Protesters Call for an End to Wars

■ March in Hollywood Marks Eight Years of War in Iraq

BY EDWIN POLVYEN

On the day the United States military and its allies began operations in Libya to protect civilians and members of the resistance from attacks directed by Muammar Kadadi, thousands of demonstrators marched in Hollywood to call for an end to American military intervention around the world.

Approximately 4,000 people participated in the March 19 demonstration, which was held for the eighth year in Hollywood. Organized by ANSWER L.A., the march also highlighted the need for more funding for education, employment and social service programs in the United States.

“We are observing the eighth anniversary of the War in Iraq, and we are out here to oppose the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, and also to call for no new war in Libya,” said Muna Coohthe, an organizer for ANSWER L.A. “People’s needs are not being met. There is a generation of young people who are facing the prospect of high unemployment and diminishing services. We strongly feel that money that is so sorely needed for basic rights should not be spent on the military budget. Conditions for people in this country are getting worse, and people are getting increasingly disillusioned.”

Demonstrators chanted slogans such as “No Justice, No Peace, We Must Get Out of the Middle East” and “Money for Jobs and Education, Not for War and Occupation” as they marched. The group was led by Ron Kovic, a well-known anti-war activist who was portrayed by actor Tom Cruise in the 1989 film, “Born on the Fourth of July.” Kovic, who is paralyzed from the waist down after being shot in 1968 while fighting in the Vietnam War, said the anti-war message is as pertinent today as it was when he returned from Vietnam 43 years ago.

“I really believe in peace, and believe war is not the answer; that people are getting increasingly disillusioned.”

See Healthcare Act page 21

City Hits Bumpy Ride in Funding Alley Repairs

■ Potholes and Road Hazards Can Damage Cars

BY JOSE MARTINEZ

During the recent city council election, the term “pothole politics” was bandied about referring to politicians whose approach is to gladly fix street potholes to gain favor. But trying to get that same diligence for local alleys is a different story.

Drive behind Beverly Boulevard between Detroit and Gardner Streets, or between Kings Road and Orlando Avenue, and you’re likely to damage your car. According to Councilmember Paul Koretz, 5th District, improvements are not forthcoming.

“Unfortunately, the alleys in the 5th District are terrible,” Koretz said. “I’d say about two years ago they filled some [of the alley potholes]. Now you can’t get it done.”

Koretz suggested that residents who are concerned about the alleys

See Alleys page 22

Put Another Candle on the Healthcare Act

■ Waxman, Bass Celebrate the Landmark Legislation

BY JOSE MARTINEZ

It was one year ago this week that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law by President Barack Obama, reforming private health insurance and Medicare.

As a result, children cannot be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, seniors will have access to affordable prescription medication, and young people can now stay on their parents’ insurance until the age of 26.

Before birthday cake was cut and shared, activists, politicians and insurance consumers spoke out in favor of the ACA at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Tuesday.

U.S. Representative Henry Waxman (D-Los Angeles) was also honored for his healthcare reform effort. Waxman was the first representative to get the ACA on to the House of Representatives floor for a vote.

“President Obama is the man really responsible,” Waxman said.

“Prior to last year, we had millions of people finding themselves uninsured, or not being able to get the care they needed.”

See Healthcare Act page 21

Mayor Sees Bright Future Along the Miracle Mile

■ Subway, Schools and the Budget are Topics at Town Hall Forum

BY JOSE MARTINEZ

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa addressed concerns at an informal question-and-answer town hall meeting for Miracle Mile residents and businesspeople on Monday. With no fanfare, the mayor walked around a makeshift town hall in the lobby of the 5900 Wilshire building, courtesy of The Ratkovich Company. During the nearly hour-long discussion hosted by the Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce, the mayor addressed concerns about a Miracle Mile master plan, strategic partnerships, education, the city budget, and stressed that the subway is coming to the Miracle Mile.

Addressing his vision for the area, the mayor also expressed how he would like to see the neighborhood look.

“In cities like this, as much as possible, today’s city has to look out towards the street to encourage pedestrians,” Villaraigosa said. “I’d like to see more restaurants with outdoor dining. My vision for this street is that we also have a subway. In 2001 people were against it, by 2005 they were split, now it’s the future.”

The mayor stressed to local residents that this is an issue they can weigh in on, pointing out, “I’m responsible for big city plans.”

Speaking in front of three Fairfax High School leadership students in attendance, the mayor
### Calendar

**25 Fashion Fundraiser**
The Guild of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles will host its annual “Accessories for Success Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show” on Friday, March 25 at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The fundraising event will honor Nina Shaw with the Excellence in Mentoring Award, Nancy Jane Goldston, with the Innovator Award; and BBBSLA Board chair Nancy Taylor with the Sterling Award. The special guest host will be Amber Valletta. A luxury accessories boutique will be held at 10:30 am; and the luncheon and fashion show begin at noon. 9461 Sunset Blvd. (323) 904-4400, www.BBBSLA.org.

**Phyllicia Rashad**
The Ebony Repertory Theatre presents the directorial debut of actress Phyllicia Rashad in “A Raise in the Sun” running from Friday, March 25 through April 17 at The Kirk Douglas Theatre. The play presents the directorial debut of actress Phylicia Rashad and the directorial debut of director Phylicia Rashad. The play portrays an African-American family’s pursuit of their shared dream for a better life amid conflicting aspirations, betrayal and racism. Tickets are $45 to $75. 4718 W. Washington Blvd. (323) 964-9766, www.ebonyrep.org.

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<tr>
<th>26 Sample Saturday</th>
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| Capitol Drugs/PowerZone will host their “Sample Saturday” on March 26 from noon to 4 p.m. The event is being combined with the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Health Fair, and more than 100 sports, nutrition, homoeopathy, medical practitioners and vendors will provide information and samples. Thousands of products will be priced at 20 per cent off, and the event will also include free spine exams, neck and shoulder massages, acupuncture consultations, sprays tans and health screenings. 8578 Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 289-1125, www.capitol-drugs.com.

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<th>27 Marie Osmond</th>
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| The Professional Dancers Society (PDS) will honor television personality Marie Osmond at its 25th anniversary awards luncheon on Sunday, March 27 at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Osmond will receive the Gypsy Award for her achievements in dance, particularly on “Dancing With the Stars With a Twist” television stars will join the tribute to Osmond with a special performance. 9461 Sunset Blvd. (310) 285-1411, www.Capitoldrugs.com.

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<tr>
<th>Downtown Culture</th>
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| The Los Angeles Visionaries Association (LAVA) presents an afternoon of free cultural exploration in Downtown L.A. on Sunday, March 27 from noon to 2 p.m. Participants can make art, explore the museum, or join a bilingual gallery tour. 5915 Wilshire Blvd. (323) 845-6000, or visit www.lavacon.org.

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<th>28 ‘Spring Fling’ Party</th>
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| Caud Hudson Events and Todd Keim present the “Spring Fling” Lady Gaga party on Monday, March 28 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Drai’s Hollywood. Guests will join Lady Starlight following her performance at Lady Gaga’s Monster Ball Concert for an after-party event benefiting the Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing (GLEH). Tickets are $52 in advance, $50 at the door. 6250 Hollywood Blvd. www.gleh.org.

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<tr>
<th>29 Classical Tribute</th>
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| The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association will host a concert titled “A Tribute to Ernest” on Tuesday, March 29 at 8 p.m. The performance pays tribute to the late Ernest Fleischmann, former L.A. Phil executive vice president and managing director who passed away last June. The performance will feature conductor laureate Esa-Pekka Salonen, guest conductor Pierre Boulez, and assistant conductor Lionel Bringuier. Walt Disney Concert Hall, 11 S. Grand Ave. (323) 850-2000, www.laphil.com.

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<tr>
<th>Women’s History</th>
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| The Hollywood Chapter of the National Organization for Women will host a discussion with Rubina Peroumian, a research Associate in Near Eastern languages and cultures at the UCLA on Tuesday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd. In observance of Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day, Peroumian will discuss Armenian women’s history. 8300 Santa Monica Blvd. (323) 455-0020, www.hollywoodnow.org.

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<tr>
<th>30 The Troubadour</th>
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| The Grammy Museum is holding a film screening titled “Reel True” Troubadour” on Wednesday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m. In the wake of the turbulent 1960s, a new style of singer-songwriter came to the forefront, and many of the performers ended up at the Troubadour in West Hollywood. “Troubadour” is a first-hand account of the genesis of the singer-songwriter movement, centering on the historic collaboration between Carole King and James Taylor, as well as on Jackson Browne, David Crosby, Joni Mitchell, Kris Kristofferson, Bonnie Raitt, The Eagles, Elton John, and many others. Tickets are $8. 800 W. Olympic Blvd., Ste. A245 (312) 376-6000, www.grammymuseum.org.

