



Partly cloudy,  
temps in the  
low 60s

# BEVERLY PRESS

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Volume 35 No. 17

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

April 24, 2025

## Expanded film tax credits see action in Legislature

■ \$750 million cap inches closer to approval

BY RANCE COLLINS

The sweeping bill that would increase California film and television tax credits from \$330 million to \$750 million has been advanced by the Arts, Entertainment, Sports and Tourism Committee in the state assembly and the Revenue and Tax Committee in the state senate.

“It was referred to two committees in the assembly,” Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Los Angeles) said. “The bill needs to get out of all those committees. I’m relatively optimistic that it will make it through all of them. I think we’re building strong support for this bill, although, you

See **Tax credits** page 25



photo by Edwin Folven

Government leaders enact legislation to bring more productions to L.A.

## Budget reveals tough road ahead for L.A.

■ City projects layoffs and some reductions in services

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The dire financial situation facing Los Angeles is going to have impacts throughout the city, and the wide-ranging effects became clearer on April 21 when Mayor Karen Bass released her proposed budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

The budget lays out a strategic plan to close a nearly \$1 billion gap that includes 1,647 employee layoffs, a four-department consolidation, the removal of vacant job positions and the elimination of three commissions. Bass said Los Angeles is facing tough financial times and layoffs of city employees is “a decision of absolute last resort.” City officials familiar with the budget said swings in the economy due to national uncertainty are causing declines in revenues from sales taxes, hotel taxes and business taxes. The city is also facing a steep increase in liability payouts that are projected to exceed \$300 million.

The mayor’s proposed budget



photo by Edwin Folven

The proposed budget includes an increase for the LAFD, funding 227 new positions and expanding resources.

will be considered by the Los Angeles City Council, and the public will have multiple opportunities to weigh in. The budget must be approved by the City Council by June 1.

While layoffs are included, the approximately \$13.9 billion proposed budget preserves funding

for public safety and increases resources for the Los Angeles Fire Department. The LAFD budget increases by \$103.8 million, from \$819.6 million in 2024-25 to \$923.4 million, funding 227 new positions, including more paramedics and fast response vehicles.

See **Budget** page 25

## Gagosian exhibits ‘fab’ photographs

■ ‘Beatles for Sale’ in Beverly Hills

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beatlemania is alive and well in Beverly Hills. On April 25, Gagosian will unveil a new exhibition featuring 36 works composed of images taken by Paul McCartney between December 1963-February 1964 – the height of the Beatles craze. Visitors will even be able to

take home a piece of history, as each print – which includes McCartney’s signature – is for sale.

The exhibition, titled “Rearview Mirror: Photographs, December 1963-February 1964,” includes never-before-seen images that McCartney recently rediscovered. They provide a new perspective on the most documented band in history and the opportunity to view the Beatles through McCartney’s eyes. Shot in Liverpool, Paris, New

York, Washington, D.C. and Miami, the pictures reveal the spontaneous, often playful side of McCartney and the Beatles. They include snapshots of his bandmates, the massive crowds that gathered to see them, backstage moments and the everyday life of the Fab Four. Several of the photos were taken on the Beatles’ first trip to the U.S. – when they made their now-iconic debut on “The Ed Sullivan Show” and quickly became a sensation.

“Evoking an indelible snapshot of Beatlemania as it grew into a global phenomenon, the photographs on view embody a poignant intersection of time, place and personality,” a statement from the gallery read. “Taken together, they form a significant contribution to the visual record of the era, not only due to their unique perspective, but also because they reveal an unheralded aspect of McCartney’s versatile talents.”

A photo taken in Miami shows George Harrison, in retro sunglasses, lounging by a pool in Miami while a woman in a bright yellow bikini hands him a drink. The photo is an example of the unusual nature of the prints. Most well-known photos of the group depict them on

See **Exhibit** page 26



photo © Paul McCartney

George relaxing poolside at the Pollaks’, Miami, 15 February 1964.



photo courtesy of John Erickson

West Hollywood Councilman John Erickson met with Pope Francis when Erickson was mayor in 2023.

## City of Angels mourns pope

■ Catholic leader was steadfast champion for marginalized people

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Pope Francis, the head of the church for more than one billion Catholics around the world since 2013, died in his Vatican City residence on April 21 at 88 years old.

Before becoming the first Latin American pope, he was Jorge Mario Bergoglio, born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1936. Raised in a middle-class family, he worked as a janitor and a nightclub bouncer before joining the Jesuit Order.

Bergoglio was ordained as a priest in 1969, and became leader of the Jesuits in Argentina at just

See **Pope** page 26



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CALENDAR

Diplomacy and the environment

Holocaust Museum L.A is holding “Shared Waters, Shared Future: Eco-tourism and Diplomacy in Action,” a virtual talk on Thursday, April 24, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Noam Bedein will lead a discussion exploring the intersection of diplomacy and environmental preservation. Learn how water has been a crucial factor in fostering peace and cooperation between Israel, U.A.E., Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan. Admission is free but reservations are required. holocaustmuseum-la.org.

‘Mozart & Nielsen’

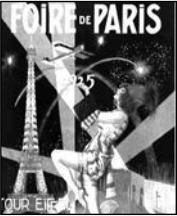
The LA Phil presents “Mozart & Nielsen” from Friday, April 25, through Sunday, April 27 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Los Angeles-native Ryan Bancroft leads the philharmonic in Nielsen’s primal and spirited “Fourth Symphony,” written against the backdrop of World War I, as well as Anders Hillborg’s “Sound Atlas,” which channels other-worldly sounds from instruments such as a glass harmonica to create snowy, crystalline landscapes. Showtime is at 8 p.m. on April 25; 2 p.m. on April 26-27. Tickets start at \$20. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.org.



Art Deco Society Parisian art

The Art Deco Society of Los Angeles

is partnering with Olive & Grand for a celebration of the centennial of Paris’ International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts from Saturday, April 26, through Monday, April 28, at the Oviatt Penthouse. The three-day celebration features “Art Deco Tous Les Jours,” an exhibit of period artifacts illustrating the influence of Art Deco style on everyday life in the 1920s and ‘30s. Original objects and souvenirs from the 1925 exhibition will be on display such as textiles, fine art and furniture original to the site, plus a painting that was long lost from the Oviatt Penthouse. Participants can enjoy French music and sip a Paris-inspired centennial cocktail on the open-air terrace. The event raises funds to conserve the historic 1928 Oviatt Penthouse. Timed tickets for the exhibit are \$40.28. 617 S. Olive St. artdecola.org.



Grammy Museum

Celebrate the start of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month at the Grammy Museum with an afternoon of film, music and storytelling on Saturday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. The event includes a free screening of the multi-award-winning documentary “Far East Deep South,” which uncovers an untold chapter of American history. The film will be followed by a Q&A session with director and singer-songwriter Larissa Lam, producer and rapper Baldwin Chiu (aka Only Won) and Emmy Award-winning music composer Nathan Wang, plus a special live musical performance. Admission is free but tickets are required. 800 W. Olympic Blvd. grammymuseum.org.

Deborah Blum, director of 7811 Gallery; and Tamara Zaks, an art expert and scholar. They will explore the artistic vision, creative journey and life of Rice, who made significant contributions to the fashion and art worlds. RSVP requested. 7811 Melrose Ave. 7811gallery.com.

Dance and Dialogue

Dance and Dialogue presents “Celebrate LA” on Wednesday, April 30, from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. Top dance companies will present an unforgettable evening celebrating the diversity of Los Angeles. The event is held in partnership with Arts for LA, LAUSD Arts Education Branch, Dance Resource Center, the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce’s Women’s Business Network and the Arts for Healing and Justice Network. Tickets are free but reservations are required. 4401 W. Eighth St. eventbrite.com/e/dance-and-dialogue-presents-celebrate-latickets-1055395268659.

Chamber Music Palisades

Chamber Music Palisades presents an evening of music on Wednesday, April 30, at 8 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica. The concert includes works by French composers Ibert, Ravel, Saint-Saens and Poulenc; a world premiere by American composer Adrienne Albert, “Cross Talk” for flute, clarinet and piano; Holst’s “Jupiter” from “The Planets” for wind quintet and piano; and Rachmaninoff “Six Pieces for Four-hand Piano.” Tickets are \$35. 1008 11th St., Santa Monica. cmpalisades.org.



photo by Edwin Folven

The updated maps help the BHFD and residents prepare for wildfires.

Parts of Beverly Hills added to new Cal Fire hazard maps

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection last month released expanded fire hazard maps, which impact areas of Beverly Hills. The Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps help communities and property owners prepare for wildfires.

The maps have expanded the area of the fire hazard severity zones. While Beverly Hills must adopt the maps, the city cannot reduce the zones identified. Consequently, over the next several months, the city of Beverly Hills will schedule community meetings to gather public input before adopting the maps to make sure that all questions and concerns can be addressed.

In determining the map boundaries, Cal Fire considered fire history, vegetation, terrain, weather patterns and other fire severity

factors such as ember cast. The maps do not address risk and therefore homeowner mitigation efforts can significantly reduce the risk to personal property.

The map is broken down into three zones: very high, high and moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Properties that fall within the very high zone may require additional code compliance as recommended by the state fire marshal.

The Beverly Hills Fire Department will work with city leadership to manage how the maps will be implemented in the upcoming year. For information, visit osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones. For questions specific to Beverly Hills, email firemaps@beverlyhills.org.

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Japanese Car Cruise-In

Auto lovers are invited to the Petersen Automotive Museum’s Japanese Car Cruise-In on Sunday, April 27, from 8-11 a.m. The Japanese Car Cruise-In is a cornerstone of the Petersen’s annual schedule of events, drawing thousands of Japanese domestic market enthusiasts. Car enthusiasts from across California display their prized vehicles and share in the culture and history of Japanese automotive excellence. Hundreds of vehicles will be on display throughout the Petersen parking garage. Admission is free for spectators; \$40 for museum admission, beverage and snack. 6060 Wilshire Blvd. petersen.org.

Salastina at BroadStage

Salastina headlines the Sunday Morning Music series at BroadStage on Sunday, April 27, at 11 a.m. with 19th-century German repertoire telling stories of romantic love, domestic bliss and the most famous love triangle in music history. The performance includes works by Clara Schumann, Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann and Richard Wagner. Tickets are \$60. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. broadstage.org.

Art of Dorothy Rice

7811 Gallery is hosting an intimate artist talk celebrating Dorothy Rice, the late model, actor and artist whose life and work continue to inspire, on Sunday, April 27, from 2-4 p.m. The event will feature a dynamic conversation between Jonelle Lennon, director of the Dorothy Rice Estate;



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood City Council will hold a public hearing to discuss the status of staff vacancies as required by California Assembly Bill 2561, and in accordance with GC Section 3502.3

**TIME/PLACE:** Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.  
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers  
625 San Vicente Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90069

The meeting may also be viewed on various platforms. Please visit [www.weho.org/wehotv](http://www.weho.org/wehotv) for all the viewing options.

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

Those wishing to comment on the status of staff vacancies have several ways to submit comments. Please visit [www.weho.org/councilagendas](http://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](mailto:mcrowder@weho.org) or at 323-848-6356 for more information or if you have additional questions.

For further information regarding the item, please contact Raelynn Napper, Human Resources Manager at (323) 848-6862; or via email at: [rnapper@weho.org](mailto:rnapper@weho.org)

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



# Beverly Hills approves climate action plan

■ Document will serve as blueprint for future projects

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills City Council on April 22 adopted a new climate action and adaptation plan that will act as a roadmap for the city’s climate policies as Southern California grapples with the worsening effects of climate change.

“The city of Beverly Hills has been a leader in sustainability and this plan aligns with the city’s values and environmental stewardship, quality of life and economic vitality,” said Amanda Grossman, a sustainability programs administrator in the city’s department of public works. “As the impacts of climate change are increasing, this plan outlines strategies and measures our city can enact to reduce our greenhouse gas footprint and prepare and adapt to the impacts of climate change.”

The primary goal of the plan is to provide Beverly Hills with the framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The expansive climate plan makes several recommendations for mitigation strategies, including transitioning city code to prioritize buildings that use clean energy, decarbonizing existing buildings and building electric vehicle charging stations.

The plan will not bring the city to net-zero emissions. However, Grossman stated that it is a “living document” that can be updated as new technology emerges.

The plan also suggests methods in which Beverly Hills can prepare for potential climate emergencies, including expanding water conservation efforts and increasing the city’s urban forest.

According to a climate change vulnerability assessment, Beverly Hills is expected to experience significant impacts by the end of the century, including an average temperature increase between 4.2-7.1 degrees Fahrenheit, more frequent extreme heat days, increased storm frequency, extended droughts and more frequent and damaging wildfires. In March, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection released new fire hazard maps for the state, which included an increased fire severity potential in areas of Beverly Hills north of Santa Monica Boulevard. In the coming months, the city will schedule community meetings to discuss the maps and answer questions.

The climate plan also recommends restructuring the city’s emergency response policies by implementing more resilient infrastructure, creating evacuation procedures for vulnerable populations and increasing public participation in emergency preparedness.

The city has already begun implementing measures found in the climate plan across many departments, including transforming city streets to support bicycles and pedestrians and creating more EV chargers. In May, the Planning Commission will discuss updating city code to reduce emissions in new buildings.

The overall fiscal impact of the plan is unknown, as it acts as a guide for future decisions. The cost of projects that utilize the climate plan will be analyzed individually. However, Grossman said that participation in clean energy programs may benefit the city when applying for grants.

Mayor Sharona Nazarian – in her first formal meeting since being sworn in – praised the plan for its forward-thinking approach and emphasized its role as a blueprint for future decisions.

“It’s clear that this is a living document,” Nazarian said. “We want to have realistic, achievable goals ... We want to ensure that we are looking at the budget, forecasting for it and how it impacts our budget. We are looking at a budget deficit.”

The plan was approved in a 4-1 vote, with Vice Mayor John Mirisch voting against it.

Mirisch said the plan did not do enough to address what he believes is the root of climate change – rapid urban growth, overdevelopment and overpopulation.

“There’s a much larger problem



photo by Tabor Brewster

The city of Beverly Hills is examining ways to implement climate-friendly policies and infrastructure –including water-conserving “green streets” like Burton Way.

that we’re dealing with,” Mirisch said. “Yes, it is nice to have a climate action plan. I guess it’s certainly better than nothing. But the notion that we hear from a group of people who are called ecomod-

ernists – that technology is going to save us – is just false ... As good as the work [the city staff has] done is when it comes to standard climate action plans, it’s just not enough.”



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

The expanded broadband fiber network will encompass nearly all of West Hollywood’s major thoroughfares.

## WeHo approves expansion of city’s broadband network

■ Project will provide wi-fi connectivity along major streets

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood City Council narrowly approved expanded broadband services on April 21, which will expand its fiber optic network – currently spanning the length of Santa Monica Boulevard. The fiber backbone provides public wi-fi access across city facilities including City Hall, West Hollywood Park and Plummer Park. The network also makes broadband more accessible and affordable for the community.

The expansion will take the fiber optic network through the city’s portions of Sunset Boulevard, Fountain Avenue, Fairfax Avenue, Beverly

Boulevard and Melrose Avenue. Additionally, free access to Wi-Fi will be included in city buildings and parks on the streets. The project is a partnership with Plenary, a company that develops and manages public infrastructure.

Councilmen John Erickson and Danny Hang voted against the item, noting the cost to the city, which will run over \$20 million for the 16-24 month project.

“I support the city getting broadband but by the time we get the broadband technology back from the third party provider we gave a contract to, we will be buying technology that is 30 years old,” Erickson said “We are spending \$20 million to invest in the private technology of 2025 and not 2040, which is what we need, and sadly, this type of technology already exists for consumers. Additionally, as I’ve seen

See **WeHo** page 25

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Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

Officers in the BHPD Real-Time Watch Center saw the suspects breaking into the apartment building, police said.

## BHPD arrests four men after apartment burglary on Palm

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Beverly Hills Police Department officers arrested four male suspects on April 16 who allegedly burglarized an apartment in the 200 block of South Palm Drive.

BHPD Sgt. Audra Alatorre said the suspects were seen breaking into the building around 8:20 p.m. on camera footage monitored by the BHPD’s Real-Time Watch Center. When officers arrived, the suspects entered

a vehicle and drove away, resulting in a pursuit. The vehicle stopped a short distance from the scene of the burglary and police arrested the four men, who Alatorre said are in their 20s. The suspects were not identified.

Alatorre said the suspects were booked for residential burglary, conspiracy and resisting arrest. The driver of the vehicle was also charged with evading police.

Anyone with information is urged to call the BHPD at (310)550-4951.

## Man charged for trying to sell stolen piece by Andy Warhol

The owner of a pawn shop in the Mid-City area of Los Angeles was indicted on April 22 for allegedly conspiring to sell a stolen Andy Warhol print trial proof and lying about it to federal agents.

Glenn Steven Bednarsh, 58, currently of Farmington, Michigan, and formerly of Beverly Hills, is charged in a two-count federal grand jury indictment with conspiracy and interstate transportation of stolen goods. He is expected to be arraigned in the coming weeks in United States District Court in downtown Los Angeles. Bednarsh owns One Stop Pawn at 2304 S. La Cienega Blvd.

According to the indictment, Bednarsh knowingly purchased the stolen Warhol trial proof in February 2021 for \$6,000. It depicts Russian revolutionary and Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin and is valued at an estimated \$175,000. Bednarsh allegedly asked a co-conspirator, Brian Alec Light, 58, currently of Hudson, Ohio, and formerly of downtown Los Angeles, to help him sell the stolen Warhol trial proof. Light contacted the Beverly Hills office of a Dallas-based auction house about selling it, authorities said. The name of the auction house was not released.

In March 2021, Bednarsh delivered the trial proof to the Beverly Hills office of the auction house, which shipped it to Dallas. Light e-signed an auction house consignment agreement and called the auction house to state the trial proof had been dropped off. Light also asked about receiving a cash advance for it, authori-



photo courtesy of the U.S. Attorney’s Office  
The stolen Andy Warhol trial proof depicts Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin.

ties said.

An employee of the auction house in Dallas contacted a gallery in West Hollywood for an opinion on the piece, according to court documents. The gallery immediately recognized the piece as stolen and notified the auction house and FBI.

Prosecutors said when FBI agents began inquiring about the stolen Warhol trial proof in March 2021, Light lied to them, stating he bought it at a Culver City garage sale for \$18,000 and providing a fake receipt. In August and September 2021, Bednarsh lied to FBI agents, telling them Light asked him to store the Warhol Lenin trial proof and that he agreed to do so out of friendship, not financial gain, authorities said.

Light pleaded guilty last November to one count of interstate transportation of stolen goods. A sentencing hearing is scheduled on May 27. Light faces up to 10 years in federal prison.

