



REMEMBER THE DREAM
SEE PAGE 5

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE CALL US DREAMERS ISSUE



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

ONWARD AND UPWARD: The SunBay Motel on Washington Boulevard in Culver City will be turned into a facility named Upward Bound House to help local homeless families with children.

Upward Bound gains approval

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

CULVER CITY Upward Bound House got the green light earlier this week to move forward with its project to convert a motel here into an emergency shelter for homeless families with minor children, a project that is being partially funded by the city of Santa Monica.

The City Council of Culver City on Jan. 15, voted 3-2 to uphold the Planning Commission's decision to approve the Santa Monica-based agency's plans to purchase and convert the SunBay Motel

into emergency housing.

The new facility — the only one on the Westside for families with children — will be a vital resource for the growing number of families in crisis in the region, said David Snow, executive director of Upward Bound House.

"This is an important step in the right direction," Snow said. "Every night in Los Angeles County, there are more than 10,000 homeless children, many living in conditions unfit for human habitation."

SEE UPWARD PAGE 9

Program makes going green a smart business proposition

Sustainable Works helps local companies save on expenses

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY Don't underestimate the power of a photo copy machine.

Literally.

When Amanda Schmidt, a project engineer at RMC Water and Environment decided to "green" the engineering consulting firm's office on Broadway, she was surprised just how much electricity could be saved by adding a few energy efficient bulbs and even altering the power-save mode on a photo copier.

Schmidt changed the setting on the photo copier, making it enter energy save mode after 15 minutes of inactivity, instead of the previous setting of three hours.

The changes to the photo copier coupled with other energy efficient additions to the office have resulted in the savings of an average of \$450 a month over the past year, Schmidt said on Friday.

The Northern California-based company worked with Sustainable Works' Business Greening Program, which sent a team of experts that helped identify energy and cost savings opportunities in the Santa Monica office on Broadway and 24th Street. Those changes helped RMC's Santa Monica office win the Sustainable Quality Awards (SQA) in 2007.

"It's helped reduce our energy consumption and given us new ideas on how to further save energy," Schmidt said.

Since its inception in 2001, Santa Monica-based Sustainable Works, a non-profit organization, has helped more than 100 businesses "green" their operations, from offices to restaurants to retail. The free program runs for about one year.

"It's a marketing business trend right now," said Susy Holyhead, the program's director. "Across the board, businesses are seeing the economic benefits, the employee health benefits and of course, the environmental (benefits)."

In 2007 alone, 20 businesses participated in the Business Greening Program, from small coffee shops to larger restaurants, altogether saving 50,000 kilowatts of energy, and diverting a total of 20,000 gallons of waste from landfills, Holyhead said.

"It results in economic savings and less toxins in the water," she said.

Being green can be easy on the wallet as well.

The Phelps Group, which won the SQA in 2006, saved an average of \$800 a month from retrofitting the office's

IT'S A MARKETING BUSINESS TREND RIGHT NOW."

Amanda Schmidt
Project Engineer, RMC
Water and Environment

SEE GREEN PAGE 11




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GOOD FOR THE POCKETBOOK: Amanda Schmidt, project engineer at RMC Water and Environment on Broadway, made a slight change to the power-save mode on her company's copy machine that resulted in big savings for the small business.



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SMART: Miluska Propersi, a project engineer at RMC Water and Environment on Broadway, uses a power-saving coffee machine that uses a thermos instead of the normal hot plate to save energy.

Going green saves cash

FROM GREEN PAGE 1

light bulbs to compact fluorescents and by installing timers and sensors throughout the office.

The Aura Shop, a Main Street store that specializes in products and services for self-empowerment, is currently participating in the Business Greening Program. As a result of retrofitting the bulbs in the display window and showroom, shop owner Kate Mitchell said she has seen a savings of about \$150 a month in her elec-

tricity bill.

"It's a big expense for businesses to have," Mitchell said. "We need all the help we can get."

Seeing the changes in her electricity bill was a pleasant surprise. Even though she was told that there would be great savings as a result of the retrofitting, Mitchell said she was still a bit skeptical.

"Until you see the bill, you're not sure," she said.

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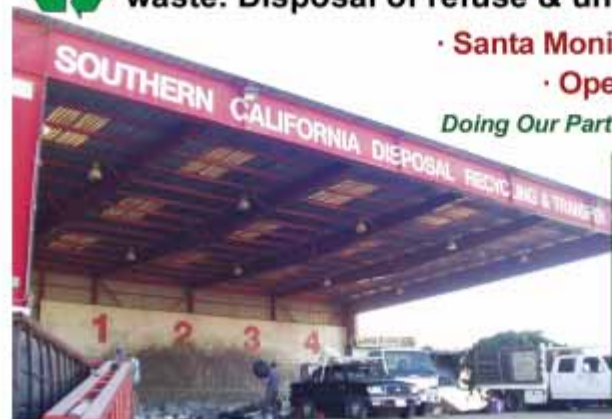
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1/21

CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

Come be part of one of Southern California's largest, most diverse celebrations of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., honoring his memory and his work toward nonviolence. Keynote Speakers: Baha'i spiritual leaders Firuz Kazemzadeh and Wilma Ellis, both actively involved in international issues, particularly in the area of religious freedom. The multiethnic interfaith program includes inspirational readings, music, and scholarship awards. After the program, a Community Involvement Fair (held nearby, at 606 Wilshire Blvd.) offers refreshments and informational displays by a variety of community organizations. Sponsors: Martin Luther King, Jr., Westside Coalition; the SMC Associates (www.smc.edu/associates); City of Santa Monica; City TV; SGI-USA; RAND Corporation; and Verizon. Call (310) 434-4303 for details. • Mon, Jan 21 • 9 am • Free • SGI (Soka Gakai International) Auditorium (525 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica)

1/25

SPECIAL OBSERVING EVENT AT DRESCHER PLANETARIUM

With the Moon rising late, now's a good time to enjoy "Winter Sky Highlights" through a selection of telescopes. After a short discussion and tips on what to look for, we'll head outside (weather permitting) for a session at the eyepiece. (If clouds intervene, we'll extend our discussion and enjoy more great images.) Dress warmly! Advance tickets at Events Office (SMC main campus) and online (events.smc.edu). • "The Night Sky" • 7 pm • "Winter Sky Highlights" • 8 pm • \$5 each or \$9 both • Fri, Jan 25 • Drescher 223 • SMC Main Campus • "Winter Sky Highlights" continues Feb 1

also

ONGOING EXHIBITS: SMC Faculty Art Exhibit at Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery, SMC Performing Arts Center (11th St. & Arizona Ave., Santa Monica) • Maurizio Barattucci: "Choosing the Quiet" at Emeritus College Art Gallery • COMPETITIONS: Basketball, Wed & Sat, Jan 23 & 26, Women's 5:30 pm, Men's 7:30 pm, SMC Pavilion

1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90405
For campus locations: www.smc.edu/campusmap
For event information, call (310) 434-4303 or (310) 434-4209
For more events: www.smc.edu/schedules/2007/fall/events

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