No resolution reached on mixed use in Beverly Hills

BY CAMERON KISZLA

The Beverly Hills City Council was again unable to finalize discussions on an ordinance to create a mixed-use overlay zone in the city on Oct. 27.

On Oct. 13, lengthy public comments precluded the council members from discussing the matter, and on Oct. 27, after nearly five hours of council member questions and comments, the council could not come to an agreement.

The council voted 4-1 to resume discussions on the topic during the Nov. 10 study session, with Councilman Julian Gold voting against the motion to continue the discussion.

During his comments, Gold expressed support for the ordinance and had city staff address some of the concerns raised during public comments, the council could not

District 4 candidates spar at final forum

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Incumbent candidate David Ryu and challenger Nithya Raman appeared in a final election forum on Oct. 21 ahead of the Nov. 3 election, when voters will select the next representative for Los Angeles City Council’s 4th District.

The virtual forum was hosted by the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association, located in the northern portion of the far-reaching district that also includes the Miracle Mile, Hancock Park and large portions of Hollywood.

Linda Grasso, editor in chief of Ventura Boulevard Magazine, moderated the discussion.

Raman, an urban planner and homeless advocate who co-founded SELAH, a grassroots organization addressing homelessness in the Silver Lake, Echo Park, Los Feliz, Atwater Village and Hollywood communities, spoke first.

“I got into this race for, I think, a really important reason. I wanted to talk about ideas for what I saw as some of the biggest challenges facing us as a city, from homelessness to climate change to addressing neighborhood issues to addressing our city’s widespread corruption, there are so many shared crises that we are facing as a city right now,” Raman said. “I really wanted to run a campaign that puts issue forward, that put policy solutions forward and that really focused on solving what I thought was one of the biggest issues with our local L.A. city politics, which is that too few people knew who their City Council member was, knew about the

Fourteen-story office building planned for Hollywood

BY LAURA COLEMAN

A new office complex at the corner of Hollywood and Cahuenga boulevards is being proposed for development by the Canadian firm Onni Group.

The combined three-parcel commercial project will be anchored by the historic Security Pacific Bank Building and will include a new 14-story office building up to 232 feet in height, according to plans submitted to the city of L.A. Jivar Afshar said the project objectives, as well as an analysis of environmental impacts, and an investigation into feasible mitigation measures and alternatives to reduce any potentially significant impacts, he said. “The city prepares an initial study to determine if the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment.”

“Once the Draft EIR is released (which all the stakeholders will be notified), there will be an opportunity for public comment (45 day comment period),” he added. “It is difficult to say when the DEIR will be published because it is still going through the review process.”

Kristopher Larson, president of

Ethics discussion divides WeHo City Council

BY CAMERON KISZLA

A West Hollywood City Council discussion of assistance for renters turned into allegations of politically motivated actions and improperity on Oct. 19.

The discussion spanned a pair of separate, though related, items, beginning with a potential $60,000 contract for the Coalition for Economic Survival to provide advice, assistance and outreach to tenants in the city regarding their rights and options during the pandemic and its aftermath.

In a unanimous vote, that contract was ratified, and instead, the council members will allocate funding for city staff to meet any unmet needs of renters as part of next month’s reauthorization of the urgency ordinance related to COVID-19.

While the council members were in agreement that renters need help, some council members pointed out that city staff and other groups already provide such services.

“This sounds like a duplication of things that are already being done by the Alliance for Housing and Healing, by the National Council of Jewish Women and most recently, by us funding attorneys through Bet Tzedek,” Councilman John Duran said.

The larger issue with the CES contract, however, was that Mayor Pro Tempore John Heilman had initially supported bringing the contract before the council for a vote.

The council’s second item was a potential limitation on City Council members from bringing forward items that would have the city provide funds or in-kind services to organizations that endorse City Council candidates, at least for a period of time near an election.

CES endorsed Heilman in his bid for re-election on Nov. 3.

The West Hollywood City Council was split on a proposal to limit council members in bringing forward items to benefit organizations that endorse candidates.

BY LAURA COLEMAN

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50,000 ballots cast on first weekend of in-person voting

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean C. Logan announced that nearly 50,000 voters cast ballots at vote centers last weekend, after in-person voting began on Oct. 24. The registrar-recorder/county clerk’s office opened 118 vote centers for safe, in-person voting. All locations will remain open every day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Friday, Oct. 30, an additional 649 vote centers will open through Election Day.

As of Oct. 18, approximately 1.6 million vote by mail ballots had been returned in Los Angeles County. Although the Oct. 19 deadline to register to vote and receive a vote by mail ballot has passed, people can still register to vote and in-person during early voting and on Election Day using same day voter registration. Those votes will become conditional upon verification of registration.

For information and to find an in-person vote center, visit loca1voter.net.

The California Secretary of State’s office also offers resources for voters. For information, vote center locations and official ballot drop boxes, visit calsecurity.vos.ca.gov.

Groundlings Theatre Halloween

The Groundlings Theatre is holding its special Halloween-themed program “Cookin’ With GAS: Online Edition” on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. Chris Kattan, Sandra McCrea, Lauren Burns, Matt Cook, Patty Guggenheim, Kiel Kennedy and Emily Pendegast star in the short-form improv show based entirely on audience suggestions. Tickets are $12. groundlings.com/shows/cookin-with-gas-online.

‘Brett Loudermilk Halloween Special’

Don’t miss the “Brett Loudermilk Halloween Special” streaming on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 5 p.m., and Friday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. In his first live Zoom show, Loudermilk and his friends have conjured new entertainment for an absurdly fun Halloween comedy. Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, and Piddles Pity Party— one of the most popular contestants ever on “America’s Got Talent”— will join the world-famous sword-swallower Loudermilk. Special guest Gilbert Gottfried will appear as Dracula. Tickets are $25. stellarickets.com.

‘Dementia’

Join the Latino Theater Company for streaming of Evelina Fernandez’s “Dementia” running from Thursday, Oct. 29, through Thursday, Nov. 5. The innovative play covers topics including homosexuality, AIDS, teen pregnancy and euthanasia. It stars Esperanza America; Ralph Cole, Jr.; Danny De La Paz; Evelina Fernandez; Sal Lopez; Geoffrey Rivas; and Lucy Rodriguez. stealat.org.

The Journey’

The Broad Stage is holding six presentations of illusionist, mentalist and performance artist Scott Silvens’ show “The Journey” on Friday, Oct. 30, at 7 and 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 31, at 7 and 8:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 1, at 5 and 6:30 p.m. Through Silvens’ direct interactions and engagement with the audience, “The Journey” takes viewers to his childhood home in rural Scotland. It tells a long-forgotten story that reveals mysteries of the mind and unlocks the secrets of his homeland. The show also runs Nov. 2-15, at 6:30 and 8 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and Sundays at 5 and 6:30 p.m. Programming is limited to only 30 participants (as individuals or households) per show. Tickets start at $15. thebroadstage.org.

Pittance Chamber Music

Pittance Chamber Music Pittance Chamber Music, comprised of Los Angeles Opera Orchestra musicians, presents “Moderne Beauty,” with Grammy and Emmy-winning pianist Gloria Cheng, on Sundays, Nov. 1, 8, and 15, at 3 p.m. Recorded during the pandemic, the programs will be streamed online in three episodes. Viewing is free but donations are requested. pitancechambermusic.org.

American Youth Symphony

Classical music fans are invited to join the American Youth Symphony for its online Fall Concert on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m. Maestro Carlos Izcaray and 45 AYS musicians will perform music by Igor Stravinsky, Jessie Montgomery and Benjamin Britten. The concert also includes a world premiere by Izcaray. aysymphony.org.

Dia de los Muertos

The 24th Street Theatre’s annual Dia de los Muertos block party is moving online, with the celebration being held on Monday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m. Hosted by Gabriela Romero, the virtual festival will feature conguero, bandleader and vocalist Louise Cruz Beltran and his ensemble; Xochi Flores and Cesar Castro and their Son Jaracho-Chicano Cam-balache; the Aztec dance troupe Huichillo-pocilufi; ballet folklorico Sol de Fuego; and Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning actor Edward James Olmos. 24thstreet.org.

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Despite pandemic, Beverly Hills looking ahead

BY CAMERON KISZLA

Despite the pandemic, Beverly Hills is moving forward with development projects, progress is being made on the subway and the city is looking to protect its tax base, Mayor Lester Friedman said in the State of the City on Oct. 21.

As past mayors have done, Friedman spoke from Greystone Mansion, but instead of a traditional speech, Friedman answered questions from retired NBC4-weatherman Fritz Coleman as part of Beverly Hills Back to Business program. The event was hosted virtually by the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and featured speakers on many topics, including commercial real estate, air travel, diversity and inclusion, and professional sports.

Friedman spent much of his time discussing the pandemic and its effects on the city after saying “in March of this year, all of a sudden, everything went upside-down.”

With many City Hall employees working virtually and others, such as Public Works employees, maintaining infrastructure and performing other tasks that require in-person work, “we have really accomplished a lot over the past five or six months,” Friedman said, including adapting to the health regulations put in place due to COVID-19. Though the state has “ultimate control over what we do” and Beverly Hills cannot be “less restrictive than the state or the county,” Friedman said.

The pandemic has also presented some opportunities, Friedman pointed out, such as the advanced construction on the Metro Purple Line Extension subway stations. Both the La Cienega and Rodeo stations are under construction, he said, noting the La Cienega station is “much further along.”

Because of the reduced car traffic when the shutdowns began earlier this year, the city was able to fully close portions of Wilshire Boulevard, and construction on the Metro station was advanced by seven months during that period, Friedman said.

Now, the city is thinking ahead to what the areas around the stations will look like post-construction with its program “Connect Beverly Hills: Meet Me on Wilshire & La Cienega.”

“We’re starting now to look at the streetscape area to see how we’re going to improve that area to make it a welcoming area for everybody who wants to visit us, and of course for our residents,” Friedman said. When Coleman asked for a prediction on how long it will be until things return closer to pre-pandemic normalcy, Friedman was optimistic, noting that he likes “to think we’re getting closer and closer to normalcy.”

“As far as the actual timing, that’s going to depend on what the state tells us and what the county tells us,” Friedman said.

Friedman also highlighted some of the priorities for the City Council in the upcoming months, such as Measure RP, which is being put to the voters on the Nov. 3 ballot. Measure RP stands for “revenue protection,” Friedman said, and the 0.75% sales tax increase would only be implemented if another government or agency sought to pass its own sales tax.

“We want to occupy the space between what the maximum sales tax rate is in the state of California, and that maximum rate is 10.25%, and what we currently charge, which is 9.5%,” Friedman said.

If another agency imposed its own tax first, that tax revenue could leave the city of Beverly Hills and be used elsewhere, Friedman said.

“What we’re doing is we’re saying to our voters, ‘Please, let’s reserve that space. Let us, in the event a tax is put on the ballot by another entity, we want to be first in line so we occupy that space.’ If and only if a tax is actively passed will we take up that 0.75%, and if that happens, we will stay directly in the community for use for Beverly Hills facilities, for police, for fire, for public works, anything that we as a community feel that we need,” he added.

Beyond the sales tax measure, Friedman said the city will be focusing this year on a pair of development projects: the Cheval Blanc Beverly Hills, a proposal from the luxury brand LVMH to build a hotel on Rodeo Drive, and One Beverly Hills, a multi-building complex of residences, dining and retail space, a luxury hotel and botanical gardens that is Beverly Hills-based Alagem Capital Group, in partnership with Cain International, plans to build near the Beverly Hilton and Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.

“We’re really lucky that we’re having development that is going on, that is going to be out there, and we are moving forward with all of those projects.”

-Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman

ELECTION 2020 VOTE CENTERS

Voters are encouraged to either mail or use a verified Drop Box to submit ballots. All City Vote Centers will follow State and County public health guidelines including face covering requirements and social distancing protocols.

Saturday, October 24 - Tuesday, November 3, 2020
- City Hall - 450 N. Crescent Drive Parking Structure

Voting times are daily and inclusive of Saturdays/Sundays: 10AM - 7PM;
Election Day 7AM - 8PM

REQUARED

Friday, October 30 - Tuesday, November 3, 2020:
- Horace Mann School (Multipurpose Room)
- Beverly Hills Women’s Club
- Roxbury Park Community Center (Outdoor Vote Center)
- The Beverly Hilton Hotel (International Terrace)

For more info, visit beverlyhills.org/elections
Passenger in rapper’s vehicle arrested on gun charges

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Beverly Hills Police Department officers detained the rapper known as Offset and arrested a passenger in his car on Oct. 24 after receiving a report that a man in the vehicle alleged- ly pointed a gun while passing protesters at a pro-Trump rally.

Lt. Max Subin, of the Beverly Hills Police Department, said officers received information shortly after 5 p.m. from an alleged victim who claimed the gun had been pointed at him on South Santa Monica Boulevard near Beverly Drive. A license plate number was provided and officers located the vehicle a short distance from the alleged crime scene. The vehicle was driven by the rapper Offset – real name Kiari Kendrell Cephus – who is married to fellow rapper Cardi B. Officers arrested the passenger, Marcelo Almanzar, 20, for carrying a concealed weapon and carrying a loaded firearm in public, Subin said.

