



Cloudy, with possible showers

Volume 35 No. 16

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

INSIDE

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April 17, 2025

BHUSD appoints Cherniss as district superintendent

■ Former Beverly Vista teacher, administrator returns

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education announced on April 10 the appointment of Dr. Alex Cherniss as the next superintendent. The decision was first approved in a closed session by the board in a 3-2 vote, with Board President Rachelle Marcus and Board Member Amanda Stern voting against the approval. However, in a public meeting on April 15, the board approved Cherniss' contract in a 5-0 vote.

"It's with great pleasure that I welcome Dr. Cherniss back, and I'm thrilled that he's going to be at the helm and I'm looking forward to working with him," Marcus said. "I have nothing but confidence in what he's going to do."

Marcus would not disclose why she initially voted against approving Cherniss as superintendent, citing the confidential nature of the closed session. However, she stated that Cherniss was the most qualifi-



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Dr. Alex Cherniss is a former BHUSD teacher, principal and assistant superintendent of business services.

fied of all the applicants.

"One of the qualities we felt we wanted was experience previously in other districts," Marcus said. "He filled that to the letter of the law."

She added that Cherniss' prior experience in Beverly Hills was

See BHUSD page 26

Judge sides with Menendez brothers in hearing

■ Resentencing to take place on April 17, 18

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge ruled in favor of the Menendez brothers on April 11, rejecting District Attorney Nathan Hochman's effort to withdraw a resentencing motion filed by the previous district attorney. The resentencing hearings will move forward on April 17 and 18.

Erik and Lyle Menendez were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in 1996 for the 1989 double murder of their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez, at their home in Beverly Hills. However, new evidence suggesting the brothers were sexually abused by their father has opened the door for their possible resentencing, and calls for their release have grown louder following a Netflix series and documentary about the case.

The previous district attorney, George Gascón – who was defeated by Hochman in the Nov. 5, 2024, election – recommended



photo by Tabor Brewster

The brothers' attorney Mark Geragos praised the decision by judge Michael Jesic.

the brothers be resentenced after reviewing evidence that suggests they were sexually abused by their father. Gascón said the brothers should be sentenced to 50 years to life in prison with the possibility of parole as opposed to the existing sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Hochman's effort to withdraw Gascón's recommendation was the subject of the April 11 hearing

in Van Nuys Courthouse. Both brothers attended the hearing remotely, visible on a screen to the courtroom as they sat side by side at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility near San Diego.

Deputy District Attorney Habib Balian spent hours arguing that the brothers have not been rehabilitated, they have lied about the

See Hearings page 25

L.A. churches rise on Easter Sunday

■ Local congregations open doors to community

BY RANCE COLLINS

For many congregations in the Los Angeles area, this year's Easter services will take on a special meaning.

"In times of tumultuous change, Easter offers us a grounding reminder of the changeless, eternal

love of God," said Rev. Andrea McMillin, priest-in-charge of All Saints'. "The Easter season invites us to walk a sacred path, from the solemnity of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Sunday. In these uncertain times, joining in this journey through worship, music and prayer offers us a deep sense of peace, connection and community. Easter provides an opportunity to rest in God's enduring love, which remains constant no matter the challenges we face."

"The observance of Holy Week is a sacred time for Christians around the world," McMillin added. "It is a time for us to reflect on the significance of Christ's sacrifice and rejoice in the hope of His resurrection. We invite everyone to join us as we journey together through this holiest of weeks."

At All Saints, Maundy Thursday Missa Mystica service will include a holy eucharist and foot washing on April 17 at 7:30 p.m. The Good Friday service will follow on April 18 at 12:10 p.m., with a vigil of Easter gathering following on April 19 at 8 p.m. The church's weekend activities will culminate in its Easter Sunday celebration on April 20, with "festive" services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. An Easter egg hunt for children will be held after the second service. All Saints' Beverly Hills is located at 504 N. Camden Drive.

"All Saints' is an inclusive and welcoming community where everyone is accepted, no matter where you are on your faith journey," McMillin said. "Whether you are familiar with our community or this is your first time, we invite you to join us this Easter. Here, you will find a place where the eternal love

See Easter page 25



Cathedral Chapel of St. Vibiana will have services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon on April 20.



photo by Rance Collins

The 2023 SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikes escalated runaway production, leading to a decrease in activity on lots such as Paramount.

L.A. film and TV production down 22.4% in first quarter

■ Workers push state to expand tax credits

BY RANCE COLLINS

Pressure has mounted for the California Legislature to take action on a bill that would expand tax credits for the film and television industry after an

April 14 quarterly report from Film LA showed a 22.4% decrease in overall production compared to 2024. When isolated to feature film production and television production, the numbers fell 28.9% and 30.5%, respectively.

In the last decade, and particu-

See Tax credits page 25



CALENDAR

Author Elie Mystral

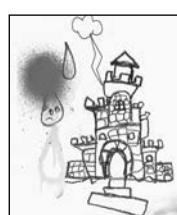
Join author Elie Mystral for a discussion on his new book "Bad Law: Ten Popular Laws That Are Ruining America" on Thursday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hammer Museum. In a sharp and urgent examination, Mystral exposes the legal foundations perpetuating inequality, racial bias and injustice in America. UCLA law professor Rick Hasen will interview Mystral about the author's reimagining of the legal system. Admission is free but tickets are required. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. (310)443-7000, hammer.ucla.edu.



Elie Mystral

Beyond the Streets

Beyond the Streets is holding "Pink Cloud," an exhibition by graffiti art icon GREY (Jonas Melvin) running Friday, April 18, through Saturday, June 7. The artist returns with a new exhibition featuring installations, paintings and sculptures. His art will be on display with works by artists Alexis Ross, Alicia McCarthy, Angel Castro, Barry McGee, Cheryl Dunn, Dan Murphy, Dave Schubert, Elberto Muller, GKA, Mark Cross, MERCH, Stephen Powers, Timothy Curtis and Todd James. An opening reception will be held on April 18 from 6-9 p.m. Regular hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. 434 N. La Brea Ave. beyondthestreets.com.

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MAILING ADDRESS:
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LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

Michael Villalpando
PUBLISHERKaren Villalpando
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Edwin Folven
editor@beverlypress.com
EDITOR

Rance Collins
rance@beverlypress.com

Tabor Brewster
tabor@beverlypress.com
REPORTERS

Chris Erskine
COLUMNIST

Michael Krikorian
Tim Posada,
Rebecca Villalpando
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Lionel Ochoa
GRAPHIC ARTISTCIRCULATION
VERIFICATION
COUNCIL

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'Corktown '39'

Join Rogue Machine for the world premiere of "Corktown '39" from Friday, April 18, through Sunday, May 25, at the Matrix Theatre. The political thriller is about a little-known Irish Republican Army plot to assassinate the king of England. Inspired by true events, the production stars Ron Bottitta, JD Cullum, Tom Kelly, Ann Noble and Peter van Norden. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Monday; 2 p.m., Sunday (no performance on April 21 and May 12). Tickets are \$60 on Saturday; \$45 for all other days. 7657 Melrose Ave. roguemachine.org.



'Tuesdays With Morrie'

CASA 0101 Theater presents "Tuesdays With Morrie" from Friday, April 18, through Saturday, May 11. Based on a New York Times best-seller, the autobiographical story is about an accomplished journalist driven solely by his career and his former college professor. Sixteen years later, the journalist learns that his former professor is battling Lou Gehrig's Disease. They are reunited, and what starts as a simple visit turns into a weekly pilgrimage and a class on the meaning of life. Vance Valencia and Gilbert Reynoso star in the production. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. General admission is \$25. Gloria Molina Auditorium at CASA 0101 Theater, 2102 E. First St. (323)263-7684, casa0101.org.

L.A. Conservancy
Wilshire tour

Join the Los Angeles Conservancy for the "Marvelous Mid-Wilshire Multifamily" tour on Saturday, April 19. The event includes separate tours celebrating 1920s-1940s multifamily buildings in the Wilshire area's historic neighborhoods including Park La Brea and the Beverly Fairfax Historic District. A tour for conservancy members only focuses on the Edinburgh Bungalow Court. The tours begin each half-hour from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and are part of the L.A. Conservancy's new HOME Campaign, which raises awareness about older multifamily housing and preservation. General admission is \$30. Registration is required by visiting laconservancy.org/marvelous-mid-wilshire-multifamily.

Bunnies at
The Autry

Families are invited to "Here Comes Peter Cottontail!" on Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Autry Museum of the American West. The "bunny trail" that Gene Autry sang about in his 1950 holiday hit "Peter Cottontail" comes to the Autry's Family Play Space. Create bunny-themed crafts, embark on an in-gallery scavenger hunt and hop on over to the Autry Ethnobotanical Garden for a bunny meet-and-greet with furry friends from Critter Squad Wildlife Defenders. The celebration is free with museum admission, which is



\$18 for adults and \$8 for children. 4700 Western Heritage Way. theautry.org.

Benita Bike's
DanceArt

Benita Bike's DanceArt returns to the Culver City Senior Center on Saturday, April 19, at 1:30 p.m. with a program of dance discovery for all ages. The program includes "From Where I Sit," a new dance showcasing five characters; "Griot Songs," highlighting three stages of womanhood; and "Me and Myself," an excerpt from "Aspects of Me." Admission is free. 4095 Overland Ave. danceart.org.

'Just Like Us'

Latino Theater Company opens its 40th anniversary season with the West Coast premiere of "Just Like Us" from Saturday, April 19, through Sunday, May 18, at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. "Just Like Us" is a true coming-of-age story about four Latina girls. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 4 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$48. 514 S. Spring St. latinotheaterco.org.

'Poison Gun'

Dee Freeman stars in "Poison Gun" from Saturday, April 19, through Sunday, April 27, at the Hudson Guild Theatre. Set in 1969 in rural Louisiana, the murder mystery is based on a true story. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$25. 6539 Santa Monica Blvd. onstage411.com/newsite/show/play_in_fo.asp?skin_show_id=32.7180&show_id=7180.

More iconic L.A. venues announced for Olympics

LA28 unveiled a comprehensive 2028 Olympic venue plan on April 15, following approval from the International Olympic Committee Executive Board.

"We've promised the world an incredible Olympic Games and we're proud to share the plan that will make it happen," LA28 CEO Reynold Hoover said.

LA28 will stage events across the entire city and county. The Olympic footprint will extend north to the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, which will host Olympic events for the first time in 2028. Modern Pentathlon and 3x3 Basketball will join high-energy disciplines including BMX Freestyle, BMX Racing, Skateboarding Park and Skateboarding Street at the venue. Also in the San Fernando Valley, Squash will make its Olympic debut at Courthouse Square on the Universal Studios Lot.

Venice Beach will serve as the new home of Triathlon and will host the official starting locations for the Marathon and Cycling Road courses. Rhythmic Gymnastics will take place at the USC Sports Center, one of the main competition zones in Los Angeles, adjacent to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The relocation aligns with LA28's commitment to maximize the use of existing world-class facilities, as the USC Sports Center will also

stage events for Badminton.

Boxing, reinstated to the 2028 sport program by the IOC, will hold preliminary matches in the Peacock Theater in Downtown Los Angeles, and final stages Crypto.com Arena. The Peacock Theater will also host Weightlifting, and Crypto.com Arena will host Artistic Gymnastics and Trampoline.

Baseball makes its Olympic return in Dodger Stadium. The surfing competition will be held at Trestles Beach in San Clemente. Cricket comes to the Olympic stage for the first time in more than a century, with matches at the Fairgrounds in Pomona.

Long Beach will host Beach Volleyball at Alamitos Beach. Open Water Swimming and Coastal Rowing will be held at the nearby Waterfront in Long Beach.

Sport Climbing will take place in the Long Beach Convention Center lot. The city of Carson will host a variety of Olympic events including Archery and the Rugby Sevens tournament.

Equestrian makes its return to Santa Anita Park in Arcadia. Volleyball will be held in the Arena in Anaheim, also known as the Honda Center, which is hosting Olympic events for the first time.

All confirmed sports and venues announced to date can be viewed by visiting la28.org.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
CITY COUNCIL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood City Council will consider the following item:

FEE RESOLUTION - FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

TIME/PLACE:

Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

REQUEST:

To solicit input from the public regarding the City of West Hollywood's fee resolution which establishes fees for City Services. The fee resolution and accompanying justification document outlines new, increased, and decreased fees into one document.

The City Council Agenda and Staff Report will be available on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, online at www.weho.org/councilagendas.

The City Council of the City of West Hollywood will hold a Regular City Council meeting and will conduct a public hearing, at which time it will hear and consider information concerning the proposed changes to the City's fees for services/Fee Resolution.

Those wishing to comment on the proposed fee changes have several ways to submit comments. Please visit www.weho.org/councilagendas and read the document entitled, "How to Participate in West Hollywood City Council Meetings". You may contact City Clerk Melissa Crowder at mcrowder@weho.org or at 323-848-6356 for more information or if you have additional questions.

For further information regarding the proposed Fee Resolution, please contact Claudia Duncan at cduncan@weho.org.

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

West Hollywood skips LA Pride for D.C.

BY RANCE COLLINS

While details of LA Pride have not been announced, one previous participant will not be returning to its Pride Parade on June 8. The city of West Hollywood, which will host its own Pride celebration the previous week, has opted instead to send a delegation to World Pride, which will be held in Washington, D.C., also on June 8.

Mayor Chelsea Byers said that the city's presence at World Pride was a part of a larger message.

"With World Pride taking place in Washington, D.C. after many years outside of the U.S. and at such an important time in our country's history – it is so important that West Hollywood be there to show our solidarity with queer communities around the world, learn from the security, safety and community

building efforts, and ensure that West Hollywood Pride has a prominent spot on the global map of World Pride," Byers said.

Since the Trump administration took office on Jan. 20, many alterations in plans for World Pride have occurred. For instance, events had been planned to be held at the Kennedy Center, but after President Donald Trump shuffled leadership at the organization, those events were either cancelled or moved to different venues.

"West Hollywood is proud to participate in World Pride in D.C. this year," Councilman Danny Hang said. "It's an incredible opportunity to highlight our city on the global stage. Our commitment to LGBTQ+ rights is unwavering, and we'll continue celebrating Pride in a big way."

"It's unfortunate that LA Pride and World Pride in D.C. are the

same weekends," Vice Mayor John Heilman said. "I know a number of people want to attend World Pride to express solidarity with the global LGBTQI movement and also protest the anti-LGBTQI actions of the current administration."

WeHo Pride began in 2022, following a split between West Hollywood and Christopher Street West, the organization that runs LA Pride. For decades prior, LA Pride had been held in West Hollywood. Starting in 2022, the parade moved to Hollywood and its annual festival was moved downtown. West Hollywood had floats in the LA Pride parade, however, even after the split.

Councilman John Erickson was blunt in his assessment of LA Pride.

"I did not have a good experience at LA Pride last year, and I think that the work that they have to do to get



photo by Jon Viscott

West Hollywood City Council members will appear at both its own WeHo Pride and World Pride in Washington, D.C.

back the trust in the community is up to them," Erickson said.

In addition to its parade on June 1, West Hollywood's Pride will include the OUTLOUD Music

Festival with headliners Lizzo, Lil Nas X and Paris Hilton. Additional events and updates can be found at wehopride.com. For information about LA Pride, visit lapride.org.

WeHo welcomes D.A.'s special assistant on April 22

WeHo EastSide Neighborhood Watch Group will host its first meeting of 2025 on Tuesday, April 22. Residents of the east side are especially encouraged to attend, but all residents of West Hollywood are welcome. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will be held from 6-8 p.m.

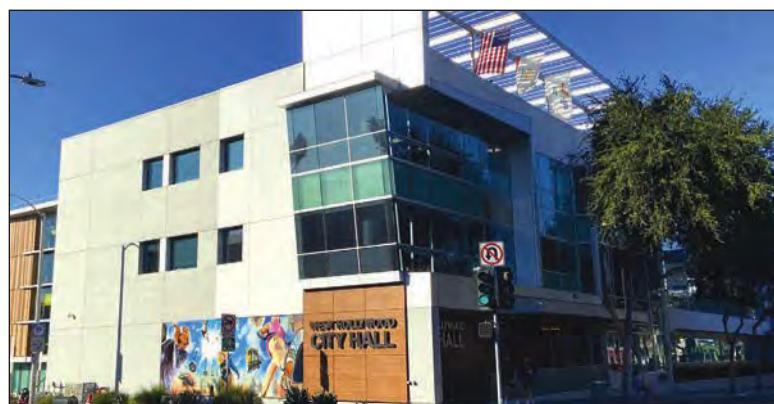
Michele Hanisee, special assistant for legislative affairs in L.A. County District Attorney Nathan Hochman's office, will be the guest speaker, providing a special presentation on the D.A.'s priorities and

approach. Hanisee has been a deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County for 26 years. She previously spent 14 years in the Major Crimes Division, including working in the cold case unit. Prior to that, she spent five years in the Hardcore Gang Division. She has tried over 100 felony jury trials including 44 murders.

Hanisee is author of the "California Gang Crimes Manual" and teaches for the California District Attorneys Association on topics including homicide, gangs

and constitutional law. She has been a presenter for Verogen's Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy Masterclass and has worked as a technical consultant on crime shows including Netflix's "Monsters." Hanisee is also the former president of the Association of Deputy District Attorneys, a post she held for eight years.

For information, visit wehoeast.org. The meeting will be held at Plummer Park's Community Rooms 5 & 6, located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

WeHo EastSide Neighborhood Watch Group is hosting a meeting with Michele Hanisee, special assistant for legislative affairs in the L.A. County District Attorney's office.

All are invited to join us for

Holy Week & Easter

@ All Saints' Beverly Hills

Maundy Thursday

April 17

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist and Footwashing

Good Friday

April 18

12:10 pm Good Friday Service

Holy Saturday

April 19

8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

Bring your bell!

April 20 is

Easter Sunday

Start your Easter with us at one of our two **Choral Festival Eucharist** services featuring All Saints' choirs and brass.

9 am

11 am

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Wire thefts keep residents in the dark

■ Blackouts in residential neighborhoods raise crime concerns

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Copper wire thefts from streetlights and electrical vaults in Los Angeles are frequently causing blackouts, sometimes plunging entire blocks into darkness.

Thieves sell the wire to scrap metal recyclers, who pay \$2-\$3 per pound. But the cost of the thefts is astronomical to the city, which pays millions of dollars each year for repairs. The thefts also have a negative impact on residents in neighborhoods that go dark, sometimes

waiting weeks for repairs.

"It's a public safety issue," said Kari Garcia, who oversees the neighborhood watch program for the Miracle Mile Residents Association. "Some streets are pitch black. It's happening more and more and it's frustrating."

