Neighborhoods unite as Housing Element looms

BY EDWIN POLYEN

Concerns have surfaced about the potential impacts the city of Los Angeles’ Housing Element will have on residential neighborhoods, and community groups are coming together ahead of the anticipated release of draft ordinances later this fall.

The state of California requires cities to update their Housing Element every eight years to show they can accommodate the number of units that are anticipated to be needed for a growing population. The number of units needed is included in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, a state-required Needs Assessment, which is worried that the Housing Element update will not reflect future needs.

The city of L.A. has been working on the Housing Element update since 2020. It anticipates a total of 486,379 units will be needed by 2029, and only 230,947 units will be available. To meet the state requirement for new units, the city is considering methods such as rezoning certain neighborhoods.

That has concerned the Hancock Park Homeowners Association, which is worried that the Housing Element will damage the neighborhood’s historic character. Cindy Chvatil-Keane, president of the HPHA, said the time is now to organize to ensure the voice of the Hancock Park community, and other single-family neighborhoods like it, is heard throughout the upcoming Housing Element approval process.

“Everybody needs to wake up and be aware what the city is planning,” Chvatil-Keane said.

The Housing Element may impact residential neighborhoods like Hancock Park, allowing rezoning.

National elections season starts early in Beverly Hills

BY JOEY WALDINGER

The election for Beverly Hills City Council is still seven months away, but the race has already begun after Beverly Hills Unified School District board member Mary Wells announced her plans to run on Aug. 25.

In a statement, Wells emphasized her experience leading the Beverly Hills community.

“I embrace addressing complex and difficult problems using a solution-oriented approach with integrity and respect for diverse opinions,” Wells said. “Our vibrant city faces a myriad of complex challenges. And it’s essential to have leaders with experience, foresight, proactive thinking and the capacity to effectively implement practical solutions.”

Wells is one of four residents who have already submitted forms under the California Fair Political Practices Commission, which essentially indicates their intention to run and allows them to solicit campaign funds, according to City Clerk Huma Ahmed. But under election law, it is still too early for any of the residents to be officially considered candidates, Ahmed said.

Residents are officially recognized as candidates after submitting paperwork during the candidate filing period, between Nov. 13 and Dec. 8, Ahmed said. During this period, prospective candidates must submit nomination forms containing signatures of 22 registered voters in Beverly Hills, as well as documentation proving they are registered to vote in Beverly Hills, she added.

“At the end of the day, it's the actual nomination forms that are critical,” Ahmed said.

Residents can view regularly updated election information, including FPPC filings, at beverlyhills.org/elections.

The Beverly Hills City Council election is March 5, 2024.
City Council approves nearly $1 billion contract for LAPD

BY EDWIN POLLEN

The Los Angeles City Council approved a contract with the union representing the Los Angeles Police Department’s rank-and-file personnel on Aug. 23 that dedicates $994 million in funding for the department over the next four years.

The council voted 12-3 to approve the contract, with councilmembers Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District; Eunice Hwang, 1st District; and Nithya Raman, 4th District, voting no.

The contract, with the Los Angeles Police Protective League, covers police officers, detectives and lieutenants. Mayor Karen Bass praised the agreement, which she said will boost recruitment efforts and officer retention.

The contract increases the starting base salary of LAPD recruits by nearly 13% and includes a 3% increase in base salary wages annually for each year of the contract to remain competitive with departments in other cities, the mayor said. Personnel will receive a 4%-6% wage increase each year of the contract through 2027.

“Our police department, just like other major city police departments, is facing a hiring and retention crisis,” Bass said. “Around the same time that we triggered a tentative agreement, the LAPD sworn force dipped below 9,000 for the first time since 2002. I want to thank the leaders of the City Council for supporting this action and I look forward to working together to ensure that Angelenos are safe.”

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Karina Yaroslavsky voted yes on the contract. She said it is important to ensure a safe community.

“I believe that this is going to help us address critically low staffing numbers at the police department. Right now, we’re not providing the competitive salary for sworn officers and we’re losing hundreds of officers to retirement [and] also to other cities, nearby or overseas cities. This contract will make us more competitive when compared to neighboring municipalities,” Yaroslavsky said. “And just talking to constituents over the last nine months, we’re really feeling the drop in the number of sworn officers in terms of response times. In some cases, it’s taking 30 minutes for officers to respond and that’s just not okay. Our No. 1 job at the city is to keep people safe, to make sure people know who they call for help, when you call 911, the right person shows up, and that they show up quickly. That’s not to say that we don’t need to build out other models of response, the unarmed crisis response is also really important. This doesn’t preclude us from doing that. In fact, it’s very much another piece of the puzzle.”

Soto-Martinez said he opposed the contract because he believes the city should be spending more on alternative programs such as those addressing mental health issues and addiction. More intervention and treatment at an early age could steer young people away from crime and eliminate the need for increases in traditional policing.

Friends of Beverly Hills Library

Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library is holding its biannual sale of signed books and autographed memorabilia, records and thrillers from Tuesday, Sept. 5, through Thursday, Sept. 14.

The organization operates the Friends Bookstore in the library offering new and gently used books, collectibles and out-of-print books. Funds raised support programs at the library. 444 N. Rexford Drive. (310)288-2299, friendsofbh.org.

Newaysary for the Stars’

Classical music fans won’t want to miss “Newaysary for the Stars” on Sept. 5, at 8 p.m. at the Hollywood Bowl. Nicholas McGegan will conduct the Los Angeles Philharmonic in a performance of Mozart’s Don Giovanni Overture and his harmonically rich “Prague” Symphony. Violinist Bonsor Kim joins the orchestra for Mozart’s grace- ful “Turkish” concerto. Tickets start at $30. 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East. hollywoodbowl.com.

The Sound Inside

Amy Ewans (“Mad Men”) stars as Bella Lee Baird and Andrews Keith portrays Christopher Dunn in Adam in the Los Angeles premiere of “The Sound Inside,” running Wednesday, Sept. 6, through Sunday, Oct. 1, at the Pasadena Playhouse. Not everything is as it seems behind the ivy-covered walls of Yule, where an unlikely bond leads to an unhinkable favor. Writing professor Baird is looking for answers, but a fate- ful encounter with a mysterious student could lead to life-changing conse- quences for both of them. Showtimes are at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 8 p.m., Saturday; and 2 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at $35. 311 E. Molino Ave.,Pasadena. pasadenaplayhouse.org.

Hollywood survivor talk

Join Hollywood Museum Los Angeles for a Survivor Talk with Lea Radiner on Sunday, Sept. 3, from 3-4 p.m. at Radiner’s home. The survivor was hit by a German invasion and birth of her younger sis- ter, Radiner’s father was arrested along with 125 Jewish men and deported to Mauthausen. Her mother made the difficult decision to separate the family to save her daughters, each of whom was placed with a different family by the Dutch underground.

CALENDAR

Aug. 31, 2023 Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

Beverly Hills

Mayor Karen Bass said the new contract with the LAPD will improve recruitment and retention of officers.

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Planning Commission OKs relaxed cannabis rules

By Joey Waldinger

The commission approved a draft ordinance on Aug. 24 allowing for delivery only medical retailers within city limits. Beverly Hills currently prohibits all commercial cannabis businesses, and the new ordinance is intended to bring the city in line with a state law, taking effect in January 2024, that prohibits cities from blocking medicinal cannabis delivery businesses.

The ordinance was approved without public comment and with little deliberation, though Commissioner Jeff Wolfe raised questions about advertising and signage that prompted discussions.

According to the ordinance, “No visual display, signage, or communication of products being stored inside the fixed location or transported in the delivery vehicles.”

Wolfe asked if that language restricts the businesses from choosing names that identify them as cannabis deliveries, and if the city could lawfully impose such a restriction.

“I would have some pause on telling them what they can and cannot name their businesses,” said Zachary Heinselman, a lawyer in the Beverly Hills City Attorney’s office.

Commission Chair Gary Ross said the ordinance also seems to indicate that medicinal cannabis businesses would not be allowed to advertise anywhere in the city, and he asked if the city could enforce this prohibition.

According to Heinselman, the city probably cannot.

“I don’t think we can tell them they cannot advertise anywhere in the city, and he asked if the city could enforce this prohibition,” Heinselman said. “We would have to look into it.”

David Snow, the commission’s general counsel, said the purpose of the conditions is to deter crime by obstructing the businesses’ locations, and that the ordinance could be amended to restrict businesses from advertising their location, but not the services they provide.

Heinselman added that staff could clarify the language on signage and advertising after the commission approved the ordinance.

Wolfe also asked how the city could ensure that the businesses are delivering cannabis only for medical purposes.

Qualifying businesses will need to obtain a state license specific to medicinal cannabis delivery retailers, and they will need to present that license to the Planning Commission when applying for conditional use permits, policy and management analyst Cynthia Owens said.

She added that businesses will be required to maintain logs of how much cannabis they deliver and to where, and city officials will be allowed to review that information.

“The state has a high level of reporting requirements as far as these types of businesses,” City Planner Masa Alikie said. “They’re going to have a long list of things they have to report and that the [state Department of Cannabis Control] will have to enforce.”

Wolfe asked about a provision that allows businesses to purchase CCTV equipment that can be “tied into” the city’s surveillance system.

“What we are saying there is if they want us to be able to view it from [the Beverly Hills Police Department / Real Time Watch Center] … this says that can happen,” Owens said.

Following a brief period of deliberation, the ordinance was approved unanimously.

The ordinance will now go before the City Council for a final vote before January 2024.

The new ordinance would allow delivery businesses within Beverly Hills, but residents can already order medical cannabis from other cities.

BHPD officers arrest three for sunglasses theft on Rodeo Drive

By Joey Waldinger

Three male suspects were arrested and charged with grand theft after stealing sunglasses valued at $2,000 from a store in the 400 block of North Rodeo Drive on Aug. 27, Beverly Hills Police Department Lt. Reginald Evans said.

According to Evans, two of the suspects each stole a pair of sunglasses, while the third attempted to steal a pair. Store employees called police, who responded and arrested the individuals at approximately 5:47 p.m., Evans said.

There was no chase, and the sunglasses were recovered and returned to the store, he said.