Almanzar is a cousin to Cardi B, whose real name is Belcalis Marlenis Almanzar, according to media reports. Offset livestreamed video of the encounter with police on social media. Some media reports stated that Offset had been arrested, which Subin said was inaccurate.

He was released, while Almanzar was booked and released on $35,000 bail.

City considers ban on private prisons

The Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office has released a draft ordinance to prohibit the operation and construction of private prisons in the city of Los Angeles, based on a proposal by Councilman Herb Wesson, 10th District.

“Profiting off of locking people up will not fly in Los Angeles,” Wesson when the motion was introduced. “This industry is an equal partner in the Trump administration’s cruel treatment of immigrant children and families, and the mass incarceration of communities of color. We call on every city and county to join us in preventing this kind of activity from operating within their borders.”

According to the Department of City Planning, staff will be available during scheduled virtual office hours to answer questions and will also host a public hearing on Nov. 12, at 5:30 p.m. to receive public comments. For information, visit herb-wesson.com.

Alleged DUI driver causes crash that claims life

A 29-year-old female driver will likely face felony charges for a collision that claimed one life on Oct. 10 on Sunset Boulevard, just northwest of Beverly Hills.

Detective Olin Osborne, with the Los Angeles Police Department’s West Traffic Division, said the driver was allegedly under the influence of alcohol when she crossed into oncoming traffic at approximately 7:55 p.m. near Mapleton Drive and crashed her Lexus hybrid into a Range Rover. A 26-year-old passenger in the Lexus was killed. The suspected DUI driver was hospitalized and is recovering.

“Essentially, PD was at the scene at the time,” he said. “The suspect crossed over into the wrong lanes and crashed into the Range Rover. Even with Uber and Lyft, unbelievably, this kind of thing still happens.”

Veterans warned about records and investment scams

Low enforcement authorities are warning about a scam targeting military veterans involving perpetrators who pose as representatives from the Veterans Administration and ask to update records. Perpetrators may also try to charge for military records that are available for free.

The suspect’s name was not provided pending charges being filed. The detective added that in a coincidence, an on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department deputy happened to witness the collision.

“The suspect crossed over into the wrong lanes and crashed into the Range Rover. Even with Uber and Lyft, unbelievably, this kind of thing still happens.”

We support David Ryu
Real experience. Real change.

Vote on or before Tues., Nov. 3
Find Official Ballot Drop Box locations at: www.lavote.net
BH braces for increased policing around election

BY LAURA COLEMAN

Regardless of who is declared the winner in the upcoming Nov. 3 presidential election, Beverly Hills police say they are ready to handle any upcoming demonstrations and potential civil unrest.

“I would say we’re the most prepared in Los Angeles County. I would even say the state, and I would venture to say the whole nation,” Beverly Hills Police Lt. Max Subin said in anticipation of the election. “You will see an incredible police presence on the streets of Beverly Hills from [Oct.] 31 on for the whole week. There’s going to be an overwhelming presence on the streets for a whole week of police officers and security guards.”

At the Oct. 27 Beverly Hills City Council study session, interim Police Chief Dominick Rivetti provided insight into election week security measures to be implemented. The department is planning for multiple protests and potential civil unrest during election week and at least the week following.

“We’re fully prepared and we will protect the entire city as we have in the past,” Rivetti said.

For seven days, BHPD plans to require the full deployment of sworn and non-sworn staff – a total of 135 BHPD officers – to work rotating 12-hour shifts. In addition, the city is contracting with the Santa Paula Police Department to provide a SWAT team of 10 officers and two sergeants for 12-hour daily shifts.

The city also plans to further supplement law enforcement services with private security from Nastec International Inc. and Covered 6 to provide 80 additional private armed security guards during election week. In addition, the city will activate its Emergency Operations Center from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (longer if needed), in addition to potentially activating partnerships with the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office as well as federal agencies. Rivetti previously said that the city would also be availing itself, as needed, to its mutual aid contract with the cities of Santa Monica, Culver City and West Hollywood, in addition to UCLA.

Starting on Election Day and continuing through Nov. 4 Rodeo Drive will be closed from South Santa Monica Boulevard all the way to Wilshire Boulevard, as well as along Brighton Way and Dayton Way.

“It’s a hard closure – no pedestrians, no vehicular traffic,” Subin said. “There’s also going to be different barricades and bike racks around the area in case we have to close off the district.”

While not mandating that businesses board up, Subin said that the BHPD is requesting that everyone ensure that windows are closed and doors are locked.

“The community should feel very prepared that their police department and the city has prepared as much as they can,” he said, under-scoring that it’s been a citywide preparedness effort which has included support from Public Works, Community Development and significant outreach to businesses and residences. “Everyone is concerned because we never want a repeat of what occurred on May 30.”

Since the protests began at the end of May after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, protest activity in Beverly Hills has continued with a variety of demonstrations, many in support of Black Lives Matter. Last Saturday’s pro-Trump protest had over 2,500 people in attendance according to Subin – the largest to date. Earlier this month, the City Council approved spending an additional $3.3 million on public safety measures and protest expenditures.

Rivetti underscored that many of the participants at last Saturday’s protest were not wearing face coverings – a mandate in the city of Beverly Hills and one of the key methods in the fight to curb the spread of COVID-19.

“In this particular group, it’s part of their platform (to not wear face coverings),” he explained of the members of the USA Freedom Rally. “It’s become a political symbol as much as it is a health issue. The politicizing of the face mask is really unfortunate,” Councilman John Mirisch said.

Following Rivetti’s presentation, Councilwoman Lili Bosse inferred about covering the iconic Beverly Hills sign. After hearing consensus among council members to cover the sign as well as other public artworks, the city is preparing to take the requisite protective measures.

Councilman Julian Gold, like his colleagues on the virtual dais, expressed his appreciation for all the hard work BHPD has been doing as well as the other city departments to ensure the city remains safe.

“Maybe the end’s in sight. Maybe not,” he said.
Program ensures meals reach vulnerable people

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Hollywood Food Coalition, a nonprofit that for 32 years has been serving meals to homeless individuals, has launched a new program to ensure food is distributed to more people in need.

Known as Community Exchange, the program redistributes food donated to the coalition and not used for its nightly meal service to other organizations serving people in the community. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, the food coalition began seeing an increase in the number of people coming for the nightly meals at the Salvation Army’s Weingart Hollywood Community Center, Executive Director Sherry Bonanno said. Administrators knew the need was also growing for other service providers and decided to begin the exchange to ensure that excess food not being served by the collation is provided to other nonprofits for their clients.

“Establishing a Community Exchange allows the Hollywood Food Coalition to extend our mission and our work to even more people during these unprecedented times, in a way that meets the particular needs of the people and organizations we serve,” Bonanno said.

The exchange is based at the Hollywood United Methodist Church, where organizations pick up the food. The exchange enables organizations to select certain types of food and amounts to specifically meet their needs.

The program was made possible through the support of benefactors and longtime partners of the coalition, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center provided $50,000 for a freezer to store food prior to redistribution. The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has also pitched in by coordinating the delivery of food from local restaurants and businesses. Children’s Hospital Los Angeles has donated prepared meals. Other donors include NBC Universal, Sprinkles Cupcakes and Canter’s Deli.

“We have been donating for years,” Jacqueline Canter said. “Every day, whatever we don’t sell, we give it to the food banks. It’s something my grandparents started. We have always believed that you should give to help more families with basic supplies and food.”

Bonanno said the Hollywood Food Coalition provides meals for approximately 200 people on weekdays at the Salvation Army, 3941 Hollywood Blvd., and 150 on weekends when food is provided to other organizations.

Approximately 172,000 pounds of food has already been distributed. “The Community Exchange has been an incredibly helpful addition to our services,” said Phoebe Paugh, of the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry. “Like many service organizations, we are struggling to fill the devastating and growing needs that COVID-19 has brought. The food and supplies we’ve received from the Hollywood Food Coalition, which is specifically tailored to our needs, has allowed us to help more families with basic supplies and food.”

Bonanno said the Hollywood Food Coalition, which has been providing meals for 32 years, received a $50,000 grant from Sprinkles Cupcakes and Canter’s Deli.

“We are trying to provide opportunities needed, and anyone wishing to help is urged to visit hofoco.org. “We have to work together to make sure the food gets to people who don’t have access to a nutritious meal,” Bonanno added. “We are trying to provide opportunities in other ways.”

LADWP offers $50M in relief

Low-income Los Angeles city residents who have been financially impacted through the loss of their job or who have otherwise experienced income loss in their household due to the COVID-19 pandemic are encouraged to apply for a one-time $500 grant to help pay their utility bills. The program is championed by L.A. City Council President Nury Martinez, 6th District, chair of the Ad Hoc COVID-19 Recovery and Neighborhood Investment Committee, and was approved by the City Council on Oct. 27. In a related action, the L.A. Board of Water and Power Commissioners approved allocating resources to support the grant program which will provide assistance to up to 100,000 low-income Angelenos impacted by the pandemic.

Applications for the $500 grant will be accepted online through LADWP’s MyAccount customer portal. For information, visit ladwp.com/financialassistance. LADWP offers $50M in relief

Through tireless determination West Hollywood has consistently broken the mold and set the bar high as the city has become one of the most influential small cities in the nation, with no other municipality its size having a greater impact on national public policy.

We are a robust economic and cultural center instilled with idealism, creativity and innovation, with a strong spirit of community activism and civic pride.

As your City Council Member, I have always worked hard to ensure a strong quality of life for all West Hollywood residents and a vibrant and productive local business community. Some of my many accomplishments include:

- Creating over 1,000 new parking spaces citywide with construction of new parking structures and lots;
- Implementing a new program to steam wash our sidewalks to remove creosote stains, gum, and debris;
- Constructing a new West Hollywood Public Library and installing high-speed Wi-Fi connections citywide;
- Restoring and improving West Hollywood’s City Parks;
- Tripling the size of the City’s Arts Budget and initiating purchase of Coast Playhouse to provide more theater;
- Providing fiscal leadership to help the City maintain its AAA bond rating and healthy budget surplus fund;
- Creating new bike lanes and pedestrian safe crosswalks;
- Creating the popular free “Pick Up Line” nighttime shuttle to improve mobility and pedestrian safety;
- Preserving Los Angeles County MTA to develop a subway line under Santa Monica Boulevard;
- Fighting to ensure our City Rent Control Ordinance adequately protects our renters;
- Authorizing a memorandum to stop apartment buildings from being torn down for new condos;
- Fighting for the first-ever City Ordinance to set aside 10% of new housing developments for affordable housing;
- Vigorously fighting to defend preservation of the Sunset Strip and its “Rock & Roll District,”
- Vigorously fighting to protect the historic, city-owned “Historic Western Motel”
- Acquiring the historic Log Cabin facility for 12-step meetings to help battle local alcoholism and drug addiction;
- Leading the charge to make sure SFPD is wisely available to prevent the spread of HIV; and
- Increasing funding for public safety, housing, and mental health treatment to decrease homelessness.

It has been an honor to represent you and the City of West Hollywood. I’d be humbled to have your support again this election.

John J. Duran
Council Member, City of West Hollywood

JOHN J. DURAN – PROVIDING EXPERIENCED & PROVEN LEADERSHIP FOR OUR CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

John J. Duran

West Hollywood City Councilman | 2020

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- Fighting for the first-ever City Ordinance to set aside 10% of new housing developments for affordable housing;
- Vigorously fighting to defend preservation of the Sunset Strip and its “Rock & Roll District,”
- Vigorously fighting to protect the historic, city-owned “Historic Western Motel”
- Acquiring the historic Log Cabin facility for 12-step meetings to help battle local alcoholism and drug addiction;
- Leading the charge to make sure SFPD is wisely available to prevent the spread of HIV; and
- Increasing funding for public safety, housing, and mental health treatment to decrease homelessness.

It has been an honor to represent you and the City of West Hollywood. I’d be humbled to have your support again this election.

John J. Duran
Council Member, City of West Hollywood
BH fights against regional housing allocation

City joins other local jurisdictions in claiming unfair burden for Southern California

BY LAURA COLEMAN

Beverly Hills moved forward on its Housing Element update that must build 3,096 new units by 2029 as part of the Regional Housing Needs Inventory. The city is appealing the Regional Housing Needs Inventory’s own grantmaking to numerous nonprofit organizations, as well as ways to ameliorate the impact of the policy, please visit www.jewishfoundations.org or contact us at (323) 761-8704, or development@jewishfoundations.org.

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At the Time They Are Needed Most, Donor-Advised Funds Empower Charitable Giving

BY STEVE GAMER

In the realm of trusts-and-estates attorney Paul Gordon Hoffman, philanthropy can serve as personal as it is professional. A founder of the Los Angeles-based, internationally recognized Los Angeles law firm Hoffman, Sabaun & Watermaker, AML, P.C., Hoffman also serves on many boards, on matters related to charitable planning and how it fits into the scheme of their larger estate plans.

Away from the office, the attorney practices what he counsels clients. For Paul and his wife, Sue, giving back plays a prominent role in their lives, and their donor-advised fund (DAF) at the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles (The Foundation) serves as an ideal vehicle for doing so.

