Duran to become WeHo mayor

By Luke Harold

West Hollywood Councilman John Duran will become the city’s mayor next month, and Councilman John D’Amico will enter his fourth mayoral term; D’Amico will be mayor pro tempore.

The councilman will rotate the positions of mayor and mayor pro tempore each year among the five council members. “I think one of our biggest challenges is how to maintain the brand identity of West Hollywood in this ever-evolving world that we live in,” he said.

When Councilman John Heilman, the current mayor, was sworn in last year, he devoted much of his speech to preparing West Hollywood for the future. When Duran takes the gavel next month, he said he also wants to make sure the stays rooted in its past.

“Out city has a lot of legacy institutions that need to be preserved,” he said.

The councilman mentioned the Sunset Strip, Boystown and Route 66 as a few of the notable historic components of the city.

Council members have also been bracing for change, most notably with the advent of recreational cannabis sales, and the new

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A Bridge Home’ for L.A.’s homeless

By Edwin Poliven

The Los Angeles City Council on April 17 declared an emergency shelter crisis, clearing the way for implementation of a plan by Mayor Eric Garcetti to fund temporary shelters in each of the 15 council districts.

The declaration came on the same day that Garcetti signed the Interim Model Conversion Ordinance and the Permanent Supportive Housing Ordinance, which will enable the city to create more affordable permanent housing for the tens of thousands of people living on Los Angeles streets.

“We’re fighting with everything we’ve got to put a roof over the head of unhoused Angelenos,” Garcetti said. “The urgency of the homelessness crisis demands that we take every possible step to help people pack up tents and move indoors as quickly as possible.”

The plans for emergency shelters are part of the mayor’s “A Bridge Home” initiative, which was announced on April 16 during Garcetti’s annual State of the City address. The plan calls for $20 million in funding in the next budget for crisis and bridge housing in each council district.

Beverly Hills sets legislative priorities for upcoming year

By Luke Harold

Supporting a state constitutional amendment to promote local decision-making is one of the highlights of Beverly Hills’ legislative priorities for the upcoming year.

“There’s continuous intrusion on the role of local government,” Mayor Julian Gold said on Tuesday.

He cited a series of bills introduced in the state Legislature that, if passed, could have impeded local control in matters such as zoning and telecommunications.

“One size doesn’t fit all,” he added.

The specific terms of the constitutional amendment are to be determined. To qualify for the ballot in a statewide election, a proposed constitutional amendment needs to have signatures from at least 8 percent of the number of residents who voted for governor in the previous gubernatorial election. Gold said the city has not yet targeted an election date to get the proposed amendment in front of voters, but it could be a multiyear process.

During the council’s study session last week, Councilman Robert Wunderlich said he worried that the amendment might be too broad, leaving room for potential complications with regulations for autonomous vehicles, for instance.

He said other areas, such as water management, are best handled regionally.

Wunderlich, along with the rest of the council, is opposed to SB 827, an impetus for the constitutional amendment. The bill, proposed by state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), would increase development by superseding local zoning control.

“An integrated, comprehensive amendment that’s much broader than that,” Wunderlich said.

Vice Mayor John Mirisch, who announced the amendment during the council’s reorganization ceremony last month, said it would not instigate exclusive local control across the board.

“It’s meant to be an amendment that embraces the principles of localism, subsidiarity and decision-making for Hollywood project in 2013, but a

See Project page 25

Developer proposes new towers in Hollywood

The project would add over 1,000 units of housing, with 133 for low-income seniors

By Edwin Poliven

Three years after a judge halted plans for the Millennium Hollywood project, developer MP Los Angeles has proposed a new 4.5-acre project next to the Capitol Records building.

The plans were filed with the city on April 19 and are in the initial stages of review. They call for 1,005 units of housing, including 133 units for low-income seniors. The $1 billion Hollywood Center rise buildings of 35 and 46 stories, are part of the mayor’s “A Bridge Home” initiative, which was announced on April 16 during Garcetti’s annual State of the City address. The plan calls for $20 million in funding in the next budget for crisis and bridge housing in each council district.

Mayor Eric Garcetti signed an emergency shelter crisis declaration and two ordinances aimed at reducing homelessness on April 17. He was joined by numerous city leaders during the signing ceremony at City Hall.

To receive their approximately $1.3 million share of the funding, each council member must establish an emergency shelter in their district. Once the shelters are in place, they will be eligible to receive their share of the funding.

See Beverly Hills page 25

Garcetti’s State of the City proposes shelters in each of the 15 council districts

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Beethoven and Bernstein
LA Phil music director Gustavo Dudamel leads the orchestra in performances of works by Beethoven and Bernstein on Thursday, April 19 and Saturday, April 21 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 22 at 2 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Dudamel also leads the orchestra in a performance on: Beethoven only on Friday, April 20 at 8 p.m. The performances on April 19, 21 and 22 feature Bernstein’s “Chichester Psalms.” All four concerts include Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9. Tickets start at $20. 111 S. Grand Ave. (323)805-2000, laphil.org.

Brain Health Fair
Neurology patients, caregivers, families and students are invited to the free “Brain Health Fair” on Friday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The fair includes fun, hands-on activities and connects the public with neurologists who cover the latest advances in the treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders.

Shakespeare UnScripted
Impro Theatre continues its residency at The Edge at The Broad Stage, presenting “Shakespeare UnScripted” on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 22 at 2 p.m. The tribute to William Shakespeare features Impro Theatre spontaneously creating a new story from the Bard’s unmistakable style during each performance. Tickets start at $45. 1310 S. Santa Monica Blvd. (310)554-1010, thebroadstage.org.

WeHo Arbor Day Tree Planting
West Hollywood and the city's Public Facilities Commission will recognize National Arbor Day with a brief ceremony. WeHo Arbor Day Tree Planting will take place on April 21 from 9 to 10 a.m. at Plummer Park’s Veteran’s Memorial. 7377 Plummer St. Santa Monica. (310)344-3200, thebroadstage.org.

Silent Film
Music fans are invited to a screening of “The Wind” (1928) on Saturday, April 21 at 2 p.m. at the Autry Museum of the American West. The screening is part of the “Silent Treatment Film Series.” It tells the story of Lettie Muse, an Ojibwe native who embarks on a new life at her cousin’s ranch in the isolated town of Sweeterwater. The film is included with $14 adult admission. 4700 Western Heritage Way. (323)667-2000, theautry.org.

Oxacan Ball Games
Fowler Museum Chief Curator Matthew H. Robb leads “Oxacan Ball Games and Mexican Indigenous Migration,” a discussion on Saturday, April 21 from 2 to 4 at the museum. Since the 1980s, nearly 150,000 people of Oxacan ancestry have migrated to California. One way they have maintained cultural ties to their homeland is by playing the traditional game “pelota mixteca,” or Mestec-style ball. The discussion examines the origins of the game in ancient Mesoamerica and its current popularity. Admission is free. 398 Westwood Plaza. bit.ly/2ES5hlx.

Lila Hood and Jeanette Deutsch star in “Bad Jows,” a comedy written by Joshua Harmon about family, faith and legacy running from Saturday, April 21 through Sunday, June 17 at the City Theatre. A beloved grandfather has died and a treasured family heirloom with religious significance is up for grabs, but who is the most deserving? Showtimes are 8 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday; with a one-time performance on April 22 at 5 p.m. Tickets start at $30. (310)477-2055 ext. 2; odysseytheatre.com.

Thai Cuisine Wine
Join Do: Mark Padungpatt for a book signing and discussion on Wednesday, April 25 at 6 p.m. at the California Central Library in Los Angeles. The author of “Chichester Palms” (2015) will speak about and sign copies of his new book, “Flavors of Empire: Food and the Making of Thai America.” 4591 Santa Monica Blvd. RSVP requested by calling (323)663-2555, or email audrey@thaisdc.org.

Bob Newhart
The Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills is holding “An Evening with Bob Newhart: A ‘Newhart’ Celebration” on Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m. The program, being held in partnership with Hulu, will center on Newhart’s career with a special focus on his award-winning series, “Newhart.” Cast members Julia Duffy and William Sanderson will join the behind-the-scenes look at the TV classic. General admission tickets are $30. 465 North Beverly Drive. paleycen- ter.org.

Famous People Who’ve Met Me
Musician, actor, concert promoter and manager Owen Hussey will discuss his new book, “Famous People Who’ve Met Me” on Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m. at Muntz Hall. Hussey will also narrate a slide show and tell stories about artists including Elvis, Al Jardine, Richard Yanni, Jimi Hendrix and Prince. Admission is $30 and includes an autographed book, wine reception and a musical performance by Peter Himmelman and Andre Cymoree. 7420 W. Sunset Blvd. murmurshead.com.

Mèlissande
Theatre Raymond Kabbaz presents Quebec vocalist Mélissande in concert on Thursday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. The artist’s music draws from traditional francophone songs. Tickets are $25. 11056 W. Pico Blvd. tanyat.com/7k7uar.

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Residents on Hayworth Ave. protest Ellis Act evictions

Affordable housing dwindles as developers build pricier alternatives

BY LUKE HAROLD

After 13 years living in an 82-year-old French Normandy-style building on Hayworth Avenue in the Fairfax District, Dee Ann Newkirk led a protest on April 15 to oppose plans to demolish it.

Newkirk, who moved to Sherman Oaks the next day with her husband and 2-year-old daughter, was evicted through the Ellis Act by property manager Wiseman Residential. They received their eviction notice last April. Multiple other residents on the have also been ousted through the Ellis Act.

“When you lose your home, it’s been exploited by larger other residents on the have also been ousted through the Ellis Act. Newkirk said, speaking on the Hayworth property’s fence.

Dee Ann Newkirk led a protest in front of her now-former residence to oppose Ellis Act evictions that have reduced affordable housing.

“Displacing families breaks communities.”

Every renter is at risk,” Newkirk said in an email to the city. “This building is an important symbol of what is happening in the city,” Newkirk said. “Next month, when this goes down, no one’s going to even know that it was here unless we make a stand.”

Other properties managed by Wiseman Residential have also been demolished after the company used the Ellis Act to vacate tenants. Last year on Formosa Avenue, in L.A.’s 4th Council District, a group of Wiseman tenants protested outside a multifamily building that had been partially demolished despite a stop work order issued by the city at the behest of Councilman David Ryu, who wanted to determine whether the owner had violated terms of the Ellis Act.

Newkirk led a successful effort to have 423-427 N. Hayworth Ave. designated a historic-cultural monument by the city of Los Angeles. The Cultural Heritage Commission voted to consider the designation in January 2017, but months later the Department of City Planning said that the property does not meet any of the criteria of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

A number of residents, including Lynn Barton, who moved to Los Angeles with her husband in 1958, said multifamily housing such as 423 N. Hayworth, which housed four units, have defined the landscape of Los Angeles for generations.

“It features artful defined details on the exterior that stand as a work of art,” she said. “The interior is crafted with light sconces, beautiful molding around the ceilings. The home stands as a tribute to the history of Los Angeles.”

Heather Fox, a local resident, noted the building’s ties to the area’s Jewish community. “This building is an important contributor to the Jewish neighborhood of Canter’s Deli and the migration of the Jewish community from Boyle Heights into the Fairfax District,” she said in an email to the city.

Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District, a longtime critic of the Ellis Act, said multifamily housing such as 423 N. Hayworth, which housed four units, have defined the landscape of Los Angeles for generations.


Dee Ann Newkirk led a protest in front of her now-former residence to oppose Ellis Act evictions that have reduced affordable housing.