Aleskanyan Harutyun, 37, of Mission Hills, and Rafik Melkonyan, 34, of Glendale, were charged with grand theft. Karen Kerakoyan, 29, of Glendale, was charged with attempted grand theft.

In addition to BHPD detectives and Crime Lab officers, Beverly Hills Fire Department firefighters and a member of the Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner office also responded to the scene, Evans said.

No further information was available.

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Missing woman sought after disappearing in Beverly Hills

Camela Leierth-Segura, a Swedish songwriter living in Beverly Hills, is still missing more than two months after she was last heard from and Beverly Hills Police Department officers do not have any updates, BHPD Lt. Richard Evans said.

According to a BHPD bulletin, Leierth-Segura was last heard from on June 27 and was reported missing on Aug. 8. The BHPD is continuing to investigate her disappearance, but has not had any updates for more than a month passed before she was reported missing, Evans said.

According to the bulletin, Leierth-Segura is 48 years-old, 5 feet 10 inches and has blonde hair. She is believed to be have an elderly black cat with her and drives a silver 2010 Ford Fusion, which has a California license plate number 6KZJ625.

The Los Angeles Police Department is urging the BHPD Watch Commander at (310)350-4951.

Since Leierth-Segura’s disappearance, friends and family in the United States and Sweden have taken to social media to try and find the missing woman.

“We are desperately seeking information on the whereabouts of our dear friend and sister, Camela Leierth-Segura,” wrote Liz Montgomery posted on social media. “We are extremely worried about her safety, and despite our best efforts, the local authorities have not been able to locate her.”

A GoFundMe account that appears to have been started by Leierth-Segura’s sister has raised approximately $27,000 to cover private investigator fees and to offer a reward for information. Montgomery urged people to share information on social media, or contact the BHPD and findcamela@gmail.com.

“Even the smallest detail can help, please reach out immediately,” said Montgomery, who could not be reached for comment. “She means the world to us and time is of the essence. Her family in Sweden is pleading for your assistance.”

People close to Camela Leierth-Segura are raising funds and awareness to help find the missing woman.

Shotting near Melrose and Vine remains under investigation

The Los Angeles Police Department is investigating a shooting on Aug. 29 around 4:40 p.m. that injured a male victim who was riding in a car on Vine Street near Melrose Avenue.

The victim was located by officers in the parking lot of a Pavilions grocery store near the intersection. The man was taken by paramedics to a hospital and treated.

Ridley-Thomas sentenced for role in bribery scheme

Former Los Angeles City Councilman and County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas was sentenced on Aug. 28 to 42 months in federal prison for a bribery and fraud scheme in which he demanded benefits for his son from a University of Southern California dean in exchange for political support for lucrative Los Angeles County business contracts.

Ridley-Thomas, 68, of Los Angeles, was sentenced by United States District Judge Dale S. Fischer, who also ordered him to pay a $30,000 fine.

A federal jury found Ridley-Thomas guilty on March 30 of one count of conspiracy, one count of bribery, one count of honest services mail fraud and five counts of honest services wire fraud. Ridley-Thomas, whose political career spans more than 30 years, was a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors when he participated in the corrupt scheme, federal authorities said. Ridley-Thomas subsequently was elected to the Los Angeles City Council, which suspended him after a federal grand jury in October 2021 indicted him in the criminal case. He was permanently removed from the City Council following his conviction.

The jury found that Ridley-Thomas engaged in a criminal conspiracy with Marilyn Flyn, 84, of Los Feliz, formerly dean of USC’s School of Social Work and a tenured professor. Ridley-Thomas helped USC secure county contracts in exchange for providing his son preferential treatment.

Task force makes arrests for flash mob burglaries

The Organized Retail Crime Taskforce, which was formed on Aug. 17 to combat flash mob-style burglaries at shopping malls and stores, arrested 11 suspects over the last week.

Two male suspects were male suspects were arrested for a robbery at the Versace store in the Beverly Center on Aug. 21. The other suspects were taken into custody in connection with burglaries at a Warehouse Shoe Store in Highland Park, a Nordstrom department store at the Topanga Mall in Canoga Park, and a Yves Saint Laurent store at the American at Brand in Glendale.

The Los Angeles Police Department did not release any information about the suspects or the arrests for the crimes in Highland Park, Canoga Park and Glendale.

The incident at the Versace store was investigated by the Organized Retail Crime Taskforce, however, it was investigated by the Organized Retail Crime Taskforce.

A male suspect in another vehicle shot the victim as the cars were fleeing the store and getting into a getaway vehicle waiting in the parking garage, Ro added. A license plate number was obtained, and police used it to identify the suspect. The task force investigated the case because authorities initially believed a larger group was involved, and because of the high value of the stolen merchandise.

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Project aims to make Hollywood Boulevard safer for pedestrians

City seeks public input on proposal
BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation has proposed new streetscape improvements along a stretch of Hollywood Boulevard between Gower Street and Lyman Place, which is just east of Vermont Avenue.

The city is seeking public input on the project in a survey that will be available online through late November or early December. The design process is expected to occur during winter and the city hopes to start the project in early 2024.

The project will include crosswalks to make Hollywood Boulevard safer for pedestrians. The LADOT reported that 56 people were killed or severely injured in collisions between 2010-19 along the two-mile stretch of Hollywood Boulevard between Gower Street and Lyman Place.

The proposed project will include continental crosswalks with high-visibility large white painted lines, and crosswalks where pedestrians can use a button to activate flashing and solid yellow and red lights to alert drivers. The project will extend similar streetscape improvements that have been installed farther east on Hollywood Boulevard in the entertainment district.

“Traffic violence is the No. 1 killer of children in our city,” said Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District. “This project can save lives and make Hollywood safer for the entire community. We send our sincere gratitude to LADOT and our community partners who are working tirelessly to bring this project to fruition.”

“Hollywood Boulevard is such an important street for our [4th District] community and for the city as a whole,” added Councilwoman Nithya Raman, 4th District, who represents the portion of Hollywood Boulevard in the Los Feliz area. “Our major roads, like Hollywood Boulevard, are places that draw people for work, shopping and errands, dining, school and living a full life. It is unacceptable that they are also some of our most dangerous roads in the city. I am so happy to have this project come before the public.”

Members of the business and entertainment communities said the proposed project will benefit Hollywood, making it more attractive to visitors.

“This project is new to us and we are learning about it in real time. We look forward to connecting with LADOT and learning more during the public process,” said Mackenzie Carter, vice president of marketing and communication for the Hollywood Partnership, which oversees the Hollywood business improvement district.

“We applaud Councilmembers Nithya Raman and Hugo Soto-Martinez, as well as the L.A. Department of Transportation, for initiating this process. Their efforts, along with input from the community, will help make Hollywood Boulevard safer and surrounding businesses more accessible for tourists, employees and customers alike,” added Steve Nissen, president and CEO Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. “In addition, the proposed project will benefit Hollywood Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project will complement future beautification of the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which welcomes over 10 million visitors every year and is a powerful economic engine for Hollywood.”

To take the survey and provide input, visit ladot.lacity.org/hollywood.

Mayor nominates new general manager to guide LADOT

Mayor Karen Bass has selected Laura Rubio-Cornejo as the new general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation following an extensive nationwide search. With more than 20 years of municipal, regional and state transportation experience, Rubio-Cornejo plans to focus on solutions that make communities safer and more livable.

Rubio-Cornejo currently serves as the city of Pasadena’s director of transportation.

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Rubio-Cornejo currently serves as the city of Pasadena’s director of transportation, and previously held senior positions with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

“We must do more to make Los Angeles neighborhoods safer for people to get where they need to go while better connecting communities to jobs and other opportunities,” Bass said. “Laura Rubio-Cornejo is a proven implementer with a record of delivering projects on time and on budget.”

“I want to thank Interim General Manager Connie Llanos. “It’s an honor to be selected to serve the people of Los Angeles as the next general manager of the Department of Transportation,” Rubio-Cornejo said. “I’m excited to bring my strategic approach and extensive experience with project delivery, resource management and equity-focused decision making to this work. I look forward to working closely with staff, across departments and in close collaboration with the community, to deliver multi-modal transportation solutions and initiatives to make Los Angeles neighborhoods safer, more accessible and more liveable.”

Rubio-Cornejo will succeed Interim General Manager Connie Llanos. “I want to thank Interim General Manager Connie Llanos, who for the past 14 months has provided steady and thorough leadership for this department,” Bass said.
Flowers were placed on the star of Bob Barker at 6714 Hollywood Blvd. BY RANCE COLLINS the Hollywood community as well as the city council on May 5, 1976, at 6714 Hollywood Blvd, awarded a star on the Walk of Fame by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for his retirement in 2007. The Right” for 35 years from 1972 until Aug. 26 at the age of 99. game show host Bob Barker, who hosted “The Price is Right” for 23 episodes. In addition, Barker also hosted the game show “Truth or Consequences” from 1956-75. An authentic animal advocate, Bob left lucrative television jobs such as the Miss America Pageant because the show featured fur coats. Michael Klausman, longtime president of Television City, which is now owned by Hackman Capital Partners, said Barker was a unique television personality. “Bob spent over 30 years with us here at the studio,” Klausman said. “On behalf of Television City, I’d like to extend our sincerest appreciation and deepest sympathy to the Barker family at this time. Bob was a gentleman. His charm, humor and kind spirit will forever be missed.” Barker was also well known for animal rights activism, and he was remembered by organizations including the Performing Animal Welfare Society. “All of us at the PAWS’ ARK 2000 sanctuary are paying tribute to Bob Barker, celebrating the life of this incredible man and animal activist,” said Ed Stewart, president, CEO and co-founder of the Performing Animal Welfare Society.

For Bob Barker, ‘The Price was Right’ to save pets BY EDWIN FOLVEN Flowers were placed at the star of Bob Barker on Aug. 26, 1999, at the age of 99. Barker hosted “The Price is Right” for 35 years from 1972 until his retirement in 2007. The Hollywood Walk of Fame is now owned by Hackman Capital Partners, said Barker was a unique television personality. “Bob spent over 30 years with us here at the studio,” Klausman said. “On behalf of Television City, I’d like to extend our sincerest appreciation and deepest sympathy to the Barker family at this time. Bob was a gentleman. His charm, humor and kind spirit will forever be missed.” Barker was also well known for animal rights activism, and he was remembered by organizations including the Performing Animal Welfare Society. “All of us at the PAWS’ ARK 2000 sanctuary are paying tribute to Bob Barker, celebrating the life of this incredible man and animal activist,” said Ed Stewart, president, CEO and co-founder of the Performing Animal Welfare Society.