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Cedars-Sinai: Skip trick-or-treating this year

Halloween isn’t going to be the same this year, but families can still have fun while reducing their risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19, said Dr. Priya Soni, a Cedars-Sinai pediatric infectious disease specialist.

“The bottom line is there is no safe way to celebrate a traditional Halloween in this pandemic,” Soni said.

Haunted houses are on Soni’s list of do’s because they are often poorly ventilated. She also advises parents to avoid additional Halloween traditions, including indoor parties and communal candy bowls. Soni gives a definite “no” to trick-or-treating or door to door.

“Even if your children are masked, they should not be interacting with a dozen of strangers,” Soni said.

Instead, Soni suggested parents and kids celebrate the holiday safely. They can engage in seasonal activities, such as pumpkin carving or decorating the house, or host a Zoom costume contest with friends and family.

If there is a get-together, they should make sure everyone is masked and it’s outdoors.

When it comes to masks, parents should be aware that a costume mask won’t prevent virus spread, Soni said. Many costume masks only cover the eyes or half the face, such as the well-known Batman mask. Other full-face costume masks have a mouth hole, enabling the spread of respiratory droplets, which carry the virus.

“We understand Halloween is a really fun holiday that children look forward to,” Soni said. “But we may have to skip some of the fun this year while looking for unique and different ways to celebrate safely at home.”

Soni added that since households are often smaller this year, there will be less socializing or trick-or-treating or door to door, and it’s a smaller risk for virus spread.

Cedars-Sinai is located at 8700 W. Sunset Blvd. For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

Garcetti announces roadmap to help manufacturing recovery

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Recovery Roadmaps—a program to help small and medium-sized manufacturers in Los Angeles navigate the economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Los Angeles is a manufacturing capital, and with COVID-19 dealing a devastating blow to this vital sector, we have to equip our small manufacturers with the tools and resources required to come back stronger than ever,” Garcetti said.

“So many factories used their assembly lines to deliver masks, gowns and personal protective equipment to workers on the front lines of this pandemic, and Recovery Roadmaps will help these essential businesses navigate our new reality and weather these unprecedented times,” he added.

Recovery Roadmaps is working with California Manufacturing Technology Consulting to provide participating manufacturers with individualized plans to help them adapt to the current economic climate. This initiative seeks to assist 3,500 small and medium-sized manufacturers in the Los Angeles region to Sept. 30, 2021.

Recovery Roadmaps can help manufacturers navigate the economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Recovery Roadmaps—a program to help small and medium-sized manufacturers in Los Angeles navigate the economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are excited to partner with the city to get manufacturers the help they need to navigate these difficult economic conditions,” said Jim Watson, president of CMTC.

“With the city’s help, I know we will reach the small and medium-sized manufacturers who are in the most need of these Recovery Roadmaps.”

The city is also leveraging its network of business WorkSource Centers to connect manufacturers to the Recovery Roadmaps program. Any manufacturer in the Los Angeles area with fewer than 500 employees is eligible to participate, and interested businesses can visit offers.cmtc.com/covid19-recover-yroadmaps.

“The Recovery Roadmap program has been integral in providing invaluable support, guidance and up-to-date information, as our organization continues to navigate the hardships brought on by the pandemic,” said Arthur Dujhani, CEO of Armencos Catering Truck Manufacturing Co. “CMTC and the city’s assistance has enabled us to quickly comply with local health orders, obtain new contracts and an influx of new business and retain and reinstate employees.

Because of CMTC’s efforts, we are very confident that our more than 40-year-old business will continue to operate and contribute to the city of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County and the state of California. We recommend working with CMTC and signing up for their Recovery Roadmap program.”

L.A. County announces modified reopenings

Los Angeles County on Oct. 23 issued a new health officer order which continues to relax restrictions during the recovery period from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Personal care services such as tattoo and massage parlors, body waxing and tanning salons (in addition to hair and nail salons) can reopen indoor operations in L.A. County with modifications.

The health order also allows outdoor operations such as go-karts, mini-golf and batting cages to reopen. At breweries and wineries, reservations will no longer be mandatory, although they are strongly recommended.

The order also lifts the 25% occupancy restriction for hair and nail salons, allowing them to operate indoors at full capacity as long as social distancing is adhered to. Only single services can be performed, and hair stylists will only be permitted to work on one client at a time.

Also announced on Oct. 23, the percentage of high-needs students permitted at a school campus for on-site learning has been increased from 10% to 25%, allowing more students to return for in-person instruction and services.

Businesses in Beverly Hills are still encouraged to continue operating outdoors through the city of Beverly Hills OpenBH program. For information, visit beverlyhills.org/openbh.

To read the health order, visit publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/.

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.
Congressmen introduce bills to strengthen accountability

Los Angeles City Councilmen David Ryu, 4th District, and Paul Koretz, District 5, recently introduced two motions seeking to commit the city of Los Angeles to independently join the international 30 by 30 conservation campaign.

Joining the campaign will commit the city to conserving 30% of its land for open space and conservation by 2030 in an effort to combat climate change.

“Climate change is an international crisis, and we need to take bold, collaborative action to effectively turn the tides,” Ryu said. “The scientific community has made it clear in order to stop the extinction and climate crises we’re currently experiencing, we need to conserve more of our lands and waters than we currently are. This legislation will set a clear, achievable goal, and one that is a necessary step towards meeting our long term climate goals.”

“Seventy years ago, Aldo Leopold called for a new land ethic, a moral responsibility to include in our definition of ‘community’ not only humans, but animals, plants, waters and soils. We now face global biodiversity collapse if we do not act quickly and actively heed Leopold’s sage advice,” Koretzt said. “I am so pleased to partner with Councilmember Ryu to aim for adding another essential piece to the city’s growing biodiversity tool kit. We belabour preserving at least 30% of our land for the natural world which sustains us all.”

One motion instructs city departments to report back on the feasibility of Los Angeles independently joining the 30 by 30 conservation campaign. The second seeks a citywide resolution in support of any legislative or administrative action that would protect 30% of land and waters for open space and conservation.

On Oct. 7, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order setting a goal of conserving at least 30% of California’s land and coastal waters by 2030, making the state the first state to join 38 countries that had made similar commitments. It is estimated that nationwide, 14% of the land and 12% of marine area is currently protected.

Research at the University of Southern California Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics are collaborating with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health on a project to examine the use of coronavirus, and more accurately assess tests among first responders and school-aged children.

The multi-pronged pilot study was announced on Oct. 27 and aims to determine the best methods for using insensitive tests, with the hope of supporting additional reopening efforts. Rapid antigen tests can cost as little as $5, deliver results within 15 minutes and can be conducted using a paper strip. By comparison, PCR tests cost approximately $100 and can take days for results.

Rapid antigen tests can also be self-administered when paired with a smartphone app that can accurately interpret results. The potential to quickly alert people who are contagious and need to isolate, potentially stopping the chain of transmission.

Los Angeles is one of the first cities in the country to launch a large-scale pilot study of rapid tests in symptomatic and asymptomatic populations.

“Our new rapid tests are cheaper, faster, and more accessible — and they are a potential game changer in our ability to respond to COVID-19,” Garcetti said. “Los Angeles never shies away from a challenge, and we are tapping into our trademark creativity, our innovative spirit and our strong partnerships with USC and the county to advance groundbreaking research, prevent the spread of this virus and save lives.”

The first phase of the project began last week with Los Angeles Fire Department firefighters receiving three COVID-19 tests at city testing sites: a self-administered rapid antigen test, a lab-based PCR test and an antibody test to identify prior infection. The project, which aims to enroll up to 1,000 first responders, will provide insight into how each test performs and how to best administer the tests to essential workers.

“Rapid antigen tests have a lot of promise in our path to reopen schools and businesses because they are cheaper and provide quicker results than PCR tests. But there is a lot we don’t know,” said Neeraj Sood, director of the COVID Initiative at the USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics. “We want to understand whether rapid antigen tests identify infections and asymptomatic individuals, whether they can be self-administered and how they can be used for screening at schools and workplaces. We are especially excited to be piloting a new rapid antigen test and mobile app that uses computer vision technology to automatically interpret results.”

The second phase of the project seeks to assess the feasibility, acceptability and accuracy of repeat rapid antigen testing for screening in school-aged children. Sood, along with USC Keck School of Medicine Professor Jennifer Unger, will co-lead the project to determine the best process and strategy to test large numbers of students in institutional settings. Both phases will rely on volunteers as study participants.

“This partnership with USC and the city of Los Angeles is an enormous opportunity to implement cutting-edge research that has the potential to transform the way we approach the pandemic and how we can slow the spread of COVID-19,” said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “Identifying strategies to protect our essential workers and get children back to school safely are among our highest priorities.”

School administrators interested in participating can email covidstudy@healthpolicy.usc.edu.
Los Angeles County Health Officer Dr. Dr. Barbara Ferrer issued a health advisory on Oct. 26 for private gatherings and public events. Ferrer advised that the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission is high based on an increasing rate of community transmission.

Since early October, Los Angeles County has reported a number of daily cases has increased from approximately 940 per day to a peak of 2,340 on Wednesday. Moreover, recent contact tracing interviews over the course of three weeks showed that 55% of the people who knew of a possible exposure had attended an event or gathering where two or more people were sick.

To prevent future spread of COVID-19, Ferrer said, “we must do better.” This includes avoiding gatherings and events that do not comply with the county’s health orders to celebrate at home with members of the same household.

The Protecting Miranda Rights

Miranda rights at extremely high standards

Cardsa said research shows that children waive their rights that do not comply with the legal system that unfairly keeps young people in custody for years following the federal census to determine how many people lived in a particular household in order to represent the number of seats that will be apportioned to the state in the U.S. House of Representatives. The census is only one aspect of the redistricting process, but it is a critical factor in determining how many representatives each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The West Hollywood City Council has published the list of the 60 most qualified applicants to the Citizens Redistricting Commission. The citizens advisory board will advise the city council on redistricting matters.

Letters to the Editor

WeHo prepares for Transgender Awareness Month

The city of West Hollywood will host a transgender remembrance ceremony via Zoom in November.

Bill will provide extra protections for children

People planning to host or attend private gatherings must adhere to county public health protocols. All gatherings must be held outdoors with physical distancing between members of different households, and must be limited to three households. Face coverings must be worn when not eating or drinking, and food must be in single-use disposable containers. Gatherings are required to be two hours or less.

As cases are increasing in our community, so is the risk of COVID-19. We have a lot to celebrate in the county, and it is critical that we all take action to slow the spread as we do,” Davis said. “That means not participating in public celebrations of any kind, which must be canceled.

Community members who are interested in volunteering in the traditional reading of names will be asked to recite the name of at least one person and share brief biographical details of that person, memorialized along with the circumstances surrounding their deaths.

Community members who are interested in participating as name readers will be provided additional production-related details upon being selected to be part of the names reading portion of the event. As there are 60 names, and over 40 volunteers, capacity for participation is limited and not all volunteer requests will be able to be fulfilled.

Community members interested in taking part in this event should contact Heman Molina at hmolina@weho.org or (323)848-6064 and provide full name, phone number and an email address. For information, visit weho.org/calendar.

WeHo City Hall

333 N. Robertson Blvd

I know that David Ryu is that man who knew or loved his city in a way that few could, if any, understand. But I do know this: many leadership roles are given to people who do not face the same issues as the people they represent.

I know that David Ryu is the type of leader who has faced the issues on the ground. I never said I knew or loved him, but I can only get so far in understanding the hard issues of the day.

I've got kids and I'm a family man, and I'm not as involved as Los Angeles pols. But I do know this: many leaders talk a good talk, but David Ryu, I know - a man who loves his city, and will do anything – even put himself at risk – to heal communities and bring people together.

I no longer live in Los Angeles. I've got kids and a family, and I'm not as involved as Los Angeles pols. But I do know this: many leaders talk a good talk, but David Ryu actually walked the streets of South L.A., he worked in these communities and he learned, firsthand, our struggle. Not a lot of leaders can say that.

I know that David Ryu is that kind of leader. I have never met a man who knew or loved his city and, that’s the kind of leader L.A. needs, especially now.

Nathan Redfern

Academy of Children and Adolescent Psychiatry recognizes that children’s brain development, specifically the area related to reasoning, continues to mature into early adulthood.

For information, visit cardenas.house.gov.
Safer at Home This Halloween

To protect the health and safety of the community during COVID-19, the following is prohibited in the City of Beverly Hills on Saturday, October 31, 2020:

- House-to-house trick-or-treating or car-to-car trunk-or-treating.
- Spraying shaving cream on others (except within their home or residence or for licensed barbers on their customers).
- Providing candy or other Halloween treats or toys to any person outside their household.