Foster care placements pass first policy review

A state Senate policy panel approved a plan to fix unneeded delays and financial hardships in a new statewide program for placing individuals with foster caregivers.

The Senate Human Services Committee on a bipartisan, 6-0 vote approved Senate Bill 1083 by Sen. Holly J. Mitchell to help fix the program, known as Resource Family Approval, to create a more unified, child-centered and family-friendly approval process.

Specifically, SB 1083 by Mitchell, chair of the Senate budget and Fiscal Review Committee, would enact the policy changes needed to remove hurdles to timely placements.

“This bill is an important step toward fulfilling the intent of RFA by supporting families and making sure that unintentional delays do not result in hardship for children who are recovering from abuse and neglect,” Mitchell said.

Fixing the RFA program will put California on track, improving the lives of foster youth and families, Mitchell said.

YOU’RE INVITED!

WILSHIRE/RODEO STATION UPDATE:
Metro’s contractor will continue to relocate utilities on Wilshire Bl from Beverly Dr to Crestridge Dr for the future home of the Purple Line Extension’s Wilshire/Rodeo station. This work will be coordinated with privately owned utility companies and will include excavating a trench, working underground and covering the trench with metal plates when work finishes for the day.

TRAFFIC ALERT:
Lane reductions will be required. Wilshire Bl will have two lanes open in each direction at all times.

WORK HOURS:
Mondays—Fridays from 9am–4pm, and Sundays from 10am–6pm.

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To get construction notices via email, go to metro.net/purple and sign up to stay connected.

Photo by Luke Harold.
Man charged for allegedly starting fire in studio

A male defendant has been charged with setting a fire inside a recording studio in Studio City, killing two people and severely injuring two others.

Efrem Zimbalist Demery, 28, of Los Angeles has been charged with five felonies including two counts of murder, two counts of attempted murder and one count of arson of a vehicle while driving recklessly and driving or taking a law enforcement or fire department vehicle without the consent of an enforcement officer.

According to prosecutors, two Los Angeles Police Department officers were responding to a call of an unrelated suspect running from other officers on Vine Street toward Hollywood Boulevard just past 1 a.m. Friday. After they joined the foot pursuit, Rutland allegedly entered the patrol SUV and drove away, leading to a police pursuit.

A federal grand jury on April 13 returned an indictment that charges two men in a scheme to rob an undercover agent with the United States Secret Service at gunpoint under the pretense of selling the officer counterfeit money.

Richard Tomm Henderson, 22, also known as “Profit”; and Tyre Jordan Simmons, 22, also known as “Reckless,” were named in a six-count indictment that alleges a transaction involving counterfeit United States currency and the armed robbery of an undercover agent.

Both men are charged with conspiracy, robbery, assaulting a federal officer with a deadly weapon and using a firearm during a violent crime. Henderson is further charged with dealing counterfeit money and Simmons is accused of being a felon in possession of a firearm. The indictment alleges that on Oct. 18, Henderson allegedly sold 250 counterfeit $20 bills to the agent. Henderson later allegedly negotiated a deal to sell $40,000 in counterfeit money. However, according to the indictment, the deal was a pretense to rob the undercover agent who was attempting to purchase the counterfeit money.

Henderson faces a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for the counterfeiting charge.

Both defendants face up to 50 years for the charges related to the alleged robbery, plus a mandatory seven-year sentence related to the use of the firearm. Additionally, Simmons faces up to 10 years in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm.
Legislation would prevent abuse of presidential pardons

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) introduced a bill to prevent the abuse of the Pardon Prevention Act, legislation to prevent a U.S. president from abusing the pardon power for their own personal benefit or to obstruct justice.

If the president pardons someone in connection with an investigation in which the president or one of his family members is a target, subject or witness, the legislation would require that the evidence against the recipient of the pardon would be provided by the Department of Justice to Congress.

“President Trump already has signaled that he is willing to use his constitutional powers in order to protect those who remain loyal to him, even if they are convicted of obstruction or perjury,” Schiff said.

“By pardoning Scooter Libby last week, Trump has sent a clear and unmistakable message to potential witnesses against him or members of his family that: ‘if you have my back, I’ll have yours.’

“At a time of constitutional peril, it is incumbent on the Congress to stand up for the rule of law by creating a strong disincentive to the president issuing pardons to protect himself and obstruct ongoing investigations,” he added.

In March, the New York Times reported that the president’s attorney, John Dowd, had floated the possibility of a presidential pardon to attorneys for Michael Flynn and Paul Manafort last year. Trump has also pardoned former Sheriff Joe Arpaio, a politically convicted of contempt for discriminatory police practices.

Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution provides that presidents "shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment." This legislation, if signed into law, would create a powerful disincentive for any president who seeks to use the pardon power as an instrument of obstruction in an ongoing investigation, according to Schiff. It would grant Congress the power to conduct rigorous oversight, in a way that does not unduly burden the president’s inherent constitutional powers.

County appoints members to L.A. River steering committee

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on April 9 announced new members of the L.A. River Master Plan Update Steering Committee.

The committee is tasked with developing a comprehensive blueprint covering all 51 miles of the river. The effort to update the master plan was launched in late 2016 to modernize an earlier 1996 plan, synthesize more recent ideas and bring a coherent and comprehensive vision to the transformation and re-imagining of the L.A. River.

The steering committee will provide guidance and direction in the master plan process and includes environmental and community advocates, regional agencies, city leaders and river experts.

The members are Shelley Luce, president and CEO of Heal the Bay; Peter Sellars, of the Boethius Initiative at the UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures; Marissa Christiansen, executive director of the Friends of the L.A. River; Mary Leslie, president of the Los Angeles Business Council; and Ima R. Munoz, president and CEO of Mujeres de La Tierra.

Steering committee members were selected from communities along the 51-mile river and represent different interests. They will work with the county and a team of planners, designers and community engagement specialists that includes lead consultant and engineering firm Geosyntec, architecture/design firms OLIN and Gehry Partners, and the nonprofit River LA.

Brush fire extinguished near observatory

Los Angeles Fire Department crews contained a brush fire that erupted on April 13 in Griffith Park in the hills above Hollywood to a quarter-acre and prevented the flames from damaging structures.

The fire was reported at approximately 11:20 a.m. in moderately heavy brush on a hillside near the Griffith Observatory. People at the observatory were told to shelter in place and an evacuation was not necessary.

LAFD spokeswoman Margaret Stewart said wind did not present a challenge in fighting the fire. No injuries were reported and the cause remains under investigation.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze in approximately 45 minutes but remained at the scene to encircle the area with a “scratch line,” enabling them to address any embers or small areas still burning.

The fire illustrates the danger firefighters face with brush-covered hillsides.

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4 col (8.25" w) X 10" h

1/4 Page $450
3 col (6.25" w) X 8" h

1/8 Page $250
2 col (4" w) X 5" h

Full color additional $100
*Discounted Rates

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The newspapers are delivered every Thursday with the Los Angeles Times to 13,000 paid subscribers.

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Full Page $1600*
Padilla announces 100,000 voter preregistrations

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced that 100,000 pre-registrations have been completed by California 16- and 17-year-old students since the program launched in September 2016. Their voter registration will automatically be activated when they turn 18.

Secretary Padilla also unveiled highschool.sos.ca.gov, a new web portal on the secretary of state’s website connecting youth with civic engagement opportunities.

“We are seeing the impact that young people can have when they stand up and engage,” Padilla said. “Since California launched pre-registration, 100,000 soon-to-be voters have answered the call to participate in their democracy. As Secretary of State, I want to do all we can to encourage civic involvement among our youth. The new highschool.sos.ca.gov website will equip young people with the tools they need to get involved, Padilla announced.

The new website provides information and resources for students who want to be civically active. High school students can learn more about pre-registration, find out how to be a student poll worker, get resources to host a student mock election on their campus, and learn how to organize voter registration drives on their campuses during High School Voter Education Weeks.

Later this month, Padilla will kickoff California High School Voter Education Weeks where he will hold rallies and speak to thousands of students about the importance of voter registration and pre-registration.

“Registering to vote empowers our students to stand up for what they believe in, and to help build the world they want to inherit,” Los Angeles Unified School District interim Superintendent Vivian Ekchian said. “We are grateful to Secretary of State Alex Padilla for partnering with us and encouraging our 16- and 17-year-old students to take this important first step in the voting process. It is incredibly important for our future leaders to exercise their right to vote and ensure their voices are heard.”

“Los Angeles youth lead the nation and they are modeling how we create the change we need through the voting booth,” LAUSD school Board President Mónica García said. “We look forward to expanding these efforts in L.A. Unified with a goal of 100 percent participation.”

“There is no doubt in our minds that young people across California are ready to take their power to the polls,” said Luis Sanchez, co-executive director of Mobilize the Immigrant Vote/Youth. “Since 2016, YVote registered and preregistered over 25,000 young voters. And in response to the recent events in Parkland, young people are organizing and registering thousands of voters in communities across California. We support these courageous young people and stand ready to flex their collective power at the polls in 2018 and beyond.”

The ordinance on loud or unruly gatherings, also known as the Party House Ordinance, took effect April 15, after being unanimously approved in City Council and signed by Mayor Eric Garcetti in February.

The ordinance, which began as a motion authored by Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, aims to curb repeat offenders of out-of-control parties in residential neighborhoods with escalating fines and new enforcement tools for the Los Angeles Police Department.

“For years, massive, all-night parties have been able to flood quiet neighborhoods with hundreds of guests and put neighborhoods at risk without any consequence,” Ryu said. “Finally, we have real tools on the books to stop these out-of-control events, and hold homeowners responsible for renting out their homes to rogue party operators.”

The ordinance includes increasing fines up to $8,000 and requires those who violate the ordinance to post a public notice for 30 days notifying neighbors of their unlawful conduct. It penalizes both party hosts and homeowners, which is meant to dissuade property owners from renting out their homes to professional party-thowers and reduce the likelihood of future violations.

“The parties we’ve been seeing in our hillside are often professional events – flyer parties with a lot of people, in quiet neighborhoods with hundreds of people on side streets with throngs of people and put our sensitive hillside at risk of fire with stray cigarettes. There is no way we could have allowed this to continue unabated.”

The new law allows for escalating fines on party hosts and homeowners to ensure that hosts who throw unruly parties in multiple homes are increasingly cited for multiple offenses, and that property owners remain culpable for renting out their homes to party house operators.

The fines are $100 for the first violation, $500 for the second violation, $1,000 for the third violation, $2,000 for the fourth violation, $4,000 for the fifth violation and $8,000 for the sixth and subsequent violations.

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“For years, massive, all-night parties have been able to flood quiet neighborhoods with hundreds of guests and put neighborhoods at risk without any consequence,” Ryu said. “Finally, we have real tools on the books to stop these out-of-control events, and hold homeowners responsible for renting out their homes to rogue party operators.”

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“The parties we’ve been seeing in our hillside are often professional events – flyer parties with a lot of people, in quiet neighborhoods with hundreds of people on side streets with throngs of people and put our sensitive hillside at risk of fire with stray cigarettes. There is no way we could have allowed this to continue unabated.”

The new law allows for escalating fines on party hosts and homeowners to ensure that hosts who throw unruly parties in multiple homes are increasingly cited for multiple offenses, and that property owners remain culpable for renting out their homes to party house operators.

The fines are $100 for the first violation, $500 for the second violation, $1,000 for the third violation, $2,000 for the fourth violation, $4,000 for the fifth violation and $8,000 for the sixth and subsequent violations.
Councillor David Ryu, 4th District, announced the hiring of Senior Planning Deputy Emma Howard to fill the vacancy left by Julia Duncan, who left the office in February to work in the city of Los Angeles’ Planning Department.