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WeHo added as sponsor for Circa LGBTQ+ festival

BY RANCE COLLINS

The city of West Hollywood will co-sponsor the ONE Archives Foundation’s month-long Circa: LGBTQ+ Histories Festival in October, which will be held in West Hollywood and surrounding cities.

“The Circa event is a month-long festival featuring art, art installations, performances and other types of events, highlighting LGBTQ+ history and all that is beautiful and wonderful about the community,” Mayor Pro Tempore John Erickson said.

The festival will hold a total of 70 events throughout the month. Among the highlights will be the documentary “Jimmy in Saigon,” which follows a romance between a Midwestern American and a Vietnamese man during the Vietnam War, and trans filmmaker Pau S. Pescador’s “Working,” which examines the experiences trans people have working in civil service.

Discussions will include organizations such as the ACLU, and concert performances will include the Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles. The LGBTQ+ Celebration Theatre will mark its 40th anniversary with excerpts from some of its greatest theatrical moments.

“Because [ONE Foundation] was founded in November 1952 here in L.A., we wanted to do something very special to celebrate that incredible [70th] milestone,” ONE Archives Foundation executive director Tony Valenzuela said. “It makes us the oldest continuously operating LGBT nonprofit in the country. We thought we would showcase not just our organization and our legacy, but also the artists and educators and activists that have made up this community of folks who have made history or who … continue to make history.”

A special exhibition will highlight the organization’s ONE Magazine, which originally published from 1953-1967. The display will be on view at the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Advocate and Gochis Galleries, located at 434 N. La Cienega Blvd.

“ONE Magazine was the first widely distributed LGBTQ+ publication. Back then, it was actually called the magazine for homosexuals,” Valenzuela said. “It talked about contemporary issues for that time, which was obviously incredibly difficult. It was the year of the Lavender Scare and people’s lives were ruined if there … was a bar raid and they were arrested. This was at a really challenging time for LGBT Americans.”

ONE’s goal is to archive and tell the stories of LGBTQ+ history through a variety of educational, artistic and social justice programs. ONE also has the world’s largest collection of LGBTQ+ materials housed at USC Libraries. They also work with K-12 students to provide public programming educatating about LGBTQ+ history. ONE Archives has a gallery in West Hollywood located at 626 N. Robertson Blvd.

“The ONE Archives recognizes the contributions of so many people who fought for the rights of our LGBTQ community at a time when it was especially challenging,” Councilman John Heilman said. “It’s important for us to understand and honor the people who helped us achieve so much.”

A full schedule and tickets to the Oct. 1 opening reception will be available on Sept. 6 at circalifestival.org. For information about ONE Archives Foundation, visit onearchives.org.

Television City welcomes Magen Am for celebration

Television City hosted a Hakhel Community Celebration and graduation ceremony on Aug. 27 for Magen Am, a nonprofit that provides security services to protect and empower the Jewish community in Los Angeles. More than 300 people including local law enforcement professionals and residents attended the ceremony held in Television City’s Studio 36.

Councilman John Heilman noted that the ceremony on Aug. 27 for Magen Am, a nonprofit that provides security services to protect and empower the Jewish community in Los Angeles, is a milestone for the city.

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The festival will hold a total of 70 events throughout the month. Among the highlights will be the documentary “Jimmy in Saigon,” which follows a romance between a Midwestern American and a Vietnamese man during the Vietnam War, and trans filmmaker Pau S. Pescador’s “Working,” which examines the experiences trans people have working in civil service.

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“Because [ONE Foundation] was founded in November 1952 here in L.A., we wanted to do something very special to celebrate
**Learn about Metro work at Beverly Hills meeting**

Metro is holding an in-person meeting on the Purple Line Extension project construction in Beverly Hills on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2023 at the Beverly Hills City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive. Staff will offer information on ongoing work at the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/La Cienega stations. Metro is also working at many locations along Wilshire Boulevard and has announced plans for weekend closures near Wilshire/La Brea in September. Beginning on Sept. 29 and continuing for up to six weekends, Wilshire Boulevard will be closed between Mansfield and Cloverdale avenues for the removal of concrete deck panels. La Brea Avenue will also be closed in both directions at Wilshire Boulevard. The work will begin on Friday at 9 p.m. and continue through 6 a.m. the following Monday. Metro will provide additional notices and information about detours as the starting date for the work gets closer.

Two lanes currently remain open in each direction in the area between Highland and La Brea avenues. Work is ongoing in construction staging yards at Wilshire/La Brea and at street level.

**Work is also occurring at the Wilshire/Fairfax subway station within a staging yard at Wilshire Boulevard and Ogden Drive, and within a K-rail work zone on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard at Fairfax Avenue. The work zone will be in place through at least November. Two lanes will remain open in both directions at Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.**

Wilshire Boulevard has also been reduced to two lanes in each direction between Spaulding Avenue and San Diego Way, and at La Jolla Avenue, where a K-rail work zone is in place for cross passage construction.

- **Lessness crisis and the unsafe and unsanitary conditions this problem has created for those living in and around these encampments demand immediate action,** Park said.

City departments will report back on the feasibility of creating locations in each council district where oversized vehicles can park on the public right of way outside of residential areas, commercial corridors, and other sensitive uses. The report will also contain permit requirements and ways to best provide shower and restroom services, sanitation services and security, as well as comprehensive support services for residents. The motion will next be considered by the council’s Transportation and Housing and Homelessness committee.

**L.A. City Council explores new rules for housing in RVs**

The Los Angeles City Council will consider regulating recreational vehicles that are being used as housing from parking near schools, day care centers, parks and homes under a motion introduced on Aug. 29 by Councilwoman Traci Park, 11th District.

- **The surge in these oversized vehicles using designated areas where RVs can park and access services.**

- **The surge in these oversized vehicles being used as housing units creates a myriad of challenges that affect public health, welfare and the overall livability of our local neighborhoods,** Park said.

- **Concerns have surfaced about illegal dumping in storm drains and public streets, occupying parking spaces in neighborhoods for extended periods of time, and creating a heightened fire risk.**

- **Park is urging for a study across city departments to determine optimal locations for oversized vehicles and ensure RV dwellers can access essential services such as housing assistance and sanitation facilities.**

- **“The scale of the vehicular homeless crisis and the unsafe and unsanitary conditions this problem has created for those living in and around these encampments demand immediate action,” Park said.**

City departments will report back on the feasibility of creating locations in each council district where oversized vehicles can park on the public right of way outside of residential areas, commercial corridors, and other sensitive uses. The report will also contain permit requirements and ways to best provide shower and restroom services, sanitation services and security, as well as comprehensive support services for residents. The motion will next be considered by the council’s Transportation and Housing and Homelessness committee.

**How to Participate**

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in, watch, or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

- **In Person:** Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- **Oral Comment:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- **Recordings:** Visit [https://beverlyhills.org/recordings](https://beverlyhills.org/recordings) or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

Any written comments received by end of the day on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, September 5, 2023, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover.

According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City’s action in court, you may be limited to raise only those issues you stated or raised in the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Didier Murillo, Associate Planner, in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1156, or by email at didier@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project plans and associated application materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by contacting the project planner listed above.

Didier Murillo, Associate Planner

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require assistance in participation in this meeting, contact (310) 285-1125 (voice) prior to the meeting. The City of Beverly Hills will also provide a text-only advance notice to help ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.
BHFD empowers next generation of firefighters

The Beverly Hills Fire Department’s Empowerment Camp returns for the second year on Oct. 14 and Oct. 15, giving teens an opportunity to experience hands-on firefighting exercises, training and leadership opportunities for 9th-12th graders.

“Our Beverly Hills Fire Department and the city of Beverly Hills is committed to uplifting and empowering this next generation of great leaders,” Mayor Julian Gold said. “We want to inspire all young people in their journey of becoming firefighters.”

The camp will be held in-person at the Beverly Hills Fire Department at 445 N. Rexford Dr. Women who are 18 and older and actively pursuing a career in firefighting are encouraged to apply as a mentor instructor.

“We are fortunate to have had so many curious young adults participate in our hands-on training, getting a close glimpse of what our women and men do to protect our community,” Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton said. “We look forward to welcoming the class of 2023.”

Last year’s empowerment camp was open only to young girls, but for the second year, the BHFD is welcoming all youth interested in a career in the fire service.

“We had such a great turnout last year,” said BHFD Fire Engineer Melissa Hillis, who spearheaded the initiative last year. “The teens really pushed themselves and made us all proud. Our department is a huge proponent of improving gender diversity and increasing community ties, so we’re welcoming all curious minds this year who are aligned in our mission.”

Registration is free and begins on Friday, Sept. 1, and continues until all spots are filled.

To register, visit beverlyhills.org/empowerment-camp. For questions, email FireEmp@beverlyhills.org.

Ridership jumps in July on Metro bus and rail lines

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced on Aug. 28 that it experienced a 15% year-over-year increase in ridership in July 2023 compared to July 2022, with more than 23.3 million boardings.

It marked the eighth consecutive month of year-over-year ridership growth. Metro’s monthly bus and rail ridership is at 76% of its 2019 pre-pandemic level. Average weekend ridership is up at 85% of pre-pandemic (July 2019) levels and average boardings on Sundays reaching almost 90% of their (July 2019) pre-pandemic level.

These new numbers reflect the value Metro can provide by helping more people travel to more places in Los Angeles. As ridership continues to increase, I want to encourage past and potential eligible riders to sign up for Metro’s GoPass and LILeF programs, which provide free rides for eligible riders,” Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board chair Karen Bass said. “I look forward to seeing more increased ridership as Metro continues its efforts to make it safer and easier to take its buses and trains.”

July 2023 marked the first full month of operation for the newly reconfigured A and E Lines, following the opening of the Regional Connector project in June. The Regional Connector consolidated three of Metro’s rail lines – the A (Blue), E (Expo) and L (Gold) lines – into two lines. Under the new configuration, the A Line runs from Arroyo to Long Beach, and the E Line runs from East L.A. to Santa Monica.

