Beverly Hills City Council sets priorities for 2019-20

BY LUKE HAROLD

Long-term needs, such as autonomous vehicles and automated parking, as well as more imminent tasks, like completing the Rent Stabilization Ordinance, are among the Beverly Hills City Council's priorities for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Mayor John Mirisch brought up the need to prepare infrastructure for a future influx of autonomous vehicles. One of the city’s priorities now will be to put together a fleet of autonomous vehicles, and to support legislation that would further those efforts.

New devices give LAFD X-ray vision

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

When personnel at Los Angeles Fire Department’s Station 61 responded to a fire in a basement laundry room in Tower 41 at Park La Brea just before noon on April 8, they found thick smoke emanating from an adjacent storage closet.

Unable to see through the smoke to pinpoint the origin, they switched on handheld thermal imaging cameras, which were deployed to the closet, said Capt. Rick Crawford. Thanks to the handheld devices, which were deployed to firefighters citywide three weeks ago, the fire was quickly located and contained. Crawford said firefighters at Station 61 have been using the handheld thermal imaging cameras daily.

“Anytime we go to a fire call, we will use them," Crawford said. "[With the fire in the storage closet] it was smoky inside the room, so we were actually able to point [it] right toward the wall, and it turned out to be a burned-out exhaust fan. We were able to see where the heat was coming from, and this identified it pretty quickly through the smoke.”

Crawford said the handheld thermal imaging cameras, manufactured by Santa Barbara-based Seek Thermal and known as TICs, have an invaluable potential to help save lives and property.

LACMA gets approval for new building

BY CAMERON KISZLA

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the proposed new edifice for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, which is planned to span Wilshire Boulevard.

Mayor John Mirisch brought up the need to prepare infrastructure for a future influx of autonomous vehicles. One of the city’s priorities now will be to put together a fleet of autonomous vehicles, and to support legislation that would further those efforts.

LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan addressed the supervisors during the meeting and called the single-story building’s designer, Swiss architect Peter Zumthor, “one of the most accomplished and celebrated architects alive.” Govan added that Zumthor’s idea is “visionary. “I think it anticipates the future of art museums,” Govan said. “For L.A. to be bold and towards the future is the right thing.”

The project also received support from Hollywood actors Brad Pitt and Diane Keaton, both of whom praised the design and Zumthor.

Church wants to expand toward the heavens

BY CAMERON KISZLA

A Beverly Grove church wants to get into the real estate game in a big way.

Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon, a Maronite Catholic church at 333 S. San Vicente Blvd, filed plans with the city of Los Angeles to build a 19-story apartment building in place of the parking lot, social hall, rectory and chancery that currently exist on its one-acre property.

The structure is expected to consist of three floors of parking and 198 residential units.

Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon announced plans to build a 19-story apartment building on its campus on South San Vicente Boulevard.
WeHo design and zoning
Join the city of West Hollywood for an informational session with updates to the 2014 West Hollywood Design Guidelines and Zoning Overlay on Thursday, April 11, at 8 p.m. Join Kwame S. Brathwaite, the artist’s son and director of the Kwame Brathwaite Archives, fashion designer Mimi Plange, photographer Tyler Mitchell and Oscar-winning “Black Panther” costume designer Ruth Carter as they examine the social impact of the artist’s photography. The panel will also consider contemporary issues of representation and activism through media. Admission is $15 for members, $20 for nonmembers. 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. (310)340-4500, skinali.com.

‘Mementos Mori’
The Broad Stage presents Manual Cinema's “Mementos Mori” running from Friday, April 12, through Sunday, April 14. The performance is a dynamic and beguiling medita- tion on death and dying as it focuses on the cast of six puppeteers who manipulate hundreds of paper puppets, seven over- head projectors, two cameras and three screens to create a live movie. Showtime is 7:30 p.m., April 12-13, 2 p.m., April 14. Tickets start at $35. 13101 N. St., Santa Monica. (310)345-3200, thebroad.org.

WeHo Spring Fest
Celebrate the season at Spring Fest on the Park on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in West Hollywood Park. The program is part of the West Hollywood Family Fun Saturday series. Enjoy outdoor games and prizes, carriage rides, music, an old-fash- ioned egg hunt and more. Attendance is free. 647 N. San Vicente Blvd. (323)844-6534, selho.com.

Western film
Western film fans won’t want to miss a screening of Cecil B. DeMille’s “Union Pacific” (1939) on Saturday, April 13, at 1:30 p.m. at the Autry Museum of the American West. Originally released for the 70th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 (150 years ago this year), DeMille’s epic won the inaugural Palme d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival. While its historical accuracy is questionable, the style is pure DeMille as he dramatizes the transcontinental railroad in 1869. Admission is $10 for Autry members, $12 for nonmembers. 5001 N. Sunnyside Drive. (323)667-2000, theautry.org.

Art of Stephen Varble
Curator David J. Gens’s lecture, “Rhubarb and Dreams: The Genderqueer Performance Art of Stephen Varble in 1970s New York,” will be presented on Saturday, April 13, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers. The event includes a behind-the-scenes overview of Varble’s dynamic and disruptive career as a performance artist, playwright, filmmaker and video artist. Antagonistic to commercialism and art’s institutions, Varble stormed galleries, boutiques, and nightclubs with his artworks, provoking intense and often violent reactions. Admission is free. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. calgbtart.com.

Youth Orchestra at LACMA
Maxim Shklyarenko conducts the Colburn Youth Orchestra in a perfor- mance on Friday, April 12, from 6:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The concert includes works by Weber and Shostakovich. Musicians in the Colburn Youth Orchestra are 13-18 years old. The con- cert is part of LACMA’s Sundays Live series. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. (323)857-6000, lacma.org.

Cosmic Musings
Friends of The Observatory will wel- come Dr. Marco Abe for a discussion on NASA’s Parker Solar Probe on Monday, April 15, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the observatory. Abe will present a detailed presentation of the spacecraft and its scientific mission. Admission is $5 for nonmembers. 2800 E. Observatory Road. (213)473-0879, foto.org.

Defiant Requiem
Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust and the Defiant Requiem Foundation is hosting “Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín,” a unique and profoundly moving musical dia- mond-concert-drama, on Saturday, April 13, and 4 p.m., April 14. Tickets start at $15. 235 Charles E. Young Drive. (310)827-0889, latw.org.

Friends of Greystone concert
Friends of Greystone will present an afternoon of popular musical songs on Saturday, April 13, at 2 p.m. at the his- toric Doheny Greystone Mansion. Opera and musical theater vocalists Nandani Maria Sinha and Brooke de Rosa will perform music from shows by Rodgers and Hammerstein and other classic musicals. Tickets are $55 for Friends of Greystone members, $65 for nonmembers. 905 Loma Vista Drive. (310)286-0119, greystonemansion.org.

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Heavy winds caused falling trees, palm tree fronds scattered throughout the local streets and sagging electrical wires on April 9, with LADWP scrambling to restore power to approximately 49,000 customers in areas including Hollywood Hills, Mid-Wilshire and Koreatown.

As of 10:45 a.m. Wednesday morning, LADWP announced that power outages were down to 29,000 customers.

LADWP announced Tuesday night that crews began working in difficult, high-wind conditions and worked throughout the night and the next day to restore power as quickly and safely as possible to affected customers.

"While winds have subsided, making for better working conditions for crews out in the field, we continue to receive new reports of downed power lines and other wind-related outages that occurred overnight and went unreported or unreported until this morning," read a Wednesday morning update from LADWP.

The agency informed customers without power that they should plan for an outage lasting between 12-24 hours, and that some outages will be restored much quicker, while others may take longer to restore due to the extent of wind-related damage and the complexity of repairs required.

Los Angeles Police Department warned drivers to approach intersections as four-way stop signs if the traffic lights were out.

LADWP will continue to provide regular updates via Twitter and on the Nextdoor.com social media platform.

According to an LADWP news release, customers experiencing an outage can report it online at ladwp.com/outages, or call (800)342-5397.

Residents who see downed wires should assume they are live, stay clear and call 911 immediately, LADWP warns.

In Beverly Hills, a tree fell across the 1100 block of Tower Road. Cleanup was completed and the road was clear as of 10:50 a.m. Wednesday morning, according to Garrin Hussenjian, public information officer for the city. There was no other major damage in Beverly Hills.

Helen Collins, facilities and field services manager for the city of West Hollywood, said there was minimal damage throughout the city. The city is asking residents to report power outages to Southern California Edison, and other wind-related incidents to the city at weho.org/services/services/service-requests.

LADWP crews restoring power following heavy winds

BY LUKE HAROLD

A tree fell along Tower Road in Beverly Hills as a result of the heavy winds that hit the area on April 9.

A tree branch fell on a car parked on Mansfield Avenue Tuesday evening.

