



Partly cloudy,  
temps in the  
upper 70s

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# BEVERLY PRESS

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April 10, 2025

## Wilshire tents illustrate a persistent problem

### ■ Vacant properties create 'broken window' effect

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A fire on April 6 blackened a vacant building that formerly housed a Big 5 store at Wilshire and San Vicente boulevards, prompting new concerns about homelessness in the area.

Los Angeles Fire Department

spokeswoman Lindsey Lantz said firefighters responded to a "rubbish fire" around 8:50 a.m. on the sidewalk adjacent to the vacant building on the northeast corner of the intersection. Firefighters doused the flames and opened holes in the building's wall, Lantz added. No

See Homelessness page 25



photo by Edwin Folven

An April 6 fire that damaged a vacant building at Wilshire/San Vicente prompted more concerns about homelessness in the area.

## Friedman demands answers on Social Security

### ■ Lawmaker sends letter to DOGE addressing staffing shortages

BY RANCE COLLINS

Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) joined seniors in front of the Hollywood Social Security Office on April 4, asking the Trump administration for answers on how funding cuts have affected Social Security.

Friedman said there have been

numerous issues for seniors, particularly due to staffing shortages. Phone calls and other inquiries have gone unanswered, and the future of many offices is in question. Some seniors are unable to visit offices in person, and some branches are expected to close this year – though which ones is uncertain.

While Social Security itself has not been eliminated, Friedman said the agency is attempting to avoid or delay paying beneficiaries by, among other things, declaring them dead.

"They've had a certain number



photo courtesy of the office of Laura Friedman

Rep. Laura Friedman held a press conference with seniors on April 4.

## Nazarian outlines mayoral vision

### ■ Beverly Hills leader focuses on public safety, unity

BY TABOR BREWSTER

On April 8, in the heart of Beverly Hills' Golden Triangle – a well-known hub of luxury retail and high-end businesses – Mayor Sharona Nazarian wielded a golden pair of scissors and cut the ribbon for the newest branch of Valley National Bank. The event was her first ribbon-cutting ceremony since being sworn in as mayor on April 1, and marked a commitment to supporting businesses in the community – one aspect of her overall vision for Beverly Hills.

"I'm really excited to serve our beautiful community. I feel energized. As always, council priority has been the safety and security of our residents, of our businesses and of our overall visitors – to ensure that we have a safe community," Nazarian said in an interview.

As she was sworn in as the first Iranian American woman to lead Beverly Hills on April 1, she



photo by Tabor Brewster

Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian attended her first ribbon-cutting ceremony as mayor on April 8 at Valley National Bank.

announced that "unity" would be the central theme of her term.

"I would love to see a stronger, safer and more united Beverly Hills," she added.

See Nazarian page 26

Many of the mayor's new initiatives focus on public safety, including BHTV Live Link – software that will allow residents to receive

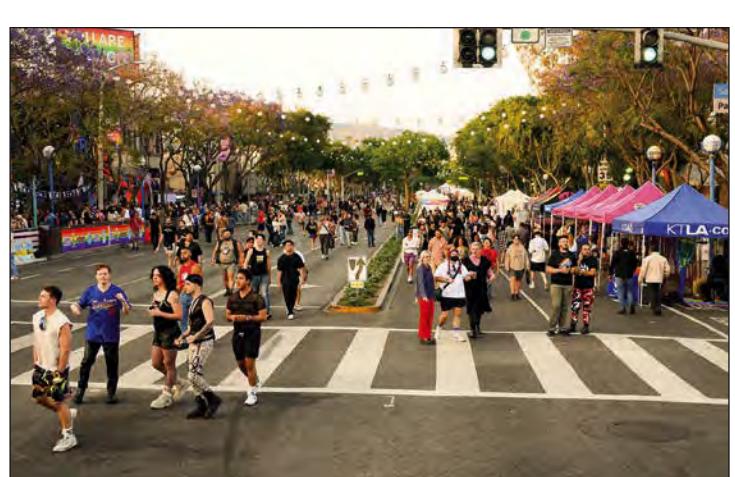


photo by Jon Viscott

The West Hollywood City Council has solidified the moniker "Rainbow District," where WeHo Pride celebrations are held annually.

## WeHo officially designates, promotes Rainbow District

### ■ City looks ahead to Pride celebration in June

BY RANCE COLLINS

Over the last decade, West Hollywood's stretch of Santa Monica Boulevard between La

Cienega Boulevard and Doheny Drive has become known as the Rainbow District. On April 7, the City Council made that moniker official and put forth initiatives to revitalize and improve the district, which is the epicenter of LGBTQ+ nightlife in Los Angeles County.

See WeHo page 26



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## CALENDAR

**'Last Night at Mikell's'**

"Last Night at Mikell's," a new play by Larry Muhammad, runs from Thursday, April 10, through Sunday, May 11, at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. After two heart attacks, author James Baldwin is in bad health. He returns to New York City for rest and relaxation, and the first stop is the iconic jazz club Mikell's, where his brother David tends bar. But things have changed. Mikell's is closing, and his entourage on one particular night consists of only Maya Angelou and Miles Davis. What's intended as a celebration turns into an Irish wake for the not-yet deceased, as James impulsively starts writing an elegy to his beloved old hangout. Presented by the Robey Theatre Company, the play is produced and directed by Ben Guillory. Previews are at 8 p.m. on April 10 and 11. Regular showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. General admission tickets are \$40. 514 S. Spring St. therobeytheatrecompany.org.

**Beverly Hills Chamber**

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is holding its April Networking Breakfast on Friday, April 11, from 8:15-10 a.m. at the Saban Theatre. Connect, collaborate and engage in insightful conversation and dialogue at an exclusive gathering of business leaders, entrepreneurs and

professionals in Beverly Hills. Admission is \$30 for chamber members; \$60 for general admission. 8440 Wilshire Blvd. members.beverlyhillschamber.com.

**USC Jazz Night at Grammy Museum**

The Grammy Museum is holding "City Sounds: USC Jazz Night" on Friday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. Experience a night of music as the USC Thornton Honors Combo takes the stage, joined by world-renowned drummer Will Kennedy. The special evening is the first of many performances at the museum featuring college students through the museum's partnership with the Thornton School of Music. Tickets are \$10. 800 W. Olympic Blvd. grammymuseum.org.

**Culinary history**

The Culinary Historians of Southern California presents "Banquets of Marrakesh," the second lecture in a two-part series by its president Charles Perry on Saturday, April 12, at 10:30 a.m., at the Los Angeles Central Library. Morocco is the only Arab country that was never conquered by the Turks, and it has preserved and elaborated unique culinary traditions with roots in medieval Moorish Spain as well as North Africa. Perry will explore the subtlety and richness of the cuisine. The lecture is free and followed by a themed reception. 630 W. Fifth St. eventbrite.com/e/charles-perry-banquets-of-marrakesh-tickets-12803735146497.

**Bat Boy: The Musical**

Open Fist Theatre Company has extended "Bat Boy: The Musical" running from Saturday, April 12, through Sunday, May 18, at the Atwater Village Theatre. Based on a book by Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming and featuring music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe, "Bat Boy: The Musical" was inspired by a 1992 story in the supermarket tabloid Weekly World News about a half boy-half bat found in a cave in West Virginia. In the new play, Bat Boy (Ben Raanan) has been newly rediscovered living in a cave-like theater in Atwater Village. Showtime is at 2 p.m. on April 12 and 7 p.m. on April 13. See scheduled for additional showtimes. Tickets are \$40. 3269 Casitas Ave. (323)882-6912, openfist.org.

**Concerts at Colburn**

The DTLA Alliance and Colburn School are bringing back Concerts at Colburn, a free live concert series from Tuesday, April 15, through Tuesday, May 6, on the Colburn School Plaza. The performances are held every Tuesday at noon. The concerts shine a light on the iconic arts and culture institution and showcase the talents of Colburn School students. 200 S. Grand Ave. downtownla.com/do/concerts-at-colburn.

**Piano Spheres**

Piano Spheres welcomes Aron Kallay performing on Tuesday, April 15, from 8-10 p.m. in Thayer Hall and the Colburn School. Kallay presents two new commissions written in memory of friends and family. Marek Zebrowski's "Capriccio notturno" was written in memory of the pianist's grandmother, Cecilia Viola Kallay. Daniel Allas' "Analysis of a Dream" was written in memory of Piano Sphere's Sarah Gibson. On the rest of the program, Kallay is joined by friends in a performance of music that explores birds, warped time, the infinite, the interplay of light and dark on canvas, and wickedness without consequence. General admission is \$25.75. 200 S. Grand Ave. pianospheres.org.

**'Hellas'**

The School of Night presents the world premiere of "Hellas" from Saturday, April 12, through Sunday, May 11, at the Broadwater Mainstage. Spanning decades and viewed over a single day, the birth of western civilization and democracy takes form in the Greek epic "Hellas." The production is set in the early 5th century, B.C., when a tiny, backward and disunited region faced invasion by the mightiest empire in the world, and triumphed. The vast story is separated into two parts, encompassing the evolution of societal structures, revenge and unlikely alliances, along with an emerging system of justice. Showtimes for the Complete Saga (Part I and II) are at 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Part I will also be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 12 and May 2, and Part II at 7:30 p.m. on April 25 and May 9. Tickets start at \$25. 1076 Lillian Way. ticketleap.events/tickets/school-of-night/hellas.

**Armenian film**

Explore "Armenian Heritage Through Film" on Saturday, April 12, at 2 p.m. at the Los Angeles Central Library. Join a celebration of Armenian Heritage Month with an afternoon of screenings, conversations and a special presentation by filmmaker Eric Nazarian. The program will include the short films "My Dearest Artsakh" and "What Can I Tell You? We Lost Everything," followed by a conversation with the filmmakers Balin Schneider and Ara Oshagan. Nazarian will also present "Celluloid Exiles: The Armenian Odyssey in World Cinema." 630 W. Fifth St. lapl.org/whats-on/events/armenian-heritage-through-film.

**Poetry in the Garden at Getty**

Getty Center's annual Poetry in the Garden series returns with a new line-up of poets on Wednesday, April 16, at 2 p.m. DJ, producer and songwriter Mia Moretti will share original poems inspired by the upcoming exhibition "What They Saw: Historical Photobooks by Women, 1843-1999." The series continues on April 23 at 2 p.m. with musician, poet, visual artist and professor Camae Ayewa and guest artist Veronica C.

Ratliff performing on violin, followed by multimedia artist, poet and zinemaker Solange Aguilar on April 30. 1200 Getty Center Drive. getty.edu/whats-on/poetry-in-the-garden.



photo courtesy of Mayor Karen Bass' office

Mayor Karen Bass and members of the Korean American community unveiled the Turtle Ship at a new location in the Convention Center.

**Gift from Korean sister city on display ahead of Olympics**

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass led an unveiling ceremony with the Korean community on April 8 to celebrate the newly restored Turtle Ship, originally gifted in 1982 to Los Angeles by its sister city Busan, South Korea.

Previously located at City Hall, the artifact underwent extensive conservation and restoration for the first time in nearly 20 years before being relocated to the Los Angeles Convention Center, where it will be on display during the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Turtle ships are Korean warships used in the 15th-19th centuries. Thousands of people will view the replica Turtle Ship in its new location, the mayor said.

"The Turtle Ship is a powerful symbol of our enduring friendship with Busan and the Korean American community. I'm honored to celebrate this moment with our Korean American community, whose contributions enrich our city every day," Bass said. "We look forward to visitors from all around the world seeing this artifact while attending events at the Convention Center, especially as a venue for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games."

The unveiling event brought together elected officials and community leaders, including Councilmembers John Lee, 12th District, and Heather Hutt, 10th

District. The celebration featured a traditional Korean drum performance by the Hwarang Youth Foundation, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of the Korean American community and underscoring the city's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

"As the only Korean American City Councilmember in Los Angeles, I am honored to attend the Korean Heritage in L.A. event and recognize the invaluable contributions of Korean Americans to our city," Lee said. "This year's unveiling of the newly restored Turtle Ship, a generous gift from our sister city of Busan, is a powerful symbol of our enduring friendship and cultural exchange."

"This move ensures that the gift from Busan will be more accessible and enjoyed by a much wider audience. This cultural artifact has been carefully restored and can be displayed in a manner that respects the sentiments of the Korean American community," said Robert Ahn, president of the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles. "We appreciate the mayor's office for its responsiveness and efforts in making this change."

The Convention Center will host fencing, judo, table tennis, taekwondo and wrestling competitions during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For information, visit [laconventioncenter.com](http://laconventioncenter.com) and [la28.org](http://la28.org).

**Beverly Hills launches new water payment system on April 14**

The city of Beverly Hills is launching WaterSmart, an innovative, user-friendly portal to help customers manage water consumption and utility billing more efficiently. The new program replaces Water Tracker, the city's previous water customer portal. WaterSmart is integrated with Paymentus, allowing customers to pay bills directly through the WaterSmart platform.

"I am thrilled to announce the debut of WaterSmart," Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. "Water sustainability is one of my key goals this year, and the best thing the city can do is make it easy for our community to conserve. Water Smart will do that and more, all in one convenient place."

Starting on April 14, utility customers must go to [beverlyhills.org/watersmart](http://beverlyhills.org/watersmart) to view and pay utility bills online, including water, stormwater, refuse and

sewer charges. Additionally, customers can track water use, set up personalized notifications to monitor usage and get customized instructions for ongoing water savings. Notifications will include alerts for continuous flow from leaks or running faucets.

Customers should have a utility bill handy, as they will need their account and customer number to register. Customers with a Beverly Hills account will have access and can log in using their email address and password. Customers without a Beverly Hills account must register for the new platform. For detailed instructions on how to sign-up, visit [www.beverlyhills.org/watersmart-tips](http://www.beverlyhills.org/watersmart-tips).

City staff is available to assist Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For assistance, email [AskBH@beverlyhills.org](mailto:AskBH@beverlyhills.org) or call (310)285-1000.

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# WeHo council considers bike lanes on Beverly

BY RANCE COLLINS

Not much of Beverly Boulevard is in West Hollywood. The street cuts in and out of the city between Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Doheny Drive. Parts of Cedars-Sinai, actually, are in the city of Los Angeles, while others are located in West Hollywood. On April 7, the West Hollywood City Council discussed the future of bicycle lanes on its portions of Beverly Boulevard – even if those portions only constitute about three blocks.

“It’s worth it – especially if we’re one day going to be connected to L.A.’s and Beverly Hills’ networks,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “It’s not just about three blocks, it’s about safety.”

The City Council directed staff to allocate nearly \$400,000 toward a Beverly Boulevard bicycle lane feasibility study with the consulting group KOA. In a separate item, the council also ordered that bike lanes

be repainted green.

“Color matters – green lanes help visibility, and it keeps in line with industry standards,” Hang said.

“Data shows that the more visible and safe that a bike lane can be, the more the bike lane is utilized,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “We know that the demand for safe, multi-modal streets is at an all-time high, especially as people seek to align their commuting experiences with solutions for climate change as well as more affordable lifestyles. As West Hollywood takes these strategic opportunities to improve our mobility network, we create greater connectivity to concurrent measures underway in surrounding cities.”

The City Council spent much of its meeting debating what was the best way to make a protected bike lane “protected,” with various suggestions including barriers and road bumps.

“I support solutions that physi-

cally separate cyclists from cars,” Hang said. “I’m looking forward to seeing what safety measures the feasibility study brings to council. We know that protected bike lanes are essential – not just for cyclists, but for creating a network of safety that benefits everyone on our streets.”

While the feasibility study will bring back information to the council on which path might be the best way forward, Councilman John Erickson argued that the discussion had gone on so long that the council needed to take action.

“While I am frustrated with timing, I am positive that we are all headed in the same direction to get stuff built as quickly as possible,” Erickson said after the meeting.

Ultimately, the City Council asked staff and the consulting firm to revise the scope of the work on Beverly Boulevard and to shorten and streamline the process. The results will be presented to the City



photo by Edwin Folven

Parts, but not all, of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center are in West Hollywood.

Council at a future meeting.

“The compromise we reached should allow us to move forward with the current plans while still providing greater protection for cyclists in this short area in the city,” Councilman John Heilman said.

Erickson added that the City

Council will soon be working with city staff more broadly on prioritizing initiatives.

“We will be having a priorities conversation in a month about what we will rearrange to put those priorities top of mind for city staff so they can hopefully expedite timelines,” he said.

## Cedars-Sinai doctor chosen as top Olympics medical officer

Cedars-Sinai sports medicine specialist Dr. Casey G. Batten has been named chief medical officer for the LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

Batten’s appointment follows Cedars-Sinai’s announcement last fall that it will be the official medical provider for the LA28 Games, serving as a critical resource and medical adviser to LA28 in establishing medical services in the Olympic and Paralympic Village and at sporting venues.

Cedars-Sinai also is a supporter of Team USA and one of eight medical institutions in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Medical Network, providing medical treatment for Team USA athletes as they prepare to compete in national and international competitions. Cedars-Sinai, the exclusive Team USA and LA28 Medical Network provider in Los Angeles and surrounding areas of Southern California, started treating Team USA athletes in 2024.

In the chief medical officer role, Batten will be responsible for all aspects of medical services planning and delivery as the senior medical services official within the Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. He also will be a primary link with the International Olympic Committee’s Medical and Scientific Commission on all medical services issues and will be a member of the commission. Additionally, he will work directly with the International Paralympic

Committee’s chief medical officer.

“I am thrilled to serve as chief medical officer and contribute to the health and success of Team USA athletes and the LA28 Games,” Batten said. “Cedars-Sinai and I are fully committed to the highest-quality care for athletes, coaches, team personnel and visitors who will come from around the world to Los Angeles for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.”

Batten has extensive experience treating elite athletes. He is co-director of nonoperative orthopaedics and sports medicine, and director of the Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship, in the Department of Orthopaedics at Cedars-Sinai. In his clinical practice, he specializes in primary care sports medicine with a focus on nonsurgical treatment of athletic-related injury and illness, as well as diagnostic and interventional ultrasound.