During July 2023, ridership on the A and E Lines rose 26% on the weekdays compared to the combined ridership on the A (Blue), E (Expo) and L (Gold) lines in July 2022. Ridership on the weekends in July 2023 rose nearly 42% compared to the combined ridership on the A (Blue), E (Expo) and L (Gold) lines in July 2022.

Ridership also rose on other parts of the Metro rail system. On the B Line (Red), D Line (Purple) subway lines, ridership in July 2023 rose 13% on weekdays and 4% on the weekends compared to July 2022. Average Sunday ridership on the B Line and D Line is at 99% of pre-pandemic levels. On Sundays in July, an average of 61,290 trips were taken on the B Line and D lines, compared to 61,923 in July 2019 before the pandemic.

Weekend ridership was driven in part by special events such as the Anime Expo (A Line), NoHo Summer Nights (B Line), Riverfest (A Line), Rock the Block (K Line) and a soccer match between the L.A. Galaxy and LAFC at the Rose Bowl (A Line).

“We continue to be encouraged that more people are choosing to go Metro on both bus and rail,” Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said. “We believe these ridership gains can be directly tied to our proactive efforts to improve the customer experience over the past year, from restoring our pre-pandemic level of bus service to making big improvements related to safety, security and cleanliness on our rail system.”

For information, visit metro.net.

Gold encourages civic participation at Office Hours

Donning a white lab coat, Beverly Hills Mayor Julian Gold welcomed residents to the second in-person Office Hours conversation on Aug. 23.

One of Gold’s signature initiatives as mayor, Office Hours is an opportunity for Gold to hear directly from residents about the issues most concerning to them. He extended a special invitation to young residents, in line with another signature initiative to get youth more involved in civic life.

During the Aug. 23 meeting, Gold and residents discussed issues related to safety, security and clean energy, previewing rules and regulations related to safety, security and clean energy.

“I do have some stuff to talk about, but that can wait. I’m kind of more interested in what’s going on for you that you would like us to talk about, because that’s more important,” Gold said. “I’m here, tell me what you’re thinking about, tell me what’s on your mind.”

Gold extended an open invitation to young residents interested in civic affairs.

“We are fortunate to have had so many curious young adults participate in our hands-on training, getting a close glimpse of what our women and men do to protect our community,” Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton said. “We look forward to welcoming the class of 2023.”

Registration is free and begins on Friday, Sept. 1, and continues until all spots are filled.

To register, visit beverlyhills.org/empowerment-camp. For questions, email FireEmp@beverlyhills.org.

The camp helps young residents build confidence and provides a hands-on look at the life of a firefighter.
The pop-up art exhibit will be located in Plummer Park's north parking lot.

Scenes from a marriage

“All the promise in the world right there in those newfound smiles,” noted my pal Mike of my daughter’s wedding photos. “Sweet, poignant and loads of fun… everything a wedding should be!” noted another reader, Kathryn.

“Love the bride and the little barefoot girl,” said Elissa.

Yeah. Look, I’m done bleating out. My own little barefoot girl is gone, freckles and all – the second to go.

For a father, a kid’s wedding is a colossal milestone. The end of something, the launch point to something else. Roll credits. Pray for grand-children. Remember your meds. Goes too fast, doesn’t it?

As I stood at my own altar 41 years ago — in a bad tux in a too-hot Florida church — could I have known all that lay before us?

Maybe that’s the most-beautiful thing about a wedding. “All the promise in the world…” As Vonnegut said once: “If this isn’t nice, I don’t know what is.”

Agreed.

Photo courtesy of Chris Erskine

The father and the bride, sublime.


Sadly, we don’t dance enough. It takes a prom or a wedding. Then we let it rip.

At Rapunzel’s wedding last week, one niece did the splits. Boom! A dude split his pants. Ouch!

At one point, the guests lifted the bride off the dance floor like a platter of deli food, then lifted the full-backed groom too, to body surf the crowd.

Look, maybe I’ve seen too many Richard Curtis movies.

But I love weddings the way Ernie Banks loved double-headers, the way snow loves Christmas Eve. I love Vivaldi on the violin. I love the hustle of the room when the crowd stands for the bride.

I love the way the officiant clears her throat before starting.

I love the click of the first ice cubes in a good thick glass a half hour later.

In the reception hall, I love the way the men jerk their necks while loosening their ties – like Dangerfield – and the way the women kick off their glass slippers – like Hepburn.

Honestly, my father-of-the-bride toast sounded like a Mike Ditka halftime speech. That was on purpose. My role? To lead and inspire. To win the division. To pound the ball. “To laughter,” I said raising my glass, “And to love.”

See? Pure Ditka.

I danced the traditional dad-daughter dance like a guy pumping water out of a Wisconsin well on a torrid dance floor, a man on a mission — than of Mount Rushmore.

There are more photos of the flower girl (Cakes) than of Mount Rushmore. It’s not the photos though really. The real keepsakes are the aura… the mood… the emotional undertow of this milestone summer evening.

It’s seeing nearly everyone I care about in the world in this one enormous, candle-light room.

It’s hearing my daughter, at the altar, pledging the rest of her life to a dude we’ve all come to love.

It’s all the promise in the world.

For past columns and books, please go to ChrisErskineLA.com.

Art exhibit pops up in Plummer Park

The city of West Hollywood’s Arts Division will present a one-night pop-up art exhibition on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 5-9 p.m. in Plummer Park’s north parking lot.

Titled “HB7: Cruising,” the exhibit is part of the city’s Art on the Outside Program. Presented by the High Beams, “HB7: Cruising,” includes sculpture, installation, painting, video and performance artworks by 20 artists.

The “cruisers” at “HB7” will walk through a wide-ranging and interactive temporary art garden reflective of a city as diverse as the work, while paying homage to West Hollywood’s legendary nightlife.

The themes among the artworks vary, though commonalities include trauma, an impending planetary crisis, body autonomy and hedonism. Some of the exhibit’s artists work with themes around hedonism, body autonomy and eco-feminism. One of the artworks features a sculpture truly inspired by the endless parade of anxiety-inducing news.

High Beams, a five-person curatorial group comprised of artists Carl Baratta, Dani Dodge, Alanna Marcelletti, Sean Noyce and Katya Ustvinsky, have collectively organized six exhibitions. Baratta and Ustvinsky are also lead curators at Tiger Stripes Asteroids - Los Angeles and have organized numerous exhibitions around the world.

In the video, our arms saw up and down – too fast by half – as if dancing a polka.

Photo courtesy of Chris Erskine

The pop-up art exhibit will be located in Plummer Park’s north parking lot.


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“BE A ROLL MODEL”

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS.

Safe transportation starts with you!
Letters to the Editor

Bike lanes are bad idea on Fountain Avenue

Re “Bike lanes pedal down Santa Monica, Fountain,” Aug. 24 issue

Bike lanes on Fountain Avenue are a bad idea. Vehicular traffic is like water; it will always find a way to get through the design of the doesn’t it? I am sure traffic will back up, just like the water flooding several blocks of Melrose Avenue.

Fountain is a major cut-through street, carrying thousands of cars a day, its importance is further realized in Betty Davis’ famous line decades ago that got us all: “When asked about advice she would give to a young starlet trying to get into Hollywood, Davis quipped, “Take Fountain!”

It isn’t wide enough for bicycle lanes to be added without eliminating either traffic lanes, impacting traffic flow or parking, impacting those who live or work in the area, and buildings built without sufficient underground parking. Fountain is on the side of a hill, so getting to and from it is not easy for a cyclist.

The bicycle lane should be installed first on Santa Monica Boulevard, in the median strip. The bike lane should be as wide as the median strip is an ideal place for bike lanes. Plus, traffic moves more slowly building up will be safer.

City authorities should see how many people use it before installing bike lanes on Fountain. And I sure hope they plan to do traffic studies wherever they install bike lanes to measure the impact on traffic and see how many bike riders use them and how many bike riders are hit by cars.

Two final, more general comments: Cyclists cannot make in historic traffic patterns in isolation, but should be required by regional planning authorities to coordinate plans. A bicycle lane on Fountain, or on Santa Monica, that ends at the city borders, just reduces vehicular traffic without really providing something useful for bike riders.

And traffic calming or bike lanes are incompatible with the overdevelopment favored by city authorities who receive lucrative campaign donations, like the proposed giant television City project also on the front page, and in some cases outright bribe, from developers. This is especially true of the corridor from Pico Boulevard or even Venice or Westwood on the south and Sunset on the north, from the Pacific Ocean to downtown Los Angeles.

The region’s road structure was developed in the 1920s. The population has increased dramatically since then. The Los Angeles Red Car System and the rise of the freeways. When even the L.A. Metrolink [system] is fully developed, it will never be as comprehensible as the subway systems in New York, London or Paris, where one can live or visit without a car.

City planning authorities to coordinate traffic calming or bike lanes with the overdevelopment, becomes evident that a rule-based environmental impact report with great photos truly would disrupt global supply chains and from it is not easy for a cyclist. It is our pleasure to have your continued stellar journalism. Thank you for sharing news about First-In Fire Foundation’s service.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about First-In Fire Foundation’s service.

The project exempt from CEQA for the reasons set forth above.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically, and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable.

How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk’s office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the City Clerk’s Office. The written comments should be submitted to the City Clerk’s Office. The written comment shall be archived in full as part of the record.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be no longer than three (3) minutes per individual comment, subject to City Council discretion based on the anticipated length in the meeting. In-person speaker cards may be submitted to the City Clerk directly during the meeting.