Closed to pedestrian and vehicle traffic, local-access only (Oct. 31 from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.):

- Carmelita Avenue at Wilshire Boulevard
- Walden Drive Southbound at Elevado Avenue
- Walden Drive at Santa Monica Boulevard
- Carmelita Westbound at North Linden Drive
- The alley between North Linden Drive and Walden Drive from Santa Monica Boulevard to Elevado Avenue

For virtual Halloween activities and more information, visit beverlyhills.org/halloweenbh

#BHHealthyCity
Metro seeks waiver to work during the holidays

Metro is providing updates on Purple Line Extension construction in Century City. A webinar with information about the project will be held on Nov. 18 and expected to run from 1 p.m. To listen to the webinar, call (213)279-1001, and use the Conference ID: 856 953 689#. Phone participants will not be able to participate in the public Q&A. To ask questions during the webinar, to have questions answered, call (213)292-6934, or email purplelineext@metro.net. Allow 20 hours for a response. To register, visit metro.net/projects/notices/events_purplelineext.

Metro is planning work at many locations along the route. To the west, full closure will be implemented on Stars and Constellation Boulevard. The Los Angeles County Fire Department is scheduled to conduct the first quarter of 2021. Underground work is occurring 24 hours at the site. Hauling and deliveries are ongoing at the construction staging area. Instruments are also being installed at the Wilshire/La Brea station construction. Community access to the construction staging area will continue.

LAFD uses advanced technology to fight fires

The Los Angeles Fire Department debuted the first robotic firefighting vehicle in the United States, putting it to use on its first day in service on Oct. 13. The Thormit RS3, manufactured by Textron: Howe & Howe Technologies, is a compact, low-center of gravity, wide chassis industrial robot firefighting vehicle. It is capable of flowing 2,500 gallons per minute and is remotely operated with a controller that provides high-definition video for enhanced maneuverability in difficult conditions. The robotic firefighting vehicle was used to help extinguish a fire that erupted on Oct. 13 in commercial buildings in the Fashion District in downtown Los Angeles. New challenges continue to emerge in firefighting, and the LAFD is committed to leveraging technology to enhance operations while reducing risk to firefighters, LAFD Chief Ralph Terrazas said. The RS3 will assist with interior fire department,” he said.

Metro board approves NextGen bus plan to improve transit

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors recently approved the NextGen Bus Plan, an effort to redesign and repurpose the entire bus system to better meet the needs of riders. Approved changes will begin in December and will be phased in through the end of 2020.

The NextGen Bus Plan is designed to cover public transit designed to ease traffic, reduce emissions and help get Angelenos out of our cars.” When NextGen is fully implemented, there will be more frequent, all-day bus service on more routes, shorter wait times for buses and more reliable service. The plan calls for buses to run every five to 10 minutes for 83% of current riders, compared to 48% previously.

NextGen aims to adjust bus routes and maximizes service on key corridors with the highest demand. The best local and rapid bus lines will be combined to offer more service in a smaller footprint. NextGen changes will be coordinated with the agency’s launch of new on-demand Metro Micro service beginning in December. For information, visit purplelineext@metro.net.
Hospital ranks high in LGBTQ inclusivity

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles has been awarded the LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader designation by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, an indicator of the hospital’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Human Rights Campaign Foundation annually evaluates healthcare facilities across the United States with its Healthcare Equality Index. The Healthcare Equality Leader title is given only to hospitals achieving an HEI score of 100. CHLA has earned the designation for three consecutive years.

“Perhaps more than any year, 2020 has been a clarion call that discrimination in any form is a barrier to proper, equitable health care,” CHLA President and CEO Paul S. Viviano said. “At Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, we not only serve every patient and their family with hope, compassion and respect; we value the broad experience and background that each team member brings to the continuum of care. I am proud of CHLA’s three-time designation as a Healthcare Equality Leader because it is a clear sign of the organization’s continued commitment to providing the same world-class pediatric care and experience for all patients and families.”

The HEI was developed to provide healthcare facilities information and resources to ensure LGBTQ patients have access to patient-centered care. This year’s survey evaluated 765 U.S. health care facilities, including 35 children’s hospitals, on their inclusive policies and practices toward LGBTQ patients, visitors, and employees. In the 2020 report, CHLA was among 495 facilities that earned the Healthcare Equality Leader designation.

Organizations were evaluated on four major criteria related to the equitable treatment and inclusion of LGBTQ patients, visitors, and employees. The criteria included staff training in policies related to equal visitation, patient and employment non-discrimination, as well as training in LGBTQ patient-centered care; patient and employee benefits and policies, including availability of transgender-inclusive health coverage; and patient and community engagement.

The HEI helps LGBTQ patients find healthcare tailored to their needs and serves as a valuable resource for the healthcare industry in adopting best practices.

“This designation is a testament of our work,” Paul S. Viviano said. “I am grateful to all of our providers, staff and families who continue to work together to ensure a culture of inclusion and care for all families.”

To further develop an intentionally inclusive enterprise where all feel valued, where diversity and health equity thrives and where patients and families can receive exceptional care, CHLA has appointed an LGBTQ, gender identity, and equity officer. “We are honored for the designation, and we realize we still have work to do to further develop an intentionally inclusive enterprise where all feel valued, where diversity and health equity thrives and where patients and families can receive exceptional care,” Viviano said.

For information, visit chla.org.

State experts to test COVID-19 vaccines before distribution

Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced that Washington, Oregon, and Nevada have joined California’s COVID-19 Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, which will independently review the safety and efficacy of any vaccine approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for distribution. Last week, Newsom announced the panel of nationally-acclaimed scientists with expertise in immunization and public health.

“California has led with science and data through the COVID pandemic and when a vaccine becomes available, we will leverage our scientific expertise to verify its safety.” - Gov. Gavin Newsom

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In April, California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado and Nevada joined a western states group shared vision for fighting COVID-19 and reopening economies. Leaders from those states urged congressional leaders in May to approve $1 trillion in COVID-19 relief for state and local governments and are partnering to pilot a project testing new exposure notification technology pioneered by Google and Apple.

For information, visit go.ca.gov.

Pink’s donates to the Dodgers

To commemorate the Dodgers winning the 2020 World Series, Pink’s Hot Dogs is donating $1,000 in proceeds from sales of its celebratory Blues Bacon Chili Cheese Dogs to the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation.

Pink’s sold 389 Blues Bacon Chili Cheese Dogs during the World Series for $4.88 each, with the 98 cents representing the last year the Dodgers won the title. Owner Richard Pink is a longtime Dodgers fan and celebrated each year when the team went to World Series by decorating the stand in blue and offering a special hot dog. After 2017 and 2018, the third time is a charm, he said.

“Now in 2020, the great Dodgers have brought home a World Series crown,” Pink added.

Karl M. Greenberg Staff Writer

For information, visit chla.org.
Lieu seeks to stop homelessness before it starts

BY CAMERON KISZLA

A House of Representatives bill introduced earlier this month by U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Torrance) would look to address homelessness by stopping people from becoming homeless in the first place.

Lieu’s Prevent Homelessness Act would create a $500 million housing stabilization fund — $100 million per year for fiscal years 2021-25 — to allow the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs to help prevent people from becoming homeless, with a variety of costs beyond simply rent, such as food, transportation, and utilities. If appropriate, the funding would go to local continuums of care, the regional authorities that oversee housing and services for those experiencing homelessness.

“When you look at people who fall into homelessness, they can’t withstand an extra charge of $500, whether it’s related to a car repair or a medical bill or a legal service that they need,” Lieu said. “The purpose of this bill is to help the very low income withstand some of the shocks that have come from this pandemic. The best way to prevent the homeless problem from growing is to keep people from becoming homeless in the first place.”

The federal government has “traditionally had a limited jurisdiction on the homelessness issue,” Lieu said, with much of that focus given to homeless veterans. Federal intervention can be effective, Lieu added, pointing out that while California’s homeless population has grown in recent years, the number of those experiencing homelessness has not seen a commensurate spike.

Homelessness is a national issue, Lieu said, and has “an immediate challenge head-on, as we do with any crisis, connecting families with supports like rent and food assistance, but there is much more to do to stem the rising tide of housing insecurity. The bill Congressmen Lieu is introducing is a smart and much-needed measure to ensure we bring to bear all the resources we can to keep families housed, especially those that are struggling to stay afloat financially.”

“I’m very pleased that we have the leadership of congressional Democrats in the United Way, many homelessness-specific organizations such as People Assisting the Homeless or PATH, I’m very proud that the Los Angeles Mission supports this legislation and organizations such as the Venice Family Clinic as well,” Lieu said.

Lieu said that the bill “corresponds with my goal: helping this community be a better place. It is the one that have the least.”

Karen Lauterbach, director of homelessness, said: “This project has been made possible because of continued community support and input,” Wesson said. “We will continue to need those community-driven insights as we open and begin to operate Hope on Lafayette so that we can assure our unhoused neighbors are able to get to roof over their heads and the services they need to get back on their feet and into a permanent home.”

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the Venice Family Clinic as well,” Lieu said.

Karen Lauterbach, director of homelessness initiatives at United Way of Greater Los Angeles, said: “This landmark moment to finally be sitting together at one table and focused on one goal: helping this community be safe and welcoming for everyone who calls this home.

The following organizations will have one representative each on the council, in addition to two people with lived experience of homelessness: Breaking Through Barriers to Success, Hope of Los Angeles, the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles, Kloned for All, Latino A.M., the LA Regional Homeless Authority, MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council, Rampart Village Neighborhood Council, City of Los Angeles Lafayette Park Director, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, and Whittier Community Coalition.

Los Angeles County has taken steps to implement a community-controlled public safety staffing model for parks.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently approved a motion authored by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas, Hilda Solis and Janice Hahn, 4th District, authorizing the acting chief executive officer, and the director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to address a gap in public safety services. The board is seeking a report back with alternative solutions, including the implementation of alternative crisis resolution strategies.

The supervisors want to prioritize a more equitable, safety-focused and anti-racist framework to reduce an over-reliance on law enforcement in parks. The initiative also makes further investments in alternative crisis response and violence prevention strategies.

Since 2009, the sheriff’s department has provided community policing through the Parks Services Bureau. However, Villanueva recently announced plans to eliminate the program entirely and reallocate funding elsewhere. As a result, the board is also calling for appropriate fiscal safeguards to ensure that funds provided to the sheriff’s department for park services are used for the intended purpose.

“Parks make life better, but they can only do so if they are safe spaces, and they are committed to working with the families and stakeholders we serve to make sure that is the case,” said Norma Edith García-González, managing director of homelessness services for the Venice Family Clinic.

The Prevent Homelessness Act aims to keep extremely low-income people and families in their homes.

“The best way to prevent people from becoming homeless to begin with is to support those who are falling on hard times immediately,” Lieu said. “It’s also the more humane and ethical thing to do,” Lieu said.

Lieu’s bill has garnered support from multiple local and national groups.

"I’m very pleased that we have the leadership of congressional Democrats in the United Way, many homelessness-specific organizations such as People Assisting the Homeless or PATH, I’m very proud that the Los Angeles Mission supports this legislation and organizations such as the Venice Family Clinic as well," Lieu said.

Lieu added that this bill’s flexibility in allowing for money to be used for a variety of purposes was a major draw for the Venice Family Clinic. "We understand the needs for programs to have rules and regulations in place, but when they’re too strict, you can’t provide the help that they need,” she said.

The local-control aspect was also a plus, Lauterbach said, as what the homeless community needs in one city is different from what would best help people experiencing homelessness in another city of the country.

"Let’s let the community figure out what is the best way to solve these issues," she said.

Lieu added that this bill will be most beneficial to those who are on the edge of becoming homeless, and if approved, the housing sta- bilization fund could prove to be the difference.

"The point of this bill is, if you’re currently not homeless and you’re able to hang on, just barely, you should have the opportunity to continue to function in society. We just need to give you some help so you don’t fall into homelessness," Lieu said.
Allen recognizes JFSLA as Nonprofit of the Year

Jewish Family Service Los Angeles was recently selected as a Nonprofit of the Year in the 26th District by California Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica).

JFSLA is one of over 100 other nonprofits that will be honored by state senators and assembly members in districts around the state for contributions to the communities they serve.

“We are deeply grateful to Jewish Family Service L.A. for stepping up to provide even more crucial services to our most vulnerable neighbors during this especially challenging year,” Allen said. “JFSLA embodies the best of Jewish social justice values with their sustained support of all faiths and ethnicities.”

JFSLA is a comprehensive network of support services that welcomes individuals and families of all ages and identities to a full spectrum of care. The staff and volunteers work closely with individuals and their loved ones, providing critical services and support.

“The staff and volunteers of Jewish Family Service L.A. make a difference every day in the lives of thousands of Angelinos,” JFSLA President and CEO Eli Veltzer said. “We are deeply humbled to be recognized by Senator Ben Allen as a Nonprofit of the Year.”

For the last five years, legislators from across California have chosen a Nonprofit of the Year in their district. Traditionally, Assemblywoman Monique Limón, chairwoman of the Assembly Select Committee on the Nonprofit Sector, invited legislators and honorees to a celebratory luncheon on California Nonprofit Day in June. This year, the luncheon was canceled due to the pandemic, but legislators have still honored nonprofits doing outstanding work in each district.

The pandemic and shelter-in-place orders of the last few months have put nonprofits—usually hidden in plain sight—in the spotlight, said Jan Masada, CEO of the California Association of Nonprofits. “California Nonprofit of the Year is an opportunity for our elected officials to celebrate the good work they see nonprofits doing in their districts, and for everyone to appreciate the collective impact of nonprofits in our communities.”