The Los Angeles Bureau of Street Lighting, which is responsible for maintaining and repairing streetlights throughout the city, is facing an uphill battle in addressing damage caused by thieves. A report provided by the bureau shows in fiscal year 23-24, 10,136 theft and vandalism incidents were recorded, accounting for 40% of all street lighting incidents requiring repairs. The thefts led to approximately

30,000 individual light outages city-wide during that period.

"Theft and vandalism incidents are more costly and time intensive than other incidents. It takes a two-man crew an average of 30 minutes to replace a burnt-out or failing light fixture; by comparison, it takes an 18-person crew an average of eight days to fortify a 22-light circuit that has been damaged by copper wire theft," the October 2024 report read. "These longer job times mean higher cost. The average direct cost to the bureau per theft and vandalism incident is more than four times the average of a non-vandalism issue."

Representatives of the Bureau of

See **Wire thefts** page 26



photo courtesy of Kari Garcia

Copper wire thefts have caused streetlight outages that darken neighborhoods, causing concerns about public safety.



photo by Edwin Folven

Apartment fire may have been caused by electric scooter

A fire that erupted on April 13 caused significant damage to an apartment building at 5901 W. Gregory Ave., just east of Vine Street in Hollywood.

The fire was reported shortly after 1:30 p.m. LAFD firefighters found flames and smoke in a ground-floor unit of the three-story apartment building, and determined the fire had extended into a wall. Forty-seven firefighters extinguished the flames

in 28 minutes.

Authorities found a rechargeable electric scooter in the unit, and believe it may have caused the blaze. LAFD hazardous materials specialists were deployed to dispose of the scooter's lithium-ion battery. One resident of the building was assessed and treated at the scene but did not require hospitalization. The exact cause of the fire remains under investigation.

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Case under review in fatal crash on Highland

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Authorities are considering charges against a driver who police said was speeding on Highland Avenue in a Lamborghini SUV on March 31 and crashed into a Toyota RAV4 occupied by five teens, killing a 19-year-old girl and injuring the four others in the Toyota.

Detective David Holmes, with the Los Angeles Police Department's West Traffic Division, said on April 15 that the case has been presented to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and is under review. The Lamborghini's driver and a female passenger abandoned the damaged SUV and fled on foot after the violent crash around 1:30

a.m. at the intersection of Highland Avenue and First Street. The female passenger later returned to the scene and cooperated with police.

Holmes said investigators had a "good idea" who was behind the wheel of the Lamborghini, but he provided few details because a thorough investigation was necessary before the case was presented to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. The Lamborghini driver's name has not been released pending an arrest on formal charges.

The Los Angeles County Office of Medical Examiner identified the victim as 19-year-old Yobil Ann Cueto. A Go Fund Me account has been established for Cueto at gofundme.com/f/yobil-ann-colomacueto-memorial-fund. It had raised \$3,970 as of April 16.

"It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Yobil Ann Coloma Cueto, a truly cherished member of our family and community. While we are focused on honoring Yobil's memory, we are also grappling with the unexpected financial burden of funeral expenses. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 to ensure Yobil Cueto receives a dignified send-off, for she has left our world too early at 19 years old," read a statement on the Go Fund Me account.

Anyone with information about the collision is encouraged to call West Traffic Division detectives at (213)473-0423.



D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT
Section 2 – Beverly Hills

We're building better transit from DTLA to the Westside.

April Updates

Thank you to the City of Beverly Hills for your patience during the Wilshire Bl closure for deck removal!

M Metro

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Pink's

Easter Week



Some of Our Fan Favorites

- Pink's Famous Chili Cheese Dog
- Martha Stewart Dog - topped with bacon, relish, onions, chopped tomatoes, sauerkraut & sour cream
- Giada de Laurentiis Dog - Mozzarella Cheese & Veggies
- Lord of the Rings Dog
- Philly Cheesesteak Dog - Grilled Steak, Veggies & Cheese
- Brooklyn Pastrami Dog with Swiss Cheese
- Bacon Chili Cheese Burger
- Turkey Dog, Turkey Burger and Veggie Dog
- LA Street Dog with bacon, veggies, mayo, ketchup and jalapenos

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Melrose swamp gets filled in

BY RANCE COLLINS

Work has begun on refilling the Melrose Triangle pit nearly two months after the West Hollywood City Council ordered the Charles Company to fill it with dirt.

For more than a decade, a largescale development had been planned for the site, which would have brought 225,000 square feet of office space and 80 residential units to the corner of Melrose Avenue, Santa Monica Boulevard and Almont Drive. It also included 526 subterranean parking spaces, which is why the lot had been excavated.

After a series of setbacks, which included a prison sentence on bribery charges for the Charles Company's Arman Gabaei, the project stalled. Currently, there are no known development plans for the Melrose Triangle. "The property is not for sale," a Charles Company representative said in February.

It is also unclear how many tons

of dirt will be required to fill the pit, and the Charles Company has not responded to further requests for comment.

The City Council made the directive to fill in the hole after the pit became what community members dubbed the "Melrose swamp" last year. In addition to the site's physical appearance, flies and mosquitos were attracted to the pit and a putrid smell had radiated. As such, residents demanded action from the city.

"The Melrose Triangle project received its entitlements over 10 years ago," Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. "All the city has to show for it is a giant hole. I hope the developer can come up with a good project that the community can support, and sooner rather than later."

Vice Mayor John Heilman suggested that the project was part of a larger issue with development in West Hollywood.

"We have several large development projects which have stalled,"

Heilman said. "Leaving these properties vacant hurts our business community. These sites also become magnets for undesirable activity. We need to work with the property owners to get these sites re-entitled with proposed projects which can be built."

Both Councilman Danny Hang and Mayor Chelsea Byers remained optimistic about the location's future.

"I'm glad the site is finally being filled in," Hang said. "It's been an eyesore and a safety concern for way too long. The space has so much potential, and I'm hopeful to see it eventually transformed into a vibrant space that brings people together and supports local businesses."

"The Melrose Triangle site presents incredible opportunity to build something of value to the city including housing and new retail opportunities," Byers said. "I'm hopeful the property owners understand the city's interest and are bringing plans together to meaningfully contribute to the future of the city."



photo by Rance Collins

Dirt is being poured into the excavated Melrose Triangle.

Getty's PST ART concludes six months of thought-provoking exhibitions

PST ART: Art & Science Collide, the region-wide collaboration initiated by Getty, has concluded after presenting hundreds of exhibitions, programs and events throughout Southern California over the past six months. With the support of more than \$20 million in grants from Getty and five years of research and planning, more than 70 cultural institutions, ranging from small community-based centers to the region's largest museums, have participated in the unprecedented exploration of the intersections of art and science – past, present and in the imaginable

future.

Nineteen of the exhibitions, including those at LACMA, the La Brea Tar Pits, The Wende and the Fowler Museum at UCLA, are continuing after the official conclusion of PST ART and will remain on view through various dates in April 2026. A list of continuing exhibitions can be found at pst.art/en/exhibitions.

Art & Science Collide builds on the long history of exchange between art and science in Southern California, dating back to the earliest years at Caltech and the recognition that science flourishes when it

is in dialogue with the arts and humanities. In the century since, the region has seen several scientific institutions, including the Natural History Museum and Jet Propulsion Laboratory, incorporate the arts into their programs. Both reflecting and expanding upon the history in the exhibitions, the latest edition of PST ART offered the public extraordinary new insights into topics ranging from the history of space exploration to sustainable agriculture, from ancient cosmologies to Indigenous sci-fi, and from biotechnology to environmental justice.

"Many of the art movements strongly identified with Southern California are unimaginable without an intense engagement with science," said Katherine E. Fleming, president and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust. "Light and space artists collaborated with everyone from physicists to brain scientists to create a totally new art form, while digital and media artists have engaged the tech and entertainment industries in transformative ways. PST ART succeeded once again in bringing together Southern California's distinctive, perpetually innovative art scene, this time in conjunction with one of the most important scientific communities in the world."

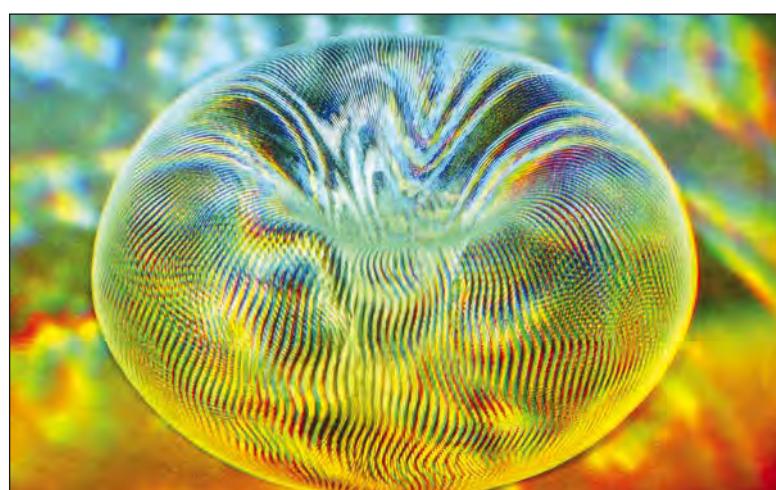


photo courtesy of Getty

The six-month collaboration included many art exhibitions and projects across Southern California.

Nature Challenge marks 10 years of community science

City Nature Challenge – one of the world's largest community science events – returns for its 10th year of connecting people through local nature and their communities. Kicking off April 25 at 12:01 a.m., the challenge runs through April 28, at 11:59 p.m. From participating in organized biodiversity surveys to recording wildlife in neighborhoods, the City Nature Challenge encourages community scientists of all levels to explore their local environment – all while contributing to biodiversity science and conservation and using free mobile apps such as iNaturalist. Identification of photographed species will be crowdsourced through the online community from April 29-May 4 and results will be announced on May 5.

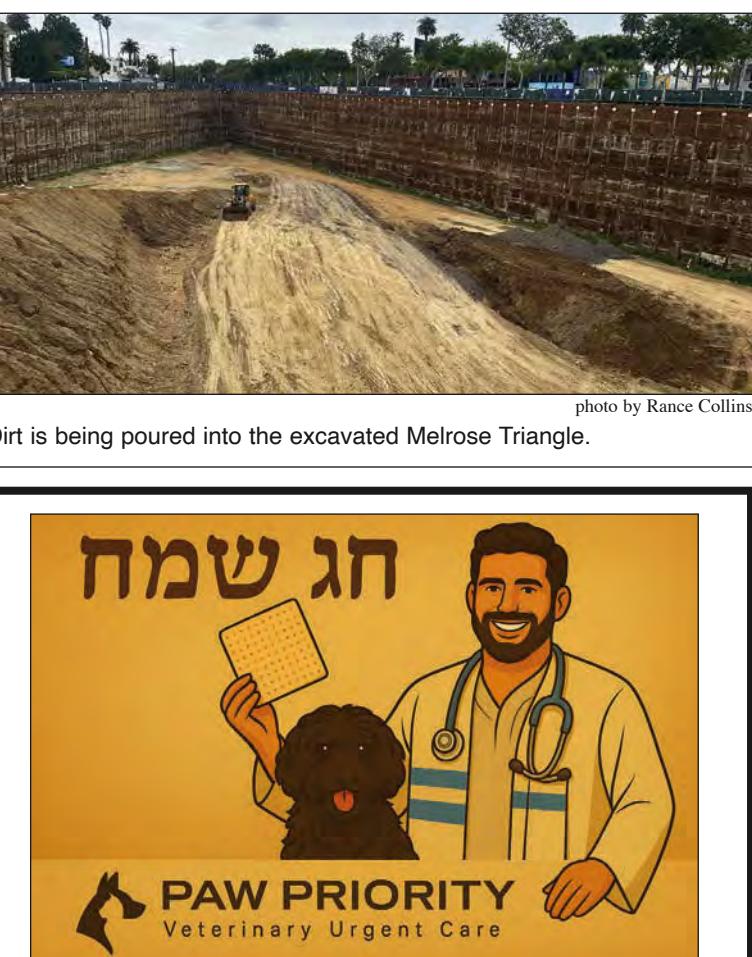
"We're so honored to celebrate a decade of City Nature Challenge success. The tremendous growth we've seen year after year is a testimony to the concern and love for nature that is shared in communities all over the world. It is so inspiring to see that thousands of people enthusiastically share their observations of nature every year" said Dr. Lori Bettison-Varga, president and director of the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County.

After launching the first City Nature Challenge in 2016 with 1,000 observers across a pair of California cities, NHMLAC and San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences are hosting the 10th effort. In 2024, the Challenge broke numerous records, with more than 83,500 community scientists around

the world amassing over 2.4 million observations from 690 cities in 51 countries. Since the inception, City Nature Challenge has collected over 7.13 million urban biodiversity observations of more than 94,000 species and engaged more than 364,000 people.

Wildlife can be found in participants' homes, neighborhoods, backyards or anywhere else, and can be any wild plant, animal, fungi, slime mold or other evidence of life. Community scientists can take photos and/or sound recordings of their findings and upload them to iNaturalist or their city's chosen platform and learn more about the plants and animals they find as their observations are identified.

For information, visit nhm.org/city-nature-challenge.



The Ten Plagues: A Veterinarian's Perspective on Ecological Collapse

Each Passover, we retell the story of the ten plagues – blood, frogs, lice, and more. But to me, they read like the unraveling of a fragile ecological world. Whether set in motion by divine design or triggered by natural events, the plagues didn't strike at random – they unfolded step by step, a cascading public health disaster. Here's my rundown – a vet's perspective on the ten plagues:

1. Blood – It begins with the Nile turning red. A toxic algal bloom or upstream runoff from ancient Nubia? Either way, the river is poisoned. The match is lit.

2. Frogs – Amphibians flee toxic water – a classic sign of ecosystem collapse. Their permeable skin makes them highly vulnerable. On land, exposed and displaced, they die en masse.

3. Lice/Gnats – Rotting frog carcasses fuel insect blooms. Sanitation breaks down. Vector-borne disease surges.

4. Wild Beasts – As the food chains collapse, predators and rabid wildlife move into human spaces. The boundary between wild and domestic disappears, increasing zoonotic spillover risk.

5. Pestilence of Livestock – Wildlife-livestock contact spreads ancient diseases like Anthrax, Brucellosis, foot-and-mouth, TB, and rabies – all likely widely circulating in Exodus-era animal populations.

6. Boils – Human illness spikes. Likely bacterial skin infections from bites, poor hygiene, or contaminated water. Anthrax or staph infections could explain the boil-like lesions. Vulnerability deepens.

7. Hail – A sudden natural disaster. Maybe random – or perhaps the poisoned Nile destabilized the local climate. Crops are destroyed, animals injured, shelters lost.

8. Locusts – These blooms erupt every 10–15 years, often after heavy rain – exactly the conditions hail creates. They blot out the sun, devour crops, and ensure famine.

9. Darkness – Possibly a dust storm, volcanic ash, or the sky-thickening remnants of locust swarms. Circadian rhythms collapse. Agriculture halts. Darkness becomes despair.

10. Death of the Firstborn – In pre-modern outbreaks, firstborns may have lacked maternal antibodies to novel disease. Later siblings might have gained passive immunity through gestation or nursing. Even today, firstborn infants are at higher risk for complications during birth, including longer labor, higher rates of dystocia, and increased likelihood of respiratory distress – factors that amplified vulnerability in ancient times.

So why were the Israelites spared? Even without direct divine intervention, differences in geography, animal care, and cultural practices may explain why the Israelites who were living geographically separated in Goshen escaped the worst.

Chag Sameach – wishing you a Passover filled with health, freedom, and renewal. Let's remember: freedom thrives when we care for the world we share – human, animal, and beyond.

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



8020 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046
hello@pp.vet • www.pawpriority.vet

Greenacre Avenue's historical status could be reassessed

■ WeHo Council to make determination for study

BY RANCE COLLINS

On April 14, the West Hollywood Historical Preservation Commission voted to recommend the City Council reassess the historical status of Greenacre Avenue, a cul-de-sac on the city's east side which contains 36 1940s-era single family residences.

In 2022, another West Hollywood cul-de-sac on Betty Way was determined to be eligible for historical designation, but a concurrent study did not find Greenacre Avenue to qualify. The commission's recommendation asks the City Council to approve a new study for the street.

A staff report noted an Architectural Resources Group survey, which found that "these properties have a common developmental history, and by virtue of their association with a single residential tract, exhibit shared attributes with respect to architectural massing, scale and setback, and all designed in the Minimal Traditional style."

The report went on to say, however, there have been major alterations to many of the homes and properties, and the 2022 assessment found that "fewer than 60% [of the homes] would be considered [historical] contributors, which falls short of the threshold needed to retain sufficient integrity from its historical period and justify eligibility."

Jon Weisbart, a 29-year resident of Greenacre Avenue, disagreed.

"Before the meeting, we had heard that only one of the 36 homes on our street retained enough integrity to qualify for historic dis-

trict status," Weisbart said. "Then at the actual meeting, the consultant said that 50% of our homes qualified but did not provide background information or the home addresses."

But Weisbart argued that 80% of the homes qualify, and in its unanimous decision, the commission concurred.

"We are happy that the Historic Preservation Commission has voted to have Greenacre reassessed, but it really needs to be done by another consultant," he said.

Resident Lynn Russell also argued in favor of historical designation.

"Greenacre Avenue currently preserves its sense of place as a window in time," Russell said. "Of the 36 structures evaluated in this particular survey it must be noted that six have experienced some alteration of windows, doors and awnings all of which are reversible."

Russell said that the street is seemingly the last remaining single-family development on West Hollywood's east side.

"When doing a survey of likely historic structures, it is always easy to recognize the obvious gems. However, it takes a keen eye to recognize the context of one of our key elements of housing and development in West Hollywood – that being a subdivision contained on a single street."

The West Hollywood Preservation Alliance applauded the commission's recommendation.

"Community members pointed out and the commission agreed that Greenacre Avenue had not been given a fair shake with a perfunctory review having been conducted," WHPA board member Victor Omelchenko said. "We believe that a reassessment of Greenacre with its homes built as West

Hollywood's only suburban-style subdivision in 1940-41 will support historic district status."

The City Council will determine whether or not to conduct a new study for street at a future meeting.

"Preserving our city's unique history is always important," Councilman Danny Hang said. "I appreciate the commission taking a closer look at Greenacre and listening to the community's input."



photo by Rance Collins

Homes on Greenacre Avenue were built in the Minimal Traditional style.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

LOCATIONS:	West Hollywood, California
REQUEST:	The Planning Commission will consider a proposed zone text amendment to designate Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Sites and Electric Vehicle (EV) Service Stations as a primary use in designated commercial zones.
PERMIT(S):	Zone Text Amendment, and any other required permits.
APPLICANT(S):	City of West Hollywood
TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:	Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES: Citywide

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:

Categorically Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Sections §15060(c)(2) (Preliminary Review) and §15061(b)(3) (Review for Exemption)

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Thursday, April 24, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

IF YOU CHALLENGE this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in the written correspondence delivered to the West Hollywood Planning Commission, via the Community Development Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Christine Shen, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6803, cshen@weho.org

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

Psychiatric hospital on Olympic moves closer to completion

■ Facility will offer comprehensive services

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

UCLA Health's new Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital is entering its final stages of construction at the site of the former Olympic Medical Center on the southern edge of the Miracle Mile. Work has been ongoing since spring of 2023. Current interior and exterior construction is scheduled for completion next spring, with an anticipated opening in late summer 2026 following a licensing period, a UCLA Health spokesman said.