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<tr>
<th>31 Medical Luncheon</th>
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| The Bogart Pediatric Cancer Research Program will hold its 15th annual “Medical Luncheon, Silent Auction & Panel Discussion” fundraiser on Thursday, March 31 at the Montage Beverly Hills Hotel. To date, the annual event has raised over $400,000 for pediatric cancer research at the Bogart Labs at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Registration opens at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 26. Call for information:

<table>
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<th>Just Down the Road</th>
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| The Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society (SCVRHS) will present its 16th annual “Santa Clara River Valley Railfan 2011” on March 26 and 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year’s theme is “Steam Returns to Fillmore,” and the center of activities will be held in Central Park in Fillmore, California. The event will feature Fillmore & Western Railway’s fully operating and restored Baldwin 1913 steam locomotive #14. The locomotive will be powered by the “Railfan Special Event” train, and diesel locomotives will be pulling the two scenic excursions at $10.00 per adult. “Railfan” also features informational displays from railroad-related organizations, arts and crafts booths, model trains, food and vendors. (805)524-2546, www.scvrhs.com.

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**Park Labrea News/Beverly Press**

2 March 24, 2011

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Bus Line Changes Designed to Boost Efficiency

Some Routes May Be Eliminated or Shortened

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is proposing the elimination of nine bus routes and shortening others as part of a plan to make the bus system more efficient. The Metro Board is scheduled to vote today on the proposal, which has been denounced by the Bus Riders Union, an organization that advocates for the millions of people who use the buses each day.

In the Hollywood area, Metro is proposing to eliminate Line 757, a rapid bus line that runs between Western Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard and the Crenshaw Green Line Station in Hawthorne. According to Scott Page, manager of service planning for Metro, Line 757 duplicated service on another line, 207, that runs on Western Avenue, and was not providing the 20 percent or greater increase in travel times that the Rapid Bus 207 project was intended to provide over the local line, 207, that runs on Western Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard. The changes call for Metro bus service to be more efficient. The Metro Board is scheduled to vote today on the proposal, which has been denounced by the Bus Riders Union, an organization that advocates for the millions of people who use the buses each day.

“Bus Line Changes Designed to Boost Efficiency”

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

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“I choose fresh chefs.”

WeHo Councilmembers Take Oath of Office

Two incumbents and one new member were officially sworn in on March 21. West Hollywood City Clerk Tom West administered the oath of office to current Mayor John Heilman (second from left), and Councilmembers Abbe Land and John D’Amico. D’Amico was elected on March 8 and replaces Councilmember Lindsay Horvath, who had been appointed to replace the late Councilmember Sal Guarriello upon his death in 2009. Women have served on the West Hollywood City Council since the city’s inception in 1984. Land was first elected to the council in 1986 and served through 1997, and later ran for office again and was re-elected in 2007. D’Amico has been a West Hollywood resident for 20 years, and was formerly chair of the West Hollywood Planning Commission, vice-chair of the Human Services Commission, and a member of the Disabilities Advisory Board. He also served three years on the Los Angeles County HIV Health Services Commission and two years on the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Prevention and Planning.
Feuer Seeks New Protections Against Insurance Rate Hikes

BY JOSE MARTINEZ

After Anthem Blue Cross announced they would be delaying another proposed rate hike, Assemblymember Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles) stressed the need for officials to be able to reject excessive increases. “This episode underscores the importance of state officials having the power to reject rates that insurers can’t justify,” Feuer said. “Anthem voluntarily decreased its rates, this time, but we cannot have confidence that excessive rate increases will always be reduced. Families and businesses should not have to depend on the whim of an insurance company to reduce major rate increases prior to a rate approval process in place, which my AB 52 would create. Californians will continue to experience outrageous increases.”

Feuer introduced AB 52 in December, which requires health plans and insurers to receive approval from the state for such rate increases. The legislation would ensure that rate increases would have to be reviewed and approved by the state before being imposed upon customers. Specifically, the measure would require health plans and insurers to seek approval from state regulators prior to raising health care premiums, copayments, or deductibles. The bill will be referred to the health committee to be heard sometime in April.

Anthem announced that it would reduce its proposed rate increases from 16.4 percent to an average 9.1 percent, and delay its implementation until July 1. The insurer also plans to post-pone additional rate changes until January 1, 2012. Anthem’s announcement to decrease rates closely follows Blue Shield’s rate increase suspension. On March 16, Blue Shield canceled rate increases that would have affected nearly 200,000 customers beginning on May 1 after receiving pressure from consumers and state officials.

In 2010, Feuer and then-Assemblymember and current Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones (D-Sacramento) jointly introduced a far-reaching plan to establish a permanent rate review and approval process after a similar proposed rate increase by Anthem Blue Cross. That measure was ultimately defeated in the state Senate.

State Assemblymember Mike Feuer, who is pictured at a news conference in January notifying parents about insurance rate increases, has authored legislation to protect consumers against insurance rate increases.

Garcetti Offers Grants to Beautify Neighborhoods

BY EDWIN FOLEVEN

Neighborhood groups and organizations hoping to make improvements in Hollywood have a new funding source through a program that was announced Monday by City Council President Eric Garcetti, 13th District. The program, called “Clean and Connected Communities”, offers grants of up to $2,500 for beautification projects. Three projects will be selected in each of the eight communities within the 13th Council District, including Hollywood, East Hollywood, Historic Filipinotown, Echo Park, Atwater Village, Silver Lake, Elysian Valley and Glendale Park.

“Clean and Connected Communities combines both,” Garcetti said. “No one knows more about what a neighborhood needs than the people who live there. Through this program, neighborhood residents will choose initiatives to make their communities cleaner, greener and safer.”

Julie Wong, a deputy to Garcetti, said the funding will come from the council office’s discretionary fund. The council offices received $80,000 for the current fiscal year that can be used to complete projects, help struggling community organizations or be used for other improvements at the councilman’s discretion. Wong said because there is a limited amount of funding, the idea is for organizations to partner to complete projects.

Participants could include schools, neighborhood councils, non-profit organizations, neighborhood watch groups and other community-based entities. Projects must be located in the 13th Council District, and involve physical improvements such as tree plantings, landscaping, community gardens, murals or clean-up projects. Organizations must provide matching funds. Applications can be submitted at www.cd13.landal.blogspot.com, and see Grants page 22.
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A group of West Hollywood Sheriff’s Department deputies will be handling different types of tickets tonight as they participate in “Tip-A-Cop,” an event designed to raise money for local Special Olympics athletes. The event will take place at the Hamburger Hamlet, 9201 Sunset Blvd., from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sheriff’s deputies will serve as hosts and help wait on customers while accepting donations.

Deputy Kevin Connors, who has been with the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Dept. for 17 years, will be among approximately eight deputies and four local Special Olympics athletes present at the event. “Tip-A-Cop” has been held for 10 years in West Hollywood and Connors has participated in each one.

“It’s a good cause,” Connors said. “The athletes really get a kick out of seeing law enforcement at the event. They smile when they talk to us and really like hearing about what we do.”

Hamburger Hamlet will be hosting the event for the sixth consecutive year. Lawrence Diblasso has been the general manager at the Sunset Blvd. location for more than a year and was present for last year’s event.

“It was a really good time last year,” Diblasso said. “It was nice to see the deputies were here to help and not just give us tickets and we’re happy to host the event.”

Deputies help the servers at the restaurants bus the tables and serve the food. They approach each table and explain that they are there to help raise money for the Special Olympics. Customers who are interested in helping are given an envelope for their donation. There is also another perk to having a deputy wait on your table.

“It’s one time that people get a chance to order a cop around and tell him what to do,” Connors said. “They get a kick out of telling a cop to clean up their table.”

The event helped raise more than $2,700 in four hours last year and Deputy Kevin Connors, of the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station, participated in the fundraiser last year with Special Olympics athletes Michelle Core and Eddie Perez.
Elizabeth Taylor: 1932-2011

Oscar-winning actress Elizabeth Taylor died Wednesday morning at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center from congestive heart failure at age 79. The actress starred in classics like “Cleopatra” and “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”, and won two Academy Awards for best actress for her roles in “Butterfield 8” and “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” Taylor’s children, Michael Wilding, Christopher Wilding, Liza Todd and Maria Burton, and 19 grandchildren surrounded her, when she passed away. Taylor, who was married eight times, twice to actor Richard Burton, was a staunch advocate in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Musician and friend Elton John released the following statement: “We have just lost a Hollywood giant; more importantly, we have lost an incredible human being.”

Madam Tussauds Hollywood, which houses the $300,000 wax figure of Taylor, from “Cleopatra”, will have a condolence book for guests to sign through the weekend. Madam Tussauds Hollywood is located at 6833 Hollywood Blvd. A private funeral will be held later this week.