Batten is head team physician for the Los Angeles Rams, participates in numerous NFL committees and is a member of the NFL Physicians Society. He also is an active member and has served on the board of directors of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine.

Prior to joining Cedars-Sinai, Batten served as director of Primary Care Sports Medicine and fellowship director of the Cedars-Sinai Kerlan-Jobe Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship Program. He was also formerly head team physician for the University of California, Berkeley.

“Dr. Batten’s experience will be a major asset to LA28 as we build a world-class support team for the Games and all who attend, including the exceptional athletes visiting Los Angeles in 2028,” LA28 chief athlete officer Janet Evans said. “His proven track record of clinical expertise and medical leadership in sports medicine are invaluable as we prepare to meet the extensive medical needs of the entire Olympic and

Paralympic community.”

Batten and Cedars-Sinai will build on their role in supporting Team USA athletes on the journey to the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 and LA28 through the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Medical Network, expanding their scope and responsibilities to ensure the wellbeing of athletes, coaches, support staff and fans at the LA28 Games.

“Dr. Batten is the perfect physician leader to serve as chief medical officer for the LA28 Games,” said Dr. Peter

L. Slavin, president and CEO of Cedars-Sinai. “The entire Cedars-Sinai team stands with Dr. Batten in dedicating ourselves to serve our community and country as we prepare for the Games.”

For information, visit [cedars-sinai.org](http://cedars-sinai.org).



Dr. Casey G. Batten

Wishing a  
Happy Passover  
& Easter

to all who celebrate

## Congressman Ted Lieu

36th District



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## WeHo celebrates Earth Month

In honor of Earth Month in April, West Hollywood will initiate My WeHo Climate Action to rally community members to address climate change.

This spring, residents, businesses and local organizations are encouraged to join West Hollywood’s climate action movement by signing up for the city’s climate action and resilience platform, My WeHo Climate Action. The platform is designed to empower people to take meaningful steps toward a sustainable future.

The user-friendly platform provides personalized resources and actionable tips to help com-

munity members take climate-friendly actions, save money and build a resilient, connected community. With My WeHo Climate Action, community members can explore a curated selection of activities tailored to their household, track their impact and progress over time, and find a wealth of resources, from rebates to how-to guides.

“Every action matters – whether it’s conserving energy, choosing more sustainable habits or supporting local climate initiatives,” West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers said.

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

## Case moves forward against doctor accused of sex assault

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Authorities are still asking any additional victims to come forward who believe they were assaulted by a doctor with an office on Third Street near the Cedars-Sinai campus.

Dr. Babak Hajhosseini, 42, has pleaded not guilty to eight felony charges. An April 7 court appearance set a preliminary hearing on May 14, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office confirmed. Hajhosseini is currently free on \$2.175 million bail.

The District Attorney's Office filed felony charges on Dec. 23 against Hajhosseini alleging he sexually assaulted a victim on Aug. 18. He faces three counts of oral copulation of an unconscious or asleep person, two counts of rape by use of drugs and one count each of rape of an unconscious or asleep person, oral copulation by anesthesia or controlled substance and sodomy of

an unconscious or asleep victim.

Los Angeles Police Department detectives arrested Hajhosseini on Nov 26 following an extensive investigation. Detective Brent Hopkins, with the Los Angeles Police Department's Operations-West Bureau, Special Assault Section, said no new victims have come forward but investigators are interested in speaking to anyone with information.

Hajhosseini founded the Wound and Burn Centers of America at 8631 W. Third St. and has practiced medicine in Northern California and New York. In a statement, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center said Hajhosseini is not employed by nor affiliated with the hospital.

Anyone with information about the case is urged to call detectives at (213)473-0447. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD's hotline at (877)LAPD247.

## Police attempt to ID driver in crash on Highland

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Detectives are continuing their investigation into a fatal hit-and-run collision on March 31 at Highland Avenue and First Street, where the driver of a Lamborghini SUV traveling at high speed crashed into a Toyota RAV4, killing an 18-year-old girl and injuring four other teens in the Toyota.

Detective David Holmes, with the Los Angeles Police Department's West Traffic Division, said on April 8 that the investigation is progressing, but he had no further information or timeline for an arrest.

"We have a strong idea of who the driver is but it's still under investigation," Holmes said. "A discussion with the District Attorney's Office is already pending and we have an ID of who we think it is. Hopefully, we'll be making an arrest soon."

The crash occurred around 1:25 a.m. at the intersection of Highland Avenue and First Street when a Lamborghini heading north on Highland Avenue at a high speed struck a Toyota RAV4 traveling



photo by Edwin Folven

Flowers were placed at the site of a March 31 fatal crash at Highland Avenue and First Street.

east on First Street. The Lamborghini's driver and a lone female passenger fled on foot, but the passenger returned a short time later and is cooperating with police, Holmes confirmed. The detective added that authorities plan to charge the driver with vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence.

The driver of the Toyota was hospitalized in critical condition, and three other teens in the vehicle were hospitalized in stable condition. All of the injured victims are recovering. The deceased victim's name has not been released. Holmes said she is a native of Los Angeles, but declined to provide any further information.

## BHPD cautions motorists to avoid distractions

In conjunction with Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April, the Beverly Hills Police Department is reminding drivers to stay focused, keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The BHPD is searching for distracted drivers during a special enforcement operation in April.

## L.A. City Attorney receives grant for DUI cases

Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto has announced that the Driving Under the Influence of Drugs Unit in her Criminal Branch has secured a

more than \$1.2 million Impaired Driving Prosecution Grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

Aimed at making roads safer, the grant will reinforce prosecution

"Distracted Driving Awareness Month is an important reminder that even a moment of inattention or a quick glance at the phone can lead to serious consequences. Distracted driving is not only risky – it is deadly. Stay focused, stay alert and help us keep our roads safe."

According to the 2024 California Statewide Public Opinion Survey, nearly 74% of people said that distracted driving because of texting was their biggest safety concern. In 2022, 148 people were killed in distracted driving traffic crashes in California. The numbers are likely underreported because law enforcement officers may not always be able to tell that distraction was a factor in a crash.

The BHPD is looking for drivers throughout the month who are violating the state's hands-free cell phone law. Drivers are not allowed to hold a phone or electronic communications device while operating a vehicle, even when stopped at a

red light. It includes talking, texting and using an app. Using a handheld cell phone while driving is punishable by a fine, and violating the hands-free law for a second time within 36 months of a prior conviction will result in a point being added to a driver's record.

Motorists are encouraged to silence notifications and store

phones where they can't be reached while driving. Always pull over and stop before using cell phones and electronic devices.

Funding for distracted driving enforcement is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## Possible hate incident reported in Beverly Hills

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A possible antisemitic hate incident was reported to the Beverly Hills Police Department on March 23 near the intersection of South Rodeo Drive and Olympic Boulevard.

At approximately 2:10 p.m., an unidentified individual called the BHPD to report that someone shouted at them, called them "Jewish" and "may have thrown something," BHPD Lt. Kevin

Orth said. Police responded to the scene. However, the caller had already left the area, and authorities were unable to determine if a crime occurred.

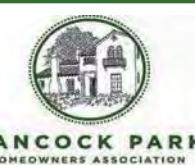
Orth said the BHPD identified the person who allegedly shouted, who was still at the scene, but would not release their information because no crime was reported.

Orth said police documented the incident in case a possible victim comes forward at a later date.

efforts to hold accountable drivers under the influence of alcohol, drugs or a combination of both substances.

"We have the power to protect lives, prevent tragedies before they happen, and hold violators accountable. This grant will help us do all three," Feldstein Soto said. "I appreciate the ongoing partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety, which is vital to this work."

Driving under the influence remains one of the biggest threats to public safety, authorities said. The OTS grant awarded to Feldstein Soto's office will provide resources to fund four specialized DUI prosecutors, as well as one administrative coordinator. The grant will also enable the DUID team to collaborate with California's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Training Program, provide training to other prosecutors and collaborate with law enforcement on best practices for managing DUI cases.



## Hancock Park HOA News & City Updates

### Hancock Park "Walk About" with SLO Tyler Shuck

We are planning "Neighborhood Walks" with our LAPD SLO Officer Tyler Schuck. SLO Shuck will be meeting with neighbors to talk about improving security and safety. Please watch for the dates! HPHA March 2025 Town Hall Meeting with LAPD SLO Tyler Shuck -- Recording Available.

### Hancock Park Streets Stay Dark.

Hancock Park reports of streetlight outages continue to grow as the neighborhood contends with more than 20 blocks with broken streetlights. The time between reporting a broken streetlight and getting it repaired keeps growing in the city of L.A. By the end of 2025, city officials say, it's expected to take a year for maintenance teams to respond to complaints about broken streetlights. Increasing maintenance and equipment costs and growing reports of copper wire theft have contributed to the lag, according to Miguel Sangalang, the head of the city's Bureau of Street Lighting. But the main issue, Sangalang said, is that the bureau's revenue has essentially remained stagnant.

### HPHOA Parkway Tree Canopy Preservation

Your dues and donations funded the removal of dangerous branches and deadwood from 340 parkway trees in March. Thank you! April 15th we will begin to replant new trees along our parkways! We continue to need to raise funds via dues and donations for tree trimming, planting and stump removals. If you would like a tree please contact us via email [debtrainer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debtrainer@sbcglobal.net) or [snorekel@gmail.com](mailto:snorekel@gmail.com).

### HPHOA Dues and Donations!

Hancock Park HOA 2025 Dues are Due! Please contribute!

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# Temples celebrate freedom this Passover season

■ Synagogues host Seders for community

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Passover, or Pesach in Hebrew, begins on the evening of April 12 and commemorates freedom for the Jewish community. As friends and families gather for Seder dinners at home, several temples in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles will hold Passover programming throughout the weeklong holiday.

"Passover celebrates our exodus from Mizraim. Mizraim is the Hebrew word for Egypt, and embedded in the Hebrew word is the meaning of narrow. Tsar in Hebrew means narrow, and the idea is that you are leaving a narrow space and heading into a space of expansion, opportunity, freedom and liberation," said Zach Lasker, executive director of Temple Israel of Hollywood. "I can't think of a metaphor that more accurately captures our present moment. We are living in restricted times, in times of division and tension. Any opportunity we can claim to create space, to have dialogue, to tell stories about humanity for the purposes of moving forward sounds good to me."

The temple held a women's Seder on April 1, and is hosting a men's Seder on April 15 at 5:45 p.m. Additionally, Temple Israel's Seder matchmaking service, Project Elijah, connects members who are looking to join a Seder

with members who are able to host others in their home. For information, visit [tioh.org/event/project-elijah-2025](http://tioh.org/event/project-elijah-2025).

Lasker said that the tradition offers members of the Jewish faith an opportunity to come together and heal.

"There is not only a lot of tension across the world and across the country, I think that there is actually a notable amount of tension even within the Jewish people right now. All the more so the opportunity for Jewish people to gather around a table and [find] common shared values and tell stories, ask questions, listen to each other ... the benefits are infinite," he said.

Also for Passover, Temple Israel of Hollywood created a special component in its Judith and Bernard Briskin Judaica and Art Collection – an exhibition of paintings and ritual objects in the temple's lobby. The temple will display a copy of the Barcelona Haggadah – a sacred text created centuries ago that acts as a guidebook for the Seder – in addition to the Freedom Seder Haggadah, which was created following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., connecting the story of Passover with the Civil Rights Movement.

Temple Israel of Hollywood is located at 7300 Hollywood Blvd.

Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts

Rabbi David Baron said the Jewish commemoration of freedom remains important to this day, as the United Nations estimates that 50 million people worldwide are currently held in various states of indentured servitude and slavery.

"The powerful message that every human being is entitled to be free is very fundamental, and needs to be renewed in each generation," Baron said.

Additionally, Baron noted that the holiday comes at a particularly salient time this year, as dozens of hostages are still being held by Hamas.

**"There is not only a lot of tension across the world and across the country, I think that there is actually a notable amount of tension even within the Jewish people right now. All the more so the opportunity for Jewish people to gather around a table and [find] common values."**

*Zach Lasker,  
executive director of  
Temple Israel of Hollywood*

"Their suffering is something that evokes a response in the hearts of all decent people, and we know that this conflict could end quickly if they were released. But they're being used as a pawn in negotiations," Baron said. "Our hearts go



photo courtesy of Temple Emanuel Beverly Hills

Temple Emanuel's Songs of Freedom Interfaith Concert is one of many Passover events in the area.

out to the families of those hostages, and we won't forget their plight this year on Passover."

Baron created a special prayer to call for the release of enslaved people worldwide and the hostages in Gaza, which will be read at the temple's annual Seder. The event will feature a dinner with traditional Pesach foods and live performances of celebratory music. Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts' Passover Seder will be held at 6 p.m. on April 13 at the Four Seasons at Beverly Hills, 300 S. Doheny Drive. For information, visit [bhtota.org](http://bhtota.org).

Temple Emanuel Beverly Hills launched its Passover celebration with the annual Bird Goldstein Songs of Freedom Interfaith Concert on April 6. Together with St. Brigid Catholic Church, Urban Voices Project and Church of the

Good Shepherd, the temple celebrated the common value of freedom and liberation through music.

"In addition to our Songs of Freedom Concert, we are happy to invite the greater Beverly Hills community to our 'brunch and learn' Passover potluck on Passover Day One, Sunday morning at 10 a.m.," Cantor Lizzie Weiss said. "Our rabbis will be leading a wonderful spiritual discussion while everyone shares their favorite Passover brunch food."

Additionally, the temple will host an annual Chai Village Community Center Seder on April 15 at 6 p.m. Chai Village is a joint initiative with Temple Isaiah, offering community events for older adults.

Temple Emanuel is located at 300 N. Clark Drive. For information, visit [tebh.org](http://tebh.org).

## Wishing You a Sweet and Happy Passover!

As Passover approaches, we reflect on the Exodus and the profound gift of freedom. We honor the generations before us who have upheld the sacred traditions of our spring festival, ensuring its meaning endures.

At Los Angeles Jewish Health, no one is alone. Our cherished seniors will celebrate with joyful Seders, filled with tradition, warmth, and new memories. We will honor their past while creating meaningful moments for the present.

To continue providing excellence in geriatric healthcare and vibrant living, we need your support. Your generosity helps us offer compassionate care and uplifting programs—like our Passover celebrations—that enrich the lives of our residents.

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LAJHealth.org  
818.774.3324



# Genghis Cohen soldiers on down Fairfax

■ Iconic restaurant will relocate June 1

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Genghis Cohen, a longtime Chinese restaurant and night club on Fairfax Avenue, will close its doors on May 31 – leaving behind a legacy of more than 40 years as a neighborhood gathering place for egg roll enthusiasts and live music fans. However, the closure doesn't mark the end of the beloved establishment. The next day, it will continue take-out and delivery service at a temporary space down the street, at 448 N. Fairfax Ave, while it searches for a permanent location. The property owner and the business owner could not reach an agreement on the lease renewal.

The restaurant has a storied history as a fixture on Fairfax Avenue. After successfully riding the rock 'n' roll wave in the 1960s and '70s, Los Angeles music producer Allan Rinde opened Genghis Cohen in 1983 – a tribute to American Chinese cuisine and the thriving Jewish community in the Fairfax District.

The restaurant featured Chinese food that was common in Rinde's hometown of New York City, but less common in Los Angeles at the time. The egg rolls, lo mein and Szechuan chicken quickly drew visitors from around town, but what set Genghis Cohen apart was the opening of the "cantina," an adjacent live music space envisioned by Rinde. By the late '80s, it became a busy spot for touring bands, local musi-

cians and anyone looking for quintessential Chinese American cuisine. Rumor has it that the restaurant even inspired the famous "Chinese Restaurant" episode of "Seinfeld."

Rinde sold the business to long-time employee and general manager Raymond Kiu in 1997. In 2015, the restaurant changed hands again, this time to Marc Rose and Med Abrous – two former New Yorkers with a love of Chinese food.

"It was an interesting time not just in Los Angeles, but I think around the country, when a lot of authentic Hong Kong-style food, Szechuan-style food was really becoming more available," Rose said. "We definitely believed that Chinese American food should also be a part of our vernacular ... We always say, this is 'authentically inauthentic.' This is food that we personally grew up eating, especially this New York-style Chinese food. But I believe that a lot of people across the country had restaurants like this – these red leather booth homesteads that they grew up going to. We felt like it was important ... to maintain."

When it was time to negotiate a new lease term with the building owners – who purchased the property about five years ago with plans of redeveloping it – the two parties could not come to an agreement.

"Everyone in business understands that things change," Rose said. "We very much understood that we would be paying more rent, maybe even significantly more rent. And that's OK, except when you're asked to pay something that would

actually put the business in jeopardy of not being in business any longer. That's when our responsibility is to make a different decision. We came to understand that we weren't ever a part of the long-term plan [for the property]."

While increased rent will force the closure of the original location, the restaurant will move to a temporary location just three blocks south on Fairfax Avenue.

"Part of the history of Genghis Cohen is the story of the neighborhood," Abrous said. "It was very important for us to stay in the neighborhood."

Abrous and Rose aim to keep customers happy by not missing a single day of service. The new location will open for delivery and takeout on June 1, with dine-in service at a later date to be announced. Meanwhile, the owners will continue to search for a permanent location that can continue Genghis Cohen's legacy of live music and entertainment.

The relocation comes as many longtime Los Angeles restaurants have shuttered due to rising costs. In March, West Hollywood's Le Petit Four closed after 44 years on the Sunset Strip. Papa Cristo's Greek Grill – a Pico-Union staple – recently announced it will close in May after 77 years.

"It's really important for us to let the community know that we're not going anywhere," Rose said. "Feeding people and giving the community a space to gather and get together – whether it be with family or friends or even strangers – that's really important."



photo courtesy of Genghis Cohen

The Chinese restaurant and night club has been a landmark on Fairfax Avenue since 1983.



