



Clouds on Thursday give way to a sunny weekend

# BEVERLY PRESS

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

October 17, 2024



photo by Tabor Brewster

The California Science Center placed the final steel beam on the structure on Oct. 10.

## California Science Center 'tops out'

■ Endeavor pilot on hand for ceremony

BY TABOR BREWSTER

One small step in the ongoing construction of the California Science Center's newest addition signified one giant leap in science education in Los Angeles on Oct. 10. The final steel beam for the

upcoming Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center was hoisted up and put in place in a topping out ceremony. The event was attended by the project's construction team, donors, leaders from the science center and around Los Angeles, and Lynda Oschin, the chairperson of the Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Oschin Family Foundation, whose dona-

See **Science Center** page 8

## BHPD investigating RD Whittington

■ Salesman accused of selling cars without permission

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Police Department confirmed on Oct. 14 that it is investigating RD Whittington, an embattled car salesman accused of selling luxury automobiles without permission from the owners of the vehicles.

BHPD Lt. Andrew Myers confirmed that the department is investigating Whittington for fraud,

although he did not disclose any further details, citing an active investigation. BHPD did not confirm whether the investigation is related to the recent allegations that Whittington leased luxury vehicles before illegally selling them at his showroom, Wires Only, located at 9030 Wilshire Blvd.

Three different auto lessors have

See **Investigation** page 21

## Supervisors divided on Measure G

■ Voters could decide on board expansion, county CEO

BY RANCE COLLINS

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, have amassed widespread support since they introduced a ballot measure that could dramatically change county governance.

But while Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District, provided the third vote necessary for Measure G to be added to the Nov. 5 ballot, both Supervisor Holly Mitchell, 2nd District, and Kathryn Barger, 5th District, has stayed steadfastly against the proposal. Measure G would not only expand the board to nine members, it would also make the CEO, currently appointed by the supervisors, an elected position and add an independent ethics committee.

"Measure G is the most comprehensive government reform package for Los Angeles County in more than a century," Horvath



photo courtesy of the office of Lindsey Horvath

County officials gathered in support of Measure G at a press conference in West Hollywood on Oct. 16.

said. "It has a few basic components: expanding the number of seats on the board of supervisors from five to nine, separating out the executive authority that the board currently enjoys, creating a separate branch of government, checks and balances that we learned about in grade school civics class, creating an elected executive and creating an independent ethics commission — a charter reform commission."

Horvath said the purpose of this commission is so that "changes like this" don't take over a century to happen, but are "reviewed at least every 10 years by a formal process." The Board of Supervisors has been almost exclusively a five-member entity since 1852, when the population of the county was roughly 3,500 people. Now, nearly 10 million people live in the county and each

See **Measure G** page 21



photo courtesy of John Erickson  
John Erickson



photo courtesy of George Nickle  
George Nickle



photo courtesy of West Seegmiller  
West Seegmiller

## Candidates vie for open seats on WeHo Council

*The Beverly Press is interviewing each of the nine candidates running for the West Hollywood City Council, which has two open positions on the Nov. 5 ballot.*

**John Erickson**

It's been nearly four years since Mayor John Erickson was sworn into his first term as a West Hollywood City Council member. His tenure has seen the city deal with the pandemic, shifting public safety goals and discussions on how to rethink accessibility and mobility. The Planned Parenthood employee is now seeking a second term.

"I am running to ensure that we can continue to be a progressive

beacon for economic inequality, continuing with social justice, approaching homelessness and housing with compassion, care and real solutions, and also ensuring that our city is sustainable, both financially and climate-wise, for the next 40 years," Erickson said. "I promised the moment I took that oath was I would be at [West Hollywood's] service every day. I promised to build more affordable housing, which I've done. I promised to make our city more sustainable, climate friendly and climate ready, which I've done. I promised to ensure that our businesses can come back, as well as economic recovery for our workers. I've done that, especially looking at our minimum wage and

vacation time, as well as our historic payouts and benefit packages to our businesses."

Development — and in particular stalled developments — have garnered a lot of public attention in recent months. Multiple projects are in motion on Sunset Boulevard, although one — the location of the former Hustler flagship store — was just granted a multi-year extension. Another at the corner of Robertson and Santa Monica boulevards was excavated but has since sat dormant. Much of the push for development has been centered around the state mandate to meet housing goals.

"I have first-hand knowledge and experience ensuring that we

See **Candidates** page 21

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CALENDAR

Friends of BH Library

Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library is holding its Biannual Dollar Book Sale from Thursday, Oct. 17, through Sunday, Oct. 20. The sale raises funds for services and programs at the library. A large collection of books will be available for purchase on the public walkway in front of the library. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; noon -4 p.m., Sunday. 455 N. Rexford Drive. (310)288-2244, friendsofbhpl.org.



Proof Film Festival

Film lovers are invited to the Proof Film Festival from Friday, Oct. 18, through Sunday, Oct. 20, at the Culver Theatre. Proof is a short film festival showcasing the best in proof-of-concept works, which are used to demonstrate that a film or program is viable. Designed for up-and-coming filmmakers with a short film or short pilot, Proof provides a highly competitive and unique festival experience. Screenings, parties and panels are included. See schedule for film titles and showtimes. 9500 Culver Blvd, Culver City. americancinematheque.com.

Jazz at LACMA

Music lovers won't want to miss a Jazz at LACMA concert with Yuko Mabuchi on Friday, Oct. 18, from 6-8 p.m. on the museum's Smidt Welcome Plaza. The series, held under the stars on Friday evenings, celebrates some

of the finest contemporary jazz musicians. Mabuchi, from Japan, is a piano virtuoso whose music is a harmony of jazz and classical music. Jazz at LACMA is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and first come, first served. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.



Spooky comedy

Enjoy a harrowing night of side-splitting laughs during "Horror Nerd" hosted by comedian Samantha Hale and featuring special guests on Friday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hollywood Improv. Billed as a "Roast of Michael Myers," the show promises an evening of spooky Halloween fun. General admission is \$15. 8162 Melrose Ave. improv.com.



Ocie Elliott

The Canadian indie folk duo Ocie Elliott performs at the Fonda Theatre in Hollywood on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 9 p.m. The musical duo is comprised of Jon Middleton and Sierra Lundy, from Victoria, British Columbia. With gentle acoustic chords over complementary vocals and gentle harmonies, Ocie Elliott's songs explore love and connection. Chris Staples opens the show. Tickets are \$45.68. 6126 Hollywood Blvd. (323)464-6269, fonda-theatre.com.



Hammer Museum

Join a walk-through of the exhibition "Breath(e): Toward Climate and Social Justice" on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 1 p.m. at the Hammer Museum. Mika Yoshitake and Glenn Kaino will lead visitors on a tour of the exhibition, which is part of the Getty's "PST ART: Art and Science Collide" initiative. It focuses on environmental art practices that address the climate crisis. "Breath(e)" features works by more than 20 artists commissioned specially for the exhibition including Mel Chin, Ron Finley, Cannupa Hanska Luger, Garnett Puett and Lan Tuazon. Admission is free but capacity is limited. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. hammer.ucla.edu.

Tribute to Greg Lee

Goldenvoice presents "Dance With Me: Tribute to Greg Lee" on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. at the El Rey Theatre. Lee, co-lead singer of the ska group Hepcat, died unexpectedly in March at age 53. The concert features a music tribute. Proceeds will benefit the Greg Lee Memorial Fund. General admission is \$99. Doors open at 6 p.m. 5515 Wilshire Blvd. theelrey.com.



Piano Spheres

Piano Spheres welcomes guest artist Stephen Drury for "Charles Ives at 150" on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 8 p.m. in Thayer Hall at the Colburn School. Drury will celebrate the Ives sesquicentennial with a special performance of Ives' complete sonatas for piano, including the monumental "Concord" sonata. Growing up in New England

as the son of a bandmaster, Ives developed a uniquely American compositional voice. His music includes ragtime, gospel hymns, parade marches and wild, visionary dissonance. The program is part of Piano Spheres' "30 for 30" program commissioning 30 composers to write new works for piano. General admission is \$25. 200 S. Grand Ave. pianospheres.org.



Art of Hratchya Hayents

Forest Lawn Museum presents "Memory and Motion: The Paintings of Hratchya Hayents" from Wednesday, Oct. 23, through Sunday, Jan. 12, in Glendale. The abstract art exhibition highlights the triumph of the human spirit and addresses themes of nationality, equality and unity. The exhibition includes more than 20 new and recent works by Armenian American artist Hayents. It is the artist's first solo exhibition. Admission and parking are free; hours are 9:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m., daily. forestlawn.com/exhibits/the-hall-of-crucifixion-resurrection-2.

Yngwie Malmsteen

Guitar virtuoso Yngwie Malmsteen brings his 40th anniversary tour to the Saban Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 24. Malmsteen's career has spanned decades and includes the release of more than 20 albums. Drawing influence from classical composers such as Bach, Paganini and Vivaldi, the guitarist introduced the neo-classical genre to rock 'n' roll. Tickets start at \$75.81. 8440 Wilshire Blvd. (888)645-5006, wheremusicmeetsthesoul.com.



Halloween improv

Enjoy the Halloween Vibes Improv Show on Thursday, Oct. 24, at 10 p.m. at the Groundlings Theatre. Join a witching hour of short form improv inspired by the spooky holiday. The show is directed by Diego Parada and features Lory Tatouljian, Hal Rudnick, Sarah Cornell, Kimberly Condict, Lee Newton, Harmony McElligott and Kelsi Roberts. Costumes are encouraged. Tickets are \$15. 7307 Melrose Ave. groundlings.com/shows/halloween-vibes-improv.



Association of Black Women Physicians gala

The Association of Black Women Physicians is hosting its 43rd annual Charity and Scholarship Benefit Luncheon on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills. This year's theme is "Celebrating the Triumph of Courageous Women." The event will highlight women who have overcome intimate partner abuse. The luncheon raises awareness about domestic abuse. Actress, comedian and author Kim Coles serves as master of ceremonies, and JB Saxx and actress Jeannette Bayardelle will perform. Tickets start at \$175. 300 S. Doheny Drive. blackwomenphysicians.org/43rd-annual-abwp-gala.



illustration courtesy of The Great Shake Out

Beverly Hills siren test coincides with 'Great ShakeOut'

BY TABOR BREWSTER

With 2024 being the most seismically active year in decades for Los Angeles, Southern Californians are acutely aware of the threats posed by earthquakes. However, residents can never be too prepared for when "The Big One" comes. To stay ready, communities across the West Coast – and the nation – are participating in the "Great ShakeOut," an earthquake preparedness drill promoting safety on Oct. 17.

People who have the MyShake app installed on their phones will receive a test alert at 10:17 a.m. on Oct. 17, as a drill meant to prepare people for what to do in an earthquake. "Drop, cover and hold on" are the simple instructions used when an earthquake strikes. In the event of shaking or an earthquake alert, people are advised to immediately drop in place onto their hands and knees, which prevents being knocked down and reduces chances of being hit by objects. Next, residents are advised to cover their head and neck – either with one arm or hand, or under a sturdy table or desk if available. If no shelter is nearby, people should crawl to an interior wall. Lastly, people should hold on until shaking stops and it is safe to exit.

"ShakeOut is a great way to increase community resilience at all levels," said Mark Benthien, Global ShakeOut Coordinator and director of Public Education and Preparedness for the California Earthquake Center at USC.

"Earthquakes can be sudden and violent, but we can greatly reduce their effects if we take steps to prepare ourselves, those around us, and the structures we live, work and study in."

Many cities, organizations and school districts across the Los Angeles region are participating in the drill this year, including the cities of Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the Los Angeles and Beverly Hills Unified School Districts.

Following the drill at 10:17, Beverly Hills will test its emergency alert sirens at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 17. The sirens will emit a loud blaring noise, meant to alert Beverly Hills residents in the event of a life-threatening emergency such as an earthquake, wildfire or other natural or manmade disaster.

"Southern California is prone to a variety of natural disasters and we want to ensure our community gets the information they need quickly," Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman said. "These sirens are just another valuable resource we plan to use as part of our extensive notification program when extreme danger is near."

The city recently completed installation of the 12 emergency sirens at locations placed throughout the city to ensure every resident receives warning. On Oct. 9, the sirens were accidentally set off when a system vendor as onsite working on setup and configuration.

WeHo works to 'Get Out The Vote'

As part of the city of West Hollywood's continuous efforts to increase voter participation, the city reminds community members that each vote counts and every voice matters.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5. Now is the time to get #VoteReady for the 2024 General Municipal Election. Make a plan to vote. West Hollywood has produced a limited number of Get Out The Vote lawn/window signs. Community members may pick up a free sign in the lobby at City Hall, located at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., or at the City Council Chambers/Public Meeting Room, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., during the next City Council meeting on Monday, Oct. 21, starting at 6 p.m.

On Oct. 7, the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk began mailing each registered voter a Vote-by-Mail ballot. For an easy-to-use tool to learn about the ways to securely cast a ballot, visit plan.lavote.gov. The site features a vote center locator, a ballot drop box locator, an interactive sample ballot, and the "Where's My Ballot" tool. Accessible vote by mail information is also available on the county website.



Beverly Press file photo

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 21.

The deadline to register to vote is Monday, Oct. 21. If unregistered to vote, register today. If registered, check voter registration and remind friends and family to do the same. Those who will be 18 years old by Election Day can pre-register to vote, as well. To register or to confirm registration, visit the LA County Registrar-Recorder Clerk's website lavote.gov/vrstatus or call (800)815-2666.

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# TBTFW denies business relationship with Whittington

■ Two showrooms  
‘shared rental space’

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A luxury car showroom that has yet to be approved by the Beverly Hills Planning Commission is distancing itself from RD Whittington – a salesman accused of theft who is currently under investigation – after the Beverly Press revealed an apparent connection between the two.

In Planning Commission meetings earlier this year, commissioners questioned why Whittington did not have a DMV license for his showroom, Wires Only, at 9030 Wilshire

Blvd. A DMV license search revealed an approved license for 9030 Wilshire Blvd., but it was listed under the name Spur Ridge Holdings, LLC. Whittington insisted he did not know anything about Spur Ridge, or why it was listed on the 9030 Wilshire Blvd. location. A phone call to Spur Ridge rerouted to TBTFW, another luxury car showroom at 9737 Wilshire Blvd.

Matthew E. Wolf, an attorney for Spur Ridge, reached out to the Beverly Press on Oct. 16 to assert that Spur Ridge, doing business as TBTFW, is not affiliated with Whittington.

“While allegations regarding RD do not come as a surprise to those

who have dealt with him, Spur Ridge is a completely independent entity and has no association or affiliation with Wires Only or RD Whittington,” Wolf said.

However, Wolf also said that TBTFW and Whittington previously “shared rental space” at 9030 Wilshire Blvd during an unspecified time frame.

“Spur Ridge and RD had no partnership or operational relations of any kind,” Wolf said.

Wolf also corroborated the allegations that Whittington sold vehicles that he did not own.

“Over time, Spur Ridge became aware of RD’s business practices, such as instances in which RD mis-

appropriated vehicles consigned to him by other vehicles brokers,” Wolf added. “Those business practices quickly induced Spur Ridge to seek its own space. The move was hastily made, and Spur Ridge is still seeking recognition of a conditional use permit for the 9737 Wilshire Blvd space. Pending its CUP, Spur Ridge continues to store vehicles in its new space for exhibition purposes, but cannot sell cars out of the new space.”

While TBTFW is licensed by the

DMV and California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, it is currently awaiting a Planning Commission hearing on its conditional use permit application. Wolf said the showroom expects to be approved by the end of the year.

He added that the showroom is not yet open to the public for “on site” sales pending CUP approval. However, an employee at the showroom said that customers can make appointments online to view cars in-person.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The luxury car showroom at 9737 Wilshire Blvd. is currently awaiting a Planning Commission hearing on its conditional use permit.

# Passenger dies in Fountain Ave. collision

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station is investigating a fatal collision on Fountain Avenue, which involved two vehicles and occurred near the Spaulding Avenue intersection. The incident occurred between 4-5 p.m. on Oct. 10.

According to the sheriff’s department, a male driver of a Ford SUV traveling north on Spaulding Avenue collided with a man driving another Ford SUV, which also had a female passenger in the front seat. The department said that the passenger was transported to a hospital and later pronounced dead.

The cause of the crash is uncertain, and the investigation is ongoing. The department has asked anyone with information regarding the collision to contact traffic investigators by calling (310)358-4038.