"Work is simultaneously under way on various project elements, including but not limited to interior construction and installation of equipment, operational workflow planning and staff training," a statement from UCLA Health read. "A nearby medical office building

acquired with the hospital from the previous owner is under renovation, with completion on track for fall 2026 and an opening in winter 2026."

The building's exterior is comprised of 280 made-to-order panels that were delivered fully assembled and precisely placed by crane on the building's frame. The innovative construction method streamlined quality control and reduced waste, said Suzanne Kiely, project manager with UCLA Health planning, design and construction.

The new five-story hospital will have 119 beds and will provide comprehensive behavioral health care services for patients of all ages, including pediatric and elderly patients. A dedicated area for crisis stabilization services will also be included, according to UCLA Health. When complete, the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at

UCLA's Westwood campus will move to the facility at 5900 Olympic Blvd.

The new hospital is located on the site of the former Olympia Medical Center, which operated from 2005-21. The property also housed Midway Hospital from 1948-2005. UCLA Health acquired the building in January 2021 following its closure by Alecto Healthcare. The acquisition also included a parking structure and medical office building on the north side of Olympic Boulevard that is being repurposed into the new behavioral health campus and will offer new clinic spaces for licensed behavioral health specialists.

Greg Goldin, president of the Miracle Mile Residents Association, said he has conflicting opinions about the new hospital. Goldin said many nearby residents are uncertain about the project because UCLA Health has not directly met with community members. However, he said there is a dire need for more neuropsychiatric services.

"I personally have no concern whatsoever that there is going to be a psychiatric hospital there. We des-



photo by Edwin Folven

The UCLA Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital is taking shape at Olympic and San Vicente Boulevards.

perately need such places in our country and our community. People need to be treated and resources need to be dedicated to that," Goldin said. "As neighbors, we are disappointed that Olympic Medical Center closed. It was the closest emergency room, so that was a loss.

UCLA Health has not been very responsive to our concerns such as the impact on traffic, so that's been a disappointment. But people need psychiatric help and I think it will be a good thing. Sometimes, it seems like the whole country needs its head examined."



photo courtesy of Homeboy Industries

The Lo Maximo benefit raised nearly \$1.9 million.

Homeboy Industries honors 'Heroes' at Lo Máximo

Homeboy Industries held the 22nd annual Lo Máximo Awards on March 29, celebrating the 10,000 people who walk through the organization's doors each year in search of a new life.

Lo Máximo – "the best of us" – recognizes Homeboy and Homegirl Heroes, alumni of the 18-month program who embody resilience and transformation. Homeboy

Industries honored Kanaka Luna Jennings, a program director at nonprofit Grandview Foundation, and Hugo Gonzalez, a nonprofit leader and gang interventionist, both living testaments to second chances. Homeboy also recognized Brenda and Stéphane Bancel for their commitment to building movements of kinship, and Thomas Vozzo for his 12 years of visionary

leadership as Homeboy's first CEO.

With a generous matching gift from the Johnny Carson Foundation, nearly 1,100 guests and donors raised nearly \$1.9 million during the event at the JW Marriott in Downtown L.A. For information, visit homeboyindustries.org/lomaximo 2025.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

HEARING DATE:

Monday, May 5, 2025

TIME:

2:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION:

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

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at a **SPECIAL** meeting on **Monday, May 5, 2025** will hold a public hearing beginning at **2:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider:

DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE MINISTERIAL APPROVAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY ZONE FOR PROJECTS SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65589.5, AND ADOPTING AN ADDENDUM TO THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION PREPARED FOR THE 2021-2029 CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS HOUSING ELEMENT.

The Planning Commission will be discussing the potential establishment of a housing development overlay zone that would allow for a ministerial permit process for projects that are subject to Government Code Section 65589.5, generally referred to as "Builder's Remedy" projects. Staff recommends that the Planning Commission adopt a resolution recommending the draft ordinance to the City Council for adoption.

Environmental Review

The zoning amendments were assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. The Planning Commission recommends that the City Council find and determine that the ordinance is within the scope of and consistent with the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Amendments to the Adopted 2021-2029 City of Beverly Hills Housing Element (State Clearinghouse No. 2021090102), which was adopted by the City Council on March 18, 2024 and certified by the State Department of Housing and Community Development on May 1, 2024 and consider an addendum. Staff has determined that there are no substantial changes to the circumstances under which the proposed project will be undertaken that will require major revisions to the previous MND. Therefore, the previously adopted MND is adequate upon the preparation of an addendum.

How to Participate

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

- **In Person:** Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- **Oral Comment:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- **Video Comment:** <https://beverlyhills.org/BevPublic>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
- **Written Comment:** Email 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

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 Monday, April 28, 2025, will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Monday, April 28, 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 or if you would like to be added to the interested parties list for this topic, please contact **Cindy Gordon, AICP, Principal Planner** in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1191, or by email at cgordon@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Cindy Gordon, AICP, Principal 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 Hills International Music Festival returns

BY Tabor Brewster

On April 24 and 25 at 7 p.m., the Beverly Hills International Music Festival will host concerts at Greystone Mansion and Gardens. Programming will highlight classical music with world-renowned performers and commemorate the Holocaust and Armenian Genocide.

The festival began in 2004 as a dual performance and educational event. Founded by Ukrainian conductor and violinist Gregory Cherninsky, the festival initially featured two-week master classes for young musicians and industry professionals from around the world. When the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, however, festival organizers were forced to cancel the event, and funding challenges have made it impossible to hold the event in the years since.

The festival's new director Veronica Bell is hoping to return the festival to its former glory, beginning this year with the concert series at Greystone Mansion.

The concert on April 24 will recognize the 80th anniversary of the Buchenwald concentration camp liberation, which took place in April 1945. The concert also falls on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. Bell said it was important to commemorate both events through

the power of music – a statement of “resistance through art.”

“This is what artists do,” Bell said. “This phrase that I’ve heard many times, ‘shut up and sing,’ or ‘shut up and play,’ it doesn’t happen in the real world. Artists usually take a stand when they see the world turning the wrong direction ... The undercurrent of oppression is still going on, and as humans, I believe as artists, we need to make sure that nobody ever forgets what happened.”

The April 24 concert will feature emotional and uplifting compositions by Nicola Piovani, John Williams and Armenian composers Arno Babajanian and Aram Khachaturian. The pieces will be performed by the Shell Piano Trio – consisting of a pianist, violinist and cellist.

“Our language is music, which is universal,” pianist Shushana Hakobyan said. “We want to tell the truth and send our message to people, and talk to their hearts through the music.”

Hakobyan believes strongly in the uniting power of music. Originally from Armenia, she has raised funds for displaced people in Artsakh and founded a group called Music For Unity to promote peace.

On April 25, the Sords-Walz-Durkovic Piano Trio will perform

romantic compositions by Johannes Brahms, Atonín Dvořák and Sergei Rachmaninoff. Bell described it as an educational concert for attendees to learn about lesser-known facts – perhaps even scandalous stories – about the well-known composers.

[Brahms, Dvořák and Rachmaninoff] had extramarital affairs. The compositions were to a large degree influenced by the turmoil in their personal lives,” Bell said. “We tell the story of composers and compositions and what’s happened behind the scenes.”

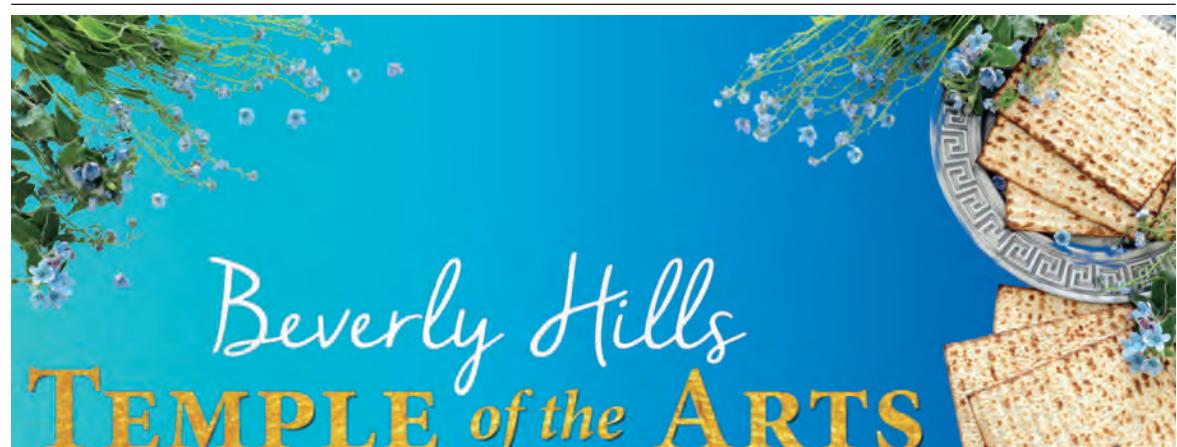
Tickets for the Beverly Hills International Music Festival are \$55 and available at bhimf.com.

Greystone Mansion and Gardens is located at 905 Loma Vista Drive.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The music festival will hold two concerts at Greystone Mansion and Gardens.



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

‘Music in the Mansion’ musician applications due April 21

The city of Beverly Hills announced that the Beverly Hills National Auditions, giving professional musicians an opportunity to perform in classical and chamber music concerts, will take place on Saturday, April 26, at Roxbury Community Center, 471 Roxbury Drive. Talented, professional musicians and ensembles can apply by midnight on April 21 for consideration. To apply, visit beverlyhills.org/1517/Beverly-Hills-National-Auditions.

Beverly Hills National Auditions

musicians and ensembles selected will perform in the city of Beverly Hills’ 2026 season of its “Music in The Mansion” concert series in the historic Greystone Mansion living room. Winners are also considered for engagement by members of the Consortium of Chamber Music Presenters of Southern California, which includes: Classical Sundays at Six at St. James in the City, Laguna Beach Live!, Classical Crossroads: Classical Interludes and Second Sundays at Two, as well as numerous other Southland concert series.

Notable Quotes

“Reading things that are weird is good.”

— Michael Villalpando, to his children over dinner in the kitchen approximately 2003 or 2004.

A classic Michael Villalpando-ism that has stood the test of time. Our dad practices this mantra every day, reading the paper from cover to cover and anything else he can get his hands on. A deep thinker and champion of the local newspaper, his thirst for knowledge is matched only in his dedication and love for his family. On Friday, April 18, he turns 70 years old. Thank you for being our dad, husband, partner, grandpa and Publisher – we love you so much!

Karen, Rebecca, Emily,
Michael & Posey



SAVE THE DATES



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April hops in with beans, bunnies and old ballyards

Spring is made of spores and Wordsworth and jellybeans. At dusk, the scent of jasmine will knock you to the ground.

For these reasons, many men don't care much for spring, except for the baseball, played on little patches of meadow, straight out of a storybook.

So I suppose spring offers something for everyone.

Stopped by the village green the other day to find spring had sprung, as it always does in April, Maine to Mammoth.

This depresses me somewhat. I guess it goes back to my Viking ancestors, my warrior mother in particular, who preferred avalanches to April's tender sonnets. Winter triggered in Mom an adrenaline surge, a rush, a will to do battle. Plus, she really liked Christmas.

She liked spring a lot too, though, when the first red-breasted robins showed up beneath her beloved birch tree, as tulips pushed up through the frozen tundra.

"Oh, look, a robin!" she'd squeal after the dreary, 15-month Chicago winter.

I say bring on Easter and all its



by
Chris
Erskine

glories. The bedroom window is back open, the ceiling fans are on again. I've traded my old slippers for flip-flops.

The other day, the commodore declared L.A.'s harbors finally free of ice.

Yep, L.A. is popping, as usual. There is hardly a time here when flowers aren't blooming, even in the harsh, hot autumns.

FYI, I live in a small, pastel suburb where they mow the fake grass and clip the plastic hedges, just to give it curb appeal and an extra bit of visual oooomf. Looks good on Zillow, I promise.

The trees, by tradition, are overly trimmed, chopped to their knees by massive crews constantly at war with wood.

Some insist this over pruning is

good for the oaks and the cottonwoods. Oh sure. Over pruning trees is good for trees only in the sense that amputation is good for hurdlers.

That's another thing I like about spring: track meets.

Meets are the laziest, most-mellow sporting events I've ever encountered — a Woodstock, a spring ballet.

No one can make sense of a track meet; it seems a carousel of events all going at once. Between races, the athletes lounge in the grass, working on their freckles.

A spring track meet seems like something designed by Norman Rockwell, or grandmothers at high tea.

"And then the young man will fling his huge Frisbee as far as he possibly can..."

"What about costumes?"

"Beachwear mostly. Shorts and tank tops!"

To me, April is like October, full of color, a time of activity and transition.

The rabbits are on the run, you can barely walk the dog without tripping over three. The sparrows are a little drunk with love and the fermenting berries. Lust will do that to a person, I suppose — birds, bunnies, people, though I've rarely experienced it personally, not in a few days anyway.

Listen, I've read my Shakespeare and my Walt Whitman, so I'm fully informed about the wonders of this season.

"Happiness, not in another place but this place ... not for another hour, but this hour."

FYI, I'm one of those people who did very, very well on their SATs, then flunked out at life,



photo by Chris Erskine

The rabbits are on the run; they're almost everywhere.

becoming by necessity an itinerant scribbler. At my lowest point, I was actually a sportswriter of some merit, though that was mostly by my own estimation, no one else's.

Don't miss it much, to be honest. Except on April days such as these.

See, on April afternoons, I would hang out in the Dodger dugout watching batting practice, offering tips to the young men, which they eagerly ignored.

You think Einstein knew physics? You think Mozart understood violins? That is nothing compared to what the average major league hitter knows about the intricate geometry of his own swing — the closed shoulder, the twisting of his hands, which way his toes should curl on contact.

Anyway, April was always my favorite month at the old ballyard, when you still needed a sweater and before the beered-up summer

crowds arrived. In April, you could get out of the parking lot in under an hour, which is probably what I liked best about it.

On April days like this, an MLB dugout is the purest form of Heaven. No team is out of it yet, no one's arm has turned to hamburger, and none of the journeymen hitters is doubting his eyesight, or his ability to get around on a fastball — not yet, at least. Not till May at the very soonest.

In April, everything is alive... careers, hopes, big-league dreams. The groundballs bounce truer, the sea breezes shove a routine high fly just over the right-field wall.

"Wow. Did you see that?"

Yep, April is pure candy. Happy Easter. Blessed Passover. Wow.

For more columns, go to ChrisErskineLA.com

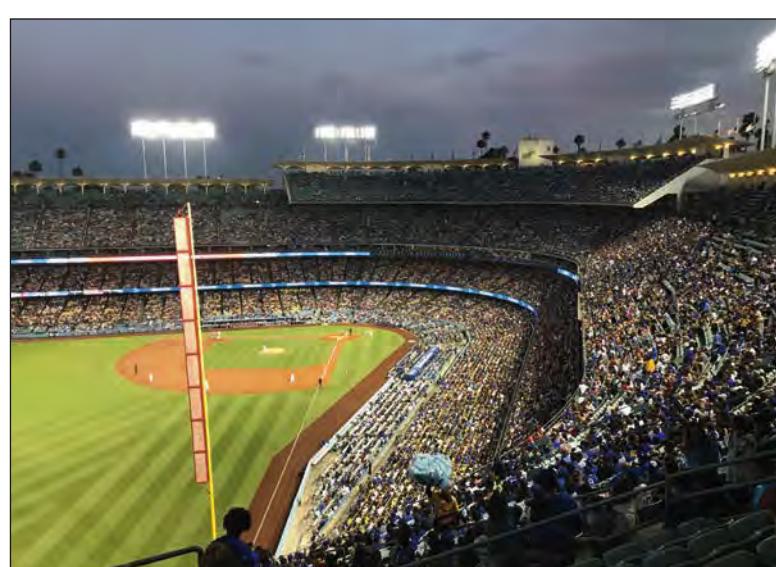


photo by Chris Erskine

In spring, groundballs bounce truer, the breezes blow a routine fly just over the right-field wall.

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THE EBBEL of Los Angeles

'The Funhouse' brings cuts to corner on Wilshire

■ Whimsical barbershop pops up as a cut above

BY Tabor Brewster

A traveling barbershop in the heart of the Miracle Mile resembles a late 19th-century Barnum and Bailey big top. Every morning, Michael Elton Casey – who has been cutting hair for more than 20 years – unpacks a U-Haul trailer and sets up "The Funhouse Barber Shop." Although he previously ran a shop on La Brea Avenue, the traveling funhouse will be his home base for the spring and summer, he

said.

"It's kind of a blue-collar, pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps mentality," Casey said. "We don't miss a beat. We make do with what we got and we work hard."

Just across the street from the La Brea Tar Pits, under a carnival-style pop-up tent on the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Courtyard Place, visitors can step right up to find Casey, The Funhouse ring-leader, giving haircuts which his customers describe as the best in

Los Angeles. The open-air salon is replete with eccentric curiosities – taxidermied animals, distinguished figurines and a vintage armoire filled with tools. Like a magician pulling a rabbit out of his hat, Casey reaches into each drawer, manifesting shears, clippers, combs and a duster brush to transform a customer's hair.

Casey – a screenwriter and a fan of the nearby museums – said he enjoys being an "artisan" for the surrounding Miracle Mile community, which includes actors, agents, music executives and creatives. He attributed his unique barbershop to his upbringing in Indianapolis.

"Indianapolis is home to the Indianapolis Fairgrounds," Casey said. "I grew up next to the fairgrounds. I was always at the carnival – at the funhouse. All of that funhouse atmosphere is reflected in my subconscious mind. When it came time to get a shop together, I put it together like a wacky funhouse. The Black man's barbershop, particularly, is as whimsical and fanciful as a funhouse."

Casey's sense of whimsy is even reflected in his own dapper style. Donning a checkered shirt, plaid bow tie and suspenders, with a perfectly trimmed beard and dreadlocks fashioned into a neat bob hanging just above his eyebrows, his appearance is somewhere between P.T. Barnum and Rick James.