“Council District Four needs a strong planning deputy – someone who not only understands the ins and outs of planning policy, but who has a real understanding of fostering place and building community,” Ryu said. “Emma Howard is that person – I could not be more excited to have her on board.”

Howard joins the office from New York, where she worked in the neighborhood of East Brooklyn on New York City’s very first Cultural Plan, which combines zoning policy with cultural, artistic and historic priorities to create unique, community-oriented zones. She is not new to Los Angeles, though, having first moved to the city in 2008 and worked for eight years as a regional planner with the county of Los Angeles. There, she worked on land use, hillside and ridgeline ordinances, as well as the Significant Ecological Areas Program, which give special designation to areas within L.A. County that have irreplaceable biological resources.

Howard has a master’s degree in community development and planning from Clark University and is a certified creative placemaker from Ohio State University. Creative placemaking is an emerging field in using the intersections of arts and the land use planning process to achieve outcomes that enhance communities physically, socially and creatively. Her official start date with Ryu’s office was April 9.

Renee Weitzer remains on board as senior advisor for land use and development.

LAUSD recognizes April as Autism Awareness Month

After a special education update on autism that emphasized awareness, acceptance and empowerment, the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education today unanimously approved a resolution recognizing April as National Autism Month.

“Many students on the autism spectrum are twice exceptional, intellectually and creatively,” said interim Superintendent Vivian Ekchian. “L.A. Unified remains committed to helping all students reach their full potential.”

One of every 110 children in the United States is diagnosed on the autism spectrum. In LAUSD, nearly 14,000 students have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders, representing more than 19 percent of students with disabilities in the district. These and other students with special needs are eligible for instruction from ages three to 22, under state law, which includes help to progress from high school to post-secondary life.

“Many students on the autism spectrum are twice exceptional, intellectually and creatively.”

-Vivian Ekchian, LAUSD interim superintendent

“Dad looked forward to having his pancakes delivered with a smile and some teasing.”

The best breakfast is one prepared by someone who understands your needs. Dining at Belmont Village means enjoying delicious, healthy options crafted by chefs who know the importance of good nutrition at every age — and the lasting impression of a friendly smile.

Chef-Prepared Dining, Five-Star Friendships,

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Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, sent a letter to the city attorney expressing concern that what he says are dangerous conditions in Council District 4 created by Waze, a mobile wayfinding technology, has led to Real Time Traffic that is being countered by Dangerous Traffic. He said: “Waze has upended our city’s traffic plans, residential neighborhoods, and public safety for far too long.” Ryu said: “They are responsible for inadequate and their solutions are nonexistent.” They say the crises of congestion they cause is the price for innovation – I say that’s a false choice.

Ryu’s letter claims that Waze has created dangerous conditions on a public right of way, and asks the city’s chief attorney to seek any reasonable legal solutions. The letter highlights Waze-led traffic in the Sherman Oaks Hills, which is in Ryu’s district. “The neighborhood has recently become overrun with rush hour traffic. One narrow street built for local use is sustaining 679 vehicles an hour, causing accidents, damaged infrastructure and unsafe residential streets.” If “we do nothing, Waze will lead us on a race to the bottom – where traffic plans are ignored and every street is gridlocked,” Ryu said.

New congestion patterns created by Waze-led traffic have pushed traffic off major thoroughfares and into small, residential streets which were not built to sustain heavy use. The problems caused by Waze-led traffic has been reported in national and local news, most recently on Baxter Street in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Echo Park, where Waze has led unwitting motorists onto the steep incline. The resulting traffic caused a number of accidents, creating damage to vehicles, public infrastructure. In this case, like many others, the response from Waze to find real solutions has been lacking. “I am a champion of innovation and an advocate for new technologies. But these apps were built to serve us, not the other way around.” Ryu added. “In this case, Waze is threatening the public safety and quality of life of count- less Angelenos. I look forward to working with the city attorney to bring Waze to the table and to bring a real resolution in a timely manner to these traffic night- mares.”

Legislation to provide the same legal rights for children born to same-sex couples as is afforded to other families passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee on a 9-0 vote. The measure, AB 2684, authored by Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), makes various statutory changes to update California’s Uniform Parentage Act, which was implemented to extend the parent and child relationship equally to same-sex couples and every parent, regardless of the marital status of the parents.

“Since state law – and not feder- al law – determines who is a par- ent, equally to every child and to every parent, regardless of the martial status of the parents.”

Advocates for equality have long been a trail-blazer in protecting LGBT individuals and their children. This bill ensures that we continue on that path, by updating our laws to reflect current culture and technology.”

Assembleman Richard Bloom
(D-Santa Monica)

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Metro Gold Line Little Tokyo Arts District
Station closure on April 21

The Metro Gold Line Little Tokyo Arts District Station will be closed Sunday, April 1, to allow the Regional Connector Constructors to perform pile and deck work activities at the First Street portal section of the Regional Connector Transit Project.

There will be no Gold Line ser- vice at the station beginning at 3 a.m. Sunday, April 1. Regular service on the Gold Line will be restored with the start of normal operations at the First Street/Romero Station at 5 a.m. Sunday, April 22. The station closure is for one day only.

Metro will provide a free bus shuttle that will be in place during the Gold Line closure to operate between Union Station, Little Tokyo/Arts District Station and the Pico/Aliso Gold Line Station. This free bus service will run from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Sunday, April 22.

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Purple Line construction continues on track

Metro is offering updates on Purple Line Extension project construction, including work near Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue, where excavation, instrumentation and utility work is continuing.

Construction is also occurring near Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, where concrete work, steel deliveries and underground support work are occurring. Excavation, hauling and sound wall maintenance is also ongoing near Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

Excavation and hauling is also occurring near Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue. Jet grouting preparation continues near Wilshire Boulevard and La Baja Avenue, and excavation, instrumentation, hauling and utility hanging is ongoing near Wilshire and La Cienega Boulevards.

Metro is inviting community members and stakeholders to the next monthly ‘Purple Line Extension Section 1: Construction Community Meeting’ this evening, Thursday, April 19, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Pico Pico Library, 694 S. Oxford Ave., in Koreatown. For information, visit metrolink.net. Members of the public with questions or concerns about Purple Line Extension construction activity can also call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, and email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net.

LGBT Center’s Latinx festival returns

Dedicated to showcasing the stories of the queer Latinx community through film and visual art, the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s fifth annual CineArte three-day festival will be held at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza in Hollywood from Friday, April 20, through Sunday, April 22.

This year’s program includes three short film programs, a special screening of the first two episodes of the STARZ network original series ‘Vida,’’ digital media, art installations and musical performances that represent the intersections and complexities of Latinx queerness through arts and culture. The three-day celebration will include red carpet events, receptions, music, workshops, and Q&A sessions with filmmakers and featured cast members.

Food vendors and a bar will be on site during the entire festival. The festival pass costs $30 for admission to all films and events and is $25 for seniors and students. The early bird festival pass is $20 for general public and $20 for seniors and students. Individual tickets are $10 for admission to all films and $8 for seniors and students.

The Village at Ed Gould Plaza is located at 1125 N. McCadden Place. For information and tickets, visit cinearlal.org.
Legislators call for expansion of film and TV production credit program

Legislation to keep film and television jobs in California cleared its first hurdle on April 17 when it was approved by the state Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Internet Media.

The bill, AB 1734, is jointly authored by members Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), Rob Bonta (D-Alameda), Ian Calderon (D-Whittier) and Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher (D-San Diego).

It extends and improves the California Film and Television Tax Credit Program.

“Our existing film tax credit that we overhauled in 2014 has been an unqualified success in helping reverse that trend and breathing life into an industry that was born here,” said Bloom, a co-author of a bill that updated the program in 2014. “While we celebrate our successes, we cannot rest on our laurels. Faced with continuing efforts to lure film and content production elsewhere, it is incumbent upon California to take steps to ensure that we retain our place at the home of the entertainment industry. And that is what AB 1734 seeks to do.”

For most of the past century, California and particularly the Los Angeles region, had been the capital of the entertainment industry. But that distinction was threatened by financial incentives being offered by other states and countries. Prior to the legislative overhaul in 2014, feature films production declined by 30 percent and one-hour basic cable production market share dropped by 48 percent.

Since the film and television industry peaked in the late 1990s, California lost 90,000 middle class jobs and $3 billion in wages. Many local small businesses that rely on a healthy local entertainment industry were impacted.

In 2014, the state Legislature passed AB 1839, which overhauled the state’s existing Film and Television Tax Credit Program. That bill more than tripled the size of the existing program from $100 million to $330 million and allowed larger feature films to receive credits, increased incentives for television shows, allowed films produced outside of the existing entertainment zone but still in California to qualify, and allowed credits for music scoring and editing.

AB 1734 continues the $330 million in available tax credits and calls for extending the tax credit program until 2025. It also seeks to expand the scope of productions and updates program requirements to ensure wider applicability. The bill will also allow the program to compete with similar programs in other states and countries. AB 1734 next heads to the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation for consideration.

West Hollywood co-sponsors forum with Rep. Adam Schiff

The city of West Hollywood is co-sponsoring the upcoming California Women’s Law Center’s Distinguished Guest Speaker Series event, featuring “An Update From Washington” with Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), who represents California’s 28th Congressional District, which includes West Hollywood.

The event, which will feature an introduction by West Hollywood Mayor Pro Tempore John J. Duran, will take place on Saturday, April 21, at the city’s Council Chambers/Public Meeting Room at the West Hollywood Library, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. There will be a reception at 2:30 p.m. and the discussion will take place from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Now in his ninth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Schiff serves as the ranking member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Throughout his tenure in Congress, Schiff has focused on growing the economy, bolstering national security, strengthening communities, helping small businesses, and improving education, safety and health care.

The event is open to the public; there is a suggested donation of $25. RSVPs are requested. Free validated parking will be available at the adjacent five story parking structure. To RSVP, contact CWLC at (323) 951-1041 or at cwlc@cwlc.org.

For information, visit cwlc.org, or call West Hollywood City Hall at (323) 848-6460.

Legislators call for expansion of film and TV production credit program

Bloom calls for watershed studies

The state Assembly Natural Resources Committee recently approved AB 2528, a measure authored by Assemblman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) that incorporates four state watersheds into the triennial California’s Climate Adaptation Strategy report.

Bloom said the bill will help the state create more climate resilient habitats and protect the largest estuaries and pristine river systems.

Every three years, the Natural Resources Agency compiles the California Climate Adaptation Strategy report. It directs the legislature, as well as conservation organizations and agencies, to find ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

AB 2528 identifies climate resilient habitat areas that offer the best opportunity to remain ecologically productive and amends the Climate Adaptation Strategy. For information, visit asro.asmdc.org.

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LGBTQ activist Billie Lee recognized

Mike Kelley Foundation awards artist grants for third year

LA LGBT Center to host women’s celebration

Program aims to reduce sexual harassment

Hollywood stars honored LGBTQ activist Billie Lee on April 5 at a private residence in West Hollywood. Guests included Stanley Hudson, of “Project Runway All Stars”; celebrity hairstylist Chaz Dean, of Bravo’s “Flipping Out”; John Sessa, of “Vanderpump Rules” and “Real Housewives of Beverly Hills”; Dr. V, host of “Big Bang Theory.” West Hollywood Lifestyle Magazine publisher Mua Dinelly (left) was joined by Lee, who is on the spring 2018 cover of the magazine.

The Los Angeles LGBT Center will host a day-long community celebration, “WoW! For Women,” for LBTQ women and their allies on Sunday, April 22, at Barnsdall Art Park in Hollywood.