The FBI’s Art Crime Team is conducting the investigation.

## Police search for suspects in Wilshire home robberies

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Los Angeles Police Department detectives are searching for two male suspects who forced their way inside a Beverly Grove residence and robbed a homeowner on April 18 in the 300 block of North Laurel Avenue.

Police said the homeowner, a man in his 60s, was asleep around 9:45 p.m. when he awoke to the sound of his home alarm. He walked to the front door and was confronted by a male suspect already inside the residence, said Lt. Mark Ro, with the LAPD’s Wilshire Division. The suspect pepper sprayed the victim and attempted to force him into a closet while a second assailant joined the struggle, Ro added. The men stole a box con-

taining jewelry and watches valued at approximately \$30,000 and ran out of the residence.

The suspects were wearing masks, gloves and dark clothing. Ro said they entered the house through an unlocked side door.

“It triggered the alarm but there was no sign of forced entry,” he added.

Approximately two hours later, Wilshire Division officers responded to a second home invasion robbery at a residence in the 6000 block of Eighth Street, just east of Fairfax Avenue. A female resident awoke to noises in the living room and saw a man inside the house.

“She slammed the door on him really quick and the suspect tried get in, but she was able to hold the door and barricaded herself inside,”

Ro said. “She called the police. He ended up stealing some tools and left.”

Ro added that the suspect entered the residence through an unlocked rear sliding door. Detectives have not uncovered evidence linking the two crimes, but Ro said they illustrate the need to keep windows and doors locked at night.

“These are hot prowler burglaries, residential robberies where someone was home,” he added. “It’s definitely scary.”

Detectives have recovered security video from the Laurel Avenue robbery and are continuing the investigation. Anyone with information is urged to call the Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205 or (213)473-0476. During weekends and off-hours, call (877)LAPD247.

## ADL reports sharp uptick in antisemitic incidents

The Anti-Defamation League released its annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents on April 22, showing a rise in antisemitic activity across Los Angeles in 2024. According to the newly released data, Los Angeles experienced 532 incidents of antisemitic harassment, vandalism and assault in 2024 – a 6% increase from 503 incidents recorded in 2023. In the last five years, the Los Angeles area experienced a 277% increase in reported antisemitic incidents, from 141 in 2020 to 532 in 2024.

Across the country, there were 9,354 incidents of antisemitic assault, harassment and vandalism

in 2024, the ADL reported. The total represents a 5% increase from 2023, an 893% increase over the past 10 years and the highest level recorded since ADL started tracking the data in 1979.

“The rise in antisemitism here in Los Angeles is alarming, but sadly not surprising given the wave of hate we’ve seen across the country,” ADL Los Angeles regional director Jeffrey I. Abrams said. “Jewish Angelenos are being targeted in the streets, in their neighborhoods and especially on campus – simply for being Jewish. This is unacceptable and must be confronted with urgency and unity.”

The ADL’s tracking of antisemit-

ic incidents drives the organization’s advocacy for legislation.

“While antisemitic harassment remained the most common form of hate incidents reported to the ADL, the one absolute guarantee with these numbers is that acts of both antisemitism harassment and vandalism remain vastly underreported, both in L.A. and nationwide,” Abrams added. “This rise in antisemitism is a crisis and demands a unified response.”

Anyone who experiences or witnessed an antisemitic incident is encouraged to call police and report it to the ADL by visiting [adl.org/report-incident](https://adl.org/report-incident).



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Section 1 – Beverly Hills

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

#### April Updates

The civil restoration work on the north side of Wilshire is nearing completion. Work continues at the plaza entrance and underground in the station.



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# Cinelounge touched by an angel

■ Theater briefly closed in March reopens on Sunset April 30

BY RANCE COLLINS

Cinelounge Sunset has been saved.

“Where there’s a will there’s a way,” Cinelounge founder Christian Meoli said.

In March, the independent movie theater, owned and operated by Meoli and his wife Camilia, seemingly closed its doors for good after what had been a particularly rough financial season.

“I need the industry to survive. I need the people. I need the filmmakers who understand,” Meoli said at the time. “I need the industry, who we have supported and been of service to us throughout our 14 years, to not just let another screen disappear, but to realize places like this are a necessary environment,

because where else are these filmmakers’ stories going to be seen as they were intended to be seen?”

He asked for “an angel,” saying he would only need about \$20,000 for Cinelounge to get back on its feet. The combined financial hits over several years, including the pandemic, industry strikes and the January wildfires, had taken their toll. But an angel – identity and their exact donation unknown – came through.

“My heart ached too much these past few months and I refuse to quit. The dream of filmmakers showcasing their stories in the heart of Hollywood still lives and will continue until my last dying breath. Filmmakers from all over the world dream their whole lives of making it in Hollywood and we are a part of that ecosystem. We are simply too important to the ecosystem of talent from a worldview to not continue onward on the campus of Hollywood Offices,” Meoli said.

The doors to the 6464 Sunset Blvd. theater will officially reopen on April 30 with screenings of independent film “California King.”

“I’m optimistic,” Meoli added. “Independent filmmakers from all over the world need to screen in Hollywood. Not the Valley or Eagle Rock or even Beverly Hills ... Hollywood.”

Cinelounge began as a haven for independent cinema 14 years ago, eventually landing in its current home and adding an additional theater in San Francisco. It is known not only for state-of-the-art presentations, but its gourmet popcorn. Meoli said that the theater creates “the best popcorn out there.”

“Again this year, we’ve been selected by the National Association of Theater Owners to supply popcorn to all the studios, all their exhibitors and attendees, simply because it’s the best,” he said.

Meoli said that Cinelounge can survive and thrive if people just “keep going to the theaters.”

For information and showtimes, visit [cineloungefilm.com](http://cineloungefilm.com).



photo by Edwin Folven

Cinelounge has operated its Sunset Boulevard location since 2016.

## LA Cultural Affairs partners with Festival of Books

The city of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs has joined the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books as a community partner. The collaboration of L.A.’s premier literary institutions celebrate the richness of storytelling, with the goal of promoting literary culture to a broad and diverse audience.

This year’s theme for the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books is 30 years of storytelling. Taking place on April 26 and 27 on the University of Southern California campus, this year recognizes the

festival’s 30th anniversary. The Festival of Books is the nation’s largest book festival, drawing readers, writers, publishers and creators from around the world. Through a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program, DCA will host a creative art making zone. Featuring silk-screening and print-making areas, along with a children’s stage featuring young poets and professional storytellers, the world of books will be more accessible to all.

“This collaboration with the Los

Angeles Times Festival of Books is a natural fit,” said Daniel Tarica, the general manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. “We congratulate the Los Angeles Times on their 30th anniversary of the Festival of Books.”

The festival is free and open to the public with tickets required for select programming. For information on the Festival of Books, visit [latimes.com/festivalofbooks](http://latimes.com/festivalofbooks). USC’s campus is located at 3551 Trousdale Parkway.



### Itching for Answers - Dogs and Skin Allergies

At my practice, we see it daily—pups who are licking their paws obsessively or sporting bald patches. There’s a good chance they’re dealing with a skin allergy.

Here’s how I generally start these cases: the first thing I do is rule out fleas. You’d be surprised how often even mostly indoor dogs manage to pick them up. If fleas are present, it’s important to know that most over-the-counter products just don’t cut it. Don’t waste your time with PetArmor, Seresto, or Advantix—I’ve found them to be unreliable.

Instead, I recommend prescription-grade flea control from the isoxazoline class: NexGard, Simparica, Bravecto, and Credelio. These medications are all highly effective and comparable. The studies are clear—they work at extremely low doses, are well-tolerated, and eliminate fleas quickly. In over ten years of practice, I’ve only seen three or four legitimate adverse reactions.

At this stage, I also treat any active skin infections with a combination of topical and/or oral antibiotics, depending on the case.

Once we’ve ruled out fleas and addressed infections, we look at whether the allergy is environmental or food-related. In my experience, environmental allergies are much more common. That’s why we often start with antihistamines or allergy-specific medications. For low-grade itch, a safe place to begin at home is over-the-counter Benadryl—about 1 mg per pound, twice daily (a 25 lb dog would get 25 mg of Benadryl twice a day).

For very itchy dogs, Cytopoint and Apoquel are much safer, more targeted options. I use them sparingly but confidently when needed. Food allergies, on the other hand, are almost always related to the protein in the diet. We often try a novel or hydrolyzed protein trial to see if symptoms improve.

If all else fails, I refer to a veterinary dermatologist for intradermal testing. Blood allergy panels? In my opinion—and in most dermatologists’—they’re rarely useful. That money is better spent seeing someone who can actually pinpoint the issue and offer a plan.

So if your dog is red, itchy, or constantly chewing on their feet, it’s worth a trip to the vet. Relief might be just a few steps away—from medication, a new diet, or even switching to a better flea control.

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



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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



# Menendez resentencing put on hold until May 9

■ Attorney for brothers seeks to recuse D.A. from case

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A resentencing hearing for Erik and Lyle Menendez on April 17 was put on hold following arguments over a report from the governor’s office on the potential parole of the brothers. Additionally, the brothers’ attorney Mark Geragos announced he is seeking to have Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman and his office removed from the case, alleging “personal bias” and mistreatment of victims.

A hearing on May 9 will determine whether the parole report is admissible in the resentencing and whether to recuse the district attorney’s office from the case.

According to Hochman and Deputy District Attorney Habib Balian, prosecutors received a report from the California Board of Parole Hearings containing a comprehensive risk assessment of Erik and Lyle Menendez on Tuesday, April 15. The district attorney’s office asked Judge Michael Jesic to continue the hearings given the new report but also stated that the prosecution was willing to proceed if the judge wished to proceed as scheduled.

During the hearing, Balian argued that the report is an important “piece of the puzzle” in determining whether the brothers have been rehabilitated since being sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the 1989 double murder of their parents in Beverly Hills.

In emails read aloud during the hearing, the parole board stated that the comprehensive risk assessment was intended as information to be used in the June 13 parole hearing for the Menendez brothers, which was ordered by Gov. Gavin Newsom, and marked a potential first step for a pardon, separate from the ongoing resentencing. The report was sent to Balian because he is also representing the public in

the parole hearing, and it was not sent to the judge or the defense.

However, in a contradictory message, the parole board indicated that the judge was welcome to review the report, even though it was not intended for the resentencing hearings.

Both the judge and the defense attorneys stated that they had not received or reviewed the report.

Jesic expressed significant concern over the report, stating that if he made a ruling against resentencing the brothers without reading the report, arguments would inevitably arise stating that he did not look at the full scope of the brothers’ rehabilitation. He said the opposite was also true. He argued that if he ruled in favor of resentencing without looking at a report that potentially has information suggesting they had not been fully rehabilitated, his ruling would be widely condemned.

As a result, Jesic called a recess to receive clarification from the parole board on whether the report should be used in the resentencing hearing. During the recess, the governor’s office indicated that it would send the report to Jesic and the defense. However, whether the report is admissible in court will be determined on May 9.

In the courtroom, Geragos accused prosecutors of retraumatizing family members of the brothers by displaying graphic photos of the crime scene without warning in a preliminary hearing on April 11. Hochman said his office showed one photo, apologized and would not display similar photos without notification.

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

Jesic acknowledged the gruesome nature of photos from the crime scene, but also said the facts

of the case were important to discuss.

“Stuff is going to come out that’s really going to upset the victims’ families,” Jesic said. “We need to discuss from what they have been rehabilitated from.”

He added that he believed it was his responsibility to notify members of the courtroom of graphic images.

“This is a complicated situation,” Jesic said. “I’ve never had ... victims who were also supporting the defendants.”

Defense attorney Bryan Freedman also pointed out Hochman’s connection to Beverly Hills – stating that he lived less than a mile from the Menendez house when the murder occurred. He said Hochman’s upbringing in Beverly Hills amounted to a “personal interest” in the case that he did not disclose.

“Everyone in that area was shocked, scared, appalled,” Freedman said. “I believe this D.A. has personal bias.”

Freedman noted that both Hochman and Erik Menendez attended Beverly Hills High School. Freedman also disclosed

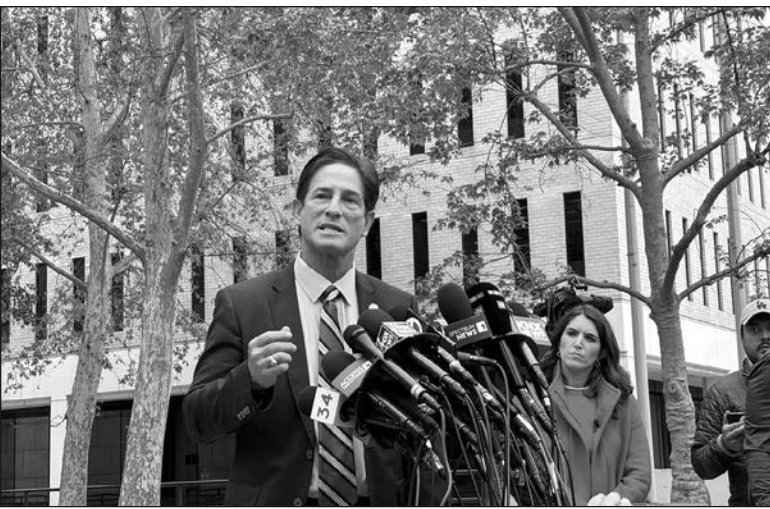


photo by Tabor Brewster

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman asked the judge to continue the resentencing hearings after the prosecution received a comprehensive risk assessment from the parole board.

that his own wife lived nearby in Beverly Hills during the murders.

“We are aware of the defense’s concerns and welcome the opportunity to address them in court,” Hochman said in a statement following the hearing. “Our office remains committed to ethical and impartial prosecution. We believe the facts will demonstrate that our conduct has been professional, appropriate and in the interest of justice.”

At moments, tensions were high in the courtroom. Geragos repeatedly referred to the prosecution’s presentation as a “dog and pony show,” to which Balian objected.

“He keeps calling this a dog and pony show,” Balian said. “He’s degrading us.”

“You should be degraded,” Geragos responded.

Geragos also referred to prosecutors as “schizophrenic” and called their actions “shenanigans.”



## 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](mailto:publiccomment@weho.org) or via E-Comment by visiting [www.weho.org/wehotv](http://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](mailto:mmontenegro@weho.gov).

Dated: April 17, 2025

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

# Beverly Hills among honorees at Breath of Life Awards

Join Breathe Southern California for the Breath of Life Awards, an evening of networking, wine and curated bites on Tuesday, May 13, from 6-9:30 p.m. at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills.

The evening celebrates 122 years of fighting for clean air and will honor civic and corporate leaders in Southern California whose positive impact continues to grow. The city of Beverly Hills will receive the Community Impact Award, Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners president Richard Katz will be given the Civic Leader Award, WattEV will be honored with the Innovation Award and Cliff Gladstein will receive the Breath of Life Award.

Breathe Southern California is a nonprofit environmental health organization that drives positive environmental change by promoting cleaner air and improved lung health through research, education, advocacy and technology. As the oldest public health organization in Southern California, Breathe Southern California delivers innovative, outcome-driven programs, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Tickets are \$200. The SLS Hotel is located at 465 N. La Cienega Blvd. For questions and information, call Monique Carmona at (310)592-5880, email [mcarmona@breathesocal.org](mailto:mcarmona@breathesocal.org) or visit [breathesocal.org](http://breathesocal.org).



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# Call grows louder to cut red tape on housing

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

More than 100 housing advocates surrounded Los Angeles City Hall with a red ribbon on April 22 symbolizing red tape they claim government leaders must cut through to end the homeless crisis. The demonstration was organized by Housing Is A Human Right, a division of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and the Los Angeles office of the National Coalition for the Homeless. Advocates stood on sidewalks and walkways surrounding City Hall holding up the long red ribbon, which extended 1,518 feet around the building. The demonstration was held during the morning rush-hour to catch the attention of people arriving at City Hall and the civic center area, organizers said. Some demonstrators held signs stating, “LA City Wake Up.” “Seven people die on the streets of Los Angeles every day. Delays in bringing permanent housing online immediately through adaptive reuse

and new construction are unconscionable,” said Susie Shannon, policy director for Housing is a Human Right. “The city response of breaking up encampments for the more than 45,000 people experiencing homelessness in the city of Los Angeles has led to individuals taking refuge in abandoned buildings and in places where services are scarce.” Advocates also denounced efforts to criminalize homelessness. The protest was held on the one-year anniversary of oral arguments in the United State Supreme Court case of City of Grants Pass v. Johnson, in which the court ruled in favor of cities seeking to enforce ordinances against sleeping and camping in public, even when shelter is not available. “This action is to demonstrate that decisions being made and things being tied up, a la the red tape, is what’s keeping this issue at the forefront in L.A.,” said Mary Ann Cellini, a housing advocate for Housing Is A Human Right and the

National Coalition for the Homeless. “It’s City Hall, it’s the decision makers, it’s all the decisions being passed down. We’re hoping to inspire change and be peaceful about it, and encourage people to rise up.” The demonstrators are also concerned about what the future holds for homeless services under changes proposed by the city and county of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has approved the creation of its own department addressing homelessness and is in the process of cutting ties with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. The Los Angeles City Council is examining what impacts the county’s move will have on how services are provided in Los Angeles, which could lead to changes in service delivery in the future. Mayor Karen Bass released her proposed 2025-26 budget on April 21, which maintains homelessness spending at approximately the same levels it has been funded in previous years. During her State of the City address the same day, Bass said it is important to preserve funding for homelessness services to continue progress. “We are taking action and making change, and after years of increasing homelessness, we are finally reversing that trend. Homelessness is down,” Bass said. “That includes a 10% reduction in street homelessness and a 38% reduction in makeshift structures and tents. We are moving thousands



photo by Edwin Folven

Advocates surrounded City Hall with a red ribbon call attention to the need for more action to end homelessness.