A week after President Trump announced cuts in federal aid to Central American countries, Gavin Newsom became the first California governor to travel to the region, where he will examine root causes of migration and join the world community in being part of a solution to the challenges in El Salvador and Central America more broadly.

In addition to meeting with the President of El Salvador, Salvador Sánchez Cerén, President-elect Nayib Bukele and U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Jean Manes, Newsom is scheduled to meet with local officials, human rights organizations, faith leaders and families affected by violence and poverty in the region.

"California’s past, present and future are linked with Central America. Nearly half of all Salvadoran immigrants to the United States — approximately 680,000 people — live in California," Newsom said. "They are central to our state’s story. And while the White House casts families fleeing violence as ‘invaders,’ California is proudly a state of refuge.”

Newsom sharply criticized Trump’s recent comments stating “we should get rid of the whole asylum system” and “get rid of judges” in immigration cases.

The nearly 1.4 million immigrants from El Salvador, representing one-fifth of its population, account for the second-largest Latin American group in the United States, after Mexicans. Nearly half — approximately 680,000 Salvadorans — live in California. They make up the largest population of Salvadorans in any U.S. state: El Salvador’s rate of people driven from their homes due to violence and conflict — 3,600 out of every 100,000 inhabitants — is second only to Syria. In 2016, El Salvador was the second leading country of nationality, next to China, for persons granted defensive asylum in the United States.

The governor is joined by Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles), the only Salvadoran serving in the California Legislature, and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom.

Newsom visits El Salvador

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11 AM - 3PM

11 AM - 3PM
Man faces multiple felonies after leading police on lengthy pursuit

A 27-year-old man was charged on April 8 with leading police on a pursuit in Hollywood, in which he crashed his vehicle into several law enforcement vehicles and a car with a 1-year-old boy inside, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

Phanarat Wilaisophakun, of Los Angeles, faces three felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon, two felony counts each of assault on a peace officer and hit-and-run driving resulting in injury to another person, and one felony count of fleeing a pursuing peace officer’s motor vehicle while driving recklessly. Wilaisophakun is also charged with four misdemeanor counts of hit-and-run driving resulting in property damage.

On April 4, the defendant was driving a 2018 Prus when he was allegedly involved in a collision in an undisclosed location in Hollywood but did not stop, prosecutors said. A police officer witnessed the collision and began pursuing the car.

During the pursuit, Wilaisophakun was allegedly speeding, ran red lights and weaved in and out of traffic. When three police vehicles attempted to block the defendant’s vehicle, Wilaisophakun allegedly rammed the vehicles, prosecutors added. Later, the defendant allegedly crashed into a parked vehicle with a child inside. The boy was not injured. The pursuit finally ended when the Prus crashed into a truck and police vehicles pinned Wilaisophakun’s car, prosecutors said.

The defendant faces 22 years in state prison if convicted. The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department’s Hollywood Division.

Settlement reached with company regarding automatic renewals

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey recently announced that the Hollywood-based firm 4J2 Global, Inc. has agreed to pay $1.2 million and change its sales practices to settle a civil lawsuit alleging the internet services company automatically renewed subscriptions in violation of state law.

Prosecutors with the district attorney’s office and other members of the California Auto Renewal Task Force found the firm did not properly disclose to its customers that their fax service subscriptions would be automatically renewed after a trial period. Under California law, online businesses must clearly and conspicuously disclose all automatic renewal charges and terms, and obtain consent of those recurring charges from consumers.

Prosecutors alleged that the violations occurred between April 2012 and November 2016 and involved services sold by 4J2 Global that allow people to send, receive and store faxes without a fax machine. Those products include eFax, MyFax and MetroFax.

The $1.2 million judgement includes $555,000 in restitution plus penalties and administrative costs. The company is required to notify by email California consumers to restitute.

Under the terms of the settlement, 4J2 Global also must clearly and conspicuously disclose its automatic-renewal term, among other requirements.

American Legion Post 43 honors first responders

The American Legion’s Post 43 in Hollywood recently honored first responders at its annual Law and Order Night celebration. Post Commander Michael Hjelmstad (left) and Nikki Ezhar, district director for Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, presented a proclamation to Sgt. Shannon Gracida, of the LAPD’s Hollywood Division. Additional honorees included LAPD Officer Benjamin Thompson, Deputy Sheriff Daniel Martinez, LAPD Firefighter Christopher Duperius, CHP Officers Robert Manzano and Jose Barrios, and Officer Bernard Reyes, of the Veteran Affairs Police Department. Post 43 is located at 2035 N. Highland Ave. For information, visit hollywoodpost43.org.

Man suffering medical emergency causes crash in Beverly Hills

A 69-year-old man was critically injured on April 5 when he lost control of a vehicle and crashed into another vehicle, a fire hydrant and light pole in Beverly Hills.

The collision occurred at approximately 2:45 p.m. in the 9100 block of Olympic Boulevard. The unidentifiable male driver was traveling eastbound approaching Doheny Drive in a Porsche 911 when he suffered a medical emergency and rear-ended another vehicle. Lt. Renato Moreno with the Beverly Hills Police Department. The crash caused the vehicle that was struck to collide, striking the light pole and a fire hydrant before also colliding with a streetlight.

The hydrant was sheared and water gushed into the air until firefighters arrived and sealed it. The driver, who was the only person in the car, was taken to a hospital in critical condition.

Moreno did not know the nature of the medical emergency but said the man was hospitalized for multiple days. Drugs or alcohol impairment were not a factor, he added. The collision remains under investigation.

“It was very fortunate nobody got killed because of this,” Moreno said.

Koretz recognizes veteran

Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District, recently honored three veteran officers at the LAPD’s West Traffic Bureau Community Services Unit, each of whom have served more than 20 years with the department. Koretz (second from right), was joined by Capt. Elaine Morales (left), longtime officers Tony Perez, David Manning and Ryan Basaker, and Sgt. Danny Eun, of the West Bureau Community Traffic Services Unit. Koretz presented certificates of appreciation to Perez, Manning and Basaker and thanked the officers for their service.

Police search for murder suspect

Detectives with the LAPD’s West Bureau Homicide Unit are asking for the public’s help in identifying a suspect responsible for a man’s death on April 8 in Koreatown.

At approximately 10:14 p.m., officers assigned to Olympic Division responded to a call about a shooting initiated by paramedics in the 9300 block of St. Andrews Place. The victim, Jorge Gracida, 21, of Los Angeles, was pronounced dead at the scene.

A preliminary investigation determined a male suspect approached Gracida, who was with two friends, and a verbal dispute ensued. The suspect then challenged one of the men to fight, pulled out a handgun and a physical altercation occurred. Gracida tried to disarm the suspect, but was shot during the altercation.

The suspect was described as being approximately 25 years old and wearing dark clothing. He was last seen fleeing south on St. Andrews Place. The location where the shooting occurred is between Ninth Street and Olympic Boulevard, just west of Western Avenue. Anyone with information is urged to call (213)382-9470.
City hopes pilot program paves way for shared mobility

BY LUKE HAROLD

One month into a new pilot program, the city of Los Angeles received 335 complaints from residents through 311 regarding electric scooters and shared mobility devices.

The electric scooters that quickly permeated the streets throughout L.A. County have been polarizing among local residents. Some view them as a significant step toward reducing carbon emissions, and others worry about the public safety risks, as well as devices left in public-rights-of-way and private property. It’s also been a divisive issue among L.A. City Council members. Councilman Mike Bonin, whose district includes Venice Beach, where the devices have been especially popular, has been an avid supporter. Mark Pampanin, a spokesman for Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, said the councilman wants “this new mobility option to grow safely and sustainably, and help get Los Angeles moving again.”

“Our team bears from residents from time to time with issues about a scooter here and there, but it’s a relatively low number,” Pampanin said via email. “We’re pleased to see that, at least so far, the pilot rollout, requirements on operators, and numerous community meetings held by LADOT have done a lot to understand and address community concerns.”

Tony Arranga, spokesman for Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, said the CD13 office receives some complaints, but “it’s clear there is a market for this mode of transportation.”

The pilot program has provided three companies with a one-year permit to operate scooters within the city: Lime, with 5,500 scooters, including 2,500 in disadvantaged communities; Bird, with 6,500 scooters, including 3,500 in disadvantaged communities; and Spin, with 10,500 scooters, including 8,000 in disadvantaged communities. Wheels, Jump and Lyft are operating under conditional permits that expire April 15 as they work to comply with the terms of the pilot, and companies under consideration by the city are Bolt, CLEVR, Cloud, HOPR and Sherpa.

Other council members haven’t been as confident, but Councilman Paul Koretz’s call last summer for a citywide ban did not gain much traction with his colleagues.