“I am deeply saddened by the horrific two-vehicle accident that occurred last night on Fountain Avenue, that resulted in the death of one person and others being hospitalized,” West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson said on Oct. 11. “I am praying for the victims and their families, and I will become even more vigilant in



photo courtesy of bystander

The fatal incident occurred on Oct. 10 on Fountain Avenue.

bringing to the forefront the need for our city to take more aggressive and immediate steps to make our streets safer for people in cars, on

bikes and on foot. We must put an end to the reckless use of Fountain Avenue as a freeway between Los Angeles and the Westside.”

# Beverly Hills watch salesman pleads guilty to fraud

A Los Angeles man who ran a Beverly Hills luxury watch consignment business and was known as “The Timepiece Gentleman” pleaded guilty on Oct. 11 to swindling dozens of his customers of out a total of at least \$5.6 million.

Anthony Farrer, 36, formerly of Downtown Los Angeles, pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of mail fraud. He has been in federal custody since November 2023.

According to his plea agreement, from November 2022 to November 2023, Farrer used his business – also called “The Timepiece Gentlemen” – to connect purchasers and sellers of high-end watches. In a typical consignment sale, a client would ship a watch to The Timepiece Gentleman and Farrer would take possession of the watch, agreeing to display it at his Beverly Hills store and through online and social media marketing. The items involved in this case included luxury watches by Rolex, Richard Mille and Patek Philippe, among others.

Once the watch was sold, Farrer was supposed to remit the sales proceeds back to the client, minus a consignment fee, which typically was approximately 5% of the sales price. If the watch did not sell within

a specific time or for a specified price, Farrer was to return the watch to the client.

However, instead of remitting watch sales proceeds – or the unsold watches themselves – back to the clients, Farrer sold the client watches and kept the proceeds for himself. He also used client watches – without the client’s knowledge or permission – as collateral for loans that he took out from lenders.

When a client asked about the status of a watch on consignment sale, Farrer lied and said that the watch had not yet been sold. In fact, Farrer already had sold the watch or otherwise disposed of it, keeping the funds for his own personal benefit.

In addition to his consignment sale business, Farrer also purported to purchase watches on behalf of his clients. Typically, a client sent funds to Farrer, often by wire transfers to his bank accounts or through payment processors such as Zelle, for the purpose of Farrer locating and buying a specified watch on the client’s behalf.

But in fact, Farrer took the clients’ money and used it for other purposes, including to fund his lavish lifestyle such as buying or leasing luxury automobiles, apartments and other luxury goods.

When a client who had sent him money asked Farrer about the status of a watch purchase, Farrer often sent another watch to the client to tide the client over or lull them into a false sense of security regarding the status of the purchase. Similar to a Ponzi scheme, the other watch Farrer sent to the client often belonged to other clients who had themselves sent him that watch for a consignment sale. These clients were unaware Farrer was using their watches for that purpose, rather than attempting to sell the watches on behalf of the clients.

In total, Farrer fraudulently obtained money and property belonging to more than 40 victims and caused losses of at least \$5,691,005.

United States District Judge Josephine L. Staton scheduled a Jan. 31, 2025, sentencing hearing, at which time Farrer will face a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison for each count.

The FBI, IRS Criminal Investigation and the Beverly Hills Police Department investigated this matter.

Assistant United States Attorney Joshua O. Mausner of the Violent and Organized Crime Section is prosecuting this case.

## Hancock Park Homeowners Annual Meeting

Hancock Park HOA Major Events in October!

Annual Meeting (via Zoom) Monday, October 21 at 6:00pm.

The annual meeting is a great way to hear updates on the work our Board and Committees do throughout the year. It will also give everyone a chance to hear from our Council Member Katy Yaroslavsky and meet Officer Tyler Shuck, our new permanent LAPD Wilshire Division Senior Lead Officer for our area – Basic Car 7A17.

On the Agenda for the HPHOA Meeting:

Council Member Yaroslavsky and CD5 Staff  
Hancock Park LAPD Senior Lead Officer Tyler Shuck  
Candidates for LA County District Attorney’s Office  
HPHOA Committee Chair Updates  
Board Election Results  
Join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85458121142#success>  
Hancock Park Block Captain Dinner on October 22nd at Marino Ristorante on Melrose Ave.  
The Block Captain program helps to keep us safe, connected and informed. Thank you for the amazing work you do for the neighborhood!

Larchmont Family Fair is Sunday, October 27

The fair is a tradition in our neighborhood and is always a well-attended and fun event. Our booth will have information on the Hancock Park Association and more. Also, our Board members will be on hand to answer questions. Please be sure to stop by and see us.

New SLO Officer Shuck’s new contact information is:  
Email: [40740@lapd.online](mailto:40740@lapd.online) Cell: (213)793-0650

**\*\*Important HPOZ Reminder:**

Hancock Park is located in an HPOZ. Historic Preservation Overlay Zone. If you’re thinking of making any to your home including any changes to the street visible front or side façade – of your home, demolition of historic garages or porte-cochere, removing landscaping or replacing hardscape, you must contact our HPOZ City Planner, Suki Gershenhorn ([Suki.Gershenhorn@lacity.org](mailto:Suki.Gershenhorn@lacity.org)) and set up an appointment to review your plans. Any unapproved changes within the HPOZ or unpermitted work is subject to stop work orders and hefty fines.





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***XX***



# Beverly Hills revises affordable housing guidelines

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills City Council on Oct. 10 formally approved revised guidelines that will affect who qualifies for affordable housing within the city. The revisions were previously approved by the Planning Commission.

According to a city staff report, the revisions address topics that needed clarification, while aligning with practices implemented by HouseKeys, the program administrator for the city’s affordable housing program. The new guidelines are also updated to adhere with state law.

The new guidelines also alter and clarify who gets priority for occupancy in affordable housing units. While both the original guidelines and revisions prioritize occupancy for residents who were displaced by construction of the affordable housing project, the updated guidelines

provide a new definition of “displacement.” The new definition of displacement includes residents who were displaced due to demolition of their unit for a new housing project, involuntary vacation due to natural disaster or substandard living conditions and voluntary vacation. Additionally, the timeframe for qualifying as displaced was extended to 10 years.

Resident Nanci Saper submitted a public comment suggesting that the tier system used to determine occupancy take into account year of displacement, as opposed to the current lottery system used to choose occupants from the list of displaced residents.

“[The current system] completely discounts those who have been waiting since the list began in 2016 and 2017 who were displaced when there was little or no affordable housing, when they had no assistance from the city and were not

part of the tier system,” Saper said. “You are putting someone who’s waited nine years in the same pool as someone who’s waited one year. I don’t think that that’s fair.”

Principal City Planner Chloe Chen said city staff considered taking into account time of displacement, but decided against it due to difficulties with verifying when a resident was displaced.

The City Council members supported the revisions, and voted unanimously to approve the new guidelines.

“I’m going to support the recommendation. We can see how it works in practice and we can always come back and make changes if there are obvious elements of unfairness,” Councilman John Mirisch said. “We want to make sure – and I think there are other policies we can and should look at – to try to avoid displacement, and when there is redevelop-



photo by Tabor Brewster

The new regulations will change who qualifies for rent-controlled and low-income housing units, like the ones in an existing building at 250 N. Crescent Drive.

ment that is unavoidable, to ensure that those tenants who are displaced from a project come back to the same property.”

There are currently eight affordable housing units in the city, but

with an updated housing element and the approval of new buildings containing affordable housing units, the city is expected to create more affordable housing within the next few years.

# Patients sue Cedars-Sinai, former OB-GYN for sexual abuse

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Thirty-five women have filed a lawsuit against Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and former OB-GYN Barry J. Brock for an alleged “decades-long cover-up of sexual exploitation and abuse.” The former patients of Brock allege that he, while employed at Cedars-Sinai, regularly sexually harassed, assaulted, abused and exploited them. They also allege that the medical center was aware of his behavior, did nothing to protect its patients

and instead covered up the repeated abuse.

“The two things that all of the patients have in common is the fact that they were exposed to a known serial sexual predator by Cedars-Sinai Medical Center – and the fact that all of them are female who were simply seeking medical care for themselves and their unborn children,” the plaintiffs’ attorney Anthony T. DiPietro said.

The offenses listed in the lawsuit include sexual misconduct, rape, criminal sexual acts, forcible touch-

ing and predatory sexual assault while Brock was a doctor at Cedars-Sinai, where he began working in the 1980s. The lawsuit also alleges the doctor performed unneeded procedures while denying other ones, such as Cesarean sections.

Brock’s privileges at Cedars-Sinai were initially suspended in August 2024. However, weeks later, he attempted to contact some former patients, saying he was “planning to retire.” In September, he was officially banned from practicing at Cedars-Sinai.

The lawsuit also names two

Beverly Hills clinics – Beverly Hills OB/GYN and the Rodeo Drive Women’s Health Center – as defendants. According to Cedars-Sinai, Brock left the medical center as a full-time physician in 2018, but kept delivery privileges. Brock then went into private practice at the two clinics.

“Cedars-Sinai Medical Center knew about Barry Brock’s sexual exploitation and abuse of patients for decades,” DiPietro said. “But instead of protecting its patients, the only thing Cedars did was lie, gaslight and help cover up Brock’s crimes – while exposing a countless

number of unsuspecting patients to a known serial sexual predator. Cedars-Sinai must be held accountable for enabling and covering up Brock’s abuse.”

Some of the defendants reported instances of abuse to the Beverly Hills Police Department. Brock has yet to face any criminal charges, and has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Brock has also been accused by the Medical Board of California of failing to appropriately treat a patient.

Cedars-Sinai did not provide a comment by press time.



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

The doctor, who is accused of sexually exploiting patients, worked at Cedars-Sinai for over 40 years.

# Zbur’s rare disease bill signed

Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) announced on Sept. 30 that Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed AB 2613 into law. The bill, which will take effect on Jan. 1, 2025, establishes the Jacqueline Marie Zbur Rare Disease Advisory Council in California. Named in memory of Zbur’s late sister, Jacqueline “Jackie” Marie Zbur, who battled ALS, the RDAC will provide a critical platform for addressing the needs of Californians affected by rare diseases.

AB 2613, sponsored by the National Organization for Rare Disorders, places California alongside 28 other states that have created similar councils to advise state agencies and the legislature on rare disease issues. The RDAC will include diverse stakeholders such as patients, caregivers, medical experts and advocates who will work together to identify gaps in care, recommend improvements to

programs like Medi-Cal, and promote research and innovation. The bill also allows for the RDAC to apply for, and accept, funds from the federal government, private foundations or other sources of funding for rare disease programs.

With over 10,000 rare diseases affecting 1 in 10 Californians, ensuring that state policies meet the needs of this vulnerable population is crucial. Prior to the establishment of the RDAC, critical decisions were often made without the input of those most affected, leading to potential health and economic challenges. AB 2613 ensures that the rare disease community will now have a formal seat at the table in shaping California’s policies and legislation.

“AB 2613 is a critical milestone in our commitment to supporting the millions of Californians affected by rare diseases,” Zbur said.

For information, visit [a51.asmdc.org](http://a51.asmdc.org).



D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT  
Section 2 – Beverly Hills

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

### October Updates

The contractor will continue street restoration activities at each cross passage location along Wilshire Bl heading east toward La Cienega.



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## WeHo spotlights Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The city of West Hollywood, in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, has light the globe lanterns above Santa Monica Boulevard and the West Hollywood City Hall building located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard purple from through Monday, Oct. 28.

West Hollywood’s awareness efforts will highlight the impact of domestic violence/intimate partner violence in the LGBTQ+ community and through the lens of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, as well as the intersection of other dimensions of diversity including age and ability status by sharing information and resources with the community about the various types of intimate partner violence, and where to get help.

As part of the month’s activities, the city will join national and local organizations in participating in the “Purple Day” campaign, a social media action day to be held on Thursday, Oct. 17 urging people to flood social media with pictures of themselves wearing purple to raise awareness about domestic violence and work to end it. The city will also host a community-based temporary display of silhouettes symbolizing people killed by domestic violence and intimate partner vio-

lence called Silent Witness. The Silent Witness Initiative promotes an end to domestic violence through community-based exhibits and education that started with a small group of volunteers in one state and grew into an international presence, with projects in all 50 States and in 23 countries. The Silent Witness silhouettes will be displayed with anti-violence messaging at various locations in West Hollywood through the month of October.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, in the United States, more than 10 million adults experience domestic violence annually. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive more than 20,000 calls, an average of close to 15 calls every minute.

Domestic violence is prevalent in every community and affects all people regardless of age, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion or nationality. Domestic violence, also referred to as intimate partner violence, is abuse or aggression that occurs in a romantic relationship. It occurs in same- and opposite-sex relation-

ships, and among those who are married, in long-term and short-term relationships.

Domestic violence can take many forms; in addition to physical abuse, it can include sexual abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, intimidation, controlling behaviors, isolating behaviors and economic abuse. The devastating consequences of domestic violence and intimate partner violence can cross generations and last a lifetime, from adolescence to young adulthood to older age. Approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime. Disability affects more than 1 in 4 women and 1 in 5 men in the United States and has been associated with a greater risk of experiencing violence compared to people without a disability.

Learn how to help end domestic violence and intimate partner violence by contacting the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, California’s recognized domestic violence coalition, representing over 1,000 advocates, organizations and allied groups throughout the state. For information, go to [cpedv.org/get-involved](http://cpedv.org/get-involved) or call (916)444-7163.

For information about Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Month, contact Larissa Fooks, West Hollywood community programs coordinator, at (323)848-6413 or at [lfooks@weho.org](mailto:lfooks@weho.org). For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call TTY (323)848-6496.



Each October, West Hollywood raises awareness about the harsh realities of domestic violence.

## WeHo launches permitting initiatives for businesses

The city of West Hollywood has announced the launch of a series of permitting enhancement initiatives that will create new efficiencies and improve service in many core functions of the city’s Community Development Department.

The CDD is responsible for managing the city’s urban environment and creating a livable community that balances the needs of residents, businesses, property owners and visitors. There are three Divisions within CDD: current and historic preservation planning, building and safety, and long-range planning. The first two of these divisions have significant interaction with the public in reviewing and processing permit applications; processing plan check applications, calculations, geo-technical reports and other related documents; performing inspections of construction projects; reviewing and making recommendations on land use development applications; and performing environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, among other functions.

The city’s aim in rolling out new permitting enhancement initiatives is to streamline procedures and

build new efficiencies into reviews that help make processes simpler for applicants and the public at large. City staff is working to reduce complexity and improve service delivery and timelines in processing permit requests for development and land use activities.

There are key permitting enhancement initiatives the city is launching in fall 2024. The Permit Navigator Program is a free pilot program specifically designed to streamline and simplify the permitting process for commercial tenant improvements for new and existing businesses. This program aims to provide clear guidance and support to applicants throughout every stage of the permit application and approval process. The Permit Navigator Program is available to all businesses going through the tenant improvement process and located within West Hollywood.

To learn more about the Permit Navigator Program or to schedule a consultation with a permit navigator, visit the CDD website at [weho.org/cdd](http://weho.org/cdd), call (323)848-3113 or send an email to [permitnavigator@weho.org](mailto:permitnavigator@weho.org).

## WeHo cuts ribbon on harm reduction center



Being Alive hosted a ribbon cutting on Oct. 8.

Being Alive/People with AIDS Action Coalition, Inc. a community based, peer lead HIV/AIDS service organization, has opened a harm reduction drop-in center in West Hollywood.

A ribbon cutting and ceremony was held on Tuesday, Oct. 8. This event marks Being Alive’s return to having a physical presence in West Hollywood and establishes a harm reduction center in the heart of West Hollywood. Dignitaries in attendance included West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson, Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers, and L.A. County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control medical director Brian Hurley.

Being Alive’s Harm Reduction Center is a community-based HIV harm reduction program providing a wide range of services including linkage to substance use disorder treatment; access to sterile syringes and disposal of used injection equipment; safer smoking equipment; overdose education; Narcan distribution; HIV testing; condoms and PrEP resources and linkage to care and treatment for other infectious diseases.

The Harm Reduction Center operates Tuesday-Saturday from 1-5 p.m. at 7976 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit [beingalivel.org](http://beingalivel.org).