In the past week, Casey said he'd given about 100 haircuts. Longtime customer Raymond Brothers traveled an hour and a half on a Tuesday afternoon to receive his usual haircut. As Brothers sat in the hydraulic pump barber chair, Casey clipped away while retro soul



photo by Tabor Brewster

Michael Elton Casey cuts hair for longtime customers on the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Courtyard Place.

music flowed from the stereo and two other customers waited in line (yes, there's even a waiting area).

by far," Brothers said. "I'm an attorney – I had offices here and in D.C. I would come back from D.C. to here just to get a haircut, that's how good he is."

Brothers said the Funhouse creates a sense of community, with an atmosphere of camaraderie that one might find at a beloved neighborhood barbershop.

"A barbershop is a place where you can come be yourself and talk about political issues, social issues, spiritual issues – it's a different spot," Brothers said.

The Funhouse Barber Shop is located at approximately 5750 Wilshire Blvd. and open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Casey said haircuts are \$50, but, "there's such a thing as friends and family discount."

For information, call (323)377-3011 or email thefunhousebarbershop@gmail.com.

"It's kind of a blue-collar, pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps mentality. We don't miss a beat. We make do with what we got and we work hard."

Michael Elton Casey
Barber

"He's the best barber in the city



Los Angeles Lakers head coach JJ Redick was joined by Steadfast LA chairman Rick Caruso and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to announce plans to rebuild the Palisades Recreation Center.

Partnership helps Pali Rec Center rise from the ashes

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, LA Strong Sports, Steadfast LA and Pacific Palisades community groups announced a public-private partnership on April 10 that will fund, redesign and rebuild the Palisades Recreation Center.

The center, which was partially destroyed by the Palisades fire in January, is an important community hub for recreational activity for residents, organizers said.

"The city's No. 1 pledge has been to eliminate any and every obstacle in the way of rebuilding, and we are forging new partnerships with all sectors as we continue to move Los Angeles forward," Bass said. "The Palisades Recreation Center, library and playground are each a vital piece of this community, which is why the city pushed for the Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize debris removal at these landmarks. We will continue this progress, and I thank everyone – LA Strong Sports, Steadfast LA and key Palisades groups – for coming together for this new effort."

LA Strong Sports was formed in late March by Los Angeles Lakers coach JJ Redick and his wife Chelsea, Charles and Jenna Jackson and Kylee Kilgore to build, sustain and grow top-tier sports and recreation programs in Los Angeles in the aftermath of the wildfires.

"We visited the Pali Rec Center the same day we decided to move to the Palisades. That visit showed us not only how important the park was as a physical space, but how the people and families who took advantage of it made up the

beating heart of the community," Redick said. "We're proud to formally announce a public-private partnership with the city and these local organizations to rebuild it so it can once again serve as a gathering place for sports and activities."

Led by developer and businessman Rick Caruso, Steadfast LA brings together the expertise, influence and power of the private sector to expedite rebuilding and minimize delays. Steadfast LA is developing solutions with leaders in real estate, finance, construction and infrastructure. The coalition includes representatives from Gensler, CBRE, Parsons, Esri and Latham & Watkins LLP.

"This public-private partnership to rebuild the rec center with the city and in collaboration with civic leaders, local groups and industry experts demonstrates the vision of Steadfast LA in action," said Caruso, chairman of Steadfast LA. "By bringing the public sector, the private sector and the community together to do this, we're not only restoring an integral part of the Palisades, but we're showing how we can effectively respond to this tragedy with the urgency that the moment demands. We intend to follow a similar approach on our projects in Altadena and Malibu as well."

The announcement follows news that the Los Angeles Parks Foundation has received a \$1 million donation from FireAid to restore the Pacific Palisades Playground, located in the same park at 851 Alma Real Drive.

For information, visit steadfast-la.com, lastrongsports.org and mayor.lacity.gov.

THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD IS HOSTING

SAFEGUARDING OUR RIGHTS- THE FIRST 100 DAYS TOWN HALL & RESOURCE FAIR

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BLVD.
RESOURCE FAIR: 6:30 PM
PROGRAM BEGINS: 7:00 PM**

During the first 100 days in office, the Trump administration has worked to dismantle programs and eliminate funding that supported some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

Learn how to support and advocate for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, women, and others.



PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE:

ACLU Southern California, APLA, CHIRLA, Equality California, Los Angeles LGBT Center, Planned Parenthood, and TransLatin@ Coalition



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, May 1, 2025

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

LOCATION: Meeting will be held in person at:

Council Chamber
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

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



PROJECT: **9600 Wilshire Boulevard Specific Plan Project**

ADDRESS: 9570, 9588-9596, 9600-9610, 9620 Wilshire Boulevard; 133 S. Camden Drive, 128 S. Bedford Drive

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its SPECIAL meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2025, will hold a public hearing beginning at **7:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider the following requests associated with the **9600 Wilshire Boulevard Specific Plan Project**:

- **Final Environmental Impact Report:** City certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report.
- **General Plan Amendment:** Create the 9600 Wilshire Boulevard Specific Plan land use designation and apply it to the project site. (legislative request)
- **Specific Plan:** Adopt a specific plan that includes: 1) permitted uses, development standards, and guidelines for the plan area, 2) operational standards for uses, 3) the locations and dimensions of streets, public spaces, and access ways, 4) plan implementation and administration, and (legislative request)
- **Zone Text and Map Amendments:** Add the 9600 Wilshire Boulevard Specific Plan to the Beverly Hills Municipal Code and update the City's zoning map to apply the 9600 Wilshire Boulevard Specific Plan zoning designation to the Project site. (legislative request)
- **Conceptual Plan:** Approval of a conceptual project plan pursuant to the proposed Specific Plan.
- **Vesting Tentative Tract Map:** To permit the merger and re-subdivision of land, including the merger of fifteen (15) existing parcels into five (5) new lots and the vacation of certain surface public alleys and other public easements located within the Specific Plan Area, and the dedication of replacement easements, including the new circulation plans in the Specific Plan.
- **Encroachment Permit:** To allow (1) the installation of subsurface utility vaults within the public right-of-way, (2) a sub-surface automobile drive aisle spanning across South Peck Drive to connect the subterranean parking structures on level P2, (3) private automobile parking spaces to partially extend under the public sidewalk and public alley [from ten-feet below grade, up to the underside of the existing sidewalk and alley], and (4) the installation and maintenance of landscaped parkways and special paving in the public right-of-way surrounding the Project Site.
- **Master Plan of Streets Amendment:** To allow: 1) the removal of the existing north-south surface rights-of-way for public alley purposes; and 2) the dedication of reconfigured surface easements along the southern edge of the Specific Plan Area for public alley purposes.
- **Development Agreement:** The Applicant is requesting a development agreement with the City in conjunction with the proposal. The City Council will consider this request at a future date.

Project Description: The 9600 Wilshire Boulevard Specific Plan would facilitate the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Saks Fifth Avenue Women's Building, the retention of the existing commercial building at 9570 Wilshire for continued commercial use, and the development of new residential, retail, office, hospitality, social club, boutique hotel and open space uses throughout the Specific Plan Area.

The Specific Plan Area would be divided into two districts: a Wilshire Boulevard District fronting Wilshire Boulevard and a Neighborhood District to the south. The Specific Plan would permit a range of commercial and other compatible uses in the Wilshire Boulevard District, including retail, restaurant, boutique hotel, social club, office uses, and a limited number of residential units, with the potential to convert a portion of the buildings to additional residential units in the future. The Specific Plan would permit a more limited range of uses in the Neighborhood District, including multi-family residential and small shop/boutique retail uses, as well as publicly accessible open space. Consistent with the overall Specific Plan, the Applicant is proposing a Conceptual Plan that more specifically includes:

- **Wilshire District:**
 - Rehabilitation in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and adaptive reuse of the Saks Women's Building with Retail, Restaurant, Boutique Hotel, Spa, Social/Membership Club, and Apurtenant Uses (9600 Wilshire Boulevard); the construction of a new, approximately 97.8-foot tall (seven-story) attached building with Retail uses and 20 Residential units (9620 Wilshire Boulevard). These two buildings would cumulatively contain approximately 183,432 square feet (sf) of floor area;
 - The development of an approximately 84.5-foot tall (six-story), 69,999-sf building with retail and office uses (9588-9596 Wilshire Boulevard);
- **Neighborhood District**
 - The development of an approximately 76.75-foot tall (six-story), 120,280-sf, 28-unit multi-family residential building with small shop/boutique retail uses on the ground floor (128 South Bedford Drive);

- The development of an approximately 76-foot tall (six-story), 120,196-sf, 28-unit multi-family residential building with small shop/boutique retail uses on the ground floor (133 South Camden Drive);

• Site Wide

- Four levels of subterranean parking beneath the Specific Plan Area, containing 744 parking spaces; and
- The development of privately owned and maintained, yet publicly accessible, open spaces—specifically the 'Terrace' (located between South Peck and Camden Drives) and the 'Via' (located between South Bedford and Peck Drives).
- Traffic calming/pedestrian improvements on South Peck Drive.

Construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to commence in 2025 and would occur in nine phases, which would overlap in their duration. The overall duration of construction is estimated to be approximately 50 months (completion in 2029), including 14 months of utility relocation and 36 months of construction.

Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR): The Proposed Project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. The City of Beverly Hills has prepared a Final EIR to analyze potential environmental impacts associated with the Project. The Final EIR will be distributed on Thursday, April 24, 2025, for public review in conjunction with the Planning Commission Agenda Packet for the May 1, 2025, hearing. The Planning Commission will review and consider recommending certification of the Final EIR for the Project. The Final EIR analyzes the following potential environmental effects of the Project:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Air Quality | • Land Use / Planning |
| • Biological Resources | • Noise |
| • Cultural Resources | • Population / Housing |
| • Energy | • Transportation |
| • Geology/Soils | • Tribal Cultural Resources |
| • Greenhouse Gas Emissions | • Utilities / Service Systems |
| • Hazards & Hazardous Materials | |

The Final EIR also evaluated six alternatives to the Proposed Project. Based on the impact analyses in the Final EIR, the Proposed Project's impacts to energy, land use / planning, population / housing, and utilities / service systems would be less than significant. With the implementation of the mitigation measures described in the Final EIR, the Proposed Project's impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards & hazardous materials, transportation, and tribal cultural resources would also be less than significant. Noise and vibration impacts would be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures, with the exception of construction noise impacts (i.e., construction beyond normally allowed construction hours) which would be potentially significant and unavoidable during construction only. The analyses completed in the Initial Study for the Proposed Project determined other CEQA topic areas would not have the potential to cause or otherwise result in significant environmental effects. Additionally, the project site is not on any list of hazardous water or disposal sites as enumerated in Government Code Section 65962.5.

How to Participate

Members of the public can participate in, watch or listen to the commission meeting 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://www.beverlyhills.org/BevPublic>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.

Written Comment: Email 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

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 5:00 PM 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 the end of the day on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, April 22, 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 **Alvaro Gomez, Senior Planner** in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1142**, or by email at agomez@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.

Alvaro Gomez, AICP, 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.

Street work for subway project keeps lanes closed through June

Street-level work around the Metro subway project will continue through at least June at the Wilshire/Western, Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax stations. Lane closures will be in place around the stations as crews continue repairs to street surfaces, curbs and sidewalks.

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 intermittently reduced to one lane

in each direction between Highland and Cloverdale avenues in the Miracle Mile, and La Brea Avenue is intermittently reduced to one lane in each direction between Sixth and Eighth streets.

At Wilshire/Fairfax, Wilshire Boulevard is intermittently reduced to one lane in each direction between Spaulding Avenue and San Diego Way. Fairfax Avenue is intermittently reduced to one lane in each direction between Sixth and Eighth streets. The work will require a full closure of the Wilshire/Western, Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax intersections on separate weekends in June.



photo by Edwin Folven

Center lanes are closed on Wilshire Boulevard for street restoration near the Wilshire/Fairfax station.

Mayor appoints new leader for Personnel Department

Mayor Karen Bass announced on April 11 that she has selected Malaika Billups as the new general manager of the Department of Personnel.

Currently serving as the assistant city administrative officer, Billups brings decades of experience in the public and private sectors. She will provide the Personnel Department with strategic leadership to support the city workforce, implement strategies to reduce the city's liability payments and improve hiring practices, Bass said.

Billups will lead the department following Grayce Liu's service as interim general manager. Under Liu's leadership, the department activated the Disaster Service

Worker program to staff the Disaster Recovery Center in response to the Palisades fire, helped guide implementation of the city's new HR/Payroll system and provided continuity in serving departments that depend on personnel.

The modernization of city hiring practices is paramount to efforts to change the status quo and deliver essential needs, Bass said. It currently takes months for someone to be hired by the city of Los Angeles. In that time, qualified individuals receive offers from neighboring cities, reducing the talent pool. The mayor said Billups' appointment is an important step toward transforming, streamlining and modern-

izing the city's hiring practices.

In her previous role as assistant city administrative officer, Billups supported the annual budget process and labor and employee relations, and developed financial management practices for city departments. Prior to joining the Office of the City Administrative Officer, Billups was the chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer for the Department of Personnel, overseeing the implementation of a comprehensive Workplace Equity Policy and developing the city's Culture and Climate Survey. She began her career with the city as deputy city attorney in the Labor Relations Division.

Letters to the Editor

Hopeful new Beverly Hills mayor will 'walk the walk' with reproductive rights

Re "Nazarian outlines mayoral vision," April 10 issue

As a resident of Beverly Hills, I was encouraged to read two of our new mayor's initiatives: Mayor Sharona Nazarian's commitment to protecting reproductive rights and her encouragement of public participation in government and community engagement.

Given the outcry from residents in Beverly Hills and from neighboring residents regarding the city's actions against DuPont, a specialized reproductive health care clinic, I assume that Mayor Nazarian is not "talking the talk" but will "walk the walk."

If committed to hearing from residents and committed to women's rights, then the residents of Beverly Hills and the California voters can anticipate the following from her leadership: The city will

drop the anti SLAPP motion in June against DuPont Clinic and the \$400,000 for reimbursement of legal fees [and] the city will fairly resolve the suit with DuPont so the clinic can open and be welcomed to operate somewhere in Beverly Hills or Los Angeles.

It is refreshing to see any person and especially a representative to have the moral courage to take accountability and "right a wrong."

I look forward to seeing these initiatives and actions enacted very soon under our new mayor's direction.

*Gay Abrams
Beverly Hills*

Distracted driving can be life-threatening to pedestrians

Re "BHPD cautions drivers to

avoid distractions," April 10 issue

As someone who almost got hit by a car while walking through an intersection, I can vouch for the importance of this caution. There was no way the driver could say – if paying proper attention – he or she did not see me, as I waited for some time for the light to change, as did they.

When finally the "WALK" sign lit, I did so and the car opposite me proceeded into the intersection. Only they continued making their left turn and were now 15 feet away and heading right for me. Had I not quickly stopped and yelled out, I might not be writing this.

I have little doubt the car's darkly tinted windows served their intended purpose of allowing the owner to fire off important texts like, "But I hate rhubarb," without anyone noticing while at the same time making left turns in Los Angeles.

*William P. Bekkala
West Hollywood*

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

LOCATIONS: **852 West Knoll Drive, West Hollywood, California**

REQUEST: **The Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing regarding a request for a tentative tract map for the subdivision of a previously approved four-story, six-unit residential building into a common interest condominium development.

PERMIT(S): Subdivision, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): Guy Benshushan

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING: **Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.**
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES: R3C (Residential, Multi-Family Medium Density)

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: Categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Regulations pursuant to CEQA Section §15332 (In-Fill Development Projects)

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Thursday, April 24, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

IF YOU CHALLENGE this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in the written correspondence delivered to the West Hollywood Planning Commission, via the Community Development Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Doug Vu, Acting Manager, Current and Historic Preservation Planning at (323) 848-6318, or via email at: dvu@weho.org

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

RESTAURANT NEWS

Have a 'Riot' of a holiday at the Andaz

This Easter weekend, Riot House Restaurant – located on the lobby level of Andaz West Hollywood – is putting an iconic twist on tradition with a festive Easter Buffet Brunch that's perfect for families, friends and anyone looking to celebrate the spring holiday on the Sunset Strip.

Priced at \$60 per person and \$20 for kids under 12 – with bottomless mimosas available for just \$15 – guests can enjoy a traditional buffet offering of made-to-order omelets, eggs benedict, scrambled eggs, crispy bacon, turkey and pork sausage, as well as Andaz West Hollywood specials, including RH pancakes and Sunset French toast.

Southern favorites like biscuits & gravy and Riot House's fried chicken bites with waffles will also be on the line.

There will be plenty of grazing options, from parfaits and assorted

breads and bagels to cereals, jams, and fresh pastries. The juice bar will be stocked with Green Juice, a hydration blend, an immunity booster shot and even a specially crafted "Hangover Cure" for those who may need a morning recovery.

Brunch will be served from April 19-20, at Andaz West Hollywood – the historic rocker hotel that's hosted music legends from The Rolling Stones to Led Zeppelin. The Andaz is located at 8401 W. Sunset Blvd. For information, visit hyatt.com/andaz/laxss-andaz-west-hollywood/dining.

Enjoy Easter at The Rooftop

Gather loved ones and head to The Rooftop for a spectacular Easter brunch with breathtaking city views. Indulge in a three-course menu paired with a signature cocktail – choose from the Bad Bunny, floral spritz or espresso

martini, plus special bubbly offerings. The first course options are deviled eggs or coconut seed pudding; the second course selections are strawberry salad, Thai mango salad or Jicama salad; and the third course chilaquiles, tres leches French toast and berries, carrot cake pancakes, strawberries and cream crepes, bacon avocado burger, lamb merguez sausage hash and eggs, or Pitt ham and eggs. For information, visit wayfarerdtla.com or call (213)285-4391. The Wayfarer Downtown LA is located at 813 Flower St.

Elevate Easter with a trip to L'Ermitage

Nestled in the heart of Beverly Hills, L'Ermitage Beverly Hills is inviting guests to an elevated yet festive Easter celebration on Sunday, April 20. Offering an intimate and refined setting perfect for gatherings with friends, family or even a solo holiday, the hotel brings springtime charm to life. Highlights of the day include a live Easter Bunny meet-and-greet for photo ops; a mimosa beverage trolley fea-



photo courtesy of Descanso

Have a hearty brunch at Descanso for the Sunday holiday.

Make Easter a fiesta at Descanso

Enjoy a festive day of vibrant flavors, great company and chef-driven specials that bring a modern twist to tradition at Descanso. Whether starting the day with brunch or joining for dinner, there is something special waiting for every guest. Easter options

include the pozole and huevos rancheros combo brunch special, new plancha dining dishes, bottomless mimosas and brunch cocktails. For information, visit descansorestaurant.com or call (213)672-2444. Descanso Restaurant is located at 5773 Wilshire Blvd.



For Easter!