According to a 2019 report commissioned by the California Association of Nonprofits, the nonprofit sector is the fourth largest industry in the state, employing more than 1.2 million people.

For information, visit sd26.senate.ca.gov and jfsla.org.

Pilot program uses unarmed crisis response teams

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti was joined by city and county leaders on Oct. 26 to announce the creation of the Therapeutic Transportation Pilot, a new model for unarmored crisis response that will dispatch mental health workers to some 911 calls for emergency assistance with nonviolent situations.

“Reform moves faster when you lead with purpose and embrace partnerships that move the needle.” Garcetti said. “Reimagining public safety means taking bold steps forward to make everyone safe and secure. The Therapeutic Transportation Pilot can become a model for communities everywhere that want to meet this moment by making meaningful change.”

The pilot project, set to launch in early 2021, will remove armed response from situations that do not require it by dispatching mental health experts to respond to certain 911 emergency calls that might otherwise be routed to local law enforcement agencies. The program, which will be examined for one year with an aim to expand to other cities across L.A. County, will embed teams of mental health professionals in five Los Angeles City Fire Department stations. They will respond and attempt to de-escalate emergency nonviolent calls 24 hours. Individuals in crisis will be transported to a location where they can be stabilized in a therapeutic, van designed to meet their needs and accompanied by clinicians who can provide support and access to mental health care.

“This is another step forward in Los Angeles County’s efforts to vastly improve treatment for those experiencing a mental health crisis in a more thoughtful and effective way,” said L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District. “As a long-time advocate for more accessible and effective treatment, it is an honor to be a part of this program and partner with the city of Los Angeles to enhance mental health services for those in crisis.”

“Too often, when someone is experiencing a mental health crisis, this individual is met by an armed public safety response, which can escalate the situation by increasing the individual’s stress and anxiety,” said Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Director Jonathan E. Sherin. “This approach can be counterproductive to helping stabilize the individual experiencing the emergency. This expansion of L.A. County’s Therapeutic Transportation Program in partnership with L.A. City Fire will further help individuals experiencing these mental health emergencies get the support and care they need in a time of crisis.”

The new Therapeutic Transportation Pilot project will use teams of mental health professionals who will respond to nonviolent crises and transport patients in specially-designed vans.
**RESTAURANT NEWS**

by Jill Weinlein

**Halloween Festivities**

**Idle Hour Brunch and Movie Night**

Enjoy weekend brunch on Idle Hour’s iconic al fresco patio from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The barrel-shaped structure is part of the Programmatic architecture movement from the 1920s and 1930s, when business owners designed their buildings to catch the attention of quick-passing motorists. On Oct. 31, they will be showing back-to-back Halloween-themed movies starting at 5 p.m. The lineup includes “Hocus Pocus,” “Psycho” and “Halloween.” There will be spooky-themed drinks and endless popcorn. Seating is limited due to capacity protocol and reservations are highly recommended via Resy.

Nueva encourages costumes

Celebrate Dia de los Muertos in costume at Nueva during brunch, lunch and dinner on Saturday, Oct. 31. Starting at 10:30 a.m., enjoy a special menu of pumpkin tacos with pumpkin-seed salsa and flaming margaritas, mezcal mummies, tequila vampires or zombie cocktails. 822 Washington Blvd., (310)747-6090.

Halloween at The Mermaid

Make a reservation to the Mermaid’s “Fangtastic Feast & Libations” Halloween Party on Oct. 31. There are two seatings, a costume contest and lively tunes played by DJ Danny. This Eventbrite-ticketed event will also feature themed drinks and food. There is an option to purchase additional tricks and treats. First seating is from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., and the second seating is from 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. 428 E. Second St., (213)947-3347.

Enjoy a staycation at Sofitel Los Angeles at BH

Gracias Madre Halloween at home or there

Gracias Madre is selling a cocktail party kit for Angelenos to bring home and enjoy on Halloween and Day of the Dead. Each kit comes with a signature can of Patricia Margarita for two, a mini bottle of Brusco Mezcal, plus house-made salsa, fresh guacamole and skull chocolates made by executive chef Mario Alberto. For those who decide to dine on Gracias Madre’s beautiful patio on Halloween, come in costume and see the Dia de los Muertos altar. Have your photos taken in the Halloween photo booth and enter your photo and contact information into a drawing. A winner will be chosen on Nov. 1. The winning costume will receive a $100 Gracias Madre gift card. Order for pickup or delivery by calling the restaurant or go to their website graciasmadre.com 8905 Melrose Ave., (323)978-2170.

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We Are The Blue Plate Express Champions!
Uplifters Kitchen

Since Halloween might look a little different this year, anyone who comes into Uplifters Kitchen on Halloween in a costume and mask will receive a bag of treats. Bags may include Halloween stickers, Venn Earth organic lollipops, almond butter chocolate cups and organic candy corn. Breakfast and lunch are available to enjoy from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 2819 Manchester Blvd., (310)645-4707.

Halloween Rooftop fun

As Halloween approaches, E.P. & L.P. and the new Tulum-inspired pop-up La Palmita offer the public both socially distanced Halloween and Day of the Dead workouts. Costumes are encouraged for guests to wear while entering a spooky, Halloween-themed space offering affordable, individual small plates and elevated bar bites from $8 to $15. Start with a Bloody Spritz made with blood orange juice, prosecco, Aperol and bitters. Walk-in availability for parties of four or six people are available from noon to 2 a.m. Enjoy a Day of the Dead brunch starting at noon on Saturdays, Oct. 31, and Sunday, Nov. 1, for Yucatan-inspired menu options. Items available include a lobster mole enchilada, surfboard tacos, alongside a specially Michelinada in collaboration with Calidad Beer. There will be plenty of Instagram moments, from larger-than-life Calaveras to an orange backlit photo booth. Brunch reservations are required for parties of four or six people starting at noon. Call to reserve a socially distanced outdoor table on the rooftop. 603 N. La Cienega Blvd., (310)845-7470.

Jerry’s Patio Cafe & Bar Election Day

On a Halloween weekend, Oct. 30-31, enjoy an immersive pizza party with food, a story and game for two people for $32.99 per person. There is also a party of four for $57.99 per person. Hours are Friday at 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For those outside the delivery zone, pick up your party kit at Ghost Pizza Kitchen. Reserve your package at vipingezpizza/delivery, 7511 1/2 Melrose Ave.

Fellow reopens in Westwood

An all-new menu, Cal-French dinner menu is now available at the reopened Fellow in Westwood Village. Vegetable-forward items include grilled avocado, and sustainable seafood dishes include shrimp cannelloni. The Galerie, housed within the same walls as Fellow, is a hub for creative exploration, enticing all the senses. Fellow is open Wednesday through Saturday starting at 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. 1071 Glendon Ave., (310)208-1030.

Halloween treats at Playa Provisions

Pastry chef Kristin Feuer is bak-ing tricks and treats for Halloween through the end of November. Her apple fritters are served with Laird’s apple brandy-infused caramel and apple fritters are served with Laird’s apple brandy-infused caramel and wine. Order and pick up or sit down within the same walls as Fellow, is a hub for creative exploration, enticing all the senses. Fellow is open Wednesday through Saturday starting at 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. 1071 Glendon Ave., (310)208-1030.

“Scream” pies are available to pur-chase until Halloween. 119 Culver Blvd., (310)663-8191.

SocialEats rewards voters

Both SocialEats Santa Monica and SocialEats Hollywood is rewarding voters who show their I Voted sticker on election day. Diners will receive a free order of Freedom Fries with a purchase from Voltaggio STRFSH or Pop’s Burgers & Shakes. Pickup orders, outdoor patio seating are available at both locations. This special is only on Tuesday, Nov. 3, while supplies last. 315 Third St. Promenade, (424)317-5431 and 1542 N. Cahuenga Blvd., (310)927-5442.

Free Randy’s Donut to voters

Exercise your civic duty and visit Randy’s Donuts in Inglewood on Tuesday, Nov. 3, to receive a free donut. Only this Randy’s Donuts location is giving a free raised, glazed donut to voters who show their I Voted sticker on Election Day. This offer is good while supplies last. 805 W. Manchester Blvd., (310)694-4707.

Jerry’s Patio Cafe & Bar Election Day

A new contemporary eatery and brand concept from the team behind Jerry’s Famous Deli opened recently with a new outdoor patio dining area. Guests can sip cocktails and enjoy longstanding favorites such as matzo ball soup, a pastrami or roast turkey sandwich with cole slaw or potato salad and a pickle. The newly imagined restaurant offers a streamlined menu of comfort food with a modern twist, such as an Impossible vegan burger, Mediterranean salmon salad, past-trami breakfast burrito, European-style chicken schnitzel sandwich and a six-hour cooked brisket sandwich dip. Now through the World Series and Election Day, Jerry’s Patio Cafe & Bar is offering black trami breakfast burrito, European-inspired mixed grilled meat and pescatarian and vegetarian options by executive chef Jared Dowling. Beverage director Dave Purcell has crafted a cocktail, beer and wine menu to complement the culinary offerings. Highlights include Mexican wine and beer, and a Paloma Spritz. Boardwalk Tacos reopens

The beachside taqueria, inspired by surf trips down to Mexico, offers a newly renovated space by Heather Tierney of the Butcher’s Daughter and De Buena Planta. The menu features a selection of handmade tortilla tacos and Mexican-inspired mixed grilled meat pescatarian and vegetarian options by executive chef Jared Dowling. Beverage director Dave Purcell has crafted a cocktail, beer and wine menu to complement the culinary offerings. Highlights include Mexican wine and beer, and a Paloma Spritz. Boardwalk Tacos is open Wednesday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 10 p.m. 203 Ocean Front Walk, (424)309-5331.

West Hollywood Eat + Drink Week showcases unique culinary, cocktail experiences

West Hollywood Eat + Drink Week runs through Sunday, Nov. 1, and the city encourages residents to support its restaurants. West Hollywood restaurants have pivoted their operations during COVID-19 to continue to provide guests their best in culinary and cocktail experiences with special food and drink menus. Enjoy world-renowned cuisine from West Hollywood’s best restaurants while dining outdoors in fresh-air patios, also known as OUT Zones, or take your gourmet meal and cocktails to-go to enjoy in the safety of your home.

Participating venues will offer their pick of day, night and late-night menus, specially crafted just for this restaurant week. Prices and meal periods vary by restaurant and exclude tax and gratuity. Eat + Drink Week menus are offered during various meal periods. Please check each menu online to ensure which days and times are available. At Connie and Ted’s, enjoy a three-course dinner for $45. It also includes a glass of house red or white wine, or a cocktail. Select one item from the starters, second course and dessert. A half dozen oysters are just $10 with the purchase of an Eat + Drink menu.

Brendan Collins

Gary Twinn

Connie and Ted’s is one of the many restaurants participating in West Hollywood Eat + Drink Week.

A complete list of participating restaurants and bars is available online at eatanddrinkweek.com; make a reservation on the Eat + Drink Week website or contact the restaurant directly. No passes, tickets or coupons are required; simply dine out at participating venues throughout the event. Eat + Drink is presented by the West Hollywood Travel + Tourism Board. For information, contact the city of West Hollywood’s Business Development team at (323)848-6829.

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By Jill Weinlein

Executive chef Steve Benjamín makes beautiful red noodles from yellowfin tuna and shapes the strands to form a rose at Jean-Georges Beverly Hills, as off for an additional $140. For an exquisite dinner, Jean-Georges Beverly Hills offers the ultimate dining experience on Thursdays through Saturdays starting at 5:30 p.m. $55 $9850 Wilshire Blvd., (310)860-6700.

Jean-Georges Beverly Hills reopened its elegant outdoor dining terrace this month and is offering diners an exclusive prix fixe seasonal tasting menu. There are two formal seatings to enjoy chef Steve Benjamín’s distinctive autumn-influenced plates.

Choosing the earlier seating last Friday night, we were led to a white linen cloth table in the garden patio on the ground floor of the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills. Our server, Robert, welcomed us and offered a beverage to begin our experience.

My husband ordered a glass of Santa Barbara County’s Tattoner dry tressle, and I chose an exotic-looking Negroni with a lavender sprig and the Waldorf Astoria monogram etched in a large ice cube.

The next course resembled a savory French mille-feuille with two tempered organic egg yolks in between two layers of flaky pastry. A thick toasted brioché bread. On top was a generous spoonful of Petrossian caviar made this a perfectly balanced dish.

Chef Steve Benjamín delivered the next course – yellowfin tuna noodles. This talented chef said he was named Steve after Steve McQueen.

“He was my father’s favorite actor,” Benjamín said.

The yellow-fin tuna was put into a pasta machine to create long strands that looked like thick noodles. Chef swirls the noodles into the shape of a rose and adds sliced radish and microflowers to elevate its appearance. Robert poured ginger dressing from a carafe into the bowl to enjoy with chopsticks and a soup spoon.

I remarked to my husband how each of the serving plates were unique and different. One of my favorites was an abalone-shaped bowl with king crab risotto made from Japanese short-grain rice simmered in herbal tea, fennel, chives, black pepper and sprigs of dill. Generous crab pieces and blanched cauliflower florets glistening with lime zest and lemon juice adored the dish.