# VOTE

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Oct. 26 – Nov. 5

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[weho.org/elections](http://weho.org/elections)





photo courtesy of the Television Academy Foundation

Comedian Cedric the Entertainer, left, hosted the annual event that was attended by celebrities including Don Cheadle and Byron Scott.

## Television Academy Foundation raises over \$450,000 for students

The Television Academy Foundation announced it raised over \$450,000 at the 24th Annual Emmys Golf Classic. Television stars, sports luminaries, entertainment industry executives, Television Academy leadership and corporate partners competed in the golf tournament at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades on Monday, Oct. 7.

The Emmys Golf Classic is a cornerstone event for the foundation, bringing together the television community for a day of sport, networking and philanthropy. The tournament featured a putting contest and a full round of golf for participants. In addition, an afternoon pickleball competition, the “Emmys Pickleball Slam,” was introduced, marking the first time the fast-growing sport was offered and creating more opportunities for attendees to network, unwind and support a worthy cause.

Proceeds from the event benefit the nonprofit’s Internship and College Television Awards programs that provide industry-access and career-development opportunities for college students nationwide.

For the seventh consecutive year, Cedric The Entertainer hosted the event that included stars from television, film and sports including Wells Adams (Bachelor in Paradise), Adrian Arambulo (Today in LA), Jonathan Banks (Constellation), Frank Buckley (KTLA anchor), Don Cheadle (Fight Night: The Million Dollar Heist), Jerry Hairston Jr. (MLB), Michael Irby (Mayans M.C.; Barry), Richard Karn (PEN15), Kevin Nealon (Late Bloomers), JD Pardo (Mayans M.C.), Emilio Rivera (The Family Business), Byron Scott (NBA), Patrick Warburton (Family Guy) and Andia Winslow (Velma).

The full-day event kicked off with “on-the-green” carpet arrivals and featured a putting contest, full round of golf, lunch and auctions culminating in an evening cocktail reception with awards presentations to the winners.

“Our sincerest appreciation to everyone who participated and to our corporate sponsors for their support in making this event a tremendous success,” said Tina Perry, chair of the Television Academy Foundation. “We’re delighted to see the community come together for such a worthy cause to raise funds for the foundation’s education programs that empower the next generation of television leaders and storytellers.”

“We are thrilled to introduce pickleball to this year’s Emmys Golf

Classic,” said Anne Vasquez, executive director of the foundation. “We want to embrace the growing enthusiasm for pickleball within the entertainment community and look forward to making it a dynamic new event for years to come.”

For information, visit [television-academy.com/foundation](http://television-academy.com/foundation).

## Science Center tops out

from page 1

tions made the new center possible.

The new wing will feature 100 exhibits, including an aviation gallery, space gallery and one of the most anticipated space shuttle displays in the world. Space Shuttle Endeavor will be displayed upright, in launch position, with observation decks surrounding it on different levels to allow visitors to view it from different angles in the 20-story tower.

“This is another major step

## Beverly Hills hosts annual fall art show

Join Beverly Hills on October 19 and 20, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Beverly Gardens Park for a weekend filled with stunning art from over 200 talented artists, delicious gourmet food trucks, fun activities for the kids, and a relaxing beer and wine garden for adults. Bring the whole family and celebrate creativity in the heart of Beverly Hills.

Guests can immerse themselves in a vibrant showcase of exceptional art in eleven mediums, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, glass, drawing, watercolor, traditional printmaking, photography and jewelry. A myriad of festivities will include gourmet food trucks offering delectable treats, children’s activities brimming with fun arts and crafts, including ceramics on Sunday and Mount of Angels Wall Project, and a beer and wine garden where adults can unwind in the shade while listening to relaxing music from Bill Rotella, Giovanni Simone, Sabine, Mark Gutierrez, Jason Keene and Doug MacDonald. Artists’ demonstrations will take place on both Saturday and Sunday in printmaking, painting and jewelry by artists Susan Spector, Emily Wallerstein, Deidre Greene, Carol Steinberg and Lisa Baldwin.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The annual art show features art from many different mediums.

The Beverly Hills Art Show started over 50 years ago as a very small “arts and crafts” fair on one block in Beverly Gardens Park. It has since grown to 235 artists spanning across four blocks on Santa Monica Boulevard from Rodeo Drive to Rexford Drive in the historic, picturesque Beverly Gardens Park. The bi-annual extravaganza is held every May and October and has attracted over 40,000 people over the two-day weekend, making

it one of the most beloved and long-standing community events in Beverly Hills.

Convenient parking for the art show is located directly across from the show grounds and in surrounding public parking structures. A map to the city’s public parking structures can be found at [beverly-hills.org/parking](http://beverly-hills.org/parking).

For information, visit [beverly-hills.org/artshow](http://beverly-hills.org/artshow) or call (310)285-1000.

shuttle in launch position – the only such display of any space shuttle in the world. He said the shuttle will inspire children around the world to follow careers in science.

“I hope that they get a sense of the excitement of human space

flight, just like I did when I was a kid. I went to the National Air and Space Museum and got inspired. Maybe some of them will go off and pursue careers in STEM and help us, because we need more engineers, we need more scientists,” Reisman said.

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# Third Street Elementary marks 100 years in Hancock Park

■ Community invited to Nov. 3 centennial block party

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Third Street Elementary School has been part of the Hancock Park community since 1924 when it opened as one of the first public campuses serving the rapidly-growing neighborhood.

On Sunday, Nov. 3, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., parents, students, alumni and community members will come together with teachers and school administrators at a block party to celebrate the school’s centennial and honor the campus’ history. Organized by Friends of Third, the school’s nonprofit parent booster group, the event will include carnival games, food trucks, face painting, arts and crafts, pet adoptions, informational booths, a reptile encounter with STAR Eco and educational activities led by the Natural History Museum. The Bob Baker Marionettes and children’s musician Mista Cookie Jar will perform, as well as students from the school’s music department and the cover band Landline, composed of Third Street Elementary dads. Friends of Third member and Centennial Committee co-chair Jennifer Rojas said all alumni, former teachers, families and community members are invited to attend the celebration, which will be held next to the campus on Las Palmas Avenue between Second and Third streets.

“It is open to the public and it’s completely free,” Rojas said. “We are looking at the block party as a community outreach moment. We definitely want the community to be involved, and we’re going to have a ton of fun activities and entertainment. We definitely want people to see our Third Street community shine.”

Principal Helen Lee said students, teachers and administrators are looking forward to the upcoming centennial celebration. Lee described the campus, which has approximately 700 students, as a close-knit family.

“Third Street [Elementary] is a very special place for many families. This community is really connected. They love to come back,” Lee said. “Many of the parents and students stay involved and will be part of the block party. We are very excited. It’s going to be a very special day.”

Rojas said Third Street Elementary school has many notable former students, including composer, pianist and documentary

film director Kris Bowers, Guns N’ Roses guitarist Slash (Saul Hudson), musician and rapper Garrett Nash and former Minnesota Vikings defensive end Kenechi Udeze. Alum and artist Gary Baseman also remains closely involved at the campus, stopping by on Oct. 8 to meet students and discuss his artistic career. Baseman designed an exclusive, limited edition print for the school’s centennial celebration. One-hundred prints will be sold for \$100 each to raise money for Friends of Third, which supports school programs including music and arts.

Ann Reiss Lane, a member of the class of 1941, is also planning to attend the block party. Lane has lived on June Street across from the school 60 years, and said she has fond memories of her time on the campus.

“I went to Third Street, my husband went to Third Street, my children went to Third Street and two of my grandchildren went there too,” Lane said. “At the time [I attended], I lived on Citrus and walked to school every day. I remember crossing Highland, and I remember all of the students lining up as we saluted the flag together. It was a good school.”

Rojas said 40-50 parents are involved in organizing the Centennial Celebration and have extensively researched the campus’ history. The original Third Street Elementary school building – a two-story brick structure similar in appearance to John Burroughs Middle School at 600 S. McCadden Place – was damaged by a powerful earthquake in the 1930s and later demolished to make way for the single-story, mid-century modern structure that exists today. As part of the centennial celebration, Friends of Third and school administrators are preparing to bury a time capsule on Jan. 17, 2025. The centennial time capsule will contain photographs and artifacts from the school’s past and a collection of contemporary items voted upon by the students. Rojas added that it’s important to involve the students and educate them about the school’s history and its 100 years in the community.

“For the kids especially, to wrap their heads around just how long the school has been around, and to feel like they’re a part of its history, that they’re part of this school, is something really unique and special,” Rojas added.

The Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society and Hancock Park Homeowners Association are supporting the Centennial Celebration. HPHOA president Cindy Chvatal-Keane

said the homeowners association will have a booth at the block party with information about the neighborhood and bike safety for children. She added that California Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) will join the event.

“The school is a very important part of our community,” Chvatal-Keane said. “It’s going to be exciting. And I think it will be very good for the neighbors to get together.”

Third Street Elementary is located at 201 S. June St. Anyone seeking information about the block party and celebration is encouraged to email [thirdstreetcentennial@gmail.com](mailto:thirdstreetcentennial@gmail.com) and visit [friendsofthird.org/centennial](http://friendsofthird.org/centennial).



photo courtesy of Friends of Third  
Artist and alum Gary Baseman, who designed a limited edition poster for the school’s centennial, stopped by the campus on Oct. 8 to meet with students and principal Helen Lee.

## Notable Quotes

“He said he didn’t care about [turning 100]. It’s just a birthday. He said he cared about voting for Kamala Harris ... He does not believe Donald Trump should be president again.”

James Earl “Chip” Carter III (b. 1950)

The son of President Jimmy Carter (b. 1924) related to the press that his father mailed his ballot Oct. 15 on the first day of voting in Georgia. Carter served as president from 1977-1981 and has since served the United States as one of its leading philanthropists, working with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and establishing the human rights-focused Carter Center. Carter has been in hospice care since last year. His wife Rosalynn died Nov. 19, 2023.

\*source: The Washington Post

— BEVERLY HILLS —

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# Tips on Honeymoons and Halloween

Random thoughts, while deep in the forest of another great American fall:

- Autumn lifts me like cognac.
- All moons are supermoons.
- Dogs have owners. Cats have staff.
- L.A. is its own theater of the absurd.
- In a perfect world, Quentin Tarantino would be mayor.
- How much worse could he do?
- People I miss: Mary Tyler Moore, as lovely as her name.
- To me, life is the best self-help book.
- Is pumpkin spice really a spice?
- Honestly, I'd rather drink confetti.
- In October, America seems painted in football games.
- Want to make a quick fortune? Start a Taylor Swift cover band.
- For the record, I don't like anyone who says: "Capiche."
- Prediction: A Taylor Swift-Travis Kelce engagement by Christmas.
- Not that it will last. But why not try?
- My new mantra: "Why not try?"
- My old mantra: "Everything in moderation."

by  
Chris  
Erskine



- How boring, right?
- Best bar in America: Big Dean's, on the sand in Santa Monica.
- First runner-up: Far Bar in Little Tokyo.
- Second runner-up: My sister Holly's basement.
- Capiche?
- FYI, the bar at Musso & Frank also gives me the warm-and-fuzzies.
- "Hitting against him is like eating soup with a fork." (Willie Stargell on Sandy Koufax)
- L.A.'s best-kept secret: The Getty for dinner on a Saturday night.
- Tip: Book it during a full moon.
- In fall, college campuses are the honey-nugget chicken biscuits of American life.
- Just to be clear: I don't believe in boneless wings or waterless

- urinals.
- Or pumpkin spice (obviously).
- Of all the fairy-tale celebrity lives, Blake Lively's seems the finest.
- But you never know, do you?
- You gotta laugh at corporate America, so feckless yet bold, their hands in our pockets, smiling.
- Vote!!!
- October birthdays: Paul Simon, 83; Sting, 73; Snoop Dog, 53; Winona Ryder, 53.
- Whatever happened to quiet little bistros where you could talk a little?
- Dear Langer's. If you close, I'm leaving Los Angeles.
- Same for Taylor's Steakhouse.
- Same for DuPar's.
- LAX should open its iconic Theme Building in time for the Olympics.
- Poor Sean McVay. He deserves better.
- Meanwhile, the Dodgers are very lucky to have Dave Roberts, the classiest guy in sports.
- Don't miss "Carved," the incredible Halloween show at Descanso Gardens, nightly through Oct. 30.
- Sign of the times: Athletes and coaches dropping f-bombs on live TV.
- Kris Kristofferson's voice, a critic once said, had the "grit



photo by Chris Erskine

Psssst, in case you haven't heard, The Getty is great for dinner.

- and softness of ancient stone, worn smooth by time."
- Amen to that.
- Amen to good men in general and all the devoted coaches – high school to pro.
- I don't get God sometimes. But I'll keep trying.
- Everyone's dealing with something.
- Best advice: Don't worry about the problem – until there's a problem.
- Question: Shouldn't the word umlaut have an umlaut?
- "When will the rhetorical questions end?" (George Carlin)
- FYI, you can find solitude in Los Angeles. You just have to drive two hours.
- Teslas are the iPhones of the automotive world.
- If AI can help fight cyber-crime, I'm all for it.
- Because I'm one data breach away from cutting up my credit cards.
- Billie Eilish doesn't sing, she mews.
- But I like her stuff anyway.
- Sequel I'd be sure to see: "Three Men and a Grandbaby."
- Looking for a fireplace book? Check out "Ordinary People," the novel that birthed the movie, for which Mary Tyler Moore was nominated for an Oscar.
- In many ways, that movie is director Robert Redford's greatest work.
- Trivia time: Where was Redford born?
- Amazingly, "Ordinary People" was Judith Guest's first book.

- And perhaps the best debut novel since Tolkien's "The Hobbit."
- Whatever happened to Spuds MacKenzie?
- Whatever happened to funny beer commercials?
- Things I miss: Uncle Joe Benson on the radio.
- What I also miss: Al Michaels on "Sunday Night Football."
- Trivia answer: Redford was born in Santa Monica.
- Trivia addendum: His teammate at Van Nuys High School? Don Drysdale.
- A bourbon a day keeps the cardiologist away.
- Trust me, it worked for my mom.
- Spuds MacKenzie for President!
- How much worse could he be?
- Gummy Bears should make a soda.
- Ricola should make a tea.
- Someone should start a chain of sports bars called "The Tailgater?"
- FYI, I'm already in line.
- Jazz pianist Bill Evans affirms my belief in God.
- So do newborns.
- So does autumn.
- "The cure for a fallacious argument is a better argument, not the suppression of ideas." (Carl Sagan)
- Amen. Amen. Amen.

For past columns, and books, please go to [ChrisErskineLA.com](http://ChrisErskineLA.com). To schedule event appearances, email the columnist at [Letters@ChrisErskineLA.com](mailto:Letters@ChrisErskineLA.com)

# BOO! at the Zoo brings frightfully good family fun

Get ready for a spooktacular time at the Los Angeles Zoo as it hosts its annual Boo at the L.A. Zoo event on the last two weekends of October. The family-friendly celebration promises a ghoulishly good time with a variety of activities that will delight guests of all ages. Returning for the third year in a row, Mars will be supplying an array of snack-size candy favorites, ensuring that trick-or-treaters have plenty of sweet treats to enjoy. Associate sponsor California Credit Union will provide treat bags and additional goodies. Boo at the L.A. Zoo is free with paid admission or Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association membership and will occur Saturdays, Oct. 19 and 26 and Sundays, Oct. 20 and 27.

Frightful decor along trick-or-treat stations will be found in the zoo offering delicious candies provided by Mars including fan favorites like M&M'S, Skittles and Snickers. Some of the day's highlights include a visit to the extinct animal graveyard, where visitors can learn about species that have gone extinct and the importance of wildlife conservation; "Spookley the Square Pumpkin" photo op; and M&M'S characters. On Saturdays, guests will enjoy spooky story time with author Suzanne Lang reading "Grumpy Monkey Don't Be Scared!" and author and illustrator Brady Smith reading his wacky tale "Bug Sandwich."



photo by Jamie Pham, GLAZA

Boo at the Zoo will be held Oct. 19, 20, 26 and 27.

Associate sponsor California Credit Union, an official partner of the L.A. Zoo, will pass out Halloween goodies, like temporary tattoos, animal masks and small totes, which can be used as treat bags. In keeping with the zoo's efforts to reduce waste, no other types of treat bags will be distributed. Guests are encouraged to pick up one from California Credit Union or bring their own. Candy and sponsor giveaways are available while supplies last. Costumes are encouraged. Boo at the L.A. Zoo is a fantastic way for families to celebrate Halloween in a safe and entertaining environment.