“With the shared mobility craze still in its nascent stages, data on the injuries riders cause to themselves and others is scarce. But last summer, a Cedars-Sinai doctor said the hospital was seeing injuries on a daily basis, including one or two cases that require urgent surgery once or twice per week.”

A study released earlier this year by researchers from organizations including UCLA, Stanford and the Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System evaluated 249 patients who suffered injuries from scooters in Southern California between September 2017 and August 2018. Approximately 40% had head injuries, 32% had fractures and 28% had soft tissue injuries. Only 4.4% wore helmets.

At the beginning of March, Councilman Gil Cedillo introduced a motion asking to have them banned from his district, which includes Westlake, Angelino Heights, Chinatown and Pico Union.

“Many cities are struggling with scooters that are haphazardly parked along sidewalks and parkways, thereby obstructing access for pedestrians and people in wheelchairs,” his motion stated. “Hopefully, all of the electric scooters and e-scooters abide by the LADOT rules and regulations and the city’s pilot program will operate smoothly.”

Metro holds community meeting in Beverly Hills

BY LUKE HAROLD

Noise from Metro’s La Cienega staging area was one of the concerns a few residents mentioned during a community meeting on April 3, one of many that have been held to provide updates on Purple Line Extension construction.

Beverly Hills spokesman Keith Sterling said there have been noise complaints from three residents and five businesses, including comments from last week’s meeting, over a ventilation system for workers underground. Rob Welch, a project manager for the city, said Metro has not exceeded noise limits agreed upon by both sides. But Metro has added sound blankets and a higher wall to further help reduce the noise. It has also conducted acoustical analysis, findings and recommendations have been submitted to the City of Beverly Hills on April 5, 2019, for future city action.

Construction in Beverly Hills is part of Section 2 of the Purple Line Extension project, which will connect downtown Los Angeles with Westwood. Noise along Wilshire Boulevard was one of the concerns that businesses had when the Beverly Hills City Council approved a memorandum of agreement with Metro for construction of Wilshire/Rodeo station. The city is also incorporating the Metro construction into its complete streets plan, which will be designed to give “all road users” choices for how to get around Beverly Hills, including autonomous vehicles when they become more prevalent.

“The pilot program has been relatively low number,” Pampanin said. “We’re pleased to see that, at least so far, the pilot rollout, requirements on operators, and numerous community meetings held by LADOT have done a lot to understand and address community concerns.”

“Many cities are struggling with scooters that are haphazardly parked along sidewalks and parkways, thereby obstructing access for pedestrians and people in wheelchairs,” his motion stated. “Hopefully, all of the electric scooters and e-scooters abide by the LADOT rules and regulations and the city’s pilot program will operate smoothly.”

Metro has conducted additional noise monitoring at 8500 Wilshire Blvd, where there have been a few complaints about noise. So far, a project manager for the city said noise from Metro’s nearby staging area has stayed within agreed-upon limits with the city.
Los Angeles LGBT Center celebrates opening of Anita May Rosenstein Campus

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles LGBT Center celebrated the grand opening on April 11 of the new Anita May Rosenstein Campus, a two-acre complex that will serve LGTBQ seniors and youth.

To commemorate the opening, which took place two years after breaking ground for the campus along the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard, the center hosted a free block party attended by government officials, L.A. LGBT Center administrators, donors, celebrities and supporters.

Rep. Adam Schiff, Los Angeles County Supervisor Nury Martinez, the center’s Anita May Rosenstein Foundation – was the largest gift by a living individual to an LGBTQ organization.

“The night after the last presidential election, I joined hundreds of residents at the L.A. LGBT Center to discuss what it meant for the nation and the cause of equality. We knew there would be hard days ahead, and there have been, but we also knew that we would overcome the forces of division and hate,” Schiff said. “At the opening of the center’s Anita May Rosenstein Campus, we celebrate another victory on the road to equality. I’m proud to join CEO Lorri Jean, actress Joely Fisher, and many others for the opening of this landmark achievement.”

“The Anita May Rosenstein Campus is a flagship project for addressing homelessness in Hollywood and Council District 4,” Ryu said. “There’s no project quite like this. With an array of on-site services, classes, counseling and housing for more than 200 individuals facing homelessness, this inter-generational campus for seniors and transitional-aged youth will save lives and be a point of pride for the Hollywood community. I’m honored to be a part of this project and to see it open its doors.”

The Arts take center stage at L.A. City Hall

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The vibrant arts community in Los Angeles will once again be on display on Friday, April 12, during Arts Day LA, an annual event celebrated at Los Angeles City Hall.

Hosted by Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, chair of the Arts Parks and River Committee, the celebration raises awareness about the contributions artists make to education and the city’s culture. It will include a discussion about how the arts are equitable across demographics and the arts based at communities throughout Los Angeles, honors for two champions of the arts in Los Angeles, and a performance by a surprise guest.

The celebration will be led by Arts For LA, a non-profit that has promoted arts equity and accessibility since 2006.

“We are immensely proud that the Anita May Rosenstein Campus allows us to greatly expand our services, especially to LGBTQ seniors and youth.” said Gustavo Herrera, executive director of Arts For LA. “We encourage people to show up as advocates wearing red shirts. We really do try to mobilize Angeleños as a way to show support for the arts.”

The celebration begins at 8:30 a.m. with members of Arts LA and supporters who will gather in the rotunda at City Hall for coffee and networking. Welcoming remarks will be presented at 9:30 a.m., followed by a presentation in City Council Chambers after 10 a.m.

The honorees are Roberta Uno, director of Arts in a Changing World, and Quetzal, a rock group. Uno has played music since she was 13. A guitarist, she serves as a resource for musicians in her community.

Herrera said the Council Chambers portion of the event will include speeches by Arts For LA members and supporters, who will wear red in a show of solidarity for the arts. The surprise performance will also occur during the presentation.

Herrera added that one goal of Arts For LA is to have more arts programming in schools because many offer only limited arts opportunities for students. The organization works with the city’s Department of Cultural Affairs to increase programming in schools, as well as in parks.

“We have made progress ensuring the arts are equitable across Los Angeles, but there is more that we can do,” he added. “It’s important to advocate for arts equity in all schools.”

Ryu said he is excited to host the Arts For LA celebration this year since he was recently appointed chair of the Arts Parks and River Committee, a position previously held by Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District. The City Council has hosted Arts For LA Day since 2012.

“The arts are central to Los Angeles, and local artists are what drive our creative capital forward,” Ryu added. “As a longtime supporter of the arts, I am thrilled to lead Arts Day LA 2019 and champion our city’s vibrant arts scene with the incredible innovators, artists and activists of Arts For LA.”

Herrera also invited people to the “ArtChangeUS REMAP: LA Cultural Equity Summit” on Wednesday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Aratani Theatre at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 San Pedro St., downtown. The summit will focus on how the country is being culturally “remapped” and how the arts sector in Los Angeles is contributing.

Herrera remained tight-lipped, however, about the special guest performer at Arts For LA Day, and said people should attend to find out who it will be.

“All are welcome,” he added. “It’s important to build on the momentum we have and continue to turn back in our march toward full equality and humanity.”

With 100 beds for homeless youth, a new senior community center, youth drop-in center and the Anita May Rosenstein Foundation Youth Academy, the campus will serve as the LGBT Center’s flagship facility. The new facility also includes expanded programming and administrative space.

“The campus is proof that a committed group of people who have the audacity to dream big and work hard are capable of creating something the world has never seen something that now stands as a testament to the fact that we will not turn back in our march toward full equality and humanity.”

“The arts scene in Los Angeles is a beacon of hope and inspiration for people around the world. It is a safe haven for youth experiencing homelessness, and it will become a unique experience for youth seniors to live together and learn from each other.”

The cost of the campus exceeded $141 million. Of that amount, more than $57 million has been raised through gifts from individu- als and foundations, and $9.5 million in New Market Tax Credits. The affordable housing costs of $63 million were funded by government allocations and other sources. After combining the gifts to the capital campaign and a contribution from the center’s strategic reserve fund, the campus will be mortgage-free once all of the pledges are paid.

On April 11, following the opening ceremony praised the center as a critical space for the LGBTQ community.

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The ongoing contract battle between Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the union that represents hundreds of its workers has spilled out into the streets, specifically Beverly Boulevard, Third Street, and Fairfax and Melrose avenues.

That’s where the union, SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West, put up seven billboards questioning the compensation for Cedars-Sinai CEO Thomas Priselac and the hospital’s nonprofit status.

Sean Wherley, a spokesman for the union, said the concerns raised on the billboards are separate issues from the contract negotiations, a notion Cedars-Sinai disputed in a statement.

“The billboards placed recently by the union are part of an effort to influence the negotiations,” the hospital said.

The dispute is ongoing, and after the collective bargaining agreement expired on March 31, the approximately 1,800 people represented by SEIU-UHW are working without a contract in place. Several issues, including employee benefits, are being discussed.

