



Mostly clear,
temps in the
mid-70s

BEVERLY PRESS

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Volume 35 No. 22

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

May 29, 2025

Turf war continues in Beverly Hills

■ Commission recommends banning synthetic lawns

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on May 22 adopted a resolution that bans the installation of synthetic turf in front yards. The resolution will also phase out existing synthetic lawns over the next 15 years. The ordinance will appear before the City Council, which will vote on whether to approve it.

Commissioners Lou Milkowski, Gary Ross and Commission Vice Chair Jeff Wolfe passed the resolution in a 3-0 vote. Commission Chair Terri Kaplan and Commissioner Myra Demeter were absent from the meeting.

“The ordinance as drafted strikes a balance between aesthetics and an interest in sustainability and conser-

See **Turf** page 25



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

A new ordinance will prohibit the use of synthetic turf in front lawns.

WeHo gears up for 2025 Pride weekend

■ Music festival cranks the volume starting May 30

BY SAM MULICK

West Hollywood issued street closure notices and assured residents about safety ahead of its 2025 Pride weekend featuring music, parades and celebrations amid federal attacks on the LGBTQ community.

Pride weekend kicks off on May 30 with the first night of its OUTLOUD Music Festival, which will feature performances from Lizzo, Remi Wolf and Paris Hilton throughout the weekend. Festivities also include the Women’s Freedom Festival on May 31 and the WeHo Pride Parade on Sunday, June 1, along Santa Monica Boulevard at noon.

The city announced that English model and actress Cara Delevingne will lead the parade as its Guardian Icon, with “Love on the Spectrum” star Pari Kim, former NFL player Chris Kluwe and filmmaker Nava Mau also marching as Icons.

“With everything happening



photo by Jon Viscott

WeHo Pride includes the Dyke March and Women’s Freedom Festival.

across the country, from book bans to attacks on trans rights, it’s more important than ever that we show up, stand proud and celebrate who we are,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “WeHo Pride, like Pride events all over the world, has always been a form of resistance and joy.”

Street closures over the weekend will include parts of Santa Monica Boulevard, North San

Vicente Boulevard and North Robertson Boulevard, which will reopen on June 2. While parking meters will be enforced throughout the weekend, permit parking requirements will be suspended. Additionally, West Hollywood Park, West Hollywood Library Garage and Aquatic and Recreation Center Garage will be closed until June 2.

See **WeHo** page 26

Viper Room development slithers away

■ Foreclosure sale of Sunset Strip property scheduled for June 17

BY RANCE COLLINS

Last August, the controversial 8850 Sunset Blvd. project, which would have seen the leveling of the famed Viper Room, seemed like a done deal. But the project is now in foreclosure, according to proper-

tyrecs.com, with a nearly \$70 million default recorded on Feb. 25. The foreclosure sale is scheduled for June 17.

CW Viper Capital Management is listed as the lender, and 8850 Sunset LLC as the property owner. The project was being developed by an organization called Silver Creek. A representative of Silver Creek did not respond to a request for comment.

“No doubt the lenders had more

common sense and foresight than the three West Hollywood City Council members who pushed through the project over the valid and thoughtful concerns of their two, more experienced colleagues, along with vociferous public outcry for a project that was unrealistic and poorly conceived from its inception,” West Hollywood Heights Neighborhood Association chair Elyse Eisenberg said.

The 11-story mixed-used structure would have contained 78-residential units, a 90-room hotel, restaurant spaces, conference rooms and a new Viper Room. Currently, the block has several empty storefronts, in addition to the current Viper Room and a liquor store.

The 3-2 City Council approval in August was supported by Mayor Chelsea Byers, Councilman John Erickson and former Councilwoman Sepi Shyne. Vice Mayor John Heilman and Councilwoman Lauren Meister dissented.

“If these recent [Development Application] development projects, like 8850, the Arts Club and Robertson Lane, can’t get built, then we, the council, need to

See **Project** page 25



photo by Rance Collins

The iconic Viper Room will remain untouched, for now.



photo by Edwin Folven

The revised budget increases LAFD funding and includes money for new fire trucks and equipment.

Council OKs revisions to Los Angeles city budget

■ Approximately 1,000 layoffs are averted

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council approved revisions to Mayor Karen Bass’ proposed 2025-26 city budget on May 22, restoring

approximately 1,000 jobs that could have been potentially cut to close a budget shortfall.