## Results released for council elections

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Clerk’s Office released unofficial results on April 22 in elections for the Mid City West and Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Councils. Official certified results will be released on April 30. In the Mid City West area, candidates competed for 36 seats on the council. Mid City West serves communities between La Brea Avenue to the east, Willoughby Avenue and Romaine Street to the north, La Cienega Boulevard and the Beverly Hills and West Hollywood borders to the west, and Olympic and San Vicente boulevards to the south. The winning candidates are Hunter Burgarella, Zone 1; Jerry Bedrick, Zone 2; Ken Best, Zone 3; David Nochum Kaye, Zone 4; Yitzzy Pearson, Zone 5; Barbara Gallen, Zone 6; and Hana Kawano, Zone 7. In the homeowners category, Valerie Jaffee Washburn, Brent Kidwell and Claudia Beaton were elected. Matthew Craffey, Josh Rothstein, Matthew Tallmer, Malkiel Gradon, Jacob Nachimson and Dahlia Laury were elected as renters representatives. Tzvi Haber, Elizabeth Mason, Craig Brill and Yehuda Klein were elected as representatives in the business category. Stella Farentino and Joseph Percal will serve as representatives of community organizations. Winners in the at-large category are Shari Brooks, Shelby L. Blecker, Nikki Bascon, John

Gunderson, Dylan Otto, Madison Hirshberg, Rabbi Avraham Weiner, Peter D. Gordon, Shaya Lowenstein, Menachem Fehler, Hilary Delaney, Dave Abbitt and Jung Shin. Sonya Turoff was elected as youth representative. The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council runs from La Brea Avenue on the west to approximately Manhattan Place on the east, and Melrose Avenue to the north to Olympic Boulevard on the south. Winning candidates in the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council election are Tony Gittelson, Area 1; Erika Stuart, Area 2; Jennifer Devore, Area 5; Sixto J. Sicilia, Area 6; Natalie Irby, Area 7; Richard Gano, Area 8; Rochelle Lewis, Area 9; Patricia “Patti” Carroll, Area 10; Isaac Zakon, Area 11; John Gresham, Area 13; Gary Gilbert, Area 14; and Drew Preston Kiesow, Area 15. Dave Cavalier was elected as renters representative, Steve Grossman as business representative, Scott Appel as education representative, Eli Chitrik as religion representative, Brian Curran as non-profit representative and Mark Alpers as at large representative. The candidates will serve during the 2025-27 term on the board. For information on the neighborhood councils, visit [midcitywest.org](https://midcitywest.org) and [greaterwilshire.org](https://greaterwilshire.org). For election results, visit <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/elections/neighborhood-council-elections/2025-nc-election-results>.

### 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:cduncan@weho.org).

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

## Notable Quotes

“We shore taken a beatin’.” Pa Joad.  
“That’s what makes us tough. Rich fellas come up, they die, their kids ain’t no good and they die out. But we keep a comin’. We’re the people that live, they can’t wipe us out, they can’t lick us. We’ll go on forever. We’re the people.” Ma Joad  
From the final scene of the film, “The Grapes of Wrath,” 1940.  
Source: Screenplay by Nunnally Johnson, based on the novel by John Steinbeck  
“The Great Depression like most other periods of severe unemployment was produced by government mismanagement, rather than by any inherent instability of the private economy.”  
Milton Friedman  
American Economist, (1912 - 2006)  
Source: Brainy Quotes



# West Hollywood approves billboard for Comedy Store

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood City Council approved a two-sided animated billboard and sidewalk improvements on April 21 for the Comedy Store, located at 8433 Sunset Blvd.

According to supporters of the action, the billboard will garner attention and the sidewalk repairs will improve conditions for the iconic venue.

The city will share in the profits of the billboard, as has been the practice with newly-approved Sunset Boulevard billboards, to the tune of 23% of the projected gross revenue – which should total around

\$47 million in the next 30 years. Additionally, 17.5% of the operating time will promote city arts programming, special events and civic announcements.

“I see the revenue from the Comedy Store billboard project as a game changer for West Hollywood,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “Over \$47 million in guaranteed income means we can make real, long-term investments in what matters most, like expanding social services, fixing our streets and sidewalks, paying for our public safety-first responders and supporting the arts. It gives us the flexibility to respond to community needs, strengthen our economic resilience

and continue offering the high-quality services our residents rely on. That kind of stable funding stream helps us deliver more for our city.”

A vast number of local comics appeared at the meeting in support of the improvements, which they argued would ensure the Comedy Store’s future.

“Nowhere else can the refinement and the social scrutiny of others be held up to such nightly advantages,” comic Jason Pardo quipped after leading the City Council audience in a knock-knock joke.

“In an age where we are glued to our screens, we connect at the Comedy Store,” resident Christina Lopez said. “We get out of our house. We have a moment together. It’s a flagship place in Los Angeles ... to shine the diamond that is the Sunset Strip by putting up a sign,



rendering courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

The Comedy Store will soon gain a two-sided animated billboard.

# Make the Miracle Mile gleam during Operation Sparkle

The Miracle Mile Residential Association is seeking volunteers for the annual Operation Sparkle cleanup operation on Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The group will meet at Wilshire Green Park at Eighth Street and Sierra Bonita Avenue. The event coincides with Earth Month.

The MMRA is a nonprofit community organization composed of homeowners and renters. Established in 1983, the organization is dedicated to maintaining the quality of life in the Miracle Mile through careful monitoring of development, safety, traffic and neighborhood concerns. The MMRA works with City Council members, the LAPD’s Wilshire



photo courtesy of the MMRA

Dozens of people participated in Operation Sparkle last year. Cleanup is Saturday, April 26.

Division and local businesses. Operation Sparkle offers a chance for people to get to know their neighbors and beautify the 100-year-old historic Miracle Mile neighborhood.

Coffee and doughnuts will be

offered at the park. People are encouraged to bring gloves, grabbers and brooms, but equipment will also be provided. Registration is requested. For information and to register for Operation Sparkle, visit [miraclemilela.com](http://miraclemilela.com).

we can enhance the tourist industry.”

Some residents, though, were concerned there had been delays and alterations in the design that had not been through the proper processes. West Hollywood Preservation Alliance board member Victor Omelczenko said the building would qualify for historic designation and needs to go to the West Hollywood Historical Preservation Commission before the alterations and improvements are implemented.

“We do not feel that this project is ready for primetime,” he said.

Councilwoman Lauren Meister, the lone vote against the billboard, shared these concerns, pointing out that the billboard will overhang the public right-of-way by seven feet. It will also necessitate the removal of several trees.

“If the only way this billboard could happen was to encroach upon the public-right-of-way, then the city should have asked for more in the way of compensation,” Meister said. “The public benefit should

have increased when the applicant asked to move the billboard.”

The other West Hollywood City Council members celebrated its approval as a win for the community.

“I’m glad that all parties were able to come to an agreement and we will continue to see positive development and economic investment in our city occur,” Councilman John Erickson said. “Sadly, the case of the design changes and the delay was partially a city issue, and one we need to fix. Our Design Review Subcommittee and others played fast and loose on the design changes and we need to ensure our processes internally do not allow this to happen again.”

“The Comedy Store billboard is a significant win for the community – not only does it create an opportunity to upgrade the sidewalk for an enhanced and safer pedestrian and line cueing experience, but the billboard creates revenue that will preserve the Comedy Store and support the city for decades to come,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said.



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# Beautiful day, patent-leather sunlight. Then...

The young golden retriever, no longer a pup yet not quite a woman, must've felt God's presence at the sunrise service in the town park on the perfect Easter morning.

In seconds, she has slipped off her leash and has begun running in concentric circles across the crowded lawn, in bigger and bigger arcs, like one of Luca's ridiculous rainbow 3s ... innocent sure, but to the point where the dog is now disturbing the other worshippers, some also with their dogs, who have risen – so to speak – from their early morning stupor to engage with the swirling dog, who, as I said, is feeling the love of the moment and gotten the zoomies five minutes into Pastor's Purdy's opening remarks.

It is a great talk too, tapping into the pastor's childhood in western New York and his memories of egg



by  
Chris  
Erskine

hunts and charitable moments. It's Easter, after all, metaphorical tools almost everywhere – the flowers, the feasts, the bunnies, the smiles, even at this early hour.

Pastor Purdy also acknowledges the tough times some of us silently suffer – the loneliness, the isolation, the fatigue over world events – amid a rodeo flourish in his Easter sermon, namely this mad runaway dog, as I hiss “Penny! Penny! Damn it, Penny! Come here!”



photo by Emily Randall Woods

The rising sun sends chards of crystal over the Easter service.

## Zoo plans to relocate elephants to Tulsa with larger herd

The Los Angeles Zoo announced on April 22 that its two remaining Asian elephants will be relocated to the newly expanded Elephant Experience and Preserve at the Tulsa Zoo. The decision was made with the care and wellbeing of the elephants – Billy and Tina – in mind, as it will provide an opportunity for them to live among other elephants in a larger herd.

The Los Angeles Zoo works tirelessly to assure that all of its animals receive the best care possible. The decision to relocate 40-year-old Billy and 59-year-old Tina was made in consultation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and its Elephant Species Survival Plan, and Taxon Advisory Group. Following the move, the zoo will pause its elephant program. However, the zoo will continue support for Asian elephant conservation programs, and the Elephants of Asia exhibit will be reimagined for other species and programming.

The zoo spent the past year carefully evaluating the elephant program and all available options following the loss of two elephants – Jewel, age 61, in 2023, and Shaunzi, age 53, in 2024. Both elephants were in declining health due to issues unrelated to the zoo's enclosure or care and were euthanized due to age-related health issues.

For the Los Angeles Zoo to continue its elephant program, it would be necessary to bring in additional elephants to meet social and gender requirements outlined in the AZA Accreditation Standards. Creating a larger social herd at the L.A. Zoo is



photo by Jamie Pham/© Los Angeles Zoo

Billy, a 40-year-old male Asian elephant, will join a herd at the Tulsa Zoo.

currently not a viable option due to the limited availability of Asian elephants within the AZA population. The decisions to relocate the elephants and pause the program have long been under consideration and are not related to recent announcements about the city budget, zoo officials stressed.

The Tulsa Zoo recently expanded its elephant program and facilities and is currently home to five Asian elephants. The new 17-acre complex includes a 36,650-square-foot state-of-the-art elephant barn and a 10-plus acre wooded elephant preserve.

Zoo visitors can still see Billy and Tina before they depart. A date for the move has not yet been determined.

The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive, in Griffith Park. Visit [lazoo.org](http://lazoo.org).

See what you maybe missed?

To be honest, no one really notices the escaped dog except for the 200 or so people in the very back of the park, half asleep in their lawn chairs one minute, in full 911 mode the next. The crazy beast emerges seemingly out of nowhere, confirming another one of Pastor Purdy's points that day: there is evil in this world and we all need to be prepared.

According to him, and most pastors I know, the remedy to all our personal problems – and evil itself – lies in the gospel, and not in some of the other activities I sometimes find myself drawn to on suburban Friday nights.

Point taken.

The Easter morning had started out so swell. Beautiful day, patent-leather sunlight, untarnished and dripping with the spirit of renewal.

I'd fed both dogs around 6 a.m., as always, snapped on their leashes and headed to the park, knowing full well that we probably wouldn't make it through the entire outdoor service. But I like the acoustic guitars, the birdsong of the young performers' voices, as the rising sun sends chards of crystal over the nearby mountains.

One of my hopes is to grab a free cup of coffee, a sacrament in a recycled paper cup, with some of that powdered creamer I like. The cloudy coffee races right to your needy soul, on chilly spring mornings like this, the volunteers no doubt getting up at 4 or 5 to make sure it's set up for the early arrivals, bundled in parkas, blankets and caribou boots.

All I want is half a cup, for I am tending to livestock on leashes, so I have to allow for a certain amount



photo by Chris Erskine

In seconds, she slips off her leash and gets the zoomies.

of roping and splashing.

But I never get my coffee. In about the third-inning, White Fang – my half-wolf, half-demon husky – decides to issue a sermon of her own, speaking directly to the other dogs in attendance.

“Happy Easter!” she aaaarfs. “Wanna rumble?”

That's what they call, in the business, an exit cue. I begin to wrangle the two dogs out the back way – “come on, come on, come on...” I know it's rude to leave so early, but even ruder to let a barking dog disrupt Pastor Purdy's poignant sermon.

At this point, Penny Laine slips off her leash and all the fun begins.

As you can see, this is a love story, really, one of full hearts, longing and need. Most of my stories are.

At full gallop, Penny is pretty much just a passing blur, circling faster and faster around the park. I

mean, ever seen Secretariat at full stride at the finish line, or the stock cars at Daytona?

I have to say, White Fang is a big help. Every time I get within a few inches of grabbing the frantic golden retriever, Fang bares her teeth and lunges out, as if to say, “How dare you disrupt this special Easter service just as I was getting to know some of these other nice dogs.”

Finally, though, I am able to snap the leash back on Penny and we all exit out the back, preening and frisky, bouncing on our paws, each of us thinking: “Well, that sure was fun.”

You know, I never understood how life is a breeze for some people, tougher for others.

But I do know this: Dogs make every moment better.

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

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# Holocaust Museum hosts annual Yom HaShoah commemoration

Holocaust Museum L.A. is holding “Beyond Liberation,” an annual Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) Commemoration on Sunday, April 27, at 11 a.m. in Pan Pacific Park.

Marking the 80th year of liberation and the end of the Holocaust, generations of survivors, communi-

ty members and religious leaders will remember those who perished and honor survivors. Speakers include senior rabbi Amy Bernstein, of Kehillat Israel in Pacific Palisades; Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District; and Holocaust survivor Erika Fabian, in conversation with

Fox 11 News anchor Elex Michaelson. The event features music by harpist Paige Kim, violinist Ilana Kleiman and senior cantor Lizzie Weiss, of Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills. Survivor Henry Slucki will lead a singing of “The Partisan Song,” an anthem for Holocaust survivors.

Israeli American artist Tomer Peretz will debut an original canvas he created with Holocaust survivor Gabriella Karin to commemorate the anniversary of liberation. Prior to the ceremony, attendees can contribute to the public artwork, which will later be displayed in the museum’s expanded campus opening in 2026.

Pan Pacific Park is located at 7600 Beverly Blvd. For information and to RSVP, visit [holocaust-museumla.org/event-details/yom-hashaoah-commemoration-3](https://holocaust-museumla.org/event-details/yom-hashaoah-commemoration-3).



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

Hundreds of people will gather near the Holocaust Monument in Pan Pacific Park for the Yom HaShoah ceremony.



photo courtesy of CHLA

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles’ mental health programs are supported by the gift from the Tikun Olam Foundation.

## CHLA receives transformative gift from Tikun Olam Foundation

The Tikun Olam Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles has awarded a \$25 million gift to establish the Stein Tikun Olam Early Connections Program at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

The program will be among the first of its kind in the nation providing universal, hospital-wide infant-family mental health services. The donation is the largest in the history of CHLA dedicated to early childhood mental health.

The gift by philanthropic visionaries Mindy and Gene Stein will support trauma-informed, culturally sensitive infant-family mental health screenings and interventions for every child up to age 3. Led by Marian Williams and Melissa Carson, the Stein Tikun Olam Early Connections Program will expand training for CHLA’s multi-disciplinary workforce to meet the unique mental health needs of

young patients with complex conditions.

“This generous gift will allow Children’s Hospital Los Angeles to be leaders in developing a model for infant-family mental health care that ensures families with medically complex infants and young children have the tools to create strong familial bonds,” CHLA CEO Paul S. Viviano said. “Thanks to this support, our team members will be able to provide an unparalleled level of care to the youngest children and their families. We are grateful to Mindy and Gene Stein ... for such a visionary gift.”

The Stein Tikun Olam Early Connections Program aims to advance health equity, promote early relational health and reduce the effects of adverse childhood experiences.

CHLA is located at 4650 W Sunset Blvd. For information, visit [chla.org](https://chla.org).



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# TCM brings VistaVision back to theaters

BY RANCE COLLINS

The team at Turner Classic Movies is ready to host its annual TCM Classic Film Festival on April 24-27 in Hollywood. As always, many A-list performers are scheduled to appear, including Kathy Bates, Al Pacino and Michelle Pfeiffer, who will receive her hand and footprints at the TCL Chinese Theatre forecourt on April 25.

The real stars of the festival, TCM senior director of original programming Scott McGee said, are the films – and by film, he means format. Festival guests will get a rare treat this year, as both “We’re No Angels” (1955) and “Gunfight at the O.K. Corral” (1957) will be projected on VistaVision at the TCL Chinese Theatre.

“We have revived a format that has not seen the light of day since sometime in the early 1960s,” McGee said.

The VistaVision format emerged as Paramount Studios’ preeminent widescreen process during the 1950s. Unlike most widescreen

films, which were shot vertically with anamorphic lenses on 35 mm film, VistaVision turned the reels on their sides, shooting the film horizontally – similar to IMAX.

“That image is larger. It allows more of a greater depth of field and a finer grain to the quality of the image,” McGee said. “I can tell you that when Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg saw ‘The Searchers,’ which was also shot and projected in VistaVision, [they said] it was astounding, and it was unlike anything else they’d ever seen.”

The process was later used for special effects shots in movies like “Star Wars,” though it otherwise fell out of favor in the 1960s as other, cheaper processes became industry standard.

Regardless, movies shot in VistaVision were only shown in the format for limited engagements – with the movies instead being distributed in mass on 35 mm prints. There were very few projectors manufactured to handle VistaVision prints, and TCM had to get creative to make projecting the films possible.

The company partnered with Boston Light and Sound co-founder Chapin Cutler to find a usable projector.

“Chapin secured a prototype of the VistaVision camera that he had once donated to a museum,” McGee said. “He borrowed it back, and along with a team of projectionist on the Boston Light and Sound team, as well as a young projectionists who has an engineering background, he came up with a way of creating a new VistaVision projector.”

TCM Festival director Genevieve McGillicuddy called it a “Frankenstein effort.”

VistaVision has seen renewed interest in the last year. It was the format for “The Brutalist,” which won the Best Cinematography Oscar, and it is also being used for Paul Thomas Anderson’s next movie, “One Battle After Another.” “The Brutalist,” though, was not distributed in the format.

“This has been a dream for many, many people to revive Vista Vision,” McGee said.

In addition to VistaVision, TCM will also project two movies on nitrate film. Nitrate was the film stock used for most movies made into the late-1940s. It is notoriously combustible, so much so that many theaters literally burned down when projecting nitrate films in cinema’s early days.

“It has very strict parameters on how to use, how to project nitrate, all of which we are adhering to, of course,” McGee said, adding that the risk is worth it.

“You are treated to a much crisper image. And nitrate gives off a distinct silver sheen to it, which is



photo by Thomas Piccio

A specially crafted projector will be used to project the VistaVision films “We’re No Angels” and “Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.”

why movies are often called, the silver screen,” he added.

Two films starring Joan Crawford will be projected on nitrate at the Egyptian Theatre, including 1945’s “Mildred Pierce,” for which she won the Oscar for Best Actress.

Among other highlights will be a midnight screening of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” (1975) on April 25, complete with a “shadow cast” that will encourage audience participation.

“What the shadow cast is doing is they are acting out, in a way, what the cast on the screen is doing,” McGee explained. “But [it’s for the] benefit of the people in the audience to show them, ‘Okay, here is what we do with this prop.’ Each audience member is going to be

given a bag full of props that are supposed to be used at certain points during the movie.”

Ultimately, McGee said, the festival is an opportunity for movie fans to come together.