The free event will begin at noon and will include a short film program, a comedy show, live music and theater performances, a food court, and interactive LGBTQ-centric activities and more. Guests and their families are encouraged to create their own picnic spaces throughout the day at the sprawling city park in between scheduled programs. Complimentary food and bar will be provided. Admission to the event is free.

Beginning at noon, doors of the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre will open to welcome attendees for a short film program screening of “Girl Night Stand,” directed by Janna Laurenzo; “Out Again,” directed by Roland Chow; and “Fran This Summer,” directed by Mary Evangelista.

Following the short film program, the SORORITY theater troupe will take the stage. Hosted by Anna La Chocha, the Lesbian Culture Club will present a comedy show.

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The event will also include an outdoor resource fair. Additionally, guests will enjoy music in the park provided by DJ 2lips, on-air disc jockey for the Los Angeles radio station Mega 96.3.

Barnsdall Art Park is located at 4800 Hollywood Blvd. For information, visit lalgbc.org/wwc.

The U.S. Department of Justice is recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and has announced the nationwide rollout of an initiative aimed at increasing awareness and reporting of sexual harassment in housing.

The initiative includes an interagency task force between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Justice Department to combat sexual harassment in housing, an outreach toolkit and a public awareness campaign.

The three-pronged approach is intended to strengthen the department’s efforts to combat sexual harassment in housing.

“Sexual harassment in housing is illegal, immoral, and unacceptable,” said Attorney General Jeff Sessions. “It is all too common today, as too many landlords, managers and their employees attempt to prey on vulnerable women. We will not hesitate to pursue these predators and enforce the law. In October, I ordered a new initiative to bring more of these cases, and we have already won relief for 15 victims. We announce three new steps to make the initiative more effective now. We will continue to aggressively pursue harassers, because everyone has a right to be safe in their home.”

In October 2017, the Justice Department announced an initiative to combat sexual harassment in housing and launched pilot programs in Washington, D.C. and the Western District of Virginia. The initiative sought to increase the department’s efforts to protect women from harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, security guards, and other employees and representatives of rental property owners.

During the pilots, the department developed and tested ways to better connect with victims of sexual harassment in housing and with organizations that victims may turn to first for help including law enforcement, legal services providers, public housing authorities, sexual assault services providers and shelters. The department also tested different aspects of the initiative in other jurisdictions, including the Central District of California, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Jersey and Michigan.

Because of these promising results, the department is launching the three major components of the initiative.

First, the new HUD/DOD Task Force to Combat Sexual Harassment in Housing will drive a shared strategy between the department and HUD for combating sexual harassment in housing across the country. It will focus on the five key areas of continued data sharing and analysis, joint development of training, evaluation of public housing complaint mechanisms, coordination of public outreach and press strategy, and review of federal policies.

Second, the outreach toolkit is designed to leverage the Justice Department’s nationwide network of U.S. Attorney’s Offices. It provides templates, guidance and checklists based on pilot program feedback.

Third, the public awareness campaign has the three major components of creating a partnership package with relevant stakeholders, launching a social media campaign and creating public service announcements. The campaign is specifically designed to raise awareness and make it easier for victims to find resources and report harassment.

For information, visit usdoj.gov/crt. Anyone who is a victim of sexual harassment in housing should call the Justice Department at (844)380-6178, HUD at (800)669-9777, or e-mail fairhousing@usdoj.gov.

The Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts has announced the 10 recipients of the 2018 Artist Project Grants, an initiative in its third year that seeks to further Kelley’s philanthropic work and honor his legacy by supporting innovative artist projects at Los Angeles’ nonprofit institutions and organizations.

The grants support compelling projects of any duration or type, particularly work that is lesser known or has proven difficult to make or fund. This year’s grantees are the Craft and Folk Art Museum, Fulcrum Arts, Hammer Museum, JOAN, L.A. Freewaves, LAXART, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Latin American Art, Self Help Graphics & Art, and The Underground Museum. The 2018 grants mark both the largest total sum awarded and group of grantees to date.

A combination of small, midsize and large institutions will present the 2018 projects, which span a wide range of disciplines such as performance, multimedia art, sculpture and printmaking. The projects include solo, group and collaborative exhibitions, as well as interactive workshops and related publications.

Totaling $400,000, the grants cover project-related expenses and a modest portion of the organization’s overhead costs, and recognize the participating artists with a dedicated fee. The grant-funded projects will take place throughout 2018 and 2019.

For information, visit mikelleyfoundation.org.

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NCJW/LA displays abstract art

The National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles presents "Exploring Abstraction," an art exhibition by artists Deborah Hadl, Tressa Miller and Elise Vazeakis opening on Sunday, April 22.

"Exploring Abstraction" is an exhibit of three artists who have independent art practices but find commonality in the pursuit of abstract imagery, ideas and processes. Hadl, Miller, and Vazeakis highlight their individual exploration of abstraction in paintings, works on paper and fiber.

The exhibition continues through July 13 and can be viewed by appointment. A percentage of all sales will be contributed to NCJW/LA, a grassroots organization that is committed to the welfare of the Los Angeles community.

The opening reception for "Exploring Abstraction" will be held Sunday, April 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. at 943 N. Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles. RSVP by calling (323) 352-8512 or email carrie@ncjwla.org.

For information, visit ncjwla.org.

UCCLA and Farhang Foundation present new Iranian cinema

Los Angeles audiences will experience the brilliance of David Bowie like never before with "StarDust," Complexions Contemporary Ballet’s revelatory tribute to the late icon at The Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion from April 20-22.

Part of the 15th season of Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, this production will feature many of the singer’s most beloved hits set to a richly inspired costumes designed by Christine Durck. “StarDust” pulls classics from Bowie’s extensive catalogue and lays a visual imprint inspired by his unique stage personas and restless artistic innovation. With Bowie’s decades-long career and more than 25 albums that stretch across musical borders, "StarDust" pays homage to the musician’s iconic and chameleonic spirit.

"If there could ever be a tribute as virtuosic and inspiring as Bowie himself, this is very close to it," said Rachel Moore, president and CEO of The Music Center. "Complexions Artistic Director Dwight Rhoden has created a kaleidoscopic journey of music and movement that explores the intricacies of Bowie’s music and embodies the spirit of the late icon. Whether you’re an avid fan of David Bowie, of contemporary dance or both, "StarDust" is an experience not to be missed."

"It is always a special occasion when Dance at The Music Center brings David Bowie with the Archive in presenting these brilliant works of art to the entire community."

UCLA Film & Television Archive’s commitment to the films and filmmakers of Iran has been unwavering, and we’re very proud of our continuing relationship with the Iranian community of Los Angeles. It’s our pleasure to partner again with the Farhang Foundation to present the 2018 edition of the UCLA Celebration of Iranian Cinema, said Paul Malcolm, programmer for the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

General admission tickets are $10.

Films will be screened at UCLA’s Billy Wilder Theater, located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd. For information and tickets, visit cinema.ucla.edu or fargang.org/ucla18.

Baroque Conversations adds show

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra’s “Baroque Conversations” adds another performance to its 2018 program, which features back-to-back performances of works by Bach, Handel and Rameau led by guest conductor Harry Bicket.

The first performance is on Thursday, April 26, at Zipper Hall in downtown Los Angeles, with a second night added on Friday, April 27, 7:30 p.m., at St. Monica Catholic Church in Santa Monica.

Backet is renowned as a harpsichordist and an opera and concert conductor, particularly noted for his interpretation of baroque and classical repertoire.

Tickets start at $45. Zipper Concert Hall is located at 200 S. Grand Ave, and St. Monica Catholic Church is located at 701 California Ave. For information and tickets, visit laco.org, or call (213) 622-7001.

Whom Should I Name As My Executor or Trustee?

The executor of your will and the trustee of your revocable (also called living) trust serve almost identical functions after your death, in the short run. Although your executor is generally subject to direct court supervision, both the executor of an irrevocable trust and the trustee have similar fiduciary responsibilities. The trustee may assume responsibilities under your trust while you are living. Although you may act as your own attorney in fact if you become incapacitated, the designated successor trustee may then step in to manage your assets for your benefit. An executor or trustee may be a spouse or other relative, a business associate or partner, a professional business associate or a professional fiduciary such as a bank. There are a number of issues to consider in determining who to name as an executor or trustee.

While both are responsible for ensuring that your wishes are implemented, when your will or other estate planning documents expire, your executor or trustee will probably also have the authority to manage your assets and to make decisions that are important to the management of your estate. At this point, the differences between the two roles begin to emerge. The executor of your will is a general fiduciary, whose responsibilities are often primarily legal and financial. The trustee will, however, have day-to-day responsibilities for managing your assets. This may include the payment of your expenses, the distribution of your assets to your beneficiaries, or the purchase of an annuity or other investment that will protect the value of your estate after your death.

The trustee may assume these responsibilities. You should discuss your choice with your estate planning lawyer, your accountant and other financial advisors. You should discuss your choice with your estate planning lawyer, your accountant and other financial advisors. You should discuss your choice with your estate planning lawyer, your accountant and other financial advisors. You should discuss your choice with your estate planning lawyer, your accountant and other financial advisors. You should discuss your choice with your estate planning lawyer, your accountant and other financial advisors. You should discuss your choice with your estate planning lawyer, your accountant and other financial advisors. You should discuss your choice with your estate planning lawyer, your accountant and other financial advisors. You should discuss your choice with your estate planning lawyer, your accountant and other financial advisors. 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Celebrate Earth Day at Spinfish

Spinfish Poke House is offering $5 green bowls on Earth Day, April 22. The bowl contains tofu and a mixed greens base, with the option to add toppings such as edamame, avocado and seaweed salad. 808 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)260-1321.

Free Halo Top ice cream

On Friday, April 20, order the high roller burger at Hopdoddy Burger Bar made with a taco-sea-zarella, Flamin’ Hot Cheetos seed bun. For one day only, the ketchup and ranch fries on a hemp seed bun. One day only, the burger is priced at $11. 12746 Jefferson Blvd., #1120, Playa Vista, (310)410-2337.

El Silencio mezcal dinner

On Tuesday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m., Tallula’s Restaurant’s new “Hecho Con Agave” series featuring mezcaleros and tequileros making small-batch agave spirits. Enjoy a welcome cocktail and four-course dinner paired with pours and experience an incredible 3D art installation. Soft serve flavors include vanilla bean, chocolate, strawberry and seasonal flavors like mint chip and caramel macchiato. The shop will also carry two of Halo Top’s dairy-free and vegan flavors, chocolate and chocolate chip cookie dough. Each flavor can be spooned into a classic cup; Halo Top taco; or pressed between Halo Top puffle cone; loaded into a cake, sugar, waffle or topped on a cake, sugar, waffle or toast. 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles.

Oregon wines at the LINE Hotel

On Tuesday, April 24, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., enjoy tastes from 50 Oregon wineries, as well as Olympia Provisions, Salt & Straw ice cream, Tallula’s Restaurant’s Ensamble. During the dinner, participants have the opportunity to meet El Silencio owner Fausto Zapata and the team. Learn about the artisanal process behind these premium and organic mezcales. This event is in Tallula’s upstairs private dining room and is $110 per person. 118 Entrada Drive, Santa Monica, (310)526-0027.

