



Partly cloudy,  
highs in the  
mid-70s

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# BEVERLY PRESS

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

October 23, 2025

## Beverly Hills commission denies Burton Way project

■ Developer may file litigation against city

BY TABOR BREWSTER

On Oct. 21, the Beverly Hills Planning Commission voted 4-1 to deny plans for a 309-foot-tall development at 8844 Burton Way. Commissioner Terri Kaplan was the lone vote in support of the project.

The 200-unit project was created by Crescent Heights, Inc., a development group responsible for several high-rise projects in Los Angeles including the 40-story

building at 10000 Santa Monica Blvd. in Century City. The project was initially proposed at 223 feet tall and 20 stories. However, changes in March and July by the developer increased the size of the project to 26 stories.

The development exceeds usual city height and density restrictions due to the builder's remedy, a state provision that allows private developers to bypass local code regulations when a project contains

See **Beverly Hills** page 25



The project would include 200 units, 14 of which would be reserved for extremely low-income residents.

## L.A. residents say 'No Kings in America'

■ Thousands attend protest in Beverly Hills' Roxbury Park

BY TABOR BREWSTER

On Saturday, Oct. 18, millions of people across the country gathered in public areas to protest the actions of President Donald Trump and his administration. Amid a government shutdown over a Trump-backed budget that includes cuts to federal programs and social services, protesters criticized the spending bill, decried the administration's treatment of immigrants and condemned what they call a crack-down on free speech. Organizers said approximately 2,500 demonstrations were held across the country, and the vast majority of events remained peaceful.

In Beverly Hills, many residents from the city and surrounding areas gathered in Roxbury Park, holding signs denouncing the president and the recent actions of federal agencies including Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

"The Beverly Hills No Kings rally was an enormous success," co-organizer and Beverly Hills resident Andrea Grossman said. "We estimate that about 3,500 people turned up at Roxbury Park. There was such great positive energy, with people eager to play a part in this urgent show of



photo courtesy Gay Abrams

Event organizers said approximately 3,500 people turned out to Roxbury Park for the No Kings protest.

community unity. It was uplifting and powerful to see such a great cross-section of the community involved in the day. The organizers are grateful to the Beverly Hills Police Department for their help, and to Beverly Hills Councilmembers Craig Corman and Mary Wells for attending and lending their support to this day of national protest."

Resident and co-organizer Gay Abrams said that while there were some pro-Trump counter-protest-

ers, the event remained peaceful. She said many volunteers were trained in de-escalation, and credited the safety in part to Covered 6, a private security firm hired for the event, and coordination with the BHPD.

"Saturday's No Kings rally in Beverly Hills was a powerful reminder of the strength in our community to peacefully and joyfully stand together for decency and democracy and to

See **Protests** page 26

## Looming special education cuts worry parents

■ Federal judge temporarily halts layoffs

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Trump administration has laid off approximately 466 employees at the Department of Education since the government shutdown over the proposed Republican-led budget. President Donald Trump has long promised to eliminate the Education Department entirely, and the latest cuts have raised alarms for education advocates across the country, particularly in special education programs. According to employees within the department, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services – which ensures that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education – has been reduced from 80-90 staff members to less than five. The action has prompted local parents to speak out at school board meetings.



photo by Edwin Folven

BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss assured the community that the district has already received its annual special education funding.

On Oct. 15, a federal judge in San Francisco temporarily halted the layoffs, ruling that they are an illegal use of power. However, the impending cuts to special educa-

tion have raised concerns among Democrats and people with families of children in special education programs.

See **Education** page 26

## WeHo City Playhouse moves next door to former Basix site

■ Community arts complex will include 99-seat theater

BY RANCE COLLINS

The former Coast Playhouse site has long been in development to be turned into a brand-new theatrical hub for West Hollywood. But recent land agreements by the city have moved the initial vision down the street.

At the Oct. 20 City Council meeting, the decision was made to take the city's theater development next door to 8327-8329 Santa Monica Blvd., the site of the former Basix restaurant, which closed during the pandemic. City staff said that the potential development opportunity for West Hollywood is more feasible at this location.

The West Hollywood City Playhouse will be near-8,000-square-foot arts facility, including a 99-seat performance space as its center piece, in addition to a rehearsal room and a flexible lobby space. The project was first developed after the city acquired the neighboring Coast Playhouse, a 1925 building that was converted into a small theater in the 1960s. It closed several years ago after being an important arm of the Los Angeles independent theater scene for decades.

The plans changed, however, after the City Council approved an agreement in August to lease the Basix property with a 10-year lease-to-own agreement.

"It feels like such an obvious move for this project to make," Mayor Chelsea Byers said. "It is a big feature project. It will

See **WeHo** page 25



# Good days start here.





CALENDAR

Andrew Rubin  
book signing

Author Andrew Rubin will sign and discuss “Hell or High Winter” on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel. The book is a contemporary urban reimagining of the myth of Hermes and Persephone – a supernatural action-adventure with sharp wit. Seating is limited. Book purchase required to reserve a seat. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. (310)576-9960, dieselbookstore.com.



Billy Childs

Six-time Grammy Award winner Billy Childs returns to the Catalina Jazz Club on Friday, Oct. 24, and Saturday, Oct. 25. Childs is among the most critically acclaimed pianists in contemporary jazz and among America’s most awarded and commissioned modern classical composers. Childs composes music for small and large jazz groups, chamber ensembles, choral groups and symphony orchestras. A Los Angeles native and USC graduate, he currently performs with the Billy Childs Quartet. Childs has previously performed with Yo-Yo Ma, Sting, Renee Fleming, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chris Botti and Wynton Marsalis. Tickets are \$57 on Oct. 24; \$62.15 on Oct. 25. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. 6725 W. Sunset Blvd. catalinajazzclub.com.



Grand Ave Arts

Join “Grand Ave Arts: All Access,” an immersive day of creativity, connection and community along Grand Avenue’s vibrant cultural corridor on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The festival turns the cultural hub into a vibrant, mile-long celebration. Fourteen of L.A.’s leading institutions open their doors with live performances, hands-on workshops, tours and creative experiences. Participants include The Broad, Center Theatre Group, Classical California KUSC, Colburn School, DATALAND, Gloria Molina Grand Park, LA Opera, LA Phil, Los Angeles Central Library, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Metro Art, MOCA, The Music Center and REDCAT. Admission is free. Grand Avenue from Temple Street to Sixth Street. grandavearts.org.

Halloween at  
LACMA

Kick off Halloween week at a new after-hours party at LACMA spotlighting plants and their role in ritual and revelry on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 7-10 p.m. on the Smidt Welcome Plaza. The night is capped with an outdoor screening of the 1986 cult classic “Little Shop of Horrors” and a costume contest with prizes. The theme is plant power. Guests can enjoy open galleries, plant-themed activities, wine, beer and nighttime bites for a uniquely LACMA way to celebrate the spooky season. Attendees must be 18 or older. General admission is \$30. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

Indian dance

BroadStage welcomes Ragamala Dance Company for “Ananta, The Eternal” by Aparna Ramaswamy on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m. Guggenheim Fellow and Doris Duke Award recipient Aparna Ramaswamy’s newest work weaves together threads of body, memory, desire and devotion. Sisters and acclaimed Bharatanatyam dancers and choreographers Aparna Ramaswamy and Ashwini Ramaswamy perform a visually stunning duet accompanied by a live Carnatic quartet from India, revealing the dynamic interplay between dance, music and poetry. Tickets start at \$26. 1310 11th Street, Santa Monica. broadstage.org.



Jeddy Knox

Singer-songwriter Jeddy Knox will headline the Hotel Café on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 9:30 p.m. Knox isn’t a typical breakout Americana artist. One of few openly gay men in country music, two years ago he was designing IT systems for Deloitte, Johns Hopkins and Harvard Business School before packing up his life to follow his dreams of performing. Knox taught himself guitar, co-produced his debut album “Revelers & Ramblers” and built a devoted following through grit and songcraft. His sound fuses Americana, southern rock and alt rock. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. 1623 N. Cahuenga Blvd. new.hotelcafe.com/event/jeddy-knox.



Holocaust book

The Museum of Tolerance is showing the film “The Last Twins” on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. The film details the story of Emo “Zvi” Spiegel, an unsung hero of the Holocaust who risked everything to save dozens of young twins at Auschwitz. At a time when Dr. Josef Mengele was performing horrific

medical experiments on twins, Spiegel, who was placed in charge by Mengele, used his position, courage and ingenuity to shield children targeted for brutal medical tests. Based on first-hand testimony and exclusive archival material, the film brings to life the stories of those he saved. A Q&A session with filmmakers Perri Peltz and Matthew O’Neill, and Spiegel’s daughter Dr. Judith Richter, follows the film. Admission is free; RSVP is required. 9786 W Pico Blvd. museumoftolerance.com/event/the-last-twins.



Films of Guillermo  
del Toro

American Cinematheque presents “The Monster Movie Maestro: Guillermo del Toro Presents Halloween Week” from Sunday, Oct. 26, through Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Los Feliz Theatre and Aero Theatre. The series includes “The Monster That Challenged the World,” “The Uninvited,” “Bride of Frankenstein,” “See No Evil” and “Pontypool.” It begins with “King Kong” on Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Los Feliz Theatre. See schedule for showtimes. Los Feliz Theatre, 1822 N. Vermont Ave.; Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave., Santa Monica. americancinematheque.com.

Measure ULA panel

Hollywood 4WRD is holding “ULA: Three Years In-Housing Leaders Discuss the Impact of L.A.’s ‘Mansion Tax’” on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 4 p.m. in the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre. Three years after Los Angeles voters approved Measure ULA, aka the “mansion tax,” questions remain about its impact on housing production, homelessness and economic development. Convened by Hollywood 4WRD – a coalition of more than 200 community organizations, civic leaders and service providers driving local solutions to homelessness – the event brings together housing leaders to assess what is working, what’s not and what’s next. General admission is \$20. RSVP requested. 4800 Hollywood Blvd. bit.ly/H4WRD-program-ULA.



photo by Edwin Folven

Federal agents have conducted multiple immigration enforcement operations in the Home Depot parking lot in Hollywood.

Mayor, federal leaders call for  
investigation into ICE raids

Mayor Karen Bass joined U.S. Rep. Robert Garcia (D-Long Beach), members of the L.A. City Council and immigrant rights leaders on Oct. 20 to call for a congressional investigation into the unlawful and unconstitutional abduction, detainment and alleged abuse of U.S. citizens and immigrants by federal agents without a judicial warrant or probable cause.

“I will always stand up to protect Los Angeles. Reports of Angelenos – U.S. citizens – being tased, dragged and unlawfully detained should make us all concerned,” Bass said. “I’m calling for an immediate congressional investigation into these egregious injustices, and I thank Congressman Garcia for his support.”

“American citizens are being dragged off the streets by masked men and thrown into detention cells without access to a lawyer or even a phone call,” Garcia said. “No one, regardless of their background or appearance, should be living in fear of being thrown behind bars by their own government because of their race or what they look like.”

Bass said she has defended L.A. families since the Trump administration first began immigration raids in June and federalized the National Guard in Los Angeles. The White House continued carrying out raids even while a federal temporary restraining order was in place. The city of Los Angeles has not stopped taking action to protect immigrant communities, Bass said. The mayor signed an executive directive to support Los Angeles’ immigrant communities by requiring all departments to bolster protocols and training in compliance with city law prohibiting the use of resources in immigration enforcement; establishing a working group with LAPD, Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, immigrant rights organizations and community leaders to gather feedback and create guidance for police officers when responding to immigration enforcement activities; and seeking records from the federal government relating to the indiscriminate raids.

For information, visit mayor.lacity.gov and immigrantsarela.com/knowyourrights.

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(323)933-5518  
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MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 36036  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

Michael Villalpando  
PUBLISHER

Karen Villalpando  
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Rance Collins  
rance@beverlypress.com  
MANAGING EDITOR

Edwin Folven  
editor@beverlypress.com  
EDITOR

Tabor Brewster  
tabor@beverlypress.com  
REPORTER

Chris Erskine  
COLUMNIST

Michael Krikorian  
Tim Posada,  
Rebecca Villalpando  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Lionel Ochoa  
GRAPHIC ARTIST

CIRCULATION  
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# Lawsuit grows against former Cedars-Sinai OB-GYN

■ 330 women accuse doctor of sexual assault

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A new lawsuit against Cedars-Sinai and former OB-GYN Barry J. Brock was filed by 112 women, alleging sexual abuse spanning more than 40 years. The patients allege that Cedars-Sinai covered up the abuse while allowing Brock to continue exploiting patients.

The lawsuit is the most recent in several that have been filed against Brock and Cedars-Sinai. The 112 plaintiffs join an existing 218 former patients who have already filed litigation against Brock and the health center, bringing the total number of alleged victims to 330.

The most recent lawsuit was filed by Arias Sanguinetti Wang and Team LLP and the DiPietro Law Firm.

“Cedars-Sinai had both a moral

and legal duty to protect its patients,” said Mike Arias, managing partner of Arias Sanguinetti. “Instead, the institution knowingly enabled a serial predator and prioritized its reputation over the safety of women who trusted them with their care. As more and more brave women continue to come forward, it becomes painfully clear how deeply Cedars failed those in its care. We will continue standing with survivors and fighting to hold the institution fully accountable.”

The combined action against Cedars-Sinai and Brock is among the largest sexual abuse cases ever filed against a California medical institution. The firms are seeking injunctive relief requiring Cedars-Sinai to implement systemic reforms to prevent future abuse.

“Each of these women were placed in a position of vulnerability under the guise of medical care,” said Anthony T. DiPietro of the

DiPietro Law Firm. “They are coming forward now to hold the institution accountable, expose the wrongdoers and ensure that no other patient has to endure the same trauma.”

The allegations against Brock include sexual misconduct, rape and sexual assault. The lawsuits allege that the abuse dated back to the 1980s, when Brock began working at Cedars-Sinai. Brock has denied the allegations.

Cedars-Sinai banned Brock from practicing at the hospital in September 2024.

“The type of behavior alleged about Dr. Barry Brock is counter to Cedars-Sinai’s core values and the trust we strive to earn every day with our patients. Dr. Brock no longer has privileges to practice medicine at Cedars-Sinai,” a statement from the medical center read. “We recognize the legal process must now take its course, and we remain committed to



photo by Edwin Folven

Former OB-GYN Barry J. Brock worked at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for more than 40 years.

Cedars-Sinai’s sacred healing mission and serving our community.” Brock surrendered his medical license in May 2025, following an accusation of negligent care from the Medical Board of California. According to the lawsuits, Brock is also under criminal investigation.

# Beverly Hills man accused of misusing homelessness funds

Federal law enforcement authorities on Oct. 16 announced the arrest of the former chief financial officer at a downtown Los Angeles-based developer of affordable housing.

“Accountability for the misuse of billions of tax dollars intended to combat homeless[ness] starts today,” Acting United States Attorney Bill Essayli said.

Cody Holmes, 31, of Beverly Hills, was arrested on Oct. 16 on a federal criminal complaint charging

him with mail fraud, a felony offense that carries a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison.

According to an affidavit filed with the complaint, in October 2022, the California Department of Housing and Community Development paid approximately \$25.9 million in grant money – for a state homelessness project called “Homekey” – to Shangri-La Industries LLC, a downtown Los

Angeles-based developer of affordable housing. The grant funds were sent with the provision that the money be used to purchase, construct and operate homeless housing in Thousand Oaks.

The payments followed many millions of dollars HCD had already paid to Shangri-La to buy, build and operate housing for the homeless. Holmes – as Shangri-La’s CFO – knowingly submitted fake bank records to HCD that purport-

edly showed approximately \$160 million supposedly controlled by Shangri-La and its affiliates to prove that Shangri-La had the capacity to fulfill the homeless housing projects. In fact, the bank accounts Shangri-La and Holmes said contained the funds did not exist, prosecutors said.

Holmes and Shangri-La also submitted to HCD balance sheets falsely representing that Shangri-La-affiliated entities held millions of dollars in cash that the entities did not actually have. Holmes and Shangri-La submitted the fake bank

statements and false balance sheets with the intent that HCD should rely on them and release grant money to Shangri-La.

After the documents were submitted, HCD paid millions of dollars more in grant money to Shangri-La. Some of the Homekey money paid to Shangri-La for homeless housing was used to pay credit card bills for American Express accounts associated with Holmes. In November and December 2022, more than \$2.2 million was transferred from a Shangri-La account to a Holmes-controlled account.