A statement from Cedars-Sinai said the hospital’s board of directors wants employee compensation to be based on “merit of their individual performance, a rigorous review of each position’s responsibilities, and comparisons with other organizations for positions with similar responsibilities.”

A statement from the union said the workers are “eager to reach an agreement with management.”

“However, that can only happen after hospital executives stop trying to aggressively outsource jobs for lower pay and eliminating workers’ right to collectively bargain on important benefits like health insurance and sick leave,” the statement said.

Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District, said he’s been working to bridge the gap between the union and the hospital.

“Cedars-Sinai has built and enjoys a world-class reputation based upon the highest standards of care that are given by their employees,” Koretz said.

In the meantime, the billboards might irritate some of the Cedars-Sinai administrators.

Wherley said the billboards, all of which are within a mile or two of the hospital, were purchased to make the community aware of the financial situation at Cedars, which paid Priselac $4.3 million for the fiscal year ending in June 2017, IRS records show.

In its statement, Cedars-Sinai said it’s “proud” of the quality of its health care, and Priselac’s payment “appropriately reflects his more-than-two-decade tenure of successfully presiding over the western United States’ largest not-for-profit hospital.”

Though the hospital is a nonprofit, it’s “more successful than any charity care. Cedars-Sinai’s audited financial statements for fiscal year 2017 show a profit of $452 million for the medical center, though that figure drops to $378 million when the hospital’s foundation and Marina Del Rey Hospital are included. According to data from the state’s Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center’s charity care in 2017 amounted to about 2% of its net income.

Wherley claims 2% isn’t enough of a community benefit to justify the hospital’s nonprofit status.

“At a minimum, it should be 5%. That’s a level comparable to other facilities in L.A. How is it that these other lower-profile, less-wealthy hospitals are providing more of their income toward charity care than Cedars?” Wherley said.

Cedars-Sinai’s statement said that during Priselac’s time as CEO, the hospital has expanded its commitment to the area.

“Over the last 10 years alone, Cedars-Sinai has invested nearly $6 billion to benefit the local community by, among other things, providing free or part-pay care for patients who cannot afford treatment, by losses caring for Medicare and Medi-Cal patients; and by providing a wide range of free health programs and clinics in neighborhoods as well as education and health services in dozens of local schools, community centers and homeless shelters,” the statement said.

Wherley said he believes the hospital could be doing more. “A place as wealthy as Cedars has a responsibility to do right by the community, its patients and its workers,” he said.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Opening the doors to showbiz’s past

On the Old Hollywood Walking Tour, locals and out-of-towners can follow in the footsteps of movie royalty

BY CAMERON KISZLA

When tourists think of Tinseltown, the Walk of Fame on Hollywood Boulevard might be the most iconic symbol of the entertainment industry. However, the throngs of visitors looking for an easy photo op have turned blocks that were once the stomping grounds of entertainment into something that’s more akin to New York City’s Times Square, said Danny Jensen, author of the second edition of “100 Things to Do in L.A. Before You Die.”

Jensen, who led a special edition of the tour earlier this month, said he and Clemmer both want to help locals explore like a tourist and find ways to reimagine a place they think they already know all about. “There are really great, fun places to check out,” Jensen said. For information, visit oldhollywoodwalkingtour.com.

California files suit against Trump administration

On April 5, Gov. Gavin Newsom’s administration filed suit in federal court to try to compel two federal agencies to provide the underlying data and analysis used to support a rollback of federal vehicle emission standards that Newsom said threatens the air quality and health of millions of Californians. The suit, which was filed by Attorney General Xavier Becerra on behalf of the Newsom administration and California Air Resources Board, claims the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration failed to comply with CAIRB’s Freedom of Information Act request filed in early September. In addition, the NHTSA failed to respond to an appeal filed by the state in December, and the lawsuit requests that the court compel the Trump Administration to provide the information and to decide whether the federal government may keep that information hidden, the Newsom administration said.

“The Trump administration is willfully withholding information on their ill-advised rollback of federal vehicle emission standards because there is simply science or logic to back up their actions,” Newsom said.

In August, the Trump administration announced that in place of requirements to increase vehicle fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it proposed to freeze the standards at the 2020 level through the 2026 model year. The administration’s proposal would likely also block many other states that use California standards from moving forward, the Newsom administration said.

If California were required to follow the federal rollback proposal, global warming emissions could increase by almost 15 million metric tons per year by 2025, an amount that is roughly equivalent to putting an additional 2.8 million cars on the state’s roads for a year, the Newsom administration said.

New York has a similar lawsuit over NHTSA and EPA’s failure to comply with the state’s FOIA request. That lawsuit is currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Reps want to fund earthquake warning system

On April 8, Reps. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Suzan DelBene (D-Washington) and Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) were joined by 45 members of Congress — primarily from California, Washington and Oregon — in sending a letter to the Appropriations Committee urging them to increase the federal funding level to $18.6 million in the fiscal year 2020 to fully build out and maintain an earthquake early warning system on the West Coast.

A limited earthquake early warning system developed by Caltech, UC Berkeley, University of Washington and the University of Oregon in conjunction with the United States Geological Survey has already been deployed in a beta testing phase and has proven that the early warning technology is sound.

It is imperative for Congress to continue funding construction and maintenance of the earthquake early warning system along the West Coast, which sits atop major fault lines,” Schiff said. “The system will not only help protect infrastructure and businesses but also prevent injuries and save lives across California, Oregon and Washington. The earthquake early warning technology has been proven sound during testing in the United States, as well as in countries like Mexico and Japan, and it would be irresponsible not to provide this life-saving technology to the public before the next ‘big one’ hits.”

DelBene said Washington state has the second-highest earthquake risk in the U.S. “It’s critical that we expand natural disaster preparedness tools using 21st century technology like ShakeAlert, which will enable Washingtonians to take swifter, preventive measures that could help save lives, protect businesses and help local communities recover faster,” she said.

DeFazio said it’s only a matter of time before another major earthquake hits the Pacific Northwest. “Preparation will save lives, reduce injuries and minimize infrastructural damage,” DeFazio said. “Not only does Japan have the most advanced EEW system in the world, but it has also invested heavily in earthquake preparedness and earthquake-resilient infrastructure, including a response and recovery headquarters in case of a major quake. We need to offer Oregonians the same basic protections.”

“We cannot predict when and where the next major earthquake will hit, we must do all we can to prepare ourselves so that we can mitigate the injuries, destruction, and chaos as much as possible,” the letter said.

April Clemmer leads a tour that takes visitors and locals alike back in time by going between, around and behind the Hollywood Boulevard shops.

For information, visit oldhollywoodwalkingtour.com.
Friends of the LA River will host the milestone 30th Annual Great LA River CleanUp during Earth Month.

On April 13, the CleanUp will focus on volunteers who will be cleaning up 30 sites along the LA River. The event is open to the public and will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, at 30 sites along the Los Angeles River, including Sepulveda Basin / Balboa Sports Complex, Haskell Creek, the Bette Davis Picnic Area, and Narrow Water Walk.

On April 20, the Great LA River CleanUp will be held from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will be held at Compton Creek at Del Amo Metro Station, the Willow Street Estuary and the Golden Shore Marine Reserve.

This year, the Great LA River CleanUp aims to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Great Los Angeles River CleanUp. Since 1989, more than 60 tons of trash have been removed from the Los Angeles River, and the event has attracted more than 6,000 participants.

The final event on April 27 covers the lower river. Events will be held at Compton Creek at Del Amo Metro Station, the Willow Street Estuary and the Golden Shore Marine Reserve.

This year, the Plastic Straws on Request ordinance was just approved by the Los Angeles City Council. The new law aims to reduce plastic waste by providing straws only when requested by customers.

For more information or to register, visit folacleanup.org.

County joins climate change coalition

Environmental nonprofit group Heal the Bay announced events and volunteer opportunities happening in Los Angeles County throughout April, which is Earth Month.

The Earth Month event series aims to celebrate the ocean and improve the neighborhoods, coastal waters, rivers, creeks and beaches in Los Angeles County.

Heal the Bay expects thousands of participants throughout the month. Individuals, families, schools, businesses and community organizations are all invited to attend the events, and no special training or experience is required.

On April 20, Heal the Bay is hosting several events.

From 10 a.m. to noon, a beach cleanup north of the Santa Monica Pier will be held. Last year, 1,000 volunteers picked up 183 pounds of trash and debris that would have otherwise entered the ocean.

Cleanup participants will earn free same-day admission to Heal the Bay’s aquarium, which is located under the Santa Monica Pier.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the aquarium, Heal the Bay has activities for all ages. Families can experience the Santa Monica Bay and see all the local animals without getting their feet wet. Short film screenings, Earth Day-themed story time, live animal presentations, face painting and an eco-themed crafts station will round out the celebration in the Aquarium. In addition, visitors who walk to the west end of the Santa Monica Pier will find a wildlife station stocked with binoculars and bird identification guides.