## Knowing When It's Time: A Veterinarian's Perspective on Quality on Life

One of the most heartbreaking – but ultimately humane – decisions a pet owner may face is when to start thinking about quality of life. It's never easy. But when a beloved animal is suffering, choosing to let go can be the most compassionate gift we give.

People often ask me if these conversations are the hardest part of my job. The answer is yes—but they can also be some of the most fulfilling. In those moments, I stop thinking like a clinician and start thinking empathetically. It's a deeply humanizing experience, where I feel I can truly help—drawing not just on medical knowledge, but on emotional presence and compassion. Bedside manner often matters more than being a walking textbook.

Euthanasia, when approached with care and intention, is a peaceful process that prevents further pain and distress. But how do you know when it's time?

The answer lies in **quality of life**. No two pets age the same way, but there are common signs that comfort is fading: chronic pain that no longer responds to treatment, difficulty standing or walking, loss of appetite, incontinence, and a general withdrawal from daily life.

Small animals live in the moment—they don't dwell on yesterday or worry about tomorrow. That's why, when chronic illness becomes a daily experience, it's important to have the conversation sooner rather than later.

Many veterinarians use a **Quality of Life** scale to help assess pain, mobility, appetite, hygiene, and happiness. It's not about one bad day—it's about a gradual, consistent decline.

Here's what I often tell clients: think of your pet's three favorite things—eating, greeting you at the door, going for walks. When those joys fade and don't return, that's usually when it's time to talk.

Some families choose **in-home euthanasia** for a peaceful goodbye in familiar surroundings. Others prefer the veterinary clinic. Some want to be present; others can't bear to watch. All of it is okay. The goal is always the same: love, dignity, and peace.

In the end, **quality of life conversations aren't about giving up. When medicine has done all it can, compassion steps in to guide the rest of the way.**

### About Dr. Ameis

Dr. Ezra Ameis is an ER veterinarian and independently owns and operates Paw Priority in West Hollywood, which provides general practice, urgent care and acupuncture. He will be hosting a weekly article right here, please email us with your pet-related questions and topics you'd like covered: [hello@pp.vet](mailto:hello@pp.vet)



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Wishing all of you love, light and good health!  
During these trying times, we must all stick together  
and we are all family!

Corky Hale & Mike Stoller



# Hollywood Chamber recognizes members' contributions

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce is honoring members of its board for making outstanding contributions in the community during the 2025 Board Installation Gala and Awards Dinner on April 16 at the W Hotel Hollywood.

Richard Pink, owner of Pink's Hot Dogs; Yuko Kaifu, president of Japan House Los Angeles; and Kathleen Rawson, president and CEO of the Hollywood Partnership will receive awards, and the chamber's chief events officer Kaylee Kiecker will be recognized for 20 years of service. It marks the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce's 104th Board Installation ceremony.

Pink will receive the Community Champion Award, which celebrates a member of the business community who goes above and beyond to make a positive impact. Pink's Hot Dogs was started in 1939 by Paul and Betty Pink, who sold hot dogs from a pushcart near La Brea and

Melrose avenues. It later expanded into the permanent stand on La Brea Avenue, now operated by Richard Pink, his wife Gloria and sister Beverly Pink-Wolfe.

The Pink family regularly holds promotions such as Chili Dogs for Charity that support community-serving organizations. After the wildfires in January, Pink's offered a special hot dog with proceeds benefiting the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation.

"It's a tremendous honor and special moment in the history of Pink's," he said. "It's especially meaningful because it honors our family's legacy. It shows a humble hot dog stand can make a difference."

Kaifu will receive the Catalyst Connector Award, a distinguished honor granted to an individual who exemplifies the power of connection and collaboration in the Hollywood community. The Catalyst Connector Award celebrates their visionary leadership and transformative influence in foster-

ing partnerships that drive change in Hollywood.

Kaifu joined Japan House Los Angeles, a public diplomacy initiative launched by the Japanese government, in January 2016. Japan House Los Angeles is located on the second and fifth floors of Ovation Hollywood, 6801 Hollywood Blvd., offering exhibitions, cultural initiatives and public programming connecting Los Angeles and Japan. Kiecker said Kaifu has been instrumental in connecting people with local causes and helped secure donations for relief efforts following the wildfires in January.

Rawson, who will receive the Outgoing Chairman's Award, joined the Hollywood Partnership in 2022, leading efforts to improve the Hollywood Entertainment District. The Hollywood Partnership manages the property-based business improvement district, using funds from property owners to provide services that increase cleanliness, safety and economic vitality.

"I am deeply honored to be recognized by [former board chair] Sarah Zurell with the Outgoing Chair's Award from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce," Rawson

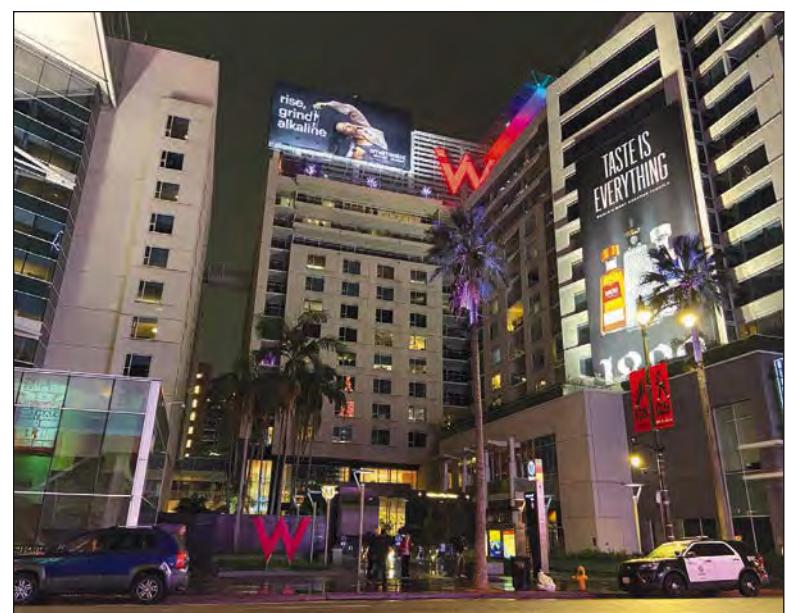


photo by Edwin Folven

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce will welcome members to the W Hotel on April 16 for its annual Installation Gala and Awards Dinner.

said. "It has been a true privilege to work alongside Sarah and the chamber board over the past year. I'm grateful for our shared effort to strengthen and celebrate Hollywood – every collaboration and conversation has brought us closer to that vision. I look forward to continuing this important work together."

Kiecker said the chamber will also welcome its new board on April 16, led by 2025-26 board chair Jerry Neuman, partner at law firm DLP Piper. The installation and awards ceremony is invitation-only. For information on the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, visit [hollywoodchamber.net](http://hollywoodchamber.net).



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**DATE:** Thursday, April 24, 2025

**TIME:** 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

**LOCATION:** Meeting will be held in person at:

Commission Meeting Room 280A  
Beverly Hills City Hall  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

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



**PROJECT** 410 Dabney Lane  
**ADDRESS:** (Between Loma Vista Drive and Wallace Ridge)

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider the following:

**Zone Text Amendment (ZTA).** A request by Philip Sarofim, the property owner of **410 Dabney Lane**, to amend the development standards pertaining to grading and construction in areas located beyond the existing level pad of a property in the Trousdale Estates Area of the City, and the construction of fully opaque fences and walls up to six feet (6') in height within the front yard setback. This ZTA request seeks to amend the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) to allow for the following:

- Amend BHMC §10-3-2603 to allow construction to extend beyond a level pad for the purposes of constructing stairs, garden retaining walls, and grading for walking/maintenance paths and other such features through the issuance of a Trousdale R-1 Permit;
- Amend BHMC §10-3-2604 to allow for grading on a slope that exceeds one (1) vertical foot for each five (5) horizontal feet through the issuance of a Trousdale R-1 Permit;
- Amend BHMC §10-3-2616.D to allow walls, fences and hedges which are solid and opaque up to six feet (6') in height within the front yard setback through the issuance of a Trousdale R-1 Permit; and,
- Amend BHMC §10-3-2650 to allow for requests for the aforementioned project features through the issuance of a Trousdale R-1 Permit.

In addition, the project includes the following entitlement requests associated with the ZTA request:

**Trousdale R-1 Permit.** A request to allow for the construction of stairs, garden retaining walls, and grading for walking/maintenance paths beyond the level pad area located at the rear of the property at 410 Dabney Lane and the construction of a fully opaque six-foot (6') tall fence with pilasters within the required 15' front yard setback. This request seeks to potentially legalize features previously built without permits and that are not currently in compliance with the applicable development standards for properties in the Trousdale Estates Area of the City.

**The requested Trousdale R-1 Permit associated with the ZTA would not become effective unless the amended municipal code language in the ZTA request is approved by the City Council.**

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq.), and the environmental regulations of the City. Upon review, the project appears to qualify for Class 5 (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations) and a Class 3 (New Construction) Categorical Exemptions in accordance with the requirements of Sections 15303 and 15305 of the state CEQA Guidelines. Accordingly, the Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from further environmental review under CEQA.

### How to Participate

Members of the public can participate in, watch or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

- In Person:** Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- Oral Comment:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- Video Comment:** <https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/bevpublic>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
- Written Comment:** Email [commentPC@beverlyhills.org](mailto:commentPC@beverlyhills.org)
- Audio Only:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 2 when prompted.
- Watch LIVE:** BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable or [www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive](http://www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive)

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email. In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Any written comments received by end of the day on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, April 15, 2025, but prior to the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Edgar Arroyo, Senior Planner** in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1138**, or by email at [arroyo@beverlyhills.org](mailto:arroyo@beverlyhills.org). Copies of the project plans and associated application materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by contacting the project planner listed above.

Edgar Arroyo, Senior Planner



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

# Beverly Center focuses on community

■ Shopping destination opens Lucky Strike, Gold's Gym

BY RANCE COLLINS

Beverly Center has been a shopping destination since it opened in 1982. It has undergone multiple renovations and refurbishments over the years. Stores have opened and closed. The exterior has had a facelift. But for over 40 years, the eight-story mall been a constant.

For 2025, the L.A. landmark has added flare to its business portfolio.

Earlier this year, Lucky Strike opened on the ground floor, in a space formerly occupied by the Macy's menswear department. In addition to 22 lanes – which are bathed in blacklight – the bowling alley has a full-service bar, restaurant and an expansive arcade, displayed prominently from the street with large windows.

Beverly Center's marketing and sponsorship director Celia Soudry said that Lucky Strike is part of a larger strategy by the shopping center to revitalize its place in the community.

"We understand that shopper behavior has changed, and people want more than shopping," Soudry said. "They want entertainment. They want more dining options, so we have taken notice and are making changes to provide those amenities."

She said that locals have been popping in, curious about the ongoing construction.

"We've seen a lot of locals coming through and [being] excited," Soudry said.

Later this spring, Beverly Center will also open the latest location from Gold's Gym SoCal on the ground floor, open daily including 24-hours Tuesday-Friday. While Beverly Center is several blocks away from the city of Beverly Hills, Gold's senior vice president Brian Morris considered the city's proximity to the new location.

"Beverly Hills has long been considered a hub for wellness and fitness, yet surprisingly, there's been a lack of accessible, full-service workout spaces in the heart of where locals live, shop and socialize," Morris said. "With nearly 50% of Beverly Hills residents actively engaging in regular physical activity, there's clearly a demand – and

we're stepping in to meet it with a trusted name in fitness."

He noted that in addition to a "full suite of cardio and strength equipment," the gym will have a juice bar, steam room, sauna and offer two-hours of free parking.

"We're proud to create a space that blends performance, recovery, and convenience – all under one roof," Morris added.

The corners of Beverly and San Vicente boulevards have long been a cultural destination for Angelenos. From 1943-74, an amusement park was located on the triangular site, complete with roller coasters, fun houses, a carousel and bumper cars. When the Beverly Center was built the following decade, it became iconic, appearing in films such as "Scenes from a Mall," "Volcano" and "Selena."

"Beverly Center is old school L.A., at least for me," said Santos Uy, founder of the restaurant For the Win. "I remember riding up and down those escalators when I was a child. It was my favorite part of our family visits. Opening here was a crucial step for our expansion to the Westside. We are thrilled to be part of the area's history and community."

Beverly Center staples such as the Apple Store, Bloomingdale's, H&M and Zara remain popular, as do restaurants such as h&H Brazilian Steakhouse and eggslut. Soudry said that she expects foot traffic to increase thanks to the new businesses, which are anticipated to attract frequent returning customers.

"There's a lot more opportunity for families to come in and spend a longer period of time than they normally would between the arcade and the bowling and the dining and then checking out other stores within the center," she said. "You can't really get into [a lane at] Lucky Strike if you haven't made a pre-reservation, so what tends to happen is ... someone may put the reservation down when they get there and then find other things to do within the center. They can play the arcades ... they can also come in and grab that outfit at Zara."

In the coming months, Beverly Center will add Amiri to its luxury collection and a "Titanic"-themed virtual reality experience will open. The center is also launching the summer series Cool Down at Bev, which will partner with celebrity brand pop-ups and L.A. Tourism to

focus on women- and minority-owned restaurants, and will add to 2025 being "a little bit different."

"I'm really excited to kind of bring all of that into our main event space of grand court and amplify our local community partners," Soudry said.

The Beverly Center is located at 8500 Beverly Blvd. For information, visit [beverlycenter.com](http://beverlycenter.com).



photo courtesy of Lucky Strike

The 22-lane Lucky Strike is now open at Beverly Center.

## CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

**LOCATIONS:** 8433 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood, California

**REQUEST:** The City Council will hold a public hearing to consider a request for the proposed construction of a new two-sided full motion animated billboard and sidewalk improvements at 8433 Sunset Boulevard (The Comedy Store). This project is subject to CEQA and a Negative Declaration with a subsequent addendum prepared which analyzed the project.

**PERMIT(S):** Certificate of Appropriateness, Development Agreement, Sign Permit, Zone Map Amendment, and any other required permits.

**APPLICANT(S):** Aaron Green, Afriat Consulting, Orange Barrell Media (OBM)

**TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:** Monday, April 21, 2025  
6 p.m.  
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room –  
Council Chambers  
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90069

**ZONES:** SSP (Sunset Specific Plan)

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:** Negative Declaration prepared for the Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy and addendum prepared for the Negative Declaration for the Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy.

**Complete digital agenda packets** will be available on Wednesday, April 16, 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 City Council, 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 Contract 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.**

## Craft Contemporary celebrates 60 years

Craft Contemporary is holding the 2025 Benefit & Art Auction on Saturday, May 10, at the museum, 5814 Wilshire Blvd.

Join Craft Contemporary as it celebrates 60 years of crafting a brighter cultural landscape in Los Angeles County. The special Benefit and Art Auction will honor the visionary legacy of founder Edith R. Wyle (1918-1999), the Egg and The Eye and the exceptional contributions of contemporary artist Bari Ziperstein. The dinner and program run from 6-8 p.m., followed by an after party from 8-11 p.m.

For information and tickets, visit [craftcontemporary.org](http://craftcontemporary.org).



photo courtesy of Craft Contemporary  
The benefit will honor the legacy of museum founder Edith R. Wyle (1918-1999).



# *Your Final Wishes,*

THEIR PEACE  
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[www.HillsideMemorial.org](http://www.HillsideMemorial.org)  
1-877-309-1395

A Community Service of  
Temple Israel of Hollywood



# Doctor! Doctor! Check out this list of small joys

All babies are royalty.

We fuss over my grandson, pet him as you would a kitten, pat his knee, brush our fingertips against his cheek. It's like tickling a poem.

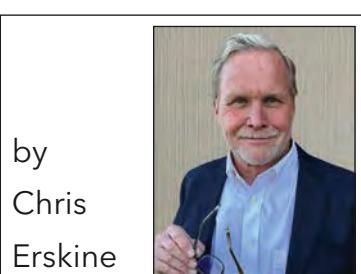
Listen, I'll measure my remaining days in cups of coffee. In my spare time, I'll plan future family getaways, knowing the ebullient grandson, Puddles, will be shining even when the sun isn't.

The takeaway: Tough times are easier when you surround yourself with smooth, milky youth.

Sure, at this stage of my life, I can tear a shoulder muscle just from pulling on a sweatshirt or stepping over a sleeping dog.

The other morning, White Fang knocked me onto the gravel hiking trail, my second near-fatal dog wipeout. As you may remember, my daughter's dog (Penny Laine) clipped me in the park only weeks before, barreling me into the wet grass. You know how overloading a suitcase stresses the zipper? That's what happened to my left schnitzel, my longest, most-vulnerable tendon. Owe.

I'm starting to wonder: Are these trip-and-falls trend? Will my dogs



by  
Chris  
Erskine

now blindsight me every chance? Or, were those phantom falls that just happened to coincide within weeks of each other?

I can't wait to quiz my physician, Dr. Steve, who operates a fine medical practice out of the trunk of his aging red Eldorado, while smoking a cigar (think Walter Matthau). No doubt, he'll recommend I relax and keep my wits about me.

"Why start now?" I'll say.

Honestly, I only fake composure. Suzanne often compliments me on my public speaking, another time I fake composure.

Guess I'm fortunate that speeches don't undo me the way they do some other folks. Before a gig, I always think to myself, what's the worst that could happen? Ridicule?

Public humiliation? Could they storm the stage and flog me for telling that silly homecoming story for the hundredth time?

"And then Rapunzel says, it's gonna be OK, Mom. My boyfriend's been taking Viagra all day..."

So, far, none of that bad stuff has happened during speeches. Obviously, I've been quite lucky.

In related news, I just read that Viagra helps sustain fresh-cut flowers. I thought to myself: "Hmmm, I wonder if it has other uses?"

I mean, florally speaking. I'll Google it and get back to you.

Let's move on...

Did you know it takes two hours for a snowflake to fall from a cloud to the ground?

I read that the other day as well, picturing one of those fat, furry Sierra flakes, falling from 20,000 feet, tumbling, turning, preening — blowing west, then south, then sideways — finally landing on the eyelash of Puddles while I carry him into a donut shop in Mammoth Lakes.