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# Deputies conduct drug raid in Rainbow District

■ WeHo sheriffs dispel rumors about operation

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

An Oct. 17 raid by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department in Rainbow District raised alarm and confusion among bar patrons. West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station Capt. Fanny Lapkin spoke to the City Council on Oct. 20 and clarified details about the law enforcement operation, which many people mistook for an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid.

The operation was conducted by personnel from the sheriff’s department and did not involve any federal agents, Lapkin said. Plainclothes deputies were targeting illegal drugs and pickpocketing at bars and nightclubs in the Rainbow District. Multiple people were arrested, including several at The Abbey Food and Bar, for possession of a controlled substance. Authorities did not provide the total number of arrests, but West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station booking records show 16 people were taken into custody for drug possession and drug possession with intent to sell on Oct. 17 and early Oct. 18.

## Governor signs Sen. Allen’s wildfire consumer protection bill

Wildfire survivors will face less burden on the road to recovery after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 495 on Oct. 10, authored by Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) and sponsored by Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara.

Beginning in January, insurance companies will be required to pay 60% of personal property coverage limits, with a cap of \$350,000, to policyholders who experience a total loss without requiring policyholders to submit a detailed inventory for at least 100 days.

“The recent L.A. fires exposed difficult inefficiencies in our insurance system that unnecessarily delay the urgently needed financial support survivors are justly due,” Allen said. “I am grateful to have worked with Insurance Commissioner Lara over the past year to ensure fairer upfront payments are moving out the door quickly and without overburdening those who just lost everything.”

Under current law, insurance companies are only required to pay 30% of primary structure coverage limits, and it is capped at \$250,000. The formula often results in insufficient payments for properties with higher limits – examples of which were common in the recent wildfires. Policyholders are also currently required to complete a content inventory and to submit proof of loss to insurers within 60 days of loss. This process is unduly burdensome for policyholders and unrealistic as many policyholders in the recent wildfires did not have access to their insured property for an extended period of time due to unsafe or hazardous conditions, Allen said. The bill also requires insurers to provide the Department of Insurance with annual point-in-time reinsurance and catastrophe model data.

For information, visit [sd24.senate.ca.gov](https://sd24.senate.ca.gov).

“The operation was a pre-planned operation ... from concerns from our businesses and our community in regards to the pickpocketing, to the narcotics and also to the illegal vending and some of the criminal activity during illegal vending,” Lapkin said. “We had several arrests from a specific location, without mentioning any names, but it was not a target-specific operation. It’s not the first time we’ve had those operations. It’s not going to be the last time we have those operations. Because when we have concerns of pickpocketing, and we know that’s been a concern, and we have concerns of illegal drug use, we’re going to address those.”

The operation struck fear in the community after people saw unmarked sheriff’s department vehicles and plainclothes deputies, and assumed ICE was targeting people in the area. Social media posts stated it was an ICE raid, further compounding the misunder-

standing. West Hollywood City Manager David Wilson reiterated that the operation was conducted by local law enforcement and not federal agents. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department does not target people for immigration violations and city leaders have denounced the ICE raids occurring throughout the Los Angeles area since June.

“Some of the social media posts indicated that it was ICE. There was no ICE involvement in this. It was all sheriff’s department,” Wilson said.

West Hollywood City Councilman John Erickson said he fielded a lot of questions from members of the West Hollywood community in the aftermath of the law enforcement operation and expressed concern about preventing misinformation from being spread in the future. He also sought clarity on whether authorities needed warrants to arrest people during an undercover operation.



photo by Edwin Folven

Deputies from the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station made arrests at The Abbey Food and Bar during the operation in the Rainbow District.

“They don’t need a warrant for that,” Lapkin added. The captain said authorities are also targeting street vendors in the Rainbow District who illegally sell alcohol and drugs. Lapkin did not respond to requests for further comment by press time.

STATEWIDE SPECIAL  
ELECTION★<sup>20</sup>/<sub>25</sub>  
★ TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025 ★

11-DAYS OF VOTING

Saturday, October 25 – Tuesday, November 4, 2025:

Beverly Hills City Hall | Municipal Gallery  
455 N. Rexford Drive, Second Floor  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Parking:  
450 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA (adjacent to the Library)  
450 N. Crescent Drive, Beverly Hills, CA

VOTING DAYS:

Saturday, October 25 – Monday, November 3, 2025

Time: 10:00am to 7:00pm

ELECTION DAY:

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Time: 7:00am to 8:00pm

For more information please visit [LAVOTE.GOV](https://LAVOTE.GOV), [BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/ELECTIONS](https://BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/ELECTIONS)  
or call the Beverly Hills City Clerk’s Office at 310-285-2400.

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# Larchmont deal could spell end for site of farmers' market

■ City and developer in negotiations over transfer of parking lots

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Members of the Larchmont community are weighing in on a proposal that would transfer development rights on a city-owned parking lot on Larchmont Boulevard where a bi-weekly farmers' market is held to a private entity in exchange for city ownership of a larger, mostly subterranean lot across the street.

In a deal under negotiation between the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and Larchmont Properties, Ltd., the right to lease a city parking lot at 209 N. Larchmont Blvd. would be granted to Larchmont Properties, Ltd. in exchange for the transfer of ownership of a larger 167-space parking lot under the former Rite-Aid building to the city. Larchmont Properties, Ltd. owns the Rite-Aid lot and building and plans to redevelop the property into a new retail space.

In 1985, the city executed a parking lease and option to purchase agreement with Larchmont Properties, Ltd. for the Rite-Aid lot, but the agreement was never executed and 40 years later remains incomplete. The city hopes the new agreement will prevent a legal battle with Larchmont Properties, Ltd. over ownership of the lot while securing much needed public park-

ing for the Larchmont area. The agreement was initially scheduled to be considered at a meeting of the Board of Transportation Commissioners on Oct. 9 but was continued to the board's meeting on Nov. 13 to give the public more time to provide input.

The loss of the surface parking lot where the farmers' market is held, next to the landmark Larchmont Village clock, has raised concerns. In addition to the bi-weekly farmers' market, community events are held on the lot and many consider it Larchmont Village's "town square."

"It's integral to the neighborhood," said Sam Uretsky, leader of the Larchmont Village advocacy group Fight Back! "It's a neighborhood resource. It's irreplaceable."

Developer Ron Simms, of Larchmont Properties Ltd., has told members of the Larchmont business community that he plans to preserve the bi-weekly farmers' market. Simms could not be reached for comment. Some members of the Larchmont Village community are supportive as long as the farmers' market still has a space.

"Having lived in Larchmont for 25 years and coming to Larchmont my entire life, I care deeply about our neighborhood and understand the concerns about parking, development and preserving the farmers' market and community spaces," Larchmont Business Improvement District executive director Heather Duffy Boylston said. "Both the city

and Simms have assured me that the farmers' market will always have a home in Larchmont. The city has also acknowledged the importance of maintaining space for community gatherings and the market, and it has the ability to allow street closures for events – and I've been assured they'll be supportive of that."

Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, sent a letter to the Board of Transportation Commissioners on Oct. 8 asking it to take public input into consideration. Soto-Martinez said the agreement will be beneficial by adding more parking to the city's stock, but he does not support it without a "promise" that the farmers' market would always have a space on Larchmont Boulevard.

"The Larchmont community as a whole needs time to understand the implications of this decision, and as their elected official, I welcome their input to ensure I make the best possible recommendations in response to this report," Soto-Martinez's letter read.

The public can submit input to Emma Howard, director of community development and planning for Soto-Martinez, by emailing [emma.howard@lacity.org](mailto:emma.howard@lacity.org). Uretsky also encouraged people to email the members of the Board of Transportation Commissioners and to attend the upcoming meeting on Nov. 13 at 10 a.m. at L.A. City Hall, Room 1070, 200 N. Spring St. If the board approves the agreement, it will be forwarded to the City Council and mayor for consideration.

"What it can all be boiled down to is, 'What is the benefit to the community?'" Uretsky said.



photo by Edwin Folven

The future of the surface parking lot at 209 Larchmont Blvd. is in question as the city considers an agreement that could lead to a new project at the site.

"Neighbors are sending in letters why this should be denied. It's important that the public under-

stands all the facts, all the details, everything that has brought us to this point."

## Notable Quotes

*"First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy founded the White House Historical Association over 60 years ago, famously saying 'The White House belongs to the American people.' The Association's mission has been clear since day one: preserving, protecting, and providing public access to White House History. That mission continues through The People's House: A White House Experience at 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue - a block away from the White House - in Washington, D.C."*

Donald Trump held a White House "Rose Garden Club" lunch on Oct. 21 on a concrete slab that used to be Jacqueline Kennedy's lush rose garden. Now the Trump administration is demolishing the historic East Wing of "The People's House." Contact your local congressional representatives and the White House Historical Association to voice your opinions. Contact the White House Historical Association at [whitehousehistory.org](http://whitehousehistory.org) or mail P.O. Box 27624, Washington, D.C. 20038

Source: White House Historical Association



spotlight

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To register and learn more, visit **beverlyhills/spotlight**.

**Questions?** Email [info@beverlyhillschamber.com](mailto:info@beverlyhillschamber.com)

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# D Line subway project opening pushed back to early 2026

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

After more than a decade of work on the D Line subway extension project, riders will have to wait a little longer to board. Metro now estimates the first segment between Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/La Cienega will open sometime during the first quarter of next year, up to three months past the previously scheduled opening by the end of 2025.

“Construction is a complex and evolving process, and in this case, testing for the D Line Extension Segment 1 took longer than expected,” read a statement from Metro. “Metro’s contractor is also completing civic improvements such as new sidewalks, curbs and gutters in advance of the opening. Metro is working as quickly as possible to ensure that when the line opens, it is something we can be proud of. The opening for segment one is now anticipated in winter 2026.”

Metro chief program management officer Tim Lindholm provided details about the extended timeline for opening at an Oct. 15 meeting of the Metro Board’s Construction Committee. Lindholm said tests are currently being completed on the system that enables the Rail Operations Control Center to remotely control all of the sys-

tems in the tunnels and stations.

“Right now, we’re sticking to winter 2026, which is between January and March of ’26, so it’s coming. We’re not able to declare a date yet, because we have so much testing to do,” Lindholm said. “We just hit a pretty good milestone down there in the tunnels. We hit about 50% of our SCADA testing. Just to explain what SCADA is, we build a lot of local equipment in the tunnel, whether it is pieces of ventilation, alarms, train control, power, you name it, and it all needs to feed back to the Rail Operations Control Center so that you can operate it remotely. That’s the testing we’re doing right now to make sure everything works both ways, and we’re about halfway done. Soon, when we feel a little more comfortable on how we’re doing with our testing – because once we get done with the testing, there’s a pretty straightforward process we follow where we go through safety certification with the PUC – but soon we will be able to declare a date when we feel a little more comfortable on how we’re doing with our testing.”

Jim Cohen, D Line project manager for Metro, told the committee that the first segment of the D Line extension project is 98% complete. The new four-mile segment of the line is expected to provide 20,700

daily trips, increasing to 33,700 in 2035.

The D Line extension project is being completed in three segments, with sections two and three also currently under construction. Section two between Wilshire/La Cienega and the Century City Station is scheduled to open in 2026 and section three to the Westwood/VA Hospital is scheduled to open in 2027.



photo by Edwin Folven

The first segment of Metro’s D Line will end at Wilshire/La Cienega.

# Central Library opens powerful exhibition on Armenian diaspora

The Los Angeles Public Library presents the exhibition “Ara Oshagan: How the Future May Hold” now on view through Jan. 11 in the Annenberg Gallery at the Central Library, 630 W. Fifth St. in Downtown Los Angeles.

The exhibition entangles past, present and future while imagining a tomorrow when the idea of a displaced people returning to indigenous lands is both a dream and a possibility. The bilingual (English and Armenian) exhibition begins with photographic work that reflects Oshagan’s sense of displaced diasporic identity through the community life and spaces of the Armenian community in Los Angeles. In a new series, Oshagan further considers his diasporic journeys and the right of return by sourcing medieval Armenian talismanic scrolls and adding photographic elements.

A large-scale display of portraits and testimonies of communities forcibly displaced from their homeland of Nagorno Karabagh/Artsakh continues the theme of diaspora. Return is also at the core of another new series of works where Oshagan considers what might happen if the displaced Armenian community of Nagorno Karabagh/Artsakh returns to their indigenous homeland in the year 2125. One hundred years after their exile, the great grandchildren of

Artsakh’s displaced communities are able to see their rugged native land for the first time.

“With our newest exhibition ‘Ara Oshagan: How the Future May Hold,’ Los Angeles Public Library will once again shine a spotlight on one of our city’s diverse communities,” City Librarian John F. Szabo said. “[It] will open a discussion about the history of the Armenian diaspora, examining what it means to a people to be displaced from their homeland.”

A descendant of families who were displaced from western Armenia by the Armenian Genocide, Oshagan was born in Beirut, Lebanon and grew up in an Armenian community. Displaced again by the Lebanese civil war, he and his family fled to the United States.

“I do not belong to any single country nor language nor nationality. I live in between several languages and cultures, among multiple ways of thinking and ways of life. My identity is transnational and ambiguous – it is a process,” Oshagan said.

The exhibition includes a collaboration with author Micheline Aharonian Marcom, who has published eight books including a trilogy of novels about the Armenian Genocide and its aftermath in the 20th century.

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



photo courtesy of LAPL

“Ara Oshagan: How the Future May Hold” documents communities displaced from their homeland in Armenia to locations such as East Hollywood.



**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the West Hollywood Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

<b>LOCATIONS:</b>	<b>9200 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood, California</b>
<b>REQUEST:</b>	<b>The Planning Commission</b> will hold a public hearing regarding a request to construct a new single-faced, full motion billboard in the area in front of 9200 Sunset Boulevard. The sign face will be 1,500 square feet in size. The proposal also includes site improvements at the base of the billboard structure with pedestrian plaza including seating and interactive plaques describing the history of the billboards along the Sunset Strip. The project is subject to a Development Agreement and as part of the Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy.
<b>PERMIT(S):</b>	Billboard Permit, Development Agreement, Zone Map Amendment, and any other required permits.
<b>APPLICANT(S):</b>	Jeffrey A. Seymour, Seymour Consulting Group
<b>TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:</b>	<b>Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.</b> West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
<b>ZONES:</b>	SSP (Sunset Specific Plan)
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:</b>	Negative Declaration and Addendum prepared for Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy with conformance analysis.

**Complete digital agenda packets** will be available on Thursday, October 30, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at [www.weho.org](http://www.weho.org)

**ALL INTERESTED PERSONS** are invited to participate in said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** this item 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 the written correspondence delivered to the West Hollywood Planning Commission, via the Community Development Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

**To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990**, If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6800 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

For further information regarding this item, contact Jennifer Davis, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6508, or via email at: [jdavis@weho.org](mailto:jdavis@weho.org)

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

**Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.**

# Crime, development raise concern in Hancock Park

■ Homeowners get update from local leaders

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Crime, power outages and the potential effects of Senate Bill 79 on single-family neighborhoods were chief concerns during the Hancock Park Homeowners Association’s annual meeting on Oct. 20, which brought nearly 200 people to a virtual forum including Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, and Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood).

Senior lead officer Tyler Shuck, of the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division, said crime in the Hancock Park area is down including burglaries, which have decreased 33% year to date over the same period in 2024. Shuck credited the LAPD’s arrests of burglary crews targeting neighborhoods throughout the city, which have made an impact. A crew from South Los Angeles whose members were arrested in August after a lengthy investigation is believed to have been responsible for five or six burglaries in Hancock Park.

“We’ve actually had a good stretch for the last six months or so in burglaries,” Shuck said. “They still happen ... but the burglary crews that we saw all last year, those are less because there’s been a lot of good arrests. In Wilshire Division,

we’re down 33% in all year-to-date crime.”

HPhOA president Cindy Chvatal-Keane said the lower crime numbers are welcome news. Burglaries have long been a problem in Hancock Park.

“People are relieved,” she said.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power also provided an update on outages in the Hancock Park area. LADWP senior public relations specialist Michael Ventre said significant resources are currently being devoted to repairing infrastructure in the Pacific Palisades following the January fire, but LADWP crews are working throughout the city and are prioritizing areas where water and electrical outages are most frequent and long-standing. Residents are encouraged to contact (800)DIAL-DWP to report outages and problems to the LADWP, which will send crews as quickly as possible, Ventre said.