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American Raised Leg of Lamb



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turing vibrant flavors like guava, lychee, marion blackberry and white peach; a curated Easter brunch menu from the on-site restaurant, with standout dishes such as morel mushroom and asparagus omelet with taleggio cheese, Ora King salmon with caponata and basil, and Australian rack of lamb with pistachio gremolata; signature smoothies and pressed juices; and a takeaway gift from the pastry chef.

For information, visit lermitagebeverlyhills.com or call (877)831-4284. L'Ermitage is located at 9291 Burton Way.

Have a coastal Mexican-inspired Easter in Hollywood

Celebrate Easter weekend at the coastal Mexican-inspired restaurant, Ka'teen, and indulge in Chef Wes Avila's Yucatan cuisine for a family night out. Start the night with specialty mezcal cocktails, like the Gypsy Fever featuring del maguey mezcal, passion fruit, guava, lime, agave, fire water – or

the Mexcalita de Yucatan, highlighting illegal mezcal, xtabentún, lime and a roasted corn ash rim. Indulge in the Lamb Shank Barbacoa dinner – a slow braised lamb shank, complemented with pickled pearl onions, tomatillo salsa, burnt tomato and tortillas. Pair it with the Aguachiles as a starter, featuring fresh new caledonian prawns, agua verde, pickled pearl onions and tostadas. End the night with homemade churros dipped in sweet caramel or the crème caramel dessert, a Mexican style flan, while listening to upbeat sounds by the house DJ. Guests can make reservations via Resy through April 20 at resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/ka-teen. For information, visit kateenla.com or call (323)410-6360. Kat'teen is located at 6516 Selma Ave.

Tea, Easter bunnies and brunch hop into The London

The London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills will be offering Easter afternoon tea, rooftop

brunch, Easter egg hunt and appearance from the Easter Bunny.

On April 19 and 20, guests and local Angelenos are invited to the whimsical Easter-inspired afternoon tea with stunning city views. Indulge in a delightful spread of festive sweets, savory bites and premium teas (both hot and iced) – all with a touch of springtime magic. Think colorful confections, elegant tea blends, a sprinkle of holiday charm, and of course, festive decor. The event will be held in the Boxwood Sitting Room from 12:30-3:30 p.m. both days. The cost is \$84 per person. To book, visit opentable.com/r/afternoon-tea-at-the-london-west-hollywood

Also on both weekend days, hop on up to the rooftop at The London West Hollywood for an Easter weekend brunch with Easter decorations, Instagrammable photo ops and cookie decorating for kids – all paired with stunning views of the Hollywood Hills and L.A. skyline. Guests and locals will find a delectable a la carte menu from the hotel's Executive Chef Anthony Keene, and on Sunday only, kids (and kids at heart) can enjoy a special appearance by the Easter

See page 16



photo courtesy of The Front Yard

The Front Yard at The Garland will offer Easter brunch on its patio.

Have Easter in 'The Front Yard'

Spring has sprung in the Valley and The Front Yard invites guests for an egg-stra special Easter experience, offering a delicious menu. Choose from seasonally-inspired starters such as carrot ginger bisque, Greek shrimp salad and pozole salad; along with sides such as carnitas benedict, pecan-wood bacon, quiche and more breakfast favorites. For the entree, take a pick of rosemary pineapple roasted ham, grilled skirt steak or a

delectable Trufe cream halibut. To sweeten the deal, guests will indulge in sweet treats such as carrot cake, ricotta cheesecake and hazelnut chocolate mousse.

Brunch will be served from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on April 20 and is priced at \$85 for adults and \$35 for children ages 12 and under. For reservations, visit opentable.com/the-front-yard. The Front Yard is located at 4222 Vineland Ave., inside The Garland.



This Easter, we are grateful for all the support shown to us by the community!



BEST HOTCAKES & BURGERS IN TOWN!



ENJOY COFFEE & PIE ON THE PATIO!



ENJOY
EASTER BRUNCH WITH
OUR FAMOUS HOTCAKES,
EGGS BENEDICT & MORE!



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Farmhouse restaurant opening soon

Descanso Gardens, the botanical garden and living museum located in La Cañada Flintridge, is announcing the upcoming opening of Farmhouse at Descanso Gardens, a farm-to-table culinary experience developed in collaboration with renowned Chef Rich Mead. Opening in the spring of 2025, the innovative dining destination will celebrate California's local farmers and seasonal ingredients, offering guests a unique culinary adventure nestled in Descanso Gardens' sprawling 150-acre urban sanctuary.

"Rich Mead has earned a reputation for exceptional farm-to-table dining and redefining restaurant experiences within lush garden settings," said Juliann Rooke, CEO of Descanso Gardens. "We're thrilled to have partnered with him to bring that vision to life within our gar-

dens, seamlessly blending locally sourced cuisine and craft cocktails with the botanically rich atmosphere of our Gardens. We can't wait for our guests to enjoy it."

Upon arrival, guests will step into a breathtaking 7,800-square-foot space that elegantly integrates the beauty of Descanso Gardens with an immersive dining experience. Anchored by a spacious main dining room, the restaurant will feature a mix of indoor and outdoor seating and a striking indoor-outdoor bar, crafted by local artisan William Stranger, made from fallen trees reclaimed from the gardens. Throughout the space handpainted murals, warm wood accents and vibrant greenery create a harmonious ambiance of raw materials and refined design, reflecting a historic organic aesthetic that effortlessly merges the restaurant with its

breathtaking surroundings.

As they enter, guests will be drawn to an inviting lounge and bar space designed for both relaxation and lively gatherings. Thoughtfully curated plant installations by Descanso's horticultural team will adorn the restaurant, changing throughout the year to ensure a dynamic and ever-evolving atmosphere. An open kitchen view offers a glimpse into the artistry behind each dish, reinforcing the restaurant's commitment to transparency and culinary excellence.

The menu at Farmhouse at Descanso Gardens was developed in collaboration with Chef Mead, showcasing his acclaimed farm-to-table philosophy. It draws from his deep appreciation for sustainably focused farmers and purveyors and California's rich food culture.

"The beauty of the gardens, the incomparable taste of local ingredients and our ever-changing seasons have deeply influenced my approach to food," Mead said. "I'm excited to see this concept come to life, as it's all about connecting the land, the flavors and the seasons in



photo courtesy of Farmhouse at Descanso Gardens

Descanso Gardens will soon open a new farm-to-table dining experience.

From page 15

Bunny along with an Easter Egg Hunt on Hampton Court at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Guests should note that they must have dining reservations or be a hotel guest to participate. Seatings will start at 10:30 a.m. and continue until 1:30 p.m. To book, visit opentable.com/boxwood.

For information, visit thelondonwesthollywood.com or call (844)489-9660. The London is located at 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd.

'Hideaway' for Easter

Mexican steakhouse The Hideaway is offering a festive feast filled with delicious bites and celebratory sips for Easter. Possibly one of the most affordable options found in Beverly Hills, the restaurant will have a \$55 per person brunch menu along with a kids' menu for \$25. Highlights from the adults' menu include several empanada varieties, tuna tartare, The Hideaway's signature Pescado Zarandeado and a dessert platter featuring Hideaway flan, strawberries and cream, double chocolate chip churro cookie and spiced Mexican hot chocolate. Kids can enjoy beef bocaditos, a breakfast quesadilla or Belgian waffles. For information, visit thehideawaybeverlyhills.com or call (310)974-8020. The Hideaway is located at 421 N. Rodeo Drive.

It's an A.O.C. Easter

Suzanne Goin's Easter dinner menu at the Third Street location will showcase an Easter Sunday supper. The dinner begins with deviled egg with smoked ham and buttered radish tartine; followed by spring vegetable salad with fennel, asparagus, snap peas, carrots and sauce gribiche. For the main course, A.O.C. presents a spring lamb "cassoulet" with merguez, flageolet beans, braised artichokes, basil pistou and bread-crums. Conclude the evening with a strawberry and rhubarb galette with pistachios and crème fraîche ice cream. Hours are 5-9 p.m., and A.O.C. will also offer Easter brunch from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The dinner is priced at \$85 and reservations may be made online via

Wine Down series begins at Osteria Mamma

Osteria Mamma has officially launched its monthly Wine Down series as part of their 15th Anniversary programming. The new monthly wine tasting and pairing experience will be hosted by expert sommelier, Filippo Cortivo. The intimate evening will showcase a curated selection of seasonal wines from the restaurant's award-winning collection. Each wine will be paired with a hand-crafted small bite from the kitchen, offering a chance to explore new flavors, deepen appreciation for Italian wines and enjoy a guided tasting in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The event will be held the last Thursday of each month from 6:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m., starting April 24. The price is \$35 per person. As a bonus, guests who stay for dinner after the tasting will receive an exclusive offer, to be announced at the tasting. Space is limited. To reserve, visit opentable.com/r/osteria-mamma-hollywood. Osteria Mamma is located at 5732 Melrose Ave. For information, visit osteriamamma.com or call (323)284-7060.

CUT provides exclusive tasting dinner

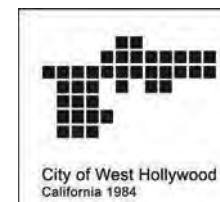
CUT Beverly Hills, the flagship location by Wolfgang Puck, is hosting an exclusive, one-night-only intimate tasting dinner on April 24 with the renowned Dariush Vineyards. Led by the owner and founder Dariush Khaledi, the experience promises an unforgettable journey. Savor a four-course tasting menu curated by Executive Chef Drew Rosenberg, designed to harmonize seamlessly with five exquisite Dariush wines. As indulging in each delectable dish, guests will be captivated by the inspiring stories, expertise and tasting notes of this Napa legend and his celebrated winery. The price is \$455 per person. To reserve, visit opentable.com/r/cut-by-wolfgang-puck-at-the-beverly-wilshire. CUT Beverly Hills is located at 9500 Wilshire Blvd.

a way that honors nature and sustainability."

Farmhouse at Descanso Gardens will open in the spring of 2025, welcoming guests for lunch and dinner service as well as weekend brunch. In addition to regular dining, the restaurant will host seasonal

al events and be available for special celebrations, making it the ideal destination for a memorable culinary experience in a tranquil garden setting.

For information, visit farmhouse-dg.org. Descanso Garden is located at 1418 Descanso Drive.



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A MINISTERIAL HOUSING PERMIT ENTITLEMENT FOR STREAMLINED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW AND AMENDMENT TO THE CURRENT AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING FEE SCHEDULE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **May 5, 2025**, the City Council will hold a public hearing to conduct a first reading of an Ordinance establishing a Ministerial Housing Permit entitlement for streamlined housing development to comply with recent changes to state law and finding the action to be exempt from CEQA under Section 15061(b)(3) and 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The City Council will also consider adopting a resolution amending the fee schedule to include a Ministerial Housing Permit fee.

The public hearing will commence at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as part of the open session of the City Council meeting in the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, California. Anyone wishing to speak regarding the introduction on the first reading to establish a Ministerial Housing Permit entitlement, or the proposed fee resolution may attend the hearing or submit written comments no later than 12:00 p.m. on the above Council meeting day via email to publiccomment@weho.org or via E-Comment by visiting www.weho.org/wehotv.

Written comments should be addressed to City Clerk, City of West Hollywood, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069.

A copy of the proposed ordinance and amended fee schedule resolution will be available with the online City Council Agenda Packet, beginning Wednesday, April 30, 2025. Please visit <https://www.weho.org/councilagendas> to view the May 5, 2025, City Council Agenda Packet.

For further information regarding this item, contact Michelle Montenegro, Associate Planner, at (323) 848-6813, or via email at mmontenegro@weho.gov.

Dated: April 17, 2025

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

Go 'Wild for the Planet' at the L.A. Zoo

The Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association, the nonprofit partner of the Los Angeles Zoo, invites Angelenos of all ages to celebrate Earth Day and Easter at the L.A. Zoo. "Wild for the Planet Featuring Big Bunny" is a vibrant three-day event taking place April 18-20.



photo courtesy of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association

The three-day event features sustainability education, family-friendly entertainment and photo opportunities.

10:30 a.m.

The event is more than picking up trash – it's a moment to set an example for the next generation and show the importance of giving back, protecting the environment and taking care of the local com-

Along with live entertainment, eco-activities and special presentations, costumed character Big Bunny will hop by for professional photos for an additional fee. With so much to do and see, the double-holiday weekend event promises to be as inspiring as it is entertaining.

Honoring the planet and its rich biodiversity, "Wild for the Planet" encourages guests to explore wildlife conservation and environmental sustainability through hands-on learning and interactive programming. From animal enrichment and education stations to live performances, most activities are free with paid zoo admission and for members.

Guests are also invited to participate in the Ecocell Sweepstakes 2025 by donating unwanted handheld electronics at the zoo. Each qualifying device earns one entry (up to five per person) for a chance to win a one-year family membership. Devices will be responsibly recycled through Ecocell, with proceeds benefiting wildlife conservation organizations such as the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center. To learn which items are accepted and how to prepare them for donation, visit lazoo.org/eco-cell. Guests must be 18 years or older to enter.

For information and tickets for "Wild for the Planet," visit lazoo.org/wildfortheplanet. Explore the full "Wild Weekends" lineup at lazoo.org/wildweekends.



photo courtesy of the Getty Museum

The Earth Day programming will include tours of the Robert Irwin Garden.

Getty celebrates Earth Day through the arts

Earth Day at the Getty Center will be celebrated with events throughout April, including free public programs for all ages such as art talks, garden tours and an outdoor meditation session with a tree.

The events use knowledge of arts and humanities to encourage environmental sustainability, inspiring public engagement around biodiversity during an annual global movement dedicated to raising awareness and taking action to protect the planet.

Art and sustainability themed gallery discussions will take place in connection with Getty's drawing exhibitions currently on view, "Exploring the Alps" and "A Brush with Nature: Romantic

Landscape Drawings." Tours of the Robert Irwin Central Garden will focus on a sensorial connection with nature, viewing the garden as living art, and learning about California native wildflowers. Visitors will have the opportunity to meditate with a tree in "Resonant Exchange," featuring a unique immersive experience using a multi-speaker sound installation. A talk with artist Aroussiak Gabrielian will explore ethical models for living from her forthcoming book and design series, "Near-Extinction Rituals."

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive.

For a complete list of programs with event dates and times, visit getty.edu.

Join an Earth Day cleanup at Ocean Park

Branding Los Angeles is holding its fifth annual Earth Day Beach Clean-Up on Saturday, April 19, at Ocean Park in Santa Monica.

Participants will meet at 8 a.m. for coffee and pastries, and head to clean the beach from 9-

munity. The beach cleanup shows people can make a difference together.

All participants will receive a special Earth Day T-shirt. To sign up, visit brandinglosangeles.com/beach-clean-up.

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For more information please contact: Public Works (310) 285-1000 or askBH@Beverlyhills.org or BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/EARTHDAY

KBEV sweeps state SkillsUSA Competition

Beverly Hills High School's Broadcast Journalism program has once again demonstrated its dominance, sweeping the podium at the 2025 SkillsUSA California State Competition in video news produc-

tion with gold, silver and bronze wins.

Earning gold, the team of Perry Gilardian, Jason Maybaum, Nora Nikfarjam and Aaron Gabayan will go on to represent California at the

SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in June in Atlanta, Georgia.

The silver team included Zachary Hasson, Noam Albou, Chloe Emrani and Sophia Saidian, followed by the bronze team of Deborah Cohen, Gunnar Walmsley, Josh Albou and Saanvi Jha.

The clean sweep continues a remarkable nine-year winning streak for BHHS Broadcast Journalist students at SkillsUSA, further solidifying Beverly Hills High School's reputation for producing top-tier student journalists. The program, led by longtime CTE teacher Romeo Carey, remains a cornerstone of hands-on media education at BHHS.

"Our students continue to raise the standard for excellence," BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. "I'm incredibly proud of the focus and professionalism they brought to this year's competition."

For information, visit bhuds.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Student journalists from Beverly Hills High School finished in first, second and third place at the 2025 SkillsUSA California State Competition.

Beverly Hills High School premieres 'Mary Poppins'

Beverly Hills High School's Performing Arts Department brought the magic of "Mary Poppins" to life this spring in a dazzling, full-scale production that marked the school's first staging of the beloved musical. The production united students from across the department, including theater, band, orchestra and technical crew, in a stunning showcase of collaboration, creativity and school pride.

Performances were held at the Saban Theatre, where audiences were treated to extraordinary vocals, choreography, scenic design, lighting and a live student-performed orchestral score. Every element of the production was powered by student talent, guided by the BHHS Performing Arts faculty.

"This production of "Mary Poppins" was not only technically and artistically impressive, it was deeply meaningful for our school community," BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. "It brought together so many students, on stage, behind the scenes and in the orchestra, and reminded us all what can be achieved through dedication, teamwork and the arts."

Opening night was made especially memorable with the return of BHHS alumnus Robbie Sherman (class of 1986), son and nephew of the legendary Sherman Brothers, Robert B. Sherman and Richard M. Sherman. Both were also BHHS graduates and the original songwriters.

ers behind "Mary Poppins". Robbie Sherman's visit was a powerful moment of connection between

BHHS history and the next generation of creators.

For information, visit bhuds.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

BHHS students performed the iconic musical "Mary Poppins" at the Saban Theatre.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Beverly Hills students visited the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency on an international trip.

BHHS and BVMS students explore STEM in Japan

Twenty exceptional students from Beverly Hills High School and Beverly Vista Middle School had the opportunity to travel to Japan for a dynamic 10-day international learning experience that combined science, technology, engineering and mathematics with rich cultural immersion.

The program, which ran from March 26-April 4, took students across Tokyo, Tsukuba and beyond, where they engaged in hands-on learning at world-renowned science and technology centers, explored historic landmarks and expanded their global awareness through direct cultural exchange.

Students toured cutting-edge robotics labs, visited the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan), and experienced the future of aerospace exploration at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. At each stop, they engaged with scientists and engineers, observed

real-time innovation and gained insight into global STEM career pathways.

Beyond the labs, students explored the heart of Japanese culture – from the bustling Shibuya Crossing and serene Senso-ji Temple in Tokyo to a high-speed bullet train ride to Kyoto. They participated in traditional arts such as sushi-making, walked the iconic Fushimi Inari Shrine path and deepened their understanding of Japanese history at the Edo-Tokyo Museum.

"This program is a powerful example of how BHUSD brings learning to life beyond the classroom," BHUSD director of teaching and learning Dr. Mike Sherman said. "Our students not only expanded their STEM knowledge, but also developed the global perspective and cultural literacy essential for thriving in the world ahead."

For information, visit bhuds.org.

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Holy Thursday, 4/17: 7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's

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Good Friday, 4/18: 12 PM Stations of the Cross &

Meditations on the Seven Last Words

2 PM & 7:30 PM The Lord's Passion & Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday, 4/19: 7:30 PM Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, 4/20: 8 AM, 10 AM, 12 PM

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Contest invites young people to submit unique photos



photo courtesy of Mount of Angels

Children and teens can receive prizes in the photo contest, which showcases creativity.