Only 6 months old, my grandson has never seen snow. He's never even seen "The Dirty Dozen," his papa's favorite movie and the greatest love story of all time.

Puddles has never surfed. He's never had his heart broken. He's never sung along to Elton John or Led Zeppelin at 2 in the morning as the keg runs dry.

He's never dodged a kiss, quaffed an oyster, threaded a pass between the linebacker's hands for a last-second score.

He's never double-dribbled in a key moment. He's never dropped trou. He's never feathered an 8-iron into the middle of a sand trap. He's



photo by Chris Erskine

Hey, Puddles, seems that you shine even when the sun doesn't.

never tossed a dirty dish in the sink and — as his Uncle Smartacus does — thinks "I'll get it in the morning. Or Dad will."

In my spare time, I'm making Puddles a bucket list of all he needs to accomplish.

Item 46: Watch the blue algae curl through a wave on Dockweiler Beach one night, a sandy blonde on one side, a sandy dog on the other.

Item 47: Build a bonfire.

Item 48: Catch a rainbow trout.

Item 49: Drive up to Mt. Wilson. Listen to the stars breathe.

Hey Puddles, nothing races by faster than life.

But the truly beautiful things — the hum of the stars, the waltz of the snowflakes — seem kind of timeless

and slow and prayerful. Just as baseball is timeless and slow and prayerful. And re-painting an old rocking chair. Or parenthood itself.

In tricky times, your inclination might be to outpunch your opponent, fight fire with fire, go faster than the next guy, get back on the %\*!\$#@#\$%#ing horse.

That's fine, Puddles. That's good and necessary and just. Life has more drama than the House of Hanover.

But life is other things too.

Sometimes it's a poem.

Sometimes you're the poem.

And sometimes you're not.

For past columns, please go to [ChrisErskineLA.com](http://ChrisErskineLA.com)

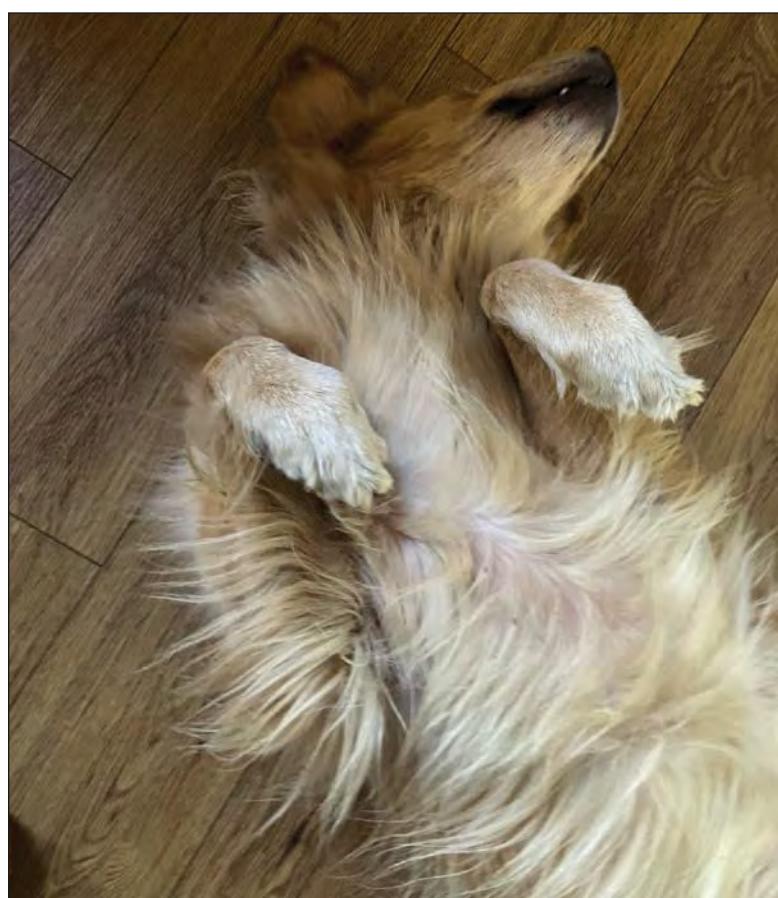


photo by Chris Erskine

This golden goof, this murderer, clipped me in the schnitzel during a morning walk.

## Notable Quotes

"My grandchildren deserve to live in an America where every child has the opportunity to live up to his or her God-given potential; where equality under the law is a reality for people of all races and religions and creeds; where every person can enjoy clean air, clean water and a stable climate."

Hillary Rodham Clinton (b. 1947 –)

We should all think of the grandchildren, as Erskine does in his column, and as Clinton does in this Notable Quote. Any grandparent who wishes to give their grandchildren the opportunity to live in a free and safe country should think of their grandchildren when voting.

Source: Instagram Post

**All Saints' Beverly Hills**  
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# Palm Sunday

## Sunday, April 13

A both joyful and solemn service where we enter Holy Week by telling the passion story of Jesus in word and music

**9 am: Palm Sunday Festival on the Patio:  
music, refreshments, and more!**

**10 am: Liturgy of the Palms and Choral Holy Eucharist**

**See our full Holy Week and Easter schedule  
at [www.allsaintsbh.org/holyweek](http://www.allsaintsbh.org/holyweek)**



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# Cybill 'moonlights' at Catalina Jazz Club

BY RANCE COLLINS

On April 18-19 at 8:30 p.m., Golden Globe-winning actress Cybill Shepherd brings her cabaret show to the Catalina Jazz Club.

In addition to appearing in seminal film and television classics, Shepherd has frequently graced audiences with her voice. She sang the theme song ("Nice Work if You Can Get It") to her hit sitcom "Cybill," memorably crooned "Blue Moon" in a film noir episode of "Moonlighting" and released albums such as "Cybill Does It ... To Cole Porter" and "Talk Memphis to Me." Her Catalina show "Queen of the Lucky Club," will focus on the music roots of the Memphis-native.

"[The concert] will be a collection of songs I sang over the years with a few new ones sprinkled in the mix," Shepherd said.

Included among the tunes will be a couple written by Shepherd herself.

"There are two that I have always included in my shows ... 'Graceland Revisited' is a song I co-wrote with my former musical director, Tom Adams, and it was to honor Elvis. And, 'Menopause Blues' because it's fun and every woman goes through it," she said.

Shepherd — who has counted director Peter Bogdanovich and author Larry McMurtry among her beaus — once dated Elvis Presley.

Shepherd said that her favorite

part of the cabaret setting was being able to share "some humor" and sing "songs that matter" to audiences. She added that, as Los Angeles continues to rebuild from the January wildfires, a concert is "a great gift that can help heal."

**"There are two that I have always included in my shows ... 'Graceland Revisited' ... to honor Elvis. And, 'Menopause Blues' because it's fun and every woman goes through it."**

*Cybill Shepherd*

Shepherd, who began her career as a model, rose to prominence during the 1970s with performances in "The Last Picture Show" and "The Heartbreak Kid." She starred in "Daisy Miller," "At Long Last Love" and "Taxi Driver," before turning her attention to TV roles in the 1980s. The mammoth success of "Moonlighting" reinvigorated her acting career, and she continued that success with her self-titled series in the 1990s. In recent years, she has enjoyed recurring roles in "The L Word," "Psych" and "The Client List," and in 2023 made the television film "How to Murder Your Husband: The Nancy Brophy



photo courtesy of Cybill Shepherd

Cybill Shepherd will sing songs old and new at her April 18-19 cabaret show.

Story." Her 2000 memoir, "Cybill Disobedience" was a bestseller.

Last fall, "Moonlighting" premiered on Hulu after decades of being largely unavailable to watch or stream. Shepherd said that new audiences have been discovering the series and reaching out to her.

"I just received a beautiful letter from a young mother that recently started watching 'Moonlighting' and looked up my music via streaming and became a fan of both," she said. "Her 10 year old even loved one of my movies, she became a fan and sent me the cutest crayon drawing of me at the Oscars in my orange tennis shoes. It all

warms my heart."

"Queen of the Lucky Club" has an impressive assembly of talent behind it. Sunnie Paxson will serve as music director, while Shepherd's band includes Freddy Ramos (guitar), Mark Towns (bass), Dave Tull (drums, vocals), Frank Fontaine (sax), Sandra Adams (vocals) and Susan Disney Massengale (vocals).

Shepherd said she was excited and thankful to be performing.

"I'm grateful to be alive and still able to do a show," she said.

For tickets and information, visit [catalinajazzclub.com/calendar](http://catalinajazzclub.com/calendar). Catalina Jazz Club is located at 6725 Sunset Blvd.



photo courtesy of The Wallis

## John Waters spends his birthday at The Wallis

On April 26, at 7:30 p.m. John Waters is finally coming clean, so to speak, and his all-new, secret-sharing, one-man crackpot comedy show dares to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the filthy truth. It's an endless bag of trans-gressive and hetero-non-aggressive twisted tales that will warm the dark little hearts of non-binary brats all over the world. Over-sharing? You bet. Too much information? Maybe so, but airing his dirty laundry makes Waters feel clean. He'll talk straight even when he's definitely not.

Waters knows the truth isn't always pretty and he doesn't shy away from the social horrors of our present times — whimsical motion pictures, the humiliation of the human body and the unwanted nudity of fellow travelers in the airport. Waters knows he's not perfect either. He too has flaws. No matter what he preaches, he does judge others and in his show he n a m e s names and a s s i g n s b l a m e . Waters tells "The Naked Truth."

The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. Visit [tickets.thewallis.org/20538/20544](http://tickets.thewallis.org/20538/20544).

## spotlight WITH SHARONA

Join Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian, in partnership with the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, for her new initiative that shines a light on local businesses!

Community members will have an opportunity to learn about what each spotlighted business offers, what sets them apart and why they chose Beverly Hills to call home.

This event is **FREE**, open to the public and requires pre-registration, for up to 150 guests. Registration will not be available at the door.

To pre-register and view upcoming events, visit [beverlyhills.org/spotlight](http://beverlyhills.org/spotlight).

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



**Wednesday, April 23, 2025**

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Novikov Beverly Hills**  
257 N Cañon Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Photo Credit: @takpro

# Wilshire reopens after subway work closure in Beverly Hills

Metro is making progress on the D Line Subway Extension project this spring at many locations along the tunnel alignment. Section one of the line between the Wilshire/Western station and Wilshire/La Cienega station is scheduled to open in fall 2025. Section two of the line to the Century City/Constellation station is scheduled to open in 2026, and section three to the Westwood/VA Hospital station is anticipated to open in 2027.

Street restoration continues through June around the Wilshire/Western, Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax stations. At the eastern end of the project, Wilshire Boulevard is intermittently reduced to one lane in each direction between Saint Andrews Place and Western Avenue, and Western Avenue is intermittently reduced to one lane in

each direction between Sixth and Seventh streets. Wilshire Boulevard is also reduced to two lanes in each direction between Highland and Cloverdale avenues, and La Brea Avenue is intermittently reduced to one lane in each direction between Sixth and Eighth streets.

At Wilshire/Fairfax, a k-rail work zone in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard has reduced traffic to two lanes in each direction. Farther west, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to one lane in each direction between Spaulding Avenue and San Diego Way. The street restoration work will require a full closure of the Wilshire/Western, Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax intersections on separate weekends in June.

Street-level work also continues in April at and around the Wilshire/La Cienega station. A K-rail work zone has been implemented

on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards, and along the east side of La Cienega Boulevard. Motorists are cautioned about lane closures around the intersection.

At the Wilshire/Rodeo station, Wilshire Boulevard has reopened between El Camino and Crescent Drives following a three-week full closure. K-rail work zones will remain in place in the curb lanes on Wilshire Boulevard to support ongoing station construction. Two lanes will remain open on Wilshire Boulevard between Beverly and Crescent drives. Left turns will be restricted from westbound Wilshire Boulevard to South Cañon Drive.

Crews are also pouring concrete in April for a cross passage between the subway tunnels at 8641 Wilshire Blvd. Curb Lane traffic closures are required to remove temporary dewatering infrastructure and restore sidewalks in the area.

At the Century City/Constellation Station, preparations are underway for deck removal and



photo by Tabor Brewster

Wilshire Boulevard has reopened near Beverly Drive following a three-week closure in Beverly Hills.

2025. Ongoing construction continues in construction staging yards along Century Park East.

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

## Newsom unveils plan to create high-paying careers for more Californians



photo courtesy of the office of Gov. Gavin Newsom

The plan will allow workers to turn real-world experience into college credit.

## Letters to the Editor

### Skepticism surfaces about county's split with LAHSA

Re "County changes course on homelessness," April 3 issue

When I see [Los Angeles County Supervisor] Lindsey Horvath's name on any proposal, I'm confident that it means the proposal is all about Lindsey's ego and inability to play nice in the sandbox with people like [Los Angeles Mayor] Karen Bass. This is a petulant break up that does indeed create more government.

I also remind readers to truly study the mess [former Councilmember] Horvath left behind in West Hollywood, where her performative antics were merely pretty word salad.

Alan Strasburg  
West Hollywood

### There's nothing good about a restaurant closing

Re "Le Petit Four closes for good," April 3 issue

How I hate the expression it closed "for good." There is nothing good about Le Petit Four closing!

What is good about greedy landlords? Or labor costs skyrocketing because of decisions made by people that probably have never been in the restaurant business?

What is good about people being afraid to walk on Sunset Boulevard? And what is good about food costs going through the roof?

Let's just say that Le Petit Four (and all the other restaurants that closed in the last two weeks) closed because of a very bad situation. They certainly didn't close "for good!"

Myra "Mikie" Friedman  
West Hollywood

Everything that exists in this world of ours, from milk in your ice box to that awful partner of yours [who] you've been contemplating divorcing for years, has an expiration date.

Au revoir, Le Petit Four. Your time has come. Rest in peace.

Derek Andrade  
Pasadena

easier for Californians to receive college credit for their real-world experience – including veterans.

With strategic input from agencies and community members, two central themes emerged to guide the creation of the master plan: enhance coordination and address structural barriers that make it difficult for Californians to navigate education, workforce training and public benefit systems.

To help Californians better showcase their skills, the state will launch Career Passports – a digital tool that combines academic records with verified experience

from work, military service and training programs.

The plan also invests in expanding credit for prior learning, allowing veterans and working Californians to turn real-world experience into college credit. The statewide push is expected to benefit 250,000 people – including 30,000 veterans – and generate billions in long-term economic gains by speeding up the time required to earn a degree and cutting costs.

For information, visit [gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-CA-Master-Plan-for-Career-Education.pdf](http://gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-CA-Master-Plan-for-Career-Education.pdf).

## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

for the

**PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LOMITAS AVENUE, CANON DRIVE, AND BEVERLY DRIVE**

**Within the City of  
BEVERLY HILLS,  
CALIFORNIA**

City of Beverly Hills (City), California invites electronic bids for the PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LOMITAS AVENUE, CANON DRIVE, AND BEVERLY DRIVE within the City of Beverly Hills, California. The City will receive such bids electronically via Planetbids up to the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time), on **Thursday, May 1, 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.

**PRE-BID MEETING** – An optional pre-bid meeting will be held at the jobsite (800 N Canon Dr., Beverly Hills CA 90210) on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 10:30am.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form may be inspected and downloaded from the City's Planetbids webpage: <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/127966>

**BIDDER'S QUESTIONS** – Any questions regarding any error, omission, ambiguity or conflict in the Plans and Specifications and general clarifications, should be submitted to the Project Manager through Planetbids no later than Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 2:00pm. Requests for clarification received after this date or sent/posed directly to the Project Manager will be disregarded.

**ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE** – The preliminary cost of PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LOMITAS AVENUE, CANON DRIVE, AND BEVERLY DRIVE for this work has been prepared and the said estimate is **\$600,000.00**.

**CITY CONTACT** – Any questions or requests for information can be directed to the project manager, Ara Retchian, at [areetchian@beverlyhills.org](mailto:areetchian@beverlyhills.org).

**PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION NUMBER** – The Contractor is required to register with State of California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and meet requirements to bid on public works contracts. A Public Works Contractor Registration No. shall be submitted with the bid. All sub-contractors are also required to register with the DIR.

**CONTRACTORS LICENSE** – In compliance with Public Contract Code Section 3300, the City has determined that the Bidder must possess at least one of the following licenses: **"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

### Spend the holiday by the sea

Celebrate Easter by the sea at Terrazza at Hotel Casa del Mar on Sunday, April 20. Indulge in a delightful Easter brunch featuring appetizers like Japanese Tai snapper crudo, shrimp avocado toast and velvety pea soup. Savor exquisite entrées, including lobster benedict, grilled branzino and a luxurious caviar frittata. Conclude your meal with an irresistible selection of sweets from the chef's dessert table. The Hotel Casa del Mar is located at 1910 Ocean Way. For information, visit [resy.com/cities/santa-monica-ca/venues/terrazza](http://resy.com/cities/santa-monica-ca/venues/terrazza) or call (424)387-1258.

### JAR presents annual Passover dinner

Chef Suzanne Tracht's highly acclaimed restaurant JAR is

presenting its annual Passover dinner designed to bring families and friends together to celebrate the Jewish holiday on Sunday, April 13. The four-course dinner merges Tracht's family Seder traditions with the flavors of JAR's modern chop house.

After an informal Seder service, officiated by Rabbi Ellen Nemhauser at 5 p.m., JAR's Passover Seder dinner begins with passed appetizers of Auntie's chopped liver; English pea purée with radish and feta; and smoked salmon on potato pancake with crème fraîche and chives.

Begin with a first-course choice of Suzanne's flavorful matzo ball soup with lemongrass broth followed by chilled asparagus with spring radish, hard cooked egg and pickled-ramp vinaigrette.

For the main course, guests may choose from JAR's signature pot roast with carrots, caramelized onions, prunes and fingerling potatoes; or sautéed Alaskan halibut with favas, celery root mash and scallion butter. The evening is com-

### Easter is CIRCA 55

Enjoy a spectacular Easter celebration at CIRCA 55, where locals and guests alike will be treated to a delightful selection of Easter classics and Beverly Hilton specialties, all set against the backdrop of Los Angeles' sunny spring weather.