“The water main replacements continue. They tend to prioritize pipes that are very old. Some of our pipes are, you know, 100 years old. So, there’s an ongoing mainline replacement all over the city,” Ventre said. “We’ll keep you apprised as soon as there’s any news along that front, but please feel free to reach out as well.”

Ventre can be reached by calling (213)367-1381.

The HPhOA also discussed ramifications of SB 79 – state legislation signed into law on Oct. 10 that

circumvents city zoning regulations and allows taller buildings in single-family neighborhoods within a half mile of transit stations and rapid bus lines. Yaroslavsky said she opposed SB 79 and the city is currently assessing options after it was signed into law.

“I’ve been clear in my position that L.A. needs more housing, but we have to put the density where it makes sense. I opposed SB 79 because L.A. already has a plan that achieves similar goals in a much more thoughtful way that included years of stakeholder engagement,” Yaroslavsky said. “There are still a lot of details that are unsettled. There’s going to be a fight and there may be some litigation, and it’s going to take a while to figure out what even applies, and then once you figure out where it applies, figuring out what the local alternative is going to look like. I have five people on my team working on this almost full time, trying to figure out exactly how it applies and how we’re going to move forward as expeditiously as possible. My goal is to figure out a process that allows us to mitigate the most extreme impacts on neighborhoods with single-family homes and duplexes. My commitment to all of you is that we are going to be all-hands-on-deck as long as it takes to figure out the baseline where this actually applies, and then work with planning and the other council offices on a local alternative plan.”



photo by Edwin Folven

Many Hancock Park residents are concerned about the effects SB 79 will have on zoning in single-family neighborhoods.

Zbur also opposed SB 70 and said he will continue working to mitigate the law’s impacts.

“I think the thing that’s troubling to me is that the bill passed based on what its goals were, and not the details of what it did. And we had a number of newer legislators that don’t pay as close attention to the details who ended up voting for the bill, not appreciating the impacts that it could have on neighborhoods in their districts,” Zbur said. “I think a lot of people voted for the bill in areas that were impacted still really thinking that it just increases hous-

ing around transit hubs, meaning rail stops, and we know that it has a far broader impact than that. And I think we’re going to have to figure out what that means in the long run.”

Chvatal-Keane said she is cautiously optimistic after hearing from Yaroslavsky and Zbur about the plans to mitigate the effects of SB 79, and added that the HPhOA will continue closely following the matter.

“It’s all about timing, and the city doesn’t have a lot of time,” she added. “We are going to keep plugging away and doing what we do.”



photo by Edwin Folven

The fire damaged a building on the east side of the former Hollywood Center Motel site on Sunset Boulevard.

## Firefighters douse blaze at former Hollywood motel

A fire erupted shortly before 11 p.m. on Oct. 19 in a building on the site of the former Hollywood Center Motel at 6720 Sunset Blvd. The property is fenced and vacant. The Los Angeles Fire Department responded and found smoke and flames in a one-story structure on the east side of the property. Firefighters coordinated

a defensive attack and protected adjacent buildings including a separate hotel that is open for business on a parcel directly east of the former Hollywood Center Motel site. The flames were extinguished in 40 minutes. No injuries reported and the cause was undetermined, LAFD spokeswoman Lyndsey Lantz said.

## ‘Heart of WeHo’ explores city through art

West Hollywood is opening “Heart of WeHo,” a celebratory exhibition in honor of the 40th anniversary of cityhood. The exhibition opens with a public reception on Friday, Oct. 24, from 7-9 p.m. at West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

“Heart of WeHo” celebrates the places of West Hollywood – landmarks past and present, street life and everyday spaces – through the eyes of 27 artists. All artworks represent physical locations within the exact 1.9 square miles of the city.

“Heart of WeHo” invites viewers to experience the city as seen by the artists who live, work and create in West Hollywood. The works on view reflect the layered identity of a city that has always been a beacon of creativity and inclusion.

The exhibition is on view through May 2026 at the library. RSVPs to the reception are required by visiting [eventbrite.com/e/exhibit-reception-heart-of-weho-cacti-and-angel-of-compassion-tickets-1736092943729](https://eventbrite.com/e/exhibit-reception-heart-of-weho-cacti-and-angel-of-compassion-tickets-1736092943729). For information, visit [weho.org/arts](https://weho.org/arts).



### NOTICE OF CONTINUANCE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood City Council at a Regular Meeting held on October 20, 2025, continued the following public hearing to November 3, 2025:

#### PUBLIC HEARING:

#### REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION FOR CEQA ANALYSIS AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT SPA 25-0001 TO THE SUNSET BOULEVARD OFF-SIT SIGNAGE POLICY

**TIME/PLACE:** Monday, November 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.  
West Hollywood Council Chambers  
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90069

**REQUEST:** The City Council will hold a public hearing and make a decision regarding the proposed amendment SPA 25-0001 to the Sunset Boulevard off-site signage policy

The staff report will be available on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, online at [www.weho.org/councilagendas](https://www.weho.org/councilagendas).

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

DATE: October 21, 2025

BY ORDER OF the City of West Hollywood,  
Melissa Crowder, City Clerk



# Breakfast Republic transforms into Breakfast Company in WeHo

■ Opening weekend sales will benefit Project Angel Food

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood is getting a new breakfast joint – or rather, a replacement breakfast joint. On Oct. 25, just in time for weekend brunch, Breakfast Company is opening on Santa Monica Boulevard in the spot where Breakfast Republic used to be.

The changeover happened quickly. On Sept. 1, the popular Breakfast Republic closed despite lines often forming outside the restaurant on Saturdays and Sundays. Now, less than two months later, the change of one simple word in the title will craft a whole new morning spirit at the site, according to its owner Rise & Shine Hospitality Group – which owns both brands. Rise & Shine founder and CEO Johan Engman said that “Company” fit in better with WeHo than “Republic.”

“Although Breakfast Republic had gained a good following, we believe that the vibe and energy that Breakfast Company brings will resonate even more with the neighborhood,” Engman said. “West Hollywood has no shortage of energy and fun experiences, and we hope to build on that even more.”

The “Company” branding already has two San Diego locations, and Engman explained that Rise & Shine “couldn’t be happier with the feedback” they had gotten from a “growing group of loyal customers.”

The “soft opening” on Oct. 25 and 26 will donate 100% of all food and beverage sales to Project Angel Food, the stalwart Los Angeles nonprofit that provides medically tailored meals to those facing critical and life-threatening illnesses.

“It is important for us to have a meaningful impact on the neighborhoods and communities we serve,” Engman said.

Engman added that the design would be the biggest difference, but that the location would have its own “fun and creative menu,” as well as a full liquor license, allowing “for further creativity on the drinks side.”

Among the menu highlights include breakfast favorites like Japanese spicy chicken sando,

sweet chili shrimp and grits, fried rice bennie, the Cali burrito and chilaquiles suizos. Guests can also enjoy a wide variety of waffle options such as s’mores, buttermilk cornmeal and orange thyme, as well as various flavors of pancakes like tiramisu and banana bread. And that’s just the tip of the iceberg. French toasts, eggs and coffee

selections are just a few more options on the extensive menu. “No matter what, you won’t go home hungry,” Engman teased. “We can’t wait to serve our sweet, savory and unique dishes in a comfortable yet elegant space,” Engman said. “When the sun rises over Santa Monica Boulevard, we hope all Angelenos will start their day with us.” Breakfast Company is located at 7141 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit [breakfast-company/west-hollywood](http://breakfast-company/west-hollywood).



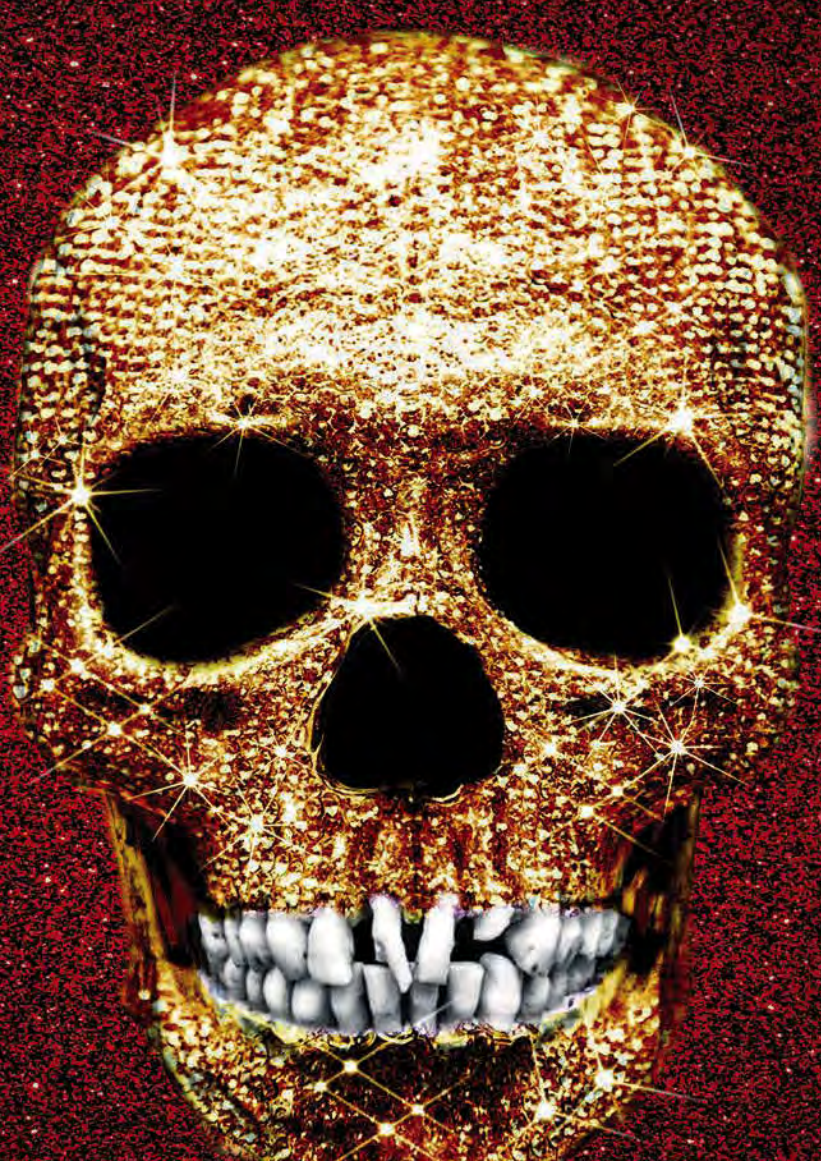
photo courtesy of Rise & Shine Hospitality Group

Breakfast Company will open on Oct. 25 in West Hollywood.

# WEST HOLLYWOOD

# HALLOWEEN


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# Health care professionals say funding bill could skyrocket L.A. insurance premiums

BY RANCE COLLINS

Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) held a roundtable on Oct. 20 with health care professionals to emphasize the looming cuts to health care coverage. Democrats argue the cuts will make premiums skyrocket for those who rely on the Affordable Care Act if the Republican-backed budget reconciliation bill goes through. This sticking point has driven the continuing government shutdown, which began on Oct. 1 with no end in sight.

In attendance were Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman and Saban Community Clinic's chief strategy officer Jackie Provost. Altman discussed the ways in which the funding cuts would impact the cost of insurance for Californians, and Provost shared how the bill would impact clinics such as Saban, which provide health care for people who are otherwise unable to afford coverage.

"There's about 6% of our patient population on Covered California," Provost said. "We receive a payment from the health plans for every member that we have enrolled. They are not enrolled, [and] we don't receive that. So, it's a level of revenue for us as a clinic that directly impacts our budget. So, we're looking at a significant portion of our budget being impacted. We're already seeing 10% of our budget losses annually from the

Medicaid cuts, and so now we add another cut to our coverage plans for our patients."

Without key federal funding, health care facilities such as Saban – which operates several locations including a clinic on Beverly Boulevard in mid-city – would have to look at making staffing cuts, Provost said.

"We're still going to provide our care. Patients are going to be able to get help, whether that's through our sliding fee discount program so they can access affordable visits, but we're not getting the same level revenue to provide that level of care. We're going to be having to make some very, very tough decisions our next fiscal year on what we can provide outside of our medical, dental, behavioral health services that our patients are able to enjoy today," she said.

Without the tax credits, Altman said, Covered California's current coverage of the state's residents would greatly decrease. Even those who buy into Covered California could see double-digit percentage increases in insurance premiums. For those who rely on the tax credits, it could jump by 73% – lower than the national average of 97% only because of the state insurance subsidies.

"We estimate as many as 400,000 of our enrollees will say, 'You know what, I can't afford this anymore,' and walk away from their coverage on Covered California," Altman said.

"And despite all of these painful cuts that they're making to Medicaid and to Covered California and everything else, they're still blowing up the federal budget for the tune of trillions of dollars, which is why there are conservative Republicans who refuse to vote for this budget, simply because they thought it was irresponsible," Friedman explained. "That's the point people are missing. It's not that we're balancing the budget with all of this. We are actually increasing the debt by a huge amount."

Friedman went back to Washington, D.C. on Oct. 21, though the House continues to be out of session. She helped lead a tour through the Capitol building for 80 students from Los Angeles.

"I'm willing to do my job, but I need my Republican colleagues to be willing to do their jobs," Friedman said.

The Democrats are currently one member short in Congress of their full caucus, as Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) has yet to swear in Rep. Adelita Grijalva (D-Ariz.), who won a special election on Sept. 23 to replace her late father's seat representing Tucson. Johnson has indicated he will essentially hold the seat hostage until the Democrats agree to the Republican-backed funding bill.

"She has no staff. She has no



photo courtesy of the office of Laura Friedman  
Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) led a roundtable with representatives of Saban Community Clinic and Covered California.

telephone. She has no computer. She has no access to her constituents, so they are without representation right now," Friedman explained. "And her election has been certified, and the state of Arizona is suing the federal government to get a rep sworn in. That's not normal. And, by the way, every Republican in a special election this year has been sworn pretty much the next day before their election was certified – the next day after the polls closed."

Asked what motivation Johnson might have behind keeping Grijalva out of her seat, Friedman drew attention to another ongoing matter in Congress, one which Grijalva's signature could finally make public.

"There are people who think it's

because she is the last vote to bring the release of the Epstein files to the floor. And I am not a conspiracy theorist, and I would have poo pooped that a few months ago, and now I think that there's something to it," she said.

Provost said that, on the other side of the government shutdown, Saban staffers just want to continue to provide the best possible medical care.

"We are mission-driven folks," Provost said. "We just want to do our jobs. We want to be able to provide the level of care we know our communities deserve and know. When we're unable to do so, because we just can't afford to do so ... it's demoralizing, it's frustrating and it's hard work."

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# Cheers to the docs and nurses who fix us

In the spirit of the season, they carved on me the other day, a little procedure hardly worth mentioning.

I won't go into much detail. Let me just say that surgery is not for me. Some people like it. Heck, they volunteer: noses, knees, knockers.

This, I hope and pray, will be my first and final surgery.

Here's the challenge: Some people have very high thresholds of pain (soldiers, fullbacks). Others have low thresholds of pain (puppies, debutantes). Me, I have absolutely no threshold of pain. Like color blindness, or my father's backswing, it was just something I was born with.

Look at me wrong, I wince.

By temperament, I am a jumpy malcontent who tries to offset his grumpiness with a touch of humor.

Does it work? Hardly ever.

Ask anybody. I am the captain of unreasonable expectations, a Ulysses without a road map or a horse.

Nothing I do or say is anywhere close to normal. But I'm always looking out for you. That's my saving grace: I try to put others first.

So, men, please get your prostates checked. It's a slow-moving and treatable cancer. A simple blood test flags it. Of all the cancers, this has one of the highest success rates. As with fastballs and termites, best to catch it early.

Fortunately, my situation does not involve cancer – we ruled that out last year. My particular health issue involves standing at a public urinal whistling old Woody Guthrie tunes and praying for a few precious droplets to empty my tank.



by  
Chris  
Erskine

The cause: an enlarged prostate. As you may know, the prostate is a male-only gland about the size of a walnut. Mine? Big as the Batmobile. You could chase criminals with it. You could take Bat Girl out for ice cream.

**They swab our wounds, administer the meds, then have the humanity to ask, "How about those Dodgers? Don't you love this rain?"**

The prostate's function is a mystery to most. I know it plays some sort of role in romance, something I know very little about. It's also a factor in procreation, which I'm now done with after four kids.

