



Sunny with  
highs in mid-  
to-high 70s

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Volume 35 No. 42

Serving Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Hancock Park and Miracle Mile

October 16, 2025

# Beverly Hills OKs several builder's remedy projects

■ Projects include current site of Pavilions

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on Oct. 9 approved a trio of builder's remedy projects near the intersection of Olympic Boulevard and South Beverly Drive.

The developments, all proposed by owner Samuel Aflalo, range from eight to 13 stories tall and are located at 9441 Olympic Blvd., 9467 Olympic Blvd. and 333-353 S. Beverly Drive.

The 9467 Olympic Blvd. project is eight stories, 85 feet tall and contains 105 residential units, with 21 units reserved for affordable housing. The project includes three levels of underground parking with 180 spaces. Private outdoor living space such as balconies, a common outdoor living space with a courtyard, gym and community room on the second floor and a rooftop courtyard are added amenities. The development

See **Beverly Hills** page 21



rendering courtesy of Ottinger Architects

An eight-story development at 9467 Olympic Blvd. will replace the current Pavilions grocery store.

# CD5 staffer recovering after hit-and-run

■ Driver arrested in collision that injured Thao Tran, killed dog

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A member of Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky's staff who was struck and seriously injured in a hit-and-run collision in the Miracle Mile area on Oct. 5 has been released from the hospital and is recovering.

The Los Angeles Police Department identified the female driver and is in the process of submitting the case to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office for formal charges of felony hit-and-run causing injury.

The collision occurred around 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 5 at the intersection of Eighth Street and Cloverdale Avenue. The driver of a Toyota Tacoma pickup traveling west on Eighth Street failed to stop at a stop sign and struck the victim, Thao Tran, and her corgi Kobe, said Detective Olin Osborne, with the LAPD's West Traffic Division. The Toyota momentarily stopped but then drove away, Osborne said. The driver, who has not been identified, voluntarily surrendered later the same day at the West Traffic Division police station on Venice Boulevard, Osborne added. The woman was released on her own



photo courtesy of Thao Tran via Instagram

Thao Tran posted a message about her recovery along with a photo with her beloved corgi Kobe, who was killed in the Oct. 5 collision.

recognizance with the requirement she appear in court once charges are filed.

Tran, who serves as Yaroslavsky's business development deputy, was taken to a hospital with multiple fractures. Kobe, who was frequently by Tran's side at community events, died as a result of being struck by the pickup. Tran posted about the incident on Instagram on Oct. 13.

"It was one week ago on Sunday morning that a hit-and-

run driver struck me and killed Kobe while starting our morning walk. I sustained three broken ribs, three fractured vertebrae, a fractured fibula and two fractures in my cheekbones that required surgery. Kobe ... died at the ER vet," Tran said. "I'm recovering at home now, mourning the loss of Kobe and trying to make sense of it all. I've received countless gifts of flowers, food and care packages and I'm sincerely

See **Thao Tran** page 22

# Diane Keaton helped preserve Los Angeles

■ Oscar-winner was an active member of the L.A. Conservancy

BY RANCE COLLINS

In her Oscar-winning performance as "Annie Hall," Diane Keaton asks, "What's so great about New York?" Her character, like the actress herself, is an L.A. girl. No one may have been more of an Angeleno than Keaton, who was born here.

In the days following her death on Oct. 11, residents posted stories about seeing her everywhere from standing in line for the Groundlings to walking down the street in the Miracle Mile. She typically donned a wholly original outfit – sometimes in that Annie Hall vein, often with a statement hat and always in black, white or, on occasion, brown.

During the last two decades, Keaton became involved with Los

See **Keaton** page 22

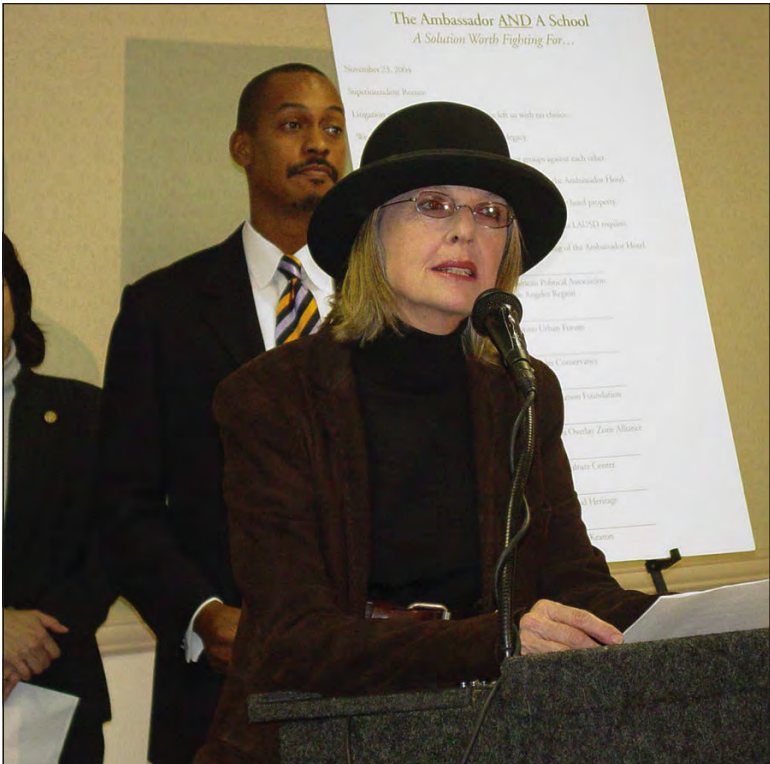


photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Conservancy

During the fight to save the Ambassador Hotel in the mid-2000s, Diane Keaton became a prominent voice for the L.A. Conservancy.

# Man robbed at gunpoint in broad daylight in WeHo

■ Similar crimes have been reported in surrounding areas

BY SAM MULICK

A man was robbed at gunpoint in West Hollywood in broad daylight on Oct. 10.

San Francisco resident Abram Cortez was visiting friends in West Hollywood and preparing to attend a Chappel Roan concert in Pasadena. He was walking outside in the 1100 block of Hacienda Place around 5:40 p.m. when a gray four-door sedan stopped on the street and three masked men dressed in all black clothing exited while a fourth man waited in the car. Two of the men were armed with handguns and a third with a crowbar, according to the Los Angeles

County Sheriff's Department. The suspects then pinned Cortez on the ground and robbed him of his wedding ring, a Rolex watch, two gold bracelets and other jewelry pieces valued at more than \$10,000. The suspects reentered the car after about 30 seconds and fled the scene northbound on Hacienda Place.

Sgt. Robert Lim of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station said the station received information about robberies in Culver City and nearby parts of Los Angeles with similar vehicle and suspect descriptions but had no further information.

Cortez said that it took him a few days to process what happened.

"It's all just hitting me now," he said. "I have all these 'what if' thoughts but I have to remind

See **Robbery** page 21

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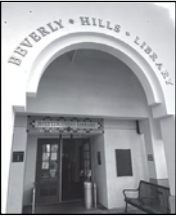
MORE INFORMATION: [WEHO.ORG/SECURITY](https://www.weho.org/security)



CALENDAR

Friends of Beverly Hills Library

Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library is holding its \$1 book sale from Thursday, Oct. 16, through Sunday, Oct. 19, at the library. The sale includes art books, cookbooks and children’s books, as well as fiction and non-fiction books. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m., Sunday. The sale will be held on the walkway between the city’s parking garage and the library. 444 N. Rexford Drive. friendsofbhpl.org.



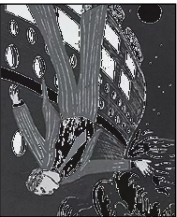
‘Haunted’

The Autry Museum and Greenway Arts Alliance present “Haunted” by Tara Moses (Seminole Nation of Oklahoma) running from Thursday, Oct. 16, through Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Greenway Court Theatre. Indigenous siblings Ash and Aaron have been dead for 20 years, passing the time dancing to Britney Spears, haunting the families that try to move into their house and wondering if they will ever be free from the shackles of racist stereotypes. A satirical ghost story with Y2K hits, “Haunted” forces audiences to confront relationships (or lack thereof) with Indigenous communities. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday; 2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. 544 N. Fairfax Ave. greenwaycourttheatre.org.



Open Fist Theatre Company

Open Fist Theatre Company presents the world premiere of “Amerika or, The Man Who Disappeared,” adapted from the novel by Franz Kafka by Emmy Award-winning writer Dietrich Smith, running from Friday, Oct. 17, through Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Atwater Village Theatre. Arriving in New York City on a steamer, 17-year-old Karl Rossmann strives to make his own way, even as he encounters a series of increasingly strange and bewildering experiences that turn his world upside down. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m., Friday; 7 p.m., Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday; and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 20. Tickets start at \$26. 3269 Casitas Ave. openfist.org.



Jazz pianist Ivan Lins

The LA Phil presents a performance by pianist Ivan Lins on Friday, Oct. 17, at 8 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. In his distinctive take on jazz, Lins blends the rhythmic swing of traditional samba with sophisticated melodies. He performs Brazilian jazz from throughout his career with is quartet, including tracks from the 2024 collection “My Heart Speaks,” his Latin Grammy-nominated retrospective. Tickets start at \$29. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.com.



Perfume in ancient Greece

Enjoy “Perfume in Pylos: Recreating a Bronze Age Scent,” an event at the Getty Villa on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 2 p.m. Perfume was a thriving industry in late Bronze Age Greece. Archaeologist Cynthia Shelmerdine shares Mycenaean evidence that reveals the materials, production methods and people involved in the process. Perfumer Michael Nordstrand also recounts how he recreated a 3,000-year-old perfume and a variation interpreted for a modern audience. Attendees will compare both versions on scent strips before joining a Q&A session moderated by curator Claire Lyons. The event is also available online. 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy. getty.edu/calendar/recreating-a-bronze-age-scent.



Hancock Park homeowners

The Hancock Park Homeowners Association is holding its annual meeting on Monday, Oct. 20, from 6-8 p.m., via Zoom. The meeting includes neighborhood, city and state updates and information from LAPD senior lead officer Tyler Shuck. A representative from LADWP will provide information on power outages and representatives of Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) and L.A. City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, will give updates. Register by visiting us02web.zoom.us/j/84519561462 and using webinar ID 845 1956 1462.

Janis Ian

The Grammy Museum is holding a special screening of the documentary “Janis Ian: Breaking Silence” with an intimate conversation about the film featuring Ian and Emmy Award-winning director Varda Bar-Kar on Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Ian, a 10-time Grammy nominee and two-time winner, has resonated with a diverse group of fans for more than six decades. She is among a handful of artists who have received nominations in eight different Grammy Award categories. Raised by activist Jewish parents on a New Jersey farm, she currently lives in Florida with her partner and wife of 36 years. Tickets are \$35. 800 W. Olympic Blvd. grammymuseum.org.



Dance at The Wallis

See L.A. Dance Project’s U.S. premiere of Benjamin Millepied’s ballet trilogy “Gems” from Thursday, Oct. 23, through Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. Created in collaboration with Van Cleef & Arpels, the program unites the works “Reflections,” “Hearts & Arrows” and “On the Other Side,” inspired by the symbolic and emotional resonance of precious stones. Featuring music by David Lang and Philip Glass, and visual art by Barbara Kruger, Liam Gillick, and Mark Bradford, the ballet triptych marks the culmination of a creative journey spanning more than a decade. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$42.90. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. thewallis.org.



‘Ghostbusters’

The Culver Steps invites the community for a special outdoor screening of “Ghostbusters” (1984) on Friday, Oct. 17. Guests should arrive by 8 p.m.; the movie will begin at approximately 8:30 p.m. Audience members are encouraged to bring blankets for seating. Complimentary one-hour parking and free popcorn will be provided. Admission is free and open to the public. 9300 Culver Blvd. theculversteps.com.

‘Let Me Be’

Cinelounge Sunset’s special engagement of “Let Me Be” runs from Friday, Oct. 17, through Thursday, Oct. 23. A professor’s life unravels after a student’s fatal fall until his daughter helps him confront the pain he has buried and reclaim his life. The film delves into deeply human and existential themes that resonate across different stages of life. Showtimes vary; see schedule. 6464 Sunset Blvd. cineloungesunset.com.

Meditation at Robinson Gardens

Devon Cunningham invites visitors to embark on a meditative journey through sound bowl healing meditation on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Virginia Robinson Gardens. Sound bowls activate and energize chakras within the body and work with individual needs and intentions to align and create a deeper internal connection. Benefits include relieving stress, anxiety and insomnia. Admission is \$35 per person. 1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills. robinsongardens.org.

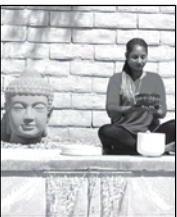


photo courtesy of the 13th Council District office  
The bike lane street sweeper, towed by Streets Are For Everyone’s Kayla Hankins, fits in spaces inaccessible to traditional sweepers.

Innovative pedal-powered street sweeper makes bike lanes safer

A new bike-powered street sweeper that will keep bike lanes clean in Hollywood was unveiled on Oct. 11 by L.A. City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, in partnership with Streets Are For Everyone, known as SAFE. Unlike traditional sweepers that are too large to fit in protected bike lanes, the custom-built device can navigate narrow lanes where debris accumulates. “We’re excited to roll out the red carpet for Hollywood’s newest star,” Soto-Martinez said. “With limited resources, but plenty of creativity and community partner-

ship, we found a smart way to make Hollywood Boulevard cleaner and safer.” The sweeper attaches to an e-bike and is pulled as a trailer. As the device moves forward, rotating brushes scoop up leaves and debris into two small onboard baskets. “This is an innovative and low-cost way to continue to invest in the safety of our community and help keep it beautiful for the businesses, cyclists and pedestrians using Hollywood Boulevard,” SAFE executive director Damian Kevitt said. For information, visit cd13.lacity.gov.

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P.O. BOX 36036  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

Michael Villalpando  
PUBLISHER  
Karen Villalpando  
EDITOR & PUBLISHER  
Rance Collins  
rance@beverlypress.com  
MANAGING EDITOR  
Edwin Folven  
editor@beverlypress.com  
EDITOR  
Tabor Brewster  
tabor@beverlypress.com  
Sam Mulick  
sam@beverlypress.com  
REPORTERS  
Chris Erskine  
COLUMNIST  
Michael Krikorian  
Tim Posada,  
Rebecca Villalpando  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Lionel Ochoa  
GRAPHIC ARTIST



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# Ceasefire, hostage release bring hope to L.A.

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Two years since they were taken by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, the last 20 living hostages in Gaza have returned to their families. Under a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas that was announced by U.S. President Donald Trump on Oct. 8, approximately 2,000 Palestinian prisoners have also been released by Israel. The hostage and prisoner exchange marks the first sign that the destructive two-year war may come to an end, and has brought a sense of hope to local elected officials, faith leaders and organizations across Los Angeles.