“I think because we come at this film festival from a purist point of view, not to say that we are snobs or anything, but because we always remember that movies strike an emotional chord in all of us, and we put the emotion into this experience. I think that’s what brings people back, and I also think that’s what brings the talent here,” he said. “They realize that we’re not here just to get a headline.”

For information, including on how to purchase tickets for individual screenings, visit [filmfestival.tcm.com](http://filmfestival.tcm.com).

## Friedman hosts town hall

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) hosted a town hall at Los Angeles City College on April 14. There, she continued engaging directly with constituents on the most pressing issues facing families across the region – from unaffordable housing and rising healthcare costs to attacks on democratic institutions and essential federal services. The town hall was live-streamed on CSPAN.

“It was an honor to host this town hall and hear directly from the people I represent. These conversations matter – and what I heard tonight

was clear: families are struggling with rising costs, broken systems, and an administration that’s making things worse,” Friedman said. “From defunding Social Security offices to targeting our healthcare and veterans, this is sabotage, not governance. I’ll keep showing up – in our communities, in the courts, and in Congress – to fight for the values we share and the future we deserve.”

To view the town hall, visit [c-span.org/program/public-affairs-event/rep-laura-friedman-holds-town-hall-meeting/658558](http://c-span.org/program/public-affairs-event/rep-laura-friedman-holds-town-hall-meeting/658558).



photo courtesy of the office of Laura Friedman

Constituents appeared to ask questions of Rep. Laura Friedman at her April 14 town hall.

## WeHo hosts fair for protecting rights

The city of West Hollywood will host “Safeguarding Our Rights – The First 100 Days, a Town Hall & Resource Fair.” During its first 100 days in office, the Trump Administration has worked to dismantle programs and eliminate funding that supports some of the most vulnerable members of the community. The “Town Hall & Resource Fair” will bring together leading advocacy organizations to discuss the immediate and ongoing impacts of actions taken by the new administration, particularly those actions affecting LGBTQ+ people, immigrants, women and marginalized communities.

“Safeguarding Our Rights – The First 100 Days” will take place on Tuesday, April 29, from 6:30-9 p.m. at West Hollywood’s Council Chambers/Public Meeting Room, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. Attendance is free. To RSVP in

advance, use the Eventbrite link posted at [go.weho.org/townhall](http://go.weho.org/townhall). The event will begin with a resource fair at 6:30 p.m., which will offer attendees the opportunity to connect directly with organizations to access tools and information to support advocacy efforts. At 7 p.m., a program and panel discussion will feature representatives from key partner organizations who will speak to the challenges ahead and the power of collective action. At 8:30 p.m., there will be a Q&A.

Participating organizations include ACLU Southern California, APLA Health, CHIRLA, Equality California, Los Angeles LGBT Center, Planned Parenthood, and TransLatin@ Coalition.

For information about West Hollywood’s efforts to defend the rights of community members, visit [weho.org/resist](http://weho.org/resist).

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# More work on Metro project planned through end of April

The Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority is working on the D Line subway project along Wilshire Boulevard and is repairing streets near the subway stations.

Lane reductions are in place on Wilshire Boulevard through June near the Wilshire/Western, Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax stations. The work will require a full closure of each intersection on separate week-ends in June from 8 p.m. on Friday through 6 a.m. on Monday. More details about the full closures will be announced soon.

At the Wilshire/La Cienega station, street restoration continues through the end of April on the north

side on Wilshire Boulevard. Intermittent lane closures, turn restrictions and sidewalk closures may be necessary on La Cienega and Wilshire boulevards, and side streets. Two lanes on Wilshire Boulevard are open in each direction between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards. Instrumentation and utility work is ongoing in the area.

In Beverly Hills, utility installation work is ongoing for approximately three weeks in the alley between North Cañon and Beverly drives. The work will happen overnight from 8 pm.-6 a.m.

Starting on Monday, April 28, the AKA Alley between North Cañon Dr and Crescent drives will be fully

closed to begin potholing and concrete breaking activities in preparation for permanent utility installation. The work is anticipated to last two weeks. Drivers can enter and exit the alley from Clifton Way.

At the Century City /Constellation Station, deck panel removal and street restoration are ongoing in April along Constellation Boulevard between Century Park East and Solar Way. Work on appendage structures, which are rooms and passageways adjacent to the main station, is anticipated to be complete following deck removal and restoration in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Metro is holding the next “Lunch with Us” webinar on May 7 at noon focusing on work on the Wilshire/La Cienega and Wilshire/Rodeo subway stations in Beverly Hills, including construction timelines and project mile-



photo by Edwin Folven

The entrance/exit structure is taking shape for the subway station at Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue.

# Federal lawmakers build support for Housing for All Act

U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Reps. Ted Lieu (D-Los Angeles County) and Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) have reintroduced the Housing for All Act, a comprehensive approach to address the homelessness and affordable housing crises.

The legislation will invest in proven solutions to address affordable housing shortages and provide a historic level of federal funding for existing programs to reduce homelessness and innovative solutions for vulnerable populations.

“Housing is a basic human right, not a privilege,” Padilla said. “As the Trump administration callously

cuts essential housing programs and resources that Americans across the country depend on, our Housing for All Act is a blueprint for building upon locally developed solutions and providing necessary federal investments to finally treat the homelessness and affordable housing crises with the seriousness they deserve.”

“Housing and homelessness are two significant crises we face today,” Lieu added. “There is not enough affordable housing in California and across this country. Everyday Americans can work more than one job, and it’s still not enough to afford safe and stable

housing. This is unacceptable. It’s time we finally invest in the proven, community-driven solutions that combat homelessness and create more affordable housing.”

As the Trump administration undermines and defunds critical housing services across the country – including staff cuts at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and potential closure of two-thirds of HUD field offices nationwide – investments to boost the affordable housing stock and reduce homelessness are essential, the legislators said.

“Homes have been too expen-

sive for far too long,” Carbajal said. “While we have the tools to address this crisis, the challenge has always been scale. The Housing for All Act will make historic investments in programs addressing housing and homelessness – including my Safe Parking legislation – to ensure every American has a roof over their head.”

The legislation will address the affordable housing shortage by investing in the National Housing Trust Fund, the HOME Investment Partnerships program, the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program and the Section 811 Supportive Housing for People with Disabilities Program. It will also invest in housing choice vouchers, project-based rental

assistance, the Emergency Solutions grant program (street outreach, rapid re-housing assistance, emergency shelter and homelessness prevention) and the Eviction Protection Grant Program. For information, visit [padilla.senate.gov](https://padilla.senate.gov).

# State leaders accelerate plans to prevent wildfires

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation authored by Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel (D-Woodland Hills) on April 14 that aims to protect communities ahead of the peak fire season.

The legislation fast-tracks critical projects to ensure wildfire resiliency, allocating more than

\$170 million in accelerated funding for forest and vegetation management. The bill also allocates \$10 million to support wildfire response.

“With this latest round of funding, we’re continuing to increase the speed and size of forest and vegetation management essential

to protecting communities,” Newsom said. “We are leaving no stone unturned, including cutting red tape, in our mission to ensure our neighborhoods are protected from destructive wildfires.”

The funds will be shared by six conservancies, including the Santa

Monica Mountains Conservancy, which will receive \$31.3 million. The conservancies will increase the pace of fuel reduction, prescribed fire burns and forest health.

Additionally, Newsom signed an executive order to ensure that the wildfire safety projects funded under AB 100 benefit from streamlining under a previous emergency proclamation.

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

# Prang, Park host disaster relief fair for fire victims

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang and Los Angeles City Councilmember Traci Park, 11th District, are hosting an in-person Westside Disaster Relief Resource Fair on Sunday, April 27, from 9 a.m.-noon at the Los Angeles Airport Police Facility. The fair will focus on programs available to property owners impacted by the recent Palisades and Eaton fires.

to receive direct updates from Prang, Park and representatives of county and city departments about property tax relief and vital services. The free public fair offers guidance on options such as misfortune and calamity claims for properties affected by natural disasters. Attendees will also receive information about navigating property ownership issues.

“These wildfires were devastating and unprecedented,” Park said. “We are going to support you the best we can and stay with you during the rebuilding process no matter how long it takes or how challenging it may be.”

“This resource fair will focus on disaster relief programs for those impacted by wildfires, as well as other essential services,” Prang said. “With registration numbers growing, we encourage attendees to sign up in advance.”

The Los Angeles Airport Police Facility is located at 9160 Loyola Blvd. For information and to register, visit [assessor.lacounty.gov/events](https://assessor.lacounty.gov/events).

**“This resource fair will focus on disaster relief programs for those impacted by wildfires, as well as other essential services.”**

*Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang*

The event offers an opportunity

# Denim Day launches survivor hotline

To mark Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Peace Over Violence has launched a new national toll-free number, (844)DENIM99, for survivors and allies to share stories of grief, hope and resilience. The initiative is part of Denim Day’s 26th anniversary, a global event that amplifies survivors’ voices and demands an end to sexual violence. The 2025 Denim Day theme is “Use Your Voice,” which inspired the new toll-free line.

Throughout April, survivors and allies can call (844)DENIM99 to share their stories. The phone line is available 24 hours, providing a safe, confidential space for individuals to record messages, express feelings, reflect on their journeys and contribute to a collective movement aimed at breaking the silence surrounding sexual violence by “Using Their Voice.”

“Denim Day, as a global movement, has transformed the conversation about sexual violence and assault, helping survivors emerge from darkness and shame into spaces where we affirm, ‘We believe you, and your voice matters,’” said Patti Giggans, CEO and executive director of Peace Over Violence and founder of Denim Day. “This new toll-free national line is a crucial extension of Denim

Day’s mission to create an environment where survivors can speak out, be heard and empower others. We want everyone to recognize that their voices matter and that their stories can inspire change. Using their voices helps survivors navigate the journey to deeper healing.”

**“Denim Day, as a global movement, has transformed the conversation about sexual violence and assault.”**

*Patti Giggans, CEO and executive director of Peace Over Violence and founder of Denim Day*

For Denim Day this year on April 30, individuals worldwide will gather at rallies and events wearing denim to show solidarity with survivors and challenge the victim-blaming attitudes that contribute to the culture of silence and shame surrounding sexual assault.

For information, visit [denimday.org](https://denimday.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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RESTAURANT NEWS

San Laurel hosts intimate dining experience

On April 24, Conrad Los Angeles will hold an intimate eight-person chef's table dining experience at San Laurel, where the art of gastronomy meets the elegance of Perrier-Jouët Champagne. This meticulously curated multi-course menu, crafted by Conrad LA's culinary team, highlights the finest seasonal ingredients paired with the delicate effervescence of Perrier-Jouët's prestigious cuvées, on San Laurel's exterior terrace with a view of Frank Gehry's other architectural feat, the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

The dinner will feature elevated flavors such as aerated raspberry oysters, Kaluga hybrid caviar, and Jurgielewicz duck breast, each dish designed to complement the nuanced notes of the champagne selection. Set against the backdrop of Downtown L.A.'s skyline, it will

be an extraordinary evening of indulgence, refinement and rare pairings.

For reservations and information, visit [opentable.com/r/san-laurel-los-angeles](https://opentable.com/r/san-laurel-los-angeles). Conrad Los Angeles is located at The Grand L.A., 100 S. Grand Ave.

Pizza Fest goes 'Live' April 26-27

Pizza City Fest is back for its third consecutive year and offers an unparalleled experience for pizza aficionados to explore the area's unique pizza landscape and witness the exceptional talents of top pizza makers.

Attendees will have the exclusive opportunity to savor unlimited offerings from the region's premier pizza artisans, all conveniently located in one central hub atop the L.A. Live Event Deck on April 26-27.

Steve Dolinsky, the founder of

Yéyo partners with ALK for one-night-only experience

In an exclusive one-night event on April 30 from 7-9 p.m., ALK is partnering with Yéyo Tequila for a Chef's Dinner Pairing that brings together the art of modern cuisine with small-batch, premium tequila. The evening offers a rare opportunity to savor a thoughtfully curated menu paired with hand-selected expressions from Yéyo Tequila, as well as a special chance to meet the brand's founder, Jon Bullinger.

The night begins with a Yéyo Blanco 80 Pink Lady Cocktail, paired with a delicious selection of tray-passed amuse-bouches, including chicken empanadas, spicy peppers with goat cheese, mini quesadillas, mini cheese pupusas and queso y membrillo. From there, guests are guided through four elevated courses, each thoughtfully matched with a unique Yéyo tequila pairing. The first course features hamachi



photo courtesy of ALK

A special curated menu will be available on April 30 at ALK.

crudo with avocado, jalapeño and daikon sprout, paired with a taste of Yéyo Blanco High Proof. The second course presents drunken garlic shrimp with Santa Fe Salad, grilled corn and cilantro, complemented by a Yéyo Luna Joven Cocktail. The third course highlights grilled pork tenderloin with mango salsa and sweet potato, paired with a taste of Yéyo

Reposado. The evening concludes on a decadent note with chocolate fudge cake and dulce de leche ice cream, served alongside a Yéyo Sol Joven espresso martini.

Reservations can be made at [opentable.com/r/alk-at-the-godfrey-hotel-hollywood-los-angeles](https://opentable.com/r/alk-at-the-godfrey-hotel-hollywood-los-angeles). ALK at the Godfrey Hotel Hollywood is located at 1400 N. Cahuenga Blvd.

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Pizza City Fest and a two-time Emmy and 13-time James Beard Award-winning food reporter, has curated yet another mouthwatering list of 40 pizza makers spanning the region from Santa Barbara to San Diego, and included a dozen new entries to the culinary roster this year.

Pizza City Fest Los Angeles has also assembled an incredible lineup of chefs, authors and experts who will share both their knowledge and love of pizza in a series of panel discussions and demonstrations throughout the weekend.

General admission tickets are \$125 for Saturday, April 26 and \$115 for Sunday, April 27. VIP tickets are \$200 for Saturday and \$190 for Sunday. VIP guests will receive one-hour early admission, a special reserved seating area, a dedicated bar, reserved VIP seating for panel discussions and demos and an exclusive Pizza City Fest swag bag. Tickets are available now at [lalive.com/pizza-city-fest-la](http://lalive.com/pizza-city-fest-la).

All tickets include unlimited veggie and meat pizza tastings from 20 different pizzerias each day, as well as beverages, sides, and desserts, plus admission to panel discussions and demos. L.A. Live Event Deck is located at 1005 Chick Hearn Court.

Five-course dinner served up at SOCALO

Celebrity chef duo Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feniger are teaming up with Pali Wine Co. for a five-course wine pairing dinner, featuring a menu curated by SOCALO’s Executive Chef Paul

Plasencia, Pali’s newest wine releases and the chance to meet winemakers such as Aaron Walker, all within SOCALO’s beautiful and vibrant private dining room. The event is set to begin at 7 p.m on May 1. Tickets are \$99 and available at [exploretock.com/socalo /event/539064/pali-wine-dinner](http://exploretock.com/socalo/event/539064/pali-wine-dinner). SOCALO is located at 1920 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.

Beachside brunch presents culinary journey

Discover an unparalleled brunch experience at Beachside Restaurant & Bar, located within the scenic Jamaica Bay Inn in Marina del Rey. Executive Chef Ron Herrera’s brunch is a seven-course culinary journey.

The exquisite brunch features dishes such as flash-seared yellowfin tuna with a sesame crust and caviar, steak and eggs on asiago toast, and peanut butter and banana French toast. Enhance the experience with optional black sturgeon caviar bumps and a complimentary bubbly toast of Château Ste. Michelle.

Set against the serene backdrop of Mother’s Beach, the spacious dining room and oceanfront patio provide the perfect setting for a leisurely weekend meal. The Executive Chef’s Brunch is available every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for \$60 per person. For reservations, visit [opentable.com/restaurant/profile/51730](http://opentable.com/restaurant/profile/51730). Beachside Restaurant & Bar is located at 14160 Palawan Way.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at Descanso

Descanso Restaurant, the modern taqueria known for its vibrant Plancha-style cooking and bold Central West Mexican flavors, is turning up the heat for Cinco de Mayo with an extended weekend celebration. Guests in both Costa Mesa and Los Angeles can enjoy signature cocktail and appetizer specials, live music, all-day happy hour on Monday, May 5, and festive vibes all weekend long.

Get the fiesta started with a pitcher of margaritas especiales for the table, paired with a special platter of Descanso’s most-loved street food-inspired appetizers, including elote asado, chips and salsa frita, clásico guacamole, ceviche campechano, chicken taquitos and birria empanadas.

Keep the party going at home with Descanso’s \$25 takeout margaritas and cocktails – perfect for sharing with four to six people.

For information, visit [descansorestaurant.com](http://descansorestaurant.com). Descanso Restaurant is located at 5773 Wilshire Blvd.

Un-BOX Japanese American chicken

Owner and Executive Chef Noah Clark and his family are bringing their highly anticipated, award-winning BOX Chicken home to Los Angeles. The family legacy, rooted in culinary innovation, is introducing their revolutionary new fast-casual experience featuring BOX Chicken’s signature Japanese

American Chicken Tendie, a mouth-wateringly delicious fusion of Japanese and American flavors that completely redefines the original chicken tender.

Founded by Los Angeles native Maggie Antoine over four decades ago, BOX Chicken began as a modest Bento Box operation serving Japanese tour groups and the film industry. Her signature Japanese American chicken tender, crafted from her Japanese heritage, became a city favorite, winning hearts across Los Angeles and beyond. In the late 1990s, Maggie and her sister, Reiko Clark, took their success to Atlanta, Georgia, launching a successful franchise and receiving multiple awards. Now, led by Maggie’s nephew and Reiko’s son, Clark, BOX Chicken has returned to its hometown to launch an entirely reinvented concept, bringing Angelenos their legendary Chicken Tendie that started it all.

Operating out of Westside Eats cloud kitchen, BOX Chicken is ready to make its mark in Greater Los Angeles, with plans to expand through ghost kitchens across the city, leading to a highly anticipated flagship store.

BOX Chicken is open every

Monday-Wednesday from 11:00 a.m.-9 p.m., every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m.-midnight, and every Sunday from 1 p.m.-8 p.m. In addition to its signature menu, BOX Chicken also offers catering services, corporate BOX meals and trays for events and gatherings. For information, visit [eatboxchicken.com](http://eatboxchicken.com) or call (213)255-5727. BOX Chicken is located at 2325 S. Sepulveda Blvd.

Miracle Mile Chamber hosts ice cream mixer

Join the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce for a neighborhood mixer at Salt & Straw. The venue will be debuting the new “Cookbook Series” menu, serving up donut ice cream sundaes in collaboration with Holy Grail. The event will be held from 6-7 p.m. on April 29. Salt & Straw is located at 240 N. Larchmont Blvd. To RSVP, email [info@miraclemilechamber.org](mailto:info@miraclemilechamber.org).