Benjamín prepares Jean-Georges’ signature roasted black cod exquisitely with microgreens dazzling the top. The fish is crusted with cumin, coriander and green pepper spices on top of the skin making it crispy and flavorful. A small carafe of Jade sauce made with lemon braised celeriac and fragrant green curry, cilantro, mint and tarragon was poured around the base of the tender and perfectly cooked white fish.

After the surf arrived the turf – slices of tender, melt-in-your-mouth Snake River ribeye cap grilled with caramelized garlic. A colorful beet and red wine reduction sauce was poured into an artistic swirl on the plate. Each of the three potato dauphine puffs had a red veiny sorrel for decoration. There was also a dusting of pink peppercorn on the white plate to add more artistic flair. The perfect pairing for this dish is a glass of 2014 La Siene de Giscours cabernet sauvignon blend from France.

For the dessert course, we first received a small warm chocolate cake with a white scoop of vanilla bean ice cream and a thin crunchy tulle tower. Master chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten was the first chef to create the molten chocolate cake. Over 20 years ago, he created a surprise chocolate cake with a plateau and warm dark melted chocolate flowing through the middle. Valrhona chocolate dust and broken chocolate bits are strategically scattered around the plate.

For the pièce de résistance, Robert brought five bite-size caramelized almonds, which gave a moment’s taste of the restaurant’s mignardises cart. There was a chocolate cookie, a coconut macaroon, fudge-like chocolate with the words Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills emblazoned on top, and colorful blue and orange macarons. This one-of-a-kind celebratory dinner is $185 per person. Guests can order a sommelier’s wine pairing for an additional $140.

Jean-Georges Beverly Hills features a spooktacular four-night extravaganza from Thursday, Oct. 29, through Sunday, Nov. 1.

The evening’s amuse bouche offered three unique tastes of autumn – an etched ice cream sandwich. The saltiness of the roasted cumin, TOmator caviar made this a perfectly balanced dish.

The Los Angeles Zoo’s Halloween celebration includes a spooktacular four-night extravaganza from Thursday, Oct. 29, through Sunday, Nov. 1. The eerie evenings will include a not-soooky drive-thru with frightful creatures and decor, treat-and-swap bags, a virtual costume parade, classic movies and more.

The zoo’s parking lot will transform into a Halloween drive-in where guests will start their adventure at a creepy campsite-themed drive-thru with custom installa
tions, larger-than-life animatronic animals and haunting décor.

“The magical night under the stars will allow families and friends to enjoy a favorite pastime while remaining safe and physically distanced,” an L.A. Zoo spokesperson said. “Not only will this be a night of safe, cinematic fun, but your ticket purchase helps support the important conservation and education work of your Los Angeles Zoo.”

Spectacular photo opportunities and a devilishly delicious candy station are also featured. Dress in costume and participate in a virtual costume parade for a chance to win a zoo family membership. The first 50 decorated cars will receive a pumpkin and carving stencil depicting an L.A. Zoo animal.

Movie theater fare will be available through mobile food ordering. Families and friends can enjoy watching movies while remaining safe and physically distanced. “Clue” (1985), will be shown on Oct. 28, “Goosebumps” (2015) will be shown on Oct. 30, “The Addams Family” (2019) will be the featured film on Oct. 31, and “Poltergeist” will be shown on Nov. 1. “Poltergeist” may not be appropriate for children under the age of 13. The gate opens at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $100 per vehicle with up to two passengers, $125 per member vehicle with three or more people (discount code is available at time of purchase) and $140 per general admission vehicle with three or more people. Ticket purchases support the zoo’s conservation and education work.

The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive. Advance online ticket purchase is required. For information, visit lazoo.org/movies.

By Jill Weinlein

LA Zoo plans eerie Halloween drive-in

The Los Angeles Zoo’s Halloween celebration includes a spooktacular four-night extravaganza from Thursday, Oct. 29, through Sunday, Nov. 1.

The eerie evenings will include a not-soooky drive-thru with frightful creatures and decor, treat-and-swap bags, a virtual costume parade, classic movies and more.

The zoo’s parking lot will transform into a Halloween drive-in where guests will start their adventure at a creepy campsite-themed drive-thru with custom installa
tions, larger-than-life animatronic animals and haunting décor.

“The magical night under the stars will allow families and friends to enjoy a favorite pastime while remaining safe and physically distanced,” an L.A. Zoo spokesperson said. “Not only will this be a night of safe, cinematic fun, but your ticket purchase helps support the important conservation and education work of your Los Angeles Zoo.”

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LAUSD remains hard at work on plans for the future

Classes at the Los Angeles Unified School District – including spelling – remain virtual for now, and we are doing our best to help our students celebrate Halloween distancedly.

It’s a further reminder about what a tough year this has been, particularly for students, families, and school communities. As the months ahead hold plenty of uncertainty, there is one thing we know for sure: our school communities need more, not less, to get through this crisis and get back into the classroom safely.

As we continue working tirelessly to keep kids engaged and learning remotely in an ongoing crisis, we are also advocating for the resources we need to safely bring them back to school as soon as possible.

especially with the precious status of additional state and federal support, kids’ futures are on the ballot this year.

No matter how you plan to vote in this election, I hope you will exercise your civic duty and make your voice heard. The November 3rd election is a crucial moment in the 3rd District. The choice we make as a community over the next four years will determine the health of every staff member and student; the engagement and equity with which we can enjoy the same level of resources to protect the health of all our students, teachers, and staff.

Kuehl responds to L.A County TK-2 schools reopening

Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District, has responded positively to the news that four L.A. County schools had met state waiver requirements and were approved to reopen for grades TK-2. Three of the four schools are in the 3rd District.

“Kids return to school so we can get every student in L.A. County back in the classroom as safely as possible. I’ve been tireless to fix the problem. We want to do everything we can to get families back together and get our students safely back to school.”

Kuehl highlighted the Aug. 4 motion passed by the Board of Supervisors taking an official position in support of Proposition 15, which increases funding sources for public schools, community colleges and local government services by changing the tax assessment levels of commercial and industrial property.

“Our public schools need greater resources to protect the health of all of their students, teachers and staff, so we can get every student in L.A. County back in the classroom where they learn best,” she said.

Socially distanced book reading held in Beverly Hills

Mary Wells, a Beverly Hills Unified School Board candidate, held an outdoor, socially-distanced storytelling event with authors Patti Tanenbaum and Carol Zaslow and a small group of children at her residence on Oct. 24. The event coincided with the release of the authors’ new book “Lovable Grandpa Joe” on Friday, Oct. 30.

“We needed to find thoughtful and creative ways that are safe to provide essential social interactions for both.”

Taanenbaum, a long-time Beverly Hills resident and former teacher joined Zaslow, also a former teacher, to read “Lovable Grandpa Joe” aloud to the children.

They said children’s love for being helpers and problem solvers was the basis for the new book.

“In ‘Lovable Grandpa Joe,’ we wanted to spotlight the wonderful and unique relationship between grandparents and grandchildren,” Taanenbaum and Zaslow said.

There are many teachable moments in the book; the importance of responsibility, leadership, teamwork, family and love. These are timeless values.”

“We wanted to do something that families could replicate easily on their own such as sharing a book outside, or on Facebook and show how meaningful it can be to kids, their friends and families that are separated by COVID-19,” Wells added.

“Lovable Grandpa Joe” is about an 8-year-old child named Alex whose best friend is his grandfather. He also works at his grandfather’s bike shop, Speedy Wheels. When a fire breaks out at the store, he blames himself. Instead of being discouraged, Alex and his friends, including his dog Big Shaggy Max, work tirelessly to fix the problem.

For information, visit pazzcares.com/lovable-grandpa-joe.

Rosewood STEM Magnet Urban Planning & Urban Design

Rosewood is a community that nurtures the whole child and through a STEM focus, with an urban planning and urban design theme, there are many pathways to meet your child’s interests and learning environment.

Rosewood has a full time music teacher with students receiving music theory, keyboarding and ukulele. Students take part in the Mindfulness Lab, Science Lab, Technology Lab and our brand new Makerspace.

Rosewood is a Social Emotional Focus site.

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Your child may be eligible for transportation.

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503 N. Croft Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90048
Data xChange shows positive impact of wellness centers

The Los Angeles Trust for Children’s Health has released a new Data xChange report demonstrating the widespread impact of Los Angeles Unified School District’s 16 full-service wellness centers on students, families and community members in the district’s highest-need areas.

According to the Data xChange report, 11 school-based wellness centers reported more than 229,000 visits from 86,000 patients in the past five years. Visits grew 143% in the past half decade and patients averaged 2.7 visits per year, demonstrating “a strong bond between clinics and patients.”

The statistics in the wellness center five-year impact report were produced by the L.A. Trust’s Data xChange, which is designed to measure the impact of wellness center investments, improve the allocation of health resources and connect the dots between student health and academic achievement.

The L.A. Trust supports these clinics by offering best practices, prevention education programs, learning collaboratives and other vital infrastructure. In addition, it has independently raised more than $1.5 million to create the Data xChange, which is designed to measure the impact of wellness center investments, improve the allocation of health resources and connect the dots between student health and academic achievement.

The L.A. Trust views as key to the sustainability of school-based wellness centers on school campuses. Most of the clinics have a street-facing door to admit community members and a school-facing door to admit students.

Common student services include well child exams, contraceptive services, mental health and substance-use testing and management, and social justice organizations on the report, more than 12,000 visits between March and June of this year.

“As many of our wellness centers pivot toward telehealth and incorporate more specific coding practices related to COVID-19, the L.A. Trust Data xChange will stay in step with them by working to create new reports and insights,” the report said.

Holocaust Museum LA forum will analyze election on Nov. 4

Holocaust Museum Los Angeles presents “Building Bridges-The Morning After: Sifting Through the Election Results for Important Lessons,” virtual conversations featuring representatives of advocacy and social justice organizations on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m., via Zoom.

The conversations will be moderated by Dan Schnur, professor at USC’s Annenberg School of Communications and a board member for Holocaust Museum Los Angeles. The participants will be Michael Lawson, president and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League; Rabbi Joel Simon, executive director of the Jewish Center for Justice; Helen Torres, executive director of HOPE; and Charlie Woo, board chair for the Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment.

A $10 donation is suggested. For information and to register, visit holocaustmuseumla.org.

KCCLA presents K-Pop makeover and traditional folktale programs

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles is offering two online programs for children, including “K-Pop Idol Makeover-Super M ‘Lucas’,” which is available for viewing, and “Virtual Korean Storytelling-The Goblin’s Club,” which will be available for viewing on Oct. 30.

The “K-Pop Idol Makeover” is a new video with makeup artist Jina and hair stylist JJ in which a K-Pop fan is transformed into an idol. Will the recipient really resemble Lucas from Super M? The video will help fans learn more about how to achieve the K-Pop look at home.

The “Virtual Korean Storytelling-The Goblin’s Club” event celebrates Halloween with traditional folktales passed down through generations.

Many stories feature goblins and have meaningful lessons about the importance of love, respect, humbleness and diligence.

The videos are uploaded to YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, and can be viewed by visiting kccla.org.


The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles presents “K-Pop Idol Makeover-Super M ‘Lucas’,” which is available for viewing and featuring an appearance by Lucas from Super M. The video will help K-Pop fans learn more about how to achieve the K-Pop look at home.

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K-Pop makeover video: "Building Bridges-The Morning After: Sifting Through the Election Results for Important Lessons"

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A $10 donation is suggested. For information and to register, visit holocaustmuseumla.org.
The Getty Foundation has released the first major report on the impact of its long-running Getty Marrow Undergraduate Internship Program, showing that it successfully influences individuals from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue careers in art museums and visual arts organizations and inspires a lasting interest in the arts.

Getty Marrow is the largest and longest-standing diversity internship program in the visual arts in the United States, and since 1993 has supported paid positions for more than 3,200 interns at 175 organizations across Los Angeles County. By introducing college students to careers in the arts, the program aims to diversify the staff of art museums and visual arts organizations to better reflect the communities they serve.

Created in the wake of the beating of Rodney King and the resulting civil unrest in 1992, there were no internship programs in the visual arts at such a scale that offered similar opportunities to students from underrepresented groups.

Among alumni working in the arts, 15% have been furloughed or lost their jobs due to COVID-19, which is commensurate with furloughs or job losses experienced by those working in other sectors of the economy. “This report reveals the ways that internships can spark an enduring interest in and commitment to the arts among communities that have been underrepresented in cultural institutions for far too long,” Getty Foundation Director Joan Weinstein said. “We know that internships are just one pathway to change in cultural institutions, but the findings in this report demonstrate that they are a powerful one,” she added.

For information, visit getty.edu/foundation/initiatives/current/mui/index.html.