“We have been waiting for this day for two long, agonizing years,” Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. “So many in our community have kept yellow ribbons tied

and hostage dog tags close to their hearts, a symbol of hope that this day would come. To finally see hostages reunited with their loved ones after unimaginable fear, torture and uncertainty is profoundly moving. While our hearts are lifted for those returning home, we also mourn the innocent lives stolen at the brutal hands of Hamas. In Beverly Hills, we are moving the illumination on City Hall from ‘Bring Them Home Now’ to ‘Welcome Home’ – a small but heartfelt gesture to honor this moment and stand with those who never stopped hoping. This is a moment of both pain and hope, and I pray it marks the beginning of healing for families, for the region and for all who believe in the power of humanity. May this be a step toward lasting peace.”

Days before the ceasefire was

announced, the city of Beverly Hills held a site dedication for its planned “Forty Steps to the Sky” memorial for the victims of the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel. The \$1.5 million memorial will be the first of its kind in the United States and is currently seeking donations.

“The horrors and trauma of Oct. 7 – and its profound impact on our Jewish and Israeli communities here in Assembly District 51 and around the world – will forever be etched in our collective memory, as will the devastation and suffering that uninvolved, innocent Gazans have experienced over the past two years,” Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) said. “This ceasefire and the return of the remaining hostages offer a fragile but meaningful glimmer of hope for a future of peace and stability for all – we must hold out hope that this will mark not only the end of this war, but the beginning of the end of this conflict. My deepest wish is a future where Israelis do not fear another heinous tragedy like Oct. 7 and where Gaza can rebuild and prosper, free from Hamas oppression and terror, ensuring peace and prosperity for Gazans and Israelis alike.”

The news of a ceasefire was also welcomed by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

“After a two-year nightmare of pain, suffering and war, we continue to stand in solidarity with Israel and pray for peace. We hope this is the start of a new era of healing, recovery and rebuilding,” a statement from the organization read. “We continue our work in support of the people of



rendering courtesy of Art Nesterenko, Broskin Studio

The ceasefire deal was announced near the two-year anniversary of the Oct. 7 attacks, as the city of Beverly Hills begins construction on a permanent memorial for the victims.

Israel.”

Orna Wolens, chair of the board for the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, said the hostage release “begins a new era of hope for the Jewish people.”

Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts Rabbi David Baron echoed Wolens’ statement.

“For the Jewish community in L.A. and around the world, we feel we’re all part of one big family. When one group of our fellow Jews is impacted, we feel the pain,” Baron said. “In the case of these families who have been suffering so mightily with the knowledge that their loved ones are being held hostage and being abused and tortured, we felt it every day.”

On Thursday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m., Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts will co-host “United in Memory: L.A. Remembers October 7th” at the Saban Theatre. The event will bring together leaders from across the

Jewish community to remember the victims on Oct. 7. Baron said the event is an important reminder of the brutality of the attacks.

“These things must never be forgotten. We’re committing to hold this memorial to remember the 1,200 who were killed on Oct. 7 and telling their stories and who they were,” Baron said.

While the event marks the solemn two-year anniversary of the attacks, it will also celebrate the recent return of the hostages.

“Originally, the whole evening was going to be remembrance focused, and now it’s going to be, at the end, celebratory. We’re celebrating for the joy of those who have been released, and their families and loved ones, while at the same time remembering so many whose bodies have still not been recovered and returned as part of the agreement,” Baron said.

The event is sold out.



photo by Edwin Folven

The city of Beverly Hills illuminated City Hall with messages of support for the Israeli hostages.



spotlight

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photo courtesy of Kari Garcia

Thieves frequently steal copper wire from street infrastructure in the Miracle Mile, sometimes plunging blocks into darkness.

# Leaders take more steps to cut copper wire theft

■ Penalties increased for dealers who buy stolen metal

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation on Oct. 13 aimed at cracking down on copper wire theft, which has disabled streetlights and electric infrastructure in cities across California.

Thieves steal copper wire and other metals to sell as scrap metal. Assembly Bill 476, authored by Assemblyman Mark Gonzalez (D-Los Angeles), makes it illegal to possess metal from essential infrastructure such as streetlights, traffic signals and plaques without proper documentation. It also requires metal recyclers to keep extensive records of who they buy scrap metal from including the seller’s name and signature, the amount paid for each purchase and the name of the employee conducting the transaction. AB 476 raises fines from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per offense for failing to keep expanded records.

“Copper theft does not just cost money – it undermines neighborhood safety and public trust,” Gonzalez said. “This commonsense legislation gives law enforcement and cities additional tools to track illegal transactions, stop thieves and hold bad actors accountable. In California, we are turning the lights back on.”

Copper wire theft has occurred throughout Los Angeles, leaving entire neighborhoods in the dark. Thieves stole copper wire valued at \$11,000 in 2023 from the Sixth Street Bridge, darkening decorative lighting on the span. Repairs are projected to cost more than \$2.5 million and the bridge remains dark while plans for permanent repairs are completed. Local neighborhoods including Hancock Park and the Miracle Mile have experienced repeated problems with copper wire theft.

“I’m happy they are starting to address it and crack down on crime, because it has definitely led to issues with street safety,” said Kari Garcia, vice president of the Miracle Mile Residential Association and Neighborhood Watch organizer. “We have been dealing with it for quite a while now and it’s frustrating.”

Garcia said she canvassed the greater Miracle Mile neighborhood recently and found 90 streetlights that were out. She said some streets have multiple lights that are not operating and residents have started putting up their own lights in front yards. Garcia said she has notified the 5th and 10th district council offices about locations where the lights are out and is working with the Los Angeles Police Department to ensure officers are aware of the thefts. She added that the city has repaired most of the streetlights in a timely manner but thieves sometimes return and steal the copper wires again.

“They are doing their best but we have areas that are still out,” Garcia said.

Leo Daube, a spokesman for Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, said the council office is trying to expedite repairs when residents report outages but it is a continual problem.

“It’s one of the top concerns we hear from constituents,” Daube said. “The best thing we can do is support the LAPD’s efforts in identifying and prosecuting the individuals who are doing them and hardening out infrastructure.”

The Los Angeles City Council on Oct. 14 voted to create the Metal and Wire Theft Reward Program, which will establish a \$1,000 reward for information on copper wire that leads to a perpetrator’s conviction. The council voted 8-2, with five members absent, requiring the motion to come back for second consideration on Oct. 21. The two no votes were cast by Councilmembers Eunisses Hernandez, 1st District, and Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District.

“Although I agree that we should pay attention to copper wire theft, I don’t think this really strikes at how we solve the issue. The way we solve the issue is by fortifying our streetlights, through hardening them and putting more resources into the department that is woefully underfunded in this moment. And there are some plans to do that,” Soto-Martinez said. “But I just don’t think this is the way we solve the issue that I think the public is asking for, and that’s why I’ll be registering a no vote for this.”

# Uber driver indicted for starting Palisades fire

■ LAFD releases after-action report

BY TABOR BREWSTER

On Oct. 8, the U.S. Justice Department announced the arrest of Jonathan Rinderknecht, a 29-year-old man accused of igniting a blaze that erupted into the deadly Palisades fire in January 2025.

The fire was the most destructive in the history of Los Angeles, wiping out entire neighborhoods in the Pacific Palisades and Malibu as it blazed uncontrollably for weeks, ultimately destroying more than 6,800 buildings and costing the lives of 12 people.

Rinderknecht, a former Pacific Palisades resident who was living in Florida at the time of his arrest, is charged with destruction of property by means of fire, arson affecting property used in interstate commerce and timber set afire. If convicted, he faces five to 45 years in federal prison. Rinderknecht was denied bond on Oct. 9 and indicted by a federal grand jury on Oct. 15. His next court appearance will be his arraignment, which is expected to occur in the coming weeks in United States District Court in Downtown Los Angeles.

“The complaint alleges that a single person’s recklessness caused one of the worst fires Los Angeles has ever seen, resulting in death and widespread destruction in Pacific Palisades,” said Bill Essayli, Acting United States Attorney for the Central District of California. “While we cannot bring back what victims lost, we



photo by Tabor Brewster

The Palisades fire in January 2025 destroyed more than 6,800 buildings and killed 12 people.

hope this criminal case brings some measure of justice to those affected by this horrific tragedy.”

According to an affidavit filed with the complaint, law enforcement determined that the Palisades fire was a continuation of the separate Lachman fire that began on Jan. 1. Although the Lachman fire was suppressed, it continued to burn underground – which was not known at the time – causing the Palisades fire on Jan. 7 as heavy winds caused flames to spread rapidly.

Authorities used witness statements, video surveillance, cellphone data and an analysis of fire patterns to determine that Rinderknecht “maliciously” set the Lachman fire just after midnight on New Year’s Day.

Rinderknecht, an Uber driver at the time, allegedly started the fire near Skull Rock Trailhead after dropping

off a passenger. According to the Department of Justice, two of his passengers that night told authorities that he appeared “agitated and angry.” The Justice Department said Rinderknecht took videos at a hilltop area while on the trail and listened to a song “whose music video included things being lit on fire.”

Rinderknecht allegedly attempted to call 911 but did not get through due to poor reception. When he returned to the bottom of the trail, he successfully called 911 and reported the fire to police, at which point the fire had already been reported by a nearby resident.

Rinderknecht allegedly fled the scene in his car before quickly returning to take videos of firefighters extinguishing the blaze. The Justice Department added that Rinderknecht lied about where he was when he first saw the fire. Geolocation data placed him in a clearing 30 feet from the fire as it grew rapidly, according to the department.

State and local leaders noted the arrest as an important step toward justice for the victims of the devastating fire.

“More than nine months ago, our city faced one of the most devastating periods our region had ever seen,” Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said. “Lives were tragically lost. Thousands of homes were destroyed. Our heroic firefighters fought the blaze valiantly with no rest. Each day that families are displaced is a day too long and as we are working tirelessly to bring Angelenos home, we are also working towards closure and towards

See **Suspect** page 16



## D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT

Section 2 – Beverly Hills

# We’re building better transit from DTLA to the Westside.

## October Updates

Appendage construction is taking place on Wilshire Bl while work in the station continues below ground.



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# No Kings protests return to L.A., Beverly Hills

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Four months after millions of people across the country took to the streets to protest the actions of President Donald Trump, organizers of the “No Kings” rallies have planned a second event for Oct. 18. Once again, dozens of events will be held across Southern California

to protest the administration’s policies, this time amid the ongoing government shutdown. Demonstrations will be held in Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Downtown L.A., Pico Robertson, Venice and Santa Monica among many other areas across L.A. County. “This movement reminds us that

our country was founded on the rejection of tyranny,” said Beverly Hills resident Gay Abrams, a co-organizer of the upcoming event in Roxbury Park. “From Beverly Hills to every corner of America, we’re uniting to say: power belongs to the people, not to those who seek to rule over them.”

The summer protests came amid an increase of Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids targeting migrants, and the deployment of the U.S. Military in Los Angeles by the Trump administration. Critics said the raids lack due process, utilize racial profiling and are meant to instill fear in immigrant communities. Demonstrators said at the rallies on Oct. 18 they will continue to voice concerns over the administration’s treatment of immigrants, in addition to federal funding cuts to health care and essential services, and an alleged crackdown on free speech.

Republicans, including House Speaker Mike Johnson, have decried the protests as a “hate America rally.”

“It’s all the pro-Hamas wing and, you know, the Antifa people,” Johnson told Fox News. “I’m beyond words.”

“I have a message to Mike Johnson – I do this rally because I love America,” Abrams said. “People who come out are expressing their concerns, frustration, anger and fear because the country they love is being dismantled right before their eyes.”

The previous No Kings protest in Beverly Hills was attended by



photo by Tabor Brewster

Hundreds of protesters gathered in Beverly Gardens Park on June 14 for the first No Kings protest.

## Antisemitic graffiti covered in WeHo

BY SAM MULICK

Antisemitic graffiti was discovered outside of a West Hollywood coffee shop on Oct. 9.

West Hollywood resident Sara Juliet Fruman said she was walking near Pantheon Coffee on Fairfax Avenue when she saw graffiti on a parking lot wall that depicted swastikas next to the Star of David.

“It’s devastating and scary,” Fruman said. “The message you’re getting as someone who is Jewish when you see something like this, is that, ‘We want to kill you,’ essentially, and that, ‘You’re not welcome here.’”

Fruman immediately notified Pantheon Coffee management and contacted the city of West Hollywood, which removed the graffiti within hours. Staff members at the coffee shop were shocked and outraged, she added. Fruman was reassured to see the city act so quickly. She added that the graffiti was particularly

unsettling in the wake of the announcement that all Israeli hostages would be released by Hamas.

“When stuff starts to get desensitized, it becomes pretty scary,” she said. “It’s become normalized and accepted within our society which is deeply concerning.”

West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers condemned the graffiti.

“West Hollywood is a welcoming and inclusive community to all people. Hateful messages and symbols create real fear for community members and this type of destructive behavior is not tolerated in the city,” Byers said. “With antisemitic and politically motivated violence occurring across the country, this graffiti may erode the sense of safety the Jewish community feels in West Hollywood. It is important that the city continue to uplift its values of inclusion, that we work

See **Graffiti** page 16

many residents and several local leaders, including Beverly Hills City Councilmembers Craig Corman and Mary Wells, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, and a representative for the office of Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Los Angeles).

Andrea Grossman, a Beverly Hills resident who helped organize the upcoming event, said she hopes the protest will encourage local leaders to take action.

“I am proud to volunteer for this rally, this protest,” Grossman said. “And I hope that we’ll get a great turnout. Twenty-five-hundred protests are taking place across the country on Oct. 18 – twice as many as there were on June 14. Elected officials notice. It matters. I’m not out there to get Trump’s attention. I’m out there to let our Democratic electeds understand that we’re pay-

ing close attention, and we’re expecting them to take action, to be leaders.”

Organizers emphasized a commitment to peaceful, nonviolent protest.

Therese Kosterman, interim public information manager for the city of Beverly Hills, said the city will take steps to ensure public safety.

“The city is aware of the No Kings protest and, as with any larger public gathering in Beverly Hills, we will be monitoring the event,” Kosterman said.

The protest in Beverly Hills will be held from 2-4 p.m. in Roxbury Park, at the corner of Olympic Boulevard and Roxbury Drive.

The Hollywood No Kings protest will begin at noon at the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and North Vermont Avenue.

A full list of No Kings protests can be found at [nokings.org](http://nokings.org).



## OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM Audible Siren TEST Notification

The City of Beverly Hills will be conducting testing of its Outdoor Warning System (OWS) as part of ongoing education with the goal of enhancing public safety.

