

**Library Board, Santa Monica Public Library
Secretary's Report
August 2023**

Santa Monica Public Library Operations:

Beginning, September 1, the **Library will be extending its hours!** Doors will open at the Main Library at 10am, Monday – Thursday; and evening hours will go until 8pm at all library locations, Monday – Thursday. Extended hours also include Saturday hours at the Main Library and access to reserve the meeting room at Montana Avenue Branch.

The Library will be working with **Margaret Sullivan Studio** team to help reimagine the Main Library Café. An in-person activity and workshop for staff and community is currently being planned for the end of August. The goal is to provide input for a design that is flexible, adaptable and promotes community connections. The space, which is located in the Central Courtyard at Main Library, will also complement programming and service needs.

Programming



This year's **Santa Monica Police Department National Night Out** was a success. Adult Services Librarians conducted outreach, talking to 212 visitors and giving out over 100 items of swag.

SMPL at the Annenberg Beach House

On July 21, SMPL at the Beach returned to the Annenberg Community Beach House for the first time since 2019! The pop-up had 204 visitors throughout the day. The program started with Seaside Storytime local children's book author Nell Cross Beckerman reading from her book about the SM Pier. This was followed by a nautical craft activity for kids. Families were able to check out books using the honor system while also enjoying using the Seaside Reading Lounge to hang out and read with their kids. People were thrilled to see the library at the beach and many remarked that they'd like us to be there more often.



The Santa Monica School Unified School District **Adult Education Center classes** are set to return to the library on August 28. Instructors will be providing ESL and citizenship classes, and Digital Literacy instruction. Learners will be able to obtain computer skills through interactive lessons, and self-paced modules.



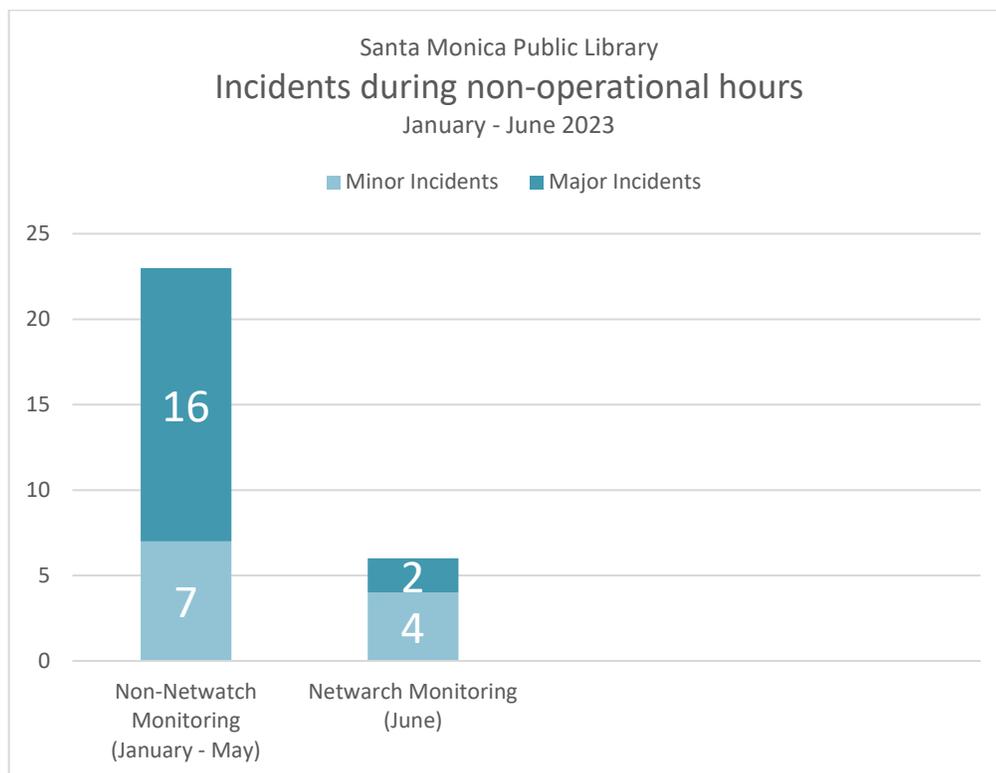
Two new **RED Kits** have been added to the collection. One called *Walking in L.A.* The Kit is designed around a walking theme. It contains walking poles for two heights (5'9 and below & 5'9 and above), a pedometer, *LA Story* DVD (for when you're tired of walking 😊), books on walking including secret steps, urban hikes and other walking spots in Los Angeles. The second kit is a *Bird Watching* RED Kit which contains binoculars and books about bird watching.

Safety and Security



The Main Library has replaced a total of 9 cameras with high-definition cameras, providing broader angle coverage as part of a security camera replacement project.