Grab a Cherry Cola Doughnut to support Alzheimer’s research

Building on its dedication to giving back, Voodoo Doughnut is continuing its support of the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America through its latest Giving Doughnut. As part of its quarterly give-back campaign, Voodoo Doughnut is introducing the Cherry Cola Doughnut; a bold and playful take on the beloved Cherry Cola flavor, with a portion of proceeds benefiting AFA’s mission to provide critical programs, services and research for those affected by Alzheimer’s disease.

Handcrafted with Voodoo Doughnut’s signature creative flair, the Cherry Cola Doughnut is covered in cola frosting, bursting with bright cherry filling, and topped with sweet fluff and a cola candy.

“Alzheimer’s impacts so many lives in different ways, and we’re honored to support the work of



photo courtesy of Voodoo Doughnut

Voodoo Doughnut is debuting a Cherry Cola Doughnut.

the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America,” Voodoo Doughnut CEO Chris Schultz said. “Their efforts bring hope and resources to individuals and families facing this disease, and we’re humbled to continue our partnership in support of their vital mission.”



The limited-edition doughnut will be available at participating Voodoo Doughnut locations through July 7, with partial pro-

ceeds of each Cherry Cola doughnut sold supporting the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America’s mission to provide support, services and education to individuals, families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer’s diseases and related dementias nationwide. For information, visit [voodoodoughnut.com](http://voodoodoughnut.com). Voodoo Doughnut has several locations in the Los Angeles area, including at 7101 Melrose Ave.

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# WeHo asks residents to scoop up after pets

The city of West Hollywood has announced the launch of a new community education campaign, Scoop The Poop, aimed at promoting responsible pet ownership and reinforcing the importance of keeping shared spaces clean, safe and enjoyable for everyone.

“It only takes 20 seconds to be a good neighbor,” Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. “Leaving pet waste behind on sidewalks, parkways or in our public parks creates unsanitary conditions, foul odors and even serious health risks for both people and animals. So, let’s all be conscientious and do our part to pick up after our four-legged friends.”

As one of the most pet-friendly cities in the nation, West Hollywood champions policies that support animal welfare and celebrate the bond between pets and their people. From pet-friendly parks to protections for renters with pets, the city is committed to ensuring a welcoming environment for

pets and their human guardians. The city’s Scoop The Poop campaign builds on the city’s commitment by encouraging pet guardians to take simple but essential actions: always clean up after pets and keep dogs on leashes in public areas.

Pet waste can carry harmful bacteria and parasites that spread disease and contaminate the environment. Similarly, off-leash dogs in public areas not designated for off-leash activity can pose safety concerns to other pets, children and adults. The West Hollywood Municipal Code and the Los Angeles County Animal Care & Control Ordinance require that dogs remain leashed in public spaces and that pet waste be properly disposed of. These regulations help protect community health, safeguard pets and maintain clean shared spaces that help to make West Hollywood a vibrant and livable city.

The Scoop The Poop campaign was launched this month with pub-

lic service announcements in digital transit shelters, pedestrian kiosks and information displays at city parks and facilities. The PSAs reinforce the message that picking up only takes a few seconds and that it is part of responsibilities as a pet guardian. Detailed messaging will highlight the health and environmental benefits of picking up pet waste and leashing dogs, while also reinforcing the relevant laws.

Additionally, the city, as part of this effort, is evaluating opportunities to enhance signage in parks and other key locations. There are more than 100 pet waste stations installed throughout West Hollywood and the city will assess whether more stations are needed, as well, to further support this effort.

For information about the Scoop The Poop campaign, contact Joshua Schare, West Hollywood director of communications, at (323)848-6431 or at jschare@weho.org. For information about pet waste stations, call (323)848-6895.

# LA Opera presents Ainadamar

From April 26-May 18, LA Opera will present the company premiere of “Ainadamar,” led by resident conductor Lina González-Granados. With a dramatic, flamenco-inspired score by Argentinian composer Osvaldo Golijov and a

poignant libretto by David Henry Hwang, the opera recounts the fateful final days of poet and playwright Federico García Lorca, a man whose pen became his downfall during the Spanish Civil War. The opera is staged by director

Deborah Colker in a production that has recently won acclaim at the Metropolitan Opera, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera and Detroit Opera.

“‘Ainadamar’ is an astonishing work that reminds us of the critical role that artists play in defining and defending our humanity,” LA Opera president Christopher Koelsch said. “The opera’s atmospheric sound world melds the classical operatic tradition with Spanish music and folk styling, an utterly beguiling combination that works brilliantly. I am so eager for our audiences to experience this modern-day masterpiece, especially with the truly brilliant cast we have assembled under the baton of resident conductor Lina González-Granados.”

Tickets begin at \$24.50 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased online at laopera.org, by phone at (213)972-8001, or in person at the LA Opera box office at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave. For disability access, call (213)972-0777 or email laopera@laopera.org.



photo by James Glossop, Scottish Opera  
Deborah Colker’s “Ainadamar” was staged by the Scottish Opera in 2022.

# South East European Film Festival returns to L.A.

The 20th annual South East European Film Festival, also known as SEEFest, co-presented by ELMA, foundation for European Languages and Movies in America, is bringing to Los Angeles U.S. premieres, European talent and an Industry Accelerator with panels and workshops from April 30-May 7. The festival will showcase over 50 movies from the culturally rich areas of East and South East Europe.

Opening the festival on April 30 with a red carpet gala at the Writers Guild Theater in Beverly Hills, 135 S. Doheny Drive, will be the Los Angeles premiere of Bogdan Mureșanu’s Romanian tour-de-force “The New Year That Never Came,” which won the FIPRESCI Award and the award for best film in the Orizzonti program in Venice last fall. The film is a tragicomedy that climaxes with the bang of a firecracker in a highly unlikely pair of hands, effectively kicking off the revolution.

Accelerator, the industry platform of the festival, is structured as a series of sessions and workshops with visiting and local filmmakers, and Hollywood professionals as mentors. It has become a go-to plat-

form for the independent filmmakers from Eastern Europe and those who live and work in Los Angeles. Two weeks of workshops and sessions with Hollywood industry experts provide insights and feedback, practical tips and a testing ground for pitching and shopping projects. One of the films in this year’s festival lineup, the Bosnian

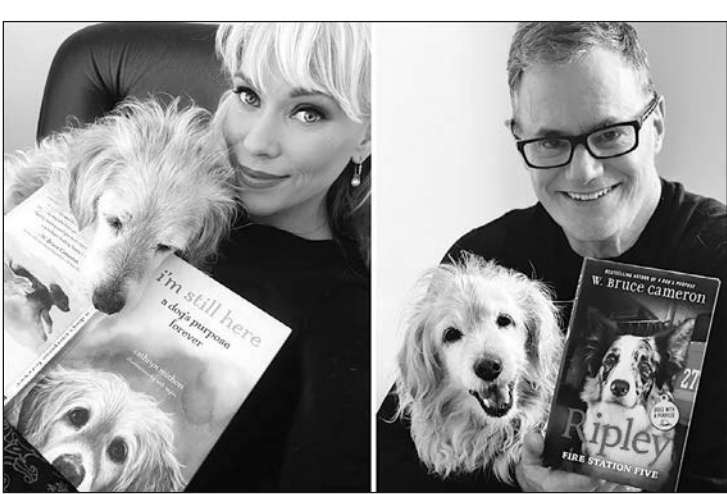
feature “When Santa Was a Communist,” began as a project at the SEEFest Accelerator.

This year, nine projects have been selected for the Accelerator, taking place through April 27. All workshops and meetings are provided free to filmmakers.

For information, visit seefilmfestival.org.



photo courtesy of SEEFest  
Films include North Macedonian “DJ Ahmet.”



photos courtesy of Wallis Annenberg PetSpace  
Authors Cathryn Michon and W. Bruce Cameron will join the first Paws & Pages Book Club on April 27.

# PetSpace launches book club

The only thing better than curling up with a favorite pet and a good book ... is curling up with a favorite pet and a good book about pets. On Sunday, April 27, join Wallis Annenberg PetSpace for the launch of Paws & Pages Book Club.

Starting this month, join as the PetSpace picks a different book, from feel-good stories about remarkable companion animals, to mystery novels featuring unlikely animal characters, to non-fiction works that take a deep dive into the minds and personalities of our animal friends. Grab a copy at a favorite store or library and read away. Then, be PetSpace’s guest for coffee, pastries and a lively

discussion of favorite passages and themes.

For the inaugural meeting, PetSpace is thrilled to welcome bestselling author W. Bruce Cameron for a discussion of his charming and heartfelt new novel, “My Three Dogs” (Forge Books, 2024). The afternoon will take the format of a moderated discussion with the author, led by fellow bestselling author Cathryn Michon (“I’m Still Here: A Dog’s Purpose Forever”).

The event runs from 3-5 p.m. Admission is \$5 plus fees. To purchase, visit annenbergpetspace.org/events/3692075. The Wallis Annenberg Pet Space is located at 12005 Bluff Creek Drive.



photo courtesy of the Music Center  
Dance the night away at Music Center events.

# Music Center to offer summer vibes

Angelenos of all ages won’t need to venture far to find the ultimate destination for summer vibes. Located along Downtown Los Angeles’s newly created Grand Avenue Cultural District – and easily accessible by public transportation – The Music Center via its TMC Arts programming division, its resident company partners (Center Theatre Group, LA Opera, LA Phil and the Los Angeles Master Chorale) and Gloria Molina Grand Park will offer an incomparable summer calendar packed with the best and most unforgettable experiences geared for all ages.

From Tony Award-winning musicals performed in The Music Center’s Ahmanson Theater to legendary outdoor dance parties taking over Jerry Moss Plaza at The Music Center to an epic Summer Block Party guaranteed to burst the thermometer, The Music Center is the top spot for fun under the sun,

under the stars and under the spotlight.

“This summer, The Music Center invites all Angelenos to visit the heart of Downtown L.A. where our campus and Gloria Molina Grand Park will come alive with music, dancing and a wide array of performances – many of which are free or low cost,” said Rachel S. Moore, president and CEO of The Music Center. “Summer is the perfect time of the year to step outside, discover what makes Los Angeles so culturally vibrant and connect with one another. Join us at L.A.’s performing arts center to celebrate creativity, build lasting memories and elevate the artistic voices and stories that define Los Angeles. The Music Center will be your place for unforgettable moments all summer long.”

To view a complete list of summer events at The Music Center, visit musiccenter.org/summer. The Music Center 135 N. Grand Ave.



# ‘Sinners’ bends genres in an unexpected vampire flick

Please, please, please, we need more genre defiance, more cinematic conviction, more original films like “Sinners.” It’s a period film, a horror film, a drama, an action thriller, all tapping into complicated social issues all too real right now. This is it, the best film of the year thus far, the perfect artistic weapon against the present madness.

Twins Smoke and Stack (both played by Michael B. Jordan, though one of ‘em sure feels tailor-made for Jonathan Majors) leave their gangster days back in Chicago, returning to the Mississippi Delta. They need to lay low, but that ain’t happening. Instead, they open a juke joint. All seems fine until they draw unwanted attention.

Is it Al Capone’s goons or nearby Klan members? Nope, it’s a single vampire, Remmick (Jack O’Connell), who sports a beautiful singing voice and a singular desire

to grow his family. The twins and other locals, like Delta Slim (Delroy Lindo rocking the funniest lines all film long), Sammie (Miles Caton) and Annie (Wunmi Mosaku, from “Lovecraft Country” and “Loki”), must survive the night against a thirsty horde outside.

The premise seems simple enough, but it’s all in the execution. If you think you know how the story will play out because of the trailers, you know nothing. The promotional material is a misdirect. Three different films are at play: the period story, the horror film and something else. Without many spoilers, it’s all about music. Don’t expect folks to unexpectedly break into song. But songs will play a central role in sequences realistic and surreal.

This is writer-director Ryan Coogler’s response to critical and public pleas for more original sto-

## ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

ries. You want something that isn’t a prequel, sequel or adaptation? Here’s a Great Depression vamp flick that doesn’t shy away from pre-civil rights racism. Oh, it’s occasionally a musical featuring solid blues.

Leave it to the director of “Fruitvale Station” and “Black Panther” to remedy an industry frustration in the loudest, most bombastic way possible. This is a major win that could actually turn a profit (unlike many contenders this year alone).

Period films with R ratings are often a tough sell for filmgoers. Tack on that \$90 million budget (plus marketing, splitting revenue



photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Michael B. Jordan, left, and Miles Caton are exceptional in “Sinners.”

with theaters, etc.), and who knows if the gamble will pay off. But north of \$60 million during opening weekend ain’t bad.

Just remember that many films like those by Guillermo del Toro (“The Devil’s Backbone,” “Pan’s Labyrinth”) walked so “Sinners” could soar. Other genre-benders like “Lovecraft Country” should also receive some love. Everything led to this perfect moment, an insane experience – violent, visually stunning, well acted, thematically rich – that’s sure to be remembered come awards season.

It helps that Coogler works so well with Jordan, who has appeared in all the new auteur’s films. Casting him in two roles here makes sense and permits Jordan to let loose in satisfying ways. He’s a

natural star who plays against himself with ease.

Speaking of letting loose, Hailee Steinfeld as vamp Mary probably wasn’t on anyone’s bingo card this year, but we need more of that madness. It’s been a minute since her big screen breakout in “True Grit,” sporting a strong Midwestern accent. Somehow, a Southern accent to complement bloodlust intent just works.

Hopefully, “Sinners” sparks some creative juices in Hollywood. Please, please, please, give us more untold stories, more fresh ideas that defy a single genre and absolutely more Coogler. This is the kind of film ride that sticks with you. Get ready to ride the high. And don’t forget to stay seated during the credits. It pays off.



photo courtesy of Vox Lumiere

Enjoy an evening of music set to silent film on April 30 at the Lumiere Cinema.

## ‘Vox Lumiere Metropolis’ comes to Beverly Hills

The classic silent film “Metropolis” comes to three-dimensional high-decibel life on Wednesday, April 30, at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. at the Lumiere Cinema Beverly Hills.

Vox Lumiere’s award-winning musicians and singers perform an eclectic mix of original rock, pop and Hollywood film scoring live to the legendary silent film. For music, movie, sci-fi, fantasy and

comic book fans, the event promises to be an unforgettable evening.

Limited seats are available per show. The event includes a photo op with a life-size “Metropolis” robot and “Metropolis” step and repeat. General admission is \$35; \$45 for VIP tickets. The Lumiere Cinema is located at 9036 Wilshire Blvd. For tickets and information, visit kshpresents.com/metropolis-tix.

# 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!

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## UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music appoints new dean

Scholar and author Michael Beckerman has been named as the new dean of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, beginning in the new role on or before Oct. 1.

Prior to his appointment at New York University, Beckerman was a professor at Lancaster University (2011-15) and a member of the music faculty at University of California, Santa Barbara (1992–2003) and Washington University in St. Louis (1982–92). A highly regarded musicologist, Beckerman specializes in Czech and Eastern European music, with strong ties to ethnomusicology, composition and performance. Author or editor of seven books, Beckerman was awarded the Dvořák Medal and the Janáček Medal by the Czech Ministry of Culture and is also a laureate of the Czech Music Council. He was awarded the Gratias Agit Award from the Czech

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Harrison Medal from the Society of Musicology in Ireland, and has twice received the Deems Taylor Award.

“As the new dean of The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, I bring a lifelong passion and strong commitment to the study and performance of music,” Beckerman said. “I am eager to contribute to this school’s extraordinary stature and support the success of the next generation of musicians, music industry leaders, scholars and educators. It is also my desire to deepen the engagement with the local Bruin community while furthering the school’s global reach to raise its international profile.”

Beckerman received the Golden Dozen Teaching Award from NYU in 2013 and the George Estabrook Distinguished Alumnus Award from Hofstra University in 2012.

He currently serves on the board of directors for the NYU Center for Ballet and the Kalabis Foundation.

“Professor Beckerman’s academic, professional and administrative experience and achievements, coupled with his UC roots, position him well to lead the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music at this pivotal moment,” UCLA executive vice chancellor and provost Darnell Hunt wrote in a message to campus community. “Recognizing the importance of the arts to our mission of higher education, Chancellor [Julio] Frenk and I are confident that the school will continue to fulfill its vital role on campus and will reach new heights under Mike’s capable leadership.”

The Herb Alpert School of Music prepares students for 21st century music careers. Home to musical scholars, music industry experts



photo by Alexa Hoyer

Michael Beckerman, currently a professor at NYU, specializes in Czech and Eastern European music.

## State resource helps students plan education pathways

Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled an innovative informational tool on April 22 to help students better understand options for education and career planning.

The Cradle-to-Career Data System, known as C2C, links datasets from K-12 and higher education, social service and workforce agencies. The system allows educators, students, researchers and policymakers to access detailed information on education, career outcomes and workforce trends – broken down by demographics and region – to address areas of strength and needed growth. By linking data

from multiple sources, C2C identifies gaps and highlights opportunities in the education system.

“California is thrilled to launch its first-in-the-nation Cradle to Career Dashboard, a powerful new tool to support every Californian on their path to success,” Newsom said. “With the C2C Student Pathways Dashboard now live, Californians can visualize their futures by seeing disconnected data from across sectors and previously unavailable insights, all in one place. The Golden State is once again leading the way in innovation, connecting our education system to the work-

force to ensure everyone has the freedom to succeed.”

Access to transparent, verified and centralized information about education and workforce outcomes is necessary to understand whether efforts to improve student success are working. Students and families often make decisions about education and career pathways with limited and disconnected information about outcomes. The new dashboard addresses the information gap.

“In my quest to find basic information on college-going rates, outcomes or employment prospects, it felt like trying to find a needle in a haystack because of all the different

resources,” said Mike Nguyen, a student at the University of California, Berkeley and a Cradle-to-Career Advisory Board member. “With this tool, I feel that students like me will have the chance to have everything available at their fingers.”

The online dashboard shows connections between K-12 education and the state’s public college system and earnings information to help users, such as guidance counselors, identify the best education options for specific students. People can analyze how students navigate to and through college, who enrolls in college, what types of degrees students earn, how long

it takes students to graduate, how much working students earn while enrolled in college and how much individuals earn after they graduate

“In today’s information-driven world, it’s never been more crucial to provide our students, school district leaders and the community with timely, accurate and reliable information to help make informed decisions to improve futures,” California Government Operations Agency Secretary Nick Maduros said. “The Cradle-to-Career initiative gives the decision-making power to all Californians.”

To access the system, visit [c2c.ca.gov/data-stories/pathways-to-college-in-california](https://c2c.ca.gov/data-stories/pathways-to-college-in-california).