When the prostate swells, as mine had, it tends to strangle the urinary tube that normally gushes through it. Well, at least till you hit 60 or 65.

My typical trickle all but stopped during my niece's wedding over Labor Day weekend. There I stood, a grown man, secretly wearing a gray adult diaper, reading a beautiful wedding poem in front of 250 guests.

They say you never really know what someone else is going through at any given moment. I was that person. Leave it to say, my usual quips and erudite ad-libs were mostly absent.

"Hello, beautiful people – especially you (the bride) and you (my sister)."

Then I read the poem. I took no questions. Just waddled back to my seat.

Cut to last week, pun intended.

"Minimally invasive surgery," they call it, though who's to say surgery can ever be minimally invasive? I mean, once you're in, you're in. It's the true "fourth wall."

Last thing I remember is my blood pressure is up a little – as an Irish lad, I've always ticked a little too fast.

No worries. They put a mask over my mouth.

"Six big breaths," a stranger says.

Good night, nurse. Two hours later, I wake up repaired.

A hospital stay, even an overnight one, reminds you of the courage it takes to seek treatment in the first place.

Saw it on an elite level during my late wife's brave battle with cancer.

By comparison, this was like having a tooth pulled.

Still, props to the medical professionals who do this work: Kamyar, Steve, Tracy, Marcus, Farrah – as well as the unseen operating room staff who tended to me.

They swab our wounds, administer the meds, then have the humanity to ask, "How about those Dodgers? Don't you love this rain?"

Props to the people who run these impossible hospitals, complicated and all-consuming. These are mon-



photo by Chris Erskine

The patient after surgery, in his stylish hospital gown.

strous and intimidating institutions – sometimes it's hard just to find the front door.

Before entering, we stand outside, telling ourselves little lies about how tough we are, while wondering: "What fresh hell is this?"

Then we are warmed by the hard work and professionalism of all involved.

Indeed, institutions like this one (Glendale Memorial) can be palaces of pain one moment, taber-

nacles of the heart the next.

I stand in awe.

You know, sometimes God puts his nose right up against your window. Sometimes friends and family rise up in remarkable ways (special thanks, Nurse Suze!).

So grateful, so blessed.

Now please get me home. I'm ready to fall asleep to football.

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



photo courtesy of Mayor Karen Bass' office

Volunteers will join a neighborhood cleanup on Oct. 25 with a staging area at the Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax.

## Shine LA beautification project comes to Third and Fairfax

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass' Office is hosting a Shine LA event on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m.-noon in conjunction with the Original Farmers Market, 6333 W. Third St.

The free event includes a community clean-up on Fairfax Avenue north of Third Street and a resource fair with crafts and tree adoptions. Volunteers will meet in the Farmers Market's north parking lot in the 100 block of South Fairfax Avenue.

Shine LA is held every fourth Saturday of the month in neighborhoods across Los Angeles. Created by Bass, the program aims to strengthen communities by bringing residents together to beautify neighborhoods. With major global

events just around the corner, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup, 2027 Superbowl and 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Shine LA inspires residents to take pride in preparing communities for the world stage. Since launching in April, Shine LA has brought together more than 2,000 people in more than 30 neighborhoods including Koreatown, Hollywood and the Miracle Mile.

Additional Shine LA events will be held on Oct. 25 in Rampart Village, 2801 W. Sixth St.; Faithful Saint Mark, 9502 S. Figueroa St.; Bundy Triangle, 500 S. Bundy Drive; and City Market South, 1124 San Julian St.

For information and schedule, visit [mayor.lacity.gov/shinela](http://mayor.lacity.gov/shinela).

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# Subway work prompts lane and alley closures in Beverly Hills

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority continues to build the D Line subway extension project throughout fall, with work occurring at the subway stations and at street level in Beverly Hills. Drivers are cautioned to expect lane closures at certain locations on Wilshire Boulevard.

Most of the work is complete on the Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax stations in the Miracle Mile. In Beverly Hills, work continues at street level around the Wilshire/La Cienega station. Two lanes are open in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. A K-rail work

zone remains in place along the south side of Wilshire Boulevard east of La Cienega Boulevard for street restoration work.

The alley between Lasky and Spalding drives will be closed on Oct. 23 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. in Beverly Hills to support the removal of geotechnical instruments. Access to parking for residents and businesses will be maintained and a flagger will be on site to assist motorists. Crews are also working on the Beverly Drive station and along the curb lanes on Wilshire Boulevard. Two lanes in each direction will be maintained along Wilshire Boulevard between Beverly and Crescent drives. Left turns are restricted from westbound

Wilshire Boulevard to South Cañon Drive.

At the Century City stations, plans call for deck panel removal and street restoration to begin soon on Constellation Boulevard between Century Park East and a location just west of Avenue of the Stars. Traffic control information will be provided through construction notices and direct stakeholder outreach once the schedule and specific closure details are finalized. Traffic control will be implemented in five phases progressing from east to west. After deck removal, traffic control measures will be reestablished on Constellation Boulevard to support more construction activities.

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



photo by Edwin Folven

Subway construction is occurring in the curb lanes on Wilshire Boulevard near Beverly Drive.

## ADL Los Angeles names new senior regional director



photo courtesy of ADL

David Englin most recently served as president of the Los Angeles County Business Federation.

The Anti-Defamation League announced the appointment of David Englin as the new senior regional director of ADL Los Angeles. Englin steps into the role at a critical time, as antisemitism and extremism continue to challenge communities across Southern California. In 2024 alone, ADL documented 532 incidents of antisemitic harassment, vandalism and assault in Los Angeles.

Englin brings more than 25 years of diverse leadership experience spanning public service, nonprofit management and coalition-building. Most recently, he served as president of the Los Angeles County Business Federation, also known as BizFed, representing

420,000 employers across Southern California. He mobilized business leaders to advocate for policies that grow the economy, create jobs and strengthen communities – while also engaging on critical issues such as Gov. Gavin Newsom’s statewide strategy to combat antisemitism and recent legislation to protect California’s K-12 students from antisemitism and hate.

“I’m honored to join the ADL team at this pivotal moment, when our work is more urgent than ever. As a Jewish husband and father, a veteran and an advocate for justice, I feel compelled to confront rising antisemitism and hate that betray America’s founding pledge to give ‘to bigotry no sanction, to persecu-

tion no assistance,’” Englin said. “I’m joining a dedicated team built on a solid foundation, and together with our partners, we will stand up to antisemitism and extremism and build stronger, safer communities for all Angelenos.”

**“I’m joining a dedicated team built on a solid foundation, and together with our partners, we will stand up to antisemitism and extremism and build stronger, safer communities for all Angelenos.”**

*David Englin, new senior regional director of ADL Los Angeles*

Previously, Englin served as chief operating officer of the American Red Cross Los Angeles Region, overseeing 8,000 staff and

volunteers serving 10 million residents. He shepherded the organization’s transition to an equity-driven service model, expanding disaster preparedness in socially vulnerable communities and helping secure millions in philanthropic support.

Englin’s public service roots run deep. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he served as a military spokesperson and public affairs strategist before being elected to the Virginia General Assembly, where he was one of only four Jewish legislators. He championed the rights of women, immigrants and minorities, including partnering with the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus to defeat discriminatory legislation rooted in Christian nationalism.

“We are thrilled to welcome David Englin as senior regional director of ADL Los Angeles,” said Michael Garfinkel, ADL Los Angeles Board chair. “David’s proven leadership, deep community relationships and unwavering commitment to ADL’s mission make him the right leader at this critical time.”

Englin succeeds Jeffrey I. Abrams, who led the ADL’s Los Angeles regional office from 2020-25.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Builder’s remedy projects will ruin the charm of Beverly Hills

Re “Beverly Hills OKs several builder’s remedy projects,” Oct. 16 issue

As an au pair [and] young English woman out to see the world from the small market-gardening town of Evesham, my mother and I arrived in Los Angeles [in] the summer of 1964 from New York at the downtown Greyhound bus station – the end of a journey across America.

Coming from a little town where everyone knew what you did the evening before, I loved the anonymity of L.A. When mother visited, I told her you could wear a bucket on your head and no one would say a word. I fell in love with L.A. immediately, and never left.

Los Angeles has since been the land with the biggest sky. Waiting at the traffic lights you can see the San Bernardino Mountains and the Hollywood Sign as our backdrop. A city with swaying 60-foot-tall palms everywhere and tree-lined charming neighborhoods.

So, I absolutely hate to see the horrible changes to my city. My own single-family dwelling community of 50 years is now under attack by insensitive people allowed by our city government, ignoring our lovely unique community with movie inspired homes and neighborhoods, to build massive groups of apart-

ments – property line to property line – invading our pretty peace and blue skies. The Beverly Press photo is horrible to see. Why would anyone living in Beverly Hills and our central Los Angeles city want to see this happen?

Soon, the hills surrounding our basin will be hidden behind high-rise buildings. We are losing our paradise.

*Patricia Mace  
Wooster Street  
Los Angeles*

It is distressing to see the plans for the space where the Pavilions is located. It is too tall, too dense and inappropriate for a busy corner with complicated traffic lights and street intersections.

Traffic accidents occur here because it is a confusing and congested area. The existing Pavilions is well-regarded by residents and it offers quick easy in-and-out trips. To park in underground spaces for grocery shopping is neither reasonable nor feasible.

Many shoppers are elderly and they often have helpers. They will not be able to navigate the proposed development. Same too for families who bring multiple children with them. They want a convenient market, and expecting five or six people to “pop in” to the proposed new development, store and underground parking lot is not realistic.

I suspect that the grocer will lose in the end as well, when shoppers go to the Ralphs on Olympic

instead. I know that I will.

I would urge [the city] to rethink this development. Part of the charm of Beverly Hills is that it is not overpopulated with high rise buildings. Let’s keep it that way.

*Kathryn M. Trepinski  
Law Offices of Kathryn Trepinski  
Beverly Hills*

### Who is looking out for the pedestrians in WeHo?

Re “Dedicated bike lanes are needed to protect cyclists,” Letters to the Editor, Oct. 18 issue

You say that dedicated bike lanes are necessary to protect the bicyclists. Well ... dedicated sidewalks are needed to protect pedestrians. And yet there is no such thing in West Hollywood or anywhere for that matter.

Pedestrians have to take their chances of being hit by illegal scooters riders, delivery robots or E-bikes every time they traverse our sidewalks. Everyone seems to want protections and laws set up for drivers and for bicyclists, but there are no protections and laws set up for pedestrians who are the most vulnerable of us all, especially pedestrians with disabilities and pedestrians who are older.

What is being done to protect us? So far, absolutely nothing. And that is terribly unfair and sad.

*Mikie Friedman  
West Hollywood*



### NOTICE TO BIDDERS for the STREET AND ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS FY25/26 within the City of BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

**BIDS -** Proposals for the **STREET AND ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS FY25/26** within the City of Beverly Hills, California, will be received up to the hour of **2:00 p.m., on Thursday, October 30, 2025**, via PlanetBids. Bid results will be sent to all bidders through PlanetBids and award of the contract will be made during a subsequent meeting of the City Council.

**SCOPE OF THE WORK -** In general terms, the contract work for this project shall consist of the following items of work: Various locations throughout the City, Grinding and paving streets & alleys, full depth asphalt section repairs, alley reconstruction, remove & replace curb ramps/sidewalk/gutter, meter box replacements, and Citywide

sidewalk maintenance. The contract documents, including plans and specifications may be viewed and downloaded from the City’s PlanetBids portal:

<https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=39493>

**CITY CONTACT –** Any questions or requests for information can be directed to the project manager, Manu Paul S. Dhaliwal, P.E., at [mdhaliwal@beverlyhills.org](mailto:mdhaliwal@beverlyhills.org) no later than 5:00 PM, October 23, 2025.

In compliance with Public Contract Code Section 3300, the City has determined that the Bidder must possess the following license(s): **“A”**

**THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BID OR ALL THE BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR IRREGULARITY IN ANY BID, BUT IF THE BIDS ARE ACCEPTED, THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT WILL BE LET TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE.**



RESTAURANT NEWS

Head to Long Beach for Día de los Muertos

Hotel Maya Long Beach, the Latin American-inspired, 199-room waterfront property will honor its heritage this fall with a Día de los Muertos weekend celebration featuring authentic flavors, live music and rich traditions. Celebrations will kick off at Hotel Maya’s signature restaurant, Fuego, from Saturday, Nov. 1, through Sunday, Nov. 2.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, from 5:30-9:30 p.m., the celebration features a taco and elote grill station, tequila specials and giveaways, and music from the band The Night Shift. Guests can also enjoy sugar skull face painting by makeup artist Frankie Segura, explore a vibrantly decorated altar and dine on authentic, themed dishes available in the cabana.

The festivities continue on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with brunch specials and live mariachi music, giving guests another opportunity to enjoy tequila,

sugar skull face painting with Segura and authentic themed dining. For information, visit [hotelmaya-longbeach.com/fuego-restaurant](http://hotelmaya-longbeach.com/fuego-restaurant). Hotel Maya Long Beach is located at 700 Queensway Drive.

Randy’s Donuts cheers on Dodgers

Game One of the World Series Kicks off this Friday, Oct. 24, and L.A. residents are eating up every second of the Boys in Blue fighting to reclaim their spot as world champions. Randy’s Donuts, the iconic Inglewood based shop that’s been creating sweet, hand-made treats for the L.A. area since the 1950s, is unveiling limited-edition Dodger Donuts.

The Bavarian cream-filled donuts are topped with Dodger blue icing and the classic L.A. logo, available for a limited time during the World Series at participating Randy’s locations for \$4.20 each.

For information, visit [randys-donuts.com](http://randys-donuts.com).

Halloween haunts The Culver Hotel

This Halloween, The Culver Hotel invites guests to experience the magic – and mischief – of the occasion during a weekend of festive happenings in the heart of Culver City. From a hauntingly elegant tea service to family-friendly trick-or-treating, the historic landmark offers spirited fun for guests of all ages.

On Oct. 25-26, the hotel’s signature afternoon tea gets a hauntingly delicious makeover with the debut of Spooky Tea, served from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Grand Lobby and on the garden patio. Diners can sip tea surrounded by enchanting décor and nostalgic Halloween touches while enjoying a themed menu of tea sandwiches cut into playful ghostly shapes; house-made pumpkin and bat-shaped sugar cookies; autumn-inspired pastries; and mini cauldrons brimming with candies and surprises. Classic Halloween movies – “Dracula,” “The Birds,” “Creature from the Black Lagoon” and “Frankenstein” – will screen in



photo courtesy of The Culver Hotel

Guests at The Culver Hotel can enjoy “Spooky Tea” on Oct. 25 and 26.

the Grand Lobby, while a playlist of curated tunes such as “Monster Mash” and “Thriller” will fill the room with eerie ambiance.

The festivities continue Sunday, Oct. 26, as The Culver Hotel joins Downtown Culver City’s “Hip & Historic Halloween” celebration by hosting the annual Haunted Trick-or-Treat from 4-6 p.m. Families can explore the hotel’s decorated garden and Crystal Dining Room as costumed staff hand out candy to little ghosts and goblins. Meanwhile, adults can toast the occasion with a Culver

Cauldron punch bowl – a ghoulishly delicious cocktail bubbling with dry ice and garnished with lychee eyeballs – that’s large enough for four people to share.

Throughout the weekend, The Culver Hotel will be decked out in dramatic décor, with golden skeletons scaling the building’s historic façade, cobwebs and giant spiders weaving through garden patio trees and ghostly figures haunting the lobby and dining spaces.

For information, visit [culverhotel.com](http://culverhotel.com). The Culver Hotel is located at 9400 Culver Blvd.

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Randy’s Donuts is located at 805 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, 4114 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City and 829 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica.

Spinning Sunset returns with a spooky twist

After a memorable debut this summer that drew nearly 4,000 attendees, Spinning Sunset returns to The Sunset Strip with a spooky twist on Saturday, Oct. 25. Spinning Sunset: Spooky Edition celebrates the Sunset Strip’s storied music history and the haunted energy of Halloween, offering a one-of-a-kind way to experience the community and businesses along the 1.5-mile stretch of Sunset Boulevard. While the event is free to the public, RSVPs through Eventbrite are strongly encouraged as space is limited. Attendees who share their experience on Instagram will be entered into a giveaway for a chance to win prizes. Programming highlights include vinyl and Halloween vendors, vinyl DJs, free popcorn, free vinyl bags, FRO Soft Serve, flash tattoos and face painting, a pumpkin patch and decorating, “Rocky Horror Picture

Show” characters and spooky photo opportunities and decor. For information, visit thesunsetstrip.com/spinningsunset. Spinning Sunset: Spooky Edition will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25, from noon-6 p.m. at the Pink Dot Parking Lot, 8495 Sunset Blvd.