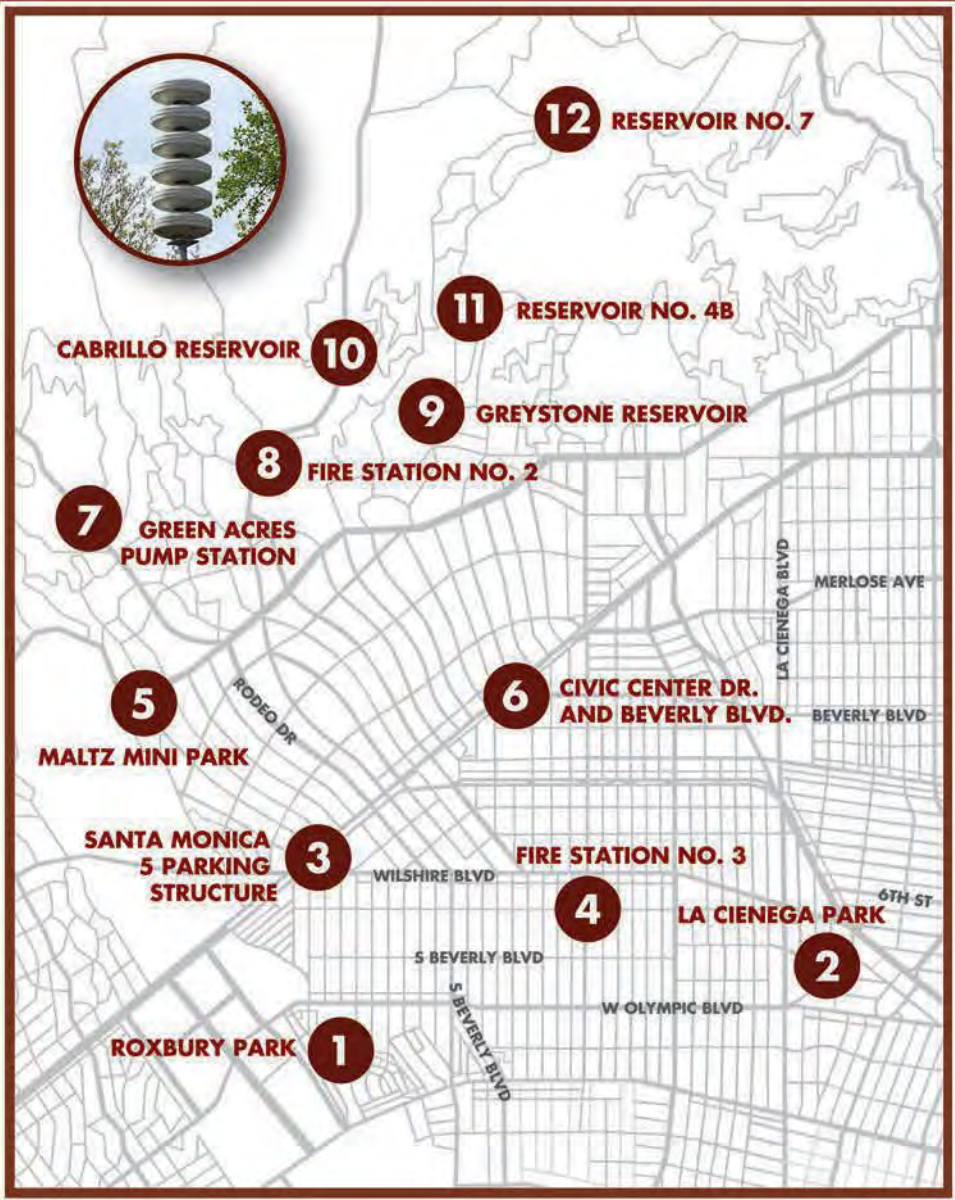
All 12 sirens, which have been placed strategically around the City to ensure maximum sound coverage for outdoor emergency notifications, will be activated as part of this test. The announcement will contain a tone-voice-tone sequence.

**NEXT UPCOMING AUDIBLE TESTING DATE:**  
*(no action required of the community)*

**Wednesday, October 22<sup>ND</sup> from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**  
Isolated testing may continue on Thursday and Friday.

AUDIBLE TONES WILL BE HEARD INDICATING IT’S A TEST.

To learn more, visit [BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/OUTDOORWARNING](http://BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/OUTDOORWARNING) or contact the askBH Hotline at (310) 285-1000 or [askBH@beverlyhills.org](mailto:askBH@beverlyhills.org).





# Governor signs SB 79 into law

■ Legislation allows larger buildings in neighborhoods

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill SB 79 on Oct. 10, a law that will allow more multi-family housing projects to be built near transit lines in densely populated urban areas.

SB 79, authored by state Sen. Scott Wiener, establishes state zoning standards around rail stations and primary bus lines, allowing multi-family buildings within a half mile of major transit stops. Many residents in single-family neighborhoods opposed SB 79, which will supersede Los Angeles zoning codes and clear the way for larger projects in neighborhoods where they otherwise would not be allowed, such as single-family com-

munities along Wilshire Boulevard where Metro’s D Line subway and dedicated bus lanes are located.

“I don’t think the governor’s action was unexpected, but I do think it’s wrong. I think he sold out L.A.,” said Sam Uretsky, leader of the Larchmont Village advocacy group Fight Back! “It shows a lack of concern for neighborhoods and a lack of concern for neighborhood planning. This approach defied common sense.”

Newsom said SB 79 will address the state’s housing crisis, accelerating permitting and streamlining production. The law only applies to Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties – all large urban areas with public transportation networks. SB 79 allows buildings up to 75 feet tall within a quarter mile of transit stations and dedicated bus lines, and up to 65 feet tall between

a quarter mile and half mile of stops. If a parcel is within 200 feet of a transit station, the law allows buildings up to 95 feet tall.

“Housing near transit means shorter commutes, lower costs and more time with family. When we invest in housing, we’re investing in people – their chance to build a future, raise a family and be part of a community,” Newsom said.

“SB 79 is a historic step toward tackling the root cause of California’s affordability crisis – our profound shortage of homes and too few people having access to transit,” Wiener said. “In California we talk a lot about where we don’t want to build homes, but rarely about where we do, until now. SB 79 unwinds decades of overly restrictive land use policies that have driven housing costs to astronomical levels, forcing millions of people to move far away from jobs and transit, to face massive commutes, or to leave California entirely.”

SB 79 was supported by



photo by Edwin Folven

Single-family neighborhoods near Wilshire Boulevard such as Hancock Park and Windsor Square may be impacted by SB 79.

Abundant Housing L.A., the Inner City Law Center and California YIMBY. The Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Karen Bass

opposed the law based on concerns it would take away local control over zoning. SB 79 takes effect on July 1, 2026.

# WeHo Youth Carnival promises spooky fun for the whole family

■ Event features games, performances and costume showcase

BY SAM MULICK

Children in West Hollywood are invited to enjoy spooktacu-



photo by Jon Viscott

Buzz Lightyear and Woody made appearances at last year’s West Hollywood Youth Halloween Carnival.

lar Halloween fun at the city’s Youth Halloween Carnival on Oct. 18.

From 2-5 p.m., community members can gather at Plummer Park for the festivities, if they dare – which will feature carnival games, pumpkin patches, rides, arts and crafts, and a Tiny Tot Zone. Pickle, West Hollywood’s drag laureate, will serve as emcee of the event – showcasing magic, music, dancing and performances, culminating in a costume showcase where kids can display their silliest and scariest costumes.

“This is such a special time of the year, coming together in community in celebration of beloved traditions as the season turns,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “The Youth Carnival gives families and friends a full day of free fun in the park, where costumes and creativity are encouraged. I’m looking forward to seeing folks out there and having a great time.”

“The Youth Halloween Carnival is one of my favorite traditions in West Hollywood – a joyful reminder of what makes our city so special,” Councilman John Erickson said. “It’s a night filled with creativity, community and pure fun for our kids and families. I’m excited to see all the amazing costumes and the smiles on kids’ faces. After everything our community has navigated these past few years, events like this help us reconnect and celebrate the magic of just being together.”

Resident Darryl Sher, who founded the LGBT Parents Group in West Hollywood, said his children are excited to dress up as their favorite movie characters. His 6- and 4-year-old daughters will be going as Anna and Elsa from Disney’s “Frozen.”

“I’m glad they’re continuing [a] carnival primarily for kids for the third year in a row – with carnival games, arts and crafts, and a pumpkin patch,” he said. “I’ve seen the

last couple years, the park district [has] been having a lot of new events for the community and it keeps growing.”

Community member Kareem Mortimer said he is looking forward to bringing his daughter and son, who will dress up as Spiderman, to the celebration.

“This will actually be our first time attending, so I’m really looking forward to finally experiencing

what I’ve heard so much about,” he said. “I work in West Hollywood, and I’ve always admired how the city brings families together in such creative ways. I’m excited that my two kids get to explore Halloween in this environment.”

Plummer Park is located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Admission is free and attendees are encouraged to carpool, walk or use public transportation as parking is limited. For information, contact the city’s Recreation Services Division at (323)848-6530 or at recreation@weho.org.

# WeHo Councilmembers and Beverly Hills Mayor honored with community excellence awards

Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) honored extraordinary individuals and organizations across the 51st Assembly District on Oct. 12 during the 2025 AD51 Community Excellence Awards. Held at the historic Egyptian Theatre, recently restored by Netflix and operated by the American Cinematheque, the ceremony recognized local heroes, civic leaders, small businesses and advocates who exemplify the values of service, inclusion and community that define Los Angeles.

West Hollywood Vice Mayor John Heilman was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award and Councilwoman Lauren Meister was honored with the Distinguished Service in Local Government. Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian was honored with the Combating Antisemitism award.

Other recipients included Assembly District 51 firefighters with the People of the Year award, Cedars-Sinai Medical

Center as the Community Institution of the Year, the Saban Community Clinic as Community Care Partner of the Year and


Streets For All with the Mobility & Sustainability Advocacy award.

For information and a full list of awards, visit a51.asmdc.org.



photo courtesy of Cathy Blaivas

West Hollywood Vice Mayor John Heilman and Councilwoman Lauren Meister were honored with community excellence awards for their community contributions.



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Monday October 20th, 2025

6:00- 8:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84519561462>

Phone: 16469313860,,84519561462# US

Webinar ID: 845 1956 1462

Agenda

Neighborhood, City and State Updates

LAPD Senior Lead: Officer Tyler Shuck

DWP Representative: Neighborhood Power Outages

State Assembly Member District 51: Rick Zbur

LA Council District 5 : CM Katy Yaroslavsky

HPhOA Committee and City Services Updates

Board Election Results

[www.HancockPark.org](http://www.HancockPark.org)



# WeHo drops mic with new karaoke bar

■ Historic preservation commission OKs new use at site

BY SAM MULICK

West Hollywood residents and visitors will soon be able to sing karaoke in the same room where artists like Prince, Cher and Carole King once recorded. The West Hollywood Historic Preservation Commission approved a certificate of appropriateness for the renovation of a designated cultural resource in the heart of the Rainbow District to house a karaoke bar.

The new bar, named Mic Drop, will be located at 8811 Santa Monica Blvd. – known historically as the First National Bank of Sherman and once the town’s commercial core. Originally designed in 1922 in the Italian Renaissance Revival style by W. Asa Hudson, the building later housed the Larrabee Sound Studio. The studio, which is now based in North Hollywood, closed in 2003 and the building went on to house nightclub Club Eleven, and later Flaming Saddles. Flaming Saddles shut its doors in 2020 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and never reopened. The building has remained unoccupied since.

Taylor Cornell of architectural firm Preen, Inc., the project applicant, argued that the renovations necessary for Mic Drop are minimal and would not have a significant impact on the building’s historic characteristics. The renovations include replacing the non-original doors of the main entrance, installing new signage, lighting and an entry awning, reconfiguring a secondary entrance on the Larrabee Street façade, filling a non-historic double-door opening on the Santa Monica Boulevard façade, cleaning and repointing the

brick bulkhead, installing a cast stone spandrel where a non-historic opening was added around 2010, and repairing some adjacent sidewalks.

“Mic Drop aims to continue the legacy of music and entertainment that has marked 8811 Santa Monica Boulevard for generations,” Cornell said. “The upgrades that we’re proposing are aesthetic upgrades and really honoring those elements deemed architecturally and historically significant like the brick bulkhead, the cast stone at the main entry and the keystone that marks the top of the entry.”

Historic Preservation Commissioners Matthew Dubin and Yawar Charlie raised concerns over the project’s proposed main entrance awning, which they said was a drastic change from the building’s original appearance.

“Aesthetically, the most jarring difference is the awning,” Charlie said. “But I think you’ve done a really good job in terms of everything else to keep what is there now cleaned up and brought back to life. I just take issue that that awning seems very different than what we have now.”

Cornell said the awning is necessary to meet environmental standards.

“We need at least a 48-inch overhang above any main entrance to just protect from if it’s raining, [people can] slip and fall or anything else coming from the sky,” she said.

The commission also approved the project’s exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act due to it not having a significant impact on the environment. Mic Drop adds another bar to West Hollywood’s historic Rainbow District and will be adjacent to existing bars Trunks and Revolver.

Cathy Blaivas, a founding member of the West Hollywood Preservation Alliance, celebrated the

commission’s decision.

“This project is a great example of adaptive reuse – giving a designated local cultural resource new life while keeping its historic charm,” she said. “The plans show real care for preservation, focusing on repairing and restoring original materials, like cleaning and repointing the brick and keeping the unpainted cast stone details intact. Projects like this remind us that preservation isn’t about freezing the past – it’s about keeping these places alive and useful. When we give our historic buildings new purpose, we keep them connected to the community’s history instead of letting them fade away.”



photo courtesy of Architectural Resources Group

The building that formerly housed the First National Bank of Sherman, the Larrabee Sound Studio and Flaming Saddles will be transformed into a karaoke bar named Mic Drop.

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photo by Jon Viscott

Honoree Barbara Meltzer serves on the Ageism and Culture Advisory Council of the American Society of Aging.

## WeHo celebrates ageism awareness

The West Hollywood City Council honored resident Barbara Meltzer on Oct. 6 in recognition of Ageism Awareness Day. Meltzer is a member of the American Society of Aging.

Ageism Awareness Day provides an opportunity to draw attention to the impact of ageism in society and work together to build age-inclusive communities. For information, visit [asaging.org](http://asaging.org).

## Notable Quotes

“There never was a good war or a bad peace.”

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

The Founding Father made this statement in a letter to Josiah Quincy in 1783 after signing the treaty that ended the American Revolutionary War.

\*source: National Archives

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## Nature Quest connects L.A. residents with the environment

BY RANCE COLLINS

Angelenos have an opportunity to get to know their surroundings in a whole new light this month. The Los Angeles Public Library is sponsoring its annual LA Nature Quest, which helps to catalogue and observe the diverse wildlife and plants that are hidden right in plain sight, right in the middle of the city.

Previously known as the LA BioBlitz Challenge, the program has facilitated 47,000 observation recordings by residents since its 2021 launch. The new title is meant to capture the spirit of the month-long event's curiosity, adventure and discovery. In partnership with other city and county

organizations – including the Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment Biodiversity Program, L.A. Recreation & Parks, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the L.A. Department of Water and Power Green Team – the Nature Quest has set a goal of collecting 10,000 observations by Oct. 31. Last year, the challenge surpassed this goal, and with each annual event gaining more participation, the leaders are confident they will do so again.

“The goal was to really get people to help collect the data from what they call the data col-slot,” Exploration & Creativity Department librarian Vivienne Byrd explained. “So, there [are] plenty of places in the city that do



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Public Library

The LA Nature Quest Kickoff brought together biodiversity enthusiasts on Oct. 4.