El Silencio mezcal dinner

Join others at the grand opening of the new Halo Top Scoop Shop on Tuesday, April 24, at the Westfield Century City from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Load up your guilt-free soft serve with over 50 speciality toppings, including chocolate drizzle, fresh blueberries, mochi pieces and cheesecake crumbles. Guests can take off their visit by capturing their soft serve creations with an interactive photo booth and experiencing an incredible 3D art installation. Soft serve flavors include vanilla bean, chocolate, strawberry and seasonal flavors like blueberry crumble. Halo Top’s latest shop will also carry a selection of its beloved ice cream pint flavors, such as vanilla bean, chocolate chip cookie dough. Each flavor can be spooned into a classic cup; Halo Top taco; or pressed between Halo Top puffle cone; loaded into a cake, sugar, waffle or toast. 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles.

Halo Top puffle cone; loaded into a cake, sugar, waffle or toast. 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles.
A culinary Jewel in Los Angeles

By Jill Weinlein

Jewel is not the new Silver Lake’s Hot Hot Hot Food, but it is reviving the year’s dream of opening an affordable, plant-based dining spot, with options for everyone—vegans, vegetarians and even omnivores.

“Our goal is to separate Jewel from other health food restaurants, getting rid of the dogma and polarizing stances,” Shimoda said. “We won’t ask you to make any affirmations or say ‘namaste,’ but we will serve you seasonal, local and sustainable plant-based food without sacrificing flax.

Jewel’s exterior welcomes guests with a whimsical floral mural by chef Shimoda’s brother, Danny Shimoda, and intricate macramé-hanging plants. Inside, the restaurant is vibrant, inviting and hip with a relaxed sophistication with its blonde wood tables, cool blues and pastel colors. A jalousie window opens by the entrance, and a pastry cabinet displays an array of vegan and near-vegan sweets and desserts.

Glancing through the menu—which is free of refined sugars and processed ingredients—I started with the shot of wellness, a two-ounce drink made with ginger, lemon, cayenne and pepper. It had a little heat and offered a pleasant lingering aftertaste. To cool my palate, I also ordered the cold green tea, a smoothie combination of pineapple, cucumber, apple, spinach, kale, and moringa and chlorophyll.

Other beverages include drip coffee by the fair trade, organic and locally roasted UNITY, as well as hot chocolate, matcha latte, and hot and cold tea. For the time being, Jewel is BYOB, and encourages guests to walk a few storefronts down to wine shop Vinovore to buy a bottle to enjoy with their meal. Jewel will not charge a corkage fee.

While the restaurant is plant-based, the menu is not exclusively vegan, with gluten-free options. Jewel’s offerings include breakfast burritos, overnight oats made with almond “mylk” and chia seeds, and even three types of toast served on multigrain or gluten-free seed bread.

The L.G.B.T, for instance, is a visually spectacular toast offering a rainbow of colors made from lettuce, guacamole, tempeh bacon and cut heirloom tomatoes.

I tried the avocado toast with cashew-herb spread topped with house pickles and Gulf seafood togarashi, a spicy powdered mixture of dried red chili pepper, orange peel, sesame seed, Japanese pepper, ginger and seaweed. It’s delicious.

For those seeking a salad, Shimoda makes a surprise salad with a scoop of vegan “tuna” made from ground almond and sunflower seeds mixed with shallots, dill and Dijon mustard. Heart healthy sandwiches include the L.A.Pal, a vegan take on a Philly cheesesteak. It’s made with braised yuba sheets, shiitake, romaine, cucumber, apple and spinach, kale, carrots, cabbage, coconut-tumarind sauce, crispy shallots, cilantro and Fresno chilis pickled with vinegar, coriander seeds, sugar, salt and peppercorns.

As with many restaurants, Jewel offers a secret menu. If the ingredients are available, Shimoda will make a creviche with thin slices of lychee fruit, chopped red bell peppers, cucumbers and red onions. Surprisingly, the lychee almost has the same texture as scallops. You can scoop up this delectable treat with yellow and blue corn tortilla chips sprinkled with paprika. Another secret dish is the faux-crab cake, made with heart of palm and chickpea, and topped with a pleasing aioli. It’s so popular that they feature it as a wrap on the regular menu.

After our meal, even though we were thoroughly satisfied, we enjoyed little bowls of “ebony and ivory” chia pudding made with cashew milk, date, cacao, vanilla, berries and delightful buckwheat crisps for texture and crunch. While we ate it for dessert, the pudding would also make a great breakfast dish.

We also tasted several of the vegan donuts, such as the maple topped with coconut “bacion,” the red velvet, the strawberry and the matcha. We also sampled a clean-tasting charro. Since they are made with plant-based ingredients, these sweet treats didn’t leave an unpleasant film on the roof of my mouth. They were better than a traditional donut.

Looking for a new dining destination for healthy and sophisticated plates for breakfast and lunch? Jewel sparkles and shines in Los Angeles. The restaurant opens on Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On the weekends, it opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 4:30 p.m. S 654 N Hoover St., (323)522-6927.

Restaurant News

From page 14

Ice Cream and Sake at Inko Nito

During the month of April, all guests dining at Inko Nito Monday through Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. can enjoy sake and nigaki pairings. Diners will receive a glass of Sierra sake for free with the purchase of any nigaki. This special is limited to one per guest. 212 S. Garey St., Los Angeles, (310)999-0476.

Sake at Inko Nito

Black Diamond gluten-free pizza. It’s topped with heirloom tomato slices and faux-cheese made out of spinach and arakisho. Diners can also build their own black-crusted pizza with marinara and a choice of three toppings that include cashew cheese, mushrooms, kale, spinach, red or caramelized onions, olives, and jalapeños.

The Jewel box offers a kaleidoscope of colors and flavors, starting with either brown rice or sweet potato. It’s then layered with avocado, black beans, garlicky greens, rice yuba sheets, shiitake, romaine, Japanese pepper, ginger and seaweed. It’s delicious.

For those seeking a salad, Shimoda makes a surprise salad with a scoop of vegan “tuna” made from ground almond and sunflower seeds mixed with shallots, dill and Dijon mustard.

Heart-healthy sandwiches include the L.A.Pal, a vegan take on a Philly cheesesteak. It’s made with braised yuba sheets, shiitake, romaine, cucumber, apple and spinach, kale, carrots, cabbage, coconut-tumarind sauce, crispy shallots, cilantro and Fresno chilis pickled with vinegar, coriander seeds, sugar, salt and peppercorns.

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Huge Storewide Sale!

Paper Goods • Decorations • Balloons • Centerpieces • Piñatas • & More!
Police Blotter

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the area controlled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between March 29 and April 14. The information was compiled from www.crime mapping.com and report a crime, call 911 or the local law enforcement agency.

Beverly Hills Police Department

March 29

At 2:57 p.m., an unknown male suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo Drive. The suspect was approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall and 140 pounds.

March 30

At 4:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Beverly Drive.

April 1

At 11:18 a.m., an unknown male suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of San Vicente. The suspect was approximately 5 feet 9 inches tall and 180 pounds.

April 2

An unknown suspect committed an identity theft in the 200 block of S. Linden Drive at 9 a.m.

At 12:01 p.m., an unknown suspect committed an identity theft in the 300 block of N. Maple Drive.

An unknown female suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Wilshire at 6:37 p.m. The suspect was approximately 5 feet 4 inches tall and 110 pounds.

At 8 p.m., an unknown female suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of S. Oakhurst. The suspect was approximately 27 years old, 6 feet tall and 175 pounds.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of Beverly Drive at 10 p.m.

April 5

Three unknown male suspects committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Maple Drive at 2:19 a.m. The suspects were 20 to 23 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall and 175 pounds. While another was approximately 5 feet 4 inches tall and 200 pounds. No information was provided about the third suspect.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of S. La Brea at 11:30 a.m. The suspect was approximately 5 feet 7 inches tall and 150 pounds.

At 6:50 p.m., an unknown male suspect assaulted a victim near North Beverly Drive and Santa Monica. The suspect was approximately 29 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall and 220 pounds.

An unknown male suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Doheny Drive at 8:44 p.m. The suspect was approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall and 170 pounds.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of Westmount.

April 6

Between 10:45 a.m. and 2 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of Delmonte.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8800 block of De Longpre between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m. the following morning.

April 7

At 12:35 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

Between 9:30 p.m. and 1:45 a.m. the following morning, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of Robertson.

April 8

At 11:51 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1200 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 900 block of San Vicente at 2:45 a.m.

At 6:51 p.m., a suspect was arrest-ed for allegedly committing a strong-arm robbery in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a strong-arm robbery in the 1300 block of Laurel at 11:11 a.m.

April 9

At 2 p.m., two unknown male sus-pектs robbed a victim in the 400 block of N. Crescent Drive. One suspect was approximately 5 feet 3 inches tall, while the other was approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall and 170 pounds.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire at 4:06 p.m.

At 3:37 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of Rodeo Drive.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

April 2

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. Palm Drive.

April 7

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. Palm Drive.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. Palm Drive.

At 3:49 p.m., an unknown suspect committed grand theft in the 8400 block of Beverly.

April 9

At 12:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed grand theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of N. Bronson.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of N. Fairfax at 9:30 a.m.

At 4:59 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Fairfax.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of N. La Brea at 7:30 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of Masselin.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6600 block of Wilshire at 8:39 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 900 block of N. Vista.

April 12

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6100 block of Orange at 4:30 a.m.

At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 800 block of Willoughby.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Bronson at 9 a.m.

At 11:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 400 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 800 block of N. Fairfax at 11:30 a.m.

At 4:59 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Fairfax.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1600 block of N. Ivar.

April 13

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 4400 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8000 block of Melrose at 6:30 p.m.

At 7:15 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 900 block of Orange and Rosewood.

April 14

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8600 block of Burton Way at 5:10 a.m.

At 8:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7600 block of Melrose at 11:30 a.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 5200 block of W. Olympic.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7300 block of Melrose at 11:15 p.m.

At 11:50 p.m., a suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6800 block of Del Longpre.
From the director of “San Andreas” comes the best-reviewed video game adaptation to date: “Rampage.” With a whopping 51 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, the video game curse is lifted. We can finally declare that a film originating in an arcade just barely has more good reviews than negative ones. A 51 percent is a passing grade for a class assignment, right? And all it takes for this Cinderella story is a giant ape, crocodile and wolf that can fly and shoot needles out of its tail.

Prepare to embark on a journey with your favorite blockbusting star Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson as primatologist Davis Okoye, whose best friend is George, an albino ape going through some changes. Called “DNI editing” by Dr. Kate Caldwell (Naomie Harris), the ape and a couple other creatures are exposed to a pathogen that fell to Earth from a space station destroyed by an infected rat. With that setup, how are you not already pre-ordering tickets for this film right now?

We suffer through some fake science jargon before the good stuff comes: George and his posse don’t need a jungle when they can run amok in Chicago, as if the city hasn’t been through enough. Why do they band together and start climbing buildings? Blame an evil research corporation run by Claire Wyden (Malin Akerman), the most bland of white collar villains on screen.

Less ridiculous than Claire (but still pretty ridiculous), meet the most Texan government agent Harvey Russell (Jeffrey Dean Morgan) ever, complete with a thick accent, shiny gun and a big “T” on his belt buckle. Morgan might star as the heinous “Walking Dead” antagonist Negan, but he does little more than smirk and bust out snappy one-liners (cheesy, the right word is cheesy). Sorry, in a Dwayne Johnson film, there can be only one action hero.

And Johnson delivers some truly confusing action here. This is a throughout the action romp, we experience a score more in line with a war film desperately trying to evoke an emotional response undeserved in this film.