Entrées include braised leg of lamb with rosemary and thyme, apricot glazed spiral cut ham with fruit chutney and roasted butternut squash ravioli with bright lemon and spring peas. For brunch lovers, enjoy fluffy scrambled eggs, Belgian waffles and all-American pancakes, eggs benedict, fresh-baked croissants, pastries and bagels. Other highlights include a cheese corner, dim sum, soups, salads and a kids' corner. Indulge in Chef Thomas Henzi's selection of Swiss and Viennese cakes and pastries, along with a beignet station for a sweet Easter treat.

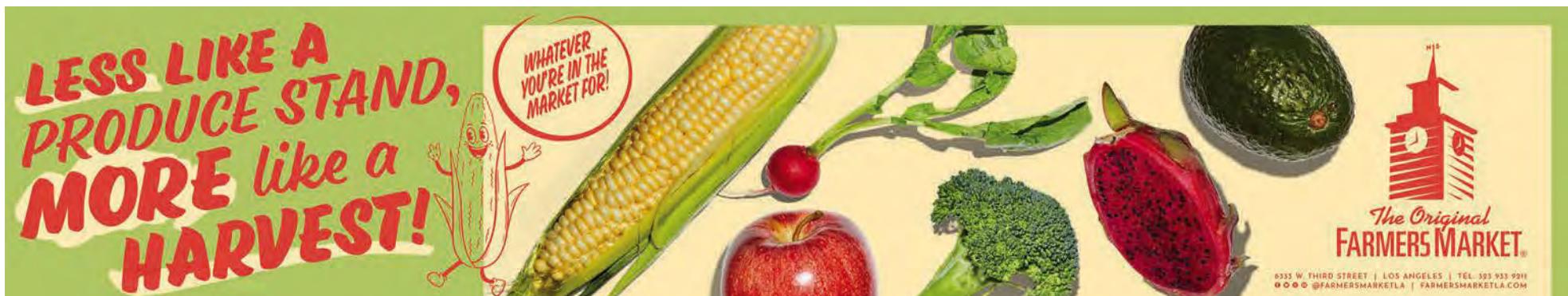
Reservations are available between 11 a.m.-4 p.m., with the last seating at 3:30 p.m. Reservations are \$155 and up per person and \$65 and up for children 12 and under. For informa-



photo courtesy of The Beverly Hilton

Have breakfast with a view at CIRCA 55.

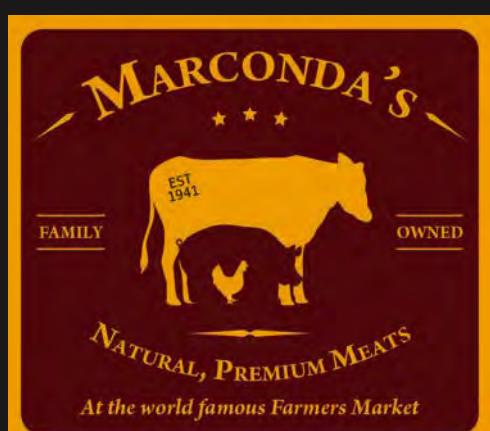
tion, visit [hilton.com/en/hotels/laxbhhh-the-beverly-hilton/dining/circa-55-rooftop-restaurant](http://hilton.com/en/hotels/laxbhhh-the-beverly-hilton/dining/circa-55-rooftop-restaurant) lounge or call (310)887-6055. CIRCA 55 at The Beverly Hilton is located at 9876 Wilshire Blvd.



### For Your Passover Table



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plete with a choice of desserts: almond tangerine cake with fresh berries and whipped cream; and decadent chocolate covered matzah. Vegetarian and vegan options are available on request and will be determined by the chef on the day of the event.

Reservations can be made by calling (323)655-6566 or visiting exploretock.com/jarrestaurant/even t/541182/passover-2025. Pricing is \$275 per person. Price includes menu, coffee, tea and Passover wines. Traditional JAR menu is not available.

JAR is located at 8225 Beverly Blvd.

## Spend Easter at The Peninsula

Join The Peninsula Beverly Hills on Sunday, April 20 for an extraordinary Easter Brunch at The Belvedere where Executive Chef Luis Cuadra presents a decadent feast of seasonal delights. Guests can savor exquisite dishes including crab cake benedict and crème brûlée French toast, as well as decadent desserts. Reservations are sug-

gested and seating is available from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Brunch is priced at \$195 per person for adults and \$95 for children under 12. To book, please visit opentable.com/thebelvedere or call (301)975-2736.

From April 17-20, guests can visit The Living Room and experience The Peninsula Beverly Hills' beloved tea service. Get in the celebrating spirit with pastries, champagne by Laurent Perrier and Dom Perignon, one-of-a-kind teas and a tower of sweet and savory delights – all accompanied by the soothing sounds of a classical harpist. Reservations can be made via opentable.com/r/the-living-room-presents-afternoon-tea-at-the-belvedere-terrace-beverly-hills.

For information, visit peninsula.com/en/beverly-hills. The Peninsula Beverly Hills is located at 9882 Santa Monica Blvd.

## Have a 'Proper' Easter

Hop on over to The Downtown LA Proper on Sunday, April 20 from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. for an

See page 16

## It's a Golden Hour festival in DTLA

The World Fair Festival is taking over Golden Hour at Level 8 on April 17 from 6-11 p.m. The iconic rooftop is being transformed into a vibrant, carnival-inspired playground right in the heart of Downtown LA. Guests can enjoy classic carnival games, globally inspired bites, and stunning rooftop views, perfect for springtime vibes. Attendees can try their luck at traditional carnival games like high striker, skee ball and ring toss, all while enjoying music from the resident DJ throughout the evening. The menu offers a flavor-packed journey with treats like funnel cake fries, churros and savory favorites such as Smashburger sliders, chicken satay and quesabirria spring rolls. For drinks, the carousel bar will serve refreshing cocktails and cold beers throughout the evening.

Guests can also test their skills for a chance to win prizes, ranging from complimentary drinks to a weekend stay at Moxy DTLA.

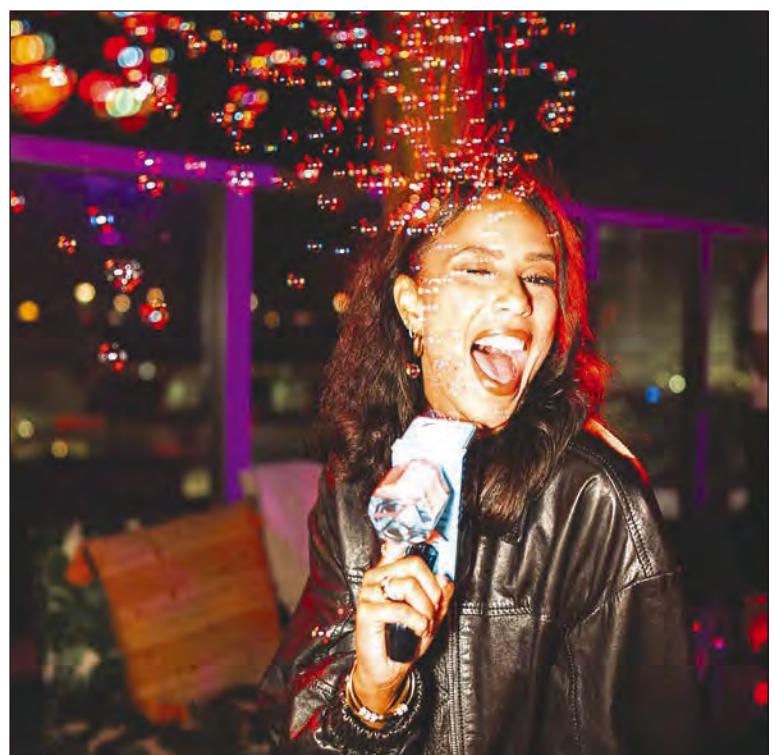


photo courtesy of Level 8

Food and fun will be had at the World Fair Festival on April 17.

Step right up for a summer evening you'll never forget. This is a 21+ event. Tickets are \$65 and available now on Bucketlisters at bucketlisters.com/experience/world-

fair-feastival. Golden Hour at Level 8 is located at 1254 S. Figueroa St. For information, visit level8dtla.com/ location/golden-hour.

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## Young Artist alums receive prestigious opera honor

LA Opera has announced the 2025 recipients of the Eva and Marc Stern Artist Award, tenor Anthony León and soprano Erica Petrocelli. The two singers are distinguished alumni of the company's Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program and both are performing leading roles in the company's current production of "Mozart's *Così fan tutte*."

The Stern Artist Award was established in 2021 by Eva and Marc Stern, two of the greatest champions and most dedicated supporters in the history of LA Opera. The annual award serves as an expression of gratitude to gifted artists who have made an indelible mark on LA Opera's artistic profile. This year's award recipients will receive \$25,000 each.

"One of the things that Eva and I have treasured most in our involvement with LA Opera has been building personal relationships with many of the artists who have created magic on our stage," Marc Stern said. "And we've learned just how expensive it is to have a career in opera, even for well-established performers. The cost involved in coaching new roles, language stud-

ies and travel – to name just a few – never goes away, and it makes us feel good to give something back to extraordinary performers with strong ties to the opera company we love. Anthony and Erica have made deep impressions on our audiences with their uncommon musicality, outstanding depth and sensitivity and remarkably beautiful voices. We are proud to honor these beloved members of the LA Opera family who have touched our hearts with their artistry and who now represent the company with distinction as they continue building successful careers."

León joined LA Opera's Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program in the 2022-23 season, making his company debut as Normanno in the season-opening production of "Lucia di Lammermoor." In his two seasons with the program, he appeared in a number of supporting roles in mainstage productions. While still a member of the young artist program, he made his leading role debut as Don Ottavio in "Don Giovanni" in 2023. Additionally, he appeared in young artist performances as the Male Chorus in

Britten's "The Rape of Lucretia" and as Pelleas in "Impressions of Pelleas," and he performed Ramses in Henry Mollicone's "Moses at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels." His current appearance as Ferrando in "Così fan tutte" marks his first return to LA Opera as a guest artist. He will return next spring as Fenton in "Falstaff."

Petrocelli was a member of LA Opera's Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program from 2018-20. She made her company debut in 2018 as Mrs. Naidoo in "Satyagraha." While still a member of the young artist program, she performed two leading roles with the company: Musetta in "La Bohème" in 2019 and the title role in Matthew Aucoin's "Eurydice" in 2020. Additional LA Opera appearances during that time include Annina in "La Traviata," the First Lady in "The Magic Flute" and several roles in Stefano Landi's "The Death of Orpheus." Currently appearing as Fiordiligi in "Così fan tutte," she will return to LA Opera in November to reprise the role of Musetta in "La Bohème."

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



photo by Cory Weaver

Erica Petrocelli appeared in the LA Opera production of "La Bohème" in 2019.

## Mike Kelley Foundation announces grant recipients



photo by Scott Shaw

This year's grantees include 18th Street Art Center, which hosts exhibitions and live performances including Sage Ni'Ja Whitson's "A Meditation on Tongues."

The Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts on March 28 announced the recipients of the first Infinite Expansion Grants, which will support compelling upcoming projects at contemporary arts organizations across Los Angeles County. While in previous years the foundation supported a larger number of grantees with smaller gifts, this year MKFA intentionally chose to focus resources on 10 innovative organizations, awarding larger grants ranging from \$32,000 to \$45,000. The strategic shift primarily provides increased support for artist projects that push the boundaries of practice in the arts while also allowing a percentage of the grant to be allocated to much-needed operating expenses.

The grant takes its name from Mike Kelley's "Infinite Expansion" (1983), a large drawing depicting a tiny central landscape from which increasingly larger psychedelic wood-grain patterns radiate. In a nod to the title, the grants emphasize the resounding impact that arts organizations and artists make in communities they build and the world at large. The grants further the foundation's mission of supporting critical thinking, risk-taking and provocation in the arts through innovative programming and artist projects. This year's grantees are 18th Street Arts Center, The Brick, CalArts REDCAT, Fulcrum Arts/home LA, Future Roots/Canary Test, Human Resources Los Angeles, JOAN, Los

Angeles Nomadic Division, Pieter Performance Space and Self Help Graphics & Art.

"We are excited to support this exceptional group of organizations, whose work continues to challenge paradigms in the arts," executive director Mary Clare Stevens said. "By offering larger grants, we can better amplify impact and nurture the visionary spirit our foundation strives to uplift."

This year's grantees address the reclamation and reinterpretation of marginalized histories and identities, often through performance, sound, installation and immersive experiences. Engaging with the complex legacies of race, queerness, displacement and collective memory, the projects address issues of erasure, visibility and belonging with a strong emphasis on community, empow-

ment, healing, resistance and the celebration of cultural resilience through diverse artistic practices.

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

### 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.

### From page 15

exceptional dining experience, where great food and company come together for a memorable holiday. Celebrate the holiday at Downtown L.A. Proper's flagship restaurant Caldo Verde, where Chef Suzanne Goin and restaurateur Caroline Styne bring their signature culinary expertise to the table. Enjoy an elevated menu featuring poppyseed pancakes, a spring frittata, and chorizo Manchego scones, blending rustic sophistication with authentic Californian flavors. With an exceptional menu and a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere, DTLA Proper offers everything needed for a memorable Easter brunch. To reserve, visit [opentable.com/r/caldo-verde-los-angeles](http://opentable.com/r/caldo-verde-los-angeles). Caldo Verde is located inside the Proper Hotel at 1100 S. Broadway. For information, visit [properhotel1.com/downtown-la/restaurants-bars/caldo-verde](http://properhotel1.com/downtown-la/restaurants-bars/caldo-verde) or call (213)806-1023.

ports guests to the Golden Age of Hollywood with a seaside twist. For a stunning beachside destination with a heartwarming Easter Sunday brunch, Sirena will offer a prix fixe menu served family style for \$65 per person from 7 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Featuring spring produce from the Santa Monica Farmer's Market, the menu includes leek and potato pancakes with smoked salmon and crème fraîche, croissant French toast soufflé topped with a warm berry compote, green goddess salad with avocado, cucumber, asparagus and haricot verts, an Italian Benedict with rosemary ham, asparagus ricotta herb frittata and sides of smashed fingerling potatoes and applewood smoked bacon. The grand finale is lauded pastry chef Thessa Diadem's carrot cake with pineapple jam, walnuts and cream cheese frosting.

Sirena is located inside The Georgian Hotel at 1415 Ocean Ave. Reservations can be made via [resy.com/cities/santa-monica-ca/venues/sirena-restaurant](http://resy.com/cities/santa-monica-ca/venues/sirena-restaurant). For information, visit [sirenabythesea.com](http://sirenabythesea.com) or call (424)722-6845.

ones to gather in the lush, greenery-filled dining room and jungle-esque outdoor patio for a multi-course, vegetable-forward brunch to celebrate the holiday. Inspired by the flavors and produce of spring, this brunch will feature a dessert garden, gravlax station and a series of shareable starters for \$120.

The menu features a selection of starters for the table including the famed milk bread, calamari and Farmers Market fruits and vegetables, served with Ardor's hummus and paprika vinaigrette. The brunch will continue with selections from the chef's table, including local hen eggs prepared to your preference and a Gravlax Station with assorted mini bagels, pumpernickel bread, cream cheese and all the fixings from avocado to dill and capers. Each guest will choose from entrees that highlight local vegetables including WeHo verde with Ora King salmon, sweet potato curry, Alaskan King crab pasta, steak frites, waffle fried chicken, pan seared branzino and the signature Ardor burger. Finally, guests will have access to all the sweets their heart desires at Ardor's dessert garden of indulgent confections.

For reservations, visit [opentable.com/r/ardor-west-hollywood](http://opentable.com/r/ardor-west-hollywood). For information, visit [ardorweho.com](http://ardorweho.com) or call (424)310-1197. Ardor is located inside The West Hollywood EDITION at 9040 W. Sunset Blvd.

## This year's Easter will be a LouLou

Celebrate Easter Sunday with family and friends feasting on a sumptuous French-California fusion buffet brunch atop LouLou's roof terrace. Add in oceanside panoramic views of Santa Monica, DJs and live performances, and photo ops with the Easter Bunny (aka Le Lapin de Pâques) – and it is the ultimate holiday celebration.

Le Gigot d'Agneau Pascal, a seven-hour roasted leg of lamb, complemented with Dauphine potatoes and Flageolet beans, will be specially featured on LouLou's legendary Sunday brunch menu – highlights include truffle scrambled eggs, shrimp ceviche, gazpacho, lobster pasta and roasted beef tip, as well as an avocado toast bar and omelet, crepe and paella stations.

Indulge in a springtime-inspired, special pink Easter cocktail, Le Lapin Rose (Lillet Rosé, strawberry, lemon, egg white mixed with either vodka, gin or tequila) or order from LouLou's wide selection of other cocktails, mocktails, Champagne, whiskies, wines and imported beers. For information, visit [loulousantamonica.com](http://loulousantamonica.com) or call (323)410-2337. LouLou Santa Monica is located at 395 Santa Monica Place No. 300, Santa Monica.

## Hop into The Georgian's Sirena

Inside the robin's egg blue façade of The Georgian, the ground floor restaurant, Sirena, has become a favorite of families and creatives, with a coastal California Italian menu and a dining room that trans-

## 'A Minecraft Movie' can't pick a tone or side



Sebastian Hansen, Jason Momoa, Emma Myers and Danielle Brooks navigate a new world in "Minecraft."

Have you ever seen an abandoned shopping cart miles away from the nearest grocery store and thought, "How'd you wind up here, lil' guy?" That's what I wonder when I notice more than three names attached to a film as screenwriters. For "A Minecraft Movie," that sucker went through 28 writers.

So how'd you get here lil' "Minecraft" flick? Like a shopping cart in the wild, I cannot fathom all the places this thing has gone. But I can say with some certainty that it

feels like a story created by a faceless cog, not a few folks with a unit-ed vision.