## Adult students get diplomas through library’s online school

The Los Angeles Public Library held its career online high school graduation ceremony on April 18 at the Central Library. The library’s Career Online High School offers adults ages 19 and older an opportunity to earn a high school diploma. Los Angeles

Public Library, the first public library in the nation to offer an accredited high school diploma and career certificate online, has graduated more than 1,000 students. For information about the online school, visit [lapl.org/diploma](https://lapl.org/diploma).



photo courtesy of LAPL

Students in the online program marked a milestone in their education at the graduation ceremony at the Central Library.

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# Olivia Munn to receive Women’s Cancer Research Fund award

The Women’s Cancer Research Fund, supporting the advancement of the world’s most promising breast cancer research, has announced that actress and activist Olivia Munn will receive the “Courage Award” at the organization’s flagship “An Unforgettable Evening” gala, taking place on Monday, April 28, at the Beverly Hilton, while three-time Grammy winners Little Big Town will perform.

Munn will be honored for selflessly sharing her ongoing breast cancer journey and, in doing so, inspiring countless women to take their health into their own hands and get screened for breast cancer. This year, the event will be hosted by comedian, actor and writer Whitney Cummings and will once again feature extraordinary cancer survivors and tributes to the memory of those impacted by the disease. Honorary chairs will include Rita Wilson, Tom Hanks and Tom Ford; with gala chairs Jamie Alexander Tisch, Quinn Ezralow, Laurie Feltheimer; and co-chairs Wallis

Annenberg and Kris Levine, Kelly Chapman Meyer, NJ Falk, Judy and Leonard Lauder, William P. Lauder, Tig Notaro & Stephanie Allynne, Martin Short and Steve Tisch.

For over 25 years, the event has brought together leaders in entertainment, cancer research and corporate philanthropy to raise funds for pioneering cancer research conducted at leading medical and academic institutions across the U.S. A program of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, WCRF’s collaboration allows scientists to fast-track more effective approaches to the study and early diagnosis of women’s cancers. WCRF, together with BCRF, are supporting research in the areas of lifestyle and prevention, tumor biology and pathology, treatment for triple-negative breast cancer and data-driven modeling systems to better understand cancer behavior and metastasis.

“Over the past year, we cannot think of anyone more deserving to receive our ‘Courage Award’ than Olivia Munn, a fearless cancer advocate and mother, whose inspir-

ing cancer story has sparked critical conversations about the importance of cancer screenings,” Jamie Alexander Tisch said. “‘An Unforgettable Evening’ celebrates hope for those who face a breast cancer diagnosis, while acknowledging that there is still urgent work to be done for the millions of women like Olivia, who are currently in treatment and in need of a cure today.”

Munn was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer in April 2023. In March 2024, Munn shared the story of her ongoing journey with breast cancer publicly, urging women to advocate for their health. When detected early, breast cancer five-year survival is 99% – compared to 66%, when the cancer has spread. Munn, whose cancer was detected at stage 1, has since had five surgeries, including a lymph node dissection, a double mastectomy and a hysterectomy.

The Women’s Cancer Research Fund, a program of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, supports the advancement of the world’s most promising research directed at the development of innovative approaches to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and metastasis of breast cancer. Visit [wcrfure.org](http://wcrfure.org) for information.



photo by Rich Polk/courtesy of Getty Images

Actress Olivia Munn is known for her work in “The Newsroom” and “X-Men: Apocalypse.”

For tickets to the gala, give [bcrf.org/event/womens-cancer-research-fund-an-unforgettable-evening-2025/e648279](http://bcrf.org/event/womens-cancer-research-fund-an-unforgettable-evening-2025/e648279). The Beverly Hilton is located at 9876 Wilshire Blvd.

# The Fowler Museum presents ‘Construction, Occupation’

The Fowler Museum at UCLA announced “Construction, Occupation,” a major collective

exhibition examining the intersections of art, activism and social justice through the lens of urban trans-



photo courtesy of the Fowler Museum at UCLA

The exhibition examines social justice through works by Brazilian artists.

formation. On view from May 4 to Jan. 11, 2026, the exhibition brings together 24 artists and collectives – primarily from Brazil – whose radical vocabulary challenges conventional boundaries between art and activism.

Curated by associate professor Alex Ungprateeb Flynn – of UCLA’s Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance – and São Paulo-based independent curators Juliana Caffé and Yudi Rafael, “Construction, Occupation” highlights the power of creative resistance, drawing direct connections between São Paulo and Los Angeles. The exhibition revisits and extends the groundbreaking 2016-17 “Cambridge Artistic Residency” in downtown São Paulo, where an

abandoned 17-story hotel was occupied by low-wage workers, refugees and artists, ultimately leading to its transformation into government-funded social housing and a vibrant cultural hub. At the Fowler, the exhibition will feature photography, video and installations from the original CARE residency alongside newly commissioned works, offering a compelling visual narrative of collective action, protest and the radical potential of artistic practice to reimagine the urban landscape.

“‘Construction, Occupation’ examines art’s potential to shape the spaces in which we live, presenting a radical urban vocabulary that blurs the boundaries between art and activism,” Ungprateeb Flynn said. “By linking São Paulo’s history of occupation-based social change with the

urgent housing crises in Los Angeles, ‘Construction, Occupation’ proposes new models of resistance and collective action to reclaim space and advocate for social justice.”

“Bringing ‘Construction, Occupation’ to the Fowler aligns with our commitment to presenting exhibitions that challenge perspectives and foster meaningful dialogue on global social issues,” Fowler Museum Director Silvia Forni said. “By showcasing the intersection of art and activism, this exhibition highlights the transformative power of community-driven artistic practices and invites visitors to reconsider the role of public space in shaping equitable cities.”

The Fowler Museum is located at 308 Charles E. Young Drive. For information, visit [fowler.ucla.edu](http://fowler.ucla.edu).

# Q Con blasts off on May 3

Prism Comics, the nonprofit championing LGBTQIA+ visibility, diversity and inclusion in comics, graphic novels and popular media, announced the fourth annual Q Con, Southern California’s only LGBTQIA+ comic convention, and the return of Q Con the Podcast.

Q Con will take place on Saturday, May 3 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Fiesta Hall in Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Q Con is a celebration of LGBTQIA+ comic books, graphic novels, pop media, gaming and cosplay.

Q Con is free to the public and family-friendly, providing pre-teens through adults with the opportunity

to find a wide variety of comics and graphic novels affirming LGBTQIA+ representation at one exciting, colorful event. Meet comics creators. Get autographs. Attend panels. Show cosplay pride. Enter the costume contest for fun and prizes.

Q Con is also currently accepting applications for exhibitor tables, seeking LGBTQ+ comic creators, businesses and volunteers. If interested in tabling at Q Con or volunteering, email Ted Abenheim, president of Prism Comics, at [ted@prismcomics.org](mailto:ted@prismcomics.org) for details.

To reserve free tickets to Q Con, visit [qconprism.org](http://qconprism.org). Free tickets will also be available at the door.



photo courtesy of Prism Comics

Exhibitor tables will be available with merchandise at Q Con.

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# POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between April 13 and April 19. 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 13

At 1:08 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8500 block of Wilshire.

### April 14

A vandalism incident was reported in the 9300 block of Wilshire at 2:30 a.m.

At 9:15 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 100 block of S. Wetherly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9400 block of Dayton at 12:02 p.m.

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

### April 15

A vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of S. Roxbury at 6:44 a.m.

At 1:46 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 300 block of N. Rodeo.

### April 16

At 6:03 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Wilshire and Tower.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of S. La Cienega at 10 a.m.

At 11:30 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8700 block of Wilshire at 4 p.m.

At 8:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 300 block of N. Palm.

### April 17

At 10:43 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9300 block of Burton.

A vandalism incident occurred in the 300 block of S. Oakhurst at 1 p.m.

At 2:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary in the 9400 block of Brighton.

### April 18

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

### April 19

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft from a vehicle in the 200 block of N. Wetherly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft from a vehicle in the 500 block of N. Crescent at 5:10 a.m.

At 4:23 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 300 block of N. Camden.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 6:11 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft from a vehicle in the 600 block of N. Elm.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 9000 block of Burton at 7:17 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 9 p.m.

At 11:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9300 block of Monte Leon.

## West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

### April 13

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7500 block of Norton at 1 a.m.

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

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 1:30 a.m.

At 1:54 a.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Sunset and Sweetzer at 4:45 p.m.

### April 14

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8900 block of Ashcroft.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8500 block of Sunset at 11:02 a.m.

At 12:20 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8300 block of Santa Monica at 1:20 p.m.

### April 15

At 1:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of N. Sweetzer.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1300 block of N. Laurel at 4:30 p.m.

At 7:35 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset at 8:10 p.m.

At 8:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Formosa.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 8400 block of Sunset at 8:54 p.m.

# Deputies target drivers on phones behind the wheel

Deputies from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department are conducting operations targeting drivers violating the hands-free cell phone law.

Drivers are not allowed to hold a phone or electronic communications device while operating a vehicle. It includes talking, texting and using an app.

Using a handheld cell phone while driving is punishable by a fine. Violating the hands-free law for a second time within 36 months of a prior conviction will result in a point being added to a driver’s record.

“A driver’s focus should be on the road, not their phone,” LASD Sgt. Michael Lennig said. “That text, phone call, email or social media post is not worth the risk to yourself and other people on the road.”

Drivers are reminded to pull over to a safe location before answering



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

Sheriff’s deputies in West Hollywood are looking for distracted drivers.

a phone call or text. Before driving, silence phones or place them out of reach.

Funding for the LASD program

is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

# Forum focuses on current state of fentanyl crisis

The Westside Impact Project Coalition, in partnership with the Institute for Public Strategies, is hosting a free community forum on the fentanyl crisis on Friday, April 25, from 6-8 p.m. at the Culver City Parks and Recreation Center.

The event will feature speakers from service providers and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, providing updates on local prevention efforts and collaborative harm-reduction strategies. A free naloxone (Narcan) training demonstration will be held to equip attendees with tools and

knowledge to respond to life-threatening opioid overdoses and save lives.

The event includes Culver City Councilwoman Yasmine-Imani McMorris, Dr. Brian Hurley, medical director for the L.A. County Department of Public Health, and representatives from Blue Shield/West L.A. Resource Center, L.A. Outpatient Center, Core Center, Zinc Methods, Koreatown Youth & Community Center, Westside Impact Project Coalition and Visionary Leaders in Action Coalition.

The event will be held in the Rotunda Room at the center, 4117 Overland Ave. For information, visit [publicstrategies.org/focus-areas/alcohol-drug-prevention/westside-impact-project](https://publicstrategies.org/focus-areas/alcohol-drug-prevention/westside-impact-project).

# State lowers costs for life-saving opioid reversal drug naloxone

California residents can purchase individual twin-packs of CalRx-branded over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray for \$24 per carton – almost half the standard market price, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on April 22.

Previously offered only to government entities and businesses in packs of 24, the new direct-to-consumer program expands individual access to the life-saving overdose reversal medication, the governor said.

Naloxone, a medication that

blocks the effects of opioids, can reverse an overdose, giving individuals crucial time to receive medical help. By offering the life-saving medication at a fixed, affordable price, CalRx is improving public health.

Anyone residing in California can visit the CalRx website to purchase an individual twin-pack of naloxone HCL 4 mg nasal spray for \$24, plus tax and shipping fees. The price makes CalRx among the most cost-competitive options available. For information, visit [opioids.ca.gov](https://opioids.ca.gov).

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Sunset.

### April 16

At 1:57 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7600 block of Hampton at 8 a.m.

### April 17

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8400 block of Melrose at 9:18 a.m.

At 11:40 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Sweetzer.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1000 block Vista at 4:20 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect

pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

### April 18

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9200 block of Sunset at 3:30 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

### April 19

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 12:49 a.m.

At 2:27 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 6:30 a.m.

At 4:20 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Sunset.

## 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.



# Explore art across L.A. with Civic Art Passport

In partnership with the L.A. County Department of Arts and Culture, L.A. County Library invites residents to explore public art in their communities through the Civic Art Passport. The fun and interactive Arts Month experience encourages residents to visit 22 library locations featuring artworks from L.A. County’s Civic Art Collection – and collect passport stamps along the way.

Residents can pick up a free Civic Art Passport at any L.A. County Library location, including the West Hollywood Library. Participants who collect all 22 stamps will receive an exclusive Arts Month gift bag, while supplies last. As part of the Arts Month celebration, community members are encouraged to share photos of art they explore on social media using the hashtag #ICheckedOutArt and tagging @LACountyLibrary and @LACountyArts.

L.A. County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, celebrated the L.A. County Civic Art Collection and the Department of Arts and Culture’s Civic Art Division in the motion “Celebrating 20 Years of Civic Art and Investing in its Future,” co-authored by Supervisor

Hilda L. Solis, 1st District. Since the Civic Art Division began, the county’s collection has grown to 637 civic artworks in libraries, parks, hospitals, health centers, fire stations and public spaces.

“The L.A. County Civic Art Collection belongs to every resident of Los Angeles County,” Barger said. “From murals to sculptures, civic art is woven into the fabric of our communities, enriching daily life across the region. As we celebrate the accomplishments of the Department of Arts and Culture’s Civic Art Division – and the inspiring Civic Art Passport project with L.A. County Library – we reaffirm our commitment to bringing public art, creative opportunities and cultural resources into every neighborhood.”

“Art has the power to reflect who we are, where we come from and where we’re going. For two decades, the Civic Art Division has worked to ensure that public art reflects the full diversity of communities across Los Angeles County,” Solis said. “I’m honored to co-author this motion celebrating 20 years of civic art and to uplift initiatives like the Civic Art Passport that make culture accessible, interactive and visible in

everyday spaces. This project invites Angelenos to engage with meaningful artworks in their own neighborhoods – while spotlighting local artists whose stories and perspectives have too often been left out of public spaces. It’s a celebration of creativity, community and shared pride in what makes our county so extraordinary.”

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



photo courtesy of L.A. County Library

Residents can collect Civic Art Passport stamps in libraries across the county.

## Visit Viola Davis at Madame Tussauds

In celebration of one of Hollywood’s most distinguished and accomplished actresses, Madame Tussauds Hollywood revealed a stunning new wax figure of EGOT winner Viola Davis on April 10.

Renowned for her commanding performances and groundbreaking achievements, Davis made history as the youngest person and first African American to earn the prestigious Triple Crown of Acting – an Academy Award, an Emmy Award and two Tony Awards. The actress and producer is best known for her roles in highly acclaimed films and TV shows, including “The Woman King,” “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” “Doubt,” “The Help” and “How To Get Away With Murder.” With her career continuing to soar, she is set to take on the leading role in the highly anticipated film “G20,” which debuted on Amazon Prime this month.

To make sure every detail of her figure was meticulously crafted, Davis sat down with the creative team, including sculptors, colorists, hairdressers and stylists, who took approximately 200 measurements and photographs from every angle to ensure accuracy of her exact facial and physical features.

“This is what art is supposed to do. This is how art is supposed to make you feel,” Davis said. “It’s transcendental. It goes far beyond anything you could imagine in an

earthly realm.”

The new figure is dressed in the striking red Giorgio Armani Privé gown she wore to the 2017 Oscars, a night where she took home the Best Supporting Actress award for her role in “Fences.” From her platform sneakers to a precise replica of her gold jewelry, including her wedding ring, every detail was considered to capture Davis’s signature elegance and presence with incredible accuracy.

“Viola Davis continues to captivate audiences worldwide with her powerful performances and extraordinary talent,” said Tom Middleton, general manager of Madame Tussauds Hollywood. “This figure is a tribute to her lasting influence in the entertainment industry, giving fans a unique opportunity to celebrate her legacy and connect with her brilliance like never before.”

Before its official reveal at Madame Tussauds Hollywood, Davis came face-to-face with her wax figure, a moment that honored her extraordinary career and powerful presence on screen. Now on display, the figure serves as a tribute to Davis’s lasting impact on the entertainment industry, offering guests a unique opportunity to engage with her legacy in an immersive and personal way.

For information, visit [madame-tussauds.com/hollywood/](http://madame-tussauds.com/hollywood/).



photo courtesy of Madame Tussauds Hollywood

Earlier this month, Viola Davis had the opportunity to see her wax figure.

## 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:

<b>LOCATIONS:</b>	<b>West Hollywood, California</b>
<b>REQUEST:</b>	<b>The Planning Commission</b> will consider a proposed zone text amendment to streamline the regulations and approval of Accessory Businesses Uses (ABUs) and Incidental Business Activities to encourage a creative mix of commercial uses.
<b>PERMIT(S):</b>	Zone Text Amendment, and any other required permits.
<b>APPLICANT(S):</b>	City of West Hollywood
<b>TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:</b>	<b>Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.</b> West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
<b>ZONES:</b>	Citywide
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:</b>	Categorically Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15061(b)(3) (Review for Exemption)

**Complete digital agenda packets** will be available on Thursday, May 8, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at [www.weho.org](http://www.weho.org)

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Paige Portwood, Associate Planner at (323) 848-6401, [PPortwood@weho.gov](mailto:PPortwood@weho.gov)

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

**Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информацииR4B ffi на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.**



# Beverly Hills celebrates Jewish American Heritage Month in May

The city of Beverly Hills and its Community Services Department announced a series of celebratory events throughout May in honor of Jewish American Heritage Month. Established in 2006, the month-long observance recognizes and celebrates the significant contributions that Jewish Americans have made to the history, culture and society of the United States.

“Jewish American Heritage Month holds a special significance for our community, and for me personally,” Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. “As a Persian Jew who immigrated to the United States from Iran, I am living the American dream. I have been fortunate to pursue higher education, earn a professional degree and lead the city of

Beverly Hills as mayor. I am not alone. Jews from around the world have made the United States their home, and a significant Jewish population resides in Beverly Hills. Jewish Americans are making remarkable contributions to the history and culture in our city, enriching it in so many ways.”

Join the city for the JAHM kick-off celebration at the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market on Sunday, May 4, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The festive morning will be filled with a rugelach baking contest and gondi/matzo ball soup contest, hands-on tzedakah-box making hosted by the Skirball Cultural Center, a stop-motion animation workshop with artists Joanna Neborsky and Patricia Luna, and a

family-friendly klezmer set with fan-favorites Mostly Kosh. Entry application for the rugelach and gondi/matzo ball soup contests are available online at [beverlyhills.org/csevents](http://beverlyhills.org/csevents).

Additional events throughout the month include: “Jewish Tales of Wonder, Wit and Wisdom” with Karen Golden on Thursday, May 15, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Public Library, 444 N. Rexford Drive; “Lebensraum” – a staged reading presented by West Coast Jewish Theatre at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 at Greystone Mansion and Gardens, 905 Loma Vista Drive; and “The Jewish American Foodie: A Conversation” with Harry Posner, Tannaz Sassooni and Elina Shatkin at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 19, at Beverly Hills City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive.