If you’re one of seven diehard “Rampagers” out there who wanted to see humans transform into creatures, sorry, we only see animals get bigger. But purity is of little concern for director Brad Peyton (“San Andreas,” “Journey 2: The Mysterious Island”), whose films don’t require much thought and even less for actors to do. Monster movies can be a lot of fun, dumb fun even. But “Rampage,” with a relatively short runtime and a lack of creative action sequences, feels less fun and more frivolous, the kind of film best left on in the background of a summer barbecue. Too bad. A flying wolf should be a sight to behold, not a mind-numbing piece of an entirely disposable film.

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L ACC Artistic Director Anne Tomlinson (left), who was honored with the Gala Bel Canto Award, was joined by choristers Julian Bertet, Yumei Lin and Sinclaire Ledahl, as well as Los Angeles Master Chorale Artistic Director Grant Gerston, who presented the award to Tomlinson.

Tomlinson honored at annual ‘Gala Bel Canto’

Los Angeles Children’s Chorus recently honored Artistic Director Anne Tomlinson at its “Gala Bel Canto” on April 11 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

The event raised a record-breaking $320,000 for the organization’s educational and artistic programs. It also featured emotional musical tributes by 200 singers from five LACC ensembles. Los Angeles Master Chorale Artistic Director Grant Gerston presented LACC’s Bel Canto Award to Tomlinson, who is currently in her final year leading the organizations for 22 years.

Tomlinson oversees the educational and artistic development of the chorus and leads LACC’s renowned Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. Additionally, she is Children’s Chorus Mistress for LA Opera.

Additionally, Tomlinson has worked with conductors Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Plácido Domingo, James Conlon and Gerston, and prepared the chorus for performances with LA Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic and Los Angeles Master Chorale. LACC serves more than 400 children ages 6-18.

For information, call (626)793-4231, or visit losangeleschildrenschorus.org.

Rosewood STEM Magnet
Urban Planning & Urban Design

Be part of groundbreaking history and enroll at the first urban planning and urban design STEM magnet in LAUSD.

Rosewood is a community that nurtures the whole child and though a STEM, it has many pathways to meet your child’s needs and interests.

Go to www.lausd.net to complete your e-choices application or contact our main office for guidance with the application process. Tours are given every Tuesday at 9:00AM.

Visit www.rosewoodelementary.org or call (323)651-0166

503 N. Croft Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90048

Summer School & Camps

What’s Happening at Our Local Schools & Camps This Summer
Registration • Dates • Activities

Rep. Schiff to announce winner of Congressional Art Competition

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) has announced that he will host a ceremony for the annual Congressional Art Competition Forum & Exhibit in his district on Thursday, May 3, at Descanso Gardens.

The exhibit features artwork submitted by students in schools throughout the 28th Congressional District. Winners from each congressional district have their work displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. This year, 43 students submitted artworks for the competition.

Schiff also gives one student a “People’s Choice” award, which will be decided through an online vote. To vote for the “People’s Choice,” constituents should visit schiff.house.gov/help/art-competition. Voting is open through Friday, April 27.

“Each year, I am blown away by the talent and creativity displayed in the submissions from students across the district,” Schiff said. “This year is no exception. I look forward to seeing all of the incredible artwork and welcoming young artists from our community to celebrate their accomplishments with their friends and families. I’m also excited to see which piece of art our community members choose to win the ‘People’s Choice’ pick, so don’t forget to visit my website and vote.”

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for Congress members to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of young constituents. Since then, hundreds of thousands of high school students have participated in the nationwide competition.

The first-place winner’s artwork will be featured in the U.S. Capitol for one year, the piece awarded second place will be displayed in the congressman’s Washington, D.C. office for one year, and the artwork awarded third place will be shown in Schiff’s Burbank district office for one year. The “People’s Choice” winner’s artwork will be displayed in Schiff’s Hollywood District Office.

The winners of the contest will be announced on May 3. All student participants will receive a Congressional Certificate of Recognition.

The exhibit will be held in the Van de Kamp Hall at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge. Parking and admission are free. Exhibit viewing will begin at 5 p.m. and the forum and awards presentation will take place at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. To RSVP, call (818)450-2900 or (323)315-5555.

Congressional Art Competition

For information, visit schiff.house.gov/help/art-competition.

What’s Happening at Our Local Schools & Camps This Summer
Registration • Dates • Activities

Where imaginations, minds and bodies thrive!

2018 MARLBOROUGH SUMMER SCHOOL

Five Week Session
June 25 - July 27

Leadership Workshops and Sports Camps
June 11-15 & June 18-22

Co-ed
Grades K-9

8:00am - 5:00pm

Registration available now. Please check marboroughssummer.org for more information.

Go to www.lausd.net to complete your e-choices application or contact our main office for guidance with the application process. Tours are given every Tuesday at 9:00AM.

Visit www.rosewoodelementary.org or call (323)651-0166

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Be part of groundbreaking history and enroll at the first urban planning and urban design STEM magnet in LAUSD.

Rosewood is a community that nurtures the whole child and though a STEM, it has many pathways to meet your child’s needs and interests.

Go to www.lausd.net to complete your e-choices application or contact our main office for guidance with the application process. Tours are given every Tuesday at 9:00AM.

Visit www.rosewoodelementary.org or call (323)651-0166

503 N. Croft Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90048

Rep. Schiff to announce winner of Congressional Art Competition

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) has announced that he will host a ceremony for the annual Congressional Art Competition Forum & Exhibit in his district on Thursday, May 3, at Descanso Gardens.

The exhibit features artwork submitted by students in schools throughout the 28th Congressional District. Winners from each congressional district have their work displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. This year, 43 students submitted artworks for the competition.

Schiff also gives one student a “People’s Choice” award, which will be decided through an online vote. To vote for the “People’s Choice,” constituents should visit schiff.house.gov/help/art-competition. Voting is open through Friday, April 27.

“Each year, I am blown away by the talent and creativity displayed in the submissions from students across the district,” Schiff said. “This year is no exception. I look forward to seeing all of the incredible artwork and welcoming young artists from our community to celebrate their accomplishments with their friends and families. I’m also excited to see which piece of art our community members choose to win the ‘People’s Choice’ pick, so don’t forget to visit my website and vote.”

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for Congress members to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of young constituents. Since then, hundreds of thousands of high school students have participated in the nationwide competition.

The first-place winner’s artwork will be featured in the U.S. Capitol for one year, the piece awarded second place will be displayed in the congressman’s Washington, D.C. office for one year, and the artwork awarded third place will be shown in Schiff’s Burbank district office for one year. The “People’s Choice” winner’s artwork will be displayed in Schiff’s Hollywood District Office.

The winners of the contest will be announced on May 3. All student participants will receive a Congressional Certificate of Recognition.

The exhibit will be held in the Van de Kamp Hall at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge. Parking and admission are free. Exhibit viewing will begin at 5 p.m. and the forum and awards presentation will take place at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. To RSVP, call (818)450-2900 or (323)315-5555.

Congressional Art Competition

For information, visit schiff.house.gov/help/art-competition.

What’s Happening at Our Local Schools & Camps This Summer
Registration • Dates • Activities

Where imaginations, minds and bodies thrive!

2018 MARLBOROUGH SUMMER SCHOOL

Five Week Session
June 25 - July 27

Leadership Workshops and Sports Camps
June 11-15 & June 18-22

Co-ed
Grades K-9

8:00am - 5:00pm

Registration available now. Please check marboroughssummer.org for more information.

Go to www.lausd.net to complete your e-choices application or contact our main office for guidance with the application process. Tours are given every Tuesday at 9:00AM.

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Urban Planning & Urban Design

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503 N. Croft Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90048
The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is holding its annual “Teen Night: High School,” a night of art and dancing after the museum closes for high school students only, on Saturday, April 28, from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Students are invited to explore the exhibition “Creatures of the Earth, Sea, and Sky: Painting the Panamanian Cosmos” and participate in art workshops. They can also dance to music by DJs from ARTES High School and teen bands, and enjoy $2 tacos. LACMA will be presenting a Teen Night for middle school students on May 19.

The event will be held on the museum’s Los Angeles Times Central Court, 5905 Wilshire Blvd. Admission is free; registration required. For information, call (323)857-6010, or visit lacma.org.

LACMA to host ‘Teen Night’

Improvements to elementary school safety access

Affirming its commitment to student safety, the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education has voted unanimously to study access control at LAUSD elementary schools and to implement upgrades to reduce the risk of unauthorized entries.

The resolution, “Protecting Our Students and School Sites,” was co-sponsored by board members Richard Vladovic and Ref Rodriguez. It calls for an assessment of all elementary school sites and a review of best practices for securing entrances and exits. Under the plan, bond revenue will be allocated to pay for improvements, such as security cameras, buzzer entries and the construction of secure entrances.

The new resolution dovetails with one approved last month, “Safeguarding Our Schools: Demanding Common Sense Gun Laws and Best Practices to Protect our Students and Staff,” which was sponsored by board Vice President Nick Melvoin. It calls for the creation of a task force that will add the elementary school site assessments to its list of responsibilities.

“I appreciate the collaborative effort of this board to urgently and thoughtfully review our security best practices,” Melvoin said. “And I am glad to include the specific review of elementary school entrance security into the work of the recently created ‘Safe Schools’ task force.”

“Student safety should always be at the forefront of all of our educational efforts,” Vladovic said. “Students deserve safe learning spaces where they can thrive. Securing our schools’ entrances is one way we can provide a level of protection for our students.”

Los Angeles Unified School District’s reclassification rate climbed to a record-high of 20.7 percent in 2017-18, as personalized instruction and improved monitoring helped more than 27,000 English-learners to attain fluency in English.

Newly released data from the California Department of Education showed the reclassification rate increased 3.5 percentage points from 2016-17, and is well above the 14.6 percent average reported by the state. When district-authorized independent charters are factored in, LAUSD’s reclassification rate is 20.1 percent.

The most significant increase was achieved by middle schools, which jumped 5.3 points to 26.8 percent. Elementary schools increased from 17 percent in 2016-17 to 21.2 percent this year. The reclassification rate among high schools hovered at 14 percent.

Hilda Maldonado, executive director of the Division of Instruction’s Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department, credits district educators bolstering the reclassification rate for English-learners, who make up about 23 percent of the district’s total enrollment.

District leaders hope the ongoing expansion of the popular dual-language programs will propel even greater gains in the years ahead. The district plans to add three dozen dual-language programs next year to the 101 currently offered. These programs teach academic courses in English as well as a student’s native language, allowing them to become both bilingual and biliterate as they learn at a gradual pace. Because of their success in mastering academic English and learning rigorous material in their non-native language, English-learners who reclassify as proficient have consistently outscored their peers on standardized assessments.

LAUSD helps English-learners attain fluency

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LAUSD to invest $25 million in highest-needs schools

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education voted to approve the School Equity Need Index 2018 that includes community indicators that will identify the highest-needs students to invest $25 million dollars from Gov. Jerry Brown’s 2018-19 California budget.

The resolution also requests the superintendent to create a working group for community stakeholder input.

This measure is a result of the hard work, contributions and input from students, parents, partners and district staff.

The action is a follow-up to the 2014 “Equity is Justice” resolution that inspired the district’s arts equity index.

“Action has defined progress in America and progress in our district,” said LAUSD board President Mónica García, who sponsored the resolution. “The path toward 100 percent graduation is an imperfect process that requires urgency and a new direction. With today’s action, each school community maintains their budget, and our highest needs schools receive an injection of additional investment. We thank every partner for helping to put kids first.”

“Today, the board, our students, and our advocates came together on behalf of our highest-need communities,” said Vice President Nick Melvoin. “We know that we need to do more – and our state and federal government need to do more – but this is a foundation upon which to build. I look forward to the next iteration of a student-based funding formula that continues to ensure dollars reach our classrooms. Equity is justice, but California spending so little on our students remains an injustice.”