Hollywood Distillery creates spooky sippers

Inside a former mortuary and directly across from the iconic Hollywood Forever Cemetery, Hollywood Distillery has crafted a spooky beverage program to kick off its opening. Tasters can experience the drinks on Oct. 25. Libations include the “Beware of the Evil Rye” (\$20) – Zanja-Madre whiskey, pistachio, almond syrup, lemon juice and orange juice, and the “Double Double Bourbon Trouble” (\$22) – Zanja-Madre bourbon, pomegranate reduction, syrup, lemon juice and mint brewed up for a wickedly delightful potion in Hollywood Distillery’s souvenir cauldron. For information, visit hollywood-distillery.com. Hollywood Distillery is located at 5975 Santa Monica Blvd.

GO DODGERS! Pink’s goes Dodger blue for World Series

Pink’s Hot Dogs on La Brea Avenue turned blue once again in celebration of the Los Angeles Dodgers’ return to the World Series. Fans can celebrate the team’s 2025 trip to the Fall Classic with a Pink’s “Blue’s” Bacon Chili Cheese Dog for \$8.22, honoring the eight times the Dodgers won the World Series and the 22 times they made it to the championship. All proceeds from sales of the special hot dog will be donated to the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation. “I grew up a Dodgers fan and have always remained a fan. Pink’s bleeds Dodger blue,” owner Richard Pink said. “It’s a great way for the fans to celebrate on their way to Dodger Stadium or on the way home from the game. I’m so happy for the city and the team that they are playing for the championship here in the sports capital of the world.” Pink’s has also added new baseball-themed menu items



Richard Pink and his team are celebrating the Dodgers’ return to the Fall Classic.

including the MVP Hot Dog dedicated to Shohei Ohtani, featuring a stretch hot dog topped with chili, mustard, onions, chopped tomatoes, shredded cheddar cheese and three strips of bacon (\$11.17), and the Triple Play Lineup, which includes a cheeseburger, fries or onion rings and a drink (\$14.50). The Dodgers will face the

Toronto Blue Jays in the World Series, which begins on Friday, Oct. 24, at 5 p.m. in Toronto. The series returns to Los Angeles for Game Three on Monday, Oct. 27, at 5 p.m. Pink’s Hot Dogs is located at 709 N. La Brea Ave. For information, call (323)931-4223, or visit pinkshollywood.com.

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# Beverly Hills Art Show winners announced

The fall Beverly Hills Art Show, held Oct. 18 and 19, attracted thousands of visitors to Beverly Hills and Beverly Gardens Park. A record 250 artists exhibited work, transforming the park into a masterful outdoor gallery along four blocks of Santa Monica Boulevard from Rodeo Drive to Rexford Drive.

Attendees enjoyed ceramics, drawing and printmaking, glass, jewelry, photography, mixed media, painting, photography and digital art, sculpture and watercolor. The event included a creative hub with people of all ages engaging in fun hands-on artmaking, and a beer and wine garden where adults were able to relax and enjoy live music. Live artist demonstrations brought the studio to the street with painting

in oil and watercolor techniques, jewelry design and two- and three-dimensional artworks. Chalk art masters featured Stacy Nalapraya, who created a grand pavement mural using an Italian street painting style, and Gloria Ing, who created a large-scale mural with attendees participating in the process.

Metro Art-commissioned artists Meleko Mokgosi, Devon Tsuno, Phung Huynh and Oscar Magallanes, who are creating artworks for the Beverly Drive and Century City Metro stations, were part of the art show, demonstrating the processes behind their artwork designs for the future stations through hands-on collage and portrait-making activities.

This year’s fall 2025 Beverly Hills Art Show winners are Best of

Show – Emily Wallerstein; Best Display of Art – Shawn Waco; Best New Artist – Will Raojanina; Gil Borgos Originality Award – Aly Kourouma; and Mayor’s Purchase Award – Danilo Cuxil.

First Place winners in each category are Ceramics – Jerry and Tanner Sawitz; Drawing and Printmaking – Jeff Seemayer and Colinne Rubin; Glass – Marc Gordon; Jewelry – Birgit Kupke Peyla; Mixed Media, Two Dimensional – Christian Benoit; Mixed Media, Three Dimensional – Hugo Heredia Barrera; Painting – Ashley Ravidas; Photography and Digital Art – Mark Levin; Sculpture – K.L. Wollons; and Watercolor – Taman Vanscoy.

The spring 2026 Beverly Hills Art Show will be held on May 16



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Mayor Sharona Nazarian and members of the Beverly Hills City Council gathered with the winners from the art show, held on Oct. 18 and 19.

and 17. Artists are encouraged to apply for the May 2026 show. The application for a juried spot will be

available in December by visiting [beverlyhills.org/artshow](https://beverlyhills.org/artshow). For questions, call (310)285-1000.

# Architecture & Design Film Fest bridges media at the Culver Theater



photo courtesy of ADFE:LA

Films showcased include “Building on the Edge.”

The Los Angeles edition of the Architecture & Design Film Festival returns to the Culver Theater on Oct. 22, 26 and 27. As the largest film festival dedicated to architecture and design, ADFE offers audiences an opportunity to experience the power of personal stories and broader histories at the intersection of the built environment, culture and community. Los Angeles premieres alongside Q&As with directors, conversations with cultural luminaries and interactive events make the festival a fall standout of Los Angeles. This year’s festival features a dynamic lineup of offerings highlighting urgent issues such as sustainability, housing, community resilience and artistic legacy.

A highlight of the festival is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 26, following the Los Angeles premiere of

“The Space Architect.” Frances Anderton, writer, editor, curator and broadcaster at the intersection of design, architecture and life; Winka Dubbeldam, Assoc. AIA, founding partner of Archi-Tectonics and director and CEO of SCI-Arc; and filmmaker Rebecca Carpenter will participate in a conversation about Constance Adams’ legacy and personal and professional journeys that challenge conventions.

To preview what is to come, ADFE:LA will join the Art Walk & Roll Festival on Oct. 18 with a free screening of “Søren Pihlmann: Make Materials Matter at the Helms Design District.” Featuring architect and curator of the Danish Pavilion at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, Søren Pihlmann, the film explores how

existing buildings can be transformed using their original materials. ADFE:LA representatives will provide information about the festival’s upcoming program at the Culver City Theater.

“ADFE was created to bring a wide range of people together to celebrate the creative and social impact of architecture and design through film,” festival founder and director Kyle Bergman said. “As the festival continues to grow, returning to cities like Los Angeles where it has a long history and expanding to new locations, we consistently see how ADFE inspires dialogue and ideas, not only among architects and designers but also general audiences who discover the way design informs everything.”

For tickets and information, visit [adfilmfest.com](https://adfilmfest.com).

# TCM Classic Cruise sets sail from San Diego in 2026

After a fully sold-out event in 2025, the TCM Classic Cruise will set sail from Oct. 13-18, 2026, aboard the Disney Wonder. Next year’s ship will embark out of San Diego, and will travel to Catalina Island and Ensenada, Mexico. TCM’s Ben Mankiewicz will serve as prime host for the five-night voyage, and travelers will be treated to a variety of unique TCM-themed events and activities, including appearances by legendary classic film stars, screenings of great movies, behind-the-scene presentations with film experts, in-depth interviews and trivia game nights.

“The TCM Classic Cruise has truly become the ultimate movie lovers’ paradise,” TCM chief programming officer Charles Tabesh

said. “Our TCM hosts and team produce the most bold and exciting cinematic getaway where fans gather, honor and celebrate the very best in classic film, and they outdo themselves every year. We welcome all to join us for the quintessential voyage of movie magic in 2026.”

Recently completing its 11th sailing, the 2025 TCM Classic Cruise sailed out of Port Canaveral, Fla., with stops in Nassau and Lookout Cay at Lighthouse Point, Disney’s newest destination in the Bahamas aboard the Disney Magic. While at sea, passengers had the opportunity to attend TCM-themed events and activities, including film screenings and conversations with special guests Jennifer Grant, Victoria Thomas, Carl Franklin, Bruce

Goldstein and screen stars Stefanie Powers, Nancy Kwan, Brenda Vaccaro, Stephen Tobolowsky and Keith Carradine.

TCM hosts Mankiewicz, Jacqueline Stewart, Dave Karger, Eddie Muller and Alicia Malone were also on board, ushering festivities throughout the week. Other fan events included film discussions, movie trivia games, beverage tastings, live music and dance classes. The weeklong celebration of film also hosted multiple parties, including an inaugural “Karaoke Cabaret,” where TCM hosts and staff serenaded passengers with jukebox favorites, and “Hollywood Canteen,” a USO show-themed reception where guests were encouraged to dress to the nautical



photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Discovery

The cruise includes screenings of classic movies and activities for fans.

nines, inspired by service blues, followed by a fireworks celebration. Pre-sale registration for the 2026

cruise is open at [tcmcruise.com](https://tcmcruise.com), and public ticket sales begin on Dec. 19, 2025.

# Backstage at Geffen raises funds for the arts



photo courtesy of the Geffen Playhouse

Actor Matt Bomer was awarded the Artistic Impact Award.

Geffen Playhouse raised vital funds for the theater’s education, community engagement and artistic initiatives at the Backstage at the Geffen annual fundraiser on Oct. 19. Greg Berlanti presented the Artistic Impact Award to Matt Bomer, Sean Hayes presented the Founders Award to Frank Marshall and Heather Alicia Simms and Utkarsh Ambudkar presented the Trailblazers Award to Danielle Pinnock.

The evening of unscripted, unannounced storytellers and performers was hosted by Daniel K. Isaac and featured personal behind-the-scenes anecdotes from surprise celebrity guests including Calista Flockhart, Helder Guimarães and Wendie Malick.

Geffen Playhouse Executive Director and CEO Gil Cates, Jr. and Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director Tarell Alvin McCraney welcomed the crowd and thanked the audience for their ongoing support of the arts and helping to keep storytelling alive on the Geffen stages.

The evening opened with a dance performance choreographed by Juel D. Lane exclusively for Backstage at the Geffen. Lane made his return to the Geffen after serving as choreographer for the 2024-25 Geffen Playhouse season opener, “The Brothers Size,” in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater. Next up was an original song composed and performed by Jake Brasch, who also wrote “The Reservoir,” which made its world premiere at Geffen Playhouse in June in the Gil Cates Theater. The

evening’s performances concluded with a spectacular illusion by Helder Guimarães, who also served as one of the evening’s storytellers. The night ended with an original DeLorean from “Back to the Future” awaiting surprised guests as they exited the theater for the Backstage at the Geffen after-party on Le Conte Avenue in Westwood.

Backstage at the Geffen recognizes the accomplishments of leaders in the artistic community, supports the theater’s mission to produce original quality work and raises funds for education and community engagement programs, which bring live theater to more than 15,000 youth, seniors and veterans in communities across Los Angeles.

For information, visit [geffenplayhouse.org](https://geffenplayhouse.org).



# ‘Black Phone 2’ is among the best of the Halloween season

To the dismay of many franchises, sequels replicate the formula of the first film. Rinse and repeat for another four and five entries. Quality drops. Audiences dwindle. Take an extended break. Rinse and repeat once more. It’s tedious, but that’s often how it goes. Moviegoers often must wait patiently for something different, something lasting.

The standard process isn’t possible for “Black Phone 2.” The series’ villain, a child-abducting serial killer dubbed the Grabber (Ethan

Hawke), very clearly, definitively died in the 2021 original film. But any movie that permits the dead to communicate with the living through landlines need not let that stop a monstrous foe from wreaking havoc once more.

This sequel effectively justifies its existence. More so, it actually surpasses the already solid first installment in many ways. “Black Phone 2” is the best horror film of the Halloween season for those seeking creepy vibes and anyone else who craves a quality story.

## ON SCREEN

WITH  
TIM POSADA

Finn (Mason Thames) is a local legend for breaking free from and defeating the Grabber. But high school sucks. He continually encounters peers who care more about clout than Finn himself. Top that off with a whole lotta unresolved trauma, and Finn isn’t doing well.

Meanwhile, his sister Gwen’s (Madeleine McGraw) dreams call her to an old Christian camp the siblings’ mother once attended in her youth. So they go, and brother and sister confront unseemly events from the past and another phone line to those who have passed, which now includes the Grabber. Loosed from mortal limitations, no one knows what he can do now.

“Black Phone 2” channels several iconic horror features. Expect a touch of “A Nightmare on Elm Street,” a little “Black Christmas” and a lot of themes and aesthetic choices from director Scott Derrickson’s other works. Helping with the mood is



photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

The Grabber (Ethan Hawke) returns in “Black Phone 2.”

Derrickson’s own son Atticus (“V/H/S/85”) as composer.

Don’t expect a traditional kidnapping like last time. The story goes in an entirely different direction. Ghosts seek rest, while a supernatural force terrorizes Gwen in her dreamscape. Unlike its predecessor, which focused more on Finn, this one shares the lead duties.

Don’t feel bad for Thames. He’s having quite a year between this, “How to Train Your Dragon” and next week’s “Regretting You.” Plus, the co-lead approach permits McGraw to shine. And shine she does as a final girl who rejects any damsel sensibilities.

To be honest, Derrickson’s last film – Apple TV+’s “The Gorge” – was a major miss, the kind that might invite concern about any future projects. Luckily, it proved to be a temporary hiccup. “Black Phone 2” belongs next to stronger works, including “Sinister,” “Doctor Strange” and “The

Exorcism of Emily Rose.”

It might not be scarier than the first, but it’s a more complete story. It fills in gaps, explains more and concludes a greater sense of closure. It would be a shame for these films to end, but “Black Phone 2” feels complete.

But any film that does that well opening weekend at the box office (earning substantially more than last week’s “Tron: Ares” on a fraction of the budget) is sure to continue. If that’s the case, it’ll only work with Derrickson in charge. His care for this story and these characters must continue or any sequel is DOA.

Regardless, “Black Phone 2” is a satisfying experience with heartfelt moments, gritty filmmaking and strong performances from all, especially Ethan Hawke as a menacing antagonist. If only more horror films showed as much care for the story and characters, and less interest in cheap tricks and cruelty.



photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

Madeleine McGraw is a standout in “Black Phone 2,” which features strong performances and a menacing antagonist.

## Enjoy spooky season at the El Capitan

The Spooktacular Season has arrived at the El Capitan Theatre with Halloween Fan Favorites. Tickets are on sale for Disney’s “Hocus Pocus” Witches Night Out fan event Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. and Tim Burton’s “The Nightmare Before Christmas” in 4D from Oct. 24–Nov. 4.

A fan event screening for Disney’s “Hocus Pocus” will be held on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. with a special introduction by composer John Debney and screenwriter David Kirschner before the movie. Guests are invited to enjoy a night of frolic in their All Hallows Eve best and can channel their inner Sanderson Sister by taking a picture at the photo op. Two different ticket packages are available. The “Amok Amok Amok” pack includes a reserved ticket, priority entry, Mickey Mouse ghost popcorn container with popcorn, fountain drink and event credential for \$75.

General tickets are \$30 and include a reserved seat and event credential.

Guests attending Tim Burton’s “The Nightmare Before Christmas” in 4D can take a photo at holiday door themed photo ops. Before each screening, guests can see the Disney short “Trick or Treat.”

Tim Burton’s “The Nightmare Before Christmas” in 4D will have a fan event screening on Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. featuring a live drawing demo with George McClements. Tickets are \$75 and include a reserved seat, Jack Skellington popcorn container with popcorn, fountain drink and event credential.

A special Four is a Scream Pack is available for “The Nightmare Before Christmas” in 4D for \$80 and includes four tickets. A Skeleton’s Best Friend ticket is also available for \$40 and includes a reserved seat, zero straw clip and 32-ounce fountain drink.

Daily showtimes for Tim Burton’s “The Nightmare Before Christmas” in 4D are 9:30 a.m., noon, 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30

p.m. A 10 p.m. screening will be held Friday through Sunday. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$24.

The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd. For tickets and information, visit [elcapitantheatre.com](http://elcapitantheatre.com) and [fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-aacon/theater-page](http://fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-aacon/theater-page).