## Nazarian recognized by Iranian Jewish Women's Organization



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Bevery Hills Mayor Sharon Nazarian was honored by the Iranian Jewish Women's Organization at a gala on Oct. 9 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. The organization was founded in Iran in 1974 and protects dual identity of Iranian Jewish community, raises awareness of heritages and cultural values, recognizes challenges facing women and enables women with individual, social and professional advancements.

For information, visit [ijwo.org](http://ijwo.org).

not have any biodiversity data and L.A. Sanitation & Environment wants to learn: What is the spread of biodiversity? What is the condition of the habitat in the city of Los Angeles for these wildlife, plants and fungi?"

Byrd explained that the information helps pinpoint environments in which various lifeforms are located and thrive. This thereby helps inform city officials in making consequential decisions on what places require special protections versus being turned into commercial properties. The quest also helps collect vital information on potential hazardous plants which could provide “fuel,” as Byrd described it, to wildfires.

"The data contributes to the research, and the research actually [has] benefit coming back to the city," she said.

Additionally, the quest helps residents to connect and appreciate the area in a whole new light. Bryd herself has made major discoveries about her own home.

"I learned there's 33 different species of spiders around my house, and half of them were found in my bathtub," she related.

Questers can photograph and upload whatever signs of life they find on the iNaturalist app, which includes software that assists with species identification, which is validated by experts on the platform. Just about anything in nature is fair game, from spiderwebs and footprints to nests and feathers. Whether found in a field or nestled between two high-rises, if it



photo courtesy of iNaturalist

Questers are encouraged to take photos of nature all around them – from insects to plantlife.

raises an eyebrow, it's a part of the Nature Quest.

So far, the most observed species has been the red-tailed hawk. Some interesting photos have also been sent in of mule deer, southern alligator lizard and great horned owls. Plant life recordings have also been uploaded for the arroyo willow, castor bean and coast live oak. The rarest of observations have included the olive-sided flycatcher and the rare butterfly

Behr's Metalmark.

"I have people telling me they found lizards [and] they found Jerusalem crickets. They found, of course, spiders and different type of moths and all that ... I heard so many wonderful stories, [and] that tells me that people really, really enjoy doing the Nature Quest," Byrd said.

For information and to get involved, visit [lapl.org/nature](http://lapl.org/nature) and download the iNaturalist app.

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# L.A. Jewish Health keeps seniors happy and healthy

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Senior citizens comprise one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S. population, with the number of older Americans projected to increase to 22% by 2040. People are living longer and more productive lives due to advances in medical care and innovative programs that keep older adults healthy and active.

Los Angeles Jewish Health is rising to meet the needs generated by senior population growth, which is changing the dynamics of the health care industry.

"It's increasing dramatically. And in fact, there's a term for it called the 'silver tsunami,'" LAJH president and CEO Dale Surowitz said. "It's based upon the fact that the number of people who are ages 65 and older is increasing rapidly. The fastest growing part of our population in the United States right now is people 85 years of age and older, which is a lot of the people we care for. In Los Angeles alone, studies show that from 2020 to 2040, the number of people that are 65 and older will grow by 93%. And that is kind of a microcosm of what is happening throughout the country. People are aging and living longer, and because of that, there's a variety of different issues that are going to develop."

Los Angeles Jewish Health employs a multi-faceted approach for senior health. From residential assisted living, skilled nursing and

memory care for those requiring comprehensive services, to independent living and social activities for active seniors, Los Angeles Jewish Health provides complete care tailored to specific individuals.

Los Angeles Jewish Health began as the Los Angeles Jewish Home, founded in 1912 by a small group of Jewish men who sheltered homeless individuals during Passover. Among the group was grocer Simon Lewis, who purchased a site in Boyle Heights in 1916 and created what became the organization's first permanent home. As demographics changed and segments of Los Angeles' Jewish population moved to other parts of the city, a new facility was opened in the San Fernando Valley. Periods of expansion followed over the years, and additional residential care facilities opened including the Grancell Village campus and Eisenberg Village Campus in Reseda. Today, more than 1,000 people live at the senior campuses in the Valley and more than 3,000 people in the community receive care in Los Angeles Jewish Health's programs.

"It evolved into really looking at things from the perspective of people who don't have the physical, mental or financial capabilities to care for themselves as they age, having a place for them to be, to give them that peace of mind and security. That is a hallmark of who we are today," Surowitz

said. "And, looking at developing programs and services that will allow people who want to remain independent as long as they can and reside in the community to do so. But also if they need a place to be, we need to make sure that we have those kinds of housing and services available to them so they have the ability to age in place on our campuses. Whether they need independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, a variety of other different programs and services, they can be here, and they can be safe, healthy, well and have the quality of life they deserve."

Among the challenges faced by the aging population is Alzheimer's and dementia, which LAJH also treats with a compassionate comprehensive approach tailored to each senior's individual needs. The goal is to boost intellectual acuity and keep seniors mentally sharp.

"We feel it's our responsibility to step up and address that need, and one of the ways that we are doing that is expanding our behavioral health services so people who do have Alzheimer's and dementia, we have places for them where we can treat them and be here when they are in acute distress," Surowitz said. "Many of them want to continue to reside in the community, but the need for acute behavioral services is pronounced in senior care. There's a dearth of those services. So we're looking at expanding that both in terms of in-residence services from acute units and expanding our services on site, but also developing outpatient services that will touch more people who reside in the community, because that's an issue for seniors."



photo courtesy of Los Angeles Jewish Health

Los Angeles Jewish Health provides comprehensive services and resources that address every aspect of aging.

Surowitz also cited the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, or PACE, offered through the Brandman Centers for Senior Care in Reseda in the San Fernando Valley and near Beverly Hills at 9800 W. Pico Blvd. PACE enables seniors to receive comprehensive care and in-home support, and visit a clinic for check-ups, primary care, medication, preventative care, nutritional counseling, meals, dentistry and physical therapy. PACE also keeps seniors active and involved.

"We bring them into a central location so they have adult day health care where they get socialization," Surowitz added. "There's a variety of different programs and services. We have physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners on-site, social workers and dietitians, as well as physical, occupational

and speech therapy. Through all of the services, we coordinate the care of individuals to keep them safe and well. And our goal is as much as possible to help them remain independent as long as possible.”

Surowitz also highlighted Los Angeles Jewish Health's partnership with the Annenberg School of Nursing, training certified nurse assistants, licensed vocational nurses and home health aides. The nonprofit is focusing on expanding partnerships providing more services and expanding to new areas to continue meeting the needs of the burgeoning senior population.

"Everything we do is focused on seniors," Surowitz said. "Our goal is to help seniors – to give them the quality of life they deserve as they age."



photo courtesy of Jeff Hollingsworth/RMH Media

"Show Her the Money" creator Catherine Gray, left, joined executive producers Dawn LaFreeda and Sharon Gless at the event in West Hollywood.

## Movie day in WeHo supports women's empowerment

A standing-room-only crowd filled the West Hollywood City Council Chambers on Oct. 11 as L.A. Tech Week launched with a Women's Empowerment Movie Day celebrating women's leadership, innovation and equality across film, tech and venture capital.

Los Angeles native Sharon Gless – known for roles in “Cagney & Lacey” and “Queer as Folk” – was honored with the Legacy Impact Award, recognizing her acting career and decades of LGBTQ+ advocacy. Gless, who also wrote the foreword and narrates the audiobook for the newly released “Show Her the Money,” has long championed equality and amplified women’s stories.

"Sharon has used her voice and her art to open doors for others," said Catherine Gray, executive producer and creator of "Show Her

the Money.” “She represents the courage, passion and integrity that continue to drive this movement forward.”

The event included a meet-and-greet and book signing with Gless, Gray and fellow executive producers Dawn LaFreed and Diana Greshchuk, along with director Ky Dickens. The award-winning film "Show Her the Money" reveals the realities women face in raising venture capital and celebrates the visionary female investors supporting them. Screenings also included "Lilly," the true story of equal-pay champion Lilly Ledbetter, and "Still Working 9 to 5," a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the classic film and the continuing struggle for workplace equality.

For information, visit [showherthemoneymovie.com](http://showherthemoneymovie.com).

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# Third grade was an especially tough year

The Agony of Waking Up no longer troubles me. Sure, the first minute is a hurricane of confusion; I wonder who I am and how I got here. I check my phone for answers. Nothing.

Then, three minutes into The Agony of Waking Up, I spring from the bed, feed the wolf, make coffee with too much cream. I light a candle on my writing desk, a flickering fireplace on these ever-darker October mornings.

Off we went for donuts the other morning, a Saturday. Entering a donut shop with Suze, I feel the same joy I used to feel when entering vintage ballyards.

First, there is the scent of the merch. Then there is the new-car sheen of the trays of chocolate donuts just out of the oven.

Honestly, if you can't be happy in a donut shop, where can you be happy? Church? A poker room? The Olive Garden?

Then we stop for ice for a garden party we are throwing. Eight bags, five bucks a pop, ouch. But the 7-Eleven clerk offers to help us heft them into the trunk.

"He didn't have to do that," I tell Suze as we drive away.

Suze loves 7-Elevens, though not this particular outlet since the machine doesn't mix the Diet Cokes quite right, she says. Like many women, she lives on Diet Cokes.

FYI, the only way I would drink a Diet Coke is if there were a donut



by  
Chris  
Erskine

in it, perhaps one of the fancier brands ... a blueberry Bavarian cream. Then I might drink a Diet Coke.

"Life without music is a mistake," someone once said.

True dat. I can't imagine life without music, just as I cannot imagine life without donuts, or Milk Duds, or Malibu sunsets.

As I've noted before, we are the sum total of the little things we love. It's what offsets the frustrations. It's what gets us up in the morning.

For instance, in the fall I really crave Sloppy Joe's. A Sloppy Joe is a time machine to the school lunches of my youth. In the third grade, we would line up for miles on the days they served Sloppy Joes, tater tots on the side.

I don't know whether schools serve that anymore. I suspect some scold would flag the non-nutritive elements of a Sloppy Joe and tater tots, ignoring the joy and emotional sustenance they offer a bunch of squirmy 9-year-olds.

Even in third grade, we are the

sum total of the things we love. If you give kids vegan meatballs with a side of grapes, are you not signaling to them a seedless future? What's the point of learning long division when your stomach is sad from vegan meatballs?

Third grade was an especially tough year for me. We learned cursive writing, and our teacher (Fraulein Bob), insisted that our small s's gently kiss the middle line of our ruled paper. Or else.

Fraulein Bob, a substantial woman with sideburns and a whip, insisted that our t's tickle the top line of our writing papers as well. Compared to the others, my handwriting always looked like vandalism. It looked like stab wounds.

Meanwhile, Fraulein Bob's favorite student (Myra Muzeniks), made s's that looked like little doves dancing across the page. They had the arc of Da Vinci, the whimsy of Monet. It was as if Myra Muzeniks' cursive writing had inspired the Renaissance.

In third grade, of course, some of the boys chewed their pencils in anticipation of the Sloppy Joes they could smell simmering in the cafeteria.

If you chewed your pencil, you were placed in makeshift stocks and pillories that Fraulein Bob built in her off hours. Once you were chained up, other kids got to throw stuff at you – erasers, shoes, rocks. Pretty fun.

I never chewed my pencil in the third grade, but my friend Mark Johnson ate some 250 pencils over the course of the year, gnawing them the way dogs chew rawhide bones.

Mark just couldn't help himself. And Fraulein Bob took obvious



photo by Chris Erskine

A beloved grade-school delicacy, the classic and simple Sloppy Joe.

glee in mocking him in front of the entire class.

She'd call him up and have him present his chewed pencil to us. It was one of those fat navy blue pencils they gave to kids who were learning cursive, thick as candy canes, which apparently is how they tasted to Mark Johnson.

When Mark was done, there would no longer be any paint on the pencil, just tooth marks. It appeared to be nude ... the work of savages.

I used to wonder if Myra Muzeniks – teacher's pet and budding Nobel laureate – ever ran a ripe new pencil under her nose, breathed deep the pine scent and thought: "Wow, I bet they really are delicious," then slipped one into her pocket for later.

Probably not. But maybe.

For twice-weekly posts, please go to [ChrisErskineLA.com](http://ChrisErskineLA.com)



THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 16,  
2025

5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Light refreshments will be served.



## Join Beverly Hills Mayor

Sharona Nazarian and Michael Forbes, Director of Community Development for the City of Beverly Hills, as they discuss key updates and initiatives for our community.

- Builder's Remedy
- One Beverly Hills
- Recent changes in state law regarding residential projects and CEQA environmental review

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➤ For more information and to attend virtually, visit [beverlyhills.org/straighttalk](http://beverlyhills.org/straighttalk)





# Metro subway construction remains ongoing in October

Metro is working on the D Line subway extension project at many locations along Wilshire Boulevard in October. Work is ongoing at the station sites at Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax. Farther west at the Wilshire/La Cienega station, work is occurring at the station site and within a K-rail work zone along the south side of Wilshire Boulevard.

Two lanes will remain open on Wilshire Boulevard between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards through October. Construction in the area includes new curbs, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and tree wells. Work hours may extend until 9 p.m. on most nights. Gale, Tower and Hamilton drives may be intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard.

At the Beverly Drive station, K-

rail enclosures remain in place along the north and south curb lanes to support ongoing station construction and facilitate appendage construction. Two lanes in each direction will be maintained along Wilshire Boulevard between Beverly and Crescent drives. Left turns are restricted from westbound Wilshire Boulevard to South Cañon Drive. Additionally, the south sidewalk on Wilshire Boulevard between Cañon and Crescent drives will remain closed through the end of October for construction of an appendage structure directly adjacent to Ferrari Beverly Hills. Local access to businesses will be maintained and visitors can access the Ferrari Beverly Hills from the rear of the property.

In Century City, plans call for the process of removing deck panels and restoring the street to begin

soon at the project site on Constellation Boulevard between Century Park East and a location just west of Avenue of the Stars. Traffic control information will be provided through construction notices and direct stakeholder outreach once the deck removal schedule and specific closure details are finalized. To facilitate the work, traffic control will be implemented in five phases progressing from east to west. Following deck removal, traffic control measures will be reestablished on Constellation Boulevard to support more construction activities.

For questions and concerns about the D Line Extension project, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, email the project team at [purplelineext@metro.net](mailto:purplelineext@metro.net) or visit [metro.net](http://metro.net).



photo by Edwin Folven

Street restoration work is ongoing near Wilshire and La Cienega boulevards as part of the D Line subway extension project.



photo courtesy of the office of Gavin Newsom

The signed legislation will ensure that the Trevor Project hotline number is included on every California student ID card.

# New law increases mental health resources for LGBTQ youth

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced he signed AB 727 into law on Oct. 10, requiring student ID cards in California’s public middle schools, high schools and colleges to include the phone number for The Trevor Project, a leading crisis and suicide prevention hotline for LGBTQ youth.

The bill, introduced by Assemblymember Mark González (D-Los Angeles), comes as the Trump administration removes LGBTQ suicide prevention programs and funding. AB 727 builds on California’s 2018 suicide prevention ID card law by adding a tar-

geted, affirming resource for LGBTQ students – many of whom face elevated risk for mental health challenges due to verbal, physical and online harassment.

