community Services Department, encourage teens to study smart, connect with their peers, explore new interests and get active in the community:

**Teen Zone** is an inviting space in the Beverly Hills Public Library where teens can hang out, play games, do homework and read. Here, teens have access to MacBook laptops, textbooks, a game room with Wii and Play Station, lounge-style bean-bag chairs and magazines. The Teen Zone provides staff who maintain a safe and friendly environment, and a



variety of activities and scheduled events such as the Summer Reading Club. Teens must show school schedule or ID to enter. Monday–Thursday, 3:15–8:45 p.m. and Friday, 3:15–5:45 p.m. Summer and school break hours vary.

**Teen Scene**, a free drop-in afterschool program at Roxbury Park Community Center, features crafts, organized sports, classes, homework help and fun field trips. Teen Scene members (BHUSD students and Beverly Hills residents in grades 6 to 10) recently went on summer excursions to MB2 Raceway and Hurricane Harbor and participated in activities including the Teen Scene Talent Show,

Beachball Decorating, Ultimate Frisbee and Teen Scene Night Games.

**VolunTEENS** encourages teens in grades 6 to 12 to become active members of the community through volunteerism. This year-round program provides monthly trainings and volunteer opportunities in and around the City of Beverly Hills. Recently, VolunTEENS helped with Heal the Bay Beach Cleanup. Earned hours are applicable for school requirements. A \$25 fee covers the cost of a VolunTEEN t-shirt.

For more info, including the full schedule of events and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.beverlyhills.org/teenscene](http://www.beverlyhills.org/teenscene).



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# Developing the Public Transportation of Tomorrow

*Beverly Hills paves the way for a national conversation about using driverless vehicles as a mode of public transportation*

**W**heels are turning in Beverly Hills—and beyond. As the City moves forward with developing its municipal fleet of driverless vehicles, other U.S. cities are taking note.

In late June, the mayor of Beverly Hills introduced a resolution at the United States Conference of Mayors annual meeting encouraging the use of autonomous vehicles (AV) for public transportation. The resolution, which also called for legislative changes at the national, state and local levels to support research and development of driverless cars, was unanimously adopted by mayors attending the conference in Indianapolis.

In April, the Beverly Hills City Council unanimously approved an initiative to start developing its own groundbreaking AV program.



Most recently, Beverly Hills has become the first city in the nation to join the Center for Automotive Research at Stanford (CARS), a prestigious organization devoted to the research and development of autonomous mobility. The membership is the latest step in the City's plan to provide the community with safe and convenient transportation options using the latest technology.



**The City's proposed Municipal Autonomous Shuttle System (MASS) aims to address "first and last mile" issues for those who wish to use regional public transportation.**

The City's proposed Municipal Autonomous Shuttle System (MASS) aims to address "first and last mile" issues for those who wish to use regional public transportation—including the future Metro Purple Line extension through Beverly Hills—and provide citywide on-demand, point-to-point transportation. A City-run AV service is expected to help reduce traffic congestion and lessen demand for parking in Beverly Hills.

The AV program will also enhance public safety by leveraging other advanced technologies including CCTV, license plate recognition and traffic monitoring

applications. The City is currently designing a sophisticated fiber optic cable network that will provide high-speed internet to every resident and business—and eventually allow AVs to communicate with the City's electronic grid and with each other.



**To learn more about the City's AV Program and the upcoming symposium, visit [www.beverlyhills.org/av](http://www.beverlyhills.org/av).**

# Innovative Ambassador Program Receives National Award

*Ambassadors are additional eyes and ears on Beverly Hills streets*

Last August, the City of Beverly Hills launched the innovative Ambassador Program, which dispatches team members to the business triangle and South Beverly Drive 21 hours a day, 7 days a week. Twelve Ambassadors—identifiable by their bright green polo shirts—aim to improve quality of life through providing hospitality and safety services.

Earlier this summer—less than a year since its launch—the Ambassador Program gained the attention of mayors from all over the country. On June 25, the City of Beverly Hills was awarded the City Livability Award from the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) for the program, which was developed by the Human Relations Commission. Out of a pool of 150 applicants, the City of Beverly Hills received first place in the category for cities with populations of up to 100,000.