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# L.A. City College professor selected for Television Academy fellowship

L.A. City College and L.A. Valley College adjunct professor Linda Beal has been selected for an Alex Trebek Legacy Fellowship by the Television Academy Foundation in Hollywood. She is one of 18 professors selected from colleges and universities nationwide for the 2025 fellowship program.



photo courtesy of the Television Academy Foundation  
Linda Beal has taught cinema and television courses at L.A. City College.

Since 2021, the foundation has offered Alex Trebek Legacy Fellowships, established by the Harry and Judy Friedman Family Foundation, in honor of the late television icon and “Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek. The scholarships provide financial support for educators from community colleges and minority-serving institutions to attend the annual Media Educators Conference. The three-day conference, held at the Television Academy’s North Hollywood campus on Oct. 22-24, connects college classrooms with the television industry by providing media professors with curriculum-enhancing seminars on the latest in the art, science and business of television with prominent leaders in entertainment.

Beal, an educator, television producer, attorney and nonprofit executive, has taught cinema and television courses at L.A. City College, L.A. Valley College, New York Film Academy (Burbank), Columbia College Hollywood and

high school dual enrollment for 16 years. Currently, she serves as an adjunct professor in the Cinema-TV and Media Arts departments at L.A. City and L.A. Valley colleges. Her courses include narrative and documentary film history, television history, diversity in film, film genres, history of animation and TV announcing.

Beal served as LACC’s academic senator for eight years and is a recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award. She also dedicated over 10 years as LACC’s coordinator of year-round high school college camp programs.

As a television producer, Beal worked on talk shows such as the “Whoopi Goldberg Show,” “Roseanne Show,” “Keenen Ivory Wayans Show,” “Gregg Kinnear Show” and “BET Live from L.A.” In 2024, she produced a documentary short about 99-year-old working artist Betye Saar for the “Look What She’s Doing” program.

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



photo courtesy of BHUSD  
The homecoming king and queen celebrated with their families.

# Beverly High homecoming brings community together

Homecoming 2025 at Beverly Hills High School on Oct. 17 brought together students, families, alumni, staff and city leaders in a shared celebration of Norman pride. The evening reflected the strong sense of connection between the school and the city of Beverly Hills.

The halftime program featured performances by the BHHS marching band, dance company and cheer team, highlighting the talent, commitment and school spirit of BHHS students. Seniors Perry Gilardian and Chloe Emine were announced as the 2025 Homecoming King and Queen, selected by peers in recognition of their leadership and positive presence on campus.

“Our football team continues to show up for this school with dedication and pride,” BHHS Principal Loan Sriruksa said. “Homecoming gave us the chance to recognize their commitment, especially our seniors, who lead with integrity and represent what it means to be part of BHHS athletics.”

The event also served as an

opportunity to acknowledge the city of Beverly Hills for continued support of BHUSD schools. The presence of school resource officers at every home game, the Beverly Hills Fire Department’s on-site support and the engagement of city leaders contributed to a meaningful evening. The city projected the BHHS mascot onto Beverly Hills City Hall, reinforcing that the entire community stands behind students.

Attendees included Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss, Board of Education members Rachelle Marcus, Judy Manouchehri and Russell Stuart, as well as City Councilwoman Mary Wells, who previously served on the BHUSD Board of Education.

“This night was about our students,” Cherniss said. “It was about showing them that they are supported, seen and celebrated by an entire city that believes in them. That’s the heart of our community and the promise of educational excellence.”

For information, visit [bhhsd.org](https://bhhsd.org).

# AJU launches ‘Jewish Future 2025’ fellowship

American Jewish University on Oct. 16 announced the launch of “Jewish Future 2025,” a national video fellowship calling on the community to imagine and share bold visions for the Jewish future.

Participants are invited to submit creative, high-impact 60-second videos that answer the question, “What does the perfect Jewish future look like?” Submissions should highlight authentic hopes for a thriving Jewish life – rooted in joy, learning, spirituality, creativity, community and continuity.

“American Jewish University is singularly focused on the future of Jewish life,” AJU president Jay Sanderson said. “This fellowship invites our community to share bold visions for what lies ahead and

reflects AJU’s role as a convener, harnessing creativity and imagination to shape a vibrant Jewish future.”

A panel of judges will select three winners based on originality, creativity, clarity of vision and visual impact. Winners will receive cash prizes of \$3,600 (first place), \$1,800 (second place) and \$540 (third place) and will be named AJU Jewish Future Fellows. Winning videos will be shared across AJU’s platforms and social media.

The initiative is powered by the Bruce Geller Memorial Prize, which supports artists exploring Jewish ideas, traditions, history and identity. Bruce and Jeannette Geller

were influential Los Angeles residents whose passion for creativity and the pursuit of art defined their lives.

Submissions are due by Nov. 17. Winners will be announced on Dec. 15.

The contest is open to U.S. residents ages 18 and older. Videos must be approximately 60 seconds in length. Submissions must be in English (or with subtitles if in another language). Multiple entries are allowed, though only one prize will be awarded per person. Videos should be social media-ready. Submit videos via WeTransfer to [info@aju.edu](mailto:info@aju.edu) and complete the submission form at [aju.edu/futurefellows](https://aju.edu/futurefellows).

# Newsom signs bills to keep children safe online

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed new landmark legislation on Oct. 13 to strengthen the state’s online protections for children and create safeguards for new and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. The legislation adds required features for platforms and products such as age verification, protocols to address suicide and self-harm, warnings regarding social media and companion chatbots, and stronger penalties for those who profit from illegal deep-fakes.

The signings follow other landmark legislation to protect children from social media addiction, strong privacy requirements and nation-leading transparency measures.

For information, visit [gov.ca.gov/2025/10/13/governor-newsom-signs-bills-to-further-strengthen-californias-leadership-in-protecting-children-online](https://gov.ca.gov/2025/10/13/governor-newsom-signs-bills-to-further-strengthen-californias-leadership-in-protecting-children-online).

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## Rodeo Drive lights up the holidays on Nov. 13

The city of Beverly Hills and the Rodeo Drive Committee announced on Oct. 21 the return of one of Southern California’s most beloved holiday traditions – a sparkling and magical program of holiday décor and entertainment including the annual Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 5-8 p.m.

Thousands are expected to gather under the glittering palm trees on the iconic luxury fashion street for the grand illumination of Rodeo Drive’s holiday lights and décor. This year’s theme, Enchanted Holiday Dreams, takes inspiration from Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker” ballet – celebrating imagination, courage and love through the timeless story of Clara and her magical Christmas Eve adventure. Adorned in shades of gold, blue, red and white, the center median will feature Nutcracker-inspired and ballerina ornaments set beneath the sparkle of lights cascading from palm to palm. Wrapped tree trunks and glistening white rose bushes will bring a romantic, dreamlike glow to all.

“Our Holiday Lighting

Celebration is one of Beverly Hills’ most cherished traditions, a magical night where our community comes together to kick off the season with joy, gratitude and unity,” Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. “As Rodeo Drive sparkles with lights, fireworks fill the sky and music fills the air, we’re reminded of the spirit that connects us and the beauty of celebrating side by side. It’s a night for everyone – kids, parents, neighbors, friends and visitors, to make memories and welcome the holidays in true Beverly Hills style.”

“The reveal of this year’s holiday decor Enchanted Holiday Dreams invites everyone to rediscover the magic and meaning of the holidays inspired by the timeless tale of The Nutcracker,” Rodeo Drive Committee President Kathy Gohari said. “It’s a celebration of love and dreams – values that resonate deeply across our luxury retail community and with all who visit Rodeo Drive. We are truly excited to welcome the stellar line up of performers to our holiday stage on the street of dreams.”

The special evening, which is free and open to the public, will fea-

ture live performances by award-winning local and international artists. The street will come alive with a whoosh of Nutcracker-inspired and Sugarplum skaters and the pirouettes of stilt ballerinas.

As the evening reaches its crescendo, Nazarian, City Council members and the Rodeo Drive Committee Executive Board will lead the official countdown to illuminate the Enchanted Holiday Dreams along the entire street. The celebration concludes with the arrival of Santa Claus and a spectacular fireworks finale.

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



photo courtesy of the Rodeo Drive Committee

The event on Nov. 13 will feature live performances and a fireworks display to celebrate the holidays.

## Malibu Moves event raises funds for local youth

The Emily Shane Foundation is holding an online silent auction in partnership with Malibu Moves through Monday, Oct. 27, at noon, giving supporters an opportunity to bid on a curated and expansive selection of items in support of local youth.

Auction items include theater tickets, restaurant dining experiences, wine tastings, family outings and museum and concert passes. All proceeds benefit the Emily Shane Foundation’s Successful Educational Achievement Program, which provides one-on-one academic tutoring and mentorship to underserved middle schoolers at risk of academic failure.

The auction is part of the Emily Shane Foundation’s broader participation in Malibu Moves, an inclusive community weekend of long-distance running events held on Oct. 25-26 at Zuma Beach. The nonprofit fundraising event includes a half-marathon; 10K, 5K and 1K kids run; and the 1-mile Zuma Dash. Participants of all ages and fitness levels are welcome. Malibu Moves also features a beachside festival with live music, a beer garden, vendors and VIP experiences.

Zuma Beach is located at 30050 Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. For information, visit [malibumoves.com](http://malibumoves.com).

## Beverly Vista unveils new athletic field

Beverly Vista Middle School celebrated the official ribbon cutting of its brand-new athletic field on Wednesday, Oct. 15. The event marked a significant milestone in the school’s ongoing commitment to school pride and athletic excellence.

The event was attended by members of the Beverly Hills Police Department and City Councilman Lester Friedman, along with Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss, Board of Education members, district leaders, principal Rich Waters and BVMS athletes.

The new field provides BVMS with a regulation-sized athletic

facility where students can train, compete and build lasting memories. The upgraded space includes new turf, modern safety features and an improved layout designed for performance and play.

“This field is a shining example of what happens when a community comes together to support its schools,” Cherniss said. “The students of BVMS now have a space that reflects the strength of their school spirit and the district’s commitment to excellence.”

Student athletes led the countdown to the ribbon cutting, cheered on by the BHUSD.

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



photo courtesy of BHUSD

The field provides a regulation-sized athletic facility for students.

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# Skirball debuts two dynamic new exhibitions

The Skirball Cultural Center presents two vibrant new fall exhibitions in October. “Glass Sukkah: This Home Is Not a House” runs through Sunday, March 1, 2026, and features a large-scale glass sukkah and new related works by Black contemporary artist Therman Statom. “Draw Them In, Paint Them Out” runs through Sunday, March 1, 2026, and presents the work of painter Philip Guston, the child of Jewish immigrants from Odessa, and Trenton Doyle Hancock, a leading Black contemporary artist based in Houston, Texas. The exhibition explores the role that artists play in the pursuit of social justice. Also, the “Jack Kirby: Heroes and Humanity” exhibition remains on view through March 1, 2026.

“Glass Sukkah: This Home Is Not a House” features a large-scale glass sukkah by Statom, a major figure in the Studio Glass Movement. Statom takes inspiration from the Jewish festival of Sukkot as a vehicle for cross-cultural exploration. The artist recontextualizes his sukkah, originally commissioned by the Skirball in 1997, with new works that encourage meditation on the temporary nature of shelter and the interplay between vulnerability and resilience. Sukkot is a weeklong Jewish harvest festival marked by a time of giving thanks for the gifts of nature and the safety and comfort of home. The exhibition spotlights a jewel in the Skirball’s permanent collection, serving as a springboard to examine the values at the heart of Sukkot: welcoming strangers, fostering human connection and expressing

gratitude for one another and the natural world. “Draw Them In, Paint Them Out: Trenton Doyle Hancock Confronts Philip Guston” presents the artists’ work in dialogue for the first time. The exhibition explores resonant connections between their work and the role that artists play in the pursuit of social justice. “As a Jewish American institution that harnesses the power of the arts to connect people across communities and generations, the Skirball is proud to present the work of two extraordinary artists in conversation,” Museum Director Sheri Bernstein said. “That Trenton Doyle Hancock felt a kinship with and drew inspiration from Philip Guston – from his visual language, embrace of satire and nuanced and layered understanding of his own



photo courtesy of the Skirball Cultural Center

“Glass Sukkah: This Home Is Not a House” explores the festival of Sukkot with a large-scale glass sukkah created by artist Therman Statom.

identity – should give us hope during these polarizing times in our own ability to see ourselves in others who might on the surface seem

different from us.” The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. For information, visit [skirball.org](http://skirball.org).

# HER too fights breast cancer in Beverly Hills

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, nonprofit HER too will hold its fifth annual Night of Hope Gala at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Oct. 30. Since October 2023, HER too has partnered with the Cecilia Gonzalez De La Hoya Cancer Center in East L.A. to provide direct financial assistance to local

patients who need help paying for treatments, therapies or supportive care. The Night of Hope Gala will raise critical funds for women in underserved communities with a shared mission – ensuring no woman has to fight breast cancer alone or in financial burden. Hosted by Matthew Hoffman and sponsored by Fisher Law

Corporation, the signature event will present the Profound Impact Award, first given in 2024 to breast cancer surgeon Dr. Dennis R. Holmes, with this year’s honoree to be announced soon. The evening will feature guests including Miss World America 2024 Athenna Crosby and Grammy winner Reggie Calloway. Instead of auction items, the gala will conduct an interactive immersive experience, including a balloon pop, Chinese raffle and heads or tails game. Luxury prizes will include courtside Lakers seats, Dodgers tickets and a trip to Mexico. HER too was born from Leyna’s 12-year journey alongside her mother, a Marine Corps veteran who battled metastatic breast cancer until her death in 2019. Leyna’s mother had full medical coverage – a privilege that gave her access to the treatment that extended her life for more than a decade. After witnessing firsthand how many women aren’t as fortunate, Leyna created HER too to help women fighting breast cancer bridge the financial gap in care. For information, visit [hertoo-breastcancer.org](http://hertoo-breastcancer.org). The Beverly Hills Hotel is located at 9641 Sunset Blvd.



photo courtesy of HER too

The gala will include a balloon pop, a Chinese raffle and a heads or tails game with luxury prizes.

# LGBT Center hosts talk on gay life before Stonewall

One Institute and the Los Angeles LGBT Center co-present “Rethinking the Closet: New York Gay Life Before Stonewall” on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the center’s Renberg Theatre, 1125 N. McCadden Place. The event features Dr. George Chauncey, a prominent historian of LGBTQ communities, discussing his forthcoming book, a long-awaited follow up to his classic work “Gay New York.” The event is part of the Distinguished Scholar Lecture series and One Institute’s Circa: Queer Histories Festival. Although the 1969 Stonewall rebellion is often called the starting point for queer life and politics, the lecture describes the extensive gay world that existed in New York in the generation before Stonewall. Drawing on Chauncey’s forthcoming book on postwar gay New York, the historian explores the different forms gay male life took in the city’s racially segregated postwar neighborhoods and analyzes the dramatic impact World War II had on gay consciousness and cultural styles.

A reception follows the lecture. Founded in 1952, One Institute (formerly ONE Archives Foundation) is the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the United States. For information and tickets, visit [circafestival.org/](http://circafestival.org/)



photo course of the One Institute

Dr. George Chauncey’s lecture explores the history of the LGBTQ movement.

event/distinguished-scholar-lecture-rethinking-the-closet-new-york-gay-life-before-stonewall.

# KCCLA celebrates APEC Summit

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles will host APEC 2025 Korea Cultural Night on Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m. in Zipper Hall at the Colburn School, in celebration of the upcoming APEC Summit in Gyeongju, Korea. Since the first meeting in Seattle in 1993, the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Summit has been held annually in different member countries, and comes to South Korea in 2025. The special APEC 2025 Korea Cultural Night in Los Angeles commemorates the Gyeongju summit, celebrates international friendship and strengthens the bond among APEC member communities. The evening will feature tradi-

tional performances from 7-8:30 p.m. from Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru and Thailand. Prior to the main program, booths representing participating countries will offer cultural displays and interactive experiences from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Zipper Hall outdoor area. As the host country of the upcoming APEC Summit, Korea will present a series of traditional performances and offer cultural booths featuring APEC-related exhibits, Korean crafts, food tastings and hands-on experiences. The Colburn School is located at 200 S. Grand Ave. Admission to APEC 2025 Korea Cultural Night is free, but advance reservations are required. For information and to RSVP, visit [kccla.org](http://kccla.org).



photo courtesy of KCCLA

The APEC 2025 Korea Cultural Night features dance from many Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation countries including the contemporary Javanese dance “Kebyar.”