From noon to 10 p.m., Heal the Bay and Golden Road Brewing will host the second annual Earth Day pop-up art gallery at the Rose Room in Venice. Golden Road makes the Heal the Bay IPA, and a percentage of each barrel sold supports Heal the Bay’s work. Artists from Los Angeles County and nearby can submit artwork for consideration.

Also from 10 a.m. to noon, the inaugural TrashBlitz L.A. will organize volunteers to remove trash and identify the top brands on packaging labels that are polluting the L.A. River and nearby areas. The results of this TrashBlitz will be used to support local and statewide policies and strategies to reduce waste.

From Friday, April 26, to Monday, April 29, the City Nature Challenge will have people find and document wildlife in cities. Over 130 cities around the world are competing in the City Nature Challenge, including Los Angeles.

For the fourth year in a row, Heal the Bay is rallying everyone in Los Angeles County to get outside, take photos of any plant, animal, fungi, slime mold or any other evidence of life – including sea, fur, tracks, shells and carcasses – and share observations using the iNaturalist app. The City Nature Challenge is organized by the Natural History Museum and the California Academy of Sciences.

Free iNaturalist training will be provided at Heal the Bay’s Aquarium on April 13 from 2 to 4 p.m.

To celebrate Earth Month, Heal the Bay is organizing a beach cleanup on April 20. Volunteers will receive free admission to the organization’s aquarium, which is located under the Santa Monica Pier.

For information or to register, visit healthebay.org/earthmonth.
City breaks ground on L.A. River pedestrian bridge

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, recently celebrated the start of construction on a new pedestrian bridge over the Los Angeles River that will connect Atwater Village and Silverlake.

The new bridge will use existing supports formerly used for the Red Car Trolley line that are located next to the Glendale-Hyperion Complex of Bridges. It will provide safe, non-motorized access to the river environment while connecting the communities on either side of the waterway.

“This new amenity has been 16 years in the making,” O’Farrell said. “My number one transportation priority is pedestrian safety, and this project will allow more people to safely cross the Los Angeles River.”

The councilman and residents rang a symbolic trolley bell to signal the start of construction. The completed bridge will be critical during the seismic retrofit and historic restoration of the Glendale-Hyperion Complex of Bridges, ensuring that pedestrians and bicyclists can safely cross the river during the three-year construction schedule.

Input sought on Aging in Place program

The city of West Hollywood is in the final two years of its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan and is soliciting feedback on the Aging in Place program.

A key goal of the Aging in Place/Aging in Community five-year strategic plan is supporting the quality of life, health and well-being of older adults. Residents are encouraged to take a survey on issues such as housing, public transportation, public safety and overall satisfaction with the quality of life in West Hollywood.

The city will use the information in strategic planning aging initiatives.

To take the survey, visit weho.org/aging.
Letters to the Editor

Mayor Mirisch had a good point about state leaders

RE “Letters to the Editor: Beverly Hills Mayor John Mirisch explains comments at recent installation ceremony,” April 4 issue

Please thank Mayor John Mirisch for saying what many of us echo in regards to the superior and dictatorial positioning north of senators such as Scott Wiener and dictatorial positioning north of the mayor of L.A. nor the governor seem to be listening.

Lydia Milars
Los Angeles

Project at Town and Country shopping center offers benefits

RE “Proposed project near Park La Brea raises concern,” March 21 issue

I have lived in Park La Brea for many years, pay close attention to new developments in my backyard and I can confidently say that the proposed project at Third and Fairfax (at the site of the Town and Country shopping center on the southeast corner) will be a great addition to our neighborhood.

Additionally, throughout this project’s process the developer’s team has gone out of their way to work with residents, community groups, businesses and other local organizations. They’ve come to us, gathered our feedback, discussed our concerns and continue to stay in close communication. As a long-time resident, I really appreciate the opportunity to provide my input and I know that as a result, this project will reflect what our community wants.

I look forward to enjoying the walkability it will provide as well as new retail and housing options we need. Simply put, the project at Third and Fairfax has my support.

Nadia Dulyn
Park La Brea

Letters to the Editor
Easter Dining

Easter with Michael

Each month, guests can indulge in a special multi-course seafood dinner prepared by Michelin-starred chef Michael Cimarusti at Il Pesce Cucina at Eataly LA. Tonight, April 11, Cimarusti will whip up new and refreshing Italian dishes highlight- ing seafood. Each course is inspired by his own upbringing and roots from Bari, a port city on the Adriatic Sea and the capital of southern Italy’s Puglia region. This special dinner is $65 per person, excluding tax and gratuity. 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., (310)558-8800.

Jeni’s Splendid Ice Cream Easter treat

To satisfy your sweet tooth, Jeni’s is launching a limited-time, in-store-only release of “Chocolate Bunny,” a milk choco- late ice cream scented with vanilla “Chocolate Bunny,” a milk chocolate-time, in-store-only release of chocolate-covered matzo. Vegetarian and vegan options are available on request and will be determined by the chef on the day of the event. The traditional Jewish menu is not available. Reservations are preferred for the $120 per person dinner that includes coffee, tea and Passover wines. Children 12 and under are $65. Tax and a 20% gratuity are not included. 8225 Beverly Blvd., (323)655-6656.

Passover at Jar

On April 19, Chef Suzanne Tracht will serve her traditional Jewish holiday dinner designed to bring families and friends togeth- er. The four-course dinner is served after an informal Seder service officiated by Rabbi Ellen Nemhauser starting at 5:30 p.m. Dinner begins with tray-passed house-cured salmon, chopped liver and English pea purée. The first-course is a choice of Tracht’s matzo ball soup with lemongrass broth or butter lettuce salad with pencil asparagus, spring radish, stewed egg and pickled-leek vinaigrette. For the main course, guests may choose from Jar’s signature pot roast with celery root purée. The dessert course is a choice of Haroset or gluten-free Matzo. At 7 p.m., the Seder begins with a tradi- tional Seder plate before dinner is served. The dinner is “kosher style” and contains no dairy. Starters include Sephardic fish balls and matzo ball soup. Entrees are a choice of red wine-brined brisket, chicken Tajine, eggplant Melanzane with almond milk “Ricotta.” Roman- style baby artichokes, and Weiser farm carrots and fingering potatoes. Finish with a family-style Passover Seder that includes Haroset and Passover wines. Children 12 and under are $65. Tax and a 20% gratuity are not included. 8225 Beverly Blvd., (323)655-6656.

AR Cucina Passover and Easter specials

Passover special on Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20, will be prepared by Chef Akasha Richmond. Passover din- ner specials include Haroset all’Italiana and Matzo made with almonds, pine nuts, dates, oranges, raisins and figs; Tuscan chopped liver and Matzo; Matzo lasagna; grilled lamb chops; and baby artichokes fried in olive oil. For Easter Sunday, AR Cucina offers brunch specials including Haroset and Passover wines. Children 12 and under are $65. Tax and a 20% gratuity are not included. 8225 Beverly Blvd., (323)655-6656.

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For the Holidays!

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Sunday, April 21

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Children’s Menu
Maple Ham Served with Macaroni & Cheese and Glazed Carrots

Dessert
Slice of Du-par’s Famous Pie
Adults $25.50. Children $18.50 Served from 11:00 am

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Du-par’s

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assorted mini muffins, fresh fruit skewers assorted tea sandwiches
Peanut Butter & Jelly • Chicken Salad Mini Cheese Sandwich
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POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the area controlled by the LAPD’s Wilshire West and Hollywood divisions between March 31 and April 4. The information was compiled from www.crimemap pings.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)347-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department, (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

March 31

An unknown suspect burglarized a garage in the 200 block of S. Gale at 3:45 a.m.

At 3:32 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a residence in the 800 block of N. Beverly Drive.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Gale at 3:45 a.m.

At 4:53 p.m., an unknown suspect was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 200 block of S. Beverly Drive.

April 1

At 12:32 a.m., a suspect was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near the corner of Oakhurst and Alden.

An unknown suspect burglarized a garage in the 100 block of S. La Peer at 7:15 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200 block of N. Crescent.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of South Santa Monica at 11:51 a.m.

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of W. Third.

At 12:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6900 block of Wilshire.

April 2

At 8:28 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 9:30 a.m.

At 10:45 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8700 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 10:53 a.m.

At 9:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8500 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 600 block of La Peer at 11:32 a.m.

At 11:51 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 200 block of S. Swall at 6:44 a.m.

At 4:40 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of S. Robertson.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Doheny at 7:50 p.m.

April 3

At 3:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8600 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8600 block of Melrose at 12:45 a.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7200 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of San Vicente and Sunset at 11 p.m.