Photo by Jose Martinez

‘Adjustment Bureau’ Debates Free Will vs. Predestination

Science fiction author Philip K. Dick might not be as well known as Arthur C. Clark (“2001: A Space Odyssey”) or Frank Herbert (“Dune”), but he’s written short stories and novels that became several popular films: “Minority Report”, “Total Recall”, “Paycheck”, “Next” and “Blade Runner”. His list of works continually make their way to the big screen and the latest, and definitely not last, edition is “The Adjustment Bureau”. It tackles similar philosophical ideas as his other works, creating an entertaining film experience along the way.

New York Sen. David Norris (Matt Damon) just lost his seat, but a chance encounter with Elise Sellar (Emily Blunt) inspires him to give the best speech of his career, quickly turning him into the top choice for the next term. David has a bright future ahead of him and one group of mysterious business men wearing hats are greatly invested in his future. With the ability to predict the future, control matter and effectively move through doors all around New York, these guys are all about the plan, whether it be God’s plan or simply fate.

Accidentally, David sees these men at work, controlling the fate of the world, and he’s both scared to secrecy and told to never see Elise again. Well, even though fate doesn’t want them to be together, change does as they meet once, twice, more, and David must decide if he’s worth fighting for against the powers that be.

Sci-fi films about free will vs. predestination are a dime a dozen. After George Orwell’s haunting “1984”, everything feels flat in comparison. There are few things quite like a tale of government control of history, our daily lives and even the internal freedoms we often feel we have despite external oppression.

“The Adjustment Bureau” has fun with its concept. In place of God and angels, we’ve got business men (yes, they’re all men) and the chairman, who remains out of sight, giving orders to members of the firm via memos.

“The Adjustment Bureau” is meant to be a conversation film. Go see it and discuss the implications in a philosophy class or between signs at a pub.

There’s nothing new here, but I have to remember that the material might have become a bit cliché, the author started playing with these concepts more than 40 years ago. And I doubt he ripped off ideas from contemporary cinema since he died in 1982, right before his novel, “Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?” was adapted into “Blade Runner” (the first of his works to reach the box office). So cliché or not, this is where it began, and to merely sub it as original would be to miss the interplay between history and modern film.

That said, I can’t sing high praises for the camera of filming, “which is all too modern in most ways. First-time director, George Nolfi, has a keen eye for the film, but the story ending lacks a shocking conclusion considering his recent writing success with “Bourne Ultimatum”.

Films like this rarely know where to end, often succumbing to sentimentality over critical intrigue, something films like “12 Monkeys” and (for the third time) “Blade Runner” knew how to handle. Even “Minority Report” had an ominous tone while still ending in a traditional blockbuster way.

As usual, Damon is delightful on screen, and Blunt also proves to be a rising star to keep track of. For a pseudo-action flick (I say “pseudo” since there might be chase scenes, but they’re all on foot and no guns or explosions dominate any scene), the chemistry between these two love birds is palpable—similar to Zach Braff and Natalie Portman in “Garden State” (take that as good or bad, your choice).

We’ve even got some enjoyable performances by familiar faces like Terrence Stamp as the grim big wig Thompson, nicknamed The Hammer. John Slattery and Anthony Mackie also get in a few enjoyable lines as well, even if the show is stolen by our leads and a veteran performer since 1962.

I once had a roommate who owned an agon that said, “Don’t Expect Miracles.” Funny, yes, but also ironic considering he’s an outstanding tone while still ending in a traditional blockbuster way. There’s a good representation of “The Adjustment Bureau”, don’t expect miracles, but at least the story’s got some spice to it.

Matt Damon stars in the romantic thriller “The Adjustment Bureau” as a man who glimpses the future planned for him and realizes he wants something else. To get it, he must pursue the only woman he’s ever loved (EMILY BLUNT), and obey the agents of Fate, a mysterious group of men exerting control over their lives.

Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

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Lapbanding The Cypresses

Anyone in Los Angeles with any self respect and a house and garden, knows that it comes with “X-number” of rooms, two baths and a lawn, a dog... and a gardener. If the dog (let’s call him D) is a bad dog, and if the gardener (G) is a good gardener, G cleans up after D and mucks the tree clippings, dead flowers — and occasionally an errant kitten — into a good, healthy humus to deliver to the rose bushes. Everyone wins. If G is a mower and a blower, like mine, and apparently everyone’s in the neighborhood, he just mows the grass and blows the dead leaves into a dark corner, maybe in back of the pool equipment shed, so they rest between winds. The dark corner serves as a great hiding place for squirrels, dead or alive, stray kittens, and the remains of the dog’s last supper. I don’t have a lawn — mine is the house with the succulents and cacti that terrify the neighborhood. In return for providing prickly pears to the scruffy little boys on their way home from Rosewood Elementary to throw at the squealing girls who love and hate the chaise, and keeping several of the neighborhood house sitters provided with yucca flowers to take home for their husband’s supper, my succulents provide a testsitting place for nervous cats whose kittens have been misplaced.

During the voting for elections, which we often hold at our house, the overgrown jungle provides a spine barrier between the Left and the Right wings of the electorate.
(The odd dog’s stroller that gets caught in the cactus just adds the weird to modern art to the scene. Since my G, and my D refuse to enter into the political arena, the stroller, sometimes with the dog in it, still remains in the prickly bushes until the next election.)

About the cypresses, they establish the boundary between my backyard pool and the neighboring apartment dwellers on the next street west of mine. The sense of privacy they offer, and their serene beauty, always make me think of the forbidden portions of paradise in D.H. Lawrence’s beautiful poem that begins... “Along the avenue of cypresses, all in their scarlet wraps and sarcophagi of linen, go the chantingchoristers.”

I planted the cypresses in 1980 after falling for the cool serenity, and majesty of the ancient ones in the gardens of the Alhambra in Granada, Spain. My cypresses were just saplings then; it took more than 20 years to grow them into their beautiful prime.

The unfortunes I look back then of the majestic hedges, lovingly shaped into giant living turrets that surrounded the course of my gardens, have remained on my property to remind me of their beauty, and to show my own successive Gs from time to time to remind them of their responsibilities to the eternity of beauty.

Needless to say, despite my efforts, nature and time, and California’s wild climate, consistently defeat my efforts. I forget to mention that we noticed, in Spain, that although the banks of gardeners labored daily to clip and call the giant cypress hedges, it was their lady wives who performed the slogging labor of carrying the clippers and trimmers and the tree trimming forces from hedge to hedge, while the Gs chaffed and cursed together, knowing how it is done. No way could we duplicate that workforce.

When I brought my G’s attention to the unsightly weight gain, he jumped to attention and nodded wisely, I was busy last week and didn’t notice anything different until I looked out of my office window and could hardly believe my eyes. My G had “lapbanded” a couple of the bulkiest cypresses!

Now, I don’t know exactly what a lapband is, but there is no other word for what Brother Cyrus and Madame Butterball were sporting — notorious unbendable rings in their expanding girths! Laughing or crying weren’t options, so we just screamed and fumed until we collapsed and the trash truck drove up with the intention of hauling us both away. The two biggest trees literally had muffin tops bulging over their lapbands.

All stately serenity and dignity aside, it wasn’t just funny, it was ludicrous... and humility for the trees, I’m sure. Friar Tuck and Falstaff would have turned over in their tombs... G smiled when we gently questioned his motives. “I’ll fix it in the new season,” he said.

He did. The next week, he exchanged the green bands for stress-colored ones, as well as another swelling tree for good measure.

Fortunately, the rains came. And the top fives of the three unlucky cypresses, blown and battered by the storm, dropped so the remaining branches in sad disarray.

The last time I saw G, just yesterday, he was on a ladder trying earnestly to hold up the flapping tree with one hand while trying to tie him back to the shining trunk with the other. I couldn’t watch, so came in and started to write this. What is it? Elegy? Death Knell? No, more of a cri-du-coeur.

— “Giorno Dei Morti” — D.H. Lawrence (1885-1930)

Singer Adams Receives Star on Walk Of Fame

Loyal fans braved a downpour Monday to witness Bryan Adams receive the 2,415th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame outside The Musician’s Institute at 6572 Hollywood Blvd. Former Los Angeles Kings center and all-time hockey great, Wayne Gretzky was a guest speaker at the ceremony and said fellow Canadian Adams “made Canada proud.”

Adams has achieved number one status in more than 40 countries and holds the record for longest running number one hit in the history of the British charts. He has more than a dozen number one singles including “Summer of ’86.” (Everything I Do) I Do It For You,” and “Let’s Make It a Night to Remember.”

He has won multiple American Music Awards, a Grammy Award and an array of Academy Award and Golden Globe nominations. In February, Adams played to sold-out crowds in India and he recently finished concerts in the eastern U.S. and he will perform at Royle Hall in Los Angeles on April 9.

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LAUSD’s ‘The Teachers Hour’ Earns Telly Award

The Los Angeles Unified School District’s (LAUSD) new show, “The Teacher’s Hour,” edged out nearly 11,000 entries to win a Telly Award for outstanding local programming.

The program is an LAUSD Staff Development series produced by the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Support and airs on KCET-TV.