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code Section 65069, if you challenge the Council’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice or written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

In Person Participation

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

In person comments are subject to City Council discretion based on the anticipated length in the meeting. In-person speaker cards may be submitted to the City Clerk directly during the meet-

The City Hall at 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

A DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS TO PROVIDE OBJECTIVE STANDARDS FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS WITH NO MORE THAN TWO PRIMARY UNITS AND URBAN LOT SPLIT PARCELS IN SENSITIVE ZONES PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 65825.21 AND 66411.7 (SBEEN BILL 9, 2021), AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

At its December 7, 2021, meeting, the City Council voted to adopt an interim ordinance (Ordinance No. 21-0-2833) that created objective standards for SB 9 housing developments under the provisions of Government Code Sections 65825.21 and 66411.7. The standards apply to the ministerial review and approval of a two-lot subdivision (“urban lot split”) and/or development projects with up to two residential units per lot in single-family residential zones constructed pursuant to SB 9 regulations. The interim ordinance adopts regulations that were considered by the City Planning Commission on November 7, 2021, and the City Planning Commission voted to adopt them for an initial 45-day period ending on January 22, 2022. This interim ordinance was subsequently extended for an additional ten (10) month and fifteen (15) day period through the adoption of Ordinance No. 21-0-2856, and for an additional one-year period through the adoption of Ordinance No. 22-O-2869. The interim ordinance has been extended the maximum period of time possible to provide additional time for staff to review the regulations and conditions in the City, and will expire on December 6, 2023.

Staff has worked to study and develop regulations that can be adopted on a permanent basis and would create objective standards for urban lot split projects and development projects with up to two residential units per lot in one single-family residential zones constructed pursuant to SB 9.

Staff presented a draft ordinance for the Planning Commission to review during their regular meeting on August 10, 2023. The Planning Commission deliberated, and recommended amendments to the draft ordinance, which were to change the inclusionary housing requirement to be consistent with the existing requirements in Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) §10-3-4803, and to exempt basement floor area from the total floor area maximum limitation applicable to SB 9 projects. The Planning Commission adopted a resolution (4-1) recommending the approval of the draft ordinance as amended to the City Council.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the Environmental Documentation Act. The project is not considered and is exempt under CEQA pursuant to Government Code Sections 65825.21(1) and 66411.7(n) that provide that ordinances that implement Government Code Sections 65825.21 and 66411.7, respectively, shall not be considered CEQA. The City has conducted an environmental review for the project under CEQA because it can be seen with certainty that there is no potential for such ordinance to have a significant adverse effect on the environment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). The draft ordinance does not authorize construction and consists of additional regulations on future development, which will be treated ministerially pursuant to the stipuations of SB 9. Accordingly, the City Council will consider a recommendation to find
**Malibu Pier chef duo dinner**

The L.A. Times Food Bowl will have a Malibu Beach afternoon on Sept. 8, at 3 p.m. Tables are set on the pier overlooking the surf, while diners feel ocean breezes. Chefs Sammy Monsour of the newly opened Joyce and Tony Messina of Surf Clam will collaborate to prepare the Pacific’s freshest catch. They are bringing together flavors of East Coast clam shacks and Southern soul food. Tickets are $425 per person. 23000 CA-1, Malibu. Go to lafoodbowl.com.

**L.A. Times Food Bowl dinners at The Aster**

On the Aster’s rooftop deck, diners will have the opportunity to enjoy two different L.A. Food Bowl dinners prepared by decorated chefs from around the world. On Wednesday, Sept. 6, the L.A. Food Bowl Launch Party features all-inclusive food and drinks prepared by Stephanie Izard of Girl & the Goat & the Goat and Jon Yao of Kato, among others. Tickets are from $150 on Eventbrite. On Monday, Sept. 25, chef Thitid “Ton” Tassanakajohn and L.A. celebrity chef Marcel Vigneron, create a Four Hands Dinner East-Meets-West collaboration. The five-course Thai-inspired dinner at The Aster Lemon Grove restaurant will have a wine pairing and Mortlach Scotch cocktails with the courses. Tickets are $125 per person on Resy: 1717 Vine St., (323) 962-1717.

**Wattles Farm LA Times Food Bowl**

On Sept. 3, the hillside estate of Gurdon Wattles will host a community dinner. Gates open at 3 p.m. to welcome ticket holders for a Peranakan meal crafted by Michelin-starred chef Malcolm Lee of Cinnamon in Singapore. Los Angeles culinary creative (and fellow Michelin recipient) chef Mui Phan, of Porridge + Puffs and Phetnake, will join chef Lee in the field kitchen for a feast inspired by his Singaporean heritage. Tickets are $375 per person. Go to lafoodbowl.com. 1714 N. Curson Ave., (323)663-7441.

**Labor Day menu at Morton’s Steakhouse**

A special crafted three-course menu will be served now through Sept. 5 for $69 per person. Starters include a Morton’s wedge salad, tuna poke, or prosciutto wrapped mussels. Select one of the featured entrees: a double-cut prime pork chop, center cut filet mignon, horseradish crusted salmon or lobster ravioli. Diners also can select one of the side dishes and a dessert. Other Morton’s locations including Burbank are offering this special menu. Go to mortons.com. 735 S. Figueroa St., Suite 207, (213)353-4566.

**New Brunch at Boxwood Restaurant**

Now bottomless brunch is offered on Saturdays and Sundays at The London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills. Weekend brunch begins at 11 a.m., with unlimited brunch plates by executive chef Anthony Keene. He is debuting new dishes that include a breakfast pizza with sausage, egg and mozzarella. Try the new butter poached lobster roll with truffle aioli. Be sure to order a funnel cake with Harry’s berries or bomboloni Italian doughnuts. Healthy items include ancient grains with roasted peppers, avocado, farro, quinoa and a soft scrambled egg. Enjoy these plates with free-flowing brunch cocktails, such as Breakfast Old Fashioned, mimosas, garden spritz, Bloody Mary, margarita, juice, coffee and iced tea. The special brunch is $82 per person for food only or $110 per person for food and drink options. An a la carte brunch menu is also available. Reservations are available via OpenTable. 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd., (310)358-7788.

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Beverly Press/Park Labrea News 13 August 31, 2023

Tianto Kitchen + Garden introduces Friday brunch

The Cal-Asian restaurant Tianto Kitchen + Garden by the An Family behind Crustacean Beverly Hills, is now offering an early start to the weekend. Proprietor Catherine An and chefs incorporate some of chef Helene’s classic Vietnamese technique, flavor and spices to create Friday brunch. The fun and modern dining venue serves creative cocktails and pressed juices with live music in a pretty garden-like space.

Happy Hour is every Thursday and Friday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. 2900 Colorado Ave., (310)886-5228.

The Day of The Dog Festival

On Sept. 9, celebrate the special bond between humans and canines at the largest festival for dogs in North America. Open to the entire family from noon to 5 p.m. Enjoy dozens of unique attractions and pet vendors. Chef Caroline Artiss of Migos Dog Food will prepare brunch for dogs with cowboy-chick themed lip licking fare. The Day of The Dog is a fundraiser for the Just Love Animals Society, a non-profit organization with a focus on community outreach and animal welfare. Two full city blocks on Main Street where the streets will be closed. Public parking is located at Santa Monica Beach Parking Lot 5. Visit thedayofthedog.com, 2725 Main St.

Fall Dine LA open for reservations

The city’s culinary celebration, Dine LA returns this fall from Oct. 6-20. The highly anticipated 15-day event celebrates the program’s 15th anniversary. Food enthusiasts can indulge in a enticing array of specially priced menus at flexible price points starting at $15 to $65+. The season there are 25 Michelin recognized eateries while be represented with conic and emerging restaurants and chefs across Los Angeles participating. Los Angeles Tourism will offer specially themed 15th anniversary events, including a gift card opportunity for diners. discoverlosangeles.com/dineLA.

Longtime owners of Peking Kitchen at the Farmers Market honored upon retirement

Husband-and-wife team Tony and Annie Zou, longtime owners of Peking Kitchen at the Original Farmers Market, are retiring on Aug. 31 after serving fresh and flavorful traditional Chinese dishes for more than three decades.

Tony and Annie Zou grew up in the same town outside of Hong Kong and immigrated to the United States with their respective families before meeting in Los Angeles in the mid-1980s. Tony Zou worked as a dishwasher at Peking Kitchen, which was opened by his aunt Betty in the 1970s. She prepared her nephew and his bride to take over ownership of the restaurant when she retired in 1989.

For the past 34 years, the Zous have operated Peking Kitchen together, with Annie Zou preparing food in the back and Tony Zou greeting customers in front. In recognition of their longtime tenure in the community and their retirement, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaraslavsky, 5th District, will present the Zous with a proclamation on Aug. 31 at 12:30 p.m. This fall, the popular Monterey Park shop Noodle Art will take over the former Peking Kitchen space in the Farmers Market, 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit farmersmarketla.com.
The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas policed by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Aug. 20 and Aug. 26. The information was compiled from crime mapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies, Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (310)380-5868, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8901, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)444-4444.

**Beverly Hills Police Department**

**Aug. 20**
At 12:08 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 8600 block of Coldwater Canyon.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of N. Oakhurst at 1:44 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect stole auto parts in the 400 block of S. Peck.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1100 block of Coldwater Canyon at midnight.

**Aug. 21**
At 1:38 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

At 7:28 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

**Aug. 22**
At 3:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of S. Peterson.

**Aug. 23**
At 12:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 9:52 a.m.

**Aug. 24**
At 3:20 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8800 block of Olympic.

**Aug. 25**
An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 1:20 a.m.

At 10:41 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8900 block of Rosewood.

**Aug. 26**
At 4:50 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8400 block of Sunset at 6:40 a.m.

At 9:58 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Santa Monica.

**West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station**

**Aug. 20**
At 1:53 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8400 block of Sunset at 7 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a burglary in the 600 block of N. La Peer.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1005 block of N. Fairfax at 1 p.m.

**Aug. 21**
At 5 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8500 block of Sunset at noon.

At 2:44 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Kings.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1000 block of Formosa at 6:30 p.m.

**Aug. 22**
At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of N. Alfred.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 7900 block of Norten at 11 p.m.

**Aug. 23**
At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 900 block of Hayworth at 3:51 p.m.

**Aug. 24**
At 9:15 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 9000 block of Keith.

**Aug. 25**
An unknown suspect committed a petit theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 10:45 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 900 block of N. Carbon.

**Aug. 26**
At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7600 block of Lexington at 12:32 a.m.

At 3:15 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a victim near Beverly and Doheny.

**Los Angeles Police Department**

**Aug. 20**
At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1100 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle near Highland and Hawthorn at 5:35 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 900 block of S. Curson.

**Aug. 21**
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7600 block of Melrose at 3:45 a.m.

At 4:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6700 block of N. La Cienega.