At 12:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Melrose and Stanley at 12:20 p.m.

At 5:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 5500 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Sierra Bonita and Melrose at 8 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Melrose and Genesee.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of W. Third at 8:45 p.m.

April 4

At 11:10 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Wilshire and Bronson.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Gramercy Place at 2:35 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Hollywood and Vine.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Spaulding at 11:50 a.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Colgate and San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 5700 block of Melrose at 4:35 a.m.

At 5:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6300 block of Hollywood at 9:45 a.m.

At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a building in the 1300 block of N. Sycamore.

An unknown suspect burglarized a building in the 6700 block of Colgate at 8 a.m.

At 9:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6400 block of Sunset.

April 5

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7000 block of Vine at 2:20 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 5600 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 5600 block of Wilshire at 3:50 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of S. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of S. Citrus at 5:25 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the 6100 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. June at 5:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of S. La Cienega at 6:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Schrader and Hollywood.

WHAT IS A REVOCABLE TRUST?

This week’s column will begin a two-part series on the use of Revocable Trusts (Living Trusts).

A revocable trust (sometimes referred to as a “living trust”) is a written agreement among the person creating the trust and the person creating the trust and the person named to manage the assets throughout the person’s lifetime. The revocable trust will also name the person and/or financial institution who would handle your assets in the event of your death, and how your estate and possessions will be distributed.

The revocable trust can be amended or revoked by you at any time during your life, as long as you are competent. The assets of the trust become irrevocable (not subject to change) after your death. The revocable trust may be amendable or revoked at any time during your life.

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Fine dining with a steady beat at Culina

By Jill Weinlein

A rtistic and modern Tuscan cuisine is the focus at Culina, the Italian restaurant at the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills.

Last weekend, my husband and I enjoyed an intimate dinner at Culina’s refined and comfortable atmosphere. The main dining room features sophisticated décor and excellent service. For a more private experience, dine in the glass-enclosed Grappa Room, which can accommodate up to 12 guests at an intimate table made from a 200-year-old fallen Magnolia tree.

Culina also features a top-notch culinary experience from Chef de Cuisine Luca Moriconi, now in his second year at the restaurant. However, he’s been part of the Four Seasons Hotels family for years, beginning as a junior sous chef at the Michelín-starred Palagio Restaurant at the Four Seasons Hotel Firenze before serving as the resident Italian chef at the Four Seasons Hotel Damianus, Amman and Palm Beach. A drummer, Moriconi keeps a steady beat as he takes charge and solves problems in the kitchen.

Our meal started with two types of bread, which were delivered to our table with a safe plate of Italian delicacies. One bread was sliced thick, displaying a soft interior and beautiful baked crust outside. The other was wafer thin, a crisp flat bread broken into different sizes. Both could be enjoyed with enhanced butter ribbons, cruppy fried and dried red chilies, small Italian olives and tarraili, or crunchy olives to which had been topped shaped like mini doughnuts.

Culina also offers a creative dessert menu, featured on the La La La, comprised of El Tesoro Tequila, ginger cordial, lime juice, St. Germain, agave and orange bits. It arrived in a clear old fashioned glass with a slice of lemon and a flower garnish. My husband ordered the Silk Sheets, which features Ketel One vodka, Amaro Nonino, Lillet Blanc and Peychaud’s Bitters, sip with our starters.

The night we dined, Chef Luca debuted his new spring menu. We started with the Tomno Rosso, a raw ahi tuna mixed with chopped sweet and spicy peppers. Its presentation looked like a work of art with the bright red fish placed on top of thin sliced cucumbers arranged as floral petals. Slightly toasted pine nuts gave this dish a buttery and mild pine flavor, and the Carasau flatbread crackers inserted into the middle gave the dish height and crunch. Our attentive server, Orosi from Italy, recommended pairing this dish with a pour of Montenidoli Fiore, a dry white wine that elegantly complemented the fish.

For our next course, Orosi recommended a pour of Fattoria Sardi Rosé from Toscana to pair with the charred octopus salad. The soft salmon pink-colored wine was well-balanced in minerality and acidity and offered a crisp, clean and refreshing aroma with notes of drizzled rose hips, raspberry and melon. As for the salad, four pieces of an octopus tentacle peeked out under fritty watercress and frisse leaves. Each tentacle was moist, not chewy, rubbery or dry. Again, Chef Luca presented this dish in an artistic arrangement with a cauliflower and smoked potato puree in the center for dipping and at dente

mother’s lasagne di Grazia, where he creatively recreates a classic beef lasagna and adds layers of pleasing béchamel sauce – a velvety white sauce that is more flavorful than ricotta – and a generous sprinkling of Parmigiano Reggiano. The perfectly cut square of his lasagna, which comes in a beautiful blue glazed ceramic bowl with a sienna-colored interior, is the most heavenly lasagna that I have ever tasted.

Our last main course was roasted striped bass served on another beautiful blue plate. Underneath the perfectly cooked moist fish was a bed of green beans to round out the dish. To accompany the next course, a decadent risotto biancorosso, we had a glass of 2016 straw-colored, sautéed spinach, and on top was garnished zucchini and a pleasing caper emulsion.

For dessert, we had a classic Millefoglie featuring vanilla cream, honey gelato and more shaved black truffles on top from Pastry Chef Federico Fernandez, who is known for his creative confectionery offerings. This talented pastry chef also makes tiramisu, brown butter cake, panna cotta, and an array of vegan ice cream, sorbetti and gelati. For those who choose to sip their sweets, grappa and dessert wines are available by the glass.

On our way out, we were once again struck by the décor, this time for the Flower and artwork- adorned lobby with exquisite floral pieces from celebrity floral designer and artist Jeff Leatham. A life-sized statue by American artist and sculptor J. Seward Johnson depicts a way grate, one of the most iconic sized statue by American artist and sculptor J. Seward Johnson depicts a way grate, one of the most iconic

Happy Easter!
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Between the atmosphere and the food, dinner at Culina is an elevated culinary journey that is artistically and thoughtfully presented by Chef Luca and his Four Seasons team. Culina and the attached Vinoteca wine and small bites lounge are open for dinner every Sunday through Wednesday from 6 to 10:30 p.m. and every Thursday through Saturday from 6 to 11 p.m. The restaurant is also open for breakfast and lunch daily. Culina and Vinoteca offer a Sunday brunch buffet from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. 300 S. Doheny Drive, Beverly Hills, (310)860-4000.

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impressive table made from a 200-year-old fallen Magnolia tree.

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**Passover at Larder at Tavern**

The Brentwood location offers Matzo ball soup, brisket, season sides and Passover desserts for members, then more for take-away. Easy online ordering for pick-up runs from Friday, April 19, through Saturday, April 27. The menu includes starters, salads, sides, desserts and wine. It’s ideal for completing a home cooked dinner, something to bring to a Seder, or for serving as your entire family meal. Passover orders require 48 hours’ notice and can be submitted online, by phone or in person at Larder on Vicente Blvd., (310)806-6464.

**Granville opens in Pasadena**

The new Granville offers an indoor-outdoor wraparound bar that spills out onto a sidewalk patio on Lake Ave. The menu is perfect for private parties, and the beautiful rooftop Bar Del Mar by Granville offers a wine and cocktail seating and views of the San Gabriel mountains. During the week, Granville offers dedicated area for quick-service weekday lunch for time-pressed workers. 270 S. Lake Ave., (818)981-1171.

**Club Los Angeles opens**

The London-born members club opens its first U.S. outpost in the heart of Hollywood. The creative manded social club from the late Paul Allen, global philanthropist and co-founder of Microsoft, and musician Dave Stewart offers five floors of amenities. Besides a culinary space with award-winning chef Kris Morningstar preparing thoughtfully curated cuisine, other amenities include working and entertainment spaces, a music and recording studio, and an artists lounge hosting live performances ranging from comedy to jazz. There is a rotating speaker series; a 36-seat screening room; creative workspaces; a swimming pool and pool deck; a game room; a salon offering manicures and blowouts, men’s grooming; a fitness center; and 35 spacious guest bedrooms available exclusively to members and club partners. For information, visit club.com. 1711 Vine St., (323)962-1717.

**The Pikey Easter**

O n the Sunset Strip, celebrate an Easter brunch that includes Egg Florentine, brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Specials includes a hot cross bun with butter, smushed peas and riceotto on toast. Served on hand pie with green spring salad. Executive Chef Robert Flaherty is also preparing a Sunday Easter Roast supper from 3:30 to 8 p.m. Dishes include a seven-hour leg of lamb with chicharrones special, along with traditional root vegetables, Yorkshire pudding, challah bread stuffing and roasted potatoes and gravy. 7617 Sunset Blvd., (323)850-5400.