For information, please visit [lazoo.org/boo](http://lazoo.org/boo). The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive.

## 'The Dead Can't Dance' at Greenway Court

Greenway Arts Alliance is hosting a limited engagement of "Ghost Stories: The Dead Can't Dance," a collection of haunting ghost stories that will spook and thrill through an immersive, cross-cultural evening of music, theatre and dance.

The spooktacular production features the stories of Buster Williams, written and performed by Michael D. McCarty; "The Dance," inspired by "The Dance," a folktale from Kingsville, Texas, written by Mohammed Ali Ojarigi and performed by Ina Buckner-Barnette; and Broken Cries, written by Joe Luis Cedillo and performed by Graciela Rodriguez.

The original theatrical production is directed by Pierson Blaetz and co-directed by Ali Ojarigi, with choreography by Imani Estese, set and lighting design by Jack James Lawson, music direction by Smiley Bone Jones. Performances run from Oct.17-30 at Greenway Court Theatre, located at 544 N. Fairfax Ave. Tickets are available at [greenwaycourtheatre.org](http://greenwaycourtheatre.org).

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ECLECTICALS STORY TIME 11:00-11:30 am



MICHAEL PAIK  
12:30-2:15pm



ADRIANA BRAVO  
2:30-4:15pm

## OCTOBER 27, 2024

INTERMISSION Yoga + Soundbath 11:00-11:30 am

### DOG COSTUME CONTEST 11:45-1:30 pm



SYDNEY RANEÉ  
1:45-4:15pm



# Beverly Hills Police Officers Association endorses Hochman

The Beverly Hills Police Officers Association endorsed Nathan Hochman, a former federal prosecutor, in the Nov. 5 election for Los Angeles County District Attorney. Hochman maintains a strong lead in the race to oust George Gascon as L.A. County’s top law enforcement officer and has won the overwhelming support of first responders, who argue that Gascon’s failed policies jeopardize the safety and well-being of all residents. In its endorsement, the Beverly Hills Police Officers Association cited Hochman’s extensive courtroom experience prosecuting violent criminals and his ability to build bipartisan support for his independent campaign to restore public safety by fairly enforcing the law in Los Angeles County.

Voters overwhelmingly support Hochman for District Attorney, a poll commissioned by the Los Angeles Times confirms. The poll verifies Hochman’s massive lead in the race, finding that he has a 25% lead over Gascon among decided voters. In addition to the Beverly Hills Police Officers Association, the POAs representing these cities have endorsed Hochman: Azusa, Baldwin Park, Burbank Claremont, Covina, El Monte, Glendale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Newport Beach, Pasadena, Pomona, San Francisco, Santa Monica, South Gate, West Covina and Whittier. Hochman also is supported by the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the Los

Angeles County Police Chiefs Association and the Association of Deputy District Attorneys.



photo courtesy of Nathan Hochman  
The coalition is one of many Los Angeles police officers’ associations to endorse the former federal prosecutor.

# Beverly Hills recognizes civility



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills  
At the Beverly Hills City Council meeting on Oct. 10, the mayor and City Council recognized longtime resident, Jeanne Marks, for her exceptional contributions and commitment to Beverly Hills as this year’s Embrace Civility Award recipient. The Embrace Civility Award was established to recognize outstanding community members who have shown exemplary compassion and dedication to enhancing the lives of Beverly Hills residents. Human Relations Commissioners Rose Kaiserman, left, and Noelle Batista, Councilman Craig Corman, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Dr. Leonard S. Marks, Jeanne Marks, Mayor Lester Friedman, Councilman John Mirisch, Councilwoman Mary Wells, Commissioner Pam Kraushaar and Human Relations Commission Chair, Laura Margo celebrated the achievement at the meeting.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND SUMMARY NOTICE

DATE:

TIME:

LOCATION:

Thursday, November 7, 2024

7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

**Meeting will be held in person at:**  
Council Chamber  
Beverly Hills City Hall  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

PROJECT ADDRESS:

Citywide

Members of the public may also participate via teleconference;  
Details provided below

The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at a REGULAR meeting on **November 7, 2024**, will hold a public hearing beginning at **7:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) REGULATIONS TO UPDATE MULTI-FAMILY STANDARDS AND ALLOW ONE ADDITIONAL DEED-RESTRICTED RENTAL ADU ON SINGLE-FAMILY PROPERTIES WITH A LOT AREA OF 13,000 SQUARE FEET OR GREATER, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The proposed amendments to the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) support the production of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) as part of Implementation Program 10.4 of the City’s 2021 – 2029 Housing Element. The ordinance introduces the following changes to facilitate ADU construction, expand housing options, and increase the availability of rental units within Beverly Hills:

1. Greater flexibility for multi-family ADU development standards, including:

a. Increases in allowable height and floor area;

b. Reductions in rear and side setbacks for properties abutting alleys;

c. Allowance of internal-facing balconies; and

d. Establishment of a new discretionary process allowing deviations from development standards.

2. Authorization of an additional ADU that is consistent with minimum state law standards on single-family properties with a lot area of 13,000 square feet or greater, with at least one ADU deed-restricted as a rental unit.

On August 22, 2024, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the draft ordinance, at which time all persons interested in the draft ordinance had an opportunity to and did address the Planning Commission on this matter. The Planning Commission recommended approval by a unanimous vote (5-0) of the draft ordinance to the City Council by adopting Planning Commission Resolution No. 2066, and finding the ordinance exempt from CEQA.

This summary of the ordinance is prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of Government Code §36933. Pursuant to the requirements of Government Code §36933, a certified copy of the entirety of the text of the proposed ordinance will be available for review during normal business hours at the Office of the City Clerk Office located at City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Second Floor, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 at least five days before the City Council will consider adoption of the ordinance.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Staff anticipates that the City Council will find and determine that this ordinance is within the scope of and consistent with the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Amendments to the Adopted 2021- 2029 City of Beverly Hills Housing Element (State Clear-

inghouse No. 2021090102), which was adopted by the City Council on March 18, 2024 and certified by the State Department of Housing and Community Development on May 1, 2024. Furthermore, the ordinance is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to §21080.17 of the California Public Resources Code. This section specifies that the adoption of an ordinance regarding ADUs to implement the provisions of Government Code §§65852.1 or Article 2 (commencing with §66314) of Chapter 13 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code is exempt from CEQA requirements.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are now in place at City Hall. Members of the public are requested to plan visits accordingly. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically, and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable. City Council meetings are broadcast on local Beverly Hills television and on other media platforms. Anyone who participates at the meeting and/or enters the City Council Chamber is subject to having their image displayed. These recordings will remain publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Public Comment Participation:

Oral Comment/Listen only: (310) 288-2288

Email: [cityclerk@beverlyhills.org](mailto:cityclerk@beverlyhills.org)

Video (during public comment only): <http://beverlyhills.org/comment>

To Watch Video Live: <http://beverlyhills.org/live> or

On-Demand: <http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings>

In-Person: Submit a Speaker Card to the City Clerk at the meeting

How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk’s office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council/Parking Authority. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. The City Clerk will read only the first three minutes (approximately 350 words) of a written comment. In the event of a large number of written comments on one item, written comments may be summarized by the City Clerk’s Office. The entire written comment shall be archived in full as part of the record.

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

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code §65009, if you challenge the Council’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

In Person Participation:

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

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Patrick Achis, Associate Planner**, in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1129**, or by email at [pachis@beverlyhills.org](mailto:pachis@beverlyhills.org). Copies of the project materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Please also reach out to add your email to the interested parties list, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED

City Clerk



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please contact (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY) prior to the meeting for assistance. Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired



RESTAURANT NEWS

Steakhouse celebrates 25 years

Nick + Stef’s Steakhouse, a trail-blazer in Bunker Hill and a flagship offering within the Patina Restaurant Group portfolio, proudly marks its 25th anniversary this October. Known for blending steakhouse tradition with contemporary design and culinary flair, Nick + Stef’s remains a cornerstone of Downtown Los Angeles dining. Led by executive chef Megan Logan, who has been with the restaurant since 2010 and Patina Restaurant Group since 2003, the steakhouse continues to offer elevated dining experiences, showcasing its renowned dry-aged steaks, curated wines, premiere whiskey collection and innovative craft cocktails.

To commemorate 25 years of its dry-aged prime steak options and fresh-catch seafood selections, paired with a curated world-class wine list of over 500 labels and

craft cocktails, Nick + Stef’s has created a week of anniversary celebrations that steak lovers across Southern California won’t want to miss.

On Oct. 17, Nick + Stef’s is offering a \$25 lunch combo featuring a starter of Nick + Stef’s Caesar salad, a 5-ounce dry aged New York steak and a side of JBS mashed potatoes.

Through Oct. 18, indulge in anniversary happy hours with \$2.50 oysters and \$25 wines by the glass. Guests can also receive a branded whiskey stone with the purchase of select whiskey cocktails.

Oct. 19 will bring prix fixe dry aged anniversary dinners. Celebrate with a \$250 dinner for two, highlighting Nick + Stef’s classic offerings. The menu includes shared starters like Nick + Stef’s Caesar salad or BBQ shrimp, a selection of dry aged ribeye and New York steak, sides of JBS mashed potatoes and creamed spinach, and a shared dessert of liquid chocolate cake with vanilla ice cream. Guests can

Farmers Market does a ‘Figure 8’

The Original Farmers Market has welcomed Figure 8 Tea Project, a boba drink concept created by husband-and-wife duo, April Tayrien and James Yi. Dedicated to delicious, handcrafted drinks made with natural ingredients, Figure 8 Tea Project offers a menu that reflects the diverse cultures of Los Angeles. Born during the pandemic, Figure 8 Tea Project began as a series of pop-ups before finding a permanent home at The Original Farmers Market. The name “Figure 8” pays homage to April and James’ passion for climbing, referencing the Figure 8 knot, a crucial knot for tying ropes in climbing. Their journey from pop-ups to a brick-and-mortar location is a testament to their dedication and love for their craft. Boasting a menu with over 15 handcrafted drinks, the shop offers a diverse selection designed to cater to a wide range of tastes. Standout options include the strawberry matcha latte, a unique black matcha latte sourced from a



photo courtesy of Figure 8 Tea Project

Boba-centric Figure 8 Tea Project is now open at The Original Farmers Market.

regenerative farm in Jeju, South Korea, and an array of vibrant fruit teas. Additionally, Figure 8 serves pure teas such as Sunday brunch; a 12-hour cold brewed tea that can be enjoyed without any sugar and is

quickly becoming a signature favorite. For information, visit [farmersmarketla.com/merchants/figure-8-tea-project](https://farmersmarketla.com/merchants/figure-8-tea-project). The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St.

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choose from signature beverages, including the N+S old fashioned, N+S Manhattan or a glass of red wine.

For information and to make a reservation, visit [patinagroup.com/nick-and-stefs-steakhouse-la](http://patinagroup.com/nick-and-stefs-steakhouse-la). Nick + Stef's is located at 330. S. Hope St.

Poquito Mas marks anniversary by making a difference

To mark the 40th anniversary as L.A.'s favorite taqueria, Poquito Mas has partnered with local non-profit Home Again L.A. to feed unhoused families. Kevin McCarney, founder and owner of Poquito Mas, has committed to provide 40 meals a month through October 2025.

"My mom was a full-time nurse and often felt the stress of feeding seven kids on a nurse's salary," McCarney said. "Kids shouldn't have to worry where their next meal comes from. We love the work Home Again L.A. is doing for our community."

Poquito Mas, which first opened its doors at 3701 Cahuenga Blvd. in Studio City on Oct. 4, 1984, has grown to seven L.A. locations. The restaurant will be giving back to the community by working with Home Again L.A. to provide 40 meals a month through October 2025 to assist the many families who turn to the non-profit for assistance. Home Again L.A. has served Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley for the past 14 years providing unhoused families with children shelter, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, outreach and meals.

In addition to its work with Home Again L.A., Poquito Mas will also mark its milestone anniversary by giving away a 40 Burrito Party Mas every Saturday in October from 2-5 p.m. during "The Fork Report with Neil Saavedra" which airs on KFI-AM 640.

Listeners simply have to tune in for a chance to win 40 burritos of their choice, coupled with chips and salsa, to create their own at-home fiesta – ideal for tailgating, birthday celebrations and Monday night football gatherings. For details, visit [poquitomas.com](http://poquitomas.com).

A 'Toastique' juice bar is opening on Sunset

Beloved gourmet toast and juice bar, Toastique, is about to open the doors to its first location in Los Angeles at 6255 Sunset Blvd. in the Sunset Media Center. Toastique will be celebrating its grand opening celebration for the public on Saturday, Oct. 26 starting at 8 a.m. The first 100 guests in line at the community-focused celebration will score a \$50 Toastique Rewards, with a \$10 minimum purchase, to be used on future visits.

Owned by Charles Steynberg, a South African native, he originally studied electrical engineering but quickly discovered his passion for the hospitality industry. He gained extensive experience working at country clubs in Florida and New York, co-owning a club in South Africa, and managing the number one store for a fast casual dining restaurant in South Africa. Since moving to L.A. in 2019, Steynberg has been on the hunt for a restaurant concept that aligned with his values of long-term sustainability and a clean healthy menu, which led him to Toastique.

Toastique is known for its gourmet toast offerings like the classic avocado smash toast made with avocado with watermelon radish, marinated tomatoes, chili oil, micro greens on multigrain toast, or the PB Crunch Toast made with honey roasted peanut butter, bananas, strawberries, blueberries, berry jam, granola, peanuts, honey drizzle and mint on walnut raisin



photo courtesy of Toastique

Loaded options at Toastique included the matcha bowl, topped with pineapple, strawberry, dates, granola, cocoa nibs, mint and honey drizzle.

toast. The menu also boasts loaded bowls such as the matcha bowl, topped with pineapple, strawberry, dates, granola, cocoa nibs, mint and honey drizzle or smoothies like the fully loaded green machine smoothie, consisting of banana, pineapple, mango, spinach, kale, hemp seeds, flax seeds, lime and coconut water. Additionally, Toastique offers health-intentional cold-pressed juices, espresso drinks and colorful collagen lattes.

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

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# Fall Festival

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# Mary’s buys Micky’s in WeHo

BY RANCE COLLINS

Since 1988, Micky’s WeHo has been one of the cornerstones of the Rainbow District in West Hollywood. The club and bar has remained a hub for LGBTQ+ peo-

## Writers Bloc presents Hilburn and Taupin on Randy Newman

On Oct. 21 at the Writers Guild Theater, Writers Bloc presents a conversation between two icons in rock music.

Everyone – no matter what generation – has a Randy Newman song about to tumble out, depending on your mood. Feel like the haunting melody and profound lyrics of “Sail Away,” or its flip side, the satirical laugh-out-loud “Political Science?” Or how about the immortal theme from “Toy Story,” “You’ve Got a Friend in Me?” Or “Short People?” Or the local anthem, “I Love L.A.” Randy Newman has written countless songs that have become part of the national identity, and those songs cover an infinite variety of subjects and emotions, from social justice on any number of issues, inequality, to hilarious satire that ring as true right now as they did a few decades ago.

Robert Hilburn, the legendary former rock critic for the Los Angeles Times, understands and appreciates the depth of Newman’s creativity and genius – and his commitment to writing about social and political issues. In his new book, “A Few Words in Defense of Our Country: The Biography of Randy Newman,” Hilburn conducts extensive interviews with Newman, his inner and outer circles, and discussed Newman with other iconic songwriters of our time, including James Taylor, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan and many more.

Writers Bloc will present Hilburn in conversation with another iconic figure in music: Bernie Taupin. Taupin is the lyricist for Elton John, and a member of one of the most wildly successful partnerships in contemporary music. He is also the author of a bestselling memoir, “Scattershot: Life, Music, Elton, and Me.”

Former Los Angeles Times reporter and rock critic Randy Lewis will chat with Hilburn and Taupin about music and Randy Newman.

Tickets are \$25. For tickets, visit [writersblocpresents.com](http://writersblocpresents.com).

The Writers Guild Theater is located at 135 S. Doheny Drive.



photo courtesy of Robert Hilburn

Legendary music writer Robert Hilburn will discuss the life and career of Randy Newman with Elton John collaborator Bernie Taupin.

ple to socialize, dance and have fun. Remarkably, it has stayed in the same hands that entire time. But on Oct. 14, now-former owner Michael Niemeyer turned over control of the business to Hamburger Mary’s owners Ruben Lopez and Dale Warner.