We begin innocently enough with a voiceover revealing how Steve (Jack Black) loves mines, eventually discovering an orb that transports him to the Overworld. In this dimension, he can create anything he wants, as long as it's in cube form.

Sometime later in Idaho, an unlikely bunch encounters that same orb. Embrace the random



photo © 2025 Marvel. All Rights Reserved  
See "Thunderbolts" on the big screen at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood from May 2-18.

### El Capitan Theatre presents Marvel Studios' 'Thunderbolts'

Marvel Studios' newest feature "Thunderbolts" will have a special engagement at the El Capitan Theatre from May 2-18. Tickets are on sale and include two fan event screenings. Guests can see costumes from the movie on display and take pictures at a themed photo op.

Guests can be among the first to see "Thunderbolts" on Thursday, May 1, with two early screenings at 4:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Two fan event screenings will take place at 7:30 p.m. on May 1-2, each with exclusive items included with the \$50 tickets. Attendees at the May 1 fan event will receive a "Thunderbolts" tote bag, popcorn, fountain drink and event credential and lanyard. Attendees at the May 2 fan event will receive a "Thunderbolts" beanie cap, Yelena Funko POP!, popcorn, fountain drink and event credential and lanyard. The Misfits Pack is available for \$100 and includes tickets, popcorn and fountain drinks for four guests.

Daily showtimes for Marvel Studios' "Thunderbolts" are 10:00 a.m., 1 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults; \$19 for children and seniors. The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd. For information, visit [elcapitantheatre.com](http://elcapitantheatre.com).

### ON SCREEN

WITH  
TIM POSADA

with each character. Henry (Sebastian Hansen) and Natalie (Emma Myers from Netflix's "Wednesday") move to a podunk town so big sis can help a potato chip manufacturer improve its social media presence. The siblings' real estate agent Dawn (Danielle Brooks) travels around town with an alpaca in the backseat and other animals atop her car since zookeeper is both a side hustle and dream career.

Finally, there's Garrett (Jason Momoa), known by locals as the Garbage Man. Once a retro arcade champ, he now owns a failing game shop. How does he plan to change his luck? A storage auction just so happens to include an unknown object.

That's all just the premise – around 20 minutes of the film – and even this summary doesn't include arbitrary additions along the way. Once all parties enter an entirely CGI "Minecraft" world, the driving plotline kicks in with villains from another dimension called the Nether, including a menacing porcine voiced by Rachel House.

I cannot stress this enough: This film has no central theme, no guiding North Star, no single point. It's a shotgun blast across a storyboard, structurally created based on the order in which each production assistant collected the remains.

Black's Steve breaks into song twice, Jennifer Coolidge as a prin-

pal enjoys a romantic dinner with an unlikely cubed character in a subplot that goes for way too long, and our young protagonist randomly builds a near-functional rocket pack during school in an early sequence before any newbs even happen upon the Overworld.

If this was the '80s, we might forgive these outlandish narrative bits. Here, they feel like way too much. "A Minecraft Movie" can't pick a lane. It's drunk on IP and juvenile gags.

Look, this ain't for me. But plenty of younger folks will enjoy it with the same gusto they fully embrace loud YouTubers who record their gaming sessions. After all, it grossed \$300 million worldwide opening weekend, doubling its production budget. Like "The Mario Bros. Movie," this one's success – despite its middling quality – should be analyzed and dissected.

The overlords at Warner Bros. are certainly paying attention, so expect many more films to attempt

whatever the strategy is here on many more occasions. Those copycats won't work. This might be a good weekend for theaters, something to applaud, but it's a sad day for narrative cohesion.

And here's the worst part. I can hear all the counterpoints. "It's a video game, what do you want?" "Films for kids don't need to be amazing." "It's just good fun, so join in or shut up." If only I could.

I still believe in the high obligation of film criticism to praise what has artistic merit and challenge something regardless of its popularity. Several "Transformers" films surpassed \$1 billion at the box office – which "Minecraft" is poised to do as well – but that doesn't make most of them good.

Instead, some popular media equates to fast food that satisfies us for the moment without challenging us. Mindless fun can exist, but this crosses a line. "A Minecraft Movie" might seem innocent, but there's a soma effect here that I can't shake.



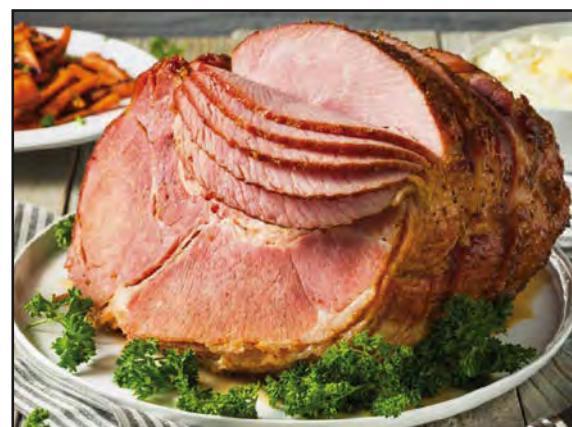
photo by Warner Bros. Pictures

Jack Black, Jason Momoa and Sebastian Hansen star in the new "Minecraft" movie.

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## Dodgers celebrate educators at Teacher Appreciation Night

Join the Los Angeles Dodgers for Teacher Appreciation Night at Dodger Stadium on Saturday, April 12.

The special night acknowledges the dedication and impact of teachers. Enjoy a special pregame ceremony recognizing the incredible efforts of local teachers and receive an exclusive 2025 Teacher Appreciation Night giveaway. A Teacher Appreciation Night package includes a ticket to the game and crewneck sweatshirt. The special event ticket package must be purchased by visiting [mlb.com/dodgers/tickets/specials/teacher-appreciation-night](http://mlb.com/dodgers/tickets/specials/teacher-appreciation-night). Third-party purchases will not include the giveaway, and it is not a stadium-wide promotion.

The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation will also host its first coaches training of the 2025 season

on April 12 at Dodger Stadium, in partnership with Nike. The foundation's coaches training series equips mentors with the tools to teach baseball and softball fundamentals, implement trauma-informed coaching, foster positive youth development and use sport as a vehicle for social change. The series enhances the quality of LADF's Sports Based Youth Development work in collaboration with the Center for Healing and Justice through Sport, Positive Coaching Alliance and Dodgers Training Academy.

The coaches training event is invitation-only. Throughout the morning, youth baseball coaches will participate in three educational sessions focused on best practices for skill development and youth engagement. The training will conclude with a fireside chat

with first-base coach Chris Woodward.

With Jackie Robinson Day on Tuesday, April 15, the training carries added significance, offering a moment to recognize his contributions, organizers said. On Jackie Robinson Day, all Major League Baseball players wear Robinson's No. 42 on their jerseys in honor of his breaking MLB's color barrier on April 15, 1947. In honor of Robinson's impact, LADF introduced the Living Jackie's Nine Playbook in 2024, providing coaches with a resource to integrate his core values such as teamwork, integrity and leadership into coaching. The Los Angeles Dodgers will observe Jackie Robinson Day on April 15 when the team hosts the Colorado Rockies for a 7:10 p.m. game at Dodger Stadium.

"Jackie's nine values are a guiding light when we look at the importance of trusted mentors and leaders and their roles in inspiring social change and creating future leaders across Los Angeles," said



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Dodgers

The special Teacher Appreciation Night ticket package includes a crew-neck sweatshirt.

Nichol Whiteman, CEO of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation. "We're proud to welcome our coaches to Dodger Stadium as they

prepare to inspire the next generation."

For information, visit [mlb.com/dodgers/community/foundation](http://mlb.com/dodgers/community/foundation).



photo courtesy of City of STEM + Los Angeles Maker Faire

The family-friendly event features hands-on activities for children.

## Los Angeles Maker Faire celebrates creativity and innovation

The City of STEM + Los Angeles Maker Faire will be held on Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Exposition Park's South Lawn.

The free family-friendly event will include activations from Hot Wheels by Mattel, Angel City Football Club and a career lounge powered by Microsoft. More than 230 exhibitors from across California will participate in the event, which includes hands-on activities, unique experiments, unexpected demonstrations and mind-expanding workshops. Scientist and bestselling author Jorge Cham will speak on the main stage and 100 students will receive a free copy of his book "Oliver's Great Big Universe." Attendees are invited to see TV host and science educator Jason Latimer, who will combine science and magic with his "Impossible Science" show.

The Los Angeles Maker Faire is a festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the maker movement. Tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students and commercial exhibitors come together to show what they have made and share what they learned.

The event is supported by Los Angeles City Councilmembers Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District; Nithya Raman, 4th District; and Curren Price, 9th District, as well as Microsoft, the SNAP Foundation, Metro, Financial Partners Credit Union, Blue Origin Club for the Future, Southern California Edison, the

Library Foundation of Los Angeles and the cities of Downey and Los Angeles.

Exposition Park is located at 900 Exposition Park Drive. For information, visit [cityofstem.org](http://cityofstem.org) and [losangeles.makerfaire.com](http://losangeles.makerfaire.com).

## County libraries offer engaging spring programs

L.A. County Library invites residents to experience a lively mix of artistic programs, cultural highlights and community-focused events throughout April. The library system is offering many engaging activities and events allowing community members to explore, connect and discover something new. The West Hollywood Library is part of the county's library system.

"April symbolizes the vibrancy and vitality of our community coming together," County Librarian Skye Patrick said. "Our libraries are essential spaces that spark creativity, promote cultural understanding, foster lifelong learning and help connect neighbors."

April marks Arts Month, and the L.A. County Library, in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture invites residents to explore public art in their neighborhoods. Libraries are home to engaging civic artworks. Community mem-

bers are invited to explore their local library and pick up a special Civic Art Passport, highlighting unique art installations across 22 different library locations.

In celebration of National Library Week, which runs through April 12, L.A. County Library highlights the integral role libraries and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening communities. This year's theme, "Drawn to the Library," encourages visitors to share what attracts them most about their local library. As part of the celebration, a virtual Trailblazers in Conversation session will be held with Amanda Jones, author of "That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America," on April 10 at 6 p.m. Patrick will join Jones for an engaging dialogue. Jones became a national voice when she bravely stood against harassment and censorship to defend students' right to read. The conversation will cover what inspired her book, the vital role

of libraries in providing information and why unrestricted access to ideas is essential for a healthy democracy.

Spring is the perfect time to reconnect with nature, and the L.A. County Library systems is celebrating Gardening Month and Earth Day on April 22. L.A. County Library also honors diverse cultures by observing Armenian History Month and Arab American Heritage Month in April. Library visitors are encouraged to explore rich cultural resources, including curated reading lists and digital collections that celebrate the traditions, contributions and histories of Armenian Americans and Arab Americans.

April also marks National Poetry Month, which encourages community members to read, write and find inspiration through poetry.

The West Hollywood Library is located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. For information, visit [lacountylibrary.org](http://lacountylibrary.org).

## CATHEDRAL CHAPEL OF ST. VIBIANA CATHOLIC CHURCH

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2025

**Palm Sunday, 4/13:**  
Vigil 5pm, 8am,  
10am, 12pm

**Holy Thursday, 4/17:**  
7:30pm Mass of the  
Lord's Supper,  
Adoration of the  
Eucharist until 10pm

**Good Friday, 4/18:**  
12pm Stations of the  
Cross & Meditations  
on the Seven Last  
Words  
2pm & 7:30pm The  
Lord's Passion &  
Veneration of the  
Cross

**Holy Saturday, 4/19:**  
7:30pm Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday, 4/20:**  
8am, 10am, 12pm

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## Arts internship applications open for L.A. County students

The L.A. County Arts Internship Program will invest more than \$1.6 million to fund 228 university and community college internships, providing students with paid on-the-job experience in the arts and creative sector at more than 170 nonprofit organizations starting this summer. Applications for interested students are open.

AIP is the largest paid summer internship program in the U.S. Over 25 years, more than 3,000 students have gained experience and access to creative career learning through the program, which places interns in nonprofit performing, present-

ing, literary and municipal arts organizations. Its companion program, the Getty Marrow Multicultural Undergraduate Internship Program, provides internships to museums and visual arts organizations.

AIP interns build professional skills and connections in a range of arts and creative industry roles in arts education, marketing, graphic design, fundraising and production, hosted at nonprofit arts organizations in artistic disciplines such as theater, dance, multimedia, film and social justice through the arts.

"The Arts Internship Program is a

vital stepping stone for young people who want to pursue their passions and join Los Angeles County's creative economy," L.A. County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, said. "The program provides workforce development opportunities for students, who in turn bring their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to county nonprofits. The impact is far-reaching – there are many instances of former interns who have gone on to build meaningful careers in nonprofits, cultural organizations and even county government, where they help shape arts policies and programs. Investing in these young professionals today ensures a thriving arts community and creative economy for L.A. County's future. I encourage students from every corner of the county to apply to get this hands-on experience in the arts sector that will enrich both your life and our community."

Any current undergraduate students, as well as students graduating between May 1-Dec. 1, 2025, are eligible to apply. All applicants must be currently enrolled in a community college or four-year university. Applicants must also be residents of or attending schools in Los Angeles County, and they cannot be previous AIP participants. Eligible students of diverse backgrounds and community college students are encouraged to apply.

For information and to apply, visit [laountyarts.org/internships](http://laountyarts.org/internships).



photo courtesy of L.A. County Arts Internship Program

The county's paid internship program is the largest in the U.S.

## AJU adds Jewish perspective to ethnic studies

American Jewish University announced on April 2 the launch of ETH 105: American Jewish Ethnic Studies – a free, online college-level course that fulfills ethnic studies requirements in California.

Completing a course in ethnic studies is a mandatory high school graduation requirement for most public school districts. The new course meets an existing ethnic studies course graduation requirement for students in the California Community College and California State University systems. However, existing ethnic studies curricula often omit Jewish-American experiences or contain harmful or inaccurate narratives.

"The Jewish American experience has long been overlooked in public education," said Dr. Robbie Totten, AJU's chief academic officer. "With California's ethnic studies requirements, we have a unique

opportunity to elevate the voices of Jewish Americans through our course, ETH 105."

AJU's American Jewish Ethnic Studies course is designed to meet California's requirements while deepening students' understanding of the diverse and complex history of Jews in America. The course fosters inclusivity and combats anti-Semitism by exploring the experiences of Jewish Americans who also identify as African American, Chicano and Latino, Native American, or Asian American and Pacific Islander. To provide a broader perspective, it also examines the histories and cultural contributions of communities in the United States.

AJU is actively seeking partnerships with California high schools, colleges and universities to offer the course for academic credit at their institutions. Whether the

course satisfies the requirement will depend on individual school districts or high schools, and AJU is currently working to secure approvals.

"As a Jewish educational institution, American Jewish University has profound knowledge in teaching and educating about the Jewish experience," said Rabbi Carrie Vogel, director of undergraduate initiatives at AJU. "ETH 105 is a crucial step toward building a more inclusive and accurate story of American Jews, Israel and the Jewish people."

With the course, AJU ensures that the history and experiences of Jewish Americans are included in the field of ethnic studies, further enriching students' understanding of diversity and equality in the United States.

For information, visit [aju.edu/ethnicstudies](http://aju.edu/ethnicstudies).

## LAUSD plans to modernize paper-based systems

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution by Board Member Nick Melvoin on April 8 to modernize antiquated systems and digitize paper records and forms. The goal is to streamline the district's system and make it more user-friendly for families and employees.

The resolution, co-sponsored by Board President Scott M. Schmerelson and Board Members Tanya Ortiz-Franklin and Sherlett

Hendy Newbill, calls for a comprehensive review of outdated, paper-based systems. It directs Superintendent Alberto Carvalho to develop a modernization plan with clear deadlines for reviewing outdated systems, designing digital-first alternatives and delivering results. The resolution comes in the aftermath of wildfires that destroyed critical paper records in schools in burn zones, underscoring the urgency of creating digital backups and more

resilient systems.

"At Los Angeles Unified, we are committed to creating more user-friendly and accessible experiences for our families, students and employees," Carvalho said. "By expanding access to digital tools and online services, we're breaking down barriers, enhancing efficiency and making it easier for everyone to connect with our schools in faster, simpler and more transparent ways."

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



photo courtesy of Los Angeles Children's Chorus

Dr. Steven Kronauer conducted LACC's Young Men's Ensemble on

March 29.

## LACC benefit concert raises funds for programs

The Grammy Award-winning Los Angeles Children's Chorus hosted its annual benefit concert, "Every Child Sings," on March 29 at Zipper Hall in Downtown Los Angeles. The event honored LACC's trailblazing Young Men's Ensemble, founded 15 years ago to provide boys with changing

voices an opportunity to continue singing through vocal transition. The benefit concert, which also included a post-concert dessert reception, raised \$150,000 for the choir's award-winning education programs and need-based scholarships. For information, visit [lachildrenschorus.org](http://lachildrenschorus.org).

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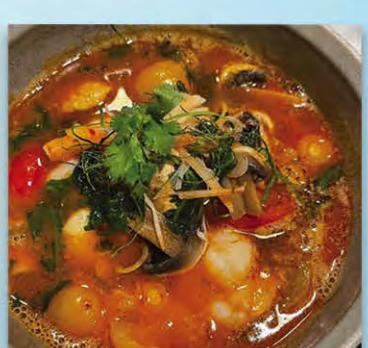
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## Pasadena Playhouse purchases its building for centennial

Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the historic facility, Pasadena Playhouse announced April 6 that it has successfully purchased its 1925 building, which was lost to bankruptcy in 1970 and held in private ownership for more than five decades. Located at 39 S. El Molino Avenue and anchoring the Pasadena Playhouse Historic District, the 70,000-square-foot campus, which includes the theater, restaurant space and six-story annex, is one of Southern California's most iconic cultural venues and among the most influential and storied sites in American theater history.