According to the Trevor Project, 35% of LGBTQ youth in California seriously considered suicide in the past year, and half who wanted mental health care did not receive it.

“When Donald Trump and the federal government turn their backs on LGBTQ+ youth, California steps up,” González said. “With the signing of AB 727, we’re sending a clear message: our LGBTQ+ youth are seen, valued and never alone. AB 727 is not just a piece of legislation; it is a lifeline for our queer youth. Thank you, Gov. Newsom, for standing with us to protect and affirm every young person in California.”

The Trevor Project is the leading

suicide prevention and crisis intervention nonprofit organization for LGBTQ youth. Their hotline provides 24/7 confidential and secure services by trained counselors to youth who seek mental health support through chat, text or call – making it a reliable resource for all. The Trevor Project is also an avenue for advocacy, education, peer support and research for the LGBTQ community. Their services reach all parts of the nation and contribute to the larger fight for more inclusive communities.

In July, California announced a new partnership with the Trevor Project to provide the state’s 988 crisis counselors enhanced competency training from experts, ensuring better attunement to the needs of LGBTQ youth, on top of the specific training they already receive.

For information, visit [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov).

# County distributes \$31.7 million to wildfire victims

Los Angeles County officials announced on Oct. 14 that \$31.7 million in emergency financial grants have been provided to 3,425 households that were severely impacted by the January wildfires.

The L.A. County Household Relief Grant program was administered by the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs in partnership with The Center by Lendistry. The grants offered immediate relief until long-term aid became available, providing assistance to more than 9,600 individuals.

“My goal in co-authoring the motion to create the L.A. County Household Relief Fund was to ensure that Eaton fire and Palisades fire survivors had immediate access to financial assistance when they needed it most,” Los Angeles County

Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, said. “This was one of the very first grant programs established after the January wildfires, and the dollars went directly to impacted households.”

“Los Angeles County launched the Household Relief Grants just 28 days after the fires – to help families keep a roof over their heads, support older adults in staying safe and give survivors a foundation to begin again,” Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, added. “This program delivered more than financial relief – it helped restore stability, dignity and hope for those most impacted by the wildfires. Recovery takes time, but we are committed to walking alongside every household as they rebuild their lives and their communities.”

The grants ranged from \$6,000-

\$18,000. More than 51% of grantees reported a loss of equipment or tools for work or business, 43% had children under 18 in the household, 19% had no access to alternative housing and more than 21% lost their primary mode of transportation. The grants were funded by \$28 million allocated by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors and \$2.5 million from FireAid, as well as private donations.

“Our work isn’t over,” DCBA director Rafael Carbajal said. “We know recovery from the wildfires is only just beginning. We are grateful for the opportunity to have served our community by providing a vital lifeline to thousands of households during such a difficult time.”

For information, visit [dcba.lacounty.gov/household-relief-grant](http://dcba.lacounty.gov/household-relief-grant).

# CicLAvia returns to Melrose Avenue on Nov. 23

CicLAvia celebrated its 15th anniversary with the “Heart of LA!” event on Oct. 12 in Downtown Los Angeles and surrounding communities. Thousands of people bicycled and used alternative forms of transportation during the event, which closed streets to cars and motor vehicles along a route connecting Westlake, Downtown L.A., Chinatown, Little Tokyo, the Arts District and Boyle Heights. “Heart of LA!” was CicLAvia’s first event in 2010.

The next CicLAvia event will be held on Sunday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. along Melrose Avenue between Fairfax and Vermont avenues. The route will be closed to motorized vehicles, promoting active transportation and connecting the Fairfax, Larchmont, Melrose Hill and East Hollywood communities. Participation is free. For information, visit [ciclavia.org](http://ciclavia.org).



photo courtesy of CicLAvia

The “Heart of LA!” event brought riders together for an afternoon of car-free streets in Downton L.A.

## PUBLIC NOTICE:

Public Meeting about Affordable Housing Project  
at 1047 N Crescent Heights

Community Corporation of Santa Monica was selected as the developer of the property located at 1047-1057 N Crescent Heights, West Hollywood, CA 90046. The current proposal is to develop the property a 41-units of affordable housing for seniors.

Community Corp. is holding this in-person public meeting to gather feedback on the project. Any interested person may attend the meeting, listen, and/ or provide comments. Additionally, any written comments may be submitted to Community Corp. before, or up to 2 weeks after, the meeting.

**Meeting Location:** Plummer Park  
7377 Santa Monica Blvd  
West Hollywood, CA 90046

**Meeting Date:** December 3, 2025

**Meeting Time:** 6:30PM – 8:00PM

Please contact Adrian Servetnick, [aservetnick@communitycorp.org](mailto:aservetnick@communitycorp.org), (310) 394-8487, for written comments or additional information, including a site plan, floor plans, elevations, and a map identifying the location of the project.



RESTAURANT NEWS

Farmhouse at Descanso Gardens debuts fall menu

Farmhouse at Descanso Gardens, the new farm-to-table dining destination nestled within Southern California’s iconic botanical garden and living museum, is embracing the flavors of fall with comforting dishes and seasonally inspired cocktails, appearing on the menu throughout the autumn season and during “Carved,” Descanso Gardens’ family-friendly Halloween experience, running through Oct. 30.

Crafted through a collaboration between chef partner Rich Mead, renowned for his decades-long partnerships with local, sustainably minded farmers, and executive chef Adam Cherney, the new menu reflects a shared commitment to ingredient-driven cuisine and showcases the best of the seasonal harvest, from farm-fresh Pink Lady apples and pomegranate to butter-

nut squash and pumpkin. Set against the breathtaking fall backdrop of Descanso Gardens, Farmhouse offers an unforgettable seasonal dining experience, capturing the beauty and bounty of autumn in Southern California. Food highlights include the seafood pasta with cioppino broth, pernod, shaved fennel, shrimp, mussels and halibut. Featured fall cocktails include the “Drunken Pumpkin,” with bourbon, pumpkin, lemon and cinnamon. For information, visit [farmhouse-dg.org](http://farmhouse-dg.org). Farmhouse at Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive.

Savor the flavors of fall at The Grove and The Americana

With fall in full swing, it's the perfect time to explore the seasonal dining experiences at The

West Hollywood Breakfast Company says good morning on Oct. 25

West Hollywood Breakfast Company, the newest Los Angeles concept from Rise and Shine Hospitality Group, will open its doors at 7141 Santa Monica Blvd. with a two-day soft opening on Saturday, Oct. 25 and Sunday, Oct. 26. During the soft opening, 100% of all food and beverage sales, including alcohol, will be donated to Project Angel Food, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization that “nourishes the health and spirit of vulnerable people facing critical and life-threatening illness, by preparing and delivering medically tailored meals with love, care and dignity.” “We can’t wait to serve our sweet, savory and unique dishes in a comfortable, yet elegant space,” Rise & Shine Hospitality Founder and CEO Johan Engman said. “When the sun rises over Santa Monica Boulevard, we hope all Angelenos will start



photo courtesy of West Hollywood Breakfast Company  
Selections at the new West Hollywood Breakfast Company include steak and eggs.

their day with us.” The West Hollywood Breakfast Company menu highlights comforting breakfast and brunch favorites, including chilaquiles suizos, fried rice Bennie, Cali burrito, Japanese spicy chicken sando and sweet chili shrimp and grits. All eggs are sourced from Vital Farms, where each hen is pasture-raised with at least 108 square feet of space. Waffle options include s’mores, orange thyme and buttermilk cornmeal, while pancake flavors feature banana bread and tiramisu. French toast selections include churro, peach almond and crème brûlée. The Breakfast Co. flight allows guests to mix and match any three waffles, French toasts and pancakes. Gluten-free pancakes and vegan options – such as the vegan benedict, vegan breakfast Sammie and seven grain bowl – are also available. The drink menu features Bloody Marys, bubbles and breakfast cocktails. Coffee service includes nitro cold brew, lattes, and matcha. To attend the soft opening, reservations are required and can be made by emailing [events@riseandshinerg.com](mailto:events@riseandshinerg.com) to reserve their spot.

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# Petersen revs up Aston Martin exhibit

The Petersen Automotive Museum, in collaboration with Aston Martin, will debut a new exhibit dedicated to the ultra-luxury British performance brand this fall. Titled “Performance and Prestige: A History of Aston Martin,” the showcase will bring together more than a dozen rare and celebrated vehicles from Aston Martin’s 112-year history.

Opening Oct. 26 in the museum’s Meyers Gallery, the exhibition will trace the iconic British marque’s evolution from its founding in 1913 to its modern-day position as a leader in performance and luxury.

Among the highlights are: 1949 DB2 Prototype – a post war sports car that competed at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, securing a class podium and paved the way for production of the DB2 series; 1961 DB4GT Zagato – one of just 19 lightweight grand tourers designed

in collaboration with Zagato; 1979 Bulldog – a one-of-a-kind wedge-shaped concept powered by a twin-turbo V8 and fitted with gullwing doors; 2015 Vulcan – a track-only V12 hypercar, limited to 24 units globally, one for each hour of the 24 Hours of Le Mans; and 2021 Valkyrie Spider – an open-top hypercar with true F1 performance for the road with over 1,000 horsepower from a naturally aspirated V12 powertrain.

The exhibit will also highlight Aston Martin’s return to Formula 1. The AMR23 race car, which achieved eight podium finishes with two-time World Champion Fernando Alonso and teammate Lance Stroll, will be featured, underscoring the brand’s pursuit of excellence at the pinnacle of motorsport.

Founded in 1913 by racer Lionel Martin and engineer Robert Bamford, Aston Martin has built a

legacy of blending hand-crafted elegance with high performance. From racing legends like the DBR1 to cinematic icons like the DB5, and today’s groundbreaking hypercars, Aston Martin continues to set benchmarks in design, innovation and cultural impact.

“Aston Martin’s legacy is defined by more than a century of heritage, craftsmanship and performance, but by the inspired passion more than a century after its founding,” said Marek Reichman, chief creative officer of Aston Martin Lagonda. “This exhibit not only celebrates the iconic vehicles that have made Aston Martin a symbol of prestige but also highlights our continued innovation in motorsport and cutting-edge road cars. We are honored to share this story with the Petersen Automotive Museum and inspire the next generation of enthusiasts.”

“Aston Martin has such a rich



photo courtesy of the Petersen Automotive Museum  
Cars in the exhibit include the 1949 Aston Martin DB2 Prototype.

and important history, and we are proud to partner with them for this blockbuster exhibit,” said Terry L. Karges, executive director of the Petersen Automotive Museum. “From its over a century-long history to today’s place on the Formula One grid, this exhibit captures Aston Martin’s relentless pursuit of

performance.”

“Performance and Prestige: A History of Aston Martin” will be on display through October 2026. For information and tickets, visit [petersen.org/exhibits](https://petersen.org/exhibits).

The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd.

# KCCLA presents award-winning new art exhibition



photo courtesy of KCCLA  
The “A Motionless Movie” exhibition showcases the work of artist Heehyun Choi.

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles, in partnership with Korea Arts Foundation of America, presents the 19th Korea Arts Foundation of America Award-winning exhibition “A Motionless Movie” on view from Thursday, Oct. 23, through Friday, Nov. 14, in the KCCLA Art Gallery. An opening reception will be held on Oct. 23 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Moving-image artist Heehyun Choi works in both South Korea and the United States. Her practice spans cinema and exhibition spaces, where she creates experimental films using analog formats such as 16 mm and Super 8 mm. Through explorations of film and video media, Choi examines the intricate relationships between camera, subject and image.

In the solo exhibition “A Motionless Movie,” Choi presents

four new moving-image works alongside a series of embroidery pieces. The essay film “A Motionless Movie,” which shares its title with the exhibition, takes inspiration from a 1920s Korean newspaper article titled “Umjigiji-Anneun Yeonghwa (A Motionless Movie).” The work imagines the perspectives of Korean female readers of the newspaper’s Home and Women’s section, loosely following the trajectory of American actress Clara Bow featured in the article. The black-and-white silent film “A Dark Room” portrays a woman who may have encountered a camera obscura – a primal form of cinema. The single-channel video “Neolttwigi” and the three-channel video “The Wedding Chest” blur the boundaries between the front and back of the camera, the inside and outside of the frame and those who create images and those who become them. The Chronophotography

series fragments images already fossilized in the history of photography and cinema and reweaves them through traditional Korean embroidery and patchwork techniques.

“This exhibition is particularly meaningful as it presents the 19th KAFA Art Award Winner’s Exhibition – an award recognized for its prestige within the Korean American art community,” KCCLA Director Haedon Lee said. “We are delighted to showcase the works of Heehyun Choi, an artist who has created a unique sensory world by blending traditional cinematic language with handcrafted mediums. We hope visitors will experience and share the imagination and experimental spirit of a young artist whose work unfolds at the intersection of Korean and American cultural experiences.”

KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit [kccla.org](https://kccla.org).

# LA Ballet turns into its 20th year

Los Angeles Ballet announced the 2025-26 season, marking a major milestone with the company’s 20th anniversary. LAB holds the distinction of being the longest-operating professional classical ballet company in the history of Los Angeles. Over the past two decades, its beloved production of “The Nutcracker” and rich repertoire have attracted wide and growing audiences.

Season 20 will see LAB continue its residency in January 2026 at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts with a triple bill production, “20 Years of Los Angeles Ballet,” featuring George Balanchine’s “Rubies,” Hans van

Manen’s “Frank Bridge Variations” and a new work by Artistic Director Melissa Barak, her third since taking the helm in 2022.

Spring 2026 will mark LAB’s debut at The Music Center with a production of the ultra-classic, timeless ballet, “Giselle” at The Ahmanson Theatre. The season opens in December 2025 commemorating 20 years of the Los Angeles holiday tradition, “The Nutcracker.”

In its history, LAB has presented the works of celebrated choreographers such as Aszur Barton, Alejandro Cerrudo, Val Caniparoli, Christopher Wheeldon, Jiri Kylian, Jose Limon, Annabelle Lopez

Ochoa and Melissa Barak. The company is also known for its staging of classical and neoclassical works in the canon of ballet by George Balanchine, Sir Frederick Ashton and August Bournonville.

“The 20th season marks a huge milestone for the company. Our mixed repertoire this year is a nod to our past, present and future which I felt was important,” Barak said. “Being able to celebrate all that LAB has accomplished over the years is thanks to many donors, board members, dancers, choreographers and leaders who have cared enough to see this company grow and materialize in Los Angeles. I’m grateful to have the opportunity to carry the torch.”

Jennifer Bellah Maguire, board chair of LAB, noted that season 20 marks a turning point for the company.



photo by Reed Hutchinson  
LA Ballet’s 20th season will feature its annual production of “The Nutcracker.”

“We are thrilled that the public embraces our exceptional dancers and the talented artistic leadership of Melissa Barak. As the company continues to mature, we have gained wisdom and developed strategies to thrive in a challenging environment,” she said. “Our ambitious plans for the future include accelerating growth as a performing arts company and expanding our highly regarded public outreach programs.”