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LACMA's Tim Burton exhibition inspires Daedelus' 'Toil & Trouble'

Inspired by the Tim Burton retrospective at LACMA, record producer Daedelus has created a playlist evoking some of the playful and spooky spirits in Burton’s oeuvre with tracks by multiple artists, including Shlohmo and Airhead — a perfect accompaniment for the Halloween season. “Toil and Trouble,” available on LACMA’s website, is a musical menagerie inspired by Burton’s exhibition. “Toil & Trouble,” as inspired by the phenomenal Tim Burton retrospective at LACMA through Halloween, is an attempt to evoke some of the very disparate forces at play and playful in Mr. Burton’s oeuvre. Here is a gentleman who has crossed every creative boundary with iconic style, so a daunting task indeed to try and reveal his unique spirit in song, but with much joy in my attempt,” Daedelus said.

The playlist hearkens back to September 2011 when @dublab activated LACMA’s campus with bespoke soundtracks, live performances and interactive sonic installations.

Daedelus said he decided to have this mix be a “counter-soundtrack” for the installation, as well as a meditation on his considerable style.

For information, visit lacma.org.

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PlayhouseLive Presents Bob Baker’s ‘Halloween Spooktacular’

Pasadena Playhouse Producing Artist Director Danny Feldman announced the continuation of Family Entertainments on PlayhouseLive with the Bob Baker Marionette Theater’s production of Bob Baker’s “Halloween Spooktacular.”

Filmed in front of a live audience, this wonderful Halloween offering – an eye-popping and unforgettable musical variety puppet spectacle – launched online at PlayhouseLive on Oct. 21 and is part of the fall lineup of pay-per-view streaming theatrical events.

A beloved Los Angeles tradition, more than 1 million children of all ages have experienced a Bob Baker puppet performance.

Bob Baker’s “Halloween Spooktacular” is intended to be a haunting night of family fun with a spectacle showcase of sweet spooky spirits featuring beloved characters Purple People Eater, Dracula, the Invisible Man and nearly 100 of their closest puppet pals.

A beloved Los Angeles tradition, more than 1 million children of all ages have experienced a Bob Baker puppet performance since the theater was founded in 1963. In addition to in-house performances, members of the Bob Baker puppet family have appeared in motion pictures, on television shows, onstage at the Hollywood Bowl, and myriad other spots including community centers, backyards and parades.

For the upcoming holiday season, PlayhouseLive will exclusively bring Bob Baker’s “Holiday on Strings” directly into homes for the first time.

Other PlayhouseLive programming making debuts on the streaming service this fall include poet, performance artist and professor Javon Johnson in “Still,” the timely one-man performance about the complexities of the Black Experience. “In Development” gives an insider’s look at unproduced theatrical works as they are introduced to the world for the first time with the first episode featuring Megan Mullally and Nick Offerman performing excerpts from “I Love You” – a new musical by Mark Hollman, Jay Reiss and Erin Quinn Parrish.

“Intermission with HashTag Booked” features celebrity interviews hosted by LaNisa Frederick and Danielle Pinnock, a comedic duo that started the web series “HashTag Booked,” with actor Alfred Molina as their first guest.

“Page to Stage” takes the viewer behind the curtain to explore the theatrical journey from concept to opening night. “From the Archives” celebrates the unique impact regional theater has had across generations in shaping American culture.

Bob Baker’s “Halloween Spooktacular” can be rented through PlayhouseLive for $14.99 and is available through PlayhouseLive for streaming service this fall into homes for the first time.

Women’s Theatre Festival offers new virtual program on Sundays

Los Angeles Women’s Theatre Festival is offering theater, dance and storytelling in a new virtual program titled “Triumph!” on Sundays, Nov. 1 and 8, at 3 p.m.

The two matinee programs are hosted by James and Lissa Reynolds. On Nov. 1, Murri Moyo Aimbaye stars in “The Fannie Lou Hamer Story” celebrating the historic Mississippi voters rights advocate who fought tirelessly during the Civil Rights Movement. Aimbaye will perform musical numbers and discuss voting issues.

On Nov. 8, the program includes “Tapping My Way to the Nuthouse,” “Abandon,” “I Didn’t Cry” and “ Dare to Claim the Sky.” Tickets are $20.

For information, call (818)760-0400 or visit lawtf.org.

LADWP solar program honored for community service

LADWP’s Solar Rooftop Program is an important part of the electric utility’s commitment to safeguarding our environment, combating climate change and creating good-paying jobs, he added.

Raised in El Salvador, Lehrer earned her master of landscape architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and later founded Studio-MLA in 1996, an L.A. urban design and landscape architecture firm. She has lectured widely on landscape and urban design, including environmental and sustainability issues and the public process. Her firm has completed numerous projects including Franklin Ivar Park in Hollywood and Vista Hermosa Park in downtown Los Angeles.

“I’m excited and ready to join this board made up of talented and accomplished individuals who happen to be women,” Lehrer said.

“Mia will bring her proven leadership, business experience, deep expertise and extraordinary drive to ensuring LADWP remains one of the most sustainable, reliable and responsible public utilities in the country,” Moya began her term on the Board of Water and Power commissioners earlier this month and will be a key civic leader with represented the 6th District in the Los Angeles City Council for 14 years.

For information, visit ladwp.com.

Mia Lehrer, right, was virtually sworn in as an LADWP board member on Oct. 23. Lehrer’s said, “I want to thank Mayor Garcetti for this opportunity to serve and make a difference when it comes to securing an environmentally sustainable future for Los Angeles.” Lehrer has served as a member of Los Angeles’ Solar Rooftop Program.
Red Cross asks for blood, urges people to take flu vaccine

The American Red Cross is urging healthy donors of all blood types to give blood or platelets to ensure a strong blood supply for patients as the U.S. braces for flu season while in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Medical experts are urging people to get the flu – which doesn’t affect blood donation eligibility – to avoid a flu epidemic on top of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Because blood can only be given by those who are feeling well, a severe flu season could create additional challenges to maintaining a sufficient blood supply for hospital patients in need.

“Get the flu this year to help protect the nation from the virus but also to ensure that patients continue to have access to lifesaving blood products,” a spokesperson for the American Red Cross said. “There is no waiting period to give blood or platelets after receiving a flu shot as long as the donor is symptom-free and fever-free. There is no risk of transmitting the influenza virus after receiving a flu vaccination.”

For those that have the flu, it is important to wait until they no longer exhibit flu symptoms before attempting to donate. Donors must feel healthy and well on the day of donation.

In thanks for making time to donate, the Red Cross will send those who come to give between Oct. 15 to Nov. 11 a $5 Amazon gift card via email, courtesy of Bogies Liquor. For information, visit redcross.org.

LA Phil’s Ford Digital Festival continues with ‘Tovaangar Today’

Before Los Angeles’ name was first written on a map, there was Tovaangar: a gathering place and nurturing home to the Tongva people. Co-curated by Kenny Ramos, Jessa Calderon and Kelly Caballero, “Tovaangar Today” – a continuation of the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s Ford Digital Festivals on Sunday, Nov. 1, from 4 to 6 p.m. – is a virtual celebration of the native artists and cultural creators who still thrive in the region, working as poets, actors, emcees, multimedia artists and advocates.

The curator-led virtual program will offer an in-depth exploration through multi-disciplinary performances, workshops and conversations while centering on the Tongva and other California nations. The festival will also feature artists from the local intertribal urban Native diaspora and highlight the connections between art, activism, identity and tribal sovereignty.

Explore the powerful voice of artist and poet Solange Aguilar in a video-artist feature. Isaiah Mendota and Annie Mendota will share a portion of their documentary “The Aqueduct Between Us,” which offers radical oral histories about water in Los Angeles as told by the people of Tovaangar and Payahumadit (Owens Valley).

Kenny Ramos will moderate a panel conversation about environmental justice and protecting fragile water resources for tribal communities. Southern California-based indigenous artist and producer Tha Tewa will perform his distinct blend of jazz, soul and indie music at the Ford’s Edison Plaza.

Indigenous Alternative R&B artist P3 Vegas, known for his sultry vocals and gritty content, will perform, joined for his set by native dancer Ba’ac Garcia. Performance poet turned television writer Tarahah Rose Chavez will read her multimedia poem “When did you forget?” Poet, podcaster, author and TV writer Tommy "Teebs" Pico will read selections from his book “Nature Poem.”

For information, visit theford.com/concerts-and-events/ford-digital-festivals.

‘Made in L.A. 2020: a version’ now in previews

While the Hammer Museum and the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens await state and county public health approvals to safely reopen their galleries for “Made in L.A. 2020: a version,” Angelenos can get a preview of the biennial via two artist projects located around the city.

The exhibition catalog, which showcases newly commissioned interventions made by artists specifically for the page and functions as another version of the exhibition, is also available.

“Made in L.A. 2020: a version,” the fifth iteration of the Hammer’s biennial exhibition highlighting the practices of artists working throughout greater Los Angeles, is curated by Myrizam Ben Salah and Lauren Mackler, with the Hammer’s Ikechukwu Oneyeuenyi as assistant curator of performance. All 30 artists included in “Made in L.A. 2020: a version” will be represented at both the Hammer and the Huntington – in two versions that make up the whole – with select off-site and online interventions in between.

The exhibition’s opening date is dependent on Los Angeles County guidance allowing museums to reopen to the public, in keeping with the state of California’s “Blueprint for a Safer Economy.” Updates about exhibition dates will be shared via the Hammer website and the Huntington website.

Two off-site projects are accessible now, installed throughout the city. The first episode of an artist-created podcast series conceived as part of the exhibition will be available soon.

Larry Johnson’s new site-specific works are now on view on five commercial billboards in the MacArthur Park neighborhood throughout the run of the exhibition. Their content features site-specific texts and visuals. Poetic and humorous interventions into space and local geography, the billboards quote their cultural and quotidian environment. Two of the billboards are located near the intersection of South Alvarado Street and Eighth Street, two near the intersection of South Rampart Boulevard and Seventh Street, and a fifth near by at Seventh Street and Hoover Street. The presentation is co-produced by the Billboard Creative.

Kahlil Joseph’s ambitious installation of “BLKNWS” a conceptual news program that blurs the lines between art, reporting, entrepreneurship and cultural critique, is installed in satellite sites around the city.

Coproduced by Los Angeles Nomadic Division, the two-channel video presentations of “BLKNWS” are being hosted predominantly in Black-owned businesses such as barbershops and cafes and in other sites of community gathering, as well as commercial hubs and healthcare facilities.

Six sites can be viewed with out reservations with the full list and a map showing each location now available on the websites of the Hammer, the Huntington and LAND.

For information, visit hammer.ucla.edu or huntington.org.

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Photo courtesy of Made in L.A. 2020
At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect targeted a victim in the 600 block of La Peer.

At 5 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7900 block of Hollywood at 7 a.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect attempted to break into a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Rio Vista.

At 8:50 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Sunset and Wilcox.

At 9:25 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 200 block of N. La Brea.

At 11:10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Hollywood and Colfax.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1900 block of N. Highland.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Sunset and Seward at 7 a.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 400 block of S. Fairfax.

A vandalism incident reported in the 1900 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Fuller and Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Fuller and Hollywood at 9 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6000 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6100 block of Hollywood at 9 p.m.

At 7:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 1600 block of N. Poinsettia Place.

At 9:25 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 200 block of S. Windsor at 9 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle near the corner of Slauson and Olympic.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1400 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1600 block of Wilshire at 10 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1400 block of N. La Brea at 7:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8600 block of Beverly at 7:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7000 block of Beverly at 7 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6000 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9100 block of Sunset at 7:45 a.m.

At 11:10 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1800 block of Grand.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7000 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6000 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7000 block of Beverly at 10 a.m.

At 11:10 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7000 block of Santa Monica at 8:21 a.m.

An unknown suspect attempted to break into a vehicle parked in the 7000 block of Beverly at 7:45 p.m.

An attempted robbery was reported in the 7900 block of Beverly at 7 p.m.

An attempted robbery was reported near the corner of Fifth and Wilton.

An attempted robbery was reported near the corner of Sunset and Wilcox.

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The Wallis to present Reena Esmail ‘Piano Trio’

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents a four-part digital series featuring violinist Vijay Gupta, cellist Peter Myers and pianist Suzana Bartal performing composer Reena Esmail’s ‘Piano Trio,’ which blurs the boundaries between Indian and Western classical music.

The free broadcasts, each featuring one of the chamber works’ four movements, will be offered online over a four-week period, on Thursdays, beginning Oct. 29 and continuing on Nov. 5, 12 and 19 at 5 p.m. The broadcasts also include comments by the artists, who last appeared together live at The Wallis in February 2020, performing the piano trio, among other works by Esmail.

Vijay Gupta and Reena Esmail are two remarkable, internationally acclaimed, game-changing Los Angeles artists and collaborators,” The Wallis’ Artistic Director Paul Crewes said. “This streaming series connecting the musical languages of two different cultures is an extension of The Wallis’ deep commitment to presenting Los Angeles-based artists and programming that reflects the city’s diversity. We are proud to support their work in both music and social justice.”

Esmail’s Piano Trio was commissioned by Town Hall Seattle and premiered on Nov. 25, 2019, in Seattle. Regarding the work, Esmail said, “My musical world is influenced as much by the Western canon as it is by Hindustani (North Indian) classical music and each movement of this trio is a confluence of Hindustani and Western musical elements. Imagine if you could say a single sentence, but it could be understood simultaneously in two different languages—that is what I aim to create through my music.”