“We’ve been in business for over 36 years,” Niemeyer said. “The gentlemen who own Hamburger Mary’s are buying the business and plan to continue much of the same fun that has always been part of Micky’s.”

Niemeyer said that the club’s name will not change and that many of the activities and themed events will also stay in place.

“[They] will bring their delicious food and fun atmosphere to the west side of West Hollywood,” he added.

According to Neimeyer, the Micky’s location has actually been a bar in West Hollywood since 1933. It was once called Four Star and was a stop on Los Angeles’ former trolley car redline.

There have been several changes in ownership along Santa Monica Boulevard in recent months. Earlier this year, Tristan Schukraft took the reins at The Abbey Food and Bar. The owners of Beaches WeHo bought what was Heart – and formerly Rage – and transformed it into Beaches Tropicana.

Lopez did not respond to a request for comment by deadline.



photo courtesy of Micky’s WeHo

Micky’s WeHo is a popular bar on Santa Monica Boulevard.

### BID PACKAGE NO. 25-350-02

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS  
PUBLIC WORKS - PROJECT ADMINISTRATION  
345 FOOTHILL ROAD  
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

### LEGAL NOTICE - BIDS WANTED

#### WILL ROGERS PARK RESTROOM DEMOLITION PROJECT

The City of Beverly Hills (“City”) hereby requests bids for the materials, supplies, equipment or services set forth herein, subject to all conditions outlined in this Bid Package, including:

- SECTION 1: NOTICE INVITING BIDS
- SECTION 2: INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS
- SECTION 3: GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS
- SECTION 4: CONTRACT
- SECTION 5: BONDS
- SECTION 6: INSURANCE
- SECTION 7: SCOPE OF WORK
- SECTION 8: TENTATIVE PROJECT MILESTONE DATES
- SECTION 9: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

BE SURE TO CHOOSE THE CORRECT CONTRACT PROVISIONS FROM THOSE PRESENTED HEREIN. IF WHOLE PARAGRAPHS ARE DELETED OR IF NEW PARAGRAPHS ARE ADDED, THE REMAINING PARAGRAPHS MUST BE RENUMBERED.

### SECTION 1: NOTICE INVITING BIDS

#### 1. Notice Inviting Bids

- a. **Date of Request:** October 28, 2024
- b. **Bid Number:** 25-350-02
- c. **Item Description:** The project scope includes, without limitations, demolitions of restroom building, site walls, walkways paving and selected utility equipment.
- d. **Obtaining Bid Documents:** The Bid Package, including the plans and specifications may be viewed and downloaded from the City’s PlanetBids portal: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/104883>  
This item is listed as: *Request for Bid for WILL ROGERS PARK RESTROOM DEMOLITION PROJECT*  
Interested bidders must have experience working on similar type projects and projects must have been completed within the past ten (10) years.

- e. **Request for Information:**  
Any questions regarding the questionnaire and qualification package should be submitted via PlanetBids by 2:00PM, November 12, 2024. Questions sent via email or over the phone; with the exception of those related to accessing or using PlanetBids, will not be answered. Written responses to all questions will be issued via addendum and posted on PlanetBids by November 15, 2024

- f. **Due Date and Location for Submittals:**  
Bids shall be submitted via PlanetBids by **Tuesday – November 19 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**WILL ROGERS PARK RESTROOM DEMOLITION PROJECT- RFB 25-350-02**

Contractors are responsible for submitting and having their documents accepted before the closing time set forth in the request for qualifications. **NOTE:** Pushing the submit button on the electronic submittal system may not be instantaneous; it may take time for the Contractor’s documents to upload and transmit before the documents are accepted. It is the Contractor’s sole responsibility to ensure their documents are uploaded, transmitted, and arrive in time electronically. The City of Beverly Hills will have no responsibility for documents that do not arrive in

a timely manner, no matter what the reason.

- g. **Contractor’s License:** In accordance with provisions of Section 3300 of the California Public Contract Code, the City has determined that the Contractor shall possess a valid California Contractor’s License B – General Building Contractor, or other appropriate license classification under the State Contracting Code at the time the contract is bid. Failure to possess such license may render the bid non responsive and bar the award of the contract to that non-responsive Bidder.

- h. **Liquidated Damages:** There shall be a \$500.00 assessment for each and every calendar day work remains undone after date fixed for completion.

- i. **Prevailing Wages:** In accordance with Labor Code Section 1770 *et seq.*, this Project is a “public work,” and thus, the Contractor and any Subcontractors must pay wages in accordance with the determination of the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations (“DIR”) regarding the prevailing rate of per diem wages. Copies of those rates are on file with the Director of Public Works, and are available to any interested party upon request. Contractor shall post a copy of the DIR’s determination of the prevailing rate of per diem wages at each job site.

- j. **Pre-bid Conference Date and Location:** A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Wednesday, November 06, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Restroom Building in Will Rogers Memorial Park at 800-876 N Canon Dr, Beverly Hills 90210.

- k. **Bid Bond:** A bid bond in the amount of 10% of the total bid amount, will be required of the contractors. Bid bonds must be issued by a bonding company licensed to do business in the State of California. Bids not accompanied by the required bid security shall be rejected.

- l. **Payment Bond and Performance Bond:** A Payment Bond and a Performance Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount, will be required of the Contractor.

- m. **Insurance:** Upon award of contract, contractor will be obligated to file certificates of insurance evidencing coverage as specified in the bid documents and in a form acceptable to the City. The certificates shall be on the City’s standard proof of insurance form.

- n. **Time of Completion:** The contractual completion time shall be 55 calendar days from the date of Notice To Proceed.

- o. **Retention:** In accordance with the contract, five percent (5%) of any progress payment will be withheld as retention. Pursuant to Section 22300 of the Public Contract Code, at the request and expense of the Contractor, securities equivalent to the amount withheld may be deposited with the City or with a state or federally chartered bank as the escrow agent, and City shall then pay such moneys to the Contractor. Refer to the contract for further clarification.

- p. **Contact Person:** Project manager for this project is Ji Kim, [jikim@beverlyhills.org](mailto:jikim@beverlyhills.org). All communications shall be via PlanetBids with the exception of those related to accessing or using PlanetBids

THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BID OR ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR IRREGULARITY IN ANY BID. ANY CONTRACT AWARDED WILL BE LET TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER.



# Celebrate Día de los Muertos at Gloria Molina Grand Park

For the first time in the history of Gloria Molina Grand Park, the opening festivities of the annual Day of the Dead celebration will take place over two days on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19-20.

“Downtown Día de los Muertos” starts on Oct. 19 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. with live poetry recitals, music performances, Día de los Muertos-inspired workshops, face painting, food trucks and bilingual art activities. A collection of altars known as ofrendas created by professional artists and local organizations will be on display.

On Oct. 20, community members can participate in the inaugural Los Angeles Día de los Muertos Parade

and Festival, a free daylong event from 2 - 10 p.m. with a parade, live music, concessions and arts and crafts activities complementing the altars on display in the park. The parade starts at 7 p.m. on Oct. 20. The altars will remain on view through Nov. 2.

“Since the park’s opening in 2010, Gloria Molina Grand Park’s ‘Downtown Día de los Muertos’ has grown to become an annual celebration that reflects Angelenos’ cultural traditions and, at the same time, brings together all community members to reflect and connect with one another at L.A.’s central gathering place,” said Robert Gonzalez, director of Gloria Molina

Grand Park. “Expanding the opening ceremonies with a parade for the first time is a pivotal moment. Doing so will elevate the way we honor the memory of our loved ones. We invite all Angelenos to join us for a weekend filled with reverence, compassion and love.”

Curated for the third time by local multimedia artist and educator Consuelo G. Flores, the altars reflect the spirit of community. Park visitors will encounter tributes to diverse communities including multicultural ancestors, LGBTQ+ individuals, beloved pets, children, Mexican literacy artists and people who have fought for social justice and equity. The park will also feature imageries of gardens, butterflies, hummingbirds and doves. Participating artists include Joe Bravo, Consuelo G. Flores, the Gloria Molina Family, Marissa Magdalena, Jessica Monares, Gian Flores Norte, Rose Portillo and Antonio Rael.

The community altar, illustrating the theme “Finding Peace Through Memories and Hope for the Future,” will include a large peace sign held by hands, doves and traditional marigolds. The public is encouraged to bring offerings to the community altar as well as framed photos of deceased loved ones whom they want to remember and honor during the 15-day celebration.

The Los Angeles Día de los Muertos Parade and Festival will be held in Gloria Molina Grand Park between Broadway and Spring Street. For information, visit [grandparkla.org](http://grandparkla.org).



photo courtesy of Gloria Molina Grand Park

Altars known as ofrendas honoring lost loved ones will be on display in Grand Park.



photo courtesy of the Original Farmers Market

The annual fall festival will host families this weekend.

## Fall festival brings autumn fun

The Original Farmers Market at 3rd & Fairfax has announced the return of its beloved fall festival weekend on Oct. 19-20. This year’s festival will be especially memorable as it marks the market’s 90th anniversary celebration. Over the course of two days, visitors can enjoy a wide range of family-friendly activities, including a petting zoo with various animals such as a cow, donkey, alpaca, pigs, rabbits and goats. Other fun activities include a pumpkin patch, games and fun seasonal crafts. Live music will fill the air with performances from local bands such as The Storytellers, June Clivas & The Ditty Boys, and Dave Stuckey & The Five Hoot Owls.

In addition to live entertainment, festival-goers can partake in interactive activities like

“Slimy Fun” presented by Sloomoo Institute LA, beaded corn on the cob crafts, and games designed to celebrate the spirit of fall. The weekend promises to be a festive celebration for visitors of all ages, combining the charm of timeless seasonal traditions with the vibrant energy of the market.

Fall Festival runs from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. each day. The event will be held at various locations throughout The Original Farmers Market, including the Plaza, Gilmore Lane and West Patio. Don’t miss this opportunity to experience one of L.A.’s iconic destinations as it celebrates its milestone anniversary in true autumn style.

The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit [farmersmarket-la.com/events/fall-festival-](http://farmersmarket-la.com/events/fall-festival-)

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# POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Oct. 7 and Oct. 12. 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. 7

A vandalism incident was reported at Santa Monica and Wilshire at 12 a.m.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of Crescent at 9:43 p.m.

### Oct. 8

An unknown suspect committed a simple assault in the 8500 block of Clifton at 7 a.m.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of Stanley at 4:30 p.m.

### Oct. 9

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 500 block of Rodeo at 5:02 a.m.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of La Peer at 12:17 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 400 block of Clark at 2:45 p.m.

### Oct. 10

At 4:49 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 200 block of Moreno.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 400 block of El Camino at 9:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a simple assault in the 8700 block of Wilshire at 11 p.m.

### Oct. 11

A vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of Linden at 3:03 a.m.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of Oakhurst at 9 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of Cinthia at 11:30 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of Canon at 1:27 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9300 block of Olympic at 3:20 p.m.

A grand theft was reported in the 100 block of Peck at 5:35 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of Canon at 7:30 p.m.

### Oct. 12

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 200 block of Hamilton at 6:27 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of Canon at 8:27 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 5:10 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a simple assault at Santa Monica

and Rexford at 10:40 p.m.

## West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

### Oct. 6

An unknown suspect committed a simple assault in the 1000 block of Curson at 12:30 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a simple assault in the 8700 block of Melrose at 2:35 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the 8400 block of Sunset at 5:18 p.m.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8900 of Keith at 7:30 p.m.

### Oct. 7

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1400 block of N. Fairfax at 1:34 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 7:55 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a simple assault in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 9 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a simple assault in the 7200 block of Santa Monica at 11:30 p.m.

### Oct. 8

An unknown suspect committed an aggravated assault in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 3:55 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1000 block of Genesee at 11:47 p.m.

### Oct. 9

An unknown suspect committed an aggravated assault in the 8500 block of Sunset at 9:40 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 1000 block of Genessee at 7 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 8:20 p.m.

### Oct. 10

A domestic violence assault was reported at 8:20 p.m. in the 1000 block of San Vicente at 7:36 p.m.

A domestic violence assault was reported at 8:20 p.m. in the 1200 block of Hayworth at 8:20 p.m.

A domestic violence assault was reported at 8:20 p.m. in the 8500 block of Santa Monica at 12 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed an aggravated assault in the 400 block of San Vicente at 11:42 p.m.

### Oct. 11

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 1000 block of Westmount at 8:08 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a simple assault in the 8900 block of Sunset at 11 p.m.

### Oct. 12

An unknown suspect burglarized a

vehicle in the 900 block of Doheny at 5:20 a.m.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1100 block of Curson at 10 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 900 block of N. Westbourne at 10:15 p.m.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim at a residence in the 1200 block of Crescent Heights at 10:30 p.m.

## Los Angeles Police Department

### Oct. 6

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 3:50 p.m.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of N. Gardner at 9:30 p.m.

### Oct. 7

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Doheny at 12 p.m.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Las Palmas at 4 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked at San Vicente and Ogden at 5 p.m.

### Oct. 8

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5700 vehicle of Wilshire at 12 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea at 1:08 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly at 1:47 p.m.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of S. Orange at 11 p.m.

### Oct. 9

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7300 block of Hawthorn at 2 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire at 1:13 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 400 block of S. La Brea at 8 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked at El Centro and Camerford at 5 p.m.

### Oct. 10

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1100 block of S. Cloverdale at 12:01 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8500 block of Beverly Place at 11:50 a.m.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Beverly at 3:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of S. Curson at 5:23 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 900 block of Stearns at 11 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 5300 block of San Vicente at 8 p.m.

### Oct. 11

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 700 block of Cochran at 5 a.m.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked at 8th and Longwood at 8:50 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly at 7:38 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Fairfax at 8:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire at 7:11 p.m.

### Oct. 12

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1400 block of N Alta Vista at 5:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle at Citrus and Dockweiler at 7 p.m.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 300 block of S. Burnside at 9:30 p.m.



photo by Edwin Folven

Street restoration work is ongoing through November around the subway station staging yard near Wilshire/Western.

## D Line construction maintains steady pace in mid-October

Crews are working at all sites along Wilshire Boulevard on the D Line subway extension project, which will connect Wilshire/Western and the Westwood/VA Hospital stations. Metro is cautioning about lane closures and traffic impacts due to ongoing construction in mid-October.

Street restoration work continues through November around the construction yard at Wilshire/Western, where streets, curbs and sidewalks are being rebuilt. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and Saint Andrews Place. Left turns are restricted from Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue and from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound St. Andrews Place.

Street restoration work continues around the Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax subway stations. Wilshire Boulevard is intermittently reduced to two lanes in each direction. Detroit Street may be intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard.

Lane closures are also in place near the Wilshire/Fairfax intersection to allow street restoration work. Through March 2025, a K-rail work zone is located at Wilshire/La Jolla. Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction.

Street restoration work will require lane closures through March 2025 at Wilshire/La Cienega. A K-rail work zone is

located on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard while crews build curbs, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and tree wells. Water line work is also ongoing around the Wilshire/La Cienega station.

At Wilshire/Rodeo, crews are working at street level and underground on the subway station. Cañon Drive is closed through November south of Wilshire Boulevard for deck removal and street restoration work. Intermittent lane closures may be implemented on Wilshire Boulevard in the work area. The sidewalk on the east side of South Cañon Drive is closed during work hours. Pedestrian access is maintained on the west side of the street.

At the Century City/Constellation station, the placement of structural concrete is substantially complete. Construction of the station interior and roof structures will be ongoing under Constellation Boulevard. The work takes place 24 hours, Monday through Saturday.

Partial traffic lane closures are in place on Constellation Boulevard to support the daytime station construction and material deliveries. Eastbound and westbound vehicle access on Constellation Boulevard is maintained between Century Park West and Century Park East.

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, or visit metro.net.



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# Hollywood festival explores award-winning animated films

The seventh annual Animation Is Film Festival presents theatrical presentations, special events and shorts showcases from Oct. 18-20 at the TCL Chinese Theatres in Hollywood.