“The Telly Award truly validates the important public service that our programs, like ‘The Teacher’s Hour,’ can provide to teachers and other viewers,” said Dr. Judy Elliott, LAUSD Chief Academic Officer of Curriculum. Instruction and School Support. “This type of programming is here to help those educators who are seeking out unique practices in and out of the classroom.”

The program took home the award in the education category. It highlights effective teaching practices at schools within the district. Viewers can see teachers providing extra tutoring to groups of students and principals helping to organize the data analysis days for teachers.

Letters to the Editor

Canvas Bags Are the Right Choice

I agree completely with George Epstein’s letter where he states that paper bags have a greater environmental impact compared to plastic bags. But I disagree when he goes on to state that “banning plastic bags is like throwing out the baby with the bath water.”

I suggest we get out of the “disposable” mentality altogether. There’s no need to toss the baby or the bath water, just say no to plastic and paper, and bring your own canvas bags instead. (And use the bath water to water your plants).

As our population continues to increase, and the impact of our actions grows exponentially, it’s imperative we recognize that the precious resources that make up our world are no longer “disposable.”

Christine Goodrow West Hollywood

Have an Opinion? Sound Off!

If you would like your comments to be published online and in the newspaper, please include a valid e-mail address, full name and contact number. The Park LaBrea News and Beverly Press encourages our readers to submit Letters to the Editor via e-mail at: editor@beverlypress.com. Letters become the property of the Park LaBrea News and Beverly Press and may be republished in any format.

Congresswoman Bass Voices Opposition to Bill Defunding NPR

Standing in support of National Public Radio (NPR), U.S. Rep. Karen Bass (D-California) spoke out against H.R. 1076, a bill sponsored by Congressman Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), that prohibits the federal funding of NPR and the use of federal funds by public radio stations to acquire programming.

“This is another battle in the ideological fight that the ultra conservative right is waging against the American people,” Bass said. “The number one priority of Democrats is job creation, while their agenda is resulting in job cuts. Democrats are serious about fiscal responsibility, while the majority is focused on a bill defunding NPR that does not save one penny for the American taxpayer.”

Bass, who represents the 33rd Congressional District that includes Los Angeles, Hollywood and Culver City, cited a preliminary estimate by the Congressional Budget Office that notes the bill would produce no savings for the taxpayer and will not reduce the deficit, while harming 500 public radio stations especially in rural America and in communities with limited access to media outlets.

“We are 12 weeks into this new Congress and counting, and still no jobs plan from my Republican colleagues,” Bass said. “The time for the majority to govern and deliver on a pledge to create jobs is long overdue. Democrats know what the American people are demanding and we are listening. Our priority must be jobs, not ideological skirmishes about defunding public radio.”

Lamborn, who authored the bill that was passed last week by the House of Representatives, said that if NPR reworks its business model and begins to compete for its income, it will not only survive but also thrive in the future.

“This vote sends a strong message that Congress is serious about cutting spending,” Lamborn said. “With trillion dollar deficits as far as the eye can see, under Barack Obama, we must begin to cut all unnecessary spending. In an era of 500-channel cable TV and live streaming video over the Internet, there is no need for taxpayer-subsidized media.”

Seen as a conservative vs. liberal issue, Rep. David Dreier, the San Gabriel Valley Republican who is also the new chairman of the Rules Committee in the House of Representatives, recently told the L.A. Times that he’s a fan of NPR and stressed that change shouldn’t be made precipitously.

Dreier said he believes NPR and PBS provide quality information, but ultimately funding should come from sources besides taxpayers.

“I very much believe there are people who will provide voluntary support,” Dreier said. “I want to find a way to form a post taxpayer-supported corporation for public broadcasting.”

Teachers Gather At ‘4 LAUSD’ Conference

Nearly 1,000 Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) teachers, administrators and instructional support personnel gathered on March 9 at the second annual “4 LAUSD by LAUSD” conference to share their best practices, innovations and successes with each other.

The conference, which was sponsored by the LAUSD Office of Curriculum, Instruction and School Support, gave educators a chance to collaborate, share and celebrate their instructional practices.

“We are thrilled that over 950 of LA’s educators are taking this amazing opportunity to collaborate, share and celebrate with their colleagues quality instructional practices that take place day after day in the classrooms, and at schools throughout the district,” said Judy Elliott, chief academic officer for the LAUSD.

All presenters at the conference were pre-kindergarten through adult school educators who shared their work in the fields of differentiated instruction, integrating technology, leadership, positive behavior instruction, the problem-solving model, project-based learning, and strategies for improving academic achievement.

For information, visit www.lausd.net.

Fairfax Journalism Students Excel In JEA ‘Write-Off’

Two Fairfax journalism students recently won awards in the “Write-Off” held by the Southern California Regional Journalism Education Association (JEA). Junior Pritika Kumar (left) won first place for feature writing, and sophomore Emma Macarthur (right) won second place for feature writing. Students from seven additional Los Angeles Unified School District high schools participated in the event on Feb. 17 at East Los Angeles College’s South Gate Campus, including Roosevelt High School, South East High School, Huntington Park High School, South Gate High School, Daniel Pearl Journalism & Mass Communication High School, Banning High School and the International Studies Learning Center. Kumar and Kim, along with the other staff members of the Fairfax High newspaper, The Colonial Gazette, will face national competition at the annual JEA convention next month in Anaheim.
Mayor Announces New Emergency Policy

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced new directives on March 18 that will increase Los Angeles’ emergency and disaster preparedness, including a new partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“Los Angeles has one of the most aggressive emergency management systems in place with highly trained responders and one of the most prolific, state-of-the-art emergency operations centers in the country,” Villaraigosa said. “But as a city, we are always looking for ways to better prepare ourselves, so I have gathered these experts to discuss lessons learned from the disaster in Japan which we can apply here in Los Angeles.

Under the new safety precautions, general managers of all city departments have been directed to adopt and implement the National Incident Management System to ensure a uniform system is in place that reflects the most advanced and current response possible. All city departments have also been directed to update emergency plans on an annual basis.

“Los Angeles has one of the most aggressive emergency management systems in place with highly trained responders and one of the most prolific, state-of-the-art emergency operations in the country.”

—Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

National Healthcare

National, state and community organizations are leading a mass movement to highlight the importance of Advance Healthcare decision-making. In California, the growing importance of every adult having an Advance Healthcare Directive (AHCDD) has been addressed by the Secretary of State who has established a state-wide AHCDD Registry.

In an AHCDD, you designate an individual whom you direct to make important decisions in the event you are no longer able to do so. It is part of your individual health plan and can save you and your family from the stress of making difficult decisions.

So, you choose the person you trust, talk to your healthcare providers about this important decision, and follow your Agent’s instructions.

An AHCDD can be created through a lawyer, a medical professional or an AHCDD registry. But an AHCDD registry, such as the one in California, is the simplest way to ensure that your wishes are followed and that your family is protected from legal and medical costs. In California, the state-wide registry is called “MyLife,” and it is available online.

For more information on how you can protect your health and your family, visit the website of the California State Department of Health Services, which can be found at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mylife. You can also call the MyLife Helpline at 1-888-402-5779.

MADAME TUSSAUDS

Madame Tussauds creates special royal wedding card

To commemorate the upcoming royal wedding between Prince William and his fiancé, Kate Middleton, Madame Tussauds Hollywood is erecting a special royal wedding card in its lobby so that guests can personally sign prior to the wedding on April 29.

The royal wedding card will go on display Friday, April 1 with an iconic British “Beekeeper” in attendance. The card, which is oversized greeting card will be shipped directly to the royal couple in London.

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Mrs. B. Tussauds is no stranger to the royal family and, in the past 50 years, the current Queen has sat twice for fittings and measurements in preparation for a wax figure creation.

In commemoration of the pending nuptials, Madame Tussauds Hollywood will treat its first 68 guests to tea and English tea cakes on April 1 at a traditionally English afternoon tea.

For more information on the museum, visit www.madame-tussauds.com/hollywood.
Breadbasket and Unicelce

In honor of World Water Week through March 26, Breadbasket encourages guests to donate $1 or more for the complimentary tap water served at the restaurant. Each dollar paid will be matched by Breadbasket to benefit UNICEF’s Tap Project to provide safe and clean water for the world’s children.

UNICEF can provide one child with access to clean water for 40 days with the donation of $1. 878 W. Third St., (310)205-0124 and 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., (310)277-3770. Other local restaurateurs participating in the Tap Project include Larchmont Grill, AOC, and Hugo’s. Visit www.tap-project.org for more information.

“Top Chef” at Le Seine

Executive Chef Alex Rezaei, known for his entertaining culinary techniques on Bravo’s “Top Chef,” is whipping up a California contemporary menu at one of Beverly Hill’s newest restaurants, Le Seine. Using meats he personally selects from the butcher, and high quality fish, Rezaei creates a playful take on Jewish-American cooking. Instead of butter and cream, he uses olive oil and stocks for flavor. Some of his Koster entrees include Bordeaux-braised short ribs with butternut squash polenta, crispy leeks and wild mushroom and a Cote de Boeuf for two. Open for dinner Tuesday through Thursday 6-10 p.m. and Sat. from sunset to 11 p.m. 14 N. La Cienega Blvd. (310)338-0922.