Mount of Angels, a nonprofit dedicated to fostering creativity and artistic expression among young people, is holding the first L.A. Youth Photography Competition, which is open to all children and teens across Los Angeles.

The competition offers a unique opportunity for young photographers to showcase their talent, gain exposure and have their work displayed in a professional gallery. Entering the contest is free and submissions are open through June 1.

The competition invites young people to electronically submit original photographs. The theme is "Resilience – Post Fire Life in L.A." However, young people are welcome to submit photos on other topics.

Selected submissions (based on available space) will be printed in large format, professionally framed and featured in a gallery exhibition where the public can vote on their favorite pieces. Winners will receive prizes, and all participants will be recognized for creativity and artistic vision.

"Photography is a powerful way for young artists to tell their stories and share how they see the world," said Jesse Cohen, founder of Mount of Angels. "We want to create an inclusive platform where every child has the chance to express themselves without the traditional barriers to entry in the art world."

For information and to enter the contest, visit mountofangels.com/photo-contest.

BHHS senior to attend University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Beverly Hills High School announced that Daniel Salkin, a standout member of the class of 2025, will be attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Salkin will major in computer engineering at one of the nation's top-ranked engineering programs.

Over the past four years, Salkin dove headfirst into nearly every facet of campus life – symphonic band, wrestling, advanced culinary arts, robotics and theater stage design – leaving his mark in every space he entered. He also served as president of MOR-TORQ, the school's award-win-

ning Robotics Team, where he guided peers through the Robotics Capstone class with innovation, determination and collaborative spirit.

From programming robots and designing theatrical sets to crafting gourmet dishes in advanced culinary arts, Salkin brought thoughtfulness, focus and heart to all he pursued, while balancing a rigorous AP course load.

"Daniel's passion, balance and perseverance have been truly inspiring to witness," BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said.

For information, visit bhhsd.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD
Daniel Salkin will study computer engineering at the university in Illinois.

El Rodeo hosts first Fun Run

On April 11, El Rodeo Elementary School celebrated a meaningful milestone with the return of the beloved Fun Run – the first held on campus since the school's reconfiguration as a full elementary site.

Students from transitional kindergarten through 5th grade took to the field with energy and enthusiasm, running lap after lap amid cheers

from staff, families and volunteers. The event marked a joyful reconnection with tradition and a powerful reflection of El Rodeo's school spirit.

"Today wasn't just about the run, it was about being together, with our students leading the way," principal Sarah Kaber said. "This is the kind of moment that reminds us why community matters."

Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles
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K-EXHIBITION



Special Exhibition by the National Academy of Arts, Republic of Korea

- ✓ April 10th ~ May 15th
- ✓ KCCLA Art Gallery
- ✓ WALK-IN

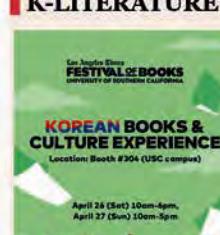
K-CULTURE



CSUSB Korean Festival 2025

- In Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of CSUSB's Korean Festival, enjoy **Kimchi Making**, **exhibition and live performances**
- ✓ April 18th, 2:30 PM
- ✓ Conference Center, SMSU North
- ✓ CSUSB Website RSVP

K-LITERATURE



Korean Books & Culture Experience

- KCCLA is participating in **2025 LA Times Festival of Books**. Expect Korean Book Exhibition, Culture Experience, Book Signing and more.
- ✓ April 26th - 27th
- ✓ USC (Booth #304)
- ✓ WALK-IN

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photo by Mark Von Holden/Invasion for the Television Academy/AP Content Services
Sarah Catherine Hook, right, presented the Commercial, PSA or Promo Award to Brigham Young University students Ben Thorneck, Mia Shumway and Annie Ebert.

Students take home college Emmys

The Television Academy Foundation announced the winners of the 44th College Television Awards on April 5, which recognize and reward excellence in student-produced programs from colleges nationwide, at a star-studded awards presentation at the Saban Media Center in North Hollywood.

"The College Television Awards celebrate the next generation of storytellers, and this year's winners have demonstrated exceptional creativity, innovation and dedication to their craft," said Tina Perry, chair of the Television Academy Foundation. "Their work reflects the future of our

industry, and we are honored to recognize their achievements. The foundation remains committed to fostering emerging talent, and we look forward to seeing these students shape the future of television."

Emulating the Emmy Awards selection process, entries for the College Television Awards were judged by Television Academy members. Top honors and a \$3,000 cash prize went to winning teams in seven categories, including animation series, comedy series, news and sports. For a full list of winners and information, visit televisionacademy.com/cta.



INTRODUCING

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Pink's debuts at L.A. Zoo

Pink's Hot Dogs opened a new location at the Los Angeles Zoo on April 11. The partnership between the zoo and Pink's brings the world-famous hot dogs to more than 1.5 million annual zoo visitors.

"The Los Angeles Zoo and Pink's Hot Dogs are both deeply rooted in Los Angeles' history and culture, and this partnership is one that I believe every Angeleno will enjoy," Zoo Director and CEO Denise Verret said. "One of the greatest aspects of the zoo is that we are uniquely L.A., and there is no better place for one of L.A.'s leg-

endary eateries that has been a staple in our community for more than 85 years."

Pink's Hot Dogs opened at La Brea and Melrose avenues in 1939. The stand offers a wide variety of hot dogs and hamburgers, many named after celebrities who have dined at the legendary establishment. Actress and Los Angeles Zoo supporter Betty White was a frequent customer, and Pink's named a hot dog in her honor in 2010.

"Pink's Hot Dogs does not open locations just anywhere. The L.A. Zoo is a treasured institution in the

Los Angeles community, and the marriage of our two brands is a perfect fit," Pink's Hot Dogs owner Richard Pink said. "Pink's has been a supporter and partner to the zoo for many years, and now we'll be able to offer everyone who visits the zoo items from our one-of-a-kind menu that's made us famous."

Located adjacent to the zoo's new Cape Vulture Plaza, Pink's new location offers staple menu items and favorites such as the famous chili dog, the Guadalajara Dog and of course, the Betty White Dog.

The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive, in Griffith Park. For information, visit lazoo.org and pinkshollywood.com.



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo

Customers can visit Pink's at the new stand adjacent to the zoo's Cape Vulture Plaza.

Miracle Mile Chamber welcomes guests to evening social at Du-Par's Restaurant

The Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce is holding its April Evening Social Event at Du-par's Restaurant and Bakery on Thursday

April 24, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The chamber of commerce supports owner Francis Tario and Dupar's, an L.A. institution located

at the Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax. Join chamber members and the community for dinner.

Du-par's Restaurant and Bakery is located at 6333 W. Third St. RSVP requested by Wednesday, April 23, by emailing info@miraclenmilechamber.org.

The Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce is also asking people to save the date for its late afternoon Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, April 29, with Salt and Straw and Holy Grail Doughnuts. The event includes ice cream, coffee, doughnuts, a cookbook release and raffle at Salt & Straw, 240 N. Larchmont Blvd. More details will be announced soon.

For information, email info@miraclenmilechamber.org.



photo courtesy of the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce

package will enjoy complimentary access to the petting zoo, where they can interact with rabbits, sheep, ducks and more furry friends just in time for Easter.

For information and to make a reservation, visit thegrovela.com/reservation/#id=meet-the-easter-bunny. The Grove is located at 189 The Grove Drive.



photo courtesy of Caruso

Enjoy the Bunny Bungalow before Easter season ends.

Straight TALK with Sharona



THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025
5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Join us in-person for a special monthly interactive discussion with Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian at City Hall!

This is an opportunity to ask questions and share your thoughts about what is happening in our community.

Your voice matters!

Mayor Nazarian will be joined by City staff who will present helpful solutions to work toward a safer, healthier and more vibrant Beverly Hills.

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VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE!

? To submit your questions in advance, email StraightTalkWithSharona@beverlyhills.org

↗ For more information and to attend virtually, visit beverlyhills.org/straighttalk

POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between April 6 and April 12. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

April 6

At 4:43 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

April 7

At 1:43 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7500 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 4:32 a.m.

At 11:16 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Holloway and Almont.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 11:50 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 2 p.m.

At 3:08 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8700 block of Melrose at 6:30 p.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 200 block of S. Beverly at 4:07 p.m.

April 9

At 1:53 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

April 10

At 4:07 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9600 block of Brighton.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo at 1:15 p.m.

At 5:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 6:10 p.m.

April 11

At 9:45 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near North Santa Monica and Cañon.

April 12

At 9:06 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of S. Wetherly.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

April 6

At 2:10 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 300 block of

N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary in the 7300 block of Santa Monica at 2:45 p.m.

April 7

At 1:43 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7500 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 4:32 a.m.

At 11:16 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Holloway and Almont.

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An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8700 block of Melrose at 6:30 p.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

April 8

An unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary in the 8700 block of Sunset at 11:30 a.m.

At 5:40 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 900 block of N. Larrabee.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 10:45 p.m.

April 9

At 7:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8500 block of Sunset at 8:30 p.m.

At 8:54 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

April 10

At 8:39 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1100 block of Clark.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 800 block of West Knoll at noon.

At 4:55 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Clinton and Kings.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 8:24 p.m.

April 11

At 11:09 p.m., an unknown sus-

BHPD targets impaired drivers at checkpoint

The Beverly Hills Police Department held a DUI checkpoint from 8 p.m. on April 11 until 2 a.m. the following morning at North Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Drive.

A total of 1,630 vehicles passed through the checkpoint and 206 were screened. One driver was arrested for driving under the influence, and four drivers were cited for driving without a license.

The locations of DUI checkpoints are determined based on incidents of impaired driving-related crashes. Funding for the checkpoint was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



photo courtesy of the BHPD

Officers screened 206 vehicles at the checkpoint on April 11.

Court launches new web portal to make jury duty easier

The Los Angeles County Superior Court has unveiled a completely redesigned online jury duty portal, providing jurors with a more streamlined user-centric experience with the ability to register for jury duty on any device, locate courthouses and jury assembly rooms with tailored directions and know exactly what is expected of them along each phase of service.

"Jurors play a vital role in upholding a justice system that is fair, equitable and just," Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II said. "The court's mission – to ensure equal access to justice by resolving cases fairly, efficiently and promptly – would not be possible without their invaluable service. Redesigning our portal to inform court users about the jury process has been a key priority. We hope the new, user-focused features will give jurors the support they need – whether on call or reporting to the courthouse."

Using the redesigned My Jury Duty Portal, available at lacourt.org/jury, prospective jurors can register for jury duty on any computer or smartphone, check-in for service, make requests to be excused, and postpone or transfer service to a different courthouse with greater efficiency. Prospective jurors are also provided with reporting instructions, a checklist to pre-

pare for service and the option to sign-up for text or email notifications or download reminders about their service to personal calendars.

If prospective jurors are asked to report to one of the court's 28 courthouses that assemble jury panels, they can use the portal's new features to map out the best route from their home to the courthouse, learn about nearby parking options and locate the jury assembly room inside the courthouse. The portal also provides a list of frequently asked questions with helpful answers that correspond with each stage of service.

"Jurors are a cornerstone of the justice system and out of gratitude for jurors' time and service, the court has strived to create a more efficient experience for jurors by providing helpful tools they can utilize from the moment they receive their summons until their jury service is complete," Executive Officer/Clerk of Court David W. Slayton said. "The portal's new features are designed to give jurors all the information they need at their fingertips to know exactly what their responsibilities are during each phase of their jury service."

For additional support, a new interactive chatbot provides court users with another resource that provides personalized answers to

commonly asked questions. Integrated directly with the My Jury Duty Portal, the new chatbot can register court users for jury service, postpone or make requests to transfer service and provide additional answers, depending on the user's preferences.

Jurors may also continue to register for jury duty by phone by calling (213)972-0970. To access the new online portal, visit lacourt.org/jury.

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.

Police search for hit-and-run driver

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department's West Traffic Division are asking for the public's help in identifying a driver involved in a hit-and-run traffic collision in Koreatown that severely injured a pedestrian.

On Dec. 22 around 2:35 a.m., a newer model white sedan was traveling northbound on Catalina Street approaching Wilshire Boulevard when it struck a pedestrian who was crossing from the west side of the street. The pedestrian was in the northbound lanes of Catalina Street when the collision occurred. The driver failed to stop, identify themselves and render aid, as required by law. The vehicle was last seen traveling north on Catalina Street.

pect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 8:24 p.m.

At 4:55 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Clinton and Kings.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 8:24 p.m.

At 11:09 p.m., an unknown sus-

Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and transported the 29-year-old male pedestrian to a hospital.

Motorists are reminded that if they are involved in a collision, they must pull over and stop as soon as possible, notify emergency services and remain at the scene. Pedestrians are reminded that they must obey all traffic laws and cross the street only when it is safe.

Police have released video of the vehicle involved in the collision at youtu.be/mMJUuMZF1gWc. Anyone with information is asked to contact West Traffic Division Detective David Holmes at (213)473-0238. During weekends and off hours, call (877)LAPD247.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 9:30 p.m.

At 9:35 p.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 N. Robertson at 11 p.m.

The Broad marks 10th anniversary with dramatic expansion

The Broad broke ground on a major expansion project on April 9 that will dramatically increase the number of works in the collection on view, offer dynamic new experiences and heighten the museum's live programming.

Joined by museum and civic leaders, artists, community organizations and grand opening sponsor East West Bank, the event marked the beginning of a new chapter for the museum. The expanded space is scheduled to open in 2028 before the Olympic Games, and general admission will continue to be free.

The groundbreaking ceremony included Joanne Heyler, founding director and president of The Broad, and philanthropist Edythe L. Broad, co-founder of museum. It took place on the site of the expansion, adjacent to The Broad's existing building at 221 S. Grand Ave. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, L.A. County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, 1st District, and L.A. City Councilwoman Ysabel Jurado, 14th District, joined Dominic Ng, chairman and CEO of East West Bank, and Elizabeth Diller of Diller Scofidio + Renfro, to mark the start of construction.

"This new building reinforces a core belief in access to art that has guided The Broad's approach in our first decade, extends the vibrant experience visitors enjoy today, and introduces entirely new ways for people to engage with the collection," Heyler said. "The design uses the visual language of the vault to create public space, a gesture which aligns with The Broad's institutional ethos of changing how museums welcome the public."

The project will significantly increase the number of works on view from the Broad collection of contemporary art and add fresh visitor experiences. Designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, the architects for the original building, the expansion opens a new perspective on the "veil and vault" concept DS+R introduced in 2015, with the building's iconic white honeycomb "veil" enveloping the art storage "vault," the sculptural grey core. The expansion symbolically pulls the vault out from the veil and opens it to the public.

"I consider these buildings to be siblings, not clones, with a shared DNA but expressing unique charac-

teristics that enhance the visitor's experience of the pair," said Elizabeth Diller, architect of The Broad's existing building and the expansion. "By turning the vault inside out, the expansion will present new ways for visitors to directly engage with the art in smaller, more focused galleries or through serendipitous encounters with art in storage while preserving the intuitive logic of the original museum."

New outdoor courtyards will open and an innovative art storage gallery will invite visitors into areas traditionally kept out of view. The new building will increase gallery space by 70%. Construction begins as The Broad enters its 10th anniversary year and welcomes nearly one million visitors annually.

"It has been wonderful to see so many people enjoying art at The Broad," Broad said. "It has succeeded beyond my and Eli's wildest dreams. Expanding the museum reflects our belief in the importance of art as a resource for everyone and in the vision Eli and I shared for Los Angeles as a world art capital."

The Broad collection, comprising more than 2,000 artworks from the 1950s to present day, includes works by influential artists such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Jeff Koons, Barbara Kruger, Roy Lichtenstein, Takashi Murakami, Cindy Sherman, Kara



photo by Jojo Korsh, courtesy of The Broad

Leaders came together for the ground breaking ceremony including Elizabeth Diller, left, of Diller Scofidio + Renfro; L.A. City Councilwoman Ysabel Jurado; Mayor Karen Bass; Joanne Heyler, founding director and president of The Broad; Edythe L. Broad, co-founder of The Broad; County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and Dominic Ng, chairman and CEO of East West Bank.

Walker and Andy Warhol. New gallery space will create an opportunity to show more of the museum's holdings simultaneously, as well as acquisitions never previously displayed. An unprecedented experience of art storage will invite visitors to circulate among painting racks on the expansion's second floor. The Broad's signature live programming, which creates entry points to the col-

lection and exhibitions, will have a dedicated space on the first floor of the new building. L.A. Intersections, which highlights under-recognized music and performance scenes unique to the city, will continue through the opening of the expansion.

For information, visit thebroad.org.

Establishing a Family Trust

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

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partner with you to help ensure that your assets are ultimately distributed according to your wishes.

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KCCLA joins Festival of Books on April 26-27

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles will participate in the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on April 26-27 on the USC campus.

KCCLA will host a booth introducing Korean literature to the public. Hosted annually, the festival attracts more than 150,000 visitors



Authors Paula Yoo, left, Rosa Kwon Easton, Ann Suk Wang and Susie Yi will share insights on their work and sign books at the event.

and features more than 500 publishers, libraries and literary and cultural institutions.

KCCLA's booth (#304) will be located at Founders Park on the USC campus. It will showcase a wide range of Korean books and offer interactive programs where visitors can experience Korean cul-

ture. Highlights include exhibitions of Korean literature and picture books, as well as book signings with Korean American authors.

The Korean literature exhibit will feature works by recent Nobel Prize laureate Han Kang, as well as books by internationally acclaimed authors such as Bora Chung, Sang Young Park, Hwang Sok-yong and Cheon Myeong-kwan.

In collaboration with the Korean Picture Book Publishing Association, approximately 30 Korean picture books and original illustrations will be displayed. Picture book-themed merchandise will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis to early visitors.

A variety of cultural experiences are planned. Visitors can try on hanbok (Korean traditional clothing) at a free photo event, and experience Korean calligraphy by writing their names in Hangul (Korean letters). In partnership with the Korea Tourism Organization and the King Sejong Institute, special promotions will be offered highlighting Korean

teers and will be open for an extra hour until 4 p.m.

For information and to register,

visit donate.healthebay.org/event/earth-month-nothin-but-sand-april-2025/e664911.



photo courtesy of Heal the Bay

Volunteers are sought for the April 19 beach cleanup.

Help Heal the Bay clean the beach

Join Heal the Bay in improving the resiliency of Los Angeles' watersheds at the "Nothin' But Sand" Beach Cleanup on Saturday, April 19. Every gloved hand on the sand, every advocate trained and every dollar raised brings Heal the Bay closer to a climate-resilient future. Volunteers will directly help rid beaches of harmful plastic pollution and advocate for impactful, lasting change for the Los Angeles community.