**Aug. 22**
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 5600 block of Wilshire.

**Aug. 23**
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of S. Cahuenga.

**Aug. 24**
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 900 block of S. Genesee.

**Aug. 25**
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of N. June at 2:25 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 700 block of N. Curson.

**Aug. 26**
At 9:33 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6600 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 6600 block of Santa Monica at 10 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 600 block of S. Fuller.

**Aug. 27**
An attempted burglary was reported at the 7700 block of Sunset at 12:47 p.m.

At 12:50 p.m., an attempted robbery was reported near Sunset and Alva.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 600 block of N. Martel at 1:40 p.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7100 block of Melrose.

An assault was reported near Third and Gardner at 3 p.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 500 block of N. Bronson.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6500 block of Hollywood at 3:45 p.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle near Olympic and La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. El Segundo at 6 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 6200 block of Hollywood.

**Aug. 26**
At 1:40 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a victim in the 5800 block of Gregory.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 100 block of S. La Brea at 1:30 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1300 block of S. Doheny.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 5800 block of Gregory at 8:25 p.m.

At 9:51 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. McCadden at 11:20 p.m.

**State urges court to uphold restraining orders**

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Aug. 22 that he filed an amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court in defense of a federal law that prohibits individuals under domestic violence restraining orders from possessing firearms.

The new United States v. Rahimi, being heard by the Supreme Court following the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision ruling the federal government’s use of the federal “red flag” law unconstitutional under the Second Amendment. The governor’s brief argues that the lower court incorrectly interpret- ed a Supreme Court decision last year and that the federal govern- ment’s ability to enact gun regula- tions to protect families from danger- ous individuals is supported by a longstanding tradition.

“’It’s simple, domestic abusers shouldn’t have guns and America’s gun safety laws are supported by the Constitution and longstanding histor- ical tradition’,” Newsom said. “’The Second Amendment is not a suicide pact. The Supreme Court must reverse the lower court’s decision.’”

California has laws that allow vic- tims of domestic violence to seek protective orders to prohibit an abuser from possessing a gun. Across the nation, 45 states have laws that limit the ability of those under a domestic violence restraining order from accessing firearms. Newsom said the laws save lives and protect victims from poten- tial violence.

The governor defends the fed- eral government’s ability to enact common sense gun safety laws, and builds on California’s longstanding efforts to reduce gun violence, pro- tect victims and survivors, and save lives.

Newsom recently introduced a proposal to end the gun violence cri- sis by making it easier for Californians to sue manufacturers of the U.S. Constitution, signed a pack- age of gun safety laws making it easier for Californians to sue manufac- turers of illegal assault weapons and those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi- ties, allowing lawsuits against irre- sponsible gun industry members, bringing those bringing them into communi-
Hollywood Roosevelt’s new Shirley Brasserie

By Jill Weinlein

The dining space at Shirley Brasserie exudes a Spanish Colonial Revival design style with soaring archways, rich wood paneling, and intricate detailing. The tables with starched white linen tablecloths add to the romantic ambiance. The venue also boasts tall windows with white drapes allowing more natural light into the venue. The tables with brass bases and glass tops are complemented by large meringue squares are topped with real mustard sauce that gave the potatoes a rich flavor. The chicken, lamb and pork chop round out the meat selections. We added a side of wood grilled green beans enhanced with an ethereal mustard sauce that gave the beans a punch.

To finish our dinner, we ordered the uniquely wonderful Floating Islands dessert. Served in a bowl with vanilla anglaise sauce, two large meringue squares are topped with handful of fresh berries and chopped mint which melded in our mouth. We veered into the lobby before leaving and saw the stairway that Shirley Temple danced down, with a mirror from Marilyn Monroe’s cabana room midway up the steps. Some say her image appears when guests look into it.

The famed Roosevelt’s Blossom Ballroom, which was the venue for the first Academy Awards in 1929, is still bathed in rose pink, and continues to be a popular event space. Hotel guests and visitors lounged on comfortable couches and chairs while listening to a musical duo playing classic jazz in the lobby. The lobby steps back in time to Hollywood’s Golden Age, like a movie set with magnificent painted ceilings, shiny Skiltof tiled floor, area rugs, a bubbling fountain, balconies and a roaring fire in the fireplace. To be sure to visit the hotel’s outdoor pool to take a peek at the bottom filled with blue swirls. It was painted years ago by acclaimed artist David Hockney.

Shirley Brasserie is open every day at 5 p.m. It will open for weekend brunch and offer a pre-theatre menu soon. SS-$$ 7000 Hollywood Blvd., (323)856-1970.

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SOAK UP THAT LAST BIT OF SUMMER!
Summer screenings continue at Cinespia

On Sept. 2, Cinespia will screen the hit 2006 comedy “The Devil Wears Prada.” The story follows Andy (Anne Hathaway) as she becomes a personal assistant to The Devil (Meryl Streep). Though seemingly wonderfully suited to the position, Andy rises to the occasion — but at what cost? Streep was praised for her icy, hilariously layered performance, for which she earned an Oscar nomination.

Hollywood Forever Cemetery is located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd. For information and tickets, visit cinespia.org/event/prada.

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Rosh Hashana
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The Movable Minyan

Beverly Press/Park Labrea News
This not that: ‘You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah’ v ‘Vacation Friends 2’

**Vacation Friends 2**

“If Vacation Friends” served up some enjoyable moments and memorable characters, allowing John Cena a chance to spread his acting wings into comedy. A sequel makes sense. Too bad the magic dwindles in “Vacation Friends 2” thanks to an overstuffed plot that forgets to laugh.

Ron (Cena) and Kyla (Meredith Hagner) are the kind of folks you wanna party with, even with a toddler in the mix. Marcus (Lil Red Howery) and Emily (Yvonne Orji) know this well as they embark on another destination getaway. Prepare for shots, lines and hair catching on fire. But Marcus has another reason for visiting a particular resort: landing a major development project for his construction company.

He hopes to keep personal life and business separate, but the hopeful client spends an earlier meeting. Then Kyla’s dad Reese (Steve Buscemi) comes up fresh outta San Quentin. Ron loves and is loved by everyone, but this father-in-law isn’t impressed. He cares more about some side hustle primed to thwart the calm Marcus desired before a major presentation.

That ain’t the “Vacation Friends” way. Both films thrive on Marcus’ anxiety. Ever the straight man, he must adapt to situations quickly evolving beyond his control, from first-time surviving pro-grade waves to figuring out what his future with Emily will look like.

It starts well and goes strong for maybe 35 minutes before leveling out, trying to expand its subplots. That all comes at the expense of humor. Frankly, the moments between Reese and Ron should’ve been replaced with more shenanigans from Kyla, the sleeper best character here.

As is, “Vacation Friends 2” is the kind of flick you turn on during chores. Perhaps watch the first half and check back in intermittently for the second. You won’t miss much, definitely not even a chuckle.

“**You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah***

Adam Sandler is a fascinating actor. From his comedic roots to his latest forays into comedy, Sandler has proven his versatility and ability to bring laughs to the screen. In “You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah,” Sandler performs wonderfully as Marcus, a business owner who is forced to attend his daughter’s Bat Mitzvah. The film follows Marcus and his family as they navigate the ups and downs of the celebration, all while trying to keep their cool in the face of unexpected events.

The movie is a fun and light-hearted look at the experience of participating in a Bat Mitzvah, and Sandler does an excellent job of bringing Marcus’ character to life. The film is filled with lighthearted moments and plenty of laughs, making it a must-see for fans of Sandler’s work.

Documentary highlights strength of Holocaust survivors

Holocaust Museum L.A. presents the powerful German documentary “In the Land of the Perpetrators: Holocaust Survivors in Post-War Germany,” on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m.

When World War II ended in 1945, millions of prisoners of war and slave laborers were able to return home. But for around 5,000 Jews freed from concentration camps, there was nowhere to return — their homes and families were gone. The U.S. Army established Displaced Persons Camps to house these survivors.

The film features survivors liberated from the town of Landsberg am Lech, near Munich, and housed in the Displaced Persons Camp after the war. Between 1945 and 1950 that camp, one of the largest in Europe, was home to up to 7,000 Jews, a “city within a city.” Life in the camp was disconnected from its experience of the Holocaust, the search for surviving family members, the need for education and professional skills, and the yearning to leave Germany.

In the film survivors share their families’ fates and their attempts to establish a normal life in the aftermath of horrific events. Filmmakers also follow a small group of Germans from Landsberg who continue to fight for a memorial site in the town to commemorate Jews that were murdered there by the Nazis.

The English-language film, screened publicly for one of the first times in the U.S., is produced by German public broadcasting company Deutsche Welle.

A panel discussion following the documentary will feature survivors including Joe Alexander.
Ted Lieu looks to revive Federal Writers’ Project

U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Los Angeles) has introduced legislation in the House of Representatives to re-create a new grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor to hire America’s unemployed and underemployed writers and journalists to document the American experience. Between late 1939 and May 2022, more than 360 newspapers closed and the country is on track to lose more than one-third of its total newspapers by 2025. Inspired by the 1935 Federal Writers’ Project of the New Deal Era, the 21st Century Federal Writers’ Project Act will help address loss of information due to the closures of local newspapers and the mass unemployment of writers across America. It will also create a nationally administered and searchable repository to archive the stories of America’s history and the experiences of our time.

“If enacted, our bill will revive the New Deal era’s Federal Writers’ Project by creating a new program to hire America’s unemployed and underemployed writers. The original Federal Writers’ Project was successful in trailblazing literary works that informed and inspired the American public,” Lieu said. “These works, ranging from the American Guide Series to the Slave Narrative Project, helped bring vibrance and storytelling to our accounting of American history. We’re looking to renew the Federal Writers’ Project to ensure stories from our modern past are recorded for posterity, especially given that we’ve just endured a once-in-a-century pandemic that changed our world. Our bill will also lift up writers and journalists, many of whom have been laid off or lost their jobs in recent years due to the pandemic and America’s changing media landscape. I’m grateful to Representative Leger Fernandez for partnering with me on this bill to ensure the stories of today don’t go untold.”

“Reporters, writers and poets have always been an important part of our communities. We rely on them to inform us and open our eyes to the realities of the world around us,” Fernandez said. “We saw their impact during the pandemic, and we continue to see it every day. I am proud to co-lead the 21st Century Federal Writers’ Project alongside representative Ted Lieu to help our storytellers inspire new generations of listeners and readers.”