MacArthur “Genius” Gupta, an esteemed performer, communicator, and citizen-artist, is a leading advocate for the role of the arts and music to heal, inspire, provoke change and foster social connection. After joining the Los Angeles Philharmonic at age 19 and serving as a member of the first violin section through 2018, he founded Street Symphony and serves as artistic director of the non-profit organization, which provides musical engagement, dialogue and teaching artistry for homeless and incarcerated communities in Los Angeles.

Pianist Bartal, winner of the New York Concert Artists Concerto Competition in 2013, has performed extensively in Europe, the U.S. and Asia and earned her Doctorate of Musical Arts in 2018 at the Yale School of Music.

Cellist Myers has performed internationally as a chamber musician, and since 2017 has held the position of Assistant Principal Cellist with the San Francisco Opera. He is a founding member of the Saguaro Piano Trio, which won first prize in the 2009 International Chamber Music Competition Hamburg.

For more information, visit the wallis.org/composers.
‘Prestige Horror’ attacks a long history of incredible cinema

Critics love to diagnose a cultural moment with a flashy new term, building in the prospect that it might become the next trending catchphrase.

New terms aren’t necessarily a bad thing. “Neo-noir” helped define the distinct noir tone of New Hollywood, from “Taxi Driver” to sci-fi detective film “Blade Runner.” Such terms identify narrative patterns and similarities in production. But not a new candidate that came up a few years ago: prestige horror. To call new horror films like “Hereditary,” “A Quiet Place,” and “Woods” to a name from an Esquire editor list from August, prestige horror is an odd choice.

They’re entirely different: a demon-possession flick about grief, a modern-day “Twilight Zone” episode and a metahorror film that parodies the entire genre. Is the only common thread that critics like them, fan reactions be damned? (“Cabin” sits at 92% on Rotten Tomatoes, while users—albeit a bad example of moviegoers—drops to 74%).

The notion of prestige horror arrives in the wake of television’s new golden age. As one character from Netflix’s “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt” might note, “You know you’re in a golden age of television when you take a show like ‘The Americans’ for granted.”

“Prestige” and “elevated” only makes it worse, as critics attempt to elevate the status of horror films by giving them a twist with “serious” art form.” The Times Chris Barton writes, “Good horror isn’t a new invention,” he adds, and that’s the central point here. Horror enjoys plenty of subgenres that help categorize content, preparing or deceiving specta-

tors based on expectations: slash-
ers, found-footage, body horror, meta-horror, surreal horror, psychological horror, etc.

Prestige horror is an odd description for 2018’s “Hereditary,” an unusual movie being too good to be con-

sidered a psychological horror, etc. At least six horror films earned consideration for a year’s best film, including 1991 when “The Silence of the Lambs” won (some prefer to call it a psychological thriller). That occurred 12 years before the first fantasy film would follow suit. And the closest thing to a science fiction win was “The Shape of Water,” but perhaps it’s a horror film after all.

Frankly, the number of horror wins—especially over critically acclaimed sci-fi flicks like 2001’s “A Space Odyssey,” “Blade Runner” and “Children of Men”—means it’s measurable more prestigious than other non-drama genre films.


Vice’s Noël Ransome characterizes prestige horror—“art-house”, for him—based on budget.

“The last five art-house horror flicks with small budgeted success dealt with issues in similar ways,” he writes. “Jordan Peele’s ‘Get Out’ (racism), ‘The Witch’ (para-noia), ‘A Quiet Place’ (family and loss), and ‘The Babadook’ (grief)—all use elements of the horror genre to sell drama, tickets, and even win Oscars.”

Sure, but none of that’s unique to the last five decades. The entire ‘Saw’ franchise, eight films dating back to the 2005, cost around $77 million to produce and grossed almost $1 billion at the box office. Horror has always had the public’s eye more than just pictures like “The Artist” or “The Hurt Locker.” But to call the latest batch of horror films like “The Shape of Water,” even 1931’s “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.”

To date, around 20 horror films have received nominations for Academy Awards, though the fluid definition of the genre throws some films into question: “Black Swan,” “The Shape of Water,” even 1931’s “The Last Tycoon” sits as the only horror film to take Best Picture 

For some dark thrills on the eve of Halloween, the Los Angeles LGBT Center and Shout! Factory TV are presenting two free virtual screenings of the 2001 comedy-horror flick “Elvira’s Haunted Hills” on Friday, Oct. 30, hosted by the horror icon and quintessential symbol of all things spooky herself Elvira, Mistress of the Dark.

The event, “Screaming Live,” will screen at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. and the film event will include a virtual costume contest.

Set in 1985 in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania, Elvira and her maid servent get kicked out of an inn for a slight monetary discrepancy during their journey to a Cancun Revue in Paris. They are rescued by Dr. Bradley Bradly, who takes them to stay at Castle Hellubba in the hills high above the village. While there, Elvira meets the residents and dis-

explores the deceased former wife of his Lordship, the Count Vladimere Hellubus.

“What better way to start cele-

brating Halloween than with shrieks of laughter from the com-

fort of your own home,” the cen-

ter’s membership associate Kimberly Fisher said.

A virtual costume contest will precede the 7 p.m. screening, where the top three most gorgeous outfits will win a poster of “Elvira’s Haunted Hills” auto-

graphed by the Mistress of the Dark herself. To enter the virtual costume contest, participants must submit their photos at lgbt-
center.org/costume.

During both screenings, view-

ers will be encouraged to con-

tribute to the center through a text-to-donate mobile phone platform. All donations directly benefit the center’s continued work providing vital programs and services to those who need it the most during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit lgbtcenter.org/watch.
The Fox Singers will perform "Amor y Odio."

**Verdi Chorus features Fox Singers in 'Amor y Odio' premiere**

The Verdi Chorus continues its 37th season with the Fox Singers in "Amor y Odio, Songs of Spain and the New World" presented by the Verdi Chorus and the Family Foundation. This musical soirée is the premiere offering of the new on-line series Verdi Chorus Presents led by founding Artistic Director Anne Marie Ketchum. The Fox Singers comprise the professional ensemble of the Verdi Chorus, which is the only choral group in Southern California that focuses primarily on the dramatic and diverse music for opera chorus.

Dedicated to the songs and zarzuelas of Spain and the New World, "Amor y Odio" will premiere online on Sunday, Nov. 8. Future Verdi Chorus Presents series featuring the Fox Singers will include an evening of Neapolitan favorites and Italian art songs and an evening dedicated to American song.

The Fox Singers demonstrate the mission of the Verdi Chorus to provide performance opportunities to young professional singers, named in memory of long-time chorus and board member Walter Fox, not only choral group in Southern California nonprofit organization in the virtual online world over these past months has inspired me to create new musical experiences unlike anything we have done before. Music is such a vital thing to share with the world during this difficult time. These online concerts also allow us to offer the talent of the Verdi Chorus Fox Singers to an even larger audience.

The Verdi Chorus is a Southern California nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting opera choruses in concert and to providing career development opportunities for young professional singers. The chorus was founded in 1983 at the Verdi Earring in Santa Monica and when the restaurant closed in 1991, the Verdi Chorus continued becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1999.

For information, visit verdi.org.
With regards to the impact of the density regulations, in Beverly Hills, part of the city’s inclusionary housing ordinance, which requires developers to create housing, and that is the point that we have to, because that is the potential for a rise in positive infections and hospitalizations in the months ahead. Officials at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health are concerned that people, such as those aged 18-29 who are not exhibiting symptoms, who are not practicing social distancing and not wearing masks, are at greater risk for serious illness and death.

To reach “the invincibles” – 18-29-year-olds – the city is launching a social media-based video series of 15-second videos called “Masks Are Sexy” that are carrying the blast message: “Wear a $5.99 mask!” The series is being done in collaboration with local public relations firms and can be seen on the West Hollywood TV YouTube channel: “Masks Are Sexy,” “Masks Are Smokin’” and “Masks Are Tasty.”

The video series is intentionally edgy in nature, and each video is optimized to capture the attention of its target audience and promote social media sharing.

When in public, community members should maintain their space with social distancing of at least 6 feet, and cover their face. Public health officials recommend that everyone continue to follow these practices to flatten the curve and to continue efforts at control directives and wear a clean cloth face covering that securely covers both the nose and mouth when in contact with other people not in their household.

In West Hollywood, the city’s residents to remain home as much as is practical and limit close contact with people from outside their household. Additionally, people 65 or older and all people with serious or underlying medical conditions should remain at home whenever possible; people in contact with others should only leave their residences to seek medical care, exercise or obtain food or other necessities. For information, visit weho.org/coronavirus and youtube.com/wehoTV.
powers of the council to improve the lives of those around them."

Ryu, the first Korean American to run for City Council, represented the 4th District since 2015. He touted his experience and went on to say, "Over the past five years, I have built a track record of working with the community on critical issues like homelessness and infrastructure, and stopping irresponsible development before it could harm our neighborhood. I am your first council member who has never thought of herself as someone who is new to politics, but has been around in the community for 20 years."

Ryu added, "The choice before you is clear. I led the fight against SB 50 and other developer giveaways, while my opponent flips flops on this issue. I believe in ending homelessness, and I am the only candidate in this race who has a FEMA-like emergency response to end homelessness, with two decades of experience on creating homeless services and housing. My opponent has never built homeless housing or been involved in what our organization’s mission is to end homelessness.

Ryu also questioned his opponent’s stance on law enforcement reform. "I believe we need thoughtful and meaningful reform to public safety and police accountability,” Ryu said to the Office of Violence Prevention. Unfortunately, my opponent signed a pledge as a candidate to never support it," Ryu added. "More importantly, because I’m sure she’s going to walk back on that. If you really care, the top endorsers, the Democratic Socialists of America, go even further, calling for defunding the police."

These issues are too important to ignore. These are the issues that affect all of us on a daily basis. The voters deserve to know the truth about our record, the promises we’ve made and the people behind our campaigns.

Raman criticized her opponent’s record on her campaign, and asked whether her goal is to take a proactive approach to city governance and to get people more involved in local government. "I’ve been really disappointed with my opponent’s record in office. It’s about all the basic services of tree trimming, sidewalk repairs, and you know I am as passionate about these issues of development and local issues as I am working on issues of homelessness and anti-corruption or run for City Council Four to serve you, service your neighborhood, as well as the City of Los Angeles.

The candidates were also asked to explain the difference between them. Raman said she offers a fresh perspective. "I think that I bring a clarity of perspective on what needs to be done to really address homelessness, not just to allow this situation to get worse, but to really end homelessness, to get people into housing, to make sure that we’re providing the kinds of services that can really get people permanently off of the streets and into the care environment that they so desperately need," Raman said. "I think I bring a real level of integrity that I think our city’s Council needs on a daily basis. We need council members who are willing to speak up and to do the right thing.

Ryu doubled down on his assertion that experience matters. He said his work on homelessness, anti-corruption and reform make him the best candidate. "It’s very easy to talk, but action speaks louder than words," Ryu Voice. "I’ve always been one to actually roll up my sleeves and do the right thing. That’s what my campaign in the last few weeks. That’s what I’ve been about. I’ve been about what I believe in. And I’ve been about what I stand for.

Raman added that she is an organizer who will be able to get things done in City Hall in a cohesive manner. "I don’t have a lot of existing endorsements by major political systems, but I do see a lot of council members like me... I think that experience matters. He spoke about the need for leadership.

He said building consensus is key. "On our platform, it is clear that experience matters. He spoke about the need for leadership.

Ryu was also asked what frustrates him most about getting things accomplished in local government. "The biggest source of frustration is also the biggest strength of our society as well, and that’s the fact that no one person can make a decision on their own. An idea is only as good as the people who make it happen."

Raman answered, "More importantly, we need to show leadership to the police. These issues are too important to ignore. These are the issues that affect all of us on a daily basis. The voters deserve to know the truth about our record, the promises we’ve made and the people behind our campaigns.

As detailed on the application, the new building will feature neutral-colored glass with a white ceramic pattern and matte-gray colored aluminum. Grey basil natural stone provides some differentiation on the ground level. The project is proposed for commercial use – office and restaurant. The total project will be 271,000 square feet, with the proposed restaurant using 6,500 square feet. The proposed building’s total height ultimately extends to 232 feet. The plan calls for the mechanical equipment on the rooftop with sunset at 21 feet. A separate pedestrian bridge is proposed for the rooftop, along with a 10,800-square-foot terrace.

According to the city, the site is located within the Alquist-Priolo-Gilroy fault zone, with a future active fault of 50 feet. Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety recommends a default building setback from an active fault of 50 feet. According to the plan submitted to the city, the project is proposing the construction of 858 total park space, including 822 parking spaces for residents and visitors, and 36 spaces for bicycles and electric bikes.

On the National Register of Historic Places since 1983, the structure is characterized by its unique facade, with a prominent pedes- trian scale of Cahuenga north beyond Hollywood Boulevard.

Kristopher Larson, president and CEO of the Hollywood Partnership

On the National Register of Historic Places since 1983, the structure is characterized by its unique facade, with a prominent pedestrian scale of Cahuenga north beyond Hollywood Boulevard.

Kathryn Larson, president and CEO of the Hollywood Partnership

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