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit [losangelesballet.org](https://losangelesballet.org).



photo courtesy of Writers Bloc Presents  
Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear will discuss bridging the political divide.

# Writers Bloc presents Andy Beshear and Brian Tyler Cohen

On Oct. 25, Writers Bloc presents Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, in conversation with podcast host and new media whiz Brian Tyler Cohen. Gov. Beshear is widely respected and is thought to be a contender in the 2028 Presidential race. A Democrat from the very red state of Kentucky, Beshear is rated as one of the most popular governors in the country. How does he

manage to do that? Come see for yourself.

Writers Bloc has offered Beverly Press readers a limited number of complimentary tickets. Enter promo code AB2025 on the Eventbrite ticketing page at [writersblocpresents.com](https://writersblocpresents.com).

The venue is in Santa Monica. Due to security, the exact venue location will be provided to registrants 48 hours prior to the event.



# Nerano Beverly Hills names new executive chef ahead of National Pasta Day

A fresh energy is coursing through the walls of Nerano Beverly Hills, as the iconic Italian restaurant ushers in a new era with the appointment of executive chef Sam Mumford, a revamped menu and a pasta flight tasting experience in celebration of National Pasta Day, running through Oct. 19.

Recognized by San Pellegrino as one of the “Top Young Chefs Under 30,” Mumford, 28, brings a powerful blend of Michelin-starred technique, soulful storytelling and California-seasonal sensibility to Nerano. Raised in the farm town of Lynden, Wash., Mumford honed his skills at top restaurants including Pasta Bar, Gwen Butcher Shop and Koast. His approach is grounded in authenticity, sustainability and the belief that a great meal can forge lasting memories.

“Nerano has always had soul, and now we’re adding fire to that soul,” Mumford said. “We’re blending tradition with momentum – honoring the flavors of the Amalfi Coast while embracing the energy of Beverly Hills right now. Whether it’s a simple aglio e olio or a dish that took three days to prepare, our goal is to make people feel something the moment it hits the table. National Pasta Day is the perfect excuse to launch this new chapter – it’s a celebration of where we’re going and how far we’re willing to take it.”

To commemorate National Pasta Day on Oct. 17, 2025, Nerano will debut its first-ever pasta flight tasting menu – a three-course journey through handmade pasta creations by Mumford, available through Oct. 19.

Designed for guests who want to taste it all, the flight includes: artichoke ravioli (charcoal dough, shallots, burnt onion) – velvety, rich, layere; spicy vodka paccheri (salsa rosa piccante, parmigiano reggiano) – bold, nostalgic, cheeky; and mushroom pappardelle (chianti classico, chanterelle, pecorino) – earthy, comforting, deeply satisfying.

Guests can elevate the flight with curated Italian wine pairings, indulge in tableside martini service, or add fresh shaved truffles for an extra flourish.

While signature favorites like Linguini alla Nerano remain, new dishes include: beef cheek agnolotti – with braised cheek, jus, polent; amberjack crudo – leche de tigre, pickled fresno chil; Tuscan lamb – rosemary, balsamic, Dijo; and “The



photo courtesy of Nerano Beverly Hills

The new pasta flight at Nerano includes a spicy vodka paccheri.

Jane Salad” – charred radicchio, arugula, goat cheese, pine nuts.

In a first for the restaurant, Nerano is now offering a signature dry-aged wagyu burger, served on a toasted brioche bun with melted provolone, crispy onions, and house-made aioli — a dish that’s as indulgent as it is unexpected.

Reservations are strongly encouraged for the pasta flight. Book now via OpenTable or Resy at neranobh.com/reservations.

Nerano is located at 9960 S. Santa Monica Blvd.

# Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market rings in fall

Celebrate the magic of autumn with the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market at the Fall Funtastic Harvest Festival and Dia de los Muertos Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bring the family for a morning of outdoor fun, creative pumpkin artistry, live performances and community arts activities. The event is free and open to the public.

Guests can enter the pumpkin carving and decorating contest and show off creative pumpkins. To register, view beverlyhills.org/csevents. Create a pumpkin at home and bring it to the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market by 9 a.m. on Oct. 26, for display and judging by market attendees. Winners will be announced at 11:45 a.m. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in two categories – youth and adult.

Visitors can also enjoy a Halloween costume parade – dress in your favorite costume and parade with community members on stage.

The festival will also include Dia de los Muertos activities, such as a mini altar-making activity with

self-help graphics, face painting by Shanah Designs and spooky storytime hosted by the Beverly Hills Public Library. Cortines High School and Danza Azteca will perform mariachi and dance in traditional costumes.

The event also includes hands-on artmaking with the city of Beverly Hills Community Services recreation staff. Visitors can shop for fresh produce and specialty items from local vendors, and visit

a petting zoo and meet friendly animals.

The free event is presented by the city of Beverly Hills Community Services Department, with community partner Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org/farmersmarket. The Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market is located at 9300 Civic Center Drive.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The event on Oct. 26 includes live mariachi and dance performances for Dia de los Muertos.

From page 13

Brand is located at 889 Americana Way, Glendale.

## Get your kicks at Hotel Casa del Mar

Just in time for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Athletic Propulsion Labs is hosting an exclusive pop-up at Hotel Casa del Mar in Santa Monica on Friday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Guests can shop a curated selection of APL’s signature performance-luxury sneakers, including the brand’s limited-edition Breast Cancer Awareness style, with a portion of proceeds supporting the cause. In support of Breast Cancer Awareness, APL is donating 20% of the sales price of the APL Women’s TechLoom Traveler in Fusion Pink to the Women’s Cancer Research Fund, A Breast Cancer Research Foundation Program, with a minimum guaranteed donation of \$5,000 for the limited-edition release.

For information, visit hotelcasadelmar.com. Hotel Casa del Mar is located at 1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica.



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# POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Oct. 5 and Oct. 10. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

## Beverly Hills Police Department

### Oct. 5

At 1:21 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 300 block of S. Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9600 block of Sunset at 2:45 p.m.

At 5 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Palm and Third.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 5:30 p.m.

At 9:29 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Reeves.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Wilshire and Doheny at 11:41 p.m.

### Oct. 7

At 11:33 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9200 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Robertson at 2:30 p.m.

### Oct. 9

At 9:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of S. Rexford.

### Oct. 10

At 3:54 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 9400 block of Charleville at 6:59 a.m.

### Oct. 11

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo at 12:32 p.m.

At 2:45 p.m., a vandalism occurred in the 400 block of N. Rexford.

A vandalism incident was reported near Park Way and Cañon at 1:38 p.m.

## West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

### Oct. 5

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9000 block of Keith at 4 a.m.

At 4:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near Sierra Bonita and Romaine at 2:07 a.m.

At 8:21 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

At 9:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

### Oct. 6

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Sunset at 6:17 a.m.

At 9:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly at 11:50 a.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Rugby.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of Kings at 4:35 p.m.

At 5:45 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 600 block of Huntley.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8600 block of Holloway at 6 p.m.

At 11:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly.

### Oct. 7

At 3:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8900 block of Rosewood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Sunset at 6:45 a.m.

At 10:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Curson.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9200 block of Sunset at 11:33 a.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Sunset at 2:36 p.m.

At 11:46 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Sunset.

### Oct. 8

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Sunset at 6:45 a.m.

At 7:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8800 block of Rosewood.

### Oct. 9

At 5:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1200 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Sunset at 7:37 a.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8200 block of Fountain.

### Oct. 10

At 12:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1100 block of Formosa.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9200 block of Sunset at 12:45 a.m.

At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Santa Monica and Croft.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1100 block of Hacienda at 5:27 p.m.

At 10:40 9.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

# Suspect accused of starting fire

From page 4

justice – and today is a step forward in that process.”

“I am grateful to the public safety partners who worked tirelessly to bring us to this moment,” Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, said. “While nothing can undo the devastation this fire caused, [this] news offers a measure of justice as we continue the hard work of rebuilding and healing together.”

“This arrest will not bring back homes, or loved ones, but bringing an alleged perpetrator to justice is nonetheless an important step in the healing process,” Sen. Adam Schiff (D.-Calif.) said. “As we continue working to rebuild from this tragedy, I hope that [this] announcement continues us on the path towards closure for the families devastated by the Palisades fire. As ever, I remain committed to working with local, state and federal officials to ensure that California has the resources to recover and be better protected from future disasters.”

“This tragedy will never be forgotten – lives were lost, families torn apart and entire communities forever changed – and there must be accountability,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said. “We thank the U.S. Department of Justice and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their thorough investigation into this fire and for confirming the indisputable facts on the ground.”

Following the announcement of the arrest, the Los Angeles Fire Department released an after-action review report on the Palisades fire, which detailed the department’s response during the first 36 hours of the fire.

The 70-page report noted challenges with communication, resource and staffing shortages, and unprecedented winds and dry conditions as factors that contributed to the destructive nature of the fire.

“The goal of the after-action review report is to provide greater clarity and accountability for the events surrounding the Palisades fire. We hope that it strengthens public confidence in the Los Angeles Fire Department’s readiness to respond to any future wildfires,” LAFD Interim Fire Chief Ronnie Villanueva said. “Since January 2025, the LAFD has implemented several new processes to protect the city, including strengthened interagency coordination, upgraded communications technology, enhanced wildfire training and evacuation drills, and improved pre-deployment protocols. In partnership with various local agencies, the LAFD is also expanding outreach to equip our communities with critical wildfire preparedness resources. Our commitment is to continuously improve as we deliver upon our mission to preserve life, protect property and safeguard the Los Angeles community.”

# Graffiti in WeHo raises concerns

From page 5

together to provide community specific education on hate crimes and violence and we all work together to ensure this city is safe and supportive for all.”

“There is absolutely no place for antisemitism or hate of any kind in West Hollywood,” Councilman John Erickson said. “Our city was built on inclusion and respect and acts like this go against everything we stand for and they make me sick. When hate shows up, we must

respond swiftly and united. It’s not just about removing graffiti – it’s about reaffirming who we are as a community: one that stands shoulder to shoulder against hate and for love, dignity and equality.”

Graffiti placed on private and public property is removed at no charge by the city, generally within three days of notification. Graffiti can be reported by calling (323)848-6557 or visiting weho.org.

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# LAUSD students show highest test scores ever in reading, math and science

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond joined members of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education on Oct. 10 to celebrate the district’s gains in math and literacy assessment scores following the release of statewide assessment results.

The latest statewide assessment results show LAUSD students reached record-high proficiency levels, up 3.4 points in English Language Arts, 3.9 in math and 3.3 in science, surpassing both last year’s results and pre-pandemic performance.

LAUSD’s progress comes after significant investments in K-12 public education championed and secured by Thurmond, which have accelerated learning through \$7.9 billion for the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant. He also secured an additional \$215 million to expand the existing Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialists Grant Program in the 2025 state budget, as well as \$200 million to support professional learning for

elementary school educators.

“I congratulate the students, educators and staff of Los Angeles Unified for their hard work to achieve these results,” Thurmond said. “I am grateful for the historic statewide investments we’ve made in programs like Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialists and Expanded Learning, which have proved to be game-changing resources to move the needle on student outcomes, along with other investments in prekindergarten, community schools, professional development for educators, and universal meals. I’m proud to have led a reinvestment in public education across the state. In my second term, we have nearly tripled per-pupil funding in the State of California, because we recognize that skills like reading, writing and doing math have the power to transform lives. I know this all too well as someone whose life was transformed by a high-quality public education.”

Carvalho credits this historic achievement to the hard work of

educators, staff and students, supported by targeted investments in early literacy, math intervention and expanded science opportunities designed to accelerate learning and close gaps created by the pandemic. The district leveraged a combination of funding sources, including general funds, federal funds such as Titles I, II, III and IV, and targeted state grants such as the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program and the Literacy Coach and Reading Specialist Grant.

“We are proud to stand alongside State Superintendent Tony Thurmond and recognize the incredible achievement across California and Los Angeles Unified in ELA, math and science,” Carvalho said. “Our students are making tremendous strides across every grade and in every demographic. There is more work to do, but this represents a watershed moment in closing the achievement gap and erasing the pandemic learning loss.”

For information, visit [lausd.org](http://lausd.org).



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Public Library

The Los Angeles Public Library enables adults to receive a high school diploma through an online program.

## Students receive high school diplomas through L.A. Library program

Los Angeles Public Library celebrated graduates of the library’s Career Online High School Degree program on Oct. 10 at the Central Library in Downtown Los Angeles. The program offers adults ages 19 and older an opportunity to earn a high school diploma. Los Angeles Public Library,

which is the first public library in the nation to enable adults to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate online, has graduated more than 1,220 students. The Central Library is located at 630 W. Fifth Street. For information about the program, visit [lapl.org/diploma](http://lapl.org/diploma).

## BHHS students explore opportunities at college fair

On Oct. 8, Beverly Hills High School welcomed representatives from more than 40 colleges and universities at the annual Fall College Fair, offering students direct access to a diverse range of post-secondary pathways and personalized guidance on their future plans.

Held on campus, the college fair provided students with the opportunity to explore academic programs, engage in meaningful conversations with admissions representatives and learn more about the possibilities that await them after graduation. From nationally ranked

institutions to specialized programs, the event was designed to broaden horizons and inspire informed, intentional decision-making.

“This is more than a college fair. It’s a cornerstone of how we support our students,” BHHS Principal Loan Sriruksa said. “We want every student to feel confident and equipped as they take their next step. This event represents the best of our community – opportunity, access and encouragement.”

The college fair is part of BHUSD’s broader commitment to revitalizing its counseling program

across all school sites, prioritizing comprehensive support, individualized planning and early exposure to academic and career exploration.

“Events like this are central to our mission,” Superintendent Dr. Alex Chernis said. “They reflect our dedication to educational excellence by ensuring that every student receives the tools, resources and personal guidance to thrive beyond high school.”

Students left the event energized, informed and inspired, many with new connections and a clearer sense of the journeys that lie ahead.

For information, visit [bhUSD.org](http://bhUSD.org).



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Students met with representatives from more than 40 colleges and universities.

## Visit the world of ‘Willy Wonka’ with Nine O’Clock Players



photo courtesy of Nine O’Clock Players

“Willy Wonka” runs on Sundays from Oct. 26 through Nov. 23.

Nine O’Clock Players presents Roald Dahl’s “Willy Wonka – Theater for Young Audiences Version” from Sunday, Oct. 26, through Sunday, Nov. 23, at the Assistance League Theatre.

Based on Dahl’s book “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” the musical follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka as he hides five golden tickets in his scrumptious candy bars. Whoever finds a golden ticket wins a tour of the Wonka factory and

a lifetime supply of candy. “Willy Wonka” touches on troubles that are brought about when people act spoiled and bossy, and also shows how people can make beautiful things with a touch of pure imagination.

Nine O’Clock Players, the oldest children’s theater company in Southern California, has produced

plays since 1929. Showtimes for “Willy Wonka” are at 2 p.m. on Sundays through Nov. 23. Tickets are \$15. The Assistance League Theatre is located at 1367 N. St. Andrews Place in Hollywood. For tickets and information, call (323)545-6153, or visit [nineoclock-players.com](http://nineoclock-players.com).