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# POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Oct. 12 and Oct. 18. 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. 12

At 4:06 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 900 block of Wilshire at 7:58 p.m.

At 10 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 600 block of N. Bedford.

An unknown suspect burglarized a garage in the 200 block of Lasky at 11:03 p.m.

### Oct. 13

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9500 block of Wilshire at 8 a.m.

At 12:08 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9200 block of Burton Way.

### Oct. 14

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 300 block of S. Spalding.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of S. McCarty at 9 p.m.

### Oct. 15

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 3:17 p.m.

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

### Oct. 16

At 5 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Gale.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Rexford at 5:49 p.m.

### Oct. 17

At 4:27 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 8800 block of Olympic.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Roxbury at 11:19 a.m.

### Oct. 18

At 9:30 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of S. Roxbury.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Camden at 4:19 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Willaman.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9300 block of Olympic at 5:54 p.m.

At 7:32 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 200 block of S. Gale.

## West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

### Oct. 12

At 2:30 a.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 3 a.m.

At 3:55 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 1100 block of Alta Loma.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8600 block of Melrose at 12:30 p.m.

At 4:32 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of Kings.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 9:45 p.m.

### Oct. 13

At 2:50 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of San Vicente at 3 a.m.

At 7:03 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1200 block of N. Vista.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Olive at 2 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Olive.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Laurel at 5 p.m.

### Oct. 14

At 3:40 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9000 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 9:15 p.m.

### Oct. 15

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 12:30 p.m.

At 4:04 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8800 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset at 11:45 p.m.

### Oct. 16

At 3:11 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

### Oct. 18

At 12:01 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 700 block of Ramage.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 3 p.m.

# BHPD targets impaired drivers with checkpoint

The Beverly Hills Police Department’s Traffic Bureau will conduct a sobriety and driver’s license checkpoint on Friday, Oct. 24, from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. near North Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Drive.

All traffic will pass through the checkpoint and motorists will be stopped and contacted by uniformed officers checking for alcohol and drug-impairment. Officers will also check to make sure all motorists have a valid driver’s license.

DUI checkpoint locations are determined based on data showing incidents of impaired driving-related collisions.

“Impaired drivers put others on the road at significant risk,” BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook said. “Any prevention measures that reduce the number of impaired drivers on our roads significantly improve traffic safety.”

The BHPD reminds the public that impaired driving is not only caused by alcohol. Some prescrip-



photo courtesy of the BHPD

The BHPD is holding a DUI and driver’s license checkpoint on Oct. 24.

tion medications and over-the-counter drugs may interfere with driving. While medicinal and recreational marijuana are legal, driving under the influence of marijuana is illegal. Drivers charged with a first-

time DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license.

Funding for the checkpoint was provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety.

# County employees charged with stealing benefits

The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office has charged 13 Los Angeles County employees with felony grand theft for stealing a combined \$437,383 in state unemployment benefits from 2020-23.

“As government employees, we have an obligation to uphold the public’s trust,” Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said. “When a civil servant steals from the government, that trust is broken. The scale of fraud in these cases is shocking, spanning seven different county agencies, including employees whose very job was to help the public determine whether they were eligible for public benefits. Most egregiously, these individuals allegedly claimed to be unemployed during the COVID pandemic when millions of Californians were legitimately in need of unemployment benefits. We are putting all government employees on notice. If you steal from taxpayers, you will be prosecuted.”

Each of the 13 Los Angeles County employees was charged with one felony count of grand theft and one lesser misdemeanor charge. The defendants allegedly submitted fraudulent unemployment insurance claims to the California Employment Development Department and falsely claimed, under penalty of perjury, that they earned less than \$600 per week during each two-week claim period. In fact, the employees earned more than \$600 a week, making them ineligible for unemployment benefits, prosecutors said.

The defendants are Alla Agamalian, an administrative services manager in the Justice, Care and Opportunity Department who allegedly stole \$37,800; Aurora Lopez Bautista, an eligibility worker

in the Department of Public Social Services who allegedly stole \$9,349; Derrick Anthony Callella, a clerk in the Department of Health Services who allegedly stole \$9,984; Donisha Nicole Brumfield, a secretary in the Child Support Services Department who allegedly stole \$39,600; and Ivan Jacob Mariscal, an eligibility worker in the Department of Public Social Services who allegedly stole \$11,700.

Also charged are Jessica Antonia Chandler, a children’s social worker in the Department of Children and Family Services who allegedly stole \$48,900; Chandra Kameko Tisdale, a children’s social worker in the Department of Children and Family Services who allegedly stole \$57,900; Kelley Collins, an eligibility supervisor in the Department of Public Social Services who allegedly stole \$56,400; Mary Theresa Thomas, a children’s social worker in the Department of Children and Family Services who allegedly stole \$10,350; and Raquel Martinez-Alvarez, a non-sworn employee in the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department who allegedly stole \$54,900. The remaining defendants are Shalita Viola Hammell, a human services aide in the Department of Children and Family Services who allegedly stole \$35,850; Toni Chereece Pittmon, a secretary in the Department of Children and Family Services who allegedly stole \$52,950; and Ynna Aghabegian, a senior accountant-auditor in the Department of Auditor-Controller who allegedly stole \$11,700.

The defendants each face a maximum sentence of three years in state prison. Members of the public are encouraged to report any

known or suspected incidents of fraud, waste or abuse involving the county by calling (800)544-6861 or visiting [fraud.lacounty.gov](http://fraud.lacounty.gov).

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

8700 Beverly Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90048

Kaiser Permanente

West Los Angeles

Medical Center

6041 Cadillac Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90034

Southern California Hospital at Culver City

3828 Delmas Terrace

Culver City, CA 90232

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

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

Facility:

DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC

6000 San Vicente Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90036

Tel. (323) 930-1040

Owner:

DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC

8436 W. Third St. Suite 900

Los Angeles, CA 90048

Tel. (310) 746-5918

Attn: Khawar Siddique, Co-CEO

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

# Register for disaster training in WeHo

The city of West Hollywood is encouraging residents to get prepared by joining the Los Angeles County Fire Department’s Community Emergency Response Team training program, which will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Nov. 4, 6, 13, 18, 20 and 25, from 5:30-9 p.m. in Plummer Park’s Great Hall, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

Following a disaster, first responders may not be able to meet the immediate demand for emergency services. CERT Training participants will learn survival skills.

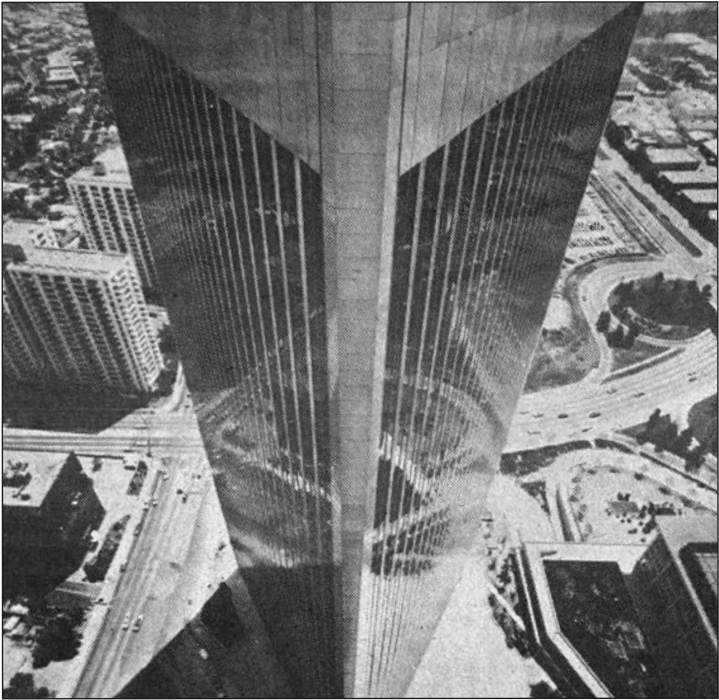
Participants must register in advance and attend all sessions to receive a certificate of completion. To register for CERT Training in West Hollywood, visit [lacounty-fire.galaxydigital.com/event](http://lacounty-fire.galaxydigital.com/event).



VINTAGE

PARKLABREA NEWS

# Twin towers shape the western skyline



The skyline along Beverly Hills’ western border forever changed when the Century Plaza Towers opened 50 years ago, as shown in this photograph from the Oct. 23, 1975, issue of the Park Labrea News. The twin 44-story towers were designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki, who also designed the World Trade Center in New York City. Constructed for \$200 million at 2029 and 2049 Century Park East in Century City, the buildings were commissioned by the aluminum company ALCOA and incorporate a minimalist design clad in glass and aluminum. The structures have a unique triangular-shaped footprint and are the tallest buildings in California outside of Downtown Los Angeles and San Francisco.

# Craft in America launches ‘Tools of the Trades’

“Tools of the Trades: American Handmade Implements and Devices” at Craft in America is the first exhibition of its kind to highlight beautifully designed, hand-crafted tools made by contemporary toolmakers in the United States. The exhibition will be on view through Jan. 3. See the kinds of age-old devices that in some cases have not fundamentally changed for centuries yet are interpreted anew by current makers. Even in this age of technology and mass production, a thriving community of craftspeople labor in their workshops to produce small batches of tools to be bought and used by other makers and connoisseurs.

The enduring tools will be used for a lifetime and can hardly compare to the kind readily available at a hardware store. A particular hammer head, the grip of a saw handle, the reliable, perfect cut of pliers; tools are the essential, behind-the-scenes factor in a maker’s process. They are often overlooked by the uninitiated, and yet critical in the specialty fabrication that is at the core of a creative process. The highly crafted objects in the exhibition pertain to a wide scope of disciplines — ceramics, textiles, hot glass, wood working and metal. Viewers will gain insight into tools engineered for niche fields such as jewelry making, book arts and glass blowing.

Inventors and makers have always relied on hand tools to successfully go about their work and creative people will routinely fabricate their own. “Tools of the Trades” celebrates the resourcefulness born of necessity and expands on the history of artisanal tool making in America. Vintage tools from various collections will show the early precedents that inspire today’s makers.

“Tools of the Trades” is the first



photo courtesy of Craft in America

“Tools of the Trades” highlights hand-crafted tools including a pig hammer created by John Williams and Atticus Keesling.

in a series of exhibitions for “Handwork 2026,” a national semi-quintennial collaboration showcasing the importance of handmade items and celebrating the diversity of craft that defines America.

Craft in America is located at 8415 W. Third St. For information, visit [craftinamerica.org](http://craftinamerica.org).



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT

345 FOOTHILL ROAD

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

REQUEST FOR PREQUALIFICATION

OF BIDDERS AND

PREQUALIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS

FOR:

La Cienega Playground Renovation Project

RFQ #26-350-13

Notice is hereby given that the City of Beverly Hills (“CITY”) has determined that all bidders for the La Cienega Playground Renovation, (“Project”) must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid on the Project. 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 Thursday, November 13, 2025**. Contractors are encouraged to submit prequalification packages as soon as possible, so that they may be notified of omissions of information to be remedied or of their prequalification status in advance of the prequalification deadline for this Project.

A contractor with a valid California Contractor’s License Class A 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.

Answers to questions contained in the ques-

tionnaire are required. The questionnaire is posted on Planet Bids portal: <https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=39493>. The item is listed as: Request for prequalification of bidders for: *La Cienega Playground Renovation Project*

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 prequalification 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.

The prequalification packages should be submitted electronically on Planet Bids. Questions regarding the questionnaire and the qualification package should be submitted on Planet Bids.

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 ver-

ification, 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 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 con-

tractor may be found not prequalified 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.



# NHM gala raises more than \$1.6 million

The Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County held its inaugural Night of Wonder gala on Oct. 15, raising more than \$1.6 million. Night of Wonder brought donors, celebrities and VIPs together to support the Natural History Museum and La Brea Tar Pits and their communities.

“Night of Wonder celebrates and supports the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County’s commitment to science, nature and community,” NHMLAC President and Director Lori Bettison-Varga said. “The generous support we received will fuel our equity-focused approach to developing science liter-

acy for the next generation, including through our STEM and STEAM Pathways programs, our world-class research, community science and urban biodiversity initiatives, and inspiring museum experiences at both NHM and La Brea Tar Pits.”

In addition to donors, trustees and NHMLAC leadership, Night of Wonder guests included state Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), L.A. County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, 2nd District, L.A. City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, actress Sheryl Lee Ralph, author Jared Diamond, director McG, television personalities Heather and Terry Dubrow,

actor Christopher Diamantopoulos, actress Danielle Panabaker, sports-caster Taylor Rooks and television personality Taylor Hale. Emceed by Anthony Anderson, the evening featured an elegant dinner, signature cocktails and a robust paddle raise bringing in crucial support.

Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, was honored at the event. The week before the gala, she visited the museum for a private donor event at La Brea Tar Pits, where she spent time with students from the Girls Academic Leadership Academy at Project 23, learning hands-on about how the Ice Age, climate change and fire impacted the L.A. basin 12,000 years ago. She shared her support for the museums via a special video message to those at the gala, championing NHM’s mission to inspire wonder and a sense of discovery for the natural and cultural worlds.

“Our dazzling new gala reflects the awe-inspiring diversity and beauty of the Natural History Museums’ collections, groundbreaking programs and especially the museum’s enduring commitment to protect and enhance urban nature,” said Megan McGowan Epstein, president of the board of trustees of the Natural History Museums. “I am inspired by the generosity that supports NHM’s work to conserve and document the rich biodiversity of our urban landscape. We are so grateful to our supporters, including Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, whose passion for education and community empowerment continues to inspire us.”

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



Sheryl Lee Ralph and Anthony Anderson were among those in attendance at the gala on Oct. 15.



photo courtesy of Fever

“Glow or Go” offers a unique group experience that requires teamwork.

## Colorful immersive experience opens at Beverly Center

The Beverly Center invites visitors to “Glow or Go,” a one-of-a-kind group experience opening Thursday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m.

In the immersive adventure, teams of three to eight players enter a world stripped of color and emotion and must take on a high-stakes mission to bring vibrancy back by conquering five action-packed game zones. Each zone tests a unique skill as players work together to restore color and unlock the ultimate paint blast.

The game zones include Pink Panic, a high-tech twist on Whack-a-Mole with lights, sound

and multiple game modes to push reflexes to the limit; Red Reflex, where players navigate a laser-filled maze; Yellow Yell where they solve puzzles and launch objects at six targets with the possible solutions; Orange Outrun where players must dodge fireballs, leap across platforms and collect keys; and Solara, the final mission involving a massive paint blast.

“Glow or Go,” created by the live entertainment platform Fever, is located on the sixth floor at the Beverly Center, 8500 Beverly Blvd. For information, visit [feverup.com/m/433990](http://feverup.com/m/433990).



## BEVERLY HILLS EVACUATION DRILL

The Beverly Hills Fire Department will be conducting an evacuation drill in the Trousdale area of the City. The purpose is to better prepare both the community and first responders for wildfires requiring large scale evacuations. Participation is highly encouraged, but voluntary.

**EVACUATION DRILL:**  
68 residences in the northwest corner of Trousdale. Residents will be notified if they are included in the evacuation order zone.

Participation is voluntary, but encouraged. Residents outside the evacuation zone are also encouraged to participate.

**DATE:** Sunday, November 9<sup>TH</sup>  
**LOCATION:** Trousdale Estates  
**TIME:** 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
**EVACUATION MEETING PLACE:** Will Rogers Memorial Park

For more information, call askBH 310-285-1000 or visit [BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/EVACDRILL](http://BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/EVACDRILL)

**KNOW THE SOUND** — **KNOW THE ROUTE** — **KNOW THE PLAN**



# LACMA explores work by Tavares Strachan

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents “Tavares Strachan: The Day Tomorrow Began,” the artist’s first major museum exhibition in Los Angeles, running through March 29.

Introducing more than 20 new works – including the artist’s most expansive neon piece and one of his largest sculptures to date – the multi-sensory exhibition spotlights Strachan’s excavation of histories that have been rendered invisible within mainstream narratives, particularly in relation to the Black diaspora. Weaving together sculpture, painting, text and music, “The Day Tomorrow Began” transports visitors to unique environments ranging from uncanny everyday spaces to surreal land-

scapes. In the immersive spaces, Strachan invites audiences to rethink the ways in which people represent and discuss history, and more significantly, what histories are lionized.