Breakfast for Supper

Six hotel restaurants in Beverly Hills have created all day breakfast dishes from now until June 30. The breakfast dishes are offered in conjunction with Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau’s “Breakfast in Beverly Hills” hotel promotion. Nine participating hotels are offering a free night stay with every first, second, or third night booked and complimentary breakfast for two for a total of three. The campaign has provided visitors to Beverly Hills with more than 1,300 rooms and 12,000 complimentary breakfasts. One of the hotels, Oliverio at Avalon Beverly Hills features an ostrich egg frittata with porcini e roboti, Pair it with a colorful light blood orange Bellini cocktail, 9400 W. Olympic Blvd. (310)277-5221. For details about Breakfast in Beverly Hills, visit wwwBREAKFASTBH.com.

Brunch at Fig & Olive

One of LA’s newest restaurants has opened for lunch. Some of the items featured on the menu are a cecumber and pink peppercorn soup and Fig & Olive salad, New York sirloin steak or seared yellow fin tuna panini. Starting Sunday, March 27 they will open for brunch at 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. serving fig and walnut pancakes with sliced figs and fig infused syrup, South of France poached eggs with salmon and Italian omlettes with gorgonzola, fig, sun-dried tomato, scallion and mushrooms, 8480 Melrose Place, (310)360-9100.

The Abbey’s New Menu

Chef Danny Elmaleh, best known for his food at Clos, has renovated the menu at The Abbey with small plates, such as a skillet of mac and cheese with a skewer of bruleed chicken and chorizo. The panoramic view over the valley is the perfect setting for this new fall menu which includes five new dishes and six new cocktails. 898 W. Sunset Blvd., (310)855-5555.

Pies Galore

Simple dishes, like the featured fish sandwich and pie, offer different flavors for the average customer. The pies are also available for take out. Customers can call ahead and get pie here to go. £501 W. Olympic Blvd, (223)215-3000.

Restaurant News by Jill Weinlein

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Café 5901

Café 5901 recently opened at the Los Angeles Medical Plaza, offering high quality food that is healthy and affordable. Try the popular turkey avocado panini, or for a great deal, one of the classic combinations with chips and a soda for $5.40. Want a great cup of coffee? The Café has partnered with Groundworks Coffee, which has been locally roasting quality Arabica beans from all over the world for over 20 years.

“Every sandwich we make has been carefully constructed not only to maximize flavors but to keep a little coin in your wallet as well,” said Gourmet Chef Stephen Barkalis. “And our coffee is as good as anyone’s. Come on in and try our Chunky Monkey Latte and you’ll taste the difference.” Located in the lobby of the Los Angeles Medical Plaza, customers can dine and relax, or for people who are in a hurry, all items are available for take out. Customers can call ahead and Café 5901 will have the food ready to go.

5901 W. Olympic Blvd, (223)215-3000.
Aloha! Roy's Hawaiian Fusion Cuisine

One of my favorite ways to celebrate Fridays is to go to Roy’s Hawaiian Fusion for their Aloha Hour. From 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Roy’s offers fresh Hawaiian specialty cocktails for $5, including Roy’s original Hawaiian martini with sweet Maui pineapple, SKY Vodka, Stoli vanilla vodka and Malibu coconut rum. It’s shaken and served with a slice of fresh pineapple. Sipping this libation makes me feel like I’m on vacation. The 1983 Martini has the tartness of grapefruit with antioxidants of pomegranate. It’s garnished with a lychee fruit.

Go early, because the place is filled with happy people crowding around tables or sitting along the bar drinking their discounted tropical drinks and nibbling on crunchy golden lobster potstickers dunked in a spicy Togarashi miso butter sauce or lobster California roll with lobster salad, avocado, cucumber and Tobiko (flying fish roe) for $5 each. After 6:30 p.m., these rolls are $9.95 and $11.95.

Sure, many restaurants are offering Happy Hour with $5 sliders and chicken wings, however, Roy’s prepares each appetizer with a Hawaiian twist. The sliders are made with Wagyu beef and caramelized onions, chipotle aioli on a pretzel bread bun and garlic sweet potato fries in the middle of the plate. The salt and pepper crisped calamari is accompanied with a Hawaiian fusion dipping sauce.

Last Friday, after a cocktail and appetizer, we moved into the main dining room for dinner. The menu changes with every season. Currently, Roy’s is offering a Winter Fusion Prix Fixe menu with a choice of one each of three appetizers, four different entrées and two desserts for $35.95. Their regular menu is also offered.

For starters, we enjoyed the poached pear and pecan salad. It’s served with mixed greens and dressed with a divine lemon-ginger port vinaigrette. I also ordered the local greens salad with red and yellow baby beets, tiny dollops of goat cheese, toasted macadamia nuts and adorned with a truffle dressing with a ginger kick, and savoried every bite.

For entrees, we ordered the grilled Wagyu meatloaf served with sour cream and chive mashed potatoes and bathed in a bearnaise mushroom sauce. This is not at all like my mother’s meatloaf. The meat is very moist and flavorful, and is sprinkled with carrots and onions. I asked our server, born and raised in Oahu, how the chef prepares this dish. “Sous-vide. It’s a French word for under vacuum,” This cooking method boils food in a sealed plastic bag in warm water for 140 degrees for hours maintaining the integrity of the ingredients and allowing the essence of the herbs and vegetables to be absorbed into the food. The meatloaf is then taken out of the bag and grilled before served at Roy’s.

Another entree we enjoyed was the spicy beef and garlic-seared Dover sole. What made this dish special was the Maine lobster curry sauce. The fish is presented on a bed of butter-mashed potatoes, sautéed leeks and soft baby carrots. The sienna colored curry sauce gives the dish a heavy zipper of spicy flavors.

For dessert, Roy’s serves a melt-in-the-mouth soufflé with a thick raspberry coulis sauce and generous scoop of vanilla bean ice cream with a sprinkling of chocolate chips. It’s made with semi sweet dark chocolate, sugar, butter, eggs and cornstarch. They also prepare a scrumptious pineapple upside down cake.

For those guests who enjoy the food at Roy’s, they offer cooking classes during the year and list recipes for some of their most popular dishes on their website http://www.royrestaurant.com/wh arden/recipes/.

Roy’s has locations in downtown Los Angeles at 800 South Figueroa St., (213) 488-4994; and in Pasadena at 641 East Colorado Blvd. (626) 356-1066. Also in Newport Beach and Anaheim.

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Police Seek Info On March 19 Hit and Run in West L.A.

Detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department's West Traffic Detectives are seeking information about a hit and run driver who killed a motorcycle rider on March 19.

The collision occurred around 3:05 p.m. Officers responded to a report of a collision at Jefferson Boulevard and S. Ardenmore Avenue. The caller stated that they had found a motorcycle rider lying unresponsive on the ground near a fallen motorcycle.

The rider was pronounced dead at a local hospital. The case is currently under investigation.

Two Suspects Sought In Gang-Related Shooting

Two suspects who shot and seriously injured a victim in Inglewood on March 19 were taken into custody.

The shooting occurred just after 4 p.m. near a local school. The victim was hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries.

The Los Angeles Police Department is seeking information on the suspects.

ICE Attorney Sentenced To 17 Years

A senior attorney with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was sentenced to 17 years in prison for出轨 federal firearms.

The attorney, identified as Robert André, 45, was charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute firearms with intent to murder.

He is expected to be eligible for parole in 2033.

Leader of Human Trafficking Ring Sentenced

The leader of a human smuggling operation, who is charged with trafficking minors, was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

The defendant, identified as Juan Martinez, was found guilty of multiple charges related to human trafficking.

He is expected to serve his sentence at a federal prison in California.

California has strict penalties for human trafficking, with mandatory minimum sentences for those convicted.

The severity of these sentences is due to the exploitation of vulnerable individuals, particularly children, who are often subjected to forced labor or exploitation.

The law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Investigations Division, are committed to combating human trafficking.

Their efforts are part of a broader national strategy to disrupt these criminal networks and bring those responsible to justice.
A photo of the March 19, 1981 issue of the Parklabrea News showed the parcel of land north of Park La Brea that later became Pan Pacific Park. An accompanying article under the headline, “Pan Pacific Park a Reality,” reported that state and local representatives had participated in a groundbreaking ceremony on March 15 for the new park. The presiding official then was L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, L.A. County Supervisor Ed Edelman, 3rd District; L.A. City Council President John Ferraro, 4th District; and state Sen. David Roberts. The groundbreaking followed six years of work between the county, city and state to create the 15-acre park, which also serves as a flood control basin. Today, the park also includes the Pan Pacific Park Recreation Center, the Los Angeles Holocaust Museum, the Los Angeles Holocaust Memorial, the swimming pool, and the West Wilshire Senior Citizen Center.