## Burroughs Middle School opens new classroom building

The Los Angeles Unified School District held a ribbon cutting ceremony and centennial celebration on Oct. 6 at John Burroughs Middle School in Hancock Park. The event celebrated the opening of a new classroom building, marking an important milestone in the school’s \$277 million Comprehensive Modernization Project. The new three-story classroom building includes science classrooms, labs, workrooms, general and special education classrooms and space for food services. Other work already completed on the modernization project includes a new lunch shelter and modular classroom buildings, as well as new basketball courts and landscaping.

John Burroughs Middle School is located at 600 S. McCadden Place. For information, visit [lausd.net](http://lausd.net) and [burroughsms.lausd.org](http://burroughsms.lausd.org).



photo courtesy of LAUSD

County and city leaders joined LAUSD representatives at a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new classroom building at John Burroughs Middle School.

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## Festival showcases diverse animated films in Hollywood

The eighth annual Animation Is Film Festival takes place from Oct. 17-19 at the TCL Chinese 6 Theatres in Hollywood, featuring theatrical premieres, special events, panel discussions and shorts collections.

Opening night will feature the West Coast premiere of “Scarlet,” from Academy Award-nominated director Mamoru Hosoda, produced by Studio Chizu and distributed in the U.S. by Sony Pictures Classics. The festival’s centerpiece is the Los Angeles premiere of “Arco,” the debut feature from director Ugo Bienvenu, distributed by Neon. AIF’s closing night features the U.S. premiere of “Little Amélie or the Character of Rain,” co-directed by Mailys Vallade and Liane-Cho Han, and distributed by GKIDS.

The festival champions anima-

tion as a cinematic art form, curating critically acclaimed international features and shorts with recognition and impact. This year’s program presents new animated works from Asia, Europe, South America, North America and Australia with juried and audience prizes.

“It’s with enormous pride that AIF returns in its role as the first opportunity for Los Angeles to experience these essential films on their journey to end-of-year awards and best-of-lists,” Animation Is Film director Matt Kaszanek said. “This carefully curated lineup – featuring new works from animation legends alongside feature film debuts – is a celebration of the medium. It’s wonderful to be home.”

AIF also presents the U.S. premiere of “Nobody,” the highest-grossing 2D animated film in

China’s history, and the U.S. premiere of Roy and Arturo Ambriz’s “I Am Frankelda,” featuring a never-before-seen cut of the award-winning film. The festival marks the 13th anniversary of LAIKA Studios’ “ParaNorman,” featuring the world premiere of its newly remastered 3D print and new short “ParaNorman: The Thrifting,” starring Anna Kendrick and Finn Wolfhard.

Other highlights are a work-in-progress of Walt Disney Animation’s “Zootopia 2,” four shorts programs including AIF’s returning “Best of Annecy” in partnership with Women In Animation, and the annual student showcase.

“As a founding partner, we’re proud to see AIF thrive as a landmark event for animation in Los Angeles. Each year, many of the

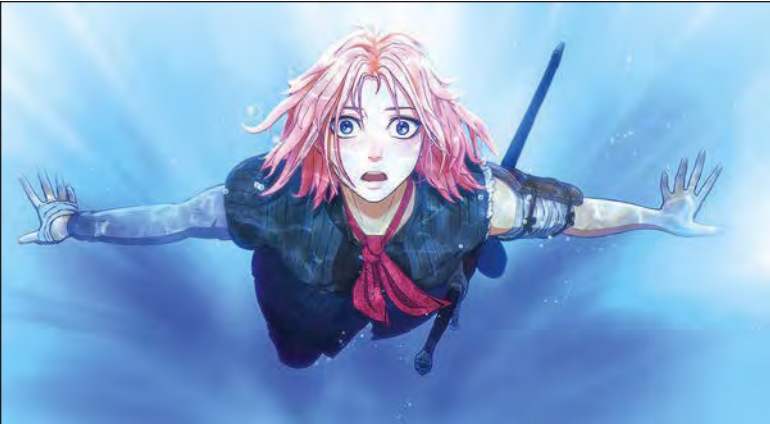


photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

“Scarlet,” from Academy Award-nominated director Mamoru Hosoda, is included in the upcoming Animation Is Film Festival.

## Getty appoints new communications, community engagement VP

The J. Paul Getty Trust has appointed Amanda Hicks as vice president, communications and community engagement. Hicks is currently the director of communications and public affairs at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, a position she has held since 2018.

Reporting to Getty president and CEO Katherine E. Fleming, Hicks will be responsible for communicating Getty’s institutional vision locally and around the world while working collaboratively with its four programs to develop trust-wide communications strategies and benchmarks. She will begin at Getty on Jan. 5, 2026.

“I am looking forward to welcoming Amanda’s expertise as Getty prepares to increase its global visibility and embark on ambitious projects at home and abroad,” Fleming said. “She brings a wealth of knowledge from her time at MoMA, and her international work will be critical to Getty in the coming years.”

At MoMA, Hicks leads and oversees the execution of communications strategy for all facets of the organization, including programming and exhibitions, institutional news, outreach to the New York City community and reputational issues management. Prior to joining MoMA, she was the executive director of communications at the Art Institute of Chicago. She previously served as a Public Diplomacy Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. State Department, working in Washington, D.C., the Eastern Caribbean, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Qatar and at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

“It’s a true privilege to join Getty at

this exciting moment. The trust’s mission is profoundly vital – art has a unique power to connect people, spark dialogue and inspire understanding across cultures,” Hicks said. “I look forward to working with the talented team to deepen Getty’s community connections, make its vast resources and collections even more accessible and tell the extraordinary stories that reside here. My focus will be on strengthening the public’s understanding of Getty as an active, responsive and valued resource for Los Angeles and the world.”

Hicks volunteered with the Peace Corps, serving three years in Central Africa. She earned a master’s degree in art history from the University of Oregon and a bachelor’s degree in government from the University of Notre Dame.

## Hee Haw! Kick up your heels for the Fall Festival

The Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax, is holding the annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 18, and Sunday, Oct. 19.

The market will welcome Urban Saddles Equestrian Group, a nonprofit based in South Los Angeles whose mission is to preserve Black cowboy culture and educate inner city youth. Guests will learn about horsemanship and get a hands-on experience with horses.

Visitors can also enjoy animal fun with the Tucker Petting Zoo, featuring pigs, goats, sheep, a mini cow and alpaca. Mr. Jack O’ Lantern’s pumpkin patch returns and children can enjoy pumpkin decorating (while supplies last) and play fun games including pumpkin bowling.

The Fall Festival also includes a full lineup of live music with two stages featuring country, blue-

grass, western swing and rockabilly bands. The festivities start at 11 a.m. on both days. The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit farmersmarketla.com.

Urban Saddles Equestrian Group, a nonprofit preserving Black cowboy culture, will be featured at the Farmers Market’s Fall Festival.



photo courtesy of the Original Farmers Market



photo courtesy of Getty

Amanda Hicks steps into the role after serving as the director of communications for MoMA in New York.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO FORMER GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

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Respectfully,

**California News Publishers Association**



## ‘UnRavelled’ premieres at The Wallis

“UnRavelled,” an award-winning play offering a unique perspective on the extraordinary power of the human mind in the face of neurological disease by noted playwright Jake Broder, receives its highly anticipated world premiere with three performances – Oct. 17 and 18 at 7:30 pm, and Oct. 19, at 2 p.m. – at Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. Art, science and love intersect in the stirring true story about the remarkable connection between the work of Canadian painter and eminent biologist Dr. Anne Adams (1940-2007) and French composer Maurice Ravel (1875-1937), both of whom lived with the same brain disease, frontotemporal dementia, almost 100 years apart.

James Bonas directs the multimedia stage production, which incorporates live music and features

composition and sound design by composer Mark Grey. Cath Brittan is the executive producer.

A virtual version of “UnRavelled,” which streamed in 2021 during the pandemic, was nominated for five Los Angeles Drama Critic Circle Awards, including best writing, production and ensemble, and won for design. It also earned the Beverly Hills Theater Guild Playwriting Award in 2024.

“UnRavelled” centers on Dr. Anne Adams, who, in her fifties and at the height of her prestigious career, exhibited radical personality changes, abandoning her life’s work to paint. Starting out with simple subjects – houses, strawberries – she became suddenly, inexplicably obsessed with Maurice Ravel’s symphonic masterpiece, “Boléro,” launching into a wildly different and masterful painting

style. Through her stunning paintings, Adams’ work may offer clues to unlocking mysteries about the brain’s networks and creativity.

Similarly, Ravel’s most famous work, his captivating, single-movement, orchestral piece Boléro, deviated significantly from his deeply honed musical style. He composed it as a ballet for Russian dancer Ida Rubinstein in 1928, when Ravel himself was experiencing dramatic shifts in his personality. “Boléro” was one of the last works Ravel completed before dementia ultimately stripped him of his ability to compose.

FTD is the most common form of dementia in people under age 60, which manifests with behavioral alterations – not memory loss or paralysis typical of other types of dementia. FTD is the same kind of dementia that afflicts actor Bruce Willis.

Broder based the play on true events, incorporating research and interviews he conducted as a Hellman Visiting Artist at UCSF’s Memory



photo courtesy of “UnRavelled”

“UnRavelled” tells the story of a biologist with frontotemporal dementia.

## October brings spooky favorites to Cinespia

On Oct. 11, Cinespia held a special screening of “The Craft” at Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles that included Janelle Monae and Rachel True. Fans in the audience were treated to a surprise DJ set from Monae and introduction from True, who stars in the film.

Upcoming Cinespia screenings for the Halloween season include “Sinners” on Oct. 17, “ParaNorman” on Oct. 18 and a “Scream” Halloween Party on Oct. 31. DJ sets, a light-up dance party, costume contest with prizes, free treats and a free themed photobooth await – plus spooky surprises that even Randy couldn’t predict. Pack a picnic (or let Cinespia supply the feast) and sip on killer specialty cocktails from the beer and wine

bar. It’s camp, chaos and classic horror perfection. Costumes are required, so dress in your ‘90s goth best, or any Halloween costume of your choice.

Hollywood Forever Cemetery is located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd.



photo courtesy of Cinespia

Singer Janelle Monae was the guest DJ at “The Craft” screening on Oct. 11.

## All Saints’ Beverly Hills welcomes organist Josh Roebuck

All Saints’ Beverly Hills presents an extraordinary evening of organ music on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 5 p.m. featuring English organist



photo courtesy of All Saints’ Beverly Hills

The extraordinary concert will traverse the depth and beauty of organ repertoire.

Josh Roebuck performing works by J. S. Bach, Léonce de Saint-Martin and Louis Vierne.

A native of the United Kingdom, Roebuck is a graduate of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where he studied organ, harpsichord and choral conducting. Following certification as an associate of the Royal College of Organists, Roebuck held distinguished positions in the music departments of Worcester Cathedral, Tewkesbury Abbey and St. Davids Cathedral. He also served as assistant organist and choir director at All Saints’ Beverly Hills from 2024-25.

The concert promises a rich program traversing the depth and beauty of organ repertoire – from the grandeur of Bach to the expressive lyricism of Vierne – performed by a top emerging talent in sacred and classical music.

All Saints’ Beverly Hills is located at 504 N. Camden Drive. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, and are available at the door. For information, call (310)275-0123, or visit [allsaintsbh.org/calendar](http://allsaintsbh.org/calendar).

## VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

## The Ebell marks a milestone



The Ebell of Los Angeles celebrated its 75th anniversary in this photograph in the Oct. 16, 1969, issue of the Park Labrea News. Then-Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty presented a proclamation to then-Ebell of L.A. president, Mrs. Walter Monia, marking the organization’s diamond anniversary. The Ebell of Los Angeles, founded in 1894, is focused on inspiring women and building community through arts, culture, education, service and stewardship of its 94,000-square-foot building, gardens and campus at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd. in the Hancock Park-Windsor Square community. For information on programming, events and the Ebell’s philanthropic programs, visit [ebellofla.org](http://ebellofla.org).

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# Beverly Hills Pavilions could be replaced

From page 1

will replace the current Pavilions supermarket, and includes 17,085 square feet of ground floor retail, with space reserved for a grocery store that has yet to be announced.

“I don’t know if it will be Pavilions, but we have designed the retail space there to suit a grocery store and we do have interest from Pavilions and other grocers in the site,” Aflalo said.

The project at 9441 Olympic Blvd. is 13 stories and 143 feet tall with 75 residential units, 15 of which will be reserved for affordable housing. The development will have 4,092

square feet of ground floor commercial space, an underground parking structure with 52 parking spaces, balconies and a common outdoor space with a community room, courtyard and pool on the 13th floor rooftop level.

The development located at 333-353 S. Beverly Drive will be eight stories and 85 feet tall. It will contain 135 residential units, with 27 reserved for affordable housing, and 16,099 square feet of commercial and restaurant space on the ground floor. A three-level underground parking structure will provide 263 parking spaces. The

development includes balconies and an outdoor courtyard, gym and community room on the second floor, and a rooftop courtyard with a pool.

Aflalo said the projects enhance the intersection by transforming old buildings into vibrant mixed-use properties.

“We’re going to be removing old, obsolete office buildings that were built in a different time and don’t really service the community the way a new development will,” he said. “Same thing for the grocery store – it’s an older building. It’s not in the best shape. We’re going to build something that suits the needs of the community today. We’re also bringing both affordable housing and market-rate housing that’s much needed in the city of Beverly Hills.”

The Planning Commission unanimously approved each of the projects in a 3-0 vote. Commissioner Gary Ross was absent from the meeting. Commissioner Myra Demeter recused herself because she owns property near the developments.

The projects were opposed by many residents who argue that the large developments will have a negative impact on traffic, noise



rendering courtesy of Ottinger Architects

The eight-story project at 333-353 S. Beverly Drive will contain 135 residential units.

and quality of life.

“It does not bring us pleasure to have to deal with these projects and approve them,” Commission Chair Jeff Wolfe said. “We understand the impacts. We heard the concerns of the residents, and in most cases agreed with them. But once again, we are a legislative body. Just like we are bound to follow the laws that protect the residents, we also are bound to follow laws that unfortunately don’t protect the residents.”

The builder’s remedy is a state provision that allows private developers to bypass local code regulations when a project contains affordable housing. The provision takes effect when a municipality’s housing element – a state-mandated outline of zoning

for affordable housing within the city – is out of compliance.

The city of Beverly Hills’ housing element for the 2021-29 cycle was out of compliance for approximately three years between 2021-24.

The builder’s remedy leaves little authority to municipalities to deny projects with affordable housing. In August, an L.A. Superior Court judge ruled in favor of the developer of a 19-story builder’s remedy in a lawsuit that alleged the city unlawfully blocked the project from moving forward. The ruling mandated that the city process builder’s remedy applications. Following the ruling, the development in question at 125-129 S. Linden Drive doubled in size, from 19 stories to 36.



rendering courtesy of Ottinger Architects

The 13-story development at 9441 Olympic Blvd. will include 75 residential units and 4,092 square feet of ground floor commercial space.