The purchase of the building was funded by a \$15 million fundraising campaign, which has reached 75% of its goal. The lead gift for the effort was provided by the Perenchio Foundation and matched by major arts philanthropists Terri and Jerry Kohl. The campaign's other major donors are The

Ahmanson Foundation, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, Brad and Pamela King, Harmon and Lea Kong, Leigh and Harry Olivar, Jane Kaczmarek, Bingo and Gino Roncelli, and Erin and Jeremy Baker.

"This is an inspiring community moment, and we should all share in the pride and joy of it," said Erin Baker, chair of the Pasadena Playhouse Board of Trustees. "With this purchase, we are committing to revitalizing the powerful original vision of the Playhouse and bringing it to life for a new century. We are deeply grateful for the bold visionaries who have paved the way for this progress, and we are excited to welcome more of our community to join the effort in making extraordinary theater for everyone."

Following the transaction, which was completed on April 4, Pasadena Playhouse now owns the entirety of its campus, including the

original 1925 theater building and the adjoining six-story annex, known as the Fannie E. Morrison Building, which was built in 1936 to house the renowned College of Theatre Arts. The property also includes the intimate Carrie Hamilton Theater, which was dedicated in memory of Carol Burnett's late daughter in 2006, and the first-floor restaurant space, which was most recently home to Bar Chelou. With the facility returned to Playhouse ownership, opportunities abound to enhance, restore and reimagine the space for the 21st century. The historic building will turn 100 on May 18.

"For most of our history, we've been making extraordinary theater here while essentially renting our own home. Today, that changes. Thanks to the generosity of our community, this building is finally back where it belongs – with the people who built it and believe in its future. Owning our historic campus unlocks endless possibilities for what Pasadena Playhouse can be in its second century," producing artistic director Danny Feldman said.

The purchase of the Playhouse facility caps a remarkable institu-



photo by Eric Staudenmaier

After 100 years, the historic Pasadena Playhouse is finally in the hands of its namesake.

tional turnaround for the organization. Since taking the helm in 2016, Feldman has overseen a dramatic resurgence in artistic, box office and fundraising success, highlighted nationally by receipt of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award. In another marker of the theater's momentum, Feldman first

announced news of the building purchase on Saturday night to a sold-out crowd at the Playhouse's annual gala, which broke the \$1 million mark for the first time.

For information, visit [pasadenaplayhouse.org](http://pasadenaplayhouse.org). The Pasadena Playhouse is located at 39 S. El Molino Ave., Pasadena.



photo courtesy of South Coast Plaza

The annual Southern California Spring Garden Show includes the Fleurs de Villes Downton Abbey floral show, featuring works inspired by the show.

## Grand Avenue Cultural District recognized by Board of Supervisors

Formalizing Downtown Los Angeles as a vital hub for arts and culture, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on April 1 acknowledged, by unanimous vote, the creation of the Grand Avenue Cultural District, which is designed to promote greater public participation in the arts, stimulate economic growth, increase tourism, create workforce development opportunities, support the revitalization of DTLA and position the area as a global arts destination. The Music Center spearheaded the GACD in collaboration with more than 18 DTLA-based arts and cultural organizations and civic agencies.

The motion, championed by Los Angeles County Chair Pro Tem and Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, recognizes GACD as a vital cultural and

economic asset to Los Angeles County, a key driver of DTLA's economic vibrancy and a catalyst for more inclusive and accessible cultural experiences that allow Angelenos and visitors to engage with the transformative power of the arts. The motion was put forth in alignment with the county's proclamation of April 2025 as "Arts Month" to celebrate the vital role the arts play in the county's cultural identity and economy, and to uplift opportunities for connection across its many communities.

"The arts are more than just a reflection of society; they are the heartbeat of a community. Engagement with the arts shapes our lives, sparks meaningful conversations and connects people from all backgrounds. By formally

## Spring garden show blooms at South Coast Plaza

The 35th annual Southern California Spring Garden Show returns to South Coast Plaza's Crate & Barrel/Macy's Home Store wings from April 24-27.

The premier garden show in Southern California highlights dozens of unique plant and garden vendors, inspiring one-of-a-kind outdoor living spaces by top landscape designers in collaboration with South Coast Plaza home boutiques. The show features a dramatic 25-foot botanical centerpiece crafted entirely from natural plant materials. It is also the West Coast debut of "Fleurs De Villes Downton Abbey," a spectacular fresh floral exhibit inspired by the period drama and created by Southern California floral design-

recognizing the Grand Avenue Cultural District, we are creating a dedicated space where creativity can thrive, collaboration can grow and cultural expression can flourish," Solis said. "This motion recognizes the potential for the arts to unite diverse communities, foster shared identity and drive both cul-

ers.

Other highlights include nurseries, horticultural societies and specialty vendors offering unique, hard-to-find and collectible plants, garden tools and décor. Guests can create outdoor living rooms with Williams-Sonoma, Crate & Barrel, Pottery Barn and West Elm, which will present stylish and sustainable home and garden vignettes. Take a special tour of South Coast Plaza's collection of unique palm trees hosted by a horticulturalist from Sherman Library & Gardens.

For the immersive Fleurs de Villes Downton Abbey floral show, florists will create a collection of fresh floral mannequins. This year's theme celebrates the Sept. 12 theatrical release of "Downton

tural and economic vitality in Downtown Los Angeles. The creation of the Grand Avenue Cultural District is a key step toward making the arts more accessible, inclusive and transformative for everyone."

Next steps for the GACD include the hiring of an executive director,

Abbey: A Grand Finale" and is inspired by the show's unforgettable characters and iconic period fashion.

South Coast Plaza defines the luxury shopping experience with extraordinary boutiques, personal shopping services and upscale amenities. It is home to more than 280 brands including Hermes, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Dior, Loewe, Harry Winston, Celine, Maison Margiela, Gucci, Cartier, Rolex and Graff, as well as restaurants and the adjacent Segerstrom Center for the Arts and Orange County Museum of Art.

South Coast Plaza is located at 3333 Bristol St., Costa Mesa. For information, visit [southcoastplaza.com/gardenshow](http://southcoastplaza.com/gardenshow).

creation of a brand identity and development of a website, along with other tasks. The Broad Foundation provided initial seed funding to support the creation of the district.

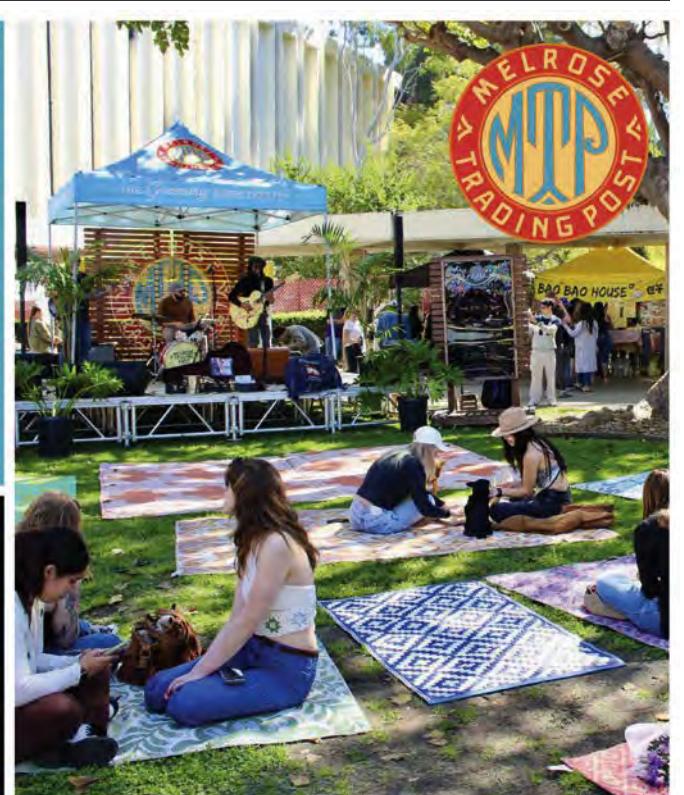
Interested parties can learn more about plans for the district at [info@grandaveculture.org](mailto:info@grandaveculture.org)



photo courtesy of The Music Center

The board's move is an effort to revitalize Downtown L.A. as a global arts destination.

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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 March 30 and April 5. 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

### March 30

At 3 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of Shirley.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9200 block of Wilshire at 1 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Olympic and Oakhurst at 8:08 p.m.

### March 31

At 4:30 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of N. Foothill.

### April 1

At 1:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

### April 2

At 3:22 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 400 block of S. Bedford.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of S. Elm at 3:30 p.m.

At 4:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

### April 4

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Carson at 1:02 p.m.

At 4:46 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Elm.

### April 5

At 10:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of Hillgreen.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Swall and Dayton at 8:30 a.m.

At 10:40 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a garage in the 400 block of S. Doheny.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Beverly and South Santa Monica at 11:40 p.m.

## West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

### March 30

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 12:30 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7100 block of Santa

Monica at 1:30 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7200 block of Fountain.

### March 31

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly at 12:29 a.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7700 block of Santa Monica.

### RFQual #25-350-28

#### CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

#### PUBLIC WORKS

#### DEPARTMENT

#### 345 FOOTHILL ROAD

#### BEVERLY HILLS,

#### CALIFORNIA 90210

#### REQUEST FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS AND PREQUALIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR:

#### NOTICE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS LIST FOR VARIOUS TENNIS COURT RESURFACING PROJECTS

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

No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid. The last date to submit a fully completed questionnaire is **5:00 PM Thursday, May 15, 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.

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

The Prequalification package may be viewed on, and downloaded from the City's PlanetBids portal: <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/128547>

This item is listed as: *Notice of the*

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8500 block of Sunset at 7:15 p.m.

At 7:40 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8300 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8300 block of Sunset at 8 p.m.

At 8:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7800 block of Santa Monica.

### April 1

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8200 block of Santa Monica at 3:30 p.m.

At 9:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 900 block of N. Hancock.

### April 2

At 3:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 800 block of Larrabee.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Sierra and Santa Monica at 4:40 p.m.

At 5:43 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 800 block of N. Palm at 7:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8300 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8300 block of Sunset at midnight.

### April 3

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 4:59 a.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of Gardner.

An unknown suspect assaulted a

victim in the 7300 block of Santa Monica at 6:30 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Sunset at 11:50 p.m.

### April 4

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 5:37 p.m.

At 11:59 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

### April 5

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of Robertson at 1:40 a.m.

requested by the CITY in its sole discretion.

In addition to a contractor's failure to be pre-qualified pursuant to the scoring system set forth in the prequalification package, a contractor may be found not 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.



**NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS  
FOR  
FY2025 CONCRETE REHABILITATION PROJECT, CIP 2506  
IN THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of West Hollywood as AGENCY, invites sealed bids to be received only by submitting electronically at:

<https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/bids>  
or <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22761>

for the above stated project and will only receive such bids no later than the hour of **5:00 P.M. on MAY 22, 2025**, at which time or thereafter said bids will be electronically opened and available online. Bids received after this time will be considered to be non-responsive.

No pre-bid meeting is scheduled.

The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment, tools, labor, and incidentals as required by the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents for the above state project. The general items of work include pavement preparation, cold milling, street resurfacing, pavement striping and markings, centerline tie-out reestablishment, loop replacement, replacement of sidewalk/ramps/driveways, re-install vehicle humps, installation of a catch basin, installation of a trench drain, and all appurtenant work and other items not mentioned that are required by the plans and specifications.

Bids must be submitted electronically for the exact item(s) requested in the bid specifications. Copies of the plans, specifications, and contract documents are available for free from the City of West Hollywood website:

<https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/bids>  
or  
<http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22761>

Each bid submitted electronically is required to be accompanied by the Proposal Documents; Proposal, Bidder's Information, Proposal Bid Schedule (enter online), List of Subcontractors (enter online), Registration with the Calif. Dept. of Industrial Relations Form, References, Designator of Sureties, Bid Bond, Bidder's Violation of Law/Safety Questionnaire, Non-Collusion Declaration, Certificate of Non-Discrimination by Contractors, Statement Acknowledging Penal & Civil Penalties Concerning Contractors' Licensing Laws, Addendum Acknowledgement, and all additional documentation required by the Instructions to Bidders. Bids must be submitted on the Agency's bid forms.

The bid must be accompanied by certified or cashier's check, or bidder's bond, made payable to the AGENCY for an amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Any proposal not accompanied by such a guarantee will not be considered.

Any contract entered into pursuant to this notice will incorporate the provisions of the State Labor Code. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1773.2 of the Labor Code of the State of California, the minimum prevailing rate of per diem wages for each craft, classification, or type of workman needed to execute the contract shall be those determined by the Director of Industrial Relations of the State of California, which are on file at the City Hall, City of West Hollywood, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069, and are available to any interested party on request.

Attention is directed to the provisions of Section 1777.5 (Chapter 1411, Statutes of 1968) and 1777.5 of the Labor Code concerning the employment of apprentices by the Contractor or any such subcontractor

under him. Affirmative action to ensure against discrimination in employment practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or handicap will also be required.

The AGENCY will deduct five (5) percent retention from all progress payments as specified in Subsection 7-3.2 of the standard specifications. The Contractor may substitute an escrow holder surety of equal value to the retention. The Contractor shall be beneficial owner of the surety and shall receive any interest thereon.

The AGENCY hereby affirmatively ensures that minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this notice and will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, or religion in any consideration leading to the award of contract.

In entering into a public works contract, or a subcontract, to supply goods, services, or materials pursuant to a public works contract, the Contractor, or subcontractor, offers and agrees to assign to the awarding body all rights, title, and interest in, and to, all causes of action it may have under Section 4 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. Section 15) or under the Cartwright Act (Chapter 2 [commencing with Section 16700] of Part 2 of Division 7 of the Business and Professions Code), arising from purchases of goods, services, or materials pursuant to the public works contract or the subcontract. This assignment shall be made and become effective at the time the awarding body tenders final payment to the Contractor, without further acknowledgement by the parties.

The successful bidder shall be licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Business and Professions Code and shall possess a valid **California State Contractor's License Class A** at the time of bid submittal.

The City of West Hollywood reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or bids or to waive any irregularities or informalities in any bids or in the bidding should it deem this necessary for the public good, and also the bid of any Bidder who has been delinquent or unfaithful in any former contract with the City of West Hollywood and to take all bids under advisement for a period of ninety (90) days. No bidder may withdraw its bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date of the opening thereof. The award of the contract, if made, will be to the lowest responsible Bidder as determined solely by the City of West Hollywood.

The California Air Resources Board ("CARB") implemented amendments to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations ("Regulation") which are effective on January 1, 2024 and apply broadly to all self-propelled off road diesel vehicles 25 horsepower or greater and other forms of equipment used in California. A copy of the Regulation is available at:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2022/off-road-diesel/appa-1.pdf>

Bidders are required to comply with all CARB and Regulation requirements, including, without limitation, all applicable sections of the Regulation, as codified in Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations section 2449 *et seq.* throughout the term of the Project. Bidders must provide, with their Bid, copies of Bidder's and all listed subcontractors the most recent, valid Certificate of Reported Compliance ("CRC") issued by CARB. Failure to provide valid CRCs as required herein may render the Bid non-responsive.

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

## UCLA exhibition shares diverse stories from Israel

College campuses have become battlegrounds of ideology, and as the Trump administration cracks down on student activism – revoking visas and deporting international students involved in the pro-Palestinian movement – rhetoric often supersedes education. Behind the polarizing debates and deportations lies a raw, complex reality – one that many students have yet to confront. And as American activists wave flags, Israeli society – Jews, Muslims, Druze and Christians – grapple with what Zionism means in the wake of Oct. 7.

A new traveling exhibit, “(RE)Defining Zionism: Portraits and Perspectives from a Post-October 7 Israel,” brings their lived experiences into the heart of campus discourse.

The exhibit opened on April 7 at Hillel at UCLA and features unfiltered, emotive photographs and personal stories from over 60 Israelis, challenging the one-dimen-

sional narratives dominating Western debates. It forces viewers – whether staunchly anti-Zionist or deeply committed to the cause – to rethink assumptions and engage with perspectives they may have never considered.

“Campus conversations on Zionism often force people into ideological boxes – either you stand for Palestinian rights, or you stand for Israel. But in Israel, the lines aren’t so clear-cut. This exhibit challenges those binaries, offering firsthand perspectives that refuse to be reduced to a slogan,” said photographer Shlomit Levy Bard, who traveled across Israel – Haifa, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Beersheva and the Gaza border – capturing the powerful stories.

While students argue Zionism in theory, the exhibit confronts them with the people who are living it. It sparks dialogue, challenges assumptions and asks, “Is there room for complexity?” The exhibit,

which runs until June 25, invites students and community members into the space for meaningful conversations, encouraging engagement with the diverse and often conflicting perspectives that shape the issue.

“(RE)Defining Zionism: Portraits and Perspectives from a Post-October 7 Israel” is sponsored by the Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies at UCLA, the Dortort Center for Creativity in the Arts at UCLA Hillel, the Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies at UCLA and UCLA Hillel.

UCLA Hillel is located at 574 Hilgard Ave. For information, visit [uclahillel.org/dortortevents](http://uclahillel.org/dortortevents).



photo courtesy of UCLA Hillel

Photographer Shlomit Levy Bard traveled across Israel capturing powerful photos.

## Beverly Hills Film Festival wraps with proclamation from mayor

The 25th annual Beverly Hills International Film Festival concluded its landmark season with a historic moment: a special proclamation bestowed by newly sworn-in Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian at the annual awards gala, held for the first time at The Beverly Hilton on April 6.

“Beverly Hills [is] the city that’s known around the world for its stars, but it’s not just the stars on the screen, or the ones that light up Rodeo Drive, it’s the people who come together, create, inspire and build communities, like all of you that are here tonight,” Nazarian said. “As we celebrate storytelling, film has a unique power to bring people together across cultures, backgrounds and beliefs. When I was an immigrant girl coming to America dreaming of freedom, film gave me hope that anything is possible, and look at me now.”

Nazarian recently made history as the first Iranian Jewish woman mayor in the U.S., and took to the stage just days after her swearing-in on April 1 – coinciding with the festival’s opening night.