Energy Upgrade California To Save Homeowners Thousands

A part of the new Energy Upgrade California program, Los Angeles County homeowners can qualify for rebates and financial incentives of up to $4,500, and can save on their monthly utility bill by implementing energy-saving upgrades to their homes. The goal of the plan is to retrofit up to 18,000 homes with an average 20 percent reduction in energy costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create 2,000 new green jobs in Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles is one of the first cities in the state to roll out the program, an alliance among L.A. County, Southern California Edison and the Southern California Gas Company. Energy upgrade home improvements that qualify for rebates and incentives include insulation, sealing, HVAC upgrades, energy-efficient windows, tankless water heaters and other improvements.

"One-time home improvements like these are a great way for homeowners to save money now with the prospect of rebates, and make a smart, long-term financial investment," said Howard Choy, general manager of the County Office of Sustainability.

To be eligible for rebates and incentives, a participating contractor from the program must perform all home improvements.

For the past six months, the Energy Upgrade California team has been recruiting and training qualified contractors.

Dan Thomsen, one of the program's qualified contractors and founder of Hancock Park's The Building Doctors, stresses "reduce before you produce," noting that insulation and installing highly efficient heating and air systems are key before making other home improvements such as installing solar paneling.

Funding for the Energy Upgrade California program comes from multiple American Reinvestment and Recovery Act sources, including Los Angeles County's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant; U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Program funding; and a California Energy Commission discretionary grant.

Summary of Impacts:
The proposed project would not result in any potentially significant unavoidable adverse impacts. Impacts that would be created, but could be reduced to a less than significant level with project mitigation, include: Air Quality (during construction); Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Noise (construction and operation related); and Traffic and Circulation. Potential Impacts to Aesthetics; Air Quality (during operation); Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Public Services (Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services, Police Protection, Library Services, Parks and Recreation); and Public Utilities (Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, and Energy) would be less than significant and do not require mitigation measures; however, mitigation measures that could further lessen the environmental effect may be suggested if readily available and easily achievable. No impacts to Agricultural Resources, Biological Resources, or Mineral Resources would occur as a result of the proposed project. The project's contribution to a cumulative impact associated with greenhouse gas emissions would not be considerable.

Public Comment Period:
The public comment period for this DEIR begins on Thursday, March 24, 2011 and will end on Monday, May 9, 2011 (comment letters must be postmarked by May 9, 2011). Copies of the DEIR will be available for review at the City Hall Planning Division counter and West Hollywood Library (715 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069 (310) 652-5340). The document will also be available on the City of West Hollywood website, www.who.org/planning, and copies are available by public records request through the West Hollywood City Clerk's Office at (323) 848-6409. Please submit comments in writing to the following address:

City of West Hollywood
Attn: Jennifer Aikins, Associate Planner
Community Development Department
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.
Free Tax Help Offered in Hollywood

Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti’s Office, in partnership with State Controller John Chiang and the Hollywood FamilySource Center, is hosting a day of free tax preparation services on Monday, April 4 through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

“Particularly in these tough economic times, we want to help people understand the deductions and credits they are entitled to, but may not know about,” Garcetti said.

Garcetti added that credits and deductions for renters, education costs and child care costs may be available. Taxpayers with annual incomes of $49,000 or less can receive free assistance with preparing their tax forms from 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Hollywood FamilySource Center, 5500 Hollywood Blvd.

Taxpayers should bring a photo ID, a social security card or individual taxpayer identification number for all family members, all W-2 and 1099 forms, a copy of their prior-year tax return, and bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of refunds or direct debit of any balance due.

Taxpayers should also be prepared with any additional information about income or expenses for which they may receive credits such as tuition, child care and rent.

Appointments are required, call the Hollywood FamilySource Center at (323)836-0055.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Tower Hematology Oncology Medical Group has formed the Cancer Support Network, a collaboration of community organizations committed to providing free cancer support and educational services. The program is for cancer patients and their families, and is open to all members of the community and not limited to Tower’s patients.

“We recognized that there is a growing demand on the Westside for cancer support services that heal body, mind, and spirit,” said Dr. Barry Rosenbloom, managing partner at the Tower Hematology Oncology Medical Group.

“We set out to develop a new and innovative approach, and the result is one focused program. The wide range of services we are offering are all free and open to the public.”

The Cancer Support Community and weSPARK are among the partners that will be presenting free programs, groups, and workshops at Tower’s Beverly Hills facility, 9229 Wilshire Blvd. Initial programs include a stress reduction and writing group, restorative yoga classes, a guarded imagery group, and a wellness workshop.

For information, call (310)205-5790 or visit www.toweroncology.com.

Free Tax Help Offered in Hollywood

Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti’s Office, in partnership with State Controller John Chiang and the Hollywood FamilySource Center, is hosting a day of free tax preparation services on Monday, April 4 through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

“Particularly in these tough economic times, we want to help people understand the deductions and credits they are entitled to, but may not know about,” Garcetti said.

Garcetti added that credits and deductions for renters, education costs and child care costs may be available. Taxpayers with annual incomes of $49,000 or less can receive free assistance with preparing their tax forms from 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Hollywood FamilySource Center, 5500 Hollywood Blvd.

Taxpayers should bring a photo ID, a social security card or individual taxpayer identification number for all family members, all W-2 and 1099 forms, a copy of their prior-year tax return, and bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of refunds or direct debit of any balance due.

Taxpayers should also be prepared with any additional information about income or expenses for which they may receive credits such as tuition, child care and rent.

Appointments are required, call the Hollywood FamilySource Center at (323)836-0055.

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City of West Hollywood Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood City Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

LOCATION: 1019-1021 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, California.

REQUEST: Appeal of the Planning Commission’s decision to demolish two existing structures and construct a five-unit condominium building.

PERMITS: Appeal of Demolition Permit, Development Permit, Tentative Tract Map; and any other required permits.

APPLICANT: Amit Apel (Designer)

APPELLANT: Brian Winters

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING: Monday, April 4, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

West Hollywood Park Auditorium
647 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONE: R4B (Residential, Multi-Family High Density)

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: An Environmental Impact Report was previously prepared.

The staff report will be available on Thursday, March 31, 2011, at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., and the W.H. Library, 715 N. San Vicente Boulevard.

IF YOU CHALLENGE this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised in the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in the written correspondence delivered to the West Hollywood City Council, via the Community Development Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for checkout at the meeting. If you require special assistance to attend (e.g., transportation) or to participate in this meeting (e.g. signer for the hearing impaired), you must call or submit your request in writing to the Transportation Division at (323) 848-6375 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TDD line for the hearing impaired is (323) 848-6496.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

For further information contact Laurie Yelton, Associate Planner, in the Community Development Department at (323) 848-6475.

Thomas R. West
City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации
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5,000 • 10,000 • 20,000 • 25,000 Miles

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- Body, belts & hoses
- brakes
- Rack & pinion assembly
- Bells & hoses • inspect cabin air filter
- Inspection fees for wear

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- Clean & adjust rear brakes (when applicable)
- Synthetic oil additional

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- Steering linkage & ball joints & control arms
- Body & exterior body parts
- Ignition & spark plug wires
- Brake & pedal assembly & ball joints
- Rear & front rotors & pads
- Bells & hoses • inspect cabin air filter
- Inspection fees for wear

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- Synthetic oil additional

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TIRE SPECIALS!
DODGERS NEWS

Dodgers Away Game to Benefit Tucson Charity

The Los Angeles Dodgers will play the Arizona Diamondbacks on Friday, March 25 at Kino Veterans Memorial Stadium in Tucson as part of a fundraiser organized by both teams and Major League Baseball to benefit the Tucson Together Fund. The Dodgers and Diamondbacks are committed to supporting the Tucson community by helping to raise funds for their friends and families of the shooting rampage that occurred in Tucson on Jan. 8. The shooting claimed the lives of six people, including Christina Taylor Green, the daughter of L.A. Dodgers owner and chairman Frank McCourt. “We are honored to take part in this game to support not only John and Roxana Green and their family, but the families of all of the victims of this terrible tragedy,” said Frank McCourt. The Tucson Together Fund provides financial assistance to victims, witnesses and their families of the victims.”

The Tucson Together Fund was established in the aftermath of the 1995 El Chorro de la Muerte mudslide in Osoyoos, Arizona, and was established to raise funds for the victims and survivors in the Los Angeles area, and was established in the aftermath of the 1995 El Chorro de la Muerte mudslide in Osoyoos, Arizona, and was established to raise funds for the victims and survivors in the Los Angeles area.