The festival's opening night is on Friday, Oct. 18, featuring the North

American premiere of Japanese director Naoko Yamada's "The Colors Within." On Saturday, Oct. 19, the North American premiere of Warner Bros. Animation's "The Day the Earth Blew Up: A Looney Tunes Movie" from director Pete Brownhardt will be held. AIF closes

on Sunday, Oct. 20, with the Los Angeles premiere of IFC Films' "Memento of a Snail" from director Adam Elliot, who won the 2024 Cristal Award at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival, AIF's co-founder.

Through its competition section, AIF continues to champion animation as a cinematic art form while recognizing and acknowledging the importance of international feature films and short films. The festival's schedule includes films that have debuted internationally at the Cannes, Annecy, Tribeca, San Sebastian, Telluride and Toronto film festivals. Highlights include many North American and Los Angeles premieres. Animation Is Film is also celebrating the 15th anniversary of the seminal anime film "Redline" with a special screening. Panels and masterclasses will be held for high-profile studio releases such as "Inside Out 2," "Moana 2," "Transformers One," "The Wild Robot" and "An Almost Christmas Story."

"Animation Is Film is very happy to be back in Los Angeles, celebrating another year of extraordinary titles from some of cinema's greatest international artists," AIF director Matt Kaszanek said. "To be among the first in a city, the country or even a continent to see a new work of art is a unique thrill. We are immensely proud of this year's lineup."

Showtimes vary; see scheduled. TCL Chinese Theatres is located at 6925 Hollywood Blvd. For tickets and information, visit [animationisfilm.com](http://animationisfilm.com).



photo courtesy of the Animation Is Film Festival

The Animation Is Film Festival is holding numerous premieres at the TCL Chinese Theatres.

# 'Timeless Icons' displayed at Cabbonet

Following the launch of leading British design brand Cabbonet's Los Angeles showroom, the acclaimed kitchen and dressing room purveyor has opened its dedicated art exhibition space, The Gallery at Cabbonet. The inaugural exhibition, titled "Timeless Icons," showcases world-class fine art from renowned photographers.

The Gallery at Cabbonet will see iconic works from legendary artists Timothy White, Norman Seeff, Markus Klinko and Charles Moriarty. Celebrating timeless icons with striking and intimate imagery, the month-long show will

exhibit 14 pieces, also available to purchase, including photos of Glenn Close, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, Whitney Houston, Al Pacino, Elizabeth Taylor, Whoopi Goldberg and Sophia Loren by White; Amy Winehouse by Moriarty; Ray Charles by Seeff; and The Protector, David Bowie and Natural Villains by Klinko.

The exhibition will be on display through Nov. 10 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, visit [cabbonet.com](http://cabbonet.com). The Gallery at Cabbonet is located inside the Pacific Design Center at 8687 Melrose Ave., Suite B360.



photo by Charles Moriarty

Charles Moriarty's iconic photo of Amy Winehouse is among the works on display in The Gallery at Cabbonet.

# Gatsby roars into the Majestic



photos courtesy of The Great Gatsby Party

The Majestic will party it up with a 1920s flair.

What better way to kick off the fall social calendar than at The Great Gatsby Party? The festivities of excess and decadence get a Halloween spook-tacular twist at The Majestic on Oct. 25-26.

Evenings have been tailor-made to dazzle. Exquisite cocktails, live music and otherworldly entertainment including aerialists, contortionists, showgirls and never-before-seen performances add an air of possibility to each event. For those wanting to turn the evening into a grander affair, table packages are available, complete with caviar, bubbly and excellent views of the main stage. Limited tickets are available.

For information and tickets, visit [greatgatsbyparty.com/tickets](http://greatgatsbyparty.com/tickets). The Majestic is located at 650 S. Spring St.



photo courtesy of the Academy Museum

Rita Moreno will introduce the Oscar-winning "West Side Story" (1961) on Oct. 17.

# Academy enjoys colorful October

The Academy Museum's two new dynamic exhibitions are now open. "Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema" delves into the vibrant world of color in film, showcasing its scientific advancements and emotional resonance. With six immersive galleries, the exhibition invites visitors to experience the storytelling power of color through a rich array of artifacts spanning the silent era to the digital age. "Cyberpunk: Envisioning Possible Futures Through Cinema" explores the powerful influence of the cyberpunk genre, highlighting its portrayal of near-future societies shaped by technology, social upheaval and rebellion against corruption.

In conjunction with the opening of "Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema," the Academy Museum presents "The Wonders of Technicolor" screening series, which celebrates the lasting impact of Technicolor on Hollywood films, showcasing how its vibrant color process

shaped cinematic visuals and production design from the 1930s onward.

On Oct. 17, join for a conversation with Oscar-winning actress Rita Moreno and "West Side Story" in 70 mm at 7:30 p.m.

Ongoing this month, the Academy Museum features "Hasta La Raíz | K'a Pa Ruxe'el | Até A Raiz | Nan Rasin Lan: To the Root," a series that offers a glimpse into the varied experiences Latine/x adolescents and young adults face, unearthed through the universal experience of self-discovery.

And calling all ghosts and ghouls. "Monster Mash" promises to be a monstrously good time with screenings, special effects makeup demonstrations, ghostly tours, monster appearances and fun-filled activities through Oct. 26 starting at 10:30 a.m.

For information, visit [academy-museum.org](http://academy-museum.org). The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.



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# L.A. Unified shows growth in SBA scores

Los Angeles Unified students achieved the largest increase from 2022 to 2023 on the Smarter Balanced Assessment test in comparison with other districts across California. Every grade level and nearly every student demographic demonstrated improvement, and priority schools saw bigger gains than non-priority schools. Students are achieving success regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. The achievement gap is closing.

“Los Angeles Unified has been diligently working to mitigate pandemic learning loss and to ensure that every student reaches their highest potential,” Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho said. “We developed a multitiered approach to student learning which includes high-dose tutoring, interventionists

for high needs schools, multilingual, multicultural academic language coaches, attendance initiatives and an increased number of Psychiatric Social Workers to support the social emotional wellbeing of students. These latest scores indicate our efforts are working. We recognize there is still more to do, and we are committed to making sure every student graduates ready for the world.”

The rate of students who met or exceeded standards in ELA increased by 1.9% which outpaced the state by 500%, and the rate of students who met or exceeded standards in math rose by 2.3% which outpaced the State by 300%. Other significant data includes gains in every grade level gains in every student demographic; priority schools outpaced statewide

improvement rates; Black students, English learners, students with disabilities, priority schools and all 3rd to 5th grade students exceeded pre-pandemic levels in math; students with disabilities, and English learners and priority schools exceeded pre-pandemic levels in ELA.

“We have been diligent in our planning and fiscal choices in prioritizing instructional programs, intervention strategies, connectivity support and wraparound supports,” Carvalho added. “Our schools are making positive strides and should be celebrated for their achievements. I want to thank our teachers, school site employees, District leaders, support staff and families for their commitment to our students and school communities. We are transforming lives.”



photo courtesy of the Music Center

Classical Instrumental is one of the categories students can apply for in the Music Center’s Spotlight program.

## ‘Spotlight’ deadline extended

The Music Center’s Spotlight, a free annual competition that provides more than \$100,000 in performing arts scholarships and artistic development to Southern California high school students through auditions, feedback and mastery classes taught by professional artists and arts administrators, has extended the application deadline to Friday, Oct. 18, at 11:59 p.m. Applying for Spotlight is free; high school students of all skill levels are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must submit a video audition online and may apply in one or more of the following categories: Acting, Ballet, Dance,

Classical Instrumental, Contemporary Instrumental, Classical Voice and Non-Classical Voice. All who apply will receive personalized written feedback from distinguished panels of judges and a certificate of achievement. Each applicant will have the opportunity to gain valuable audition experience and knowledge in their disciplines through mastery classes and performances. Through a supportive environment, students can develop important life skills, including self-esteem, preparation and perseverance.

To apply, visit [musiccenter.org/spotlight](https://musiccenter.org/spotlight).

# Dogs costume contest growls into MTP

Greenway Arts Alliance is hosting its third annual dog costume

contest at the Melrose Trading Post on Sunday, Oct. 27 on the main



photo courtesy of Greenway Arts Alliance

Dogs will don their Halloween best on Oct. 27.

stage in the red section of the market. Last year there were over 50 amazing contestants who impressed the crowd with their amazing costumes. Many costumes were handmade, including themed floats and matching human-dog costumes.

The event will be hosted by comedian Sampson McCormick, and judged by Lisa Hernandez, the assistant principal of Fairfax High School, and Ronald Wilson of Rhinestone Master Creations. Categories will include best handmade costume, best human/dog duo costume, best float costume and best-in-show.

The sponsors will give out amazing prizes, including one year of free admission to MTP for two, exciting cash prizes, gift certificates to local favorite restaurants, and stylish dog gifts from MTP vendors and artists. Registration is open now at [melrosetradingpost.org/mtp-dogs](https://melrosetradingpost.org/mtp-dogs).

Melrose Trading Post is located at Fairfax High School, 7850 Melrose Ave.

## Stars turn out for ‘Coraline’

On Oct. 12, Cinespia and LAIKA Studios hosted a 15th anniversary screening of “Coraline” at Hollywood Forever Cemetery, located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd., presented by Amazon MGM Studios that featured talent appearances from Jessica Alba, Chrissy Teigen (pictured) and Teri Hatcher. For tickets to Cinespia’s Oct. 31 screening of “Suspiria” and Halloween party at the Orpheum Theatre, located at 842 S. Broadway, visit [cinespia.org](https://cinespia.org).



photo courtesy of Cinespia/Kelly Lee Barrett

## VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

### Voting underway for Nov. 5 General Election



A collection of political buttons published in the Oct. 21, 1976, issue of the Park Labrea News, less than two weeks before the 1976 presidential election. The buttons were displayed at Home Savings and Loan branches that year, when then-Georgia governor and Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter, who just celebrated his 100th birthday on Oct. 1, defeated President Gerald Ford.

Early voting has started for the Nov. 5, 2024, General Election, with vote by mail ballots already sent to all registered voters in Los Angeles County. Vote by mail ballots can be mailed to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk’s office and dropped off at local ballot drop boxes. Vote by mail ballots can also be dropped off at Vote Centers, which open on Oct. 26. All polling centers will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Nov. 5 for in-person voting. For information on casting ballots, Vote Centers and drop box locations, visit [lavote.gov](https://lavote.gov).

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## Citizen scientists sought for L.A. BioBlitz Challenge

Residents are encouraged to join the fourth annual L.A. BioBlitz Challenge running through Oct. 31 to protect and support biodiversity using the iNaturalist mobile app to observe and photograph wildlife such as animals, insects and plants.

The Los Angeles Public Library's Neighborhood Science Initiative and L.A. Sanitation and Environment's Biodiversity Program are collaborating with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County to host bioblitz events throughout the city. The goal is to crowdsource photographs and information about the city's existing native biodiversity to assist researchers in determining the distribution of wildlife and health of the environment. Throughout October, libraries will present interactive and hands-on programs for children, teens and adults to learn more about biodiversity, wildlife and what they can do to make a positive impact on the environment.

"We are thrilled to see the continued growth of the L.A. BioBlitz Challenge," Los Angeles City

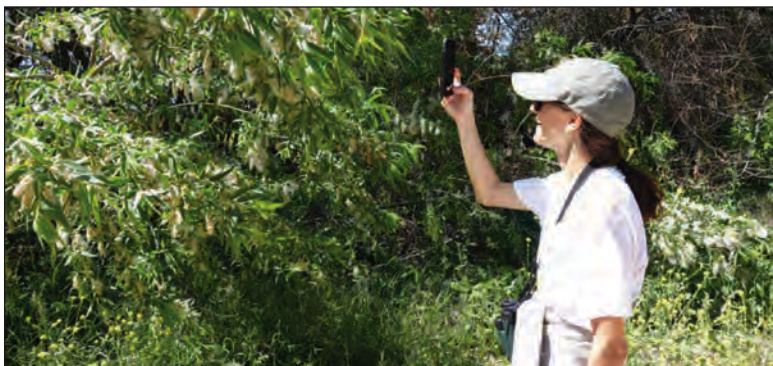


photo courtesy of Los Angeles Library

Participants take photographs of animals, insects and plants, which scientists use to document local biodiversity in Los Angeles.

Librarian John F. Szabo said.

More than 56% of the Los Angeles city population lives within a half mile of a park or open space. Participants are asked to download the iNaturalist app on their mobile devices to photograph and map observations in Los Angeles. The crowdsourced data will help reduce observational “cold spots” that lack data and inform efforts to conserve and protect wildlife habitats.

Since the inaugural challenge in 2020, participants have recorded more than 32,500 observations, documenting 29 of 38 key indicator species. The effort has provided

valuable data on the city's habitat quality.

To complete the challenge, participants will need to upload at least 10 observations of animals, insect and plants to the iNaturalist project titled “L.A. BioBlitz Challenge 2024” including three or more indicator species, which are used to infer the condition of a particular habitat; one or more invasive species, which can indicate potential threats to local ecosystems; and one or more observations in data cold spots, which are areas that lack recorded observations.

For information, visit  
lapl.org/bioblitz.

## Getty hosts family festival

The Getty recently announced its upcoming family event, the Art and Science Family Festival, happening Oct. 19-20 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Getty Center. Guests can pique their curiosity at this interactive family festival celebrating Getty's PST ART: Art & Science Collide.

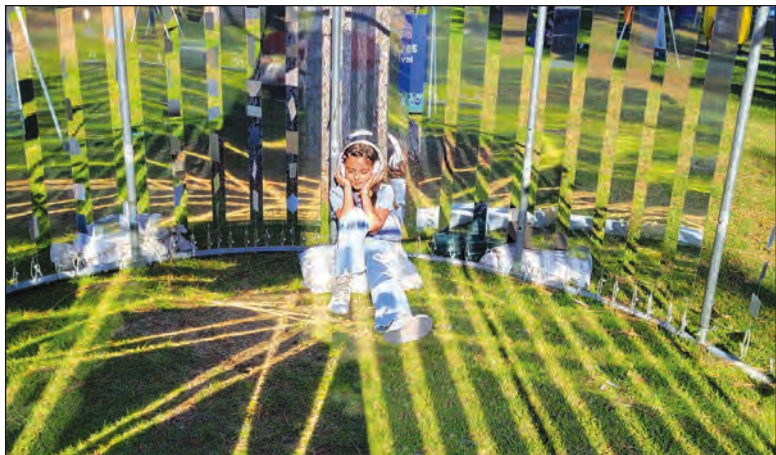


photo courtesy of Getty

The festival at the Getty Center will offer guests of all ages the chance to experience interactive artwork.

Attendees will see how light can dazzle and delight by making their own suncatchers and creating pictures with the power of the sun. Visitors of all ages can explore the medieval idea of the cosmos by making their own piece of wearable art based on their astrological sign.

or imagine seeing Earth from outer space with a huge interactive globe where guests can add elements to make the world a better place for everyone to live. There is something for every curious mind at this free daylong event.

Southern California's landmark arts event, PST ART: Art & Science Collide presents more than 70 exhibitions from organizations across the region exploring the intersections of art and science, both past and present. For information, visit [pst.art](http://pst.art).

The event is free and open to the public. To register, visit [tickets.getty.edu](http://tickets.getty.edu).

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive.

## Deadline is Oct. 17 for College Television Awards

The Television Academy Foundation has announced the submission period is open for the 44th College Television Awards, a ceremony that recognizes and rewards excellence in student-produced programs from colleges and universities nationwide, to be held in spring 2025.

Open to undergraduate and graduate students, College Television Awards entries are judged by Television Academy members, emulating the Emmy Awards selection process. Awards and over \$25,000 in cash prizes will be presented by television stars at the red-carpet ceremony to winning teams in eight categories: Animation Series; Comedy Series; Commercial, PSA or Promo; Drama Series; News; Nonfiction Series; Sports; and the Loreen Arbus Focus on Disability Scholarship.

Criteria for the College Television Awards reflect industry standards of excellence, imagination and innovation across categories. Nominations will be announced Dec. 4.

The program also includes exclusive opportunities for all participating nominees to network and connect with industry leaders over three days of professional-development events with top Hollywood talent and executives prior to the awards ceremony held at the Television Academy's Wolf Theatre in the Saban Media Center, located at 5220 Lankershim Blvd.

The \$10,000 Loreen Arbus Focus on Disability Scholarship recognizes a student-produced program focused on people with disabilities or helps emerging artists with a disability gain recognition and is underwritten by the Loreen Arbus Foundation. In addition, the Seymour Bricker Humanitarian Award, a \$4,000 cash prize, will be presented to a College Television Award-winning project at the awards ceremony that best highlights a humanitarian concern.