The Los Angeles City Council’s Budget and Finance Committee, chaired by Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, spent weeks poring over the mayor’s

See **Budget** page 26

WEHO PRIDE
Weekend
MAY 30 THROUGH JUNE 1

Friday Night at OUTLOUD • WeHo Pride Street Fair
WeHo Pride Parade • OUTLOUD at WeHo Pride
Women’s Freedom Festival • Dyke March and More!

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CALENDAR

7811 Gallery exhibition

7811 Gallery presents “Mikio Nabumoto Metoyer-I See Everyone, I Feel Everything” running from Thursday, May 29, through Sunday, June 29. Embracing his rich Japanese, Hawaiian and Creole heritage, the emerging Los Angeles artist unveils a compelling debut series of multimedia paintings. The exhibit draws from themes of nature, architecture, family and memory – each piece a meditation on identity and perception. An opening reception will be held on May 29 from 6-9 p.m. 7811 Melrose Ave. 7811gallery.com.

Lenore Zann book

Join a talk and book signing with Lenore Zann as she reads from her memoir “A Rogue’s Tale” on Thursday, May 29, from 7-9 p.m. at Barnes & Noble at The Grove. From her early days portraying Marilyn Monroe to voicing the legendary Rogue in “X-Men: The Animated Series,” Zann’s journey is filled with passion, reinvention and perseverance. Her memoir offers a behind-the-scenes look at Hollywood, unforgettable encounters with entertainment icons and the personal challenges that shaped her path. 189 The Grove Drive Ste. K 30. (323)525-0270, stores.barnesandnoble.com/event/9780062187544-0.



Jazz at The Wallis

Israeli jazz clarinetist and saxophonist

Anat Cohen and nine-time Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist Tierney Sutton join the Pacific Jazz Orchestra for an unforgettable evening on Thursday, May 29, at 7 p.m. at The Wallis. Chris Walden conducts the 40-piece orchestra. Cohen is known for dynamic performances and genre-blending style, weaving together jazz, swing, Brazilian choro and Middle Eastern influences. Sutton is a nine-time Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist known for impeccable phrasing, lush tone and innovative interpretations of the Great American Songbook. Tickets start at \$69. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. (310)746-4000, thewallis.org.

Jay Shetty

Join Jay Shetty for his “On Purpose Live Tour” on Thursday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the Greek Theatre. Bestselling author, podcast host and entrepreneur Shetty is taking his “On Purpose” podcast on the road for the first time. Known for spreading love, purpose and transformation, Shetty is inviting the audience to experience live conversations and workshops aimed at helping them become happier, healthier and healed. Tickets start at \$40.50. 2700 N. Vermont Ave. lagreektheatre.com/event/jay-shetty%3a-on-purpose-tour/23.

‘Monsterpalooza’

“Monsterpalooza” returns from Friday, May 30, through Sunday, June 1, at the Pasadena Convention Center. Celebrate the art of monsters and movie magic with more than 400 exhibitors, the Monster Museum, makeup demos and celebrity guests. Enjoy unique panels and presentations. Tickets start at \$43.91. 300 E. Green St., Pasadena. monsterpalooza.com.

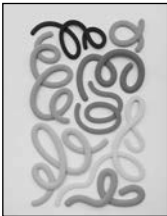
Music of Artur Zakiyan

Catalina Jazz Club welcomes solo virtuoso pianist Artur Zakiyan on Friday, May 30, and Saturday, May 31. Zakiyan skillfully blends the captivating essence of ethnic music with the timeless charm of classical contemporary and the soothing vibes of new age influences. His harmonies bridge the past and present, crafting a musical experience that touches hearts and brings them closer to the enchanting tapestry of Armenian culture. Known for emotional depth and technical brilliance, His performances leave audiences inspired and captivated. Dinner begins at 7 p.m.; showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$57. 6725 W. Sunset Blvd. catalinajazzclub.com.