T he Los Angeles Dodgers have continued to raise money for victims of the tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan, collecting donations during their spring training game on April 2 against the Milwaukee Brewers on March 19. Donations booths were set up in the center field and home play concourse areas. Dodgers players James McDonald, Andre Ethier, Matt Kemp and Clayton Kershaw signed autographs during the donation period before the game along the third base aisles. Dodgers starting pitcher Hiroki Kuroda (above), a native of Japan, signed autographs to help relief funds.

The event raised $5,873 for the American Red Cross’ “Japan Tsunami Relief Fund.” Coupled with the Dodgers’ fundraising event held at the Dodger Stadium parking lot on March 15, the team has raised nearly $65,000 for Japanese earthquake relief efforts.

Dodgers Release 2011 Broadcast Schedule

The Los Angeles Dodgers has announced its 2011 schedule, which includes approximately two thirds of games on television on Prime ticket, and one third on KCAL Channel 9. National and regional telecasts on FOX and ESPN are not covered through the Crime Victim Compensation Program. For information, visit www.dodgers.com/spring.

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Dodgers Raise Nearly $65,000 To Aid Japanese Victims

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T his Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST LA) will host a cocktail reception on March 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Viceroy Santa Monica as a lead-up to its Celebrity Gala in May. Kay Buck, executive director for CAST LA, and trafficking survivor and playwright. Udaya Kanti Salgadu will discuss the problem of human trafficking during the reception.

Proceeds from the reception directly benefit CAST LA’s effort to prevent trafficking. Viceroy Santa Monica is donating a two-night stay to be awarded at the event, and guests are encouraged to donate auction items for the upcoming Gala.

CAST LA is the leading organization working with trafficking victims and survivors in the Los Angeles area.

Charlie Awards Luncheon to Honor Larry King and Art Mavens

The Hollywood Arts Council is holding its 25th annual Charlie Awards Luncheon on Friday, March 25 at 11:30 a.m. in the Blossom Room at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel; 7000 Hollywood Blvd.

The event will be emceed by ABC Channel 7’s George Pennacchio, and celebrity guests will present awards to individuals and companies that have made significant contributions to the arts. The Charlie Awards support Project S.O.A.R., the Hollywood Arts Council’s after-school art workshops held in eight Hollywood area elementary schools and serving over 15,000 children. Proceeds will go towards Project S.O.A.R.’s annual Children’s Festival of the Arts held each August at Paramount Pictures.

The Charlie Awards Luncheon is open to the general public; tickets are $100. For reservations and information, call (213)346-2355, or visit www.hollywoodarts council.org.
The Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents an exhibit titled “David Smith: Cubes and Anarchy” running from April 3 through July 24 in the museum’s Resnick Pavilion.

The exhibition will be the first thematic display of works by the renowned 20th Century American sculptor David Smith (1906-65). The exhibition will bring together more than 100 works, including the largest grouping of Smith’s monumental “Cubis and Zigs”.

“Cubes and Anarchy” places the masterpieces in context with his earlier works, and will reveal Smith as a sculptor whose identification with the working class motivated him to adopt the geometric forms of the constructivist avant-garde (modernist artists who used hard-edged geometries to express utopian optimism). The exhibition includes sculptures, drawings, paintings, and photographs — many provided by the Estate of David Smith, which also loaned sketchbooks and photos of which only a few have been exhibited previously. The exhibition’s title is derived from Smith’s recollection that his concept of “cubes and anarchy” stemmed from the painter John Sloan, his teacher at New York’s Art Students League in the 1920s who exposed him to cubism, constructivism, and progressive social movements.

“David Smith is a protean talent who created sculptures that Donald Judd once described as ‘some of the best in the world,’ yet there has not been an exhibition of Smith’s work on the West Coast since a memorial show at LACMA in 1965,” said Carol S. Eliel, curator of modern art at LACMA. “‘David Smith: Cubes and Anarchy’ considers for the first time the entirety of the artist’s career while focusing on the theme of geometry in his work.”

LACMA is located at 500 S. Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323)857-6000, or visit www.lacma.org.

Sculptor David Smith’s “Cubi XXIII” from 1964 is among the works to be displayed at LACMA.
Protesters Demand an End to Wars

From page 1

violence, bombs and pulling triggers is not the answer, and that a more peaceful world is possible," Kovac said. "I know we are a better country than that. I know we can approach our differences around the world in a more peaceful manner. We have to in order to end this cycle of violence.

Kovac added that he felt like he was amongst "family" with the group of demonstrators, and said he is encouraged that young people are staying involved.

Robert Muñoz, a student at the California State University, Los Angeles, said he felt he needed to demonstrate because the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are dragging on, and he believes a new war is beginning in Libya.

"People around the world are trying to gain their freedom, in Egypt and Libya, but all that means is there will be more fighting and more people getting killed," Muñoz said. "America shouldn't be fighting in these wars that never end. If we get involved in a war in Libya, when is it going to end?"

Some of the demonstrators were former members of the military, including Michael Williams, a former member of the U.S. Army who served in Iraq. Williams said while he believes war is sometimes necessary to defend national interests or help people in foreign countries, he said the current wars are simply about oil.

"Why would we still be in Iraq after we have liberated the people if it is not about oil?" Williams said. "Now we are fighting in Libya, which is the same situation, oil. Thousands of people are getting killed and it never ends. At some point, we need to take a look at what we are doing and stop the fighting."

The march began at Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street and moved down to Sunset Boulevard before ending with a rally near Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue. At the rally, numerous speakers continued their appeal to end the war. Chris Shiflet, the lead guitarist for the Foo Fighters, addressed the crowd and performed a song. Iraq war veteran and March Forward! co-founder Mike Prysner also called for an end to military intervention.

"Today, we are all making history. We are here to say no to U.S. wars on innocent people abroad and yes to jobs and education right here at home," Prysner said. "We don't believe the lies about national security to justify wars. It is, in fact, a national security issue that millions of people are losing their jobs and homes right now. This must end, and it can end if we keep struggling to stop these criminal wars."

Fundraiser to Benefit Special Olympics

From page 7

Diblasio credited the patrons’ willingness to contribute.

"The customers loved it," Diblasio said. "They did get a big kick out of ordering the cops around but when they found out the cause, I would say that about ninety-five percent of the customers made donations."

Diblasio added that he is hoping to double that number at this year’s event since there are two private parties scheduled at the restaurant that night.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department will also be hosting “Tip-A-Cop” events Saturday at Red Robin restaurants in Cerritos, Calabasas, La Mirada, Palmdale, San Dimas and Valencia. All proceeds go toward helping local athletes compete in the Special Olympics.

Law enforcement and the Special Olympics have had a partnership for more than 25 years. According to Eloise Crawford, regional director for the Special Olympics, law enforcement agencies in Southern California alone raised more than $1.2 million for the Special Olympics through a variety of charitable events, including "Tip-A-Cop."

"That goes from Bakersfield all the way down to the Mexican border," Crawford said. "That money helped serve more than 11,000 athletes in that area." Crawford added that competing in the Special Olympics is free for athletes, thanks in large part to these charitable contributions. Money raised through these events goes to buy equipment, uniforms, and medals. It also helps provide free transportation to the event site for the athletes. The Special Olympics Summer Games will be held June 11 and 12 at the California State University, Long Beach.

"When you get to see them compete, it’s really great," Connors said. Deputy Cynthia Lombardo joined athlete Eddie Perez at the "Tip-A-Cop" event last year.

photo courtesy of Eloise Crawford

Deputy Cynthia Lombardo joined athlete Eddie Perez at the "Tip-A-Cop" event last year.

photo by Edwin Folven

The demonstrators represented all age groups, and called for an end to war as well as more support for domestic programs for low income individuals.
Proposition Includes Changes to Bus Lines

From page 3

vice to be cut by four percent, or approximately 305,000 hours of service. If approved, the changes would take effect on June 26.

Page said the proposal does call for the shortening of Line 237, which currently runs on Fairfax Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard between and - Fairfax and Washington Boulevard and Fountain and Vermont Avenues. An analysis of the route showed most passengers were getting off or boarding the bus at the Metro Red Line Station at Hollywood and Vine, where the line will terminate under the proposal.

Eric Romann, an organizer with the Bus Riders Union, said the proposed changes will dramatically affect low income people who rely on the bus system.

“What the MTA calls efficiency sounds to us like a blow to the hard working people of Los Angeles," Romann said. "It is a system that many people of color need to find a job, get to their jobs, or use to get to where they need to go. The elimination of bus lines will make it harder for them to get to their jobs or school. To us, it is the opposite of efficiency.”

Page said Metro is also formulating plans for more changes once the Expo Light Rail line opens. A specific opening date has not yet been scheduled, but the line is expected to be completed between November and January. The Expo Line will run between downtown Los Angeles and Culver City, but plans eventually call for it to be extended to Santa Monica. Page added that the Expo Line will be a significant improvement for people travelling from communities east of downtown Los Angeles to places like the Fairfax District or West Hollywood, because they will be able to use the light rail line and then connect with northbound buses, instead of transferring several times along the way.