Nazarian honored the festival’s founder Nino Simone at the awards ceremony.

“As mayor, it’s my honor and privilege to recognize someone who has made that connection possible for a quarter of a century,” Nazarian added. “His vision, passion and heart helped keep Beverly Hills a home for filmmakers and dream-makers alike. Here’s to many more years of storytelling, celebration and unity. On behalf of the Beverly Hills City Council, it is my privilege to present this proclamation in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Beverly Hills Film Festival and to the extraordinary man and entrepreneur, Mr. Nino Simone.”

The Beverly Hills Film Festival wrapped its six-day celebration with more than 350 films from over 65 countries, including the festival’s Best Foreign Film “How Kids Roll” directed by Loris Lai, a co-production 10 years in the making between Italy, the United States and Belgium. It tells the story of two boys, one Palestinian and the other Israeli, who form an unlikely friendship due to their mutual love for surfing, amidst the war in the Gaza Strip during the Second Intifada.

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



photo courtesy of the Beverly Hills Film Festival  
Beverly Hills Film Festival founder Nino Simone was honored by Mayor Sharona Nazarian.

## Beverly Hills TEMPLE of the ARTS

wishes all of its Jewish friends, a happy, healthy, sweet Passover and to all of our Christian friends a joyous Easter holiday

May these celebrations bring a time of peace to us and to our world.

Rabbi David Baron  
Cantor Nathan Lam  
Cantor Ilyisia Pierce  
Music Director Sharon Farber

## SAVE THE DATES



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ISRAEL'S MEMORIAL DAY

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## Academy establishes AAPI endowment

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has announced the creation of the Janet Yang Endowment to Celebrate and Preserve Asian and AAPI Filmmaking as part of Academy100, a global revenue diversification and outreach campaign designed to expand the Academy's worldwide scope, ensure the success of its next 100 years and connect audiences through their shared love of cinema. This endowment will, in perpetuity, celebrate the legacy, impact and contributions of Asian and AAPI filmmakers and provide essential funding and resources to support Asian and AAPI programming at the Academy Museum, as well as the acquisition and preservation of Asian and AAPI-related film items in the Academy Collection. The endowment honors the legacy of

Yang, the first Asian American president of the Academy, whose dedication to advancing diversity has helped pave the way for greater representation in entertainment and beyond.

"As a proud Asian American, it has been a privilege to serve alongside Janet Yang in support and celebration of Asian and AAPI filmmakers," Academy Museum director and president Amy Homma said. "This endowment builds upon the work the Academy has been doing for decades through our Academy Collection and now through the museum, to share Asian cinema through preservation, public programming and exhibition."

"As the Academy continues to expand its global presence, the future of our non-profit cultural institution is strengthened by deep-

ening our reach and impact with the international film community, including Asian and AAPI communities," said Academy president Janet Yang. "I am so honored that this endowment will support the preservation of international cinema and the education of future generations of filmmakers, cinephiles and filmgoers."

In honor of the launch of the endowment, the museum will screen a limited series of Chinese-language films titled "Raising the Lantern: A Celebration of Chinese-Language Cinema," running April 10-May 24, guest programmed by Yang. The series features films submitted by mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan for consideration for the Academy Awards International Feature Film category. On May 9, director Ang Lee will join Yang in



photo courtesy of the Academy Museum

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" will screen on May 9.

person for an on-stage conversation following a presentation of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (2000) in 35mm from a print from the Academy Film Archive. Ahead of the May 9 screening, "Gold

House" and the Academy Museum will co-host a reception honoring Yang and her legacy.

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

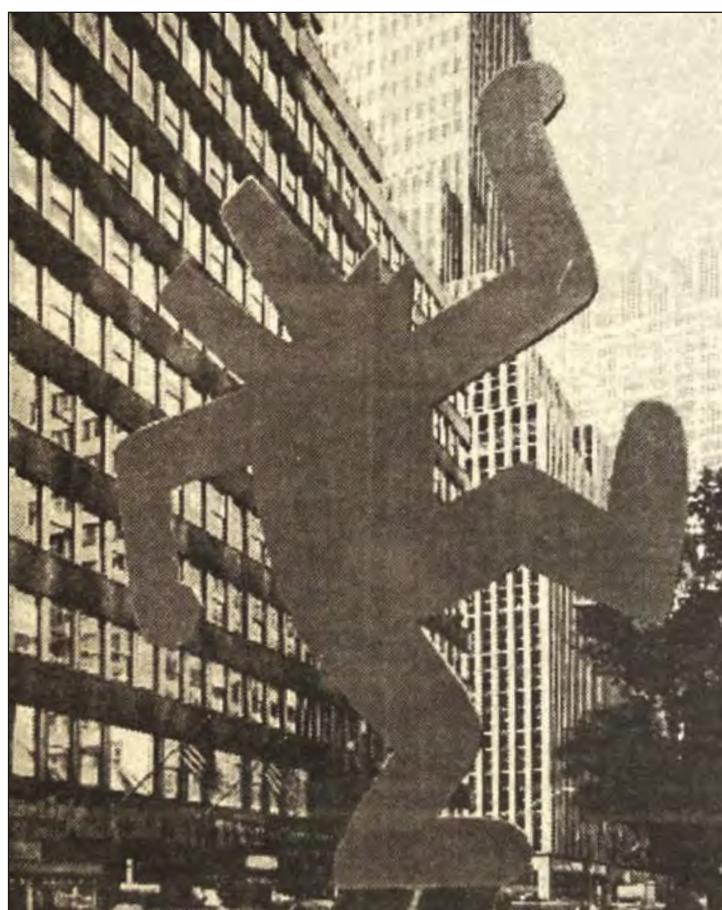


photo courtesy of the Getty

Tony Dumas, Quinn Johnson, Joel Taylor and Louis Van Taylor will perform on April 12, and the Bennie Maupin Ensemble will perform on April 13.

## VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

### WeHo welcomes works by prolific artist Keith Haring



Ten large sculptures by artist Keith Haring were on their way from San Francisco to West Hollywood in this photograph in the April 9, 1998, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Haring, who died from complications of AIDS in 1991 at the age of 31, was a prolific gay artist in the 1980s who was well-known for abstract silhouettes showing people and animals in motion. The sculptures were loaned to the city of West Hollywood by the New York-based Keith Haring Foundation and were on display in 1998 along the Santa Monica Boulevard median, and on the lawn at the Pacific Design Center. For information about the artist and his career, visit [haring.com](http://haring.com).

## Getty concert celebrates jazz legacy of Altadena artists

The Getty presents "Sounds of LA: Celebrating the Jazz Legacy of Altadena" on Saturday, April 12, from 7-8:15 p.m., and Sunday, April 13, from 3-4 p.m.

The weekend of concerts is part of Getty's annual Sounds of LA series and will honor Altadena's rich history of jazz. Tony Dumas, Quinn Johnson, Joel Taylor and Louis Van Taylor will perform on April 12, and the Bennie Maupin Ensemble will perform on April 13.

Sounds of LA explores the city's

varied musical geography, celebrating the work of masters as well as up-and-coming musicians. This year, the concerts will celebrate an arts community with an impactful cultural history that has been devastated by the Los Angeles wildfires.

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# Homelessness remains an issue on Wilshire

From page 1

one was present when authorities arrived, and Lantz said the exact cause is under investigation. It appears the fire started in items belonging to an unhoused individual.

Police said issues involving homelessness have been a long-standing problem near San Vicente and Wilshire boulevards, and along the stretch of Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue. In May 2023, more than 30 people living in tents along the San Vicente Boulevard median were moved into housing through the Mayor Karen Bass' Inside Safe Program. Despite efforts to provide housing, homelessness persists along Wilshire Boulevard, with pockets of tents frequently popping up.

"It's a continuous cycle of frustration," said Lt. Mark Ro, with the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division. "After COVID, the tents started showing up on the median on San Vicente. They cleared the tents, but some people return from time to time. They have been out in that area for a long time. It's a bigger problem that that city is trying to address."

Ro did not know how long someone had been staying near the former Big 5 store, but said it is one of multiple vacant sites in the area that attract people who are unhoused. He said the police department monitors the sites and is working with other city departments to force property owners to keep buildings secure, but it can be difficult to get results. The Big 5 store closed last summer and the property was fenced and secured, but tents have periodically popped up around the perimeter. Developer Stockdale Capital Partners has received city approval to build a 15-story, 145,000-square-foot medical office and life sciences building the site, and construction is scheduled to begin soon.

Other locations, such as a building at 6155 Wilshire Blvd. that formerly housed a Sizzler restaurant, are also problematic. The Los Angeles County Assessor's Office verified that the property is owned by Au Zone Investments No. 2 LP, which according to city records is a limited partnership overseen by the Gold family, the former owner of the 99 Cents Only Stores chain. Jeff Gold, son of the late Dave Gold,

founder of the 99 Cents Only Stores, was reached briefly on April 9 but had no further updates on properties along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard, which include the former 99 Cents Only Store. Gold said last summer that the family is considering a neighborhood-serving project in the area. He added that more information may be available in the coming weeks.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky's spokesman Leo Daube said staff members focusing on homelessness frequently contact people in tents along Wilshire Boulevard and try to connect them to resources and housing. Daube said the city also routinely conducts CARE+ cleanups in the area, which require people to remove tents temporarily so sidewalks can be cleaned. He added that a CARE+ cleanup was scheduled in the area around the former Big 5 store on the day after the fire, but is now pending. Daube did not know how long someone had been living at the site. He added that staff members will be watching the area to see if tents return.

"Our office is out there regularly to address issues, but it's an ongo-

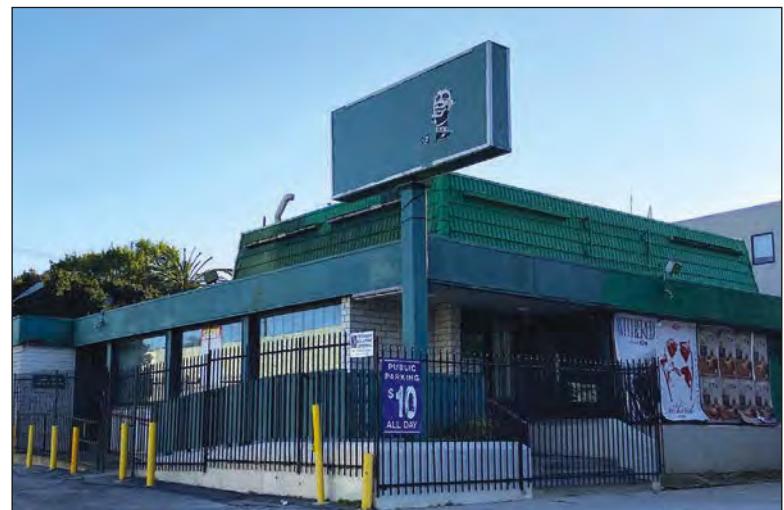


photo by Edwin Folven

A vacant building in the 6100 block of Wilshire Boulevard that once housed a Sizzler restaurant has attracted unhoused individuals for years.

ing issue," Daube said. "A lot of it has to do with the fact that you have these vacant storefronts along Wilshire and when you have vacant storefronts, it attracts encampments. Our work is trying to manage it the best we can. We are in talks with the owners of all the buildings along Wilshire and we are trying to work with them to develop their properties. We are trying to work with folks as the whole Miracle Mile corridor enters the next phase of its development."

Ro said efforts are currently

underway to address safety along Wilshire Boulevard, and the Wilshire Division's crime analysis detail is currently reviewing crime statistics over the past year along the thoroughfare. He said the statistics, which will examine correlations between crime and homelessness, will be available soon and will be shared with the public.

"This is a longtime problem in that area," Ro said. "It's the broken window theory, which I fully subscribe to, where you have quality of life issues that snowball into bigger issues if you don't address them."

## Friedman warns about impacts of federal cuts

From page 1

Efficiency about the potential of Social Security office closures in California's 30th District – at a time when, she said, President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs could put an additional \$3,800 a year in taxes for Americans and significantly raise the cost of everyday goods. As of April 9, she had not received a response.

"We did hear, sort of unofficially, that they are claiming they're going

to fix the phone problems and try to get people answering the phones," Friedman said. "I would take that as a win, if they do that ... that we've been able to create a lot of awareness about the fact that they don't have people manning the phone anymore due to their really reckless cuts."

In addition to questions revolving around Social Security, people with investments have endured a tumultuous week since Trump's

"Liberation Day" on April 2, when the president announced sweeping tariffs on nearly every country in the world. Those tariffs, except a 125% tax on China, were put on a 90-day hold April 9. The stock market has suffered historic losses, though it did recover somewhat after the pause was announced. Friedman called the tariffs "a self-inflicted crisis."

"The situation shows that there is no grand plan. There's no 3D chess [or] 4D chess being played here. It's complete chaos and incompetence,

and it's creating a roller coaster on the stock market that is not helping ordinary people," Friedman said. "Trump is still saying that this is a temporary pause, and they're all going to come back. This is someone who seems like he makes decisions in the middle of the night and tweets and affects world markets by doing so. His own team didn't seem to be aware of what he was doing and what he was planning. There's no plan. There's no strategy. There's no 'Art of the Deal' being played. This is somebody who is rolling the dice every single day with people's lives and retirements, and acting in a way that's reckless and unbecoming of the world's leading economy."

Friedman said residents should contact her office via [friedman.house.gov](http://friedman.house.gov) or by calling (818)524-4384 if they are experiencing issues related to Social Security or DOGE funding cuts. She added that those wishing to advocate for Social Security need to make their voices heard. She said she was heartened by the large scale protests that happened nationwide on April 5, including in Downtown Los Angeles.

"I think they're getting the message," Friedman said. "We need people to realize that they are the most powerful force in this country – not elected politicians. Their voices are heard, and they're heard all the way up to the White House."



City leaders and bank executives celebrated the opening on April 8.

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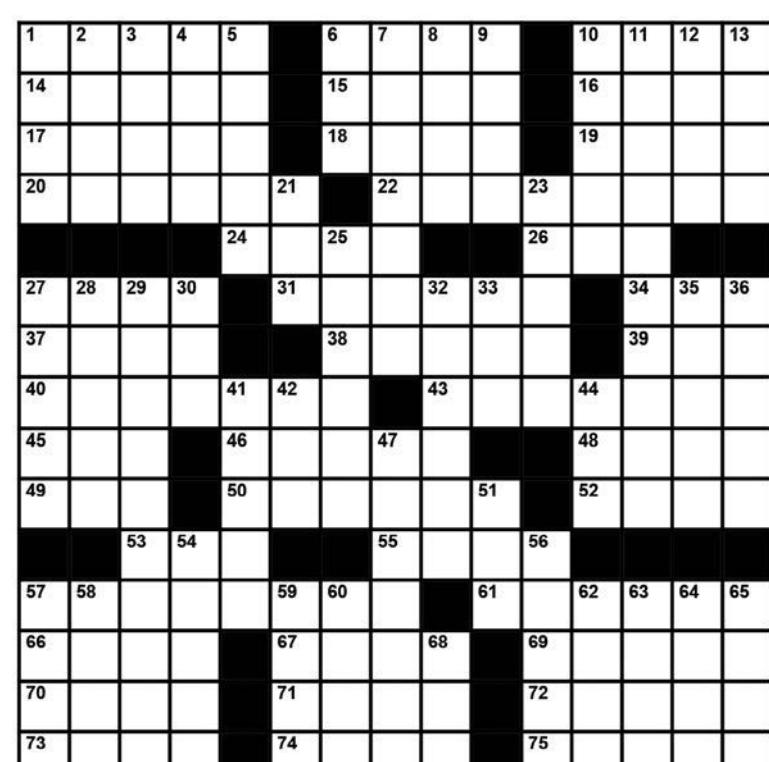
### Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

#### Across

- Opt-out in bridge
- Fall times, abbr.
- Sch. groups
- Made the fire again
- Kind of surgery
- Lessen, as difficulties
- Get up
- Skelton character
- Have a hankering
- Astronomical discovery of the 1960s
- Gatorade, e.g.
- It may start with "Starters"
- "What have we here?!"
- Beach item
- Truck fuel
- Steamed up
- The Pointer Sisters' "Excited"
- Bothered
- Flightless ranch bird
- Relating to a religious text
- San \_\_\_\_
- "Monk" carrier
- It may be bid
- Alpha rhythm readouts, briefly
- Berlioz's "Les nuits d\_\_\_\_"
- Kitchen appliances
- Bring (out)
- Director Jacquet of "March of the Penguins"
- Band leader Miller
- Wit
- Brooklyn neighbor
- Explosives

#### Down

- Flatten, in a way
- Certain student
- Notion, in Normandy
- Broccoli relative
- Stretch of land
- Put up
- Skye for one
- Yellow parts
- Mideast hot spot
- SA country
- Others, in Latin
- Snake sound
- Miff
- Exclamation of surprise
- Lawn game
- House of Dana perfume
- Gin flavoring
- Fuzzy food
- Part of a dash
- "Off the Court" autobiographer
- Palmist, e.g.
- Suggestion by a sommelier, perhaps
- "The Beautiful Country" star, Nick
- B-complex vitamin
- Wounded pride
- Not to be missed
- Biblical people
- Long, in Hawaiian
- "Rocky II" or "Rocky III"
- de cologne
- Friend in "Once upon a Time in



Mexico"

- Actress who plays Spiderman's love
- Officers
- Neighbor of B.C.
- Spiker's barrier
- Chinese appetizer
- Et (footnote abbr.)
- Defeat
- Bats
- Little swab
- Efface
- Kind of torch on "Survivor"

- Gaslight or Colonial
- Mark's replacement
- List ender
- Dracula's target
- Match parts
- Born, in Bordeaux

answers on page 26

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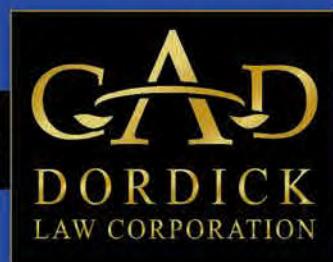
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