The "Nothin' But Sand" Beach Cleanup runs from 10 a.m. to noon on Santa Monica Beach, north of the pier. All are welcome to join the beautification effort and remove hundreds of pounds of harmful marine debris. All volunteers must check-in; rolling check-in will continue until 11 a.m. All volunteers must sign a waiver.

The Heal the Bay Aquarium will be discounted for all cleanup volun-

teers, Harvard-Westlake School, The Buckley School, Santa Monica Preparatory School, de Toledo High School, New Roads School, Sierra Canyon School, Viewpoint High School and Windward School in the Los Angeles area, as well as Somerville High School in New Jersey and Mott Hall High School in New York City.

Filmmakers and their family members will walk a red carpet. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. The program, films and awards ceremony start at 1 p.m. The James Bridges Theatre at UCLA is located at 235 Charles E. Young Drive East. The event is free, but tickets are required. For information and tickets, visit friendsofsemelinstitute.org/film-festival.

Festival recognizes teen films focusing on mental health

The UCLA Friends of Semel Institute is hosting its fifth annual film festival on Sunday, April 27, at 1 p.m. in the James Bridges Theatre at UCLA.

The film festival raises awareness about teen mental health. The films are submitted by high school students from across the country and address the teen mental health crisis.

The National Institute of Mental Health reported in 2024 that approximately 20.1% of U.S. adolescents ages 12-17 experienced at least one major depressive episode in the past year, with girls (29.2%) being more affected than boys (11.5%).

The 13 finalists in the film festival include students from Marlborough School, Arcadia High

'The Pitt' revives the weekly event series

Remember how TV series like "Lost," "Breaking Bad" and "The Office" coaxed folks to gather weekly for viewing parties? Then came the Netflix model: drop the entire season all at once. But the definition of a season thinning out, as if BBC's micro episode counts, should be the norm for all.

It worked for a time, but the gaps between each season keep growing wider, and payoffs feel less satisfying. Medical drama "The Pitt" presents something new as it borrows from something old: a longer season on a streamer that releases each week without any delays or breaks for holidays.

This is thrilling event television that transforms Thursday into "Pitt" day. And hey, if you still prefer that all-at-once method of delivery, the 15-episode season just finished. It's binge-worthy, yes, but letting each

emotionally charged, visceral and raw episode fester until the next one is an incomparable experience.

Here's the premise. The day shift prepares to start its 12-hour shift at Pittsburg Medical Trauma Center. It's 7 a.m., and Dr. Robby (Noah Wyle) is about to kick off another likely busy day in the emergency department and meet new medical hopefuls, some more green than others. Interns Victoria (Shabana Azeez), Trinity (Isa Briones) and Dennis (Gerran Howell) all know enough on paper, but the day will push them in ways they could never prepare for. Another newcomer, resident Mel (Taylor Dearden, providing one of the best performances in the cast), must shadow senior resident Langdon (Patrick Ball).

These new faces are quickly sutured into the various moving parts of the pit, a common nick-

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

name for EDs. Plagiarizing the structure of "24," each episode depicts one hour of the day shift. (Don't spoil why there are 15 episodes despite a 12-hour shift.)

Unlike medical dramas on free-to-air networks, "The Pitt" need not hold back. Just out of patient earshot, medical practitioners curse. Patient nudity is a possibility. And some emergencies are incredibly violent, ranging from third-degree burns and bone dislocations to collapsed lungs and complications during labor.

This is not an easy viewing experience. Besides mature content, some episodes are emotionally draining. Dr. Robby often delivers news that snuffs out family members' last sliver of hope. But don't expect the series' scoring to tell you how to feel. Gavin Brivik's moody sounds rarely interrupt the silence. Frankly, the residual noise from heart monitors is more common.

Wyle's performance is incredible. Following "E.R.," he dabbled in cable TV (several TNT projects) but nothing as intense or charged as this. Wyle's Dr. Robby is a brilliant medical mind and teacher, though breaking bad news and coping with the anniversary of a loss are all heading somewhere bad.

We meet several others along the



photo courtesy of Max

Dr. Robby (Noah Wyle), left, and his team face a host of challenges in the medical drama "The Pitt."

way, including charge nurse Dana (Katherine LaNasa), senior resident Dr. Collins (Tracy Ifeachor), third-year Dr. Mohan (Supriya Ganesh) and second-year Dr. McKay (Fiona Dourif), who rocks incredible bedside manner and an ankle monitor for an unclear reason. Still more supporting characters appear from the ranks of surgeons, security, EMTs, nurses, social workers, patients and the occasional higher-up.

Think about all the medical dramas airing right now or recently. "Grey's Anatomy," "Chicago Med," "The Good Doctor," "Doctor Odyssey." Rarely are these primetime offerings rooted in reality. They operate more like mysteries of the week. And they always drench each episode in personal drama and melodramatics that soften the medical side of the story.

"The Pitt" certainly concerns

itself with the human equation but it operates more like "Mad Max: Fury Road." We learn about everyone during a very stressful time with minimal breaks. This greatly differs from "E.R.," which featured a much younger Wyle and two of the series' bigwigs, exec John Wells and showrunner R. Scott Gemmill.

It also covers many timely events — vaccinations, addiction, drug use, abortion, shootings — but don't expect any special episodes. Things move too quickly in the pit for grandstanding or preaching. But Dr. Robby lets slip the occasional truths on his way to the next patient's bed.

"The Pitt" is all heart, all thrills, all business. The Max series ends on a high that other showmakers will hopefully learn from. If not, at least season 2 will arrive in January, depicting a shift during the Fourth of July. What could go wrong?



photo courtesy of Max

"The Pitt" takes viewers into the fast-paced world of working in an emergency department.

Hollywood Queer Festival accepting entries

The 10th annual Hollywood Queer Short Film Festival is now accepting early bird submissions. Submitted films should be 30 minutes or less, and must include queer content.

The festival will screen again this year on Oct. 4 and 5 at Founders Metropolitan Community Church in Hollywood. Selected Short Films will be presented in four programs reflecting our immense and diverse queer community.

Filmmakers can submit their live action or animated films online at filmfreeway.com. An experienced selection committee will then select the approximately forty films to be exhibited at the event.

"This year our festival is of particular importance, as it constitutes an act of resistance against the fascist government that wants to erase all things queer from the national consciousness," said festival director Jim Hoffman. The

festivals theme this year, Hoffman added, is "Visibility is Resistance."

"As was the case last year," Hoffman said, "Film festival behemoth Outfest will be offering less than its usual extensive schedule. There has been no official word, but there's no mention at the Outfest website of their traditional summer festival, nor any announcements of the Outfest Fusion QTBIPOC Film Festival, which emphasizes films by and about people of color. This means many films will get their only exposure to the Los Angeles market through our festival. We are aware that this puts our festival in a unique position. We take this responsibility very seriously."

For information, visit the HQSFF website at hqsff.com. Founders Metropolitan Community Church is located at 4607 Prospect Ave.

El Capitan hosts anniversary engagement of 'Star Wars: Episode III'

"Star Wars: Episode III-Revenge of the Sith" returns to the El Capitan Theatre from April 24-30 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the film.

Guests can take photographs at a themed photo op and purchase specialty concessions. Also, experience "The Prequel Trilogy" with an exclusive marathon on Thursday, April 24, at 3 p.m. Guests will see the three "Star Wars" prequel movies on the big screen, beginning with "Star Wars: Episode I-The Phantom Menace," followed by "Star Wars: Episode II-Attack of the Clones" and "Star Wars Episode: III-Revenge of the Sith." Tickets are \$50 and include a collectible tin with all-you-can-eat popcorn, three fountain drinks and event credential.

Guests can also experience a fan event screening of "Star Wars: Episode III-Revenge of the Sith" on Friday April 25, at 8:30 p.m. featuring a Galactic DJ Party. Tickets start at \$30.

Daily showtimes are at 10 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. The El Capitan

Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd. For information, visit elcapitantheatre.com.



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Hayden Christensen stars in "Star Wars: Episode III-Revenge of the Sith," which returns from April 24-30.

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Pan Pacific has no egg shortage

Families flocked to the Pan Pacific Park Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 5, where approximately 400 children participated in egg hunts, games and crafts. The event was organized by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Food and prizes were donated by local businesses.



photo courtesy of Stefani Poretz

Summer camp director Samantha Reffett, left, and recreation coordinator Floyd Thweatt joined community volunteer Stefani Poretz and Pan Pacific Park senior recreation director Eric Calhoun at the family-friendly event.

WeHo plants a tree for Earth Day

West Hollywood's 2025 annual tree planting event is set for Saturday, April 19 at 9 a.m., adjacent to the Plummer Park Tennis Courts located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

The city will replace a tree recently lost during the extreme windstorms experienced in January. The tree species selected for this year's celebration is the weeping bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*). Widely planted throughout Southern California, the tree species is native to Australia. The weeping bottlebrush

is a rounded, evergreen tree with a maximum height of 20 feet. It has a low water use rating and features vibrant red, bottlebrush-like flowers that attract hummingbirds and other pollinators. The weeping bottlebrush tree thrives in sunny locations.

The event will start with a short "how-to" planting session, followed by a discussion on the benefits trees provide to the urban environment. Community members are encouraged to join.

For information, visit weho.org/city-government/calendar.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Children with impaired vision enjoy fun Easter egg hunt



The Blind Children's Center held an Easter egg hunt for students in this photograph in the April 13, 2000, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. The center hid beeping eggs that enabled students to find them using their senses of hearing and touch instead of sight. The Blind Children's Center, located at 4120 Marathon St. in East Hollywood, continues to offer high-quality early childhood education programs for children ages 18 months to 5 years old with vision impairment. For information, visit blindchildrenscenter.org.

'Pulp Rock' run extended at CineVita

For The Record, the groundbreaking theatrical production company celebrated for its genre-bending live experiences, has extended "Tarantino | Pulp Rock" through May 25 at CineVita, the world's largest Spiegeltent at Hollywood Park. Due to overwhelming demand, performances will continue every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 6 p.m. There will be no shows on April 12, 13 and 20. The final performance, on Sunday, May 25, will begin at 8 p.m.

Since opening in February, more than 10,000 guests have experienced CineVita in person. Along the way, they've sipped over 2,000 "Once Upon a Lime in Mexico" cocktails, devoured more than 3,000 "Royales with Cheese," and been transported into the cinematic universe of Quentin Tarantino. Located at the epicenter of L.A. entertainment, the venue itself has become part of the show – guests

walk the red carpet under the glow of SoFi Stadium as they discover the magic of CineVita, a one-of-a-kind space that blends live performance, movie nostalgia and themed culinary experiences.

The debut show, "Tarantino | Pulp Rock," celebrates the 30th anniversary of "Pulp Fiction" and brings Quentin Tarantino's cinematic universe to life in a high-octane 360-degree concert experience. As the first production by For The Record, which pioneered the CinemaSound Live genre, the show intertwines iconic scenes and soundtracks from all nine of

Tarantino's films – "Reservoir Dogs," "Pulp Fiction," "Kill Bill," "Jackie Brown," "Death Proof," "Inglourious Basterds," "Django Unchained," "The Hateful Eight" and "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" – reimaged and performed by a live band and cast of exceptional artists. Featuring songs like "Stuck in the Middle with You," "Son of a Preacher Man" and "Girl, You'll Be a Woman Soon," this experience blends Tarantino's thrilling music selections with beloved movie moments.

Tickets for the extended run are available at thecinevita.com. CineVita is located at 1248 District Drive, Inglewood.



photo by Steve Mazurek

CineVita is the largest Spiegeltent in the world.

Natural History Museum celebrates Earth Day

The Natural History Museum welcomes visitors to its annual Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 19, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. with a free, all-ages festival. The day of nature-themed programming includes hands-on activities, live musical performances, discussion

panels, nursery pop-ups and up-close encounters with NHM scientists showcasing behind-the-scenes museum collections.

In partnership with Nickelodeon Our World, this year's Earth Day festival will feature an opportunity to meet Bill Fagerbakke and



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

Visitors can meet costumed characters from "SpongeBob SquarePants" and the voice actors who bring them to life during NHM's Earth Day festivities.

Carolyn Lawrence, the voice actors for "SpongeBob SquarePants" characters Patrick Star and Sandy Cheeks. Visitors can dive into the "Science of SpongeBob" and discover the real-life science that inspired the show with a kid-friendly "DNA sequencing machine" and NHM's Marine Biodiversity Center. The event also includes photo opportunities with costumed characters and giveaways.

Timed activities will be held throughout the day; see scheduled for start times. In addition to timed programs, visitors can visit pop-ups throughout the museum and exhibitors stationed outdoors in the Nature Gardens. Pop-ups include live animal meet and greets and puppeteer walkabouts.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd. For information, visit nhm.org/earthday.

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Tax credits offer a lifeline to productions

From page 1

larly since the pandemic and 2023 SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikes, many production companies have chosen to film in other states, and even other countries, taking advantage of lucrative tax incentives. Georgia, for instance, has no cap on tax incentives for film and television productions.

On April 11, prior to the Film LA report, Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) held a press conference with union leaders from across the entertainment industry, advocating for the California Legislature to pass the bill, which would increase the \$330 million in tax incentives annually awarded to state productions to roughly \$750 million. The legislation would also expand the definition of what programs qualify, including series averaging at least 20 minutes in length, animated movies and series, and some competition shows. Previously, shorter series like sitcoms and animated projects were not a part of tax credit consideration.

"The entertainment industry is the key to California's economy," Friedman said. "It creates over 600,000 jobs and is [vital] to Silicon Valley and the creativity that industry relies on. It creates \$30 billion in economic impact annually ... and there's a \$100 billion tourism industry tied to our creative economy. So, our message today is that the entertainment industry is looking to all of the elected leaders, like myself, to work together to make Los Angeles the most filming-friendly location in the world. We are looking for

Hollywood, to the studios and producers, to commit to bringing production back to Los Angeles."

Friedman also said she is advocating for the creation of nationwide incentives at the federal level, in an attempt to keep American productions from moving out of the country.

"I will keep fighting for federal support, including common sense tax plans to keep the signature industry in America, not overseas, so that America can tell our stories of who we are to the world," Friedman said. "This is not just about nostalgia for Hollywood. It's about our families and it's about rebuilding. We cannot outsource L.A.'s talent. You cannot green screen the iconic locations that California offers."

The January wildfires have brought increased focus to declines in the Los Angeles film and TV industries, with hundreds of industry professionals displaced from their homes. The disaster prompted the creation of Stay in LA, a grassroots organization that aims to keep studios from basing productions in other cities.

"At the time, separate conversations were happening – one among writers and directors, and another among crew and commercial workers – about how deeply this would impact the production community," Stay in LA founder Pamela Buzick Kim said. "Being part of both groups, I was able to bring us together. We became a grassroots coalition of people in and around the industry who saw what was coming and

knew we had to act fast."

Stay in LA took off on social media.

"Our work started with awareness – amplifying how urgent the situation really was. From there, we moved into action: organizing rallies, speaking at City Council, meeting with legislators, testifying in Sacramento, writing letters and connecting with community leaders across California. We're focused on legislative impact, but also on showing the public how much this industry contributes to daily life in L.A." Buzick Kim said.

Part of Stay in LA's objective is to bring exposure to the local impacts of the film and television industry.

"This industry is the community. For every \$1 of production, \$1.07 comes back in direct tax revenue – and \$24 in broader economic impact. That goes to dry cleaners, restaurants, coffee shops, parking lots, local shops. Our kids go to school here. We pick up our dry cleaning here. We eat at mom-and-pop restaurants. And yes – we drink a lot of coffee. When production leaves L.A., the ripple effects hit everyone," Buzick Kim said.

Rabeyah Khan, an assistant location manager and member of Teamster Local 399, has worked on numerous large-scale productions.

"For the location department, our budgets are basically budgets that go directly to the community," Khan said. "We go to neighborhoods. We knock on doors. We pay residents [and] people impacted by funding. We pay schools. We pay churches to use their properties for parking. We



photo courtesy of the office of Laura Friedman

On April 11, Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) held a press conference with film and television union members, including Costume Designers Guild executive director Brigitta Romanov (right), advocating for incentives to bring production back to Los Angeles.

knock on all the business doors and we pay them for the inconvenience of filming or pay them for using their premises. And then we also employ the [Los Angeles Police Department] and the fire department. They have to be on set to help make sure everything is up to code and safe."

Buzick Kim said that location was one of the primary reasons why the industry settled in California.

"California has the most visually diverse topography in the country – beaches, mountains, cities, farmland, deserts, all within driving distance," she said. "That's part of why California built this legacy in the first place. If we can make it easier and more competitive to shoot here again, we all benefit."

Brigitta Romanov, the executive director of the Costume Designers Guild, said the situation in Los Angeles is "dire."

"This isn't just a slow period. This

is a crisis," Romanov said. "I know this firsthand. In under six months, I've lost over 200 members ... These are hardworking, skilled professionals who are now forced to rely on already overburdened systems like Medicaid, food stamps and, in some heartbreaking cases, even facing homelessness. We are not here asking for you to give us a handout. Give us help. We need a solution. The talent is here. The infrastructure is here. California built this industry, and now we must ensure that the studios don't turn their backs on the very people who sustained it."

"It is the life blood of the economy in Los Angeles," Friedman said. "It's the dream factory. It's why so many of us came here to Los Angeles for that dream, and we need to fight for it ... This credit is not going to George Clooney. It's not going to the big movie stars. It's to middle class, hard-working union members."

Hearings on Menendez resentencing begin

From page 1

murders, the resentencing motion was made without proper knowledge of the case and it was a political stunt by Gascón.

"This resentencing statute gives certain entities awesome powers ... It gives us a chance to recognize when someone has been truly rehabilitated," Balian said.

Balian went through the case in great detail, highlighting the brutality of the murders and the brothers' subsequent effort to hide their culpability. He displayed graphic photographs from the crime scene without warning – to which the brothers' attorney Mark Geragos objected.

"What is the relevance for today's proceeding?" Geragos asked. "Clearly this is irrelevant."

Geragos criticized the prosecutors' presentation as "outrageous," accusing the district attorney's office of "relitigating" the case and traumatizing family members who were present in the courtroom – all of whom want to see the brothers be released.

"This is a show proceeding put on by a D.A., frankly, who was elected as a throwback to the '90s," Geragos said, characterizing Hochman's approach as similar to "tough-on-crime" prosecutors of the 1980s and '90s.

In his presentation, Geragos pointed out the brothers' behavior in prison, with both taking on leadership roles in rehabilitation programs, engaging in community outreach initiatives and obtaining advanced degrees while incarcerated.

"One of the reasons they have garnered so much attention is the work they have done," Geragos said.

However, the prosecution disagreed with Geragos' assertion that they had been successfully rehabilitated. Echoing statements made by Hochman, Balian stated that the brothers had not owned up to their lies, and they had not demonstrated full "insight" into their actions.