Deadline for entries is Oct. 17, at 5 p.m. To enter, visit [cta.television-academy.com/login](http://cta.television-academy.com/login).

**Beverly Hills High School presents**  
**"The Diary of Anne Frank"**

The Beverly Hills High School Theatre Department presents the timeless and powerful play, "The Diary of Anne Frank," newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman from the original work by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett. Performances will be held at the Ron Brown Auditorium at Horace Mann Elementary School on Nov. 14-16 and Nov. 21-23, 2024. Showtimes are 7 p.m., with a special matinee on Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.

In a time when reflecting on history's lessons is more crucial than ever, "The Diary of Anne Frank" offers audiences a poignant opportunity to engage with an essential piece of our past. Its themes of tolerance, bravery, and hope resonate deeply with today's world. The BHHS Theatre Department invites the community to come together for this powerful moment of education, remembrance and storytelling.

This production is supported by the Beverly Hills Unified School District, the Beverly Hills Education Foundation, Career and Technical Education and the California Educational Theatre Association. The play explores Anne Frank's harrowing yet inspiring story, and due to its sensitive subject matter, parental guidance is recommended.

Mark your calendars for what is sure to be one of the most profound productions of the season. Don't miss this opportunity to experience this deeply moving performance.

Tickets are \$35 for VIP, \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students. To purchase tickets, visit [bhhs.bhusd.org/theatre](http://bhhs.bhusd.org/theatre).

For information, contact [bhhstheatre@bhUSD.org](mailto:bhhstheatre@bhUSD.org).

Horace Mann Elementary School is located at 8701 Charleville Blvd.

## 'Kimberly Akimbo' lottery opens

“Kimberly Akimbo,” the winner of five 2023 Tony Awards including Best Musical, will make its Los Angeles premiere at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre for a limited three-week engagement, through Nov. 3.

Tickets are now available for purchase at [broadwayinhollywood.com](http://broadwayinhollywood.com) or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com). Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre box office, located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd.

A \$35 digital lottery will be offered for every performance in Los Angeles exclusively through the official Broadway in Hollywood app. The app can be downloaded by visiting [broadwayinhollywood.com/app](http://broadwayinhollywood.com/app). The lottery will open for each performance at

11 a.m. two days prior to each performance and will close one day prior at 10 a.m. Tickets will be available for lottery winners beginning two hours prior to the posted curtain time at the box office with valid ID. For details and restrictions, download the app and visit the “Lottery” section on the “Tickets” tab.



photo by Joan Marcus

Carolee Carmello appears in "Kimberly Akimbo."



# ALICE!

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# O’Gara Coach unveils new Rolls-Royce

On Oct. 10, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Beverly Hills, under O’Gara Coach, was the first dealer in North America to host an unveiling of the new Rolls-Royce Black Badge Cullinan Series II, and Cullinan Series II. The glamorous event in Bel-Air took place at an eye-catching private residence with a picturesque view, setting the stage for an evening of pure sophistication and excitement, enjoyed by a high-profile guest list.

The exclusive gathering was a true celebration of luxury motor-cars, with the spotlight on the Black Badge Cullinan Series II – an evolved, more visceral representation of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. With proven performance of 600 PS horsepower and 900 Nm torque preserved, the Cullinan model features graceful force and power. It is commanding yet refined in its polished exterior contours and iconic Illuminated grille. Fine materials and contemporary design techniques combine, creating works of art throughout the interior. In this vehicle, individuals lounge in the comfort of exquisite craftsmanship and the spirit of ecstasy.

During the evening, guests enjoyed an unveiling of the Black Badge Cullinan Series II in a stunning arctic white exterior with lime green detail and a black interior. With the newly revealed vehicles on display, guests were treated to curated Golden Eagle cocktails colored in the signature Rolls-Royce Motor Cars purple spirit and enjoyed a delicious array of fresh bites from Crateful Catering and bumps from Imperia caviar. Other libations included dirty martinis and classic margaritas from LALO Spirits and Filthy Foods, along with

elevated wine pairings from Lewis Cellars. A live string quartet played lively top hits, while a magician worked his way through the crowd surprising guests with his cheeky tricks.

The guest list boasted an array of actors, car enthusiasts, media and tastemakers. Many of them stopped at the customized Rolls-Royce Motor Cars floral installations to

take photos. The presence of notable personalities, including actor Orlando Pineda of the hit series Monsters, influencers Rocky Barnes, Caitlyn Chase and Jermaine Mitchell, captured the essence of elegance and style synonymous with the renowned Rolls-Royce Motor Cars brand.

For information, visit [ogara-coach.com](http://ogara-coach.com).



photo courtesy of O’Gara Coach

The luxury automobile was unveiled at a private residence in Bel-Air on Oct. 10.

RFQ #24-350-58

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT  
345 FOOTHILL ROAD  
BEVERLY HILLS,  
CALIFORNIA 90210

REQUEST FOR  
PREQUALIFICATION OF  
BIDDERS AND  
PREQUALIFICATION  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR:

Notice of the Establishment of  
a Qualified Contractors Lists  
for Elevator Modernization  
and Replacement at Various  
City Facilities

Notice is hereby given that the City of Beverly Hills (“CITY”) has determined that all bidders for Notice of the Establishment of a Qualified Contractors Lists for Elevator Modernization and Replacement at Various City Facilities (“Project”) must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid. It is mandatory that all Contractors who intend to submit a bid, fully complete the prequalification questionnaire, provide all materials requested herein, and be approved by the CITY to be on the final qualified Bidders list.

No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid. The last date to submit a fully completed questionnaire is **5:00 PM Monday, October 28, 2024.**

Contractors must register as a vendor at the following website in order to download the prequalification package, and to receive clarificationss and notifications when issued.

The Prequalification package may be viewed on, and downloaded from the City’s PlanetBids portal: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/104883>

This item is listed as: *Notice of the Establishment of a Qualified Contractors Lists for Elevator Modernization and Replacement at Various City Facilities.* Answers to questions contained in the questionnaire are required. The CITY will use these documents as the basis of

rating Contractors with respect to whether each Contractor is qualified to bid on the Project, and reserves the right to check other sources available. The CITY’s decision will be based on objective evaluation criteria.

The CITY reserves the right to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the prequalification rating based on subsequently learned information. Contractors whose rating changes sufficiently to disqualify them will be notified, and given an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a prequalification rating.

While it is the intent of the pre-qualification questionnaire and documents required therewith to assist the CITY in determining bidder responsibility prior to bid and to aid the CITY in selecting the lowest responsible bidder, neither the fact of prequalification, nor any prequalification rating, will preclude the CITY from a post-bid consideration and determination of whether a bidder has the quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the proposed work, and has demonstrated the requisite trustworthiness.

All qualifications submittals are required to be submit electronically via PlanetBids. The electronic submittal system will close exactly at the date and time set forth in this request for qualifications.

Any questions regarding the questionnaire and qualification package should be submitted via PlanetBids by 2:00PM, October 21, 2024. Questions sent via email or over the phone; with the exception of those related to accessing or using PlanetBids, will not be answered.

Contractors are responsible for submitting and having their documents accepted before the closing time set forth in the request for qualifications. **NOTE:** Pushing the submit button on the electronic submittal system may not be instantaneous; it may take time for the Contractor’s documents to upload and transmit before the documents are accepted. It is the Contractor’s sole responsibility to ensure their documents are uploaded, transmitted, and arrive in time electronically. The City of Beverly Hills will have no responsibility

for documents that do not arrive in a timely manner, no matter what the reason.

The prequalification packages submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. All information provided will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. However, the contents may be disclosed to third parties for purpose of verification, or investigation of substantial allegations, or in an appeal hearing. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for prequalification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

Each questionnaire must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form, by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the CITY and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury.

The CITY reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the prequalification application submitted, and to make all final determinations. The CITY may also determine at any time that the prequalification process will be suspended for the Project and the Project will be bid without prequalification.

Contractors may submit all qualifications submittals electronically via Planet Bids. Contractors who submit a complete prequalification package will be notified of their qualification status no later than ten business days after submission of the information.

The CITY may refuse to grant prequalification where the requested information and materials are not provided by the due date indicated above. There is no appeal from a refusal for an incomplete or late application, but re-application for a later project is permitted. Neither the closing time for submitting prequalification packages for this Project will be changed in order to accommodate supplementation of incomplete submissions, or late submissions, unless requested by the CITY in its sole

discretion.

In addition to a contractor’s failure to be pre-qualified pursuant to the scoring system set forth in the prequalification package, a contractor may be found not pre-qualified for either omission of or falsification of, any requested information.

Where a timely and completed application results in a rating below that necessary to pre-qualify, an appeal can be made by the unsuccessful Contractor. An appeal is begun by the Contractor delivering notice to the CITY of its appeal of the decision with respect to its prequalification rating, no later than two business days following notification that it is not pre-qualified. The notice of appeal shall include an address where the Contractor wishes to receive notice of the appeal hearing. Without a timely appeal, the Contractor waives any and all rights to challenge the decision of the CITY, whether by administrative process, judicial process or any other legal process or proceeding.

If the Contractor gives the required notice of appeal, a hearing shall be conducted no earlier than five business days after the CITY’s receipt of the notice of appeal and not later than five business days prior to the date of the Notice Inviting Bids for this Project. Prior to the hearing, the Contractor shall, in writing, be advised of the basis for the City’s pre-qualification determination.

The hearing shall be conducted by a panel consisting of three members of the Public Works Department senior management staff (the “Appeals Panel”). The Appeals Panel shall consider any evidence presented by the Contractor, whether or not the evidence is presented in compliance with formal rules of evidence. The Contractor will be given the opportunity to present evidence, information and arguments as to why the Contractor believes it should be pre-qualified. Within one day after the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeals Panel will render a written determination as to whether the Contractor is pre-qualified. It is the intention of the CITY that the date for the submission and opening of bids will not be delayed or postponed to allow for completion of an appeal process.

## Paint like Jasper Johns at the Broad

Create a painting inspired by Broad collection artist Jasper Johns. Johns often used encaustic painting, which involves colored wax, to take popular symbols, like the American flag, and reimagine them, shifting what those symbols mean. Make an encaustic painting by using decorating wax, wax sticks and recycled magazines to shape a work on canvas. Experiment with mixing colors, making shapes and layering wax to create different effects on your artwork. The event, held on Oct. 19 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., is free at the East West Bank Plaza at The Broad. For information and to RSVP, visit [thebroad.org/events/family-weekend-workshops-encaustic-expressions](http://thebroad.org/events/family-weekend-workshops-encaustic-expressions). The Broad is located at 221 S. Grand Ave.

This iteration of The Broad’s Family Weekend Workshops is presented as part of Grand Avenue Arts: All Access. See the full schedule of activities and destinations to explore Grand Avenue on Saturday at [grandavearts.org](http://grandavearts.org).



photo by Salvador Ceja Garcia

Families can paint together at The Broad Oct. 19.



Measure G

From page 1

supervisor represents almost 2 million people.

Horvath said that there would be no budget strain on tax payers in the expansion.

“Nobody’s paying an additional cent in taxes in order for this change to happen. My colleagues brought forward a motion, which we all supported, to do an independent fiscal analysis by the auditor controller, and his independent fiscal analysis said that implementing these changes would cost \$8 million, and while that is not nothing, when we’re looking at a \$49 billion budget, which the board currently has, I believe we’re going to find the resources within that existing budget quite easily.”

Barger, however, argues that the measure as written would result in less transparency.

“Having been with the county for 35 years, I’ve seen this brought before the voters before, but it was brought before the voters as an elected CEO, and it failed. This time [the CEO is] buried within an expansion of the board and creating an independent ethics commission,” Barger said. “By the way, it’s not independent. [The commission is] going to be appointed by the board. But having said that, those that believe the argument that the proponents are making, that this will actually provide better representation, should better understand exactly what this does. This, in fact, takes the power away from the board, expands the board to nine, and takes the ability to have the departments directly under them. It moves that all out and gives it to one elected CEO. So, in fact, what you’re doing is you’re actually moving away from representation throughout the county and consolidating it to one individual. And I truly believe it will politicize the county in a way that I have not seen.”

Barger said that the board expansion is being used to hoodwink the voters.

“I call the expansion of the board and even the ethics commission the Trojan horse, because it resonates with people,” she said. “I’d also point out that if you look at the city of L.A., when they do any sort of reform, it comes from the bottom up, is transparent, and they put together a body that that will review it before it is brought to the voters. In this case, that was not done. I found out about the motion on Monday that it was coming to the board on Tuesday. That contradicts the whole argument of transparency in government.”

Barger also argued that the cost would not be insignificant unlike Horvath professed.

“Holly and I asked for the auditor controller to put together a cost analysis as to what an estimate is. Just the startup cost alone, not considering the millions that we require year after year on ongoing expenses, is \$8 million. I know that if you’re expanding the board to nine, you’ve got staff, you’ve got also four additional board members. And so to argue that it’s going to be cost neutral is disingenuous.”

She added that a CEO being responsible for all county resident services, particularly in unincorporated communities, would be a major problem.

“It’s actually less than 2 million that [each supervisor is] responsible for the municipal services. And that gets lost on people, because 10 million is a large number, and now one

elected CEO is going to oversee all 10,” Barger said.

Among the supporters of Measure G is L.A. County Assessor Jeff Prang and California Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Los Angeles).

“Measure G is a step toward a more inclusive and accountable Los Angeles County,” Prang said. “It ensures greater representation, transparency, oversight, which are essential to building a government that truly reflects and serves all its people while creating a government that is more responsive to our more than 10 million residents.”

“I’m proud to endorse Measure G because it’s about giving the people of Los Angeles County the fair, accountable government they deserve,” Zbur said. “By modernizing how our county operates, Measure G will bring transparency, equity and stronger leadership to the forefront, making sure that the LGBTQ+ community and all communities have an effective voice at the table.”

There are also prominent detractors, including the council majority of Beverly Hills, although Horvath pointed to the support of Councilman John Mirisch, as well as the flipped support of an unnamed councilwoman.

“One of the council members from Beverly Hills came up [to me] and said she wished she had talked to me before she voted. Because, [she said], ‘Actually, this sounds really great, and we should be supporting it,’” Horvath said.

Barger said that when she explains the CEO portion of Measure G to residents, they are uniformly opposed.

“I’m hearing it in my community. People are sick and tired of politicians telling them what they think is best for them. They want to think for themselves,” she said.

“[The L.A. County Board of Supervisors] are the only government like this on the planet that has the executive, the legislative and quasi-judicial authority, all within a board of five people and so separating out that executive authority creates a check and balance,” Horvath countered. “We’ve seen the board do amazing things on the legislative front to pass incredible motions that are groundbreaking, and yet they fall short in their implementation, because there is no one person inside the county bureaucracy who is empowered to help implement that change ... When five people are in charge, no one’s in charge, and not having that one person in charge really slows down our ability to implement change and progress that is desperately needed in Los Angeles County right now.”

Ultimately, the fate of board will come down to county voters.

Make no mistake, I’m termed out in 2028, so this is not about me,”

See Measure G page 22

Investigation extends

From page 1

accused Whittington of theft, alleging that he entered lease agreements and rented high-end automobiles from them before listing the vehicles on his website and displaying the cars for sale in his showroom. They allege Whittington sold the vehicles, which he did not own, without their knowledge or permission.

“I have filed police reports for grand theft auto with [the] Beverly Hills Police Department on behalf of three different lenders that are victims,” said Matthew DeLisio, a private detective who investigates financial crimes.

DeLisio also alleged that the BHPD is “refusing” to reach out to TRAP – L.A. County’s Task Force

for Regional Auto Theft Prevention – to investigate Whittington.

It is unclear if the California Department of Motor Vehicles is involved in the BHPD investigation.

“The DMV does not comment on open investigations,” DMV spokesman Chris Orrock said when asked by the Beverly Press if the department was investigating Whittington.

Whittington also faces at least a dozen lawsuits from former clients, including NBA player Spencer Dinwiddie. In August, Whittington was ordered to pay over \$11 million across three separate lawsuits filed by a single plaintiff.

Whittington was arrested by BHPD on Sept. 10 for alleged check fraud before being quickly released. He reportedly owed the MGM Grand Casino in Las Vegas

\$13,525 for a fraudulent check.