## Robbery includes expensive items

From page 1

myself I did the right thing. I did resist in the beginning of the robbery and realized I was outnumbered so just let them have control. My mind keeps playing the event over and over and that keeps me up. And the fear that it could have gone worse and that it can happen to anyone.”

Cortez said that he believes the suspects did not target him or know what he possessed since he was coming from the pool and his jewelry was not visible.

“They also just kept asking for my ‘things’ and nothing specific,” he said. “I refused and kept scooting away from them and that’s when they began to search my body for my belongings. And they were only taking the items as they discovered them. I believe if they had seen something specific they wanted, they would have asked for that right away.”

“My wedding band is priceless to me,” he added. “I had a watch that I was gifted from a client that had passed, which I had just started wearing, which was valued

at over \$10,000 alone. The worst part of this is knowing that these people are still out there and they have the opportunity to do this again.”

Despite the crime, Cortez said he plans to continue visiting West Hollywood.

“I don’t think I’ll stop visiting West Hollywood in the future,” he added. “I spent ten years there and was back visiting some of my best friends. I know this doesn’t happen all the time, but I was made aware that this has been happening in West Hollywood, specifically in the recent weeks. Speaking about this event gives me hope that the [local] officials will maybe take these incidents more seriously. I have had people reach out to me stating this has happened to them in the same area recently. I have also spoken to people who are saying that a lot of this is not being reported to the residents of West Hollywood. I hope that me speaking about this makes people aware and adds pressure to these criminals that the community is on



photo by Sam Mulick

Abram Cortez was robbed in the 1100 block of Hacienda Place.

the lookout. My hope is that there is a [search] for these individuals. Items are replaceable. Putting a stop to this would give me the most peace. The community has been so supportive and I appreciate that.”

Lim said that the Sheriff’s Station makes the decision to post public bulletins when crimes reach a certain level of public attention and the community can help in providing information. The Sheriff’s Department is selective about what information they share with active investigations,

he added.

“If we need help from the public, we’ll reach out and post to be on the lookout,” he said. “We’ll work with the Information Bureau and they’ll help us make flyers we can pass out on social media. This is an active investigation and we don’t want to give too much information that would ruin the investigation.”

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is urged to contact the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station at (310)855-8850.

## Tax relief implemented for wildfires

SB 663, authored by Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), was signed into law Oct. 10 to deliver property tax relief for survivors of the 2025 L.A. fires, as well as the 2024 Mountain and Franklin fires.

“Recovering from these devastating fires is a massive financial undertaking that will take years to fully accomplish,” Allen said. “Our property tax laws provide some critical financial support for survivors of disaster, but they needed more flexibility to better reflect the burdens these disasters pose so more people can take advantage of the assistance. I’m grateful to my legislative colleagues and the governor for supporting survivors with this commonsense relief.”

SB 663, worked on in partner-

ship with L.A. County Assessor Jeff Prang, provides property tax support and flexibility to survivors of the recent wildfires. The bill extends the deadline to file a misfortune and calamity claim from 12 to 24 months and extends the deadline to rebuild your property from five to eight years in order to transfer the base tax year to the new construction.

Additionally, it allows religious, charitable and hospital facilities, as well as low-income veterans, to continue receiving special property tax exemptions while the property is unable to be used for its tax-exempt purpose.

“This law will help residents engaged in the long, difficult process of rebuilding their lives by extending deadlines to apply for disaster



photo by Sam Mulick

SB 663 will help victims of the Palisades Fire financially recover.

relief, preserving their pre-fire tax base, and providing additional protections for disabled veterans and nonprofit property owners impacted by the fires,” Prang said. “Our laws must be flexible enough to respond

to truly devastating events. SB 663 does exactly that.”

SB 663 contained an Urgency Clause and will take effect immediately. For information, visit sd24.senate.ca.gov.

### NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

This is to provide public notice that DOCS Surgical Hospital, located at 6000 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, will be closing temporarily on January 1, 2025, in order to complete construction of an entirely new hospital facility to replace the existing facility. The new facility, which will be a state-of-the-art hospital facility located at the same address and which will meet all seismic safety and other legal requirements, is expected to open after approximately one year.

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
8700 Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Kaiser Permanente  
West Los Angeles  
Medical Center  
6041 Cadillac Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Southern California Hospital at  
Culver City  
3828 Delmas Terrace  
Culver City, CA 90232

DOCS Surgical Hospital provides services to Medicare patients, as do all of the above facilities.

Further information regarding the Hospital’s temporary closure may be obtained by contacting the facility or its owner:

Facility:  
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC  
6000 San Vicente Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Tel. (323) 930-1040

Owner:  
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC  
8436 W. Third St. Suite 900  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
Tel. (310) 746-5918  
Attn: Khawar Siddique, Co-CEO

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.



# Diane Keaton fought for Ambassador Hotel

From Page 1

Conservancy. The conservancy works to preserve historic properties throughout the Los Angeles area. By the time she joined as a board member in 2002, she had already bought and restored historic homes in some of the city’s most storied areas, including on Roxbury Drive in Beverly Hills.

“Little by little, we kind of made the connection and asked her to join the board, which that doesn’t always happen in terms of celebrities having the time and wherewithal or desire to be part of an organization like ours, and she was more than willing,” L.A. Conservancy president Adrian Scott Fine said.

There were two particularly high-profile efforts underway during the early-to-mid 2000s. One of which involved the Ennis House, the Mayan Revival home in Los Feliz designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, who had also been the architect behind one of Keaton’s homes. With the Ennis House, one of L.A.’s most unique and frequently filmed, in disrepair, an advocate at the level of Keaton was necessary to rope in the necessary funds to take over and restore the home. Along with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, the L.A. Conservancy was able to establish the Ennis House Foundation, whose board Keaton also joined. Now, the home stands – not just alive, but retaining all its original glory.

“She really did lend her name and visibility to really important advocacy issues at that time for the conservancy, which was incredibly generous for her,” Fine said. “Then it just continued from there. In terms of when we needed her, if she was available and she cared about it, she would, attend or use her name to get leverage [and] help on an issue.”

The other mid-2000s project did not have as happy an ending. At the time, the famed Ambassador Hotel was the subject of a battle between the conservancy and the Los Angeles Unified School District, which had obtained the property. Keaton led the effort to preserve the building and incorporate it into any school that might be built.

While its operations as a hotel had ceased in 1989, the property had the iconic Cocoanut Grove nightclub, where numerous Oscar ceremonies had been held and, infamously, Robert F. Kennedy was shot. The sprawling hotel had been a Hollywood playground during the Golden Age, and even as it sat dormant, it became a frequent filming location for movies such as “Catch Me If You Can,” “Forrest Gump” and “That Thing You Do!”

As the site was demolished, the conservancy held a wake on Feb. 2, 2006, in which Keaton spoke about the shock of driving on Seventh Street and seeing the shell of the Ambassador Hotel in a state of destruction.

“The dark silhouette etched in

the late afternoon sky was filled with rectangular patterns of light slicing through my window pane, and I swear to you – under the aura of this almost otherworldly atmosphere – I finally recognized that I was looking at the shadow of our once glorious Ambassador Hotel,” Keaton said. “Like losing a lover, I felt that familiar ... pounding heartbeat kind of racing through my body, and I felt the loneliness of her last stand. I felt the shock of what little remained in comparison to what once was. And for the first time in a long time, I felt the death of our loss. As I turned away ... I even felt that I heard an echo, an echo, and maybe it was the echo of the Ambassador calling me. It was almost as if she was saying to me, ‘Goodbye, Diane. Keep me in your heart, and next time, try harder. Don’t let my loss guide you into the passive arms of apathy.’”

So, while Keaton, in the dreams of a million movie goers, might be in any number of places – New York City often, as in “The Godfather” or “Baby Boom” or “The First Wives Club” – her heart was always squarely in L.A.

“She always had this sense of passion for what we were doing,” Fine recalled. “Everything you probably heard about her in terms of what you think she [was] is very much who she was ... I think she has a legacy in so many different aspects of her career and who she was as a person. The preservation was definitely one of those aspects that may not be as well known,



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Conservancy

Diane Keaton was instrumental in helping save the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Ennis House.

but it is something that she was passionate about, cared about. She wouldn’t have been with us that long if she didn’t care about the history and historic places and the architecture and design of Los Angeles. I think absolutely that’s a fitting way to kind of memorialize and pay tribute to who she was and what she cared about.”

“I will fight as hard as I possibly can for all those other Ambassadors

out there waiting for the axe to fall in silent dread,” Keaton concluded at the legendary hotel’s wake.

To learn more about the L.A. Conservancy, visit [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org). For another chance to enjoy Keaton on the silver screen, check the showtimes at AMC Theaters over the next week for limited rereleases of Keaton’s films “Annie Hall” and “Something’s Gotta Give.”

# Thao Tran loses dog, suffers injuries in Miracle Mile hit-and-run collision

From Page 1

grateful for belonging to such a generous and caring community. My injuries will eventually heal but the loss of Kobe is a heartache I’ve not felt since the loss of my parents.”

Yaroslavsky called the collision “devastating” and said it illustrates a dangerous problem that is much too common in Los Angeles.

“Our thoughts are with our colleague as she recovers from both her injuries and this heartbreaking loss,” Yaroslavsky said in a statement. “This devastating incident is a reminder that far too many Angelenos are hurt or killed on our streets every year. In 2024 alone, more than 300 people lost their lives to traffic violence, many while simply walking or biking in their own neighborhoods. Behind every death or injury is a family changed forever, a community left grieving.”

Osborne said the female driver is cooperating with police. Alcohol or drugs are not believed to have been a factor. Osborne said the driver is a Los Angeles resident in her 30s, but does not live in the immediate area where the collision occurred. He declined to release the driver’s name or any further information pending formal charges, which he expects to be filed within the next week.

“Technically, it’s still under investigation. But it appears the driver ran the stop sign,” Osborne said. “A lot of the collisions I have investigated recently involved people not stopping at stop signs. From my point of view, I’m seeing a direct correlation. People are rolling through stop signs or just not stopping at all.”

He cautioned drivers to be attentive and warned pedestrians to always be aware of their surround-

ings. He said pedestrians should try to make eye contact with drivers before crossing.

“In terms of general safety, always be cautious around stop signs and crosswalks,” Osborne said. “I’m seeing a lot of crashes involving pedestrians and people failing to stop.”

## Answers From Page 23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
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photo courtesy of the Beverly Hills Bar Association

The installation ceremony was held on Sept. 30 at the Skirball Cultural Center.

# Beverly Hills Bar Association swears in new officers

The Beverly Hills Bar Association and Beverly Hills Bar Foundation swore in officers for the 2026 bar year at the organization’s installation and awards dinner on Sept. 30 at Skirball Cultural Center. The association welcomes Anthony D. Storm of Storm Palyan LLP as president. Storm plans to continue the association’s recent success.

The association also welcomed Alphonse Provinziano of Provinziano and Associates as president-elect; Mathew S. Rosengart of Greenburg Traurig as vice president; and Ron Reitshtein of Youngman Reitshtein, PLC as secretary-treasurer. Nadira Imam of Lawrence H. Jacobson, APC will serve as immediate past president. The association also swore

in a new cohort of local attorneys as governors including Sanaz Bereliani of Bereliani Law Firm; Ori Blumenfeld of Offit Kurman; Jennifer L. Campbell of Holland and Knight; Deborah Fujiwara of EPGR Lawyers; Beth Moeller of UCLA Law; Robin Sax of Law Offices of Robin Sax; Zenja Tobias of Tobias Law Group; Erika A. Williams of the Law Office of Erika A. Williams; and Jamie Wright of the Wright Law Firm.

The new ex officio judicial officer governors are Judge Geanene Yriarte and Judge Joel Lofton, both of the Los Angeles Superior Court. The new ex officio law school dean governor is Dean Brietta Clark of Loyola Law School.

For information, visit [cle.bhba.org](http://cle.bhba.org).



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10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6/2025

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STATEMENT  
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The following person(s) are doing business as **HAIRTEAM. 571-1/2 S. FAIRFAX AVE. LOS ANGELES, CA 90036. LOS ANGELES COUNTY. GLORIA BABILA PAPAGEORGAS, 8730 ROSEWOOD AVE. HOLLYWOOD, CA 90048.** THE BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant has not yet started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. **REGISTRANT: GLORIA BABILA PAPAGEORGAS, OWNER.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **SEPTEMBER 23, 2025.** NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law. (See section 1440 et seq., Business Professions Code.)

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The following person(s) are doing business as **KYGER ENTERTAINMENT, 4605 LANKERSHIM BLVD. STE 700, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91602, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. WETZEL ENTERTAINMENT LLC, 4605 LANKERSHIM BLVD., STE 700, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91602. CALIFORNIA.** The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION.** The registrant has not yet started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. **REGISTRANT: WETZEL ENTERTAINMETLLC, NANCY WETZEL, GENERAL PARTNER.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **OCTOBER 9, 2025.** NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law. (See section 1440 et seq., Business Professions Code.)

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Crossword Puzzle

by Myles Mellor

Across

1. "Wow!"

5. Hit

9. City north of Cologne

14. Fairy tale opener

15. Org. for Annika Sorenstam

16. Two-time U.S. Open winner Fraser

17. Sets in a new position

19. Mammoth features

20. Coffee orders

22. It touches four Great Lakes, abbr.

23. Gram or center starter

24. Hosp. areas

25. Robin's home

27. Head-like structure

30. Intimidate

33. Political suffix

36. Artery binder

38. Coffee orders

42. 15th Century Florentine School artist

43. Elder

44. Catch forty winks

45. "Enigma Variations" composer

47. Former trade agreement

51. "\_\_\_ recall ..."

52. "Medium" like perception

55. Aegean party island

56. Coffee choices

62. Japanese fencing

63. Mechanical

64. Eventually become

65. The Dodgers' Hershiser

Down

66. School for English princes

67. Mine section

68. Enrapture

69. Bivouac dwelling

1. Flash in old movies

2. Early Ping-Pong score

3. Reconnoiters

4. Peppermint, for one

5. Clean up, in a way

6. Causing suspension of breathing

7. Some N.C.O.'s

8. Door fastener

9. Regale an audience

10. Cat in the Hat creator

11. Backtalk

12. Nevada city

13. Lake that contains a monster

18. Suffix with percent

21. Golf course areas

26. Jackson 5 member

28. Big name in kitchen foil

29. PC Photo

30. Reduce, pay e.g.

31. Spanish for gold

32. Actor Snipes, for short

34. Observatory tool

35. Iago's wife

37. Weight of vehicle without cargo

38. Letter run

39. Car club

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40. Common spoon (abbr.)

41. Lee of Hollywood

46. Deli order

48. Limited

49. Assumed

50. Nod

51. Make sense

53. Upbraid

54. Loan figure, abbr.

56. Turner and others

57. Change component

58. It means "within"

59. Mavens

60. Skin feature

61. "Why should \_\_\_ you?"

answers on page 22



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(left to right) Dylan Dordick, Esq., Taylor Dordick, Esq., Gary A. Dordick, Esq., Nava T. Dordick, Esq., Michelle Dordick, Esq.

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