**Easter Beach Brunch at 1 Pico**

Arrive on April 22 for an exquisite sunset celebration at Shutters on the Beach. Order a la carte, starting with a spring asparagus soup, garlic soup with pancetta and poached egg. Try the lobster Benedict with paprika hollandaise and a lobster avocado salad with grapefruit and arugula. Sweet dishes include pecan-crusted challah French toast to enjoy with spring libations, including Bellinis and cold-pressed juices. Reservations are available from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 1 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica (310)587-1717.

**Easter at the Beverly Hilton**

On April 11 and 17, Easter brunch guests can choose from a variety of favorites, including a “make your own” omelet station, a carving station and assorted breakfast pastries, and breakfast toast station with four different options: avocado toast, ricottatoast, banana toast and smoked salmon toast. Additional festivities include a gelato station, face painting and an Easter egg hunt. The price is $95 for adults and $45 for children. 9876 Wilshire Blvd. (310)887-6055.

**Easter in Malibu at Mastro’s**

Enjoy white-glove service with Easter brunch highlights including Maine lobster Benedict, crab cake Benedict, fluffy Belgian waffles, and Mastro’s savory ahi tuna burger. Signature cocktails include bubbly peach Bellinis or Mastro’s moscato with fresh mint and lime, served tall with a splash of refreshing club soda. Make a reservation for April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 18412 Pacific Coast Highway, (310)9454-4357.

**Original Farmers Market is the perfect place to prepare for Passover, Easter**

Head to the Original Farmers Market to pick up fresh ingredients for Passover on Friday, April 19, and Easter Sunday, April 21. Those planning a Passover Seder can start at Marconda’s Purim Poultry and Farmers Market Poultry, where free-range chicken is available for matzo ball soup. While there, pick up fresh eggs for hard boiling, a must-have on Seder plates.

**A luxurious Easter brunch in Beverly Hills**

Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills’ signature restaurant, Jean-Georges Beverly Hills, will be offering a special holiday menu for Easter brunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 21.

**From the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt to the Triumph of Israel**

Passover Seder, Saturday, April 20, at 7 p.m.

Rabbi Norbert Weinberg and Steven Rosenberg, Cantor Stacey Morosin invite you to enjoy:

• a reading of the account of the last Seder held in the Warsaw Ghetto
• a dance tribute to the rebirth and triumph of the Jewish people
• traditional favorites with music
• gourmet kosher meal for Passover.

An early special rate for adult admission is $55; $20 for children under 12. Special group rates are available for groups of eight or more.

Deadline for early reservations is Monday, April 15
(admission is $65 without early reservation)

1317 N. Crescent Heights Blvd.
For reservations

For information and group rates, call (323)656-3150, or email to temple@htbel.org.
Shopping for your meat with confidence at the Original Farmers Market

With so much emphasis nowadays on where food comes from and how it is produced, consumers can feel confident they are purchasing from trusted sources when shopping for meat at the Original Farmers Market, a 70-year-old institution located at 3301 Brenden Ave. The market offers a variety of products, from whole birds to specialty cut meats, dry-aged steaks, homemade sausage, chops and specialty crafted burger blends. Each merchant carries delicious, premium meat and poultry; butchers handle the cuts and prepare them for the grill or in the oven for a quick and tasty home meal.

The DeRosa family of Marconda’s Meats and Marconda’s Pork, Poultry, and Sausage, and his staff at Huntington Meat and Sausage and Farmers Market Poultry, make customers feel like family, giving expert tips and sharing family recipes. Each establishment has a long history at the market and offers a wide variety of meats, including tomahawk steaks.

Center Theatre Group selects new CEO

Center Theatre Group’s board of directors has announced the appointment of Meghan Pressman as the organization’s new managing director and CEO. Pressman joins Center Theatre Group from the D.C. Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, where she has served as managing director since 2014.

Following an international search conducted by the Arts Consulting Group, Center Theatre Group’s board of directors selected Pressman to partner with the current artistic director, Michael Ritchie in leading one of the nation’s largest and most active theatres. Pressman assumes the role of managing director and CEO, and Pressman will oversee all of Center Theatre Group’s market strategies, including audience development, marketing, institutional advancement, technology and human resources.

Center Theatre Group, a professional theatre company in Los Angeles with a long history, produces new and classic plays and musicals, and presents free education programs. The organization also works with veterans, victims of domestic violence and the LGBTQI community.

Charity to shoot free throws to shine light on homelessness

Starting at 5 p.m. April 12, members of the Dream Center Los Angeles community will have 24 hours to try to sink one free throw for every homeless person in Los Angeles, or 52,000 free throws, at the nonprofit’s campus.

“The scale of the problem is huge, and we hope that this event will help people understand really how many people need our help,” said Pastor Matthew Barnett. “Ultimately, the goal is not just to shine a light on the people who God loves, but to rally our community to provide the support they need and to transform lives.”

For nearly 25 years, the Dream Center Los Angeles has worked to address the challenges of the homeless throughout Los Angeles with that type of transformation in mind.

“The Dream Center Los Angeles has always had the goal of getting at the root problem for those we are blessed to serve,” said Pastor Caroline Barnett. “We can only do so much about the high-cost housing and low wages, but we can do a great deal to help with providing temporary release support to those struggling with various forms of trauma and even addiction.”

The Dream Center Los Angeles offers all of their residential and community outreach programs, including various types of counseling, free of charge. In addition to serving the homeless, the organization partners with various community organizations that work with veterans, victims of domestic and sexual violence, individuals with autism, and other special needs.

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For more information, visit dreamcenterla.org.
Video game convention returns to Los Angeles

After breaking a Guinness World Record for the largest ever single video game with 17,000 ticketed attendees, the Official Minecraft Community Event ‘Minefaire’ is set to return to the Los Angeles Convention Center April 13-14.

This year’s Minefaire will allow children and their parents to step into the new Minecraft mixed-reality experience, a full-body building experience that is equipped at a level still unattainable in most homes.

Fans can also enjoy the indie developer gaming zone, an escape room, a costume contest and meet-and-greets with YouTube stars.

“Minefaire has become a place where kids can make real-world connections with other children who share their love of the virtual world,” said Chad Collins, Minefaire co-founder and a father of two. “For parents, it’s a chance to breathe a sigh of relief. Your introverted children who express themselves through video games are not alone. At Minefaire, they not only belong – they thrive.”

Minefaire will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 13 and 14 at the Los Angeles Convention Center, 1201 S. Figueroa St. All-inclusive tickets start at $39.99, and admission is free for children two and under.

For information and tickets, visit minefaire.com.

Parks department offers a bevy of springtime activities

Through Sunday, April 21, the city of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks will host more than 90 fun-filled spring activities for community members and visitors of all ages to enjoy. Spring activities will be held at various Department of Recreation and Parks facilities throughout Los Angeles and most activities are free of charge to the public.

From a wild west-themed event to the Los Angeles Convention Center April 13-14, there will also be a building bat-tle, a learning lab and the world’s largest selection of official Minecraft merchandise.

Minefaire, the brain child of two fathers, lets parents be a superhero to their children for a day by taking the plunge into their digital world.

“When we launched Minefaire three years ago, we did so as two fathers who simply wanted our children to look up from their devices and interact with the real world,” said Gabe Young, Minefaire co-founder and a father of four.

“Now in cities across the country, seniors are also encouraged to join in the fun. We created Minefaire in order to give parents a chance to build a connection with their children through the power of sports to help student-athletes, especially those of color.

The team will give away a Jackie Robinson replica No. 42 jersey to the first 40,000 fans in attendance.

The Department of Recreation and Parks encourages community members to take advantage of the various free spring activities this season. For information, visit laparks.org.

Dodgers to commemorate Robinson this weekend

The Los Angeles Dodgers will join Major League Baseball in celebrating Jackie Robinson Day and his centennial birthday from Saturday, April 13, through Monday, April 15.

The Dodgers will host “Breaking Barriers: A Legacy of Jackie Robinson” on April 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. near the Jackie Robinson Statue in Lot B at Dodger Stadium. One hundred students from the BOSS Program will be welcomed by Dodger manager Dave Roberts on Robinson’s impact, legacy and how it encouraged him to break barriers in his life. BOSS is a nonprofit whose mission is to leverage the power of sports to help student-athletes, especially those of color.

Jackie Robinson Day will be celebrated with special pregame ceremonies on Monday, April 15, the 72nd anniversary of Robinson breaking Major League Baseball’s color barrier. The team will give away a Jackie Robinson replica No. 42 jersey to the first 40,000 fans in attendance.

The Dodgers will also welcome Robinson’s widow Rachel, daughter Sharon and son David, who will participate in pregame ceremonies. The event will include 42 current and former Jackie Robinson Foundation scholars (six of which are current on the spring festivities at their local senior centers.