The legislation is supported by many of the country’s leading literary figures, including David Kipen, founder of the Libros Schimibrlos Project, the 21st Century Federal Writers’ Project, the suicide rate would have been much higher,” said one award-winning novelist nurtured by the original program,” according to Kipen. “We assume he meant his fellow writers, but don’t underesti- miate the uplifting effect of the Project’s bestselling state guidebooks on a citizenry as divided and lonely then as ours is now. These ‘American Guides’ delighted a nation and nurtured an entire generation of great writing. Today’s updated FWP will promote reading and the humanities, preserve our elders’ endangered sto ries and, at long last, help reintroduce America to itself.”

Rebecca Solnit, author of “Men Explain Things to Me” and “Hope in the Dark,” said, “That stories, especially those of people ‘who live far beyond the spotlight,’ are the United States’ most overlooked resources. ‘The idea of sending waves of non-poverty literature to future readers and maybe preserve them, as the oral historians of the Federal Writers’ Project did, is gorgeous and would save innumerable stories from vanishing for good, the stories of who we really are.’

With the new resolution, the district has reaffirmed its commitment to improving literacy at all campuses.

‘Read a Book Day’ marked on Sept. 18

Across the Los Angeles Unified School District, Sept. 18 is now recognized as National Read a Book Day after a unanimous vote by the Board of Education. The resolution, approved on Aug. 22, allows for district staff to recognize the importance of reading and encourages all students, staff, administrators and parents to join in the celebration at schools and at home.

“As a life-long educator, I know that the availability of books and library programs positively influ- ence the development of students’ reading interests,” board vice president Scott M. Schmerelson said. “This is why it is important that every elementary school has a fully functioning library. We in Los Angeles Unified commit to an antisemitic act or other forms of hate at a California public school. We will work side-by-side with school and district leaders to ensure that teachers have the resources and partnerships needed to address both the immediate crisis and the long-term educational implications. My priority is to empower educators and students to confront the hate, bigotry and racism rising against several communities in the state and nation,” Thurmond said.

The next event in Thurmond’s Education to End Hate series is scheduled for Sept. 12, with details forthcoming.

To view a recording of the webinar, visit facebook.com/watch?live=true&watch_permalink=k=18424838018844. For information, visit cde.ca.gov.

Education roundtable combats antisemitism

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond hosted an important virtual roundtable dis- cussion, Education to End Hate: Countering Antisemitism, to dis- cuss the role of education in addressing antisemitism. The webi- nar convened approximately 350 officials and faith leaders, who are working to counter the recent rise in anti-Semitic acts.

Hate crimes in California have increased during the time there is an incident, every time there is a threat, a child is affected, a family is impacted, a community is destabilized,” Thurmond said. “The hurt is real, and pain is palpable and this rise in hate affects us all. I want you to know that it is very intentional that we begin this series discussing ways we can address the rise in antisemitism across California and our nation. History teaches us that when antisemitism rises, acts of hatred against other communities follow closely behind.”

Panelists discussed the rich histo- ry and multifaceted elements of Jewish identity and the rise of anti- semitism, and specific ways that educators can help address antisemitism throughout the state. They identified important resources that teachers can use to address antisemitism and all forms of hate.

Thurmond was joined by a panel of community leaders to frame the issue, including executive director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Museums of Tolerance Rabbi Meyer May. Members of the Jewish Legislative Caucus offered opening remarks at the beginning of the event including Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Los Angeles), Sen. Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles), Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and Assemblymember Laura Friedman.

The Education to End Hate webi- nar is Thurmond’s latest effort to combat antisemitism in California and after becoming co-chair of the Governor’s Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education in November 2021 to help identify instructional resources to teach stu- dents across California about the Holocaust and other acts of geno- cide.

Thurmond hopes that Californians can work in solidarity through education toward a better future for California students to help show how schools can play a vital role in combating acts of hate.

“I have pledged that the CDE will intervene whenever we learn about an antisemitic act or other forms of hate at a California public school. We will work side-by-side with school and district leaders to ensure that teachers have the resources and partnerships needed to address both the immediate crisis and the long-term educational implications. My priority is to empower educators and students to confront the hate, bigotry and racism rising against several communities in the state and nation,” Thurmond said.

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The El Segundo of Los Angeles, a non-profit dedicated to inspiring women of the Ebell and through arts, culture and education, has marked the first time the organization presents this season, bringing together some of the biggest names in film and television, including Marc Anthony, who has been credited with more than 50 Billboard chart No. 1 hits.

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Marc Anthony receives Hollywood star

The city of West Hollywood is receiving a Hollywood star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The star will be unveiled at 2824 Hollywood Boulevard near the Hollywood Hotel and the historic corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street. Anthony will be honored on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. with a magical score by Englebert Humperdinck. It can be enjoyed by the entire family, with a running time of just over 11 seasons.

Marc Anthony will be honored on the Hollywood Walk of Fame star on Sept. 9. (Photo courtesy of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce)

Cinecon projects the classics for 59th year

For more than a century, Cinecon has gathered over Labor Day Weekend to celebrate the movies at the annual Cinecon Classic Film Festival. Cinecon is where archivists, authors, collectors, and fans come together for five days of classic film screenings, special programs and celebrity guests. Now celebrating its 59th year, Cinecon is dedicated to showcasing unseen or rarely shown classic films and building community through. The festival is presented in partnership with Hollywood Heritage, the renowned museum and preservation. The festival will take place over Labor Day Weekend from Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 at the Old Town Music Hall located at 140 Richmond St. in El Segundo. Originally built in 1921, this quaint 192-seat theater has been showing vintage silent and sound films, and presenting live concerts since 1968. In previous years, Cinecon has been held at the Egyptian Theatre and Post 43 Legion Theatre in Hollywood. This year’s festival will pay tribute to Tony-nominated actress El Segundo native from Rent and former Pioneer Pigeon Webber, actress Cora Sue Collins and Oscar-nominated actress Nancy Olson. Full festival passes are $299. Day passes are $65 for Aug. 31, Sept. 3 and $65 for Sept. 4. For tickets, visit eventbrite.com/e/cinecon-59-classic-film-festival-august-31-to-september-4-2023-632915797472?aff=odd-tickets.

For information about Free Theatre in the Parks, contact Joy Tribble, the city of West Hollywood’s arts specialist, at (323) 848-6306 or jtribble@weho.org. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call TTY (323) 848-6496.

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WeHo to present ‘Hansel and Gretel’

The city of West Hollywood is bringing back its popular Theatre in the Parks program with an operatic take on the classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale, “Hansel and Gretel,” with a magical score by Englebert Humperdinck, playing at Kings Road Park for six performances only beginning Saturday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. and running Saturdays and Sundays through Sept. 24.

The free theatre experience is presented by Pacific Opera Project and the city of West Hollywood’s Arts Division. Pacific Opera Project’s operatic take on the classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale, “Hansel and Gretel” is the fantastical story of two siblings lost in an enchanted forest who stumble upon a delicious looking gingerbread house. Little do they know that its owner is an evil witch.

Pacific Opera Project provides quality opera that is accessible, affordable, and entertaining. POP hosts hundreds of new opera-goers each season, while welcoming back a growing number of opera enthusiasts, producing close to 50 operas in just over 11 seasons.

West Hollywood’s Arts Division delivers a broad array of arts programs connecting Art on the Outside (temporary public art), Arts Grants, City Poet Laureate, Drag Laureate, Free Theatre in the Parks, Human Rights Speaker Series, Library Exhibits, Summer Sounds + Winter Sounds, Urban Art (permanent public art), WeHo Pride Arts Festival and WeHo Reads. For information, visit weho.org/arts.

The Ebell of Los Angeles will host concerts, discussions, forums, workshops and special luncheons during the upcoming 2023-24 season.

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CAP UCLA plans dynamic performance season

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance has announced its 2023-24 season, which opens with a weekend of virtuosic stars and genre-blending collaborations between jazz legends Dee Dee Bridgewater and Bill Charlap on Friday, Sept. 29 at 8 p.m., in Royce Hall, followed by the inaugural performance at the new UCLA Nimey Theater by Grammy-winning spoken word artist J. Ivy on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 8 p.m.

Vocalist Bridgewater and pianist Charlap will draw on the canons of luminous composers such as Duke Ellington, Capp Porter, Monk and others to craft a masterful performance with captivating storytelling. The Grammy and Tony Award-winning Bridgewater has had a remarkable career spanning four decades. She started as a member of the legendary Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Big Band and later performed with Max Roach, Sonny Rollins, Dexter Gordon and Dizzy Gillespie.

Charlap is renowned for his performances with artists like Paul Whiteman, Benny Carter, Gerry Mulligan and Wynton Marsalis. He is known for interpretations of the American popular songbook, having recorded albums featuring works by Hoagy Carmichael, Leonard Bernstein and George Gershwin. Since 1997, Charlap has been joined by bassist Peter Erskine, drummer Brian Blade and keyboarder Kenny Washington. The Grammy Award-winning poet, spoken word artist, actor and songwriter J. Ivy opens the CAP UCLA programs at The Nimey with his singular style of performance poetry. He will be joined on stage by singer Tammy Teran as part of the first installment of Poetry Uncut, a four-part series of curated poetry evenings and music hosted by Ivy and featuring special guest artists on Feb. 3 and 17, and culminating in a final poetry jam on April 6. Ivy was instrumental in advocating for the Grammy Awards to add a new category specifically dedicated to poets and spoken word artists worldwide. In 2022, the Recording Academy created a new category for Best Spoken Word Poetry Album. Following the change, Ivy received his second Grammy nomination and his first Grammy Award for his spoken word poetry album "The Poet Who Sat By The Door." The CAP UCLA 2023 programs continue on Friday, Sept. 29, with Elitocinor, and Saturday, Sept. 30, with "Conrad Tao & Caleb Teicher: Counterpoint."

Royce Hall is located at 10745 Dickson Court. The UCLA Nimey Theater is located at 1262 Westwood Blvd. For information, call (310) 825-2501, or visit cap.ucla.edu.

Spoken word artist J. Ivy will give the inaugural performance at the new UCLA Nimey Theater on Sept. 23.