From at least 2022 until earlier this year, Wires Only operated as a luxury car showroom and dealership in Beverly Hills, despite having no business license, no DMV license and no conditional use permit. Whittington also did not pay business taxes for sales made at the location in Beverly Hills.

The dealership also operated out of a building on Sepulveda Boulevard in West L.A., and Whittington is now being evicted from both locations.

Wires Only was the subject of the Jamie Foxx-produced Discovery Plus series “Million Dollar Wheels.” The reality series followed Whittington and two other car dealers as they competed to sell luxury vehicles to celebrities including Kim Kardashian and Tom Holland.

Candidates vie for seats

From page 1

do a number of things to build housing,” Erickson said, arguing that he has held developers’ “feet to the fire” when it comes to including a large number of affordable units. He pointed to a 100% affordable housing development on Wetherly Drive that was approved by the council during his tenure.

“As a renter and as someone who advocates for housing at all levels, we have to start being in the in the mindset of saying yes to housing, because if we don’t, the state will take away even more power than we’ve already lost,” he said.

He said he would like to streamline the entitlement process in the city to move projects along more quickly and keep them from entering development purgatory.

“I tried this two years ago with a streamlining item. It got bogged down in bureaucracy. I plan on bringing it back and being more aggressive to ensure that community, as well as housing interests, can be served to ensure that we’re playing our part to build over the 3,600-some units that we have to build by 2030,” Erickson said.

He said he also wants to streamline processes for small business owners, as many storefronts remain empty in the city.

“When it takes a year when something should be an over-the-counter permit approval, then [small business owners] are not only building money into a budget that they might not have, but they’re wasting money. We should be working with our businesses to get them in and out of City Hall, to get their businesses open quicker and more efficiently,” Erickson said.

He said he felt the city, too, needs to invest in its “streets and sidewalks,” which extends to continuing to support the West Hollywood e-scooter dockless mobility pro-

gram.

“The e-scooter program is widely used by a number of residents. I use them myself. Is it a perfect program? Absolutely not. Do we want people riding on the sidewalks? Absolutely not. Do we want them blocking our sidewalks for people when they’re walking? Absolutely not. And that is why we need to create permanent docking stations, like they have in other cities,” he said.

Erickson has been a proponent of a redesign for Fountain Avenue, a controversial topic amongst some residents, particularly the proposed inclusion of protected bike lanes.

“The statistics for speeding tickets and accidents on Fountain Avenue, which is designated a neighborhood street, are not just staggering, they’re mind boggling,” he said.

Erickson said, however, that no final plan has been approved – as some candidates have suggested – and that the city is in the middle of “robust outreach.”

“We need to do all that we can to make our streets safer,” he added.

In terms of public safety, Erickson maintains his stance on keeping the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Department staffed at its current level while continuing to utilize Block by Block ambassadors.

“The West Hollywood Sheriff’s Department has every tool and resource both now available to them and coming to them in the future,” Erickson said, touting his endorsement by Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna. “He knows that I am working with him and the department to make sure our deputies get everything that they need ... We need to do all that we can to be partners with them.”

“I love West Hollywood because as a proud gay man who came from Ripon, Wisconsin. I’m sure there I could have been me eventually. But here, I was allowed to be me, and I was loved. I was honored. We have a city that not only says you matter,

but it says you matter and we’re gonna fight for you. That’s who we are as a city. That’s who will always be as a city. My promise to the residents and the businesses of this city is I am going to continue to work hard, harder every day, because you deserve someone at

See Candidates page 22

Establishing a Family Trust

Thinking about what happens to your assets once you’re gone is never fun but spending just a few hours preparing for the inevitable could save your family months of confusion, arguments, court costs, attorney’s fees, and grief.

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# Candidates make their cases for City Council

From page 21

City Hall that answers your call, and I will always be that person.”  
For information about Erickson’s campaign, visit [erickson4weho.com](http://erickson4weho.com).

### George Nickle

Public safety commissioner George Nickle said the wellbeing of his neighbors made him into a politician. Nickle is a resident of West Hollywood’s east side, near Plummer Park, and considers the city his and his husband’s forever home.

“I’ve lived in the city for 20 years. I’ve lived here longer than I have anywhere else. I really do love the city. I knew about West Hollywood long before I ever moved here. I knew it was a special place for my community,” he said. “I just feel that it is going in the wrong direction. And a lot of people that I speak with feel the same way.”

As a longtime renter, Nickle said protecting rent control is important to him and that he supports California’s Proposition 33.

“We live in a rent stabilized unit. I’m very lucky to have a mom-and-pop landlord. I know them. We’re friends. But we couldn’t be here anymore if it weren’t for rent stabilization,” he said, pointing to West Hollywood’s history with being a city founded on renter protections. “That was the reason why the city was founded. People wanted to protect rent control. They came together and they created an amazing place. There are outside forces spending tens of thousands of dollars going around telling people that I am against affordable housing, which could not be farther than the truth. I think I’m the only candidate who stood up when the council majority, including the mayor, voted against replacing every single rent stabilized unit when demolished by a developer, one for one.”

Nickle said he’s worried about the safety of residents, particularly after what he views as attempts by the City Council to undercut the sheriff’s department.

“I started a neighborhood watch group seven years ago. I am currently a public safety commissioner appointed by Councilwoman Lauren Meister. And when they tried to defund the police – and they were partially successful two years ago – that’s when I started speaking up and really stepping forward,” he said. “If you were to go by the national average the FBI records, we should have closer to 88 sworn deputies. We currently have 62. When we get that, then they will have the force that is necessary to have more people on the on foot patrols, and people to train for bike patrols.”

He said that there has been an

increase in armed robberies, with outsiders specifically targeting LGBTQ+ residents.

“I’m tired of hearing people like the mayor saying that it’s fear mongering to talk about it. It is not fear mongering to face the facts,” Nickle said.

He also said he thinks a lack of public outreach and consideration has led to potentially negative movement on Fountain Avenue, Gardner Street and other areas earmarked for potential bike lanes. Nickle said that while he and many residents are in favor of the ADA improvements, including wider sidewalks, there has been a lack of transparency when it comes to parking, driving and emergency considerations.

“The people that actually have to get on the streets and respond to 911 calls and those big fire trucks with ambulances have not been consulted, and it will absolutely impact their ability to get to people in an emergency,” he said. “Outreach is another problem. The plans are taking away 56% of parking on Gardner. People were not consulted and when [a resident] said, ‘No, we were not told,’ that they wanted parking, the mayor’s response was, ‘Well, they have to care. They have to understand the project.’”

“For a lot of people that they can’t ride to work. They’re disabled. They’re older,” he said.

Languishing development, especially empty lots and buildings on the east side, are a primary concern for Nickle, as well.

“I am not taking money from big developers. Over 70% of my donations come from West Hollywood residents, people who live here want to make a difference,” he said. “People don’t even know mostly about this one developer called FMB that managed to get approval for over 20 projects here on the east side in my neighborhood. You know how many they completed? one of them. How does that happen? How are they not required to prove that they actually have the funding to at least complete one thing before they’re just given approval after approval after approval?”

He said reforming this process should extend to protecting buildings that are considered historical by residents, while still managing the needs for new builds.

“We need development,” Nickle said. “I would prefer that we protect our history and that we cherish it. We don’t just tear it down. We build around it.”

Ultimately, Nickle said that he wants to see the city return to its

### Measure G

From page 22

Barger said. “This is about the county that I’ve worked for for 35 years, the county that I’ve committed to leaving in a better place than I found it, and this is absolutely a step backwards.”

“We know from our polling that a significant majority of Angelenos are really ready for this change now,” Horvath said. “I think there’s some disinformation that’s out there could cause people to possibly miss a truly once in a lifetime opportunity to reform their government. And so, taking the time to really understand what’s in [Measure G] is really critical.”

roots – the hamlet he remembers moving to two decades ago.

“There are problems in the city, specifically, that have been created because of the decisions of our current council majority over the last four years, especially, but none of them cannot be overcome,” he said. “I didn’t move to West Hollywood to work at City Hall, and I certainly didn’t move here to run for city council, but I’ve been here for 20 years, and that’s why I’m running.”

For information about Nickle’s campaign, visit [nickle4weho.com](http://nickle4weho.com).

### West Seegmiller

Activist West Seegmiller caused a stir at the Sept. 26 West Hollywood City Council candidate forum when he expressed that West Hollywood had “lost a lot of its luster.” Seegmiller works as a radio journalist and founded the “medical freedom advocacy and support group” Free WeHo Coalition. Previously, he worked as a medical researcher at UCLA. He feels that during the pandemic the city went down the wrong path.

“I never had ambitions to run for office. I’m a grassroots organizer. I’ve been doing that for about 15 years,” Seegmiller said. “I’m a big medical freedom guy. That’s sort of my primary area of organizing the last four years. And I [support] whatever people’s personal health choices when it comes to being vaccinated or not. What 2020 revealed is that we had a really troubling lack of intellectual diversity in West Hollywood City Council. I opposed the lockdowns. I opposed the vaccine mandates, and more generally, I was in very strong opposition to the vilification of people based on their personal health choices, or that just had a dissenting opinion.”

To get back to its glory, Seegmiller said, the city needs to take a more independent approach

to governance.

“The thrust of my campaign is just to bring back a sense of respect for diversity of opinion, not just diversity of identity,” he said.

He said that the city has gotten too partisan.

“I’m actually very troubled by how the LGBT community has been co-opted and politicized for partisan political agendas. I think West Hollywood, unfortunately has fallen victim to this false notion that the LGBT community is a monolith politically, and I am a living example that is not true. People from the LGBT community have a range of opinions, lived experiences and attitudes that need to be reflected in our local leadership,” he said.

When it comes to the business community, Seegmiller said that he wants to see a return to thriving small mom-and-pop shops.

“In the aftermath of the lockdowns, our local economy never really fully recovered,” he said. “We saw the closure of cherished local businesses that really served the immediate needs of West Hollywood residents. Then when things opened back up, the types of businesses that were able to come in serve a very niche luxury market – things like expensive pot shops, tourist type of businesses, expensive hotels, expensive restaurants. And my vision for the types of businesses that we need to be encouraging in West Hollywood are businesses that serve the immediate needs of our residents – so, affordable grocery stores, affordable restaurants, laundromats – things that serve the basic needs of our residents, rather than catering to tourists, tourist economy or a drug tourism economy.”

He also is opposed to expanding bike lanes on Fountain Avenue.

“I can understand why because residents are fearing a lack of parking spaces and more congestion. [The current council is] trying to address safety issues for bike bicyclists. And you know, that’s fine and dandy, but what I think that we do need to [is] find a solution. I think that lane path should be redirected away from [thoroughfares]

that’s safer for bicyclists, and it also won’t take parking away from residents, and it won’t increase congestion,” Seegmiller said, noting that the proposed Fountain Avenue plan is in line with a United Nations global agenda to redesign cities “to be more insular and to actually discourage car use.”

“I do not subscribe to that vision of the future. I think that there needs to be a place for individual car ownership and to ensure that our cities facilitate that by preserving parking,” he said.

Seegmiller said he approves of the current council’s approach to housing goals.

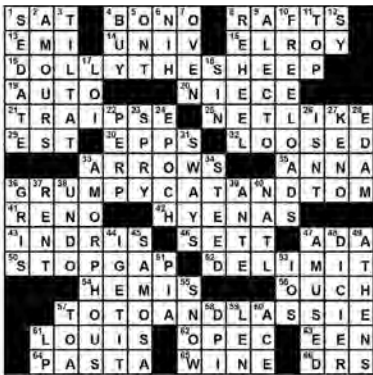
“I actually support the current council’s decision to lobby Sacramento to exempt West Hollywood from the Builders Remedy. Because it brings it back to the bigger picture of local control. West Hollywood needs to maintain as much autonomy over the development of our city, rather than it coming down from Sacramento’s mandate,” he said. “My vision for how to encourage affordable housing in West Hollywood is to actually protect the low-income units that we already have, including single family homes ... We also need to resist the false solution of micro units to address the affordable housing issue in West Hollywood.”

The independence of the city’s current residents is the most important issue, at the core, for Seegmiller.

“We need to feel the divides that were really intensified, especially in the last few years, and to create culture intellectual diversity. So, I’m the candidate that’s running on that platform of protecting people’s right to disagree with me and to protect their constitutionally enshrined right to free speech, free assembly, free association, to organize for what their values are, whether I agree with them or not. I am firmly committed to protecting those rights, and so that’s my campaign’s about,” he said.

For information about Seegmiller’s campaign, visit [west4weho.com](http://west4weho.com).

## Answers from page 23



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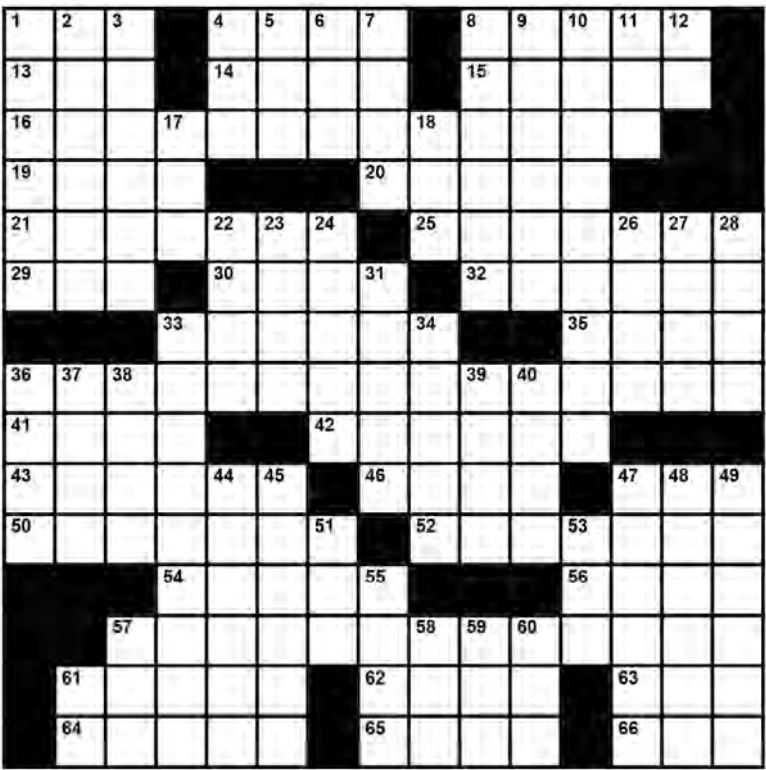
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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

- Across
1. Stayed  
4. He sang "I've Got You Under My Skin" with Frank Sinatra on "Duets"  
8. Some are inflated  
13. Former Brit. record label  
14. Purdue, e.g., abbr.  
15. Youngster in "The Jetsons"  
16. She was famous for being replicated  
19. Modern camera setting  
20. One in the family  
21. Walk about  
25. Similar to a web  
29. Plus-or-minus fig., abbr.  
30. Omar of 'House'  
32. Freed  
33. Some computer keys  
35. The "I" in "The King and I"  
36. Two felines, one an internet star and the other a failed mouse catcher  
41. City near Lake Tahoe  
42. Laughing dogs of Africa  
43. Short-tailed lemur  
46. Paving stone  
47. City in central Oklahoma  
50. Improvised  
52. Set the boundaries of  
54. Some engines  
56. Cry of pain  
57. Two famous dogs  
61. French king  
62. Oil decision makers  
63. Hallow ending  
64. Noodles
65. Pinot Noir, for example  
66. Hospital V.I.P.s
- Down
1. Calm  
2. Affairs  
3. Charge  
4. Accept, as an excuse  
5. Toronto's prov.  
6. Health inst.  
7. Hot spot  
8. Shoe repair  
9. One of the Furies  
10. Sponges off  
11. Blouse  
12. Simon, for short  
17. French for law  
18. Evil  
22. Criminal  
23. Nimble  
24. Period in history  
26. Ain't correct?  
27. Game of chance  
28. Dutch cheese  
31. Influences  
33. Unformed  
34. Bronco  
36. Cubism pioneer Juan  
37. It may be due on a duplex  
38. Disentangle  
39. Pay up  
40. One of the major leagues, abbr.  
44. "Aha!"  
45. Small turnover  
47. Delighted



48. More risky  
49. Greek city well known for its his-  
toric sites  
51. Brain membrane, the \_\_\_ mater  
53. Popular Aegean island  
55. Trick  
57. Start of an ode's title  
58. Pixel density

answers on page 22



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

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