Each year, the Department of Recreation and Parks hosts spring activities that are accessible and engaging, reminding the community that parks offer enjoyment and vitality all year long,” said Michael Shull, general manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

“The Department of Recreation and Parks encourages community members to take advantage of the various free spring activities this season. For information, visit laparks.org.

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Summer School & Camps

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Glendale production highlights struggles of the Armenian Genocide

In commemoration of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day (observed annually on April 24), the creative team behind the new musical “A Journey of Angels” will present an evening of select songs and scenes on Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. in the Herbert Hoover High School Auditorium, 651 Glenwood Road, Glendale.

“A Journey of Angels” is based on a book by Brent Beerman, who was inspired by the novel “My Mother’s Voice,” by Dr. Kay Mouradian. I t tells the story of an impassioned, 14-year-old Armenian girl named Flora who dreams of furthering her education at the American Missionary school. Flora is determined to survive against all oppression and intolerances. If we are to overcome future despots, then we must never forget what has happened to Flora and the Armenian people through the horror of the genocide.

The performance on April 18 will include students from Crescenta Valley High School’s theater department. Tickets are $20; $10 for students, and will be available at the door.

A theatrical workshop production is planned for June, with details to be announced soon. For information, call (818)426-0183, or visit ajourneyofangels.com.

KCCLA holds Korean language classes for adults

The second quarter of the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles’ Korean Language program will begin on Tuesday, April 16. Five classes (intermediate A, B and C, and advanced A and B) are offered every Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 p.m., for 12 weeks. The program is open to anyone 18 or older. KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323)936-3025, or email seung822@kccla.org.

Pan Pacific Park hosts egg hunt and spring celebration

The Pan Pacific Park Recreation Center is holding its 2019 Egg Hunt and Spring Celebration on Saturday, April 13, from 1 a.m. to 2 p.m. All ages are welcome at the event, which will include crafts, music, prizes, snacks and more. Pan-Pacific Park is located at 7600 Beverly Blvd. For information, call (323)939-8874, or visit laparks.org/reccenter/pan-pacific.

‘Authors of the Future’ praised for creativity

At the L. Ron Hubbard Achievement Awards for Writers and Illustrators of the Future Contests on April 5 at the Taglyan Cultural Complex in Hollywood, Andrew Dykstal, a writer from Arlington, Virginia, was named grand prize winner of the 35th annual Writers of the Future contest. Aliya Chen, an illustrator from Fair Oaks, California, was also named grand prize winner of the 30th annual Illustrators of the Future contest.

Four hundred guests attended the gala presented by Author Services, Inc. and Galaxy Press. The theme was retro robotics. “This year marks a historic milestone in our contests with simultaneous benchmark anniversaries, the 35th anniversary of our Writer’s Contest and, at the same time, the 30th anniversary of our Illustrators Contest,” said John Goodwin, president of Galaxy Press. “This year was also groundbreaking for another reason, in that, Aliya Chen made history becoming our first Chinese grand prize winner ever selected in either of our competitions.”

The awards show was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Taglyan Cultural Complex. The show opened with Sci-Fi Stomp and BODY Percussion Dance featuring ROV-E, a Mars Rover Robot Prototype from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and dancers from EM Cirque. Awards for each of the quarterly finalists of the Writers and Illustrators Contests were presented by actors Kate Linder, Lee Purcell, Sean Cameron Michael, Ernest Pierce and Phil Proctor, along with renowned judges specializing in the science fiction and fantasy genres. For information, visit writersoffuture.com and www.galaxypress.com.

‘Summer School & Camps’
‘Shazam!’ solves the superhero third-act problem

Even some of the best superhero films run out of steam come the final showdown. From “The Dark Knight Rises” to “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2,” going big becomes an excuse to replace sense with sensation.

And then comes “Shazam!” Any film with an exclamation point in the title deserves suspicions (and intentional deletion of that mark from here on), yet DC Films’ latest contribution supports the working theory that the franchise responsible for the less-than-stellar “Batman v Superman” might finally have emerged from its pit of despair. All it takes is a plethora of wonder, a gay character. One day, sexual diversity might make a lasting impression on the screen, even if for now, it’s easier to depict someone flying than someone who’s gay.

If sequels will build on this and provide a more brave and concrete depiction. After all, “Shazam” has plenty of room to grow, even if Dwayne Johnson never does play quintessential villain Black Adam, a dormant plan that could prove legendary if it comes true (though a mid-credit scene has other plans). A magic-based superhero can and should truly go anywhere.

Historical fact: The superhero movie genre began with the 1941 film serial “Adventures of Captain Marvel.” Almost 80 years later, the DC character returns to the silver screen with an even campier tilt, supported by an enduring story. “Shazam” is a magically fun cinematic adventure into an iconic superhero’s magical origin.
Cardenas introduces resolution honoring Cesar Chavez

U.S. Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-Pazadena) introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives recognizing the Bicentennial of Cesar Chavez. This resolution honors the life of the labor leader who organized migrant and farm workers in the United States.

“I am thankful that 70 of my colleagues in Congress have committed to support this bill, and I look forward to seeing it pass in the people’s house,” Cardenas said.

Cardenas’ father came to this country to work as a farm laborer, and his parents worked hard to support the family. Chavez fought for respect and human rights for all workers, regardless of how humble their job was. Cesar Chavez once said, “We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about the progress and prosperity for our communities.”

“That’s what I work to do every day to make sure my constituents all Americans have access to the American Dream,” Cardenas said.

Chavez is perhaps best known for founding the National Farm Workers Association and launching the United Farm Workers of America. In 1994, Chavez was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed March 31 and April 1 as Cesar Chavez Day, as Cesar Chavez Day and, later that year, directed the secretary of labor to establish a Cesar Chavez National Monument in Keene, California.

Cardenas’ legislation recognizes the accomplishments and example set by Chavez, pledges to promote Chavez’s legacy, encourages the people of the United States to commemorate that legacy and honors Chavez’s famous rallying cry, “Si se puede!” Spanish for “Yes, we can!”

For information, visit cardenas.house.gov.
The Local Agency Formation Commission consists of nine regular members and six alternate members, including representatives from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the city of Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley, the other 87 cities and independent special districts in Los Angeles County. The commission is responsible for reviewing each individual and how the mission is carried out. Crawford said to fully understand the benefits of handheld TICs, one has to put themselves in a firefighter’s boots. When they enter a burning building, there is usually thick smoke and heat, noise and personnel moving in different directions performing a multitude of tasks. Many times, the firefighter默k down on the floor below smoke and search for heat sources using the more cumbersome thermal cameras, which can be more difficult. The cameras can see heat through walls, floors, roofs and other obstructions, and are also used to find victims who may be incapacitated inside burning structures or are otherwise trapped. "The first 10 minutes in the past were the ones who carried this, so we had to rely on the information we see to the other members," Crawford said. "On the fire ground, it’s a very dynamic situation and there is a lot of noise from other teams, and commands, radios, there’s the fire burning itself, so it’s very noisy and it’s hard to talk. Picture being at a football stadium and you’re trying to talk to your partner when they score a touchdown. That’s how loud a fire situation can be. The issue was the other firefighters who were doing the work couldn’t typically see the thermal images that we see as the commander. So, each member having their own thermal imaging camera has enhanced safety a great deal.” 

The handheld TICs have three modes: one to find heat sources, which appear as white images against a black background, a color mode that serves the same function as the TIC’s built-in camera, but shows sources as white and red, and a survey mode that enables firefighters to locate "hot spots" (places were a fire is smol- dering, typically inside walls). The new TICs can also store photogra- phs that are used later for training. In addition to firefighting, Crawford said the new devices provide an invaluable in search and rescue operations, particular- ly after disasters such as earth- quakes. The LAFD is the largest municipal fire department in the nation to provide the handheld devices to all on-duty personnel.

The new TICs cost $750 each. Compared to the $10,000 price of the older models, they are a cost savings for the department. Crawford said The devices were purchased with funds provided by the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation.

The new thermal imaging cameras are a game changer when our firefighters are operat- ing in the most hazardous condi- tions.” LAFD Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas said. “They allow fire- fighters to quickly locate and res- cue trapped fire victims, as well as increasing their own safety and situational awareness while inside burning buildings.”

The donation of these new cameras goes to the heart of the LAFD Foundation’s mission to provide crucial equipment to the department that may not be fund- ed within its budget,” added LAFD Foundation President Liz Lin. “We’re working to secure additional donations with the goal of adding even more thermal imaging cameras to the LAFD inventory.”

Crawford said the handheld TICs are part of the LAFD’s push to use technology to improve efficiency, and he credit- ed Terrazas for forward-thinking policies that also increase safety. “We are trying to use technology to meet 21st century chal- lenges,” he added. “This will be a very valuable tool.”
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