A series of films will be shown each Thursday in May at 1 p.m. at Roxbury Park Community Center,



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The city will host events including a performance by klezmer group Mostly Kosh. on May 4.

471 S. Roxbury Drive, about stories that explore Jewish themes and cultures, offering a cinematic celebra-

tion of heritage.

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



photo courtesy of Cinespia

Hollywood Forever Cemetery will serve as the setting for a host of screenings starting in May.

# Getty adds deaccessioned objects to website

The J. Paul Getty Museum announced on April 16 that it has added information to its online collection pages about objects that have been removed from Getty’s collection. The long-term project offers a comprehensive searchable tool for people interested in the Getty’s collection history.

“In alignment with the Getty’s mission of providing access to our art collections, the deaccession pages of our website share historical information on objects that are no longer in our collections, up to the point at which they were deaccessioned,” Getty Museum Director Timothy Potts said.

The collection of the Getty Museum is reevaluated regularly to ensure it maintains the highest quality and aligns with Getty’s mission. Inclusion of deaccession information on Getty’s website also brings the Getty more closely into alignment with peer institutions and professional standards and expands the information available to scholars for provenance research. Consistent with policies of the American

Alliance of Museums and the Association of Art Museum Directors, any funds received from selling deaccessioned works are used for the acquisition and direct care of works of art.

Curators, provenance researchers, registrars, designers, digital teams and information specialists have spent years working on the complex task of identifying and properly cataloging the objects. Every record includes information about the artwork and its history, as well as a thumbnail image of the object if available. Documentation about the objects and their whereabouts since deaccession is not available since Getty no longer owns the rights to the images, artwork or related information.

Some artworks were deaccessioned before thorough digital records were created, and those will be published later as they are ready.

The Getty Museum’s collection pages can be viewed by visiting [getty.edu/art/collection](http://getty.edu/art/collection) and deaccessioned objects can be viewed by visiting [getty.edu/museum/deaccessioning](http://getty.edu/museum/deaccessioning).



photo courtesy of Getty

Information about items that have been removed from Getty’s collection is now available online.

# Hollywood Forever readies for new Cinespia season

Cinespia, L.A.’s favorite cinematic experience presented by Amazon MGM Studios and Prime Video, is back for its 24th season at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery, kicking off the summer with two tales of one amazing city: “The Big Lebowski” (May 24) and the 30th anniversary of “Clueless” (May 25), followed by a tribute to the once-in-an-eternity auteur David Lynch with “Blue Velvet” (May 31).

Additional screenings for the 24th season will be announced soon.

“Cinespia has always been a love letter to Los Angeles and to the movies that shaped us,” said Cinespia founder, John Wyatt. “We’re honored to begin this sea-

son with two unforgettable portraits of our city, and a tribute to the great David Lynch.

Cinespia DJs are back to spin onsite sets before and after each screening, setting the vibe alongside the iconic free photo booth featuring dreamy scenes inspired by everyone’s favorite films. The beer and wine bar and concession stands will also be returning for guests to enjoy during their experience.

What began with a screening of “Strangers on a Train” for a few hundred people has become a Los Angeles institution, hosting hundreds of thousands of moviegoers on the famed Fairbanks Lawn. Now the most popular outdoor cinema event in Southern California,

Cinespia is celebrated by fans and filmmakers for hosting a relaxed, off-beat experience. Welcoming up to 4,000 moviegoers per night, guests are invited to bring their own blankets, food and drinks (including beer and wine), before settling in under the stars for a classic (and sometimes campy) cinematic experience. The magic of Hollywood’s most memorable moments is heightened by the roar of the crowd and movies on the big screen.

Every screening also features world class DJ talent to keep the crowd buzzing before and after the main event.

For information or to purchase tickets, visit [cinespia.org](http://cinespia.org). Hollywood Forever Cemetery is located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd.

# Taiwanese literature takes center stage at Festival of Books

The annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books will be held from April 26-27, featuring hundreds of exhibitors and more than 500 authors on the USC campus.

Taiwan Academy of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles will showcase Taiwanese literature in translation at Booth 148, inviting book enthusiasts to explore Taiwanese creations.

The Ministry of Culture in Taiwan has prioritized the publication of translated Taiwanese literature. The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books is one of the largest book festivals in the United States and offers an opportunity to promote and publicize books from Taiwan. A collection of publications from 2024-25 will be presented including “Taiwan Travelogue,” by Yáng Shuang-zi and translated from Mandarin Chinese by Lin King, winners of the 2024

American Book Award for Literary Translation; “Ká-Sióng,” a set of five thrillingly distinctive chapbooks featuring writers and translators from Taiwan; “Banana King,” longlisted for the PEN America Literary Awards and PEN Translation Prize in 2025; “Elephant Herd: A Novel,” by Zhang Guixing, recipient of the Newman Prize for Chinese Literature; and the children’s book, “Wild Greens, Beautiful Girl,” which weaves together details about Indigenous culture, heritage, history

and language.

A meet-and-greet session with Henry Lien, the Taiwanese American author of “Spring, Summer, Asteroid, Bird: The Art of Eastern Storytelling,” is scheduled at 2 p.m. on April 26.

The USC campus is located at 3551 Trousdale Parkway. Photo ID is required at all access points to enter USC. For information, visit [taiwanembassy.org/uslax\\_en/index.html](http://taiwanembassy.org/uslax_en/index.html) and [events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks](http://events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks).



photo courtesy of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles

A collection of Taiwanese publications from 2024-25 will be presented at Booth 148 at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books.



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# L.A.’s infamous ‘Crime Scenes’ explored

After a star-studded, sold-out launch that drew the attention of Hollywood insiders and press alike, Wiggle Room is continuing its explosive debut season with a chilling new residency: “Crime Scene Live,” featuring legendary homicide detective Don Tabak. Taking over the iconic suite at the Loews Hollywood Hotel – where Britney

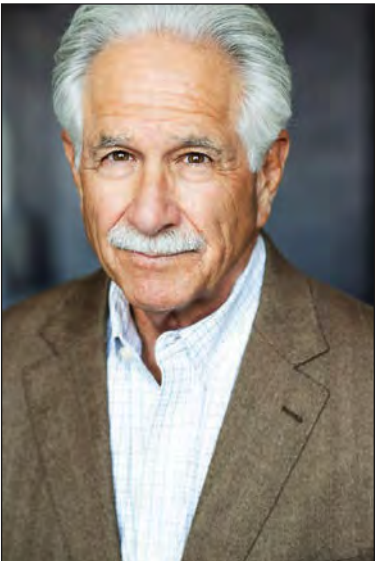


photo courtesy of Wiggle Room  
Don Tabak will host “Crime Scene Live” every weekend in May.

Spears once filmed her “Everytime” music video and Lady Gaga rehearsed for “A Star Is Born” – the new installment will run every weekend in May, except the weekend of May 17.

Part immersive theater, part true crime experience, “Crime Scene Live” invites guests to step inside some of Los Angeles’ most infamous murder investigations. Drawing from over 100 real-life homicide cases, Tabak guides audiences through high-profile stories including those of John Belushi, the Hillside Strangler, Biggie Smalls, Nicole Brown Simpson and the Manson murders. With gripping detail and a commanding presence, Tabak leads guests through a journey of suspense, insight and psychological intrigue, culminating in a fully interactive “Who Dun It” experience where the audience becomes part of the investigation itself.

Tabak, a decorated former homicide detective and consultant for CNN, BBC and Fox, is widely respected for his investigative work on some of the most sensational criminal cases in L.A. history. Now, he brings those stories out of

the courtroom and into an intimate live setting, transforming cold case files into living, breathing performances that blur the lines between crime, theater and audience engagement.

Wiggle Room Entertainment, co-founded by 98 Degrees’ Jeff Timmons and award-winning producer Erich Recker, is quickly redefining the boundaries of live performance by merging narrative, interactivity and exclusivity in a way never before seen in Los Angeles. The concept brings guests into high-end suites for immersive storytelling experiences that span genres – from mind-bending illusions to culinary storytelling to true crime theater – all within arms’ reach of the performers themselves.

Tickets for “Crime Scene Live” are available at wiggle room.com. Additional shows will be announced soon, including June’s residency with Michelin-starred chef Fabrizio Vaccaro, and a rotating roster of celebrity-driven storytelling experiences through summer 2025. Loews Hollywood Hotel is located at 1755 Highland Ave., inside Ovation Hollywood.

# Bowl named Outdoor Concert Venue of the Year ... again

The Hollywood Bowl, one of the leading natural amphitheatres in the world and the summer home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, was honored on April 16 as the Outdoor Concert Venue of the Year (Red Rocks Award) at the 36th annual Pollstar Awards at the Beverly Hilton.

This award has now been bestowed on the iconic venue 18 times in addition to its 2021 win for Amphitheatre of the Decade at the 32nd Pollstar Awards. These distinctions reaffirm the Hollywood Bowl as a premier destination for performers and audiences alike.

Renowned for its exquisite setting, the Hollywood Bowl hosts a tremendous range of artists, from classical and jazz to rock and reggae, along with iconic film music and special presentations of Broadway favorites. In 2024, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association celebrated another diverse and electrifying Hollywood Bowl season with over 100 concerts, including nine performances with music and artistic director Gustavo Dudamel and shows featuring Patti LaBelle, Chaka Khan, Laufey, Seal, Khruangbin, LA Phil

Creative Chair for Jazz Herbie Hancock, Pink Martini, Natalia Lafourcade, Camilo, Jungle and Mitski.

The Hollywood Bowl 2025 summer season was announced in February. Subscription renewals are available online at hollywood-bowl.com or by phone at (323)850-

2000. “Create Your Own” packages are now available, and the Hollywood Bowl Box Office opens for single-ticket sales at 10 a.m. on May 6.

For information, visit hollywoodbowl.com. The Hollywood Bowl is located at 2301 Highland Ave.



photo courtesy of LA Phil  
The opening night at the Hollywood Bowl is set for June 7 with host Hugh Jackman.

# Irene Dunne ‘thinks pink’ for Saint John’s

The Irene Dunne Guild will hold its 19th annual Think Pink for Women’s Wellness, a fundraiser for Saint John’s Health Center, at newly opened Regent Santa Monica on Wednesday, May 7, from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

As the community continues to recover from the devastating Palisades and Eaton fires, the Irene Dunne Guild is more committed than ever to creating meaningful gatherings and bringing health education and awareness to women and their families. The Irene Dunne Guild, a support group of Saint John’s Health Center Foundation, raises funds for women’s health programs, nursing scholarships, medical equipment, programs for care givers and family support services.

The informative, fun and social

event features breakout sessions, with lectures from notable physicians and health experts. Boutique shopping is available throughout the event, with net proceeds benefiting the programs, equipment and services at Providence Saint John’s Health Center.

Tickets are \$195.00 per person. Think Pink Chairs are Suzanne Caldwell and Sila Vokshoor. For information, contact Saint John’s Health Center Foundation at (310)829-8424 or visit irenedunneguild.org. Regent Santa Monica is located at 1700 Ocean Ave.



photo courtesy of the Irene Dunne Guild  
The annual Think Pink gala will support St. John’s Health Center.

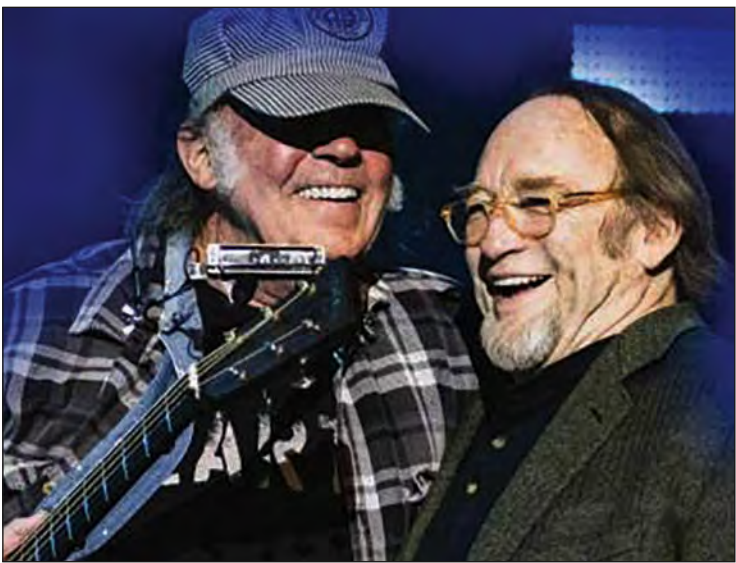


photo courtesy of Light Up the Blues  
Neil Young and Stephen Stills appeared at the 2023 “Light Up the Blues” concert.

# Greek ‘Lights Up the Blues’ to help autism awareness

Actor and comedian Ken Jeong will be master of ceremonies at the Autism Speaks “Light Up the Blues 7 Concert,” taking place April 26 at the Greek Theatre.

Neil Young, Stephen Stills, Billy Idol and Steve Stevens, Nathaniel Rateliff, Cat Power, Linda Perry, Rufus Wainwright, Chris Stills, Oliver Stills and Christina Applegate will come together for an unforgettable night of music and celebration.

Hosted once again by Kristen and Stephen Stills and produced by Nederlander Concerts, the evening will also spotlight performances by talented autistic artists including The Spectrum Bluegrass Band and Abbey Romeo. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

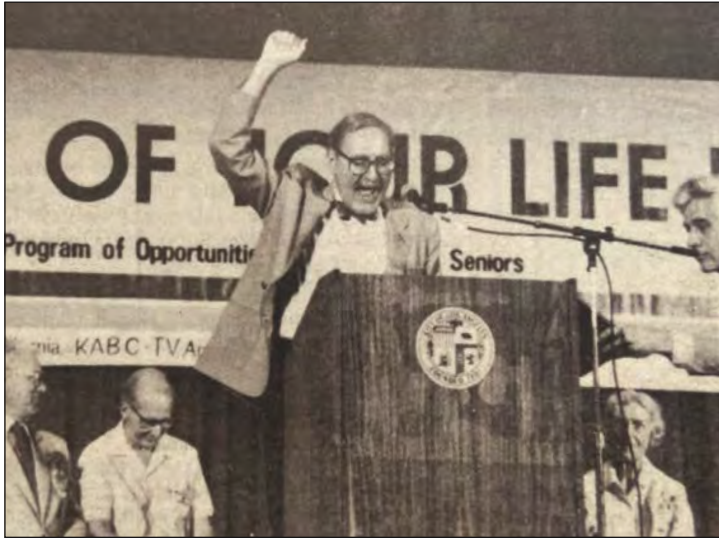
The “Light Up the Blues Concert,” presented by the

Indianapolis Colts, returns for its seventh year and will celebrate Autism Speaks’ 20th anniversary and the autism community, while helping to fuel Autism Speaks’ work to provide resources and services for all autistic individuals, across the spectrum and throughout their lifespan. Proceeds from the “Light Up the Blues 7 Concert” will support Autism Speaks’ efforts, which include funding research, increasing early childhood screening and interventions and improving the transition to adulthood for people with autism.

For information, visit autismspeaks.org/press-release/music-legends-join-autism-speaks-light-blues-7-concert. The Greek Theatre is located at 2700 N. Vermont Ave.

## VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

### ‘Dr. George’ welcomes seniors at expo



Meteorologist and television personality George Fischbeck addressed the crowd at the “Time Of Your Life” senior expo at the Los Angeles Convention Center in this photograph in the April 21, 1988, issue of the Park Labrea News. Known as “Dr. George,” Fischbeck was a fixture in the 1970s and ‘80s on KABC7 Eyewitness News, always wearing his signature bow tie and making weather forecasts educational and fun. Fischbeck, who died at the age of 92 on March 25, 2015, was a volunteer at the Los Angeles Zoo and a champion for senior services during in his later years. This year, the 15th annual Golden Future Senior Expo will be held on Thursday, May 1, from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Commerce Casino, 6131 Telegraph Road. The free event includes hundreds of exhibitors, activities and giveaways. For information, visit goldenfutureseniorexpo.com.



# Tax credits for productions move forward

From page 1

know, we still need to convince legislators, primarily in other parts of the state, that this is a good thing for the state of California.”

Identical bills were introduced in both California chambers, and Zbur said that he anticipates they will be combined once they receive final approval for a vote.

Stay in LA, a grassroots organization that has rallied the state and local Los Angeles officials to incentivize film and television production, celebrated the move.

“If this works, the story will no longer be that California’s film industry is headed for the same fate as Detroit’s former auto industry, a decades-long decline that just hit its breaking point. The new story will be of California rising from the ashes, a triumphant and vibrant return to leading the world in entertainment again,” director and Stay in LA member Aaron Moorehead said. “Everyone in California will finally see the same economic benefits that have been reaped by Budapest, London, Vancouver ... the economic boom from bringing production back to California will be felt by film industry workers, local business owners, taxpayers and all Californians.”

“California is way behind the curve in incentivizing producers to

work here in the state that invented the movies,” unit production manager and Stay in LA member Greg Bartlett said. “The old saying is that 50% of the movies made in the world were made here, but now not even 50% of the movies made in the U.S. are made here. These bills are a huge step in the right direction. The incentives go to the producers, but the jobs go to Californians. That fuels our economy from supporting California families and film related businesses to restaurants, dry cleaners and hotels to bolstering the tax base for the cities and state coffers. The money spent comes back to the state. The best and most experienced crews, rental houses and stages are here in California and we are a coalition of these interests.”

Zbur highlighted how Stay in LA and industry professionals had helped move the needle on the legislation.

“Real people telling their own stories to legislators and coming out in such large numbers, I think, is helping people understand that this is not just a normal time for the industry. This is not a corporate giveaway. This is a jobs bill,” Zbur said.

On April 15, Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) visited Television City in the Fairfax

District and toured the facility with representatives of Hackman Capital Partners. Friedman used the tour, where she learned about Hackman’s plans to modernize the facility, as an opportunity to promote expanded production in L.A.

“I started out in Los Angeles as a film producer, and I know so many other people have come to Los Angeles with the dream of supporting their families by working in the film and television industry,” she said. “I still believe that dream is obtainable, and I’m committed to making sure that it stays true for all. Directors, actors, producers and everyone that works in the film industry want to stay in Los Angeles, and I want to work with them and our hardworking families and union members towards that shared goal.”

Senior vice president of Television City Zach Sokoloff said the modernization project aims to revitalize the entertainment industry in the city.

“Congressmember Friedman’s career in public service is predated by a career in the entertainment industry. She understands the challenges we face and has been a champion of this important industry since her time in the statehouse,” Sokoloff said. “We need leaders at



photo courtesy of U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman’s office

Congresswoman Laura Friedman toured the iconic Television City studio, including the former stage for the “Carol Burnett Show” on April 15.

all levels of government to do everything they can to keep Hollywood in Hollywood, which will support the hundreds of thousands of Angelenos whose livelihood depends on production staying in California.”