Working in partnership with the City’s Changing Lives and Sharing Places (CLASP) Homeless Outreach Team, the Ambassador Team addresses aggressive panhandling and illegal camping in parking structures and helps connect homeless individuals with local and regional social services. In addition, the Ambassador Team interfaces with residents, merchants and visitors, providing wayfinding and other concierge services. Ambassadors have ably responded to a number of unexpected situations, including providing first aid to a senior who fell on the street.



**To learn more about the Ambassador Program, visit [www.beverlyhills.org/ambassador](http://www.beverlyhills.org/ambassador).  
To report unusual activity or maintenance issues while in the Beverly Hills business triangle or city parking structures, please call or text the Hotline at (424) 302-1487.**

## NEXT NIGHT Block Party on South Beverly Drive

*Come Out for an Evening of Beverly Hills Entertainment, Food and Fun*

Beverly Hills brings the summer to a close with NEXT NIGHT—a block party celebrating the community: the people, the food, the entertainment and the businesses.

The 200 block of South Beverly Drive will be “pedestrian only” for an evening designed for the entire family, featuring live music, a DJ, food trucks, restaurant specials, a beer & wine garden, and pop-up shops. This specially curated event will showcase a mix of local artists, with an emphasis on goods crafted right here in Beverly Hills.

NEXT NIGHT will be open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on August 27 and stretches from Charleville Boulevard to Gregory



Way along S. Beverly Drive. Admission is free. Well behaved and leashed dogs are welcome!

In keeping with a focus on innovation, leave your cars at home and walk, bike or grab a Lyft and join your friends for a special evening. There’s a designated

Lyft drop off point near Gregory Way, at the southern end of the 200 block of Beverly Drive. However, parking is available at the City parking garages located at 216 S. Beverly Dr. and 242 N. Beverly Dr.

NEXT NIGHT is spearheaded by Next Beverly Hills, a committee of young leaders appointed by the City Council to engage residents through innovative initiatives that address their lifestyles, economic and civic needs.

[www.nextbevhill.com](http://www.nextbevhill.com)  
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram  
[@nextbevhill](https://www.instagram.com/nextbevhill)

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## We've Got Connections

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Visit [www.beverlyhills.org](http://www.beverlyhills.org) to find out more.



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# Calendar

## AUGUST

- **Next Night Block Party – 200 block of S. Beverly Dr.**  
*Saturday, August 27 — 6-10 p.m.*
- **Police Officers Association Pancake Breakfast – Civic Center Plaza**  
*Sunday, August 28 — 8 a.m.*
- **Moving Towards the Future: Community Meeting on Santa Monica Blvd. Reconstruction –**
  - **Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce**  
*Wednesday, August 31 — 8:30-10 a.m.*
  - **City Hall Municipal Gallery**  
*Wednesday, August 31 — 6-8 p.m.*
- **Building Blocks for Healthy Families: Conversation with Parenting Experts – Beverly Hills Public Library Auditorium**  
*Wednesday, August 31 — 7-8 p.m.*
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## SEPTEMBER

- **Concert on Cañon Mayor's Sing-Along – Beverly Cañon Gardens**  
*Thursday, September 1 — 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.*
- **Dog Park Ribbon Cutting – Foothill and Alden**  
*Tuesday, September 6 — 1 p.m.*
- **Moving Towards the Future: Community Meeting on the Purple Line Extension – City Hall Municipal Gallery**  
*Wednesday, September 7 — 6-8 p.m.*
- **Household Hazardous Waste Roundup – Foothill and Third St.**  
*Saturday, September 17 — 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*

## OCTOBER

- **Evening with the Mayor – Greystone Mansion**  
*Thursday, October 6 — 5-7 p.m.*
- **Beverly Hills Art Show – Beverly Gardens Park**  
*Saturday & Sunday, October 15-16 — 10 a.m.-5 p.m.*

For a complete listing of City events, go to [www.beverlyhills.org/calendar](http://www.beverlyhills.org/calendar)