"They haven't changed," Balian said. "They're the same people they were back then."

Although both sides characterized the other's argument as "political," Judge Michael Jesic rejected the notion that the situation was based on "political winds." However, he ultimately ruled against Hochman, stating that "no new information" was presented by the D.A.'s office.

"I don't believe there's enough basis to withdraw the petition," Jesic said.

Immediately following the ruling, Geragos and family members of Erik and Lyle Menendez held a press conference outside the courtroom, where they praised the judge's decision as a win for the brothers.

"Today is a good day. Today's ruling affirmed something that should never have been in question – the facts, fairness and the law still matter. The court made clear that this process isn't about politics. It's about truth, it's about justice and it's about giving people the chance to show who they are now, not just who they were in their worst moment," said Anamaria Baralt, cousin of Erik and Lyle Menendez.

In a statement released on April 11, Hochman said his office is prepared to move forward with the resentencing hearings, thanked the prosecutors involved and reiterated

his position.

"These murders were calculated, premeditated, cold-blooded killings," Hochman said. "Our position remains clear – until the Menendez brothers finally come clean with all their lies of self-defense and suborn and attempting to suborn perjury, they are not rehabilitated and pose an unreasonable risk of danger to public safety."

On Sunday, April 13 – two days after the hearing – José Menendez' sister Terry Baralt collapsed in her hotel room and was hospitalized, according to the family.

In a statement, her family members blamed the district attorney's office for her medical emergency, and demanded that the office be removed from the case.

"No physical pain has ever kept her from being there for her nephews," the statement read. "But the display put on by the D.A.'s office pushed her past the brink."

While the coming hearing will determine whether the brothers will receive a reduced prison sentence, Erik and Lyle Menendez also face another possible pathway to freedom. On Feb. 26, Gov. Gavin Newsom directed the California Board of Parole Hearings to conduct a risk assessment investigation for the brothers. The direction is in response to a request for clemency from the brothers' attorneys, and is the first step in a possible pardon of the brothers.

Newsom said there is "no guarantee of outcome," and noted that the investigation is a necessary step before he can make "any determination" on clemency.

The parole board will hold a hearing for each brother on June 13.

Easter services welcome residents

From page 1

of God is present, sustaining each one of us and offering renewal. We walk together in a tradition of ancient worship, surrounded by uplifting sacred music and prayers. This Easter, you're welcome [at] All Saints' to experience the constant, unchanging love of God, to be renewed in faith and to share in the joy of the resurrection."

With the country embroiled in continued political divides, worldwide conflicts that have local repercussions and economic uncertainty, faith leaders see the holiday as an opportunity for their communities to come together in fellowship.

"The message of Easter is vital in this moment as people face anxiety, fear and uncertainty," said Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner, senior pastor at Hollywood United Methodist Church. "It is why the church has been telling this story for over 2,000 years, because the need for the belief that life can triumph over death, and hope can triumph over despair is as fresh and necessary today as it has ever been."

Hollywood United Methodist Church, located at 6817 Franklin Ave., will hold two Easter services on April 20 at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

"We also remember at Easter how important it is to believe in women, because the message of the resurrection was first proclaimed by the women," Adair Bonner said. "If you are looking for a reason to believe in the power of love and community, if you need your tank filled to have

perseverance for the journey ahead, then we hope that you will join us Sunday morning."

Cathedral Chapel of St. Vibiana, located at 923 S. La Brea Ave., will start its Easter celebration with a 7:30 p.m. Holy Thursday, April 17, service, marking the mass of the Lord's Supper. Good Friday services will be held at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. A vigil of Easter service will follow on April 19 at 7:30 p.m., and three Easter services will occur at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon on April 20. Cathedral Chapel School, located at 755 S. Cochran Ave., will then hold an Easter egg hunt from 1-3 p.m., which will also include a bounce house, petting zoo and photo booth.

"This Easter is marked by a special Holy Year celebrating the Jubilee 2025," Cathedral Chapel's parish business manager Nancy G. Sheehan said. "Pope Francis proclaimed the theme of the Jubilee Year as 'Pilgrims of Hope.' In a world where there is so much burden from global conflicts and violence, this Jubilee year reminds us that Christ is life and a source of 'hope that does not disappoint.' Cathedral Chapel of St. Vibiana church has been a source of hope for the community for 97 years."

Many other Easter services will be held in the area, including at St. Ambrose in West Hollywood at 10 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills will have 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon gatherings, and First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood will meet at 11 a.m.

Wire thefts cause community crime concerns

From page 4

Street Lighting were not available for further comment, according to a spokesperson who provided the report. The city of Los Angeles has approximately 223,000 street lights. The city allocates approximately \$43.5 million annually for streetlight maintenance and repairs. Repairs due to copper wire theft took an average of 15 weeks to complete in 23-24, according to the report.

"A single incidence of copper wire theft on one pole can take out an entire circuit of lights," the report stated.

Los Angeles Police Department officials are attempting to address crime issues caused by blackouts and alleviate resident concerns. Extra patrols are deployed in areas where streetlights are out and officers are looking for people tampering with equipment.

"When it's pitch black, it's really another place out there. When there are blackouts, we will place officers in the neighborhoods," said Lt. Mark Ro, with the LAPD's Wilshire Division. "As taxpayers, and I'm an L.A. city resident also, we all pay. When you think about the cost of repairs because people are stealing

wire, it makes your blood boil."

Ro said police have received reports about the people breaking into street lighting vaults in the ground and stealing wire, resulting in widespread outages. He said those thefts are being committed by more organized groups that have special tools to get into the vaults. The suspects often wear hard hats and safety vests and appear to be official. He cautioned people to call police if anything looks suspicious, such as contractors working on streetlights and vaults with no identification or signs on their vehicles.

Garcia said someone broke into multiple electrical vaults approximately a week ago near Cochran Avenue and Edgewood Place, causing streetlights to go dark in the area. She said residents are worried thieves are breaking into the vaults to purposely cause blackouts and commit burglaries.

"It's kind of frightening," she added. "I've been coordinating with our neighborhood watch block captains so everyone is aware. The LAPD is increasing their surveillance of the area."

Residents in Hancock Park have

also been impacted by streetlight copper wire thefts, and have reported them to the city. The Hancock Park Homeowners Association compiled a list of locations where streetlights are out and is requesting expedited repairs.

"Entire blocks have been out. It's just insane. We'll have a broken light, and when you look at neighbors' Ring cameras you can see people going down the streets in the middle of the night stealing copper wire," said Cindy Chvatal-Keane, president of the Hancock Park Homeowners Association. "They've all been reported. We are waiting on a plan for when the lights will be fixed. It's definitely a public safety issue."

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, is working on plans to address the streetlight outages in her district and get them repaired faster.

"It's something we are dealing with constantly," Yaroslavsky's spokesman Leo Daube said. "We are working on using discretionary funding for the streetlights to get them fixed."

Garcia said Yaroslavsky's office has been responsive to concerns



photo courtesy of Kari Garcia

Thieves recently broke into electrical vaults near Cochran Avenue and Edgewood Place, causing streetlight outages.

about the outages in the Miracle Mile and has helped coordinate repairs. Garcia is personally taking steps to help alleviate the problem more quickly by documenting all streetlights that are out in the MMRA's 60-block area and providing the list to the city.

"I put out a call to all our block captains to assess their areas. When

it comes to a safety issue, I can't turn away," Garcia added.

Residents can report a power outage to the LADWP by calling (800)DIALDWP. To report a broken streetlight, call the city of L.A.'s service request line at 311, use the MyLA 311 App or visit the L.A. Bureau of Street Lighting's website at lalights.lacity.org.

BHUSD appoints Cherniss as superintendent

From page 1

"another plus."

Stern said she initially voted against approving Cherniss as superintendent because she wanted to conduct a more extensive search process.

"Appointing the superintendent is perhaps one of the biggest responsibilities I've had in my tenure," Stern said. "Given the unprecedented and very recent changes we've experienced, it is prudent to be extra cautious and leave no stone unturned. I wanted to make sure I looked at everything provided to me and every source of information that was available to me and my colleagues."

However, she added that she believes Cherniss is well-qualified to lead the school district, given his previous experience as a superintendent and knowledge of BHUSD.

"I have no question that he is well-prepared," she said.

Cherniss previously served in BHUSD as a math teacher at Beverly Vista Middle School, Hawthorne School principal, BHUSD director of human resources and assistant superintendent of business services. Since leaving the district in 2012, Cherniss served as the chief business officer of the Los Angeles County Office of Education and superintendent for three districts: San Marino Unified School District, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School district and the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

In an interview, Cherniss highlighted his connection to Beverly Hills and expressed a commitment to preparing BHUSD students for careers of the future.

"When I was here, there was about 6,000 students, and now today, 15 years later, there's 3,000 students," Cherniss said. "My vision for the district is to utilize our resources as best we can to make this a very unique and innovative and forward-thinking school district. Because we have less kids, we have the resources to make it exceptional for every student. I want to focus on

preparing kids for jobs that don't exist yet ... Nowadays we have things coming in like AI and emerging technologies that are going to lead to future jobs that we don't know what they are yet."

In the meeting on April 15, several BHUSD community members – parents, students, teachers and former parents and teachers – expressed support for the appointment of Cherniss.

"I'm completely convinced, with this board, and with Dr. Cherniss, we're going to be a powerhouse," journalism teacher Romeo Carey said.

Additionally, two of Cherniss' colleagues from PYLUSD spoke in favor of his appointment.

"Our loss is your gain," PYLUSD Board Member Leandra Blades said. "[Cherniss] brought innovation to our district."

Blades highlighted Cherniss' achievements at PYLUSD, including the creation of the Orange County School of Computer Science – a technology-focused program for grades 6-8 – and the Universal Sports Institute – a program for student athletes grades 3-12 that pairs them with trainers and provides access to state-of-the-art athletic facilities.

Although the Universal Sports Institute has been celebrated as a groundbreaking achievement for the PYLUSD, concerns have been raised over the program's cost.

According to USI Director Taylor Holloway, the program resulted in a deficit of approximately \$1.5 million this school year. As a result, the program – which currently serves about 100 students – has reduced its staff.

BHUSD parent Kimberly Lifschitz expressed concerns over Cherniss' appointment in the board meeting.

"Is the board planning to facilitate similar wildly expensive projects here? From where in the district's budget will we take that money? From whom?" Lifschitz asked. "The history of the incoming superintendent

taken together with the increasingly concerning conduct of several board members forms a pattern strikingly similar to one that has been playing out for years in school districts all across the country. I refuse to pretend red flags are party decorations instead of the warning signs that they are."

Board Member Russell Stuart responded directly to Lifschitz.

"I just want you to wait and see, because magic is coming," he said. "I know you don't like how we did this, but trust me, we investigated everything thoroughly. We're incredibly confident in our choice and I think the speakers here today can prove that."

Cherniss was hesitant to say whether he believed BHUSD should implement programs similar to the OCSCS and USI.

"We'll have to see," he said. "I definitely think [in] every district there's a space to innovate. With the increasing use of AI in every profession right now, I'm very interested to see how we can use that to help our district and our students. There's also a real need here – that I'm hearing at least – of improving our athletics programs. Whether it looks like it did – things will likely look different here than in the past – but I do see a need to improve our athletics program [and] to look at our technology. Is there a way to enhance the technology we use here?"

Cherniss was placed on administrative leave by the PYLUSD Board of Education in December 2024, pending an internal review. While the Placentia-Yorba Linda board stated that it could not release further details due to confidentiality protocols, Cherniss said it was because "the board wanted to go into a different direction," following a board election.

"This is very common now in public education. Boards come in and they want to go in a different direction," he said.

In addition to Marcus, Stern and

Stuart, Board Vice President Judith Manouchehri and Board Member Sigalie Sabag expressed confidence in Cherniss.

"Dr. Cherniss represents everything we've been working toward, as his leadership reflects our priorities of safety and security, modern facilities to support student programs, and academic excellence to provide our students with a strong educational foundation, and we are proud to welcome him back to BHUSD," Manouchehri said.

"[Cherniss] is a leader who listens, leads with clarity and understands the high standards our community expects and deserves," Sabag said. "I am confident that under his leadership we will be elevating all four of our schools to the heights of academic excellence and I am especially excited to work toward our shared vision, earning national blue ribbon status for each of our schools. The future is bright with Dr. Cherniss at the helm."

Cherniss' three-year contract will officially begin on June 1 and expire on June 30, 2028. Dr. Jason Hasty will remain acting superintendent until June 1, after which he will continue in his role overseeing the district's business services department.

"I think Dr. Cherniss is one of the best choices the board could make, especially with his connection to the community but also his overall

expertise and experience as a superintendent," Hasty said. "At one point he taught one of my classes at USC, and I've called on him many times for advice ... He's a well-respected colleague among our peers, and he's a mentor to me."

Cherniss' appointment followed the resignation of previous superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy in February, following months of turmoil over allegations of racism, retaliation, censorship and lawsuits against the school district. Moving forward, Cherniss said he hopes to ensure transparency.

"The more you try to make decisions behind closed doors, the more people will not feel they understand what's happening," he said, proposing regular town-hall style meetings with constituents from each school. "When there's a void or a lack of trust, these controversies tend to gain more steam. It's about building trust with the constituents, so when things come up you can talk to them."

Overall, Cherniss said he wants to focus on ensuring academic accomplishment through teaching real-world skills, and hopes to bring the district to a level of unprecedented success.

"Beverly Hills is the greatest city on Earth, and it is my mission to transform BHUSD into the finest school system in the country," he said.

Yaroslavsky seeks input on budget

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, is holding a series of community conversations on the city budget.

The forums offer opportunities for city leaders to hear from the public and for constituents to help shape decisions.

Yaroslavsky, chair of the council's Budget Committee, is working with the council and Mayor Karen Bass to close budget shortfalls and preserve services. A virtual session will be held on April 21 at 6 p.m., followed by an in-person meeting on April 23 at 6 p.m. at Pan Pacific Park, 7600 Beverly Blvd., and an in-person session on April 26 at 11 a.m. in Westwood. To register, visit docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQL

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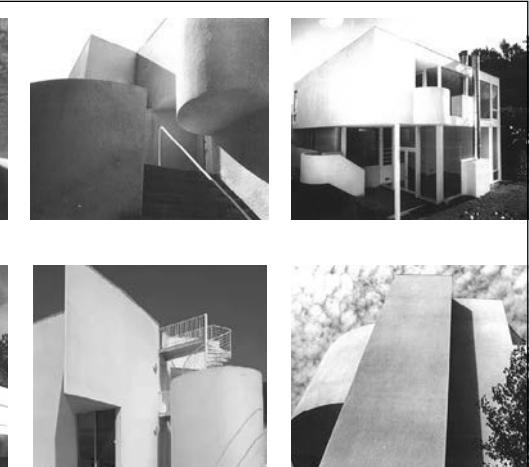
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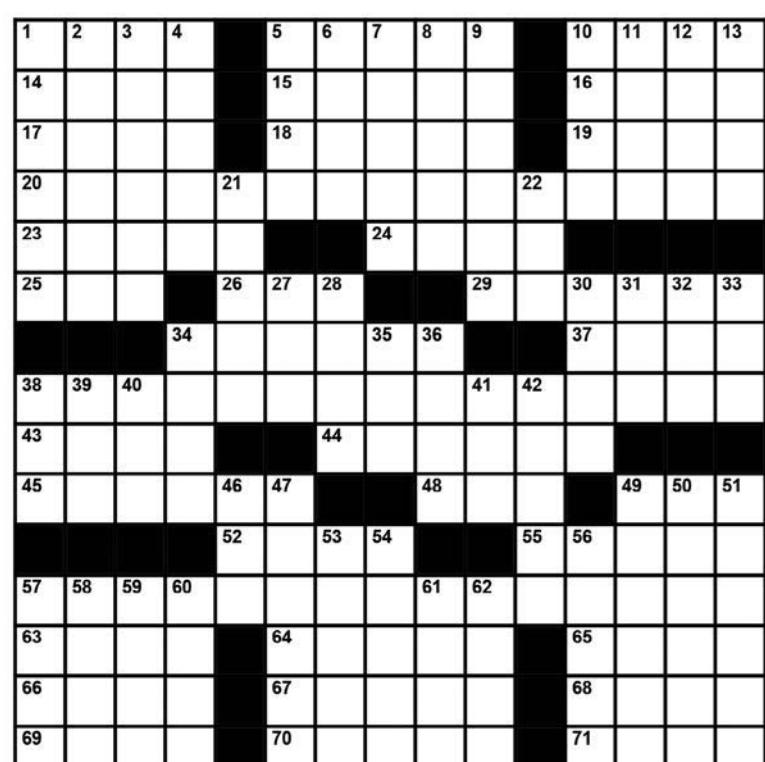
Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

- Charity
- Increase
- Drama class item
- Café additive
- Élève's place
- Run like a gazelle
- Minor beginning
- "__ Came a Spider" Morgan Freeman film
- Computer operator
- Annoying trait in the office
- Pacific island republic
- Future predictor
- Tucked away
- Small GM car
- Word with "North" or "South"
- Japanese religion
- Much may follow it
- Response to 20 across
- Beginner
- Saws logs
- Bureau part
- Mister's lady
- Business degree
- Etui
- Continental divide?
- Response to 20 across
- Miller, for one
- Interior designer's concern
- Mix
- "Young Frankenstein" woman
- Six-time U.S. Open champ
- Ga. neighbor
- Curse
- Stinks
- Threshold

Down

- She has a degree
- Cowboy equipment
- Director's boo-boo
- Beatle Ringo
- Criticize severely, with "out"
- Kareem's alma mater, briefly
- Middays
- Long bones
- Hit the nail on the head
- Extremely desirable
- Kind of wine
- Available for business
- Brash
- Should, with "to"
- Notable period
- Aachen article
- Some vending machine inserts
- Joshes
- Bob Marley "__ Love"
- Viscous liquid
- Lunkhead
- Kind of job
- Bedtime for some
- Baseball's "Blue Moon"
- "__ be my pleasure!"



- Member of a corp. board
- Time, in Torino
- Boston Bruins Hall-of-Famer
- Seed again
- Friendly opening
- Ruthless corporate type
- Whimpered
- Chorus from the flock
- Nobody in particular
- Wozniak or Jobs
- Event announcer
- \$100 bill
- Auction statement
- "Jaywalking" comic
- Tile construction piece
- Apothecary's weight
- War of the Roses house
- Leavings

answers on page 26

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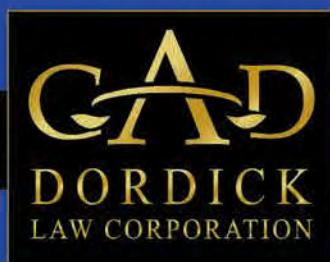
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