If the bills are approved, Gov. Gavin Newsom’s signature would be almost guaranteed. It was Newsom who announced the \$750 million tax credit plan in October 2024.

“California is the entertainment capital of the world, rooted in decades of creativity, innovation and unparalleled talent,” Newsom said at the time. “Expanding this

program will help keep production here at home, generate thousands of good-paying jobs and strengthen the vital link between our communities and the state’s iconic film and TV industry.”

“This is our homegrown industry. It’s an industry that is iconic to the state, and it defines California and our identity. And in addition to literally hundreds of thousands of jobs that this produces and the over \$26 billion that it contributes to our economy in the state, it also results in spin-off economic benefits and cultural benefits for the state that’s almost impossible to measure,” Zbur said.

# Budget picture comes into focus for L.A.

From page 1

The Los Angeles Police Department will have a slight increase in its budget from \$1.981 billion to \$1.987 billion. The budget allocates approximately \$900 million for homelessness services, maintaining similar funding levels from past years in an effort to continue progress addressing the housing crisis.

“This budget makes investments to continue our progress on critical challenges like decreasing homelessness and crime while bringing the city’s finances into balance and driving change including common sense consolidations of related departments,” Bass said. “Homelessness is down. Crime is down. These are tough challenges and our progress shows we can do

anything in this city of limitless potential.”

The layoffs will occur across many city departments. The LAPD’s civilian workforce will have largest number of cuts with 403. The Los Angeles Department of Transportation will experience 262 job cuts, followed by the Bureau of Sanitation (159), Street Services (130), City Planning (114) and General Services (110). Combined, the job cuts amount to \$114.2 million in savings.

The proposed budget consolidates the departments of Aging, Economic and Workforce Development and Youth Development into the Community Investment for Families Department. The Health

Commission, Innovation and Performance Commission and Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission will be eliminated under the proposed budget. Approximately 1,074 vacant positions in which someone recently retired or otherwise left employment with the city are being eliminated for the coming year, resulting in \$100.1 million in savings.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, who is chair of the Budget Committee, said the budget presents stark realities and challenges but she is confident the city will meet public needs.

“It’s certainly a tough budget year, and we knew that layoffs were going to have to be on the table given the

size of the deficit. I think we’re focused on doing as much as we can to preserve core city services and core city functions, and being strategic about really thinking about what those core city services are,” Yaroslavsky said. “This is a chance for us to start to put the city on a long-term path of fiscal solvency and right-size some of the departments. When people say, ‘The city doesn’t know how to get out of its own way in terms of approving developments or whatever,’ maybe this is a chance for us to streamline some of that. And if we do have to make cuts, let’s be strategic about it so we’re solving problems rather than creating new ones.”

Yaroslavsky held a public meeting on the budget at Pan Pacific Park on April 23 and invites residents to an in-person session on Saturday, April 26, at 11 a.m. at the Belmont Village Senior Living Westwood.

The council will hold two formal public comment sessions on the budget on Friday, April 25, at the Van Nuys City Hall building, 14410 Sylvan St., and on Monday, April 28, at Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring St. Afterwards, the Budget Committee will enter internal discussions with city departments and conduct technical assessments through mid-May before approving revisions and sending the budget back to the full City Council for a vote.

Members of the public interested in attending Yaroslavsky’s listening session on April 26 in Westwood must RSVP by visiting [docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeaK01fFKH2Tp4jd8vSKdPtYS6Ub1vJb-co\\_DpAN0vp1HS5-Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeaK01fFKH2Tp4jd8vSKdPtYS6Ub1vJb-co_DpAN0vp1HS5-Q/viewform). For information about Los Angeles City Council meetings including agendas, visit [clerk.lacounty.gov/calendar](http://clerk.lacounty.gov/calendar).

## WeHo expands broadband throughout city

From page 3

with all of our capital projects, they take a long time and I don’t have faith that we will actually have this done in 18 months.”

“I voted against the broadband item because in these uncertain economic times, with inflation, tariffs and a presidential administration cutting funding for essential services such as HIV/AIDS research and care, trans health care and women’s reproductive health, we need to protect West Hollywood’s ability to respond,” Hang said. “When the federal government pulls back, we need to be in a position to step up. The broadband project is a good idea and something our city may need in the future, but right now just isn’t the time. With so much financial uncertainty, it wouldn’t be wise to spend upwards of \$28 million on

a project with no guaranteed return. We need to focus our resources where they’re needed most: protecting critical services and supporting the people who rely on them.”

Mayor Chelsea Byers said that the item was an important step forward.

“The broadband partnership will improve vital city infrastructure and create a more competitive market for internet providers which benefits West Hollywood residents and businesses,” Byers said. “As a smart city with a huge embrace in technology and with so many individuals and businesses relying on fast-working and reliable internet for their work, we must ensure we are investing in these service delivery tools and modernizing our infrastructure.”

Councilwoman Lauren Meister agreed, contrasting its cost to other items the City Council has approved.

“The city needs to invest in technology infrastructure and for this, a private-public partnership makes sense. My colleagues who were complaining about the cost of this investment – and saying they are worried about the economy not being stable – have no problem using city funds for travel or their own pet projects,” Meister said. “This technology will benefit the city as well as its residents and businesses. As far as the West Hollywood’s economy goes, I am more worried about us relying on billboards and hotels for our revenue. This infrastructure will allow other types of businesses to come to the city and thrive.”

## Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day observed on April 24

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion introduced by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Hilda L. Solis declaring April 24, 2025, as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in Los Angeles County.

The motion also directs county departments to promote related events and educational materials to honor the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians killed during the Armenian Genocide and raise awareness of ongoing threats faced by the Armenian community.

“Honoring the victims of the Armenian Genocide is both a solemn responsibility and a powerful act of remembrance,” Barger, 5th District, said. “We must ensure their stories are not forgotten and that we continue to raise awareness about the atrocities they endured – and those that are still happening today.

The recent forced displacement of Armenians from Artsakh underscores the ongoing struggle for justice and recognition. Los Angeles County will continue to be a voice for truth and human dignity.”

Los Angeles County is home to the largest Armenian diaspora outside of Armenia and has long served as a steadfast advocate for truth, justice and human rights on behalf of the Armenian people. The motion highlights recent human rights violations against Armenians, including the 2020 military assault on Artsakh, the blockade of the Lachin Corridor, and the forced displacement of more than 100,000 Armenians in 2023.

The Armenian Youth Federation will hold a demonstration commemorating the Armenian Genocide on April 24 at noon outside the Turkish Consulate at 8500 Wilshire Blvd.



# Pope remembered as compassionate leader

From page 1

36 years old. He became Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 before he was appointed a cardinal three years later by Pope John Paul II.

His election to the papacy in 2013 after the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI was seen as a surprise – he was the first non-European pope in more than 1,000 years, and the first-ever Jesuit pope. Francis dedicated his papacy to being an advocate for the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalized – often standing up for migrants and those living in what he called the “peripheries.” In California – home to the largest Catholic diocese in the United States, Los Angeles – he is remembered as someone who led with humility and reflected the values of many.

“In this time of mourning, my prayer is that all of us in the church will honor Pope Francis’ legacy by remembering that he called us to urgent tasks that are still not finished,” said José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles. “We must continue our work of serving the poor, the migrant and all who are forgotten on society’s ‘peripheries.’ We must persevere in caring for our common home, which is the Earth, and in building a world that respects the sanctity and dignity of all human life and the Creator’s desire that we live in peace and fraternity as one human family.”

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles will host a special mass in memory of Pope Francis at 12:10 p.m. on Friday, April 25, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels, 555 W. Temple St.

“Like the saint honored by His Holiness’ papal name, Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis led with his love of peace and creation and sought to protect and lift up the vulnerable,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said. “He championed human dignity, especially that of the poor, called the world to urgent climate action, condemned the death penalty and confronted painful truths – including the church’s role in the genocide of Indigenous peoples. His papacy was characterized by moral courage, a profound respect for all creation and a deep conviction in the transforma-

tive power of love to heal and unite. As we mourn His Holiness, we honor him by choosing to believe that a better world is possible through grace and kindness, and through fellowship with our neighbors, no matter our differences.”

The pope made his final public appearance on Easter Sunday, just hours before his death. According to the Vatican, Francis suffered a stroke followed by a coma and heart failure, causing his death. He was recently hospitalized for pneumonia in both lungs. Although his health began to decline in his final years, he remained steadfast in his mission to support those suffering around the world. In January, he prayed for Los Angeles amid the deadly wildfires.

“My heart is with the people of Los Angeles who are suffering so much as a result of the fires that have devastated entire neighborhoods and communities,” he said. “May Our Lady of Guadalupe intercede for everyone to be a witness of hope.”

Several local leaders in Southern California expressed sorrow following his death.

“My heart is both shattered, and held together by faith, with [the] news of the passing of Pope Francis,” Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, said. “He has been such a bright light in our world, calling us to protect God’s creation, to live in service to one another and to regard each another as ‘Fratelli Tutti.’”

“I join millions across Los Angeles County and around the globe in mourning the passing of Pope Francis,” Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District, said. “As the first pope from Latin America, he brought a fresh and deeply human perspective to the Catholic Church and to the world. He challenged us to confront poverty, care for our planet and uplift the dignity of women in the Church and beyond. His words and actions resonated far beyond the walls of any one faith.”

“We mourn the loss of a benevolent and wise spiritual leader,” Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona

Nazarian said. “Pope Francis’ intelligence, deep faith and humanity have been an inspiration to people from many religious traditions around the world.”

West Hollywood Councilman John Erickson said Francis’ death marked a significant loss, as the issues he focused on often intersected with those supported by West Hollywood.

“When you look at the West Hollywood community – supporting working-class people, the poor, fighting for the environment, pushing for peace at all levels – they are critical steps to who we are as a community when you think about our activist-based roots,” Erickson said. “That void will be felt.”

Pope Francis is also credited with moving the church forward in terms of acceptance toward LGBTQ+ individuals. Francis made several incremental changes including approving the blessing of same-sex couples, and said “who am I to judge?” when asked about gay priests.

Erickson met with the pope on two occasions through the city of West Hollywood’s partnership with Scholas – a nonprofit educational organization founded by Francis in 2013. Erickson discussed LGBTQ+ issues with Pope Francis and gifted him a rainbow city flag.

“To have the city of West Hollywood – a predominantly LGBTQ city – be represented at the Vatican by the openly gay mayor at that time I think just speaks volumes to the push and the work that was being done by the pope, but has to be continued after his passing,” Erickson said.

Reverend John-Paul Gonzalez, pastor at Saint Victor Catholic Church in West Hollywood, said the pope’s legacy will live on through his teachings.

“He always reminded us to encounter Christ and demonstrate the love of Christ among the poor, among those who suffered in any way,” Gonzalez said.

Saint Victor Catholic Church will offer a rosary for Pope Francis daily at 8 a.m., followed by a prayer for the pope at 8:30 a.m.



photo © Paul McCartney  
John and George during a photo shoot with Dezo Hoffmann, Paris, January 1964.

# Exhibit shows Beatlemania through a new lens

From page 1

stage, or posed for an album cover or photoshoot. It’s rare to see the Beatles off-guard, especially at the peak of their popularity.

In a video released by Gagosian, McCartney reflected on the spontaneity of the photos and what they reveal about their career.

“A lot of that was a bit of the secret behind the Beatles – we didn’t think things out too much. We were very spontaneous,” he said. “I now realize how cool that is as a method for doing a lot of things.”

The photos even seemed to have an effect on McCartney as he reflected on his life. He stated that he didn’t realize the significance of certain moments – including the appearance on “The Ed Sullivan Show” – until

after they happened. The new exhibition helps put it all into perspective.

“Being suddenly able to revisit that moment – I couldn’t have done it in any other way,” McCartney said. “Not even watching a film of it. This is like super-reality. You can see every little bit of information.”

The exhibition was organized by Joshua Chuang, the gallery’s director of photography, who worked together directly with McCartney to create the exhibition.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to support fire recovery in Los Angeles. The photographs will be on display from April 25-June 21.

For information, visit [gagosian.com/exhibitions/2025/paul-mccartney](http://gagosian.com/exhibitions/2025/paul-mccartney). Gagosian is

# Cedars-Sinai marks 15 years of regenerative medicine

The Cedars-Sinai Board of Governors Regenerative Medicine Institute is marking its 15th anniversary by further expanding its commitment to research, development of cell-based human models and therapies, and education with three new leadership appointments and the creation of a master’s degree program.

“Our four pillars are scientific discovery, biomanufacturing, education and training, and clinical trials,” said Clive Svendsen, executive director of the Board of Governors Regenerative Medicine Institute and professor of medicine and biomedical sciences at Cedars-Sinai. “We’ve made great strides in each over the past 15 years and now look forward to continuing to build on existing programs and to developing new ones.”

Helen Goodridge will take on a new role as associate director of the institute, Dr. John Chute will become director of the Blood Program and Dhruv Sareen will become the chief biomanufacturing officer for the Cedars-Sinai Biomanufacturing Center, which



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

The health care institute is launching a new master’s program.

creates clinical-grade cell products for regenerative medicine. The institute will also launch the Master of Science in Regenerative Medicine Program under the direction of Wafa Tawackoli, the institute’s director of education and training.

Svendsen noted that much of the institute’s growth has been enabled by the California Institute for

Regenerative Medicine, a state agency providing funding to accelerate stem cell, regenerative medicine and gene therapy research, and the Cedars-Sinai Board of Governors, a group of philanthropic leaders who support clinical programs, biomedical research and community outreach.

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

# JFEDLA gives fire victims a ‘hug’

Jewish Federation Los Angeles, with support from Emily Kane Miller, founder and CEO of Ethos Giving, announced the launch of the Helping Uplift Generations Fund, an initiative aimed at supporting those impacted by the recent L.A. fires in three targeted areas: Jewish early childhood education, Jewish overnight summer camp and professionals working in Jewish nonprofits.

Through early donor support, JFEDLA’s Wildfire Crisis Relief Fund invested an initial \$2 million to the HUG Fund. JFEDLA is now officially kicking off additional fundraising efforts for longer-term support of fire-impacted families.

“As someone who is personally living through loss and feelings of displacement, the thing I know we all need right now – and what the Jewish community does best in times of crisis – is a big hug,” said Miller, who originally developed the idea for the fund in partnership with JFEDLA leadership. “These funds have the dual value of wrapping our arms around each other today and focusing our resources on the future at the same time.”

Miller partnered with JFEDLA president and CEO Rabbi Noah Farkas to roll out the initiative as part of JFEDLA’s larger Wildfire Crisis Relief Fund, which provides

ongoing essential resources, including mental health support, warm meals, shelter and space for displaced individuals, families and institutions.

“When disaster strikes, it can alter life trajectories and weaken communal bonds,” Farkas said. “This strategic fund is designed to address the urgent needs of Jewish families and uphold our collective commitment to Jewish life as a valuable cornerstone that supports our families to rebuild with dignity, resilience and hope.”

Synagogues in both the Palisades and Pasadena were severely impacted, temporarily displacing entire congregations. For information, visit [jewishla.org/hugfund](http://jewishla.org/hugfund).

# Answers From Page 27





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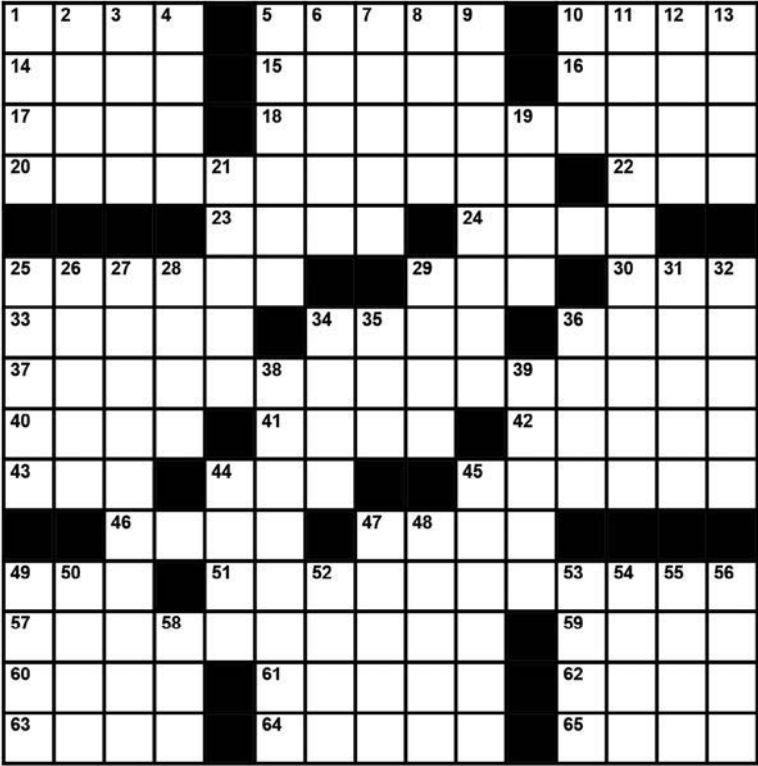
Across

- Talk up
- Sirs' counterparts
- Software delivery model
- With the bow, in scores
- "Seascape" playwright
- Hotel chain
- Nissan model
- Certain tournament
- USA celebration
- Wednesday starter
- Like a shoppe
- They get into hot water
- Pool ball type
- Grafton's "\_\_\_ for Burglar"
- Biological pocket
- Japanese verse
- Pita bread sandwich
- Reprimand, with "out"
- USA celebration
- Baker's dozen?
- Discovery grp.
- Start of a Janis Joplin classic
- Roadside grazer
- "Uh-uh"
- Lobster is one
- Weaving apparatus
- Legal prefix
- Wreath
- Service commemoration
- Outdated men's wear
- Distinctive air
- Shot up
- Cookie Monster cohort
- Dallas Cowboys symbol

- Along with
- Doctors' orders
- Mass number

Down

- Perfumed powder
- Cream in the middle cookie
- West Coast sch.
- Soybean extract
- Sculptor's material
- Viva voce
- Bad treatment
- Patch up
- What a patient may be under
- Michigan's \_\_\_ Canals
- Nikki Haley was one
- Spanish cordial
- Hyperbolic function
- Bakery selections
- Clean, as a spill
- Started back
- Ballroom dance
- Ranges of hills
- Turner and others
- City near Yorba Linda
- Cognizant
- NBA great Drexler
- Champ
- Gridiron gains, abbr.
- Waist band
- Coated
- Barbaric Schwarzenegger role
- Bright star
- Blots out
- Day laborers



- Palmer to friends
- Women's golf org.
- Noble
- Barcelona beast
- Window frame
- Tax
- Composer Khachaturian
- James Patterson story
- Duet necessity

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