On May 24, the Library began the **Netwatch security video monitoring pilot** in partnership with the Department of Transportation (DoT) and Santa Monica Police Department. The pilot provided security video monitoring for certain city facilities, including the Main Library. Monitoring at the library took place during non-operational hours. With the combination of Netwatch, GoodGuard (after-hours security), and onsite patrols by the library's library security officer team, it has been able to see a decline in loitering on library property.





Safety and Security Statistics: January – June 2023

159 monthly incidents (116 major/ 43 minor)

89 incidents at Main / 70 Branches

25 calls in to police

11 bans have been issued

Partnerships

Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library: Plan to open the Bookstore on Saturdays from 12 - 4pm beginning on September 23. The next Friends' Board meeting is Wednesday, August 16 at 7pm (virtual). Attendance is welcomed.

By Erica Cuyugan, Director of Library Services

**2023 Boards & Commissions Report
Questionnaire – Due 08/08/2023****1. Board/Commission Name:**

Santa Monica Public Library Board

2. Board/Commission Representative & Contact Information:

Boards/Commissions may appoint one member to provide their report at the designated Council meeting.

Judith Meister, Chair

3. FY 2022-23 Members

Judith Meister, Lu Plauzoles, Dana Newman, Jason Lin and Antonio Spears

4. Mission/Responsibilities/Meeting Schedule/Location:**a. Mission Statement****b. Responsibilities, Jurisdiction and Authority of the Board/Commission:****c. Board/Commission's Meeting Schedule/Location** (Example: 1st & 2nd Tuesdays, at 5:30 PM, in City Hall Council Chamber)

2nd Thursday of the month, at 6:00 PM, in the Main Library Administration Conference Room

5. FY 2022-23 Goals/Accomplishments:**a. What were the Board/Commission's major accomplishments of FY 2022-23?**

- 1) Raised awareness of important national library efforts by:
 - a) Bringing forward and supporting a City Council proclamation in celebration of the freedom of expression during *Banned Books week*, September 18 – 24, 2022
 - b) Recognizing *National Library Week*, April 23-29, 2023, by conveying a message to the community and honoring Santa Monica's five stellar library locations. Highlighting staff efforts for remaining resourceful and innovative, and committed to expanding hours and bringing back library services to the community and neighborhoods.
 - c) Supporting *National Volunteer Week*, April 16-22, 2023, by joining efforts with Friends of the Library to recruit new members and volunteers.

2023 Boards & Commissions Report Questionnaire – Due 08/08/2023

- 2) Held a joint meeting with Friends of the Santa Monica Library Board to identify collaborative efforts and ways the Library Board could support the Friends' through fundraising, advocacy and programming efforts.
- 3) Initiated effort to recognize little libraries throughout Santa Monica
 - Developed and distributed a survey to library users and Santa Monica neighborhoods.
 - Secured commitment from the Friends of the Library to offer a \$10 coupon that will be used for replenishing books for little library owners.
- 4) Advocated for restoration of library funds and services to the City Council during the FY2023-24 budget process.
- 5) Supported library staff by attending various open houses and programs during the year, such as the Literacy Festival.
- 6) Three board members attended *Serving With A Purpose Conference*. Board members connected with other library organization trustees/commissions and foundations, learned best practices and resources for advocating for libraries.

b. Were there goals that the board/commission was unable to achieve in FY 2022-23 & why?

1. Recruitment of new Board members and volunteers for the Friends of the Library is an ongoing effort and will require more personal outreach to individuals than soliciting online.
2. Plans to visit community groups to raise awareness of the Library's funding needs were not implemented due to Board member turnover and limited staff time.

6. FY 2023-24 Workplan

a. Describe the anticipated workplan the board/commission intends to implement for FY 2023-24. Note: Workplan should align with the anticipated workplan of the Department.

1. Develop Community Outreach process for Board members, volunteers, and library staff to meet with community groups and businesses to raise awareness of the Library's funding needs and to share information about current resources.
 - Identify key groups to visit.
 - Develop presentation to share with groups.
 - Recruit volunteers to expand available Board and staff resources.
 - Advocate for the restoration of funding
2. Strengthen relationship with the Friends of the Library by supporting board volunteer recruitment efforts and collaborating to plan at two programs or events in FY2023-24
 - Event: "Little Libraries" recognition event, Fall 2023
 - Program: TBD

3. Support the following national library efforts to create awareness through proclamation, letters to the editor, program participations, etc.:
 - Banned Books Week, October 1 – 7, 2023
 - Library Card Sign Up Month, September 2023
 - National Library Week, April 2024 TBD
4. Support development of Poet Laureate Program.

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