LGBT Center honors slain ally

The Los Angeles LGBT Center and Flags for Good unfurled a new commemorative banner, the Magpie Pride Flag, at a dedication ceremony Aug. 24. Carleton is the shop owner and Lake Arrowhead community member who was tragically shot and killed for displaying a Pride flag in front of her store.

Carleton was a passionate ally, one of too many people who have lost their lives due to violence that targets LGBTQ+ people and our allies. Our center honored her memory and encouraged allies to be active in creating safe spaces, the center collaborated with our community is known for,” said Joe Hollenden, CEO of the Los Angeles LGBT Center. “I hope we can rely on you join us in the fight.”

Carleton’s decision to hang the Pride Flag—a symbol of resistance for the community since the early Pride demonstrations of the 1970s—comes at a moment when national retail chains like Target, Starbucks and even Cinnabon have reportedly decided to halt their Pride displays, the center said. Carleton’s tragic loss to hate-related violence is unfortunately, part of a growing backlash to the LGBTQ+ movement in the United States. This spick in violence is accompanied by more than 700 pieces of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation introduced throughout the country, most of which seek to curtail the civil rights of transgender people and queer youth.

“Flying a flag is a way to show pride in your identity, but also show solidarity in trying times. As much as we prefer to make flags that do the former, we’re proud to partner with organizations like the Los Angeles LGBT Center when flags can be used to respond to a tragedy like this,” said Michael Green, Flags For Good owner.

The tragedy has made national news and shaken the Lake Arrowhead community, leaving local shop owners shocked and concerned. Carleton is survived by her husband, Ben Carleton, and their blended family of nine children. To submit an order for the Maggie Pride Flag, visit flagsforgood.com/products/magpie-pride-flag.

LADWP rebate helps residents beat the heat

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s Cool LA $225 air conditioner rebates for income-qualified customers are back and in hot demand. Since May 2023, more than 3,600 customers have purchased 4,297 new air conditioners LADWP’s Cool LA Marketplace, where customers receive instant rebates at the time of purchase, dramatically reducing the costs of new portable, window and wall air conditioners. The more than 4,200 AC units purchased so far this summer has already outpaced the total number rebated last year. In all, LADWP has issued a total of $913,434 in AC rebates this year to help customers overcome the health risks associated with extreme heat.

“Cool LA helps Angelinos beat the heat and stay safe,” LADWP board president Cynthia McClain-Hill said. “With more heat waves ahead this summer, Cool LA’s increased rebates are here to help our customers and their families stay safe by making available free to low-cost air conditioning units.”

To sign up for the rebates, visit ladwp.com/Cool-LA.

LADWP rebate helps residents beat the heat

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is offering more assistance than ever for income-qualified residents to stay cool during summer heat. Eligible customers must have an active LADWP residential electric account and need to be a participant in the EZ-Save Program, Senior Citizen/Disability Lifeline Rate, Life-Support Equipment Discount or Physician Certified Allowance Discount programs.

The increased rebates are a four-fold increase from previous years’ $50 rebate, applicable on various types of qualifying air conditioners including portable ACs and window and wall ACs. LADWP also continues to promote its new Level Pay program as part of Cool LA. Level Pay monthly billing helps customers manage their utility costs by smoothing out seasonal highs typically experienced during the hot summer months across 12 monthly bills for easy budgeting and making home cooling easier to manage. For information, visit ladwp.com/Cool-LA.

LAUSD makes strides in suicide prevention

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution recognizing Sept. 10-16 as Suicide Prevention Week and recognizing the entire month as suicide prevention month.

The adoption of this resolution encourages all students, faculty, administrators and parents to promote a climate of positive behavior support and intervention, monitor students’ emotional state and well-being and make referrals for crisis support and mental health.

“The resolution also calls for our Superintendent to work with Dr. Robyn Schmerelson and Michael M. Carvalho to report to the board within 90 days on the process of leveraging the resources of colleges, universities and work and school psychologists and explore regional partnerships with local mental health care providers and other force pathways.”

"Talking about mental health and suicide awareness is a difficult but necessary conversation to have,” board vice president Scott M. Schmerelson said.

Our students need to feel well- welcomed in our schools and promoting a positive environment is the first step to ensuring their safety and social emotional well-being. Together, let’s continue to raise awareness and advocate for more mental health resources for our students, families and communities.”

“The scourge of mental health anguish, depression and suicide is exacting an inexcusable affliction on our youth across the nation,” Carvalho said.


Photo by Cam Be

Lauri Carleton was murdered for displaying a Pride flag at her Lake Arrowhead store.

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Photo by Cam Be

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Beverly Hills welcomes Iranian royalty

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table at Beverly Hills City Hall to discuss how movement leaders can continue to support the struggle for freedom.

"It was really just an opportunity for people to hear each other’s per- spective and for the prince, who travels all over the world meeting Iranians, to hear what Iranian Americans … in Southern California and Beverly Hills are doing,” Sharona Nazarian, senior vice president of NUFIDI, a nonprofit- itarian-American organization that organized the roundtable.

During the meeting, the prince and princess joined Beverly Hills elected officials including, from left, Councilwoman Lili Hirsch, Vice Mayor Lender Friedman, Mayor Gold and Councilwoman Sharona Nazarian, met with Crown Prince of Iran Reza Pahlavi, and Princess Yasmine Pahlavi, center.

The Senior College and University Sinai has again been accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, signifying recognition of the academic medical center’s high- er education program for exceptional quality, integrity and innovation.

The renewed accreditation, grant- ed in June 2023 for the next eight years, followed an eight-year evalua- tion based on the very highest stan- dards.

The graduate school was con- nected for fostering an academic culture that is dedicated to con- necting with faculty, staff and fel- low students, and for the faculty and stu- dents providing individualized atten- tion and mentoring.

"Our PhD and master’s programs are known for academic rigor, integrity and the highest standards in medical innovation and training, paralleling Cedars-Sinai’s well- known excellence in patient care and research," said Dr. Jeffrey Golden, vice dean of Research and Graduate Education and director of the Burns and Allen Research Institute. "We are proud of the educational program that we have had the good fortune to graduate many more exceptional students in the years to come.”

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences was founded in 2007 and initially accredited in 2012. Students in the Cedars-Sinai graduate school can pursue a PhD in biomedical and translational sci- ences, a master’s degree in health delivery science, or a Master of Science in magnetic resonance in biome- dicine.

Assessor announces growth in local property values

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang has announced growth that has occurred countywide as reported in the annual Assessment Roll.

"First off, let me say this com- prehensive tally values more than 2.5 million real estate parcels in Los Angeles County and results in the very tax dollars that goes to pay for vital public services, such as health care, police, fire, schools and even libraries, to name just a few," Prang said. "I am constitutionally mandated to close the roll by the end of the fiscal year on June 30. As a point of reference, my fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. I am pleased to announce that the 2023 Assessment Roll has a total net value of $1.997 trillion, indi- cating the 13th year of consecut- ively growth. The 2023 roll also grew by $11 billion (or 5.91%) over 2022. That value places nearly $2 billion to be used for those public services I just men- tioned." 

Beverly Hills was listed at $44.98 billion for taxable proper- ty values, which is a 5.3% increase over last year’s figure. West Hollywood's $16.05 billion in taxable property values, which is a 6.1% increase over 2022. Los Angeles, the largest city in the county, has $189.6 billion in taxable property, a 5.9% growth. The roll contains the assessed value of all real estate and busi- ness personal property in the county's 88 cities and unincorpo- rated areas. It also breaks down the number of single-family resi- dential homes, apartments and commercial-industrial parcels. Since the Roll is the inventory for all taxable property in the county, it provides insight into the state of the real estate market. The roll is also driven in large measure by real property sales, which added $67.4 billion as compared with 2022. The CPI inflation adjustment for 2023 is specified in Proposition 13 added an addi- tional $3.67 billion, and new con- struction added $5.6 billion. For information, visit assess- or.lacounty.gov.
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walking distance.” Dow added that the idea was to have a “dine-and-service restaurant” available at future charging stations.

The supercharger station will also likely be relevant for all electric car owners.

“Other companies are starting to adopt NACs, which is a Tesla new name for its charging plug which it’s trying to turn into a standard,” Dow said. “So, it isn’t just Tesla using this station starting the next year or two from now. Really, the project was anticipated to be built in the city of Santa Monica, though last year that shifted to nearly $220,000 in an investment scam.

The LAPD was arranged to convince hard-working people to turn over their earnings as part of a fraudulent investment scheme.” In 2021, a Los Angeles County law firm conducted a survey of 2,200 people to see if they were holding someone for their own selfish gain will be held accountable for their actions.

Bloom, 59, faces nine felony counts of securities fraud and nine felony counts of grand theft with special allegations of two or more prior felony convictions. The case was filed for warrant on Aug. 4 and Bloom was arrested on Aug. 28. Bloom is accused of committing multiple thefts between 2021-23 involving $3 million in exchange for investments.

Bloom met some of the victims at the Frolic Room bar in Hollywood and the Villa Carlotta apartments on Franklin Avenue, according to media reports. Prosecutors contend that Bloom never delivered on the investments and failed to return the bulk of the victims’ money. In the 1980s, Bloom became known as the Wall Street Whiz Kid as part of a previous investment scam. Bloom spent time in federal prison in New York for mail and security fraud, and grand larceny.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department. Anyone with information or who believes they are a victim is encouraged to call the LAPD at (213)486-6977.

L.A. Police Commission welcomes new leadership on board

The Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners unanimously approved Dr. Earl G. Southers as its new president and Rasha Gorges Shields as vice president on Aug. 15. Both members were appointed to the Police Commission, which provides civilian oversight of the Los Angeles Police Department, in March 2023.

Southers, who has extensive experience in local and federal law enforcement, has worked in counterterrorism and academia as a professor and associate senior vice president at the University of Southern California. Shields is a former federal prosecutor with more than 20 years of trial and appellate court experience.

As per the advice of the commission’s Advisory Committee on Building Trust and Equity after Los Angeles’s 2015 protests, the LAPD’s Supervising Community Engagement Bureau is working with community leaders to create a structure to improve the relationship between the police and the community.

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Shields is a former federal prosecutor with more than 20 years of trial and appellate court experience. While at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, she served as deputy chief of the

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