The Metro Board Meeting begins at 9 a.m. on March 24 at Metro Headquarters, 1 Gateway Plaza, adjacent to the Union Station. For information, visit www.metro.net.

One line on Fairfax Avenue will be shortened as part of the proposed plan. The line will end at Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street, instead of Hollywood and Vermont Avenue.

Healthcare Act Anniversary is Celebrated

From page 1

sured. This is long overdue, we’ve been waiting at least a generation or more...decades!”

Waxman also spoke out against the Republicans’ efforts to repeal healthcare reform.

“They want to take us back in time when the rich got richer and the poor got poorer,” Waxman said. “This is right for our economy and right from a moral point of view.”

Agreeing with Waxman was Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) who worked as a physician assistant for 10 years. Bass claims that the Tea Party’s number one goal is to repeal healthcare reform, yet pointed out that they are adamant about their own coverage.

“My first day in the legislature, one of the Republican members stood up with complete indignation that he wouldn’t have health coverage for thirty days,” Bass said.

Cancer survivor Cameron Rath, now in his twenties, was diagnosed with Myelodyplasia at age 14, praised the no caps element of Medicare prescription coverage since it made buying medicine easier.

“Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress seem hell bent on destroying these hard won protections and are doing everything in their power to turn back the clock on our collective health care future,” Burton said. “Instead of focusing on creating jobs and growing our economy, they’re scheming to defund the Affordable Care Act or supporting efforts to challenge it in court.”

“Residents were concerned people would take up parking on residential streets to use the subway.”

The meetings also served to update the communities on Metro’s geotechnical work at the proposed station sites. This process involves collecting soil samples to make sure the ground is stable enough to support the station. It also involves seismic, noise and vibration testing.

Litvak said that the countless meetings have provided Metro with very useful information.

“Congressman Henry Waxman received an award from healthcare advocates Tuesday at a gathering to celebrate the first anniversary of the Affordable Healthcare Act.”

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Litvak said that the countless meetings have provided Metro with very useful information.

“There are so many examples of things that were implemented or taken out of the plan based entirely on input from the public,” Litvak said.

Public input led Metro to build a station at the VA hospital in Westwood.

“The project was only budgeted to run through Westwood,” Litvak said. “Since that was the case, the public asked that we build a station on the other side of the 405 freeway.”

Metro also used public input to place the Century City station south of Santa Monica Boulevard.

“It’s safe to say that this project has had the most community input in recent memory,” Sotero said.

Although Metro has held various meetings over the years, new suggestions still come up every so often.

“We had someone at Monday’s meeting suggest we do not use square-ended hand rails because they were uncomfortable,” Litvak said. “I thought it was fantastic that we were hearing new things at this point in the process.”

Metro will conclude its second round of meeting March 29 at the Roxbury Park Auditorium in Beverly Hills and then hold its final round of meetings sometime in the summer.

“I’m hoping that by the third round of meetings we can show the results of all the tests and analyses,” Litvak said.

After those meetings are over, Metro will look to gain final approval on the EIS/EIR by the end of the year and begin the construction process by 2012.

One of the topics discussed at the meetings was where to locate a station near the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.
Lawmaker Honored Helping Students

The California Community College Student Financial Aid Administrators have named Assemblymember Anthony Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge) as the recipient of the Leadership Award. Portantino was honored for his proposed legislation making it easier for students to apply for financial aid. Portantino, who is a member of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, took action when he discovered that only approximately one-third of Community College students apply for federal financial aid. Most students were using the California specific BOG fee waiver, but were not taking advantage of federal opportunities.

Portantino introduced AB 1997 in 2009 to establish a three-year program where the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form would be the primary application for all student aid. Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the bill, but Portantino has reintroduced the legislation this year as AB 91.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa noted that education is a priority.

"Education is the economic issue of our time," Villaraigosa said. "It's the civil rights issue of our time. If people can't read and write, they cannot participate in democracy."

While he was studying in New York, which currently stands at 19 million people with an annual budget of $132 billion, as opposed to California with its 37 million citizens and a budget of $127 billion, the mayor says things need to change.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa currently attending Marlborough School, the mayor spoke out in favor of the governor's tax extension proposal to fund schools.

"When I was going to school, we had the best public schools in the country," Villaraigosa said. "Politicians like me have to put our money where our mouths are.""Citing a difference between the population and budget of New York, which currently stands at 19 million people with an annual budget of $132 billion, as opposed to California with its 37 million citizens and a budget of $127 billion, the mayor says things need to change.

"We're not funding government," Villaraigosa said. "We must drive reform and find efficiency."

One such example that helped the city's economy was convincing the Beverly Hills BMW dealership to move to the Miracle Mile in the City of Los Angeles.

"That was the first time in 25 years that a car dealership moved to the City of Los Angeles and not away from the City of Los Angeles," Villaraigosa said.

When the subject of the city's budget came up, the mayor quickly pointed out that he would not raise taxes.

"I will make the tough decisions," Villaraigosa said. "We must keep our fire department and police department as intact as possible. I want to save city jobs but the city can't do everything."

Addressing that the city must become leaner and more efficient, the mayor noted that city benefits and structure must change. With two more years as mayor, Villaraigosa let it be known that he plans to leave office with a clean and clear conscience, working up until 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2013. But he also said until then, he will work diligently.

"This is my neighborhood," Villaraigosa said. "It's a unique area of Los Angeles. It's time for all city residents to still be come, especially when the subway comes.

Mayor Portantino, D-Valleymine, who is passionate about the future of the Miracle Mile.

"We have been given permission to clean up the lot and make improvements next door," Morton added. "We have been working with volunteers, but that is limited, so any additional funding would be great."

Once the application deadline passes, the council office staff will select semi-finalists. Community members will then be invited to vote for the final grant recipients.

Grants Will Help Beautify 13th District

From page 4

The deadline is April 13. "I want to see what people actually want for their neighborhood," Wong said. "There are a lot of things people could do with it, and it will depend on the quality of the proposals.

"The program is so new that on Tuesday, representatives from many organizations in the Hollywood area were unaware that it existed. Kerry Morrison, executive director of the Hollywood Property Owners Alliance, said the funding could definitely be useful. "Twenty-five hundred dollars could certainly go a long way," Morrison said. "It is really intriguing for the kinds of things that could easily be accomplished, such as simple landscaping improvements or infrastructure needs like fixing broken sidewalks or creating tree wells. That is money that could be very well spent."

Sharyn Romano, CEO of the Hollywood Beautification Team, said she envisions partnering with community groups to apply for funding for tree plantings or other green projects.

"This is a very nice idea because the city had to stop funding for neighborhood improvement grants because of the budget problems. It's nice that Council President Garcetti has stepped up to fill that gap," Romano added. "These neighborhood projects are very important for the community. We partner with many people, and we will probably help a neighborhood group or schools in getting their projects done."

Emily Morton, director of communications for Ecclesia Hollywood, a non-denominational church located in the former Hollywood Pacific Theatre at 6435 Hollywood Blvd., said the church will be looking for funding through the program to make improvements to a vacant concrete lot located next to their building. The lot and building are owned by Pacific Theatres, which leases the space to the church, and while it is currently fenced and there are no plans for development, Morton said members of the church have been looking for ways to make improvements to an empty lot. A decorative cover with faux vines has already been installed on a rear fence and flowers have been planted, but Morton said more could be done.

From page 1

should call the city's non-emergency services 311 number to make a complaint.

An operator will take the claim, issue a confirmation number, and note that a city crew will go out to survey the alley, but no timeframe will be offered. A call can also be put to the Street Maintenance Division office at (800)996-CITY.

Drivers who have sustained vehicle damage driving in the alleyways can file a claim with the city clerk by calling (213)397-1133.

Acknowledging the unsafe conditions of neighborhood alleys and knowing that potholes can blow out tires and ruin axles, Henderson said. "I can't believe how bad the alley is. This is just terrible. It's really shameful."

Koretz admits that the biggest complaint constituents have when they are on their cars is the safety of the conditions of streets. And that leaves him with the best intentions but very little power to fix much.

"Our alleys are terrible, you can't use them," Koretz said. "If I could I would do something, but the alleys are at the absolute end of the spectrum. It could be several years before we come up with a solution."

Alleys Give Drivers a Very Bumpy Ride

From page 1

One of the alleys that runs parallel to Melrose Avenue has so many potholes it can be difficult to navigate.

Mayors Optimistic About the Miracle Mile

From page 1

"Politicians like me have to put our money where our mouths are."

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"This is my neighborhood," Villaraigosa said. "It's a unique area of Los Angeles. It's time for all city residents to still be come, especially when the subway comes.

Answers From Page 16

"We have been given permission to clean up the lot and make improvements next door," Morton added. "We have been working with volunteers, but that is limited, so any additional funding would be great."

Once the application deadline passes, the council office staff will select semi-finalists. Community members will then be invited to vote for the final grant recipients.
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