“I supported this resolution, because I am a firm supporter of equity-based funding,” said board member Ref Rodriguez. “However, I also believe that this is only the first step toward that. I have consistently advocated for a per-pupil funding model, in which the dollars follow the students more closely. I hope that, as a district, we can explore other models to create a more holistic and comprehensive framework to fund our high-needs schools adequately and equitably.”

The Los Angeles Equity Alliance, a group of educational justice organizations representing thousands of student, parent and stakeholder voices applauded the district’s commitment.

Maria Strenes, InnerCity Struggle’s executive director shared her support. “I believe in the promise of this district,” she said. “From A-G, to the Student Bill of Rights, our children and families have seen courage in action. Today, is no different. I am a proud Angeleno today.”

“Today’s unanimous vote is a historic moment,” Community Coalition Executive Vice President Executive Director Aurea Montes-Rodriguez said. “The district is putting black and Latino high-needs students first by adopting the Student Equity Need Index 2.0.”

In addition to the immediate $25-million infusion, additional requirements of the board action include periodic updates; making the “equity-based funding formula” a primary funding model to be used by the district; the identification of additional resources; and “a menu of options” for evidence-based programs from the superintendent.

Kids Ocean Day teaches environmental stewardship

Volunteers are sought for the 25th annual Kids Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach Clean Up on May 24.

Thousands of students are expected to participate in Kids Ocean Day, which is the culmination of a year-round school program offered by the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education. The program teaches students about litter and how it flows from neighborhoods to the ocean, often killing marine life – a subject that inspired the district’s arts equity index.

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Friends for Life Camp starts June 18

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Los Angeles is holding its weeklong Friends for Life camp beginning in June.

At camp, children ages 8-13 learn basic care and responsibility for pets, respect for animals and the beginnings of dog training. For many of the students, Kids Ocean Day is their first visit to the beach. For information and to volunteer, visit kidsocedan.org or email volunteers@kidsoceanday.org.

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Karina Canellakis conducts ‘Secret Forest’

Guest conductor Karina Canellakis, winner of the 2016 Sir George Solti Conducting Award, makes her second Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra appearance to lead the U.S. premiere of Dai Fujikura’s “Secret Forest,” Beethoven’s energetic and uplifting Symphony No. 2 in D Major and Mozart’s dramatic Piano Concerto No. 24 in C Minor, performed by David Franz, on Saturday, April 21, 8 p.m., at Glendale’s Alex Theatre, and on Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m., at Royce Hall.

Canellakis is internationally acclaimed for her emotionally charged performances, technical command and interpretive depth. She made her European conducting debut in 2015 with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe in Graz, Austria, replacing the late Nikolaus Harnoncourt, and returning the following June to conduct Concertus Musicus Wien in a Beethoven Cycle.

Pray maintains an active career as a recitalist, soloist and chamber musician worldwide. He has collaborated with leading orchestras and distinguished conductors such as Martin Alsop, Pierre Boulez, Kurt Masur and Riccardo Muti. Tickets start at $27. Discounted tickets are also available by phone for seniors 65 years of age and older, and for groups of 12 or more. College students with valid student ID may purchase discounted tickets for $8, based on availability.

The Alex Theatre is located at 216 N. Brand Blvd. Royce Hall is located at 340 Royce Drive. For information and tickets, visit lacso.org or call (213)622-7001.

Ebell celebrates 100 years of aiding women in need

For 100 years, the Ebell of Los Angeles has assisted women in need through the club’s Rest Cottage Association and will celebrate the milestone at a luncheon on Monday, April 23, at 11:30 a.m.

Ten nonprofit agencies providing a safety net for women and children will each receive $10,000. Representatives from two of the agencies – Sister Judy Vaughan, of Alexandria House, and Stephany Powell, of Journey Out – will speak during the program.

The organizations work with victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking. Many of the women were abused and abandoned. The organizations also aid risk teens, children and older women in danger of losing their homes.

Each of these organizations is dedicated to the same goal as the Rest Cottage Association, which is to provide support for women and their children. Randi Jones, Rest Cottage Association chairman, said the Ebell Rest Cottage Association follows the goals of “Relief, Compassion and Action,” the same three principles on which it was founded.

The last rest cottage that provided housing for aging members closed in 1980. Proceeds from the sale were used to endow a fund to provide financial assistance to Los Angeles area women and their children in need. The Ebell of Los Angeles is located at 741 S. Lucerne Blvd. For reservations, call (323)931-1277 ext. 131, or email tickets@ebellhollywood.com.

Hollywood Temple Beth El hosts Tree of Life event

Hollywood Temple Beth El, in conjunction with the Jewish Wisdom and Wellness Festival of Learning, invites members of the public to “Tree of Life: A Journey into the Inner World” on Sunday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the temple.

The one-day workshop combines music, guided meditations, sacred movements and chants from ancient texts. Participants will explore the mystical “Tree of Life,” a system of 10 energy centers which exist in the human body as well as in the world. According to one of the event’s speakers, Gillis Nissan, “attunement of these energy centers may lead to mindful and wholesome way of living, improving health and well-being and will lead to a quick and light yet, deep and transformative, experience.”

Nissan will be accompanied by Yoval Ron, an internationally renowned world music artist, composer, educator, peace activist and record producer. His book “Attunement: Music as a path to Wisdom” won the Gold Medal Award for Best Spirituality Book at the Indie Book Awards 2015.

Hollywood Temple Beth El is located at 1317 N. Crescent Heights Blvd. in West Hollywood. For information, visit yovalronmusic.com.

Panel to examine pivotal same-sex marriage case

Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles presents “More than Just a Wedding Cake: The Intersection of Civil Rights in Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission.” It will feature Professor Michele Bratcher Goodwin, of the UC Irvine Law School; Nancy Marcus, of Lambda Legal; Maya Rupert, of the Center for Reproductive Rights; and Rick Zbur, of Equality California. Constitutional law expert and USC School of Law Professor David Cruz will moderate the discussion.

For tickets, call (213)892-8982, email info@wlala.org or visit wlala.org.

City of West Hollywood Public Hearing Notice

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

LOCATIONS: 947 GENESSEE AVENUE AND 944 OGDEN DRIVE, West Hollywood, California

REQUEST: Applicant is requesting to demolish all residential and accessory structures on two adjoining parcels and construct a ten-unit, three-story condominium over a subterranean parking garage.

PERMIT(S): Demolition Permit, Development Permit, Subdivision Permit, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): 944 Ogden, LLC (c/o Ilan Kenig)

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING: Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers

625 N. San Vicente Boulevard

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069

ZONES: R3B (Residential, Multi-Family Medium Density)

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: Categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15332 (In-Fill Development Projects).

The staff report will be available on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at City Hall, 8300 Sants Monica Boulevard, the W.H. Library, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, and on-line at www.weho.org

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

To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for checkout at the meeting. If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-4109 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TDD line for the hearing impaired is (323) 848-6496.

Special meeting related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Office of the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, call 1-323-GO-METRO (323/466-3876) or go to www.metro.net

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

For further information contact Antonio Castillo, Associate Planner, in the Planning & Development Services Department at (323) 848-6475; or via email at: acastillo@weho.org

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk
Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles to hold annual benefit

Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles, a nonprofit providing research and support funds to families affected by Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, is hosting its sixth annual fundraiser titled “An Unforgettable Evening” on Sunday, May 6, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The fundraiser, hosted by Susan Disney Lord and Scott Richard Lord, will be held at the historic Santa Monica Disney estate once owned by Bette Davis.

“A Unforgettable Evening” features an elegant garden party, musical program and live auction. The inaugural, invitation-only event includes a musical performance by Tony and Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter Sara Bareilles. The event is produced by Scott Mauro Entertainment, Inc. Enjoy chef hosted food stations and an open bar.

“We are honored to have the Disney Family Fund support our efforts annually. Thanks to the generosity of hosts Susan Disney Lord and Scott Richard Lord, and our many generous donors, we are able to continue delivering the care and support that families rely on Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles to provide,” said Heather Cooper Ortner, president and CEO of Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles.

Tickets start at $1,000. Proceeds benefit the Disney Family Fund of Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles. For information, visit alzgl.org.

WeHo hosts rummage sale

The city of West Hollywood’s Recreation Services Division will host a “Just in the Trunk” rummage sale on Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the north parking lot at Plummer Park. Participants may sell items from the trunks of their vehicles or in the space remaining in designated areas. Anyone who has yard sale items to sell is invited to register to participate in the event. No vendor goods will be permitted.

Items can be displayed from car trunks or hatches, or in a parking sale space using a tarp or table. Parking sale spaces, which cover two standard parking spots, are available for $15 and must be reserved in advance. Admission is free for shoppers.

Plummer Park is located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, call Michael Gasca at (323) 848-6546 or email mgasca@weho.org.
**Go green at Grand Park’s Earth Day celebration**

Grand Park, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and The Music Center will offer downtown Los Angeles’ residents, workers, students and visitors ideas on how to live clean and go green at “Earth Day Los Angeles” today, Thursday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... read hands-on demonstrations.

**Plants in Griffith Park’s Cedar Grove on Earth Day**

Celebrate Earth Day during a tree planting in Griffith Park on Saturday, April 21, at 9 a.m. Participants will meet in the Cedar Grove, off Vista Del Valle Drive. The event is help in partnership with Friends of Griffith Park, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, and the offices of Councilmember Ryu. 4th District.

Friends of Griffith Park and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks are working to plant shade trees to replace those lost because of the state’s ongoing drought and beetle infestations. Trees provide shade and oxygen. In observance of Earth Day, 40 trees will be planted in the Cedar Grove area of the park.

Volunteers are urged to wear comfortable shoes and to prepare to get dirty. Water, gloves and tools will be provided.

For information, visit friendsofgriffithpark.org.

**BREATHE LA to recognize supporters at upcoming gala**

BREATHE LA, California’s largest urban lung health organization, is thrilled to announce its spring gala, “Annual Awards Luncheon” to be held on Saturday, May 12, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The Los Angeles Zoo’s annual “Wild For the Planet” will serve as master of ceremonies and will begin with a presentation and entertainment program by donating unwanted cell phones, smartphones, iPods, Ipads, tablets, and portable electric devices. Guests can also participate in the zoo’s electronic device recycling program by donating unwanted cell phones, smartphones, iPods, Ipads, tablets and portable electric devices.

The Los Angeles Zoo’s “Wild For the Planet” program has a component focusing on endangered species such as Sumatran tigers.

**Zoo celebrates Earth Day with ‘Wild for the Planet’**

The Los Angeles Zoo’s annual “Wild For the Planet” celebration kicks off on Earth Day weekend. Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and runs through Endangered Species Day on Friday, May 18. On weekends, the event features animal feedings, Sustainable Living Talks and demonstrations; a conservation-themed aerialist show; puppet shows, and animal-themed games and information focusing on the importance of protecting the environment and saving wildlife. The Los Angeles Zoo is the International Year of the Bird, this year’s “Wild for the Planet” spotlights native species of birds and animals that support local birds, and highlights the zoo’s bird conservation achievements with five bird gardens throughout the grounds.

Families can enjoy a day at the zoo, home to a diverse collection of 1,100 animals representing 250 different species, many of which are rare or endangered.

**Metro offers free rides on Earth Day, April 22**

To encourage environmentally responsible travel and attract new transit riders, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is offering free rides on the entire Metro Bus and Rail System on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22. All 170 Metro bus routes and six major rail lines will be free to the public from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Bus fare boxes will be deactivated and all train station fare gates will be open.

Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti champions the free rides initiative as a way to help reduce the region’s harmful air emissions.

“We’re committed to create a more sustainable future starts with transportation,” Garcetti said. “By making transit free on Earth Day, Angelenos can be part of the journey to clean the air we breathe and keep our planet healthy.”

Studies show that taking transit instead of driving alone, even if occasionally, is an excellent way to reduce an individual’s carbon footprint. It reduces greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gases in California, contributing to 37 percent of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions. The greater Los Angeles region has significantly improved air quality but still violates the federal ozone standard at least 100 days per year.

Metro’s entire fleet of 2,438 transit buses run on clean-burning compressed natural gas. The agency has also committed to converting its bus fleet from natural gas to all zero-emission buses by 2030. The 105-mile Metro Rail system already operates on electric power.

“We encourage L.A. County residents to do something nice for our Mother [Earth],” said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. “Residents can save gas and park money and ride free on Metro to beaches, museums and other family-friendly destinations. If you enjoy your transit experience, we invite you to try our system to take other adventures during the year as we continue our efforts to make Metro the best transit system in the United States.”

For information, visit metrolink.net.

**BBBSA to run annual benefit luncheon**

Success Luncheon allows us to recognize those in our community who go above and beyond as champions for our children,” said Olivia Diaz-Lampiam, CEO of BBBSLA. Prior to the luncheon, hourly boutique vendors will feature accessories and gifts for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds donated to BBBSLA. Tickets start at $300. For information, call Daniel Rodriguez at (213)212- 2420, or visit gobgaloa.org/events.
Motorcycle exhibit roars to life at The Petersen

The Petersen Automotive Museum recently opened “Custom Revolution,” its newest exhibit dedicated to the art of a new generation of motorcycle customizers. Located in the Richard Varner Family Gallery, “Custom Revolution” will celebrate the makers of the most influential and innovative alternative bike builders of the past 10 years in one place for the first time.

Guest curated by motorcycle historian and author Paul d’Orleans, “Custom Revolution” will celebrate the visionaries who are pushing the creative edges of motorcycle design. Using both new and old engines, past and present chassis ideas, and groundbreaking styling, these internet-savvy designers and builders are influencing the current generation of factory-built machines.

The exhibit will feature approximately 25 different motorcycles from 25 different builders. Notable bikes will include the Glinsweeck 101-winner “E-Lisabah,” an electric drifter built by Krautmotors in 2017 from a BMW scooter chassis, and the rarely seen “Black” by Falcon.

The Petersen is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. For information and tickets, visit petersenmuseum.org.

Skirball celebrates life of Leonard Bernstein

“Leonard Bernstein at 100,” the official exhibition celebrating the centennial of the incredible composer and conductor, will open on April 26 at the Skirball Cultural Center.

Through more than 150 objects — including photographs, papers, scores, correspondence, costumes, furniture and films, as well as interactive displays — the retrospective explores half a century of activity by the renowned American composer, conductor, pianist and humanitarian, who devoted his life to making classical music a vibrant part of American life. It offers insights into Bernstein’s creative process and enduring legacy, including his contributions as both a pioneering educator and citizen who lent his voice to many social justice causes.

“Leonard Bernstein at 100” is curated by the Grammy Museum and will be on display at the Skirball until Sept. 2.

“Leonard Bernstein continues to have an immeasurable influence on classical music and popular culture. His achievements not only as a conductor and composer, but as an educational pioneer and cultural ambassador, continue to inspire future generations of artists,” said Bob Santelli, exhibition curator and founding executive director of the Grammy Museum. “The Grammy Museum is honored to partner with the Skirball to give West Coast audiences the opportunity to revisit, discover, and pay tribute to this great American icon.”

“The Skirball is proud to join the yearlong international celebration of Leonard Bernstein’s centennial, comprising an array of arts presentations and educational programs across Southern California and around the world,” said Robert Kirschner, Skirball Museum director. “As an institution committed to celebrating American democratic ideals and promoting social justice, we are inspired by Bernstein as a cultural figure who used his prominence to advance intercultural understanding and the cause of equal rights for all Americans.”

Objects on display in “Leonard Bernstein at 100” will include Bernstein’s conductor baton, his 1947-vintage podium, his children’s piano, handwritten lyrics of “Maria” from “West Side Story” and more.

In addition to the many objects, “Leonard Bernstein at 100” includes interactive exhibits. A listening bar will enable visitors to explore some of Bernstein’s most noted works, while a vocal booth invites visitors to sing lead in “America” from “West Side Story.” Another interactive reconstructs the parts of a symphony for greater understanding of Bernstein’s orchestral works, while another entices visitors to step into Bernstein’s conducting shoes and lead the Vienna Philharmonic.

The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. For information, visit skirball.org.
Yom HaShoah commemoration brings hundreds to Cedars

Harvey Morse Auditorium was filled to capacity as Los Angeles Cedars-Sinai Medical Center held its 34th annual commemoration of Yom HaShoah. "A day when we remember a horror that must never be repeated," said Rabbi Avraham Shlomo Levisson, the chief rabbi of Friensland, Netherlands, who posed the prayer asking God for forgiveness and allowing those who were unable to observe Passover by abstaining from eating bread.

The keynote speaker, Wolf Marjoram, a local artist, returned to the Jewish Studies and professor of history at the University of British Columbia, discussed his research into Jewish resistance to the Nazis before and during World War II. His research has focused on organized resistance, such as the 1943 uprising at the Warsaw Ghetto. Marjoram’s work has focused on what he called, “forgotten acts of individual defiance, resistance and resistance of German and Austrian Jews during the Holocaust.” The work, he said, was in part counter to the narrative that Jews were largely passive in the face of Nazi genocides.

In his invocation, Rabbi Jason Weiner, senior rabbis and director of the hospital’s Spiritual Care Department, led a prayer written by a Dutch rabbi interned at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Rabbi Avraham Shlomo Levisson, the chief rabbi of Friensland, Netherlands, commented that eventually led to a Los Angeles Superior Court judge halting the project pending another environmental impact review. The earlier project included two towers of 35 stories with 492 residential units, 200 hotel rooms and 100,000 square feet of office space, as well as a 780 square feet of commercial area.

The judge said the city needed to consider the revised project on its own merits, which might cause related to the nearby Capitol Records building, which officials reportedly determined to be sinking and slightly leaning, although it remains occupiable.

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From page 1

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Another issue that will likely be part of the ER is the Hollywood Center project’s proximity to seismic faults. In 2014, the California Geological Survey determined that the Hollywood Fault Zone may overlap portions of the project site. MP Los Angeles contends that extensive testing was conducted for the previous project and revealed that there are no active seismic faults beneath the project site, according to information published on the developer’s website.

Because the Hollywood Center project was just recently designed, it is unclear whether significant opposition will surface. Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, said he is monitoring the project said his communications director, "The councilmember is interested in learning more about the project and the impact it may have on residents in the surrounding neighborhood, the news about emergency shelters generated optimism. Alison Sinard, communications director for Kevin de Leon, 2nd District, is also working on a plan to create bridge housing for homeless women at the former Will and Ariel Durant branch library – a vacant building in Hollywood.

"He is certainly thrilled with this injection of money to help with the gap for supportive housing," Simard said. "The highest need is access to health care, and supportive housing helps people move into housing and then get health care."

While the city may be able to create its own supportive housing through the Permanent Supportive Housing and Bridge Housing funds, “Councilmember Ryu is committed to creating pathways out of homelessness such as with “Pot Roast,” in his new exhibition.

TAG Gallery hosting reception for two new exhibitions

TAG Gallery will host an opening reception for Toni Renis “Looking But Not Seeing” and Ernie Marjoram’s “Selected Paintings” on Saturday, April 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. An artist panel with Marjoram at the gallery will be held April 28 at 3 p.m. Marjoram, a local artist returns to TAG Gallery with a selection of paintings that reflect his passion for painting and his commitment to social justice.

Marjoram enjoys the challenge of representational fine art, trying to capture the “essence” of three-dimensional objects and real physical spaces. His work is inspired by everyday environments, architectural monuments, and natural landscapes, and even food. Marjoram’s art is based on a solid foundation of perspective drawing, dramatic lighting and appropriate color.

In her inaugural exhibition at TAG Gallery, Renis tackles social issues and the trauma people observe but often overlook, such as depression, discrimination and murder.

"I’m excited to see the new space at TAG Gallery and to have such a great variety of shows coming up," said Estevan Montemayor, director of the city’s existing regulations that banned smoking within five feet of open-air dining, as well as in parks, outdoor cafes such as the farmers market, outdoor service lines such as a theater box office, and public and private plazas and malls.

Council members have authorized the idea of banning tobacco smoke from coun-

For information, visit cedars-
sinai.org.

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beinking in that area but we will have to see what we can do when we get there and see if we can be looking for some permanent (Proposition) HHH housing.

As of the beginning of this year, smoking is prohibited in all multi-unit rental housing in Beverly Hills, including renewed or extended occupancies. The ban applies to areas such as balconies, patios and decks, and all indoor and outdoor common areas such as hallways, pathways, lobbies, community rooms and laundry rooms.

In 2019, smoking will be prohibited in all multi-unit dwellings, including rental and owner-occupied dwellings.

As of May 3 last year, smoking within 20 feet of open-air dining and public rights-of-way such as sidewalks, alleyways and streets (unless actively passing by) was banned in Beverly Hills. The law included e-cigarettes and marijua-
The California Association of Public Information Officials gave the city of West Hollywood its top award for 2018 Marketing Plans/Campaigns category for the city’s colorfully illustrated traditional advertising and outreach campaign Social Media Connect @WeHoCity — which encourages community members to follow the city’s primary social media channels.

The city’s CAPIO “EPIC” Award for Excellence in Public Information & Communications was presented at the CAPIO statewide conference in Santa Rosa, California, on Wednesday, April 11, at an evening awards ceremony and dinner. Staff members from the city of West Hollywood’s Communications Department accepted the award.

“Congratulations to the city of West Hollywood’s communications team for this exceptional statewide recognition,” West Hollywood Mayor John Duran said. “Our city prides itself on creativity and on constantly raising the bar. This CAPIO award is affirmation that we’re leading the way in creative ways in how we engage with the community.”

During the past three years, the city of West Hollywood has been implementing Communications and Community Engagement Strategic Plan. As part of this effort, the city’s Communications Department has made an intensive effort to invest in digital outreach strategies that help grow the city’s reach on social media to engage active and interested followers who seek news and information about city events, programs and services.

The Social Media Connect @WeHoCity campaign is built around six unique creative designs, which were deployed in a variety of print and web publications and direct channels, such as postcard mailings to community members. For outdoor media, the city used approximately 30 bus shelter and bike kiosk locations within the city’s 19 square-mile footprint. The city also produced customized Social Media Connect @WeHoCity bike baskets for its entire fleet of “WeHo Pedals” bike share bicycles, which feature each of the six designs. With the enormous community buzz created by the traditional campaign, the city added digital assets, such as short social media animations, to the marketing mix.

To develop the Social Media Connect @WeHoCity campaign, the city worked with Killer, a graphic design and branding firm, to provide West Hollywood-specific creative illustrations that speak to the city’s vibrant and unique character. Designs feature sharp copywriting and lush colorful illustrations to grab the attention of community members and encourage people to follow the city of West Hollywood at its official social media handle, @WeHoCity on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

During a seven-month period in 2017, following the launch of the campaign, there was between an 11 to 15 percent rise in followers (depending on platform) in the city’s @WeHoCity accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

For information, visit capio.org.
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