LACMA’s presentation of “The Day Tomorrow Began” is curated by Diana Nawi, curator of contemporary art at LACMA, and co-organized with the Columbus Museum of Art. The exhibition is made possible by The Hyundai Project at LACMA, part of the museum’s ongoing partnership with Hyundai Motor Company. Launched in 2015, the initiative is the longest and largest programmatic commitment from a corporate supporter in LACMA’s history.

“This exhibition is an opportunity for viewers to not only engage

with the diversity of concepts and hybrid approaches that animate Tavares’s practice, but also to experience his attention to the craft of object-making and the importance of world building,” Nawi said.

The exhibition evokes a barber-shop, laundromat, field of Indian rice grass and other scenes across seven galleries. Highlights include “Encyclopedia of Invisibility” (2018), Strachan’s take on the Britannica encyclopedia. A new body of work brings the craft of ceramic pots together with the iconography and history of Black haircare, a recurrent theme in the artist’s practice. “ENOCH” (2018) and “Robert” (2018) highlight the artist’s longstanding engagement



photo by Frazer Bradshaw, © Tavares Strachan

Tavares Strachan’s “Six Thousand Years, 2018,” is included in the upcoming exhibition.

with space exploration and in particular the story of Robert Henry Lawrence Jr., the first Black astronaut in the United States. “ENOCH,” a canopic jar that features a sculpted portrait of the astronaut, emerged from the artist’s participation in LACMA’s Art + Technology Lab, through which he

collaborated with SpaceX to launch the artwork into orbit around Earth. A new large-scale neon piece meditates on two quotes from renowned American authors and thinkers James Baldwin and Mark Twain.

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit lacma.org.

# PetSpace celebrates Dia de los Muertos

Celebrate Día de los Muertos on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Wallis Annenberg PetSpace. Join PetSpace for a heartfelt day filled with colorful traditions, cre-

ative activities and cherished memories as it honors the pets who have touched lives.

The day will include a pet ofrenda where owners can honor dearly

departed pets by bringing a copy of a favorite photo to frame and decorate. Supplies will be provided to help attendees craft a meaningful tribute, and photo printing will be available. The event also includes celebratory treats from Cena Vegan and special treats for pets from La Pavnaderia, as well as pet portraits by photographer Andrea Castanon (also known as @bowieshoots). Oscar Rodriguez, the artist behind this year’s incredible Día de los Muertos design, will screen-print his artwork onto complimentary tote bags for guests, while supplies last. Participants can also enjoy fun photo-ops, face painting and live mariachi music.

Admission is free and reservations are recommended.

For information, visit annenberg-petspace.org/events/3692103.

Wallis Annenberg PetSpace is located at 12005 Bluff Creek Drive, Playa Vista.



photo courtesy of Wallis Annenberg PetSpace

The event will feature photo-ops, face painting and live mariachi music.

# Getty names Joan Weinstein to newly created role

Getty announced on Oct. 13 the appointment of Dr. Joan Weinstein, director of the Getty Foundation, to the newly created role of vice president for Getty-wide program planning. She will develop strategy across all four of the institution’s divisions – the museum, research institute, conservation institute and foundation – to strengthen Getty’s impact in areas from art historical scholarship to community partnerships.

As director of the Getty Foundation, a role she has held since 2019, Weinstein has been responsible for Getty’s international grantmaking in support of museums, art history and conservation. She is perhaps best known as the creative force and co-director behind the nation’s largest art event, PST ART, a collaboration that Getty

initiates every five years among more than 70 cultural organizations across Southern California.

Heading Getty’s community partnerships at the foundation, Weinstein is also noted for galvanizing funder communities at critical moments. She led the recent L.A. Arts Community Fire Relief Fund, which awarded more than \$16 million to artists and arts workers impacted by the Eaton and Palisades fires, and spearheaded the L.A. Arts Recovery Fund in 2020, assembling a consortium that provided more than \$36 million in COVID relief to 90 arts nonprofits in Los Angeles County.

Before becoming director of the foundation in 2019, Weinstein served as its senior program officer, associate director and deputy direc-

tor. Among the initiatives launched under her direction have been Connecting Art Histories, a program fostering international scholarly exchange across Latin America, Asia, East Central Europe and the Mediterranean Basin; Keeping It Modern, an initiative to advance the conservation of modern architecture; and MOSAIKON, a 10-year collaboration with the Getty Conservation Institute to improve the care of Roman-era mosaics in North Africa and the Middle East.

Weinstein’s appointment is effective immediately. While serving as vice president for Getty-wide program planning, she will also continue as foundation director until a successor is appointed.

For information, visit getty.edu.

# Dogs strut the runway at Melrose Trading Post

Greenway Arts Alliance presents the fourth annual Dog Costume Contest and Parade on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Melrose Trading Post. Don’t miss the cutest runway in L.A.

The Dog Costume Contest is hosted by Pickle, West Hollywood’s drag queen laureate, with guest judges Lisa Hernandez, assistant principal of Fairfax High School; DeeDee Cupcake and Ronald Wilson, of Rhinestone Master Creations. Prizes will be awarded in the categories of Best in Show, Best Human/Dog Duo

Costume and Best Float Costume. Sponsors are giving away prizes including a year of free admission to the Melrose Trading Post for two, cash awards, gift certificates to local restaurants and stylish prizes for dogs.

The Melrose Trading Post is located at Fairfax High School, 7850 Melrose Ave. The parade starts at 11:30 a.m. at the Fairfax Avenue entrance, and the show runs from noon-2 p.m. on the Greenway Main Stage in the Red Section of the Melrose Trading Post. For information, visit melrosetradingpost.org/mtpdogs.



photo courtesy of Greenway Arts Alliance

The Dog Costume Contest and Parade features prizes for Best in Show, Best Human/Dog Duo Costume and Best Float Costume.

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ZULTYS





# Beverly Hills rejects builder’s remedy project

From page 1

at least 13% affordable housing. The provision takes effect when a municipality’s housing element – a state-mandated outline of zoning for affordable housing within the city – is out of compliance.

The city of Beverly Hills’ housing element for the 2021-29 cycle was out of compliance for approximately three years between 2021-24. The preliminary application for the development at 8844 Burton Way was submitted to the city in December 2023.

Although the updated project still includes affordable housing units, the number of affordable units was reduced from 40 lower income units to 14 extremely low-income units and eight moderate income units. The changes were made following updates in California’s housing laws which reduce the minimum number of affordable housing units necessary to qualify for builder’s remedy status.

Many residents attended the meeting to express concerns over nearly every aspect of the project, including its size, impacts on traffic and alleged health and safety issues. Nearby resident Janet Fox, an attorney and retired deputy dis-

trict attorney, said the commission made the right decision to deny the project.

“What the builder in our case has done is used this [builder’s remedy] legislation as a sword, and not as a shield for the people, but as a sword for them to unjustly enrich their ability to make a lot of money,” Fox said.

The commission denied the project on three grounds – alleging that the development segregates affordable housing units from the rest of the units, violates health and safety codes and creates unsafe fire risk conditions.

“I have very serious concerns,” Commissioner Gary Ross said, citing the placement of the affordable housing units on the lower floors and perceived challenges to fire department access due to the project’s size. “I really don’t feel good about this project.”

Kaplan said that while she understood and agreed with many residents’ concerns, she felt constrained by state law due to the builder’s remedy. She pointed to similarities with several other builder’s remedy projects that were recently approved by the Planning Commission despite

widespread concerns from residents. On Oct. 9, the commission approved a 13-story tower at 9441 Olympic Blvd., an eight-story building at 9467 Olympic Blvd. and an eight-story project at 333-353 S. Beverly Drive. On Oct. 14, the commission approved a 12-story project at 346 N. Maple Drive and an 11-story development at 401 N. Oakhurst Drive. Although city staff recommended that the Planning Commission similarly approve the project at 8844 Burton Way, a majority of the commission sided with the nearby residents and voted to deny.

“In a typical project, we approve based on an ability to make specific findings that are enumerated in our municipal code. If a majority of us are unable to make the findings, and vote no on that basis, that is enough to deny a project. But in the case of these builder’s remedy projects, and where I find myself both here and in previous projects ... I feel my only choice under the law is to vote yes,” Kaplan said. “Beat us up all you want, beat up the City Council. But your comments and your complaints and your observations and your grievance is much more ef-



photo by Tabor Brewster

The 26-story development would replace an empty lot on Burton Way.

fectively directed to the state of California and our elected officials there who enacted all these laws.”

Dave Rand, an attorney representing the project, said the commission had “zero basis” for denying the development. He argued that the three grounds that the city cited for denying the project are not supported by housing law. He said that the city should have addressed the concerns through implementing conditions on the project, as also suggested by the city attorney.

“The outcome was very disappointing and the commission clearly acted unlawfully,” Rand said. “Our client is absolutely going to pursue every single remedy allowed and available under the law including litigation if it comes to that.”

A resolution to finalize the denial of the 8844 Burton Way proj-

ect will return to the Planning Commission on Oct. 29. Rand said that if the denial is upheld next week, the developer will file an appeal, which would be heard by the City Council at a later date.

Rand previously represented a similar builder’s remedy project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive, which became the subject of a lawsuit that alleged the city unlawfully denied the project. In August, a judge ruled in favor of the developer, forcing the city to process the development application. Following the judge’s ruling, the developer doubled the project’s size from 19 to 36 stories. at least 13% affordable housing. The provision takes effect when a municipality’s housing element – a state-mandated outline of zoning for affordable housing within the city – is out of compliance.

# WeHo to open Santa Monica Blvd. community theater

From page 1

be such a hallmark of the city and our arts functions as we move forward. I think the corner makes sense.”

The move puts the City Playhouse at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Flores Street, just south of Marix Tex Mex Café, which also closed during the pandemic but finally reopened in July. A large public right-of-way area will be constructed on Flores Street, which will allow for a loading zone for sets and costumes, as well as a ride share drop-off area. An expanded sidewalk addressed the concern of resident Edd Holman, who spoke at the meeting and asked the council to consider a

“bump out” to separate the commercial and residential sections of Flores.

“We do have parking issues on the street,” Holman said. “I’m doing a study right now to try and get two-hour daytime ... permit-exempt [parking] on the street, because of employees parking from [local businesses] and what’s now coming on the other end [by Fountain Avenue], the bike lane fiasco project, [which] is going to put a ton of parking on Flores Street.”

Holman is referring to the addition of bike lanes on Fountain Avenue, a contentious decision made by the City Council after several years of divisive discussions on

the dais and within the community.

Byers, who served on the subcommittee for the project, expressed pride in the project and how it met community concerns.

“I was concerned, but I’m very pleased that a member of the street has now seen it and understands the vision for traffic flow, as we would not want that to become a problem,” Byers said.

Vice Mayor John Heilman also commended the addition of a loading zone and added the project’s move down the street was “the right thing to do.”

“It frees up the rest of that block for something in the future, and this seems to be a better location for the theater,” Heilman said.



rendering courtesy of Perkins & Will

The West Hollywood City Playhouse will be reconfigured to move next door, into the space once occupied by the restaurant Basix.

“This is a dream that all cities can engage in with the playhouse,” Councilman John Erickson said.

Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-to-late 2026 in the

City Playhouse’s previous configurations, and no announcements have yet been made on how the project’s move will affect the timeline.

# WeHo hosts free sober Halloween

The city of West Hollywood is co-sponsoring #BOO!, a free sober Halloween event on Friday, Oct. 24, from 8-11:30 p.m. at the West Hollywood Log Cabin, 621 N. Robertson Blvd.

The West Hollywood Recovery Center organized the event in partnership with AALA, Fun in Sobriety, The Phoenix and Trudging Buddies. Eureka O’Hara (“RuPaul’s Drag Race,” “We’re Here”) will host the evening, which includes a costume contest, food and refreshments, music and entertainment.

#BOO! provides a safe and festive space for the sober community to come together and celebrate in advance of Halloween weekend. More than a party, attendees can join a welcoming environment where everyone can connect, express them-

selves freely through costumes and creativity and enjoy the fun of the Halloween season without the pressures or presence of alcohol and substances. #BOO! highlights the city of West Hollywood’s commitment to supporting programs that promote wellness, recovery and community connection.

The nonprofit West Hollywood Recovery Center provides vital support, resources and meeting space for individuals seeking recovery from alcohol and substance use. For information about the West Hollywood Recovery Center, visit thewhrc.org.

Advance RSVP is requested for #BOO! Visit [eventbrite.com/e/boo-free-sober-halloween-event-hosted-by-eureka-ohara-tickets-1774896897399](https://eventbrite.com/e/boo-free-sober-halloween-event-hosted-by-eureka-ohara-tickets-1774896897399).



photo by Jon Viscott

West Hollywood offers a variety of opportunities don Halloween attire.

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STATEMENT  
2025198495

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

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

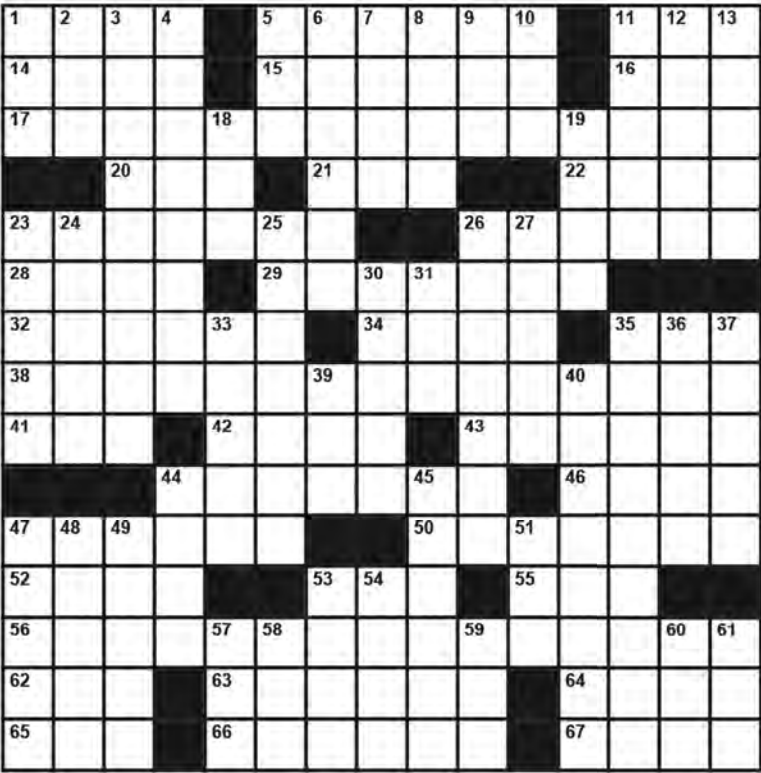
Across

- Well-behaved
- Maine's \_\_\_ National Park
- Clock std.
- Relocate
- Breakfast fare
- Yes, in French
- TV movie starring Dick Van Dyke
- "Cinderella Man " director, Howard
- Type of floor
- Nurse's assistant
- Combustible fluid illuminator
- Sang cheerfully
- High, prefix
- Observe closely
- Bad atmosphere
- Flower pot
- Worked (up)
- During these modern times
- Previously
- Dummkopf
- Name of three presidents
- Little Leaguer, e.g.
- Black to Keats
- Promenades
- Italian city
- The "A " in U.S.A., abbr.
- Meadow mother
- BBC competitor
- Heading to bed
- Summer, in Cannes
- He became Darth Vader

- Tabby talk
- Sibling nickname
- Art patron
- Thus

Down

- Clock standard: abbr.
- Exclamation of surprise
- Exaggerate
- Total
- L. Victoria setting, abbr.
- Shade provider
- Diva's solo
- Drop shot in volleyball
- Like Schubert's Mass No. 2
- Auto insurer with roadside service
- "I understand! "
- Jacket material
- Bushed
- Out \_\_\_ limb
- Summer's follower
- Street urchin
- Flared dress style
- Kid's illness
- Baked Italian dish
- Soap actress Kristen
- Sidestep
- San Francisco/Oakland separator
- Prefix with surgery or transmitter
- Sign of things to come
- Incite



- Mrs. Mulder on "The X-Files "
- Com partner
- Serves a stretch
- Software developer's program
- Emergency room medicine
- Treasure map distances
- Valuable violin
- Two-time U.S. Open tennis champ
- Anger, e.g.
- "My word! "
- Collaborative website

- " \_\_\_ Woman " (Reddy tune)
- Compass direction
- What gives a pose poise?
- Harley
- Duet necessity

answers on page 26



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