Art of Josh Sperling

Perrotin Los Angeles presents “Josh Sperling: Big Picture” running Saturday, May 31, through Thursday, July 3. Sperling’s first solo exhibition on the West Coast showcases a dynamic evolution in his practice, highlighting a desire to work beyond the confines of a wall. His paintings have grown more three-dimensional, popping off the wall and looping onto themselves, and his painting has translated into full-bodied design objects that turn functionality into aesthetic experiences. A kids design workshop with Sperling will be held on May 31 from 10 a.m.-noon.; RSVP required. An opening reception will be held on



May 31 from 3-7 p.m. 5036 W. Pico Blvd. perrotin.com.

‘LATINAFest’

“LATINAFest,” the largest outdoor festival celebrating Latina empowerment, entrepreneurship and culture, will be held on Sunday, June 1, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Gloria Molina Grand Park on Downtown Los Angeles. Claudia Romo Edelman, an advocate for Latino representation and founder of the We Are All Human Foundation, will give the keynote speech. The event brings together thousands of Latinas and allies for a day of connection, inspiration and empowerment. 200 N. Grand Ave. latinafest.com.

Theatre West

Theatre West presents “We’re Not Your Cup of Tea: Here to Astound and Entertain You” on Sunday, June 1, at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Enjoy Theatre West’s second annual variety show spotlighting the talents of Asian American and Pacific Islander performing artists. The show is directed and produced by Marcel Licera. Admission is \$35. 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West. (323)851-4839. theatrewest.org.



Sumo wrestlers at JFLA

The Sumo wrestlers are coming to Japan Foundation Los Angeles, which is holding the world premiere of the film “The Wide West” on Monday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m. The film is inspired by the historic meeting between Japan’s first sumo delegation and President Theodore Roosevelt in Washington, D.C. in 1907. The film’s three “big” stars will attend: three-time Mr. Universe Alexander Nevsky and Sumo champions Hiroki Sumi and Ichi (former Ichinojo). Following the film, A Q&A session and photo op will be held with the producers and stars. Admission is free, registration is required. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. jflalc.org.

BODYTRAFFIC

The contemporary dance company BODYTRAFFIC will present a one night only performance on Thursday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at Avalon Hollywood. The exclusive engagement features two world premiere works choreographed by BODYTRAFFIC artists Joan Rodriguez and Jordyn Santiago, as well as creative partner Trey McIntyre’s work “Mayday.” Tickets are \$60. 1735 Vine St. bodytraffic.com/performance-home-season/feeling.



CHLA Walk and Play L.A.

Walk and Play L.A., Children’s Hospital Los Angeles’ biggest community event of the year, will be held on Saturday, June 7, from 8 a.m.-noon at the Santa Monica Pier. The annual fundraiser supports children’s programs at the hospital. Hosted by boxer “Sugar” Ray Leonard and KOST 103.5 morning show host Ellen K, the event unites family and community for a day of fun and philanthropy. The event includes family friendly activities, sports, games, skill clinics and a 3K walk. 200 Santa Monica Pier. To register, visit walkandplayla.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

The Beverly Hills Unified School District held an event for retiring staff members on May 22.

BHUSD honors retirees for dedicated service

The Beverly Hills Unified School District honored 2025 retirees on May 22 with a heartfelt celebration at the Legacy Courtyard on the Hawthorne campus.

The gathering brought together colleagues, district leaders and family members to recognize the lasting impact of this year’s retirees. Board of Education President Rachelle Marcus, Vice President Judy Manouchehri and Governing Member Dr. Amanda Stern joined Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss to celebrate the occasion and personally thank the honorees for their service.

Each retiree was recognized, marking the close of a chapter defined by dedication, compassion and excellence. Among the group were individuals who have served BHUSD students for more than 30 years, a powerful reminder of the long-lasting impact educators and staff make across generations.

“Our retirees have helped shape the heart of BHUSD,” Cherniss said. “We are thankful for everything they’ve given to our schools, our students and this community.”

The following retirees chose to share their milestones publicly: Amy Arebalo, Iris Aviram, Sheryl Benezra-Tat, Corrine Carlson, Jory Cress, Timothy Ellis, Yangchen Gakyil, Ken Haas, Belinda Jaffee, Remus Johnson, Pamela Kramer, Curtis Lightcsy, Nancy Minicozzi, Ricardo Morales, Nadine Mwesigwa, Lisa Palmigiano, Vonzie Paysinger, Amy Price, Raul Sanchez, Sepideh Sedghi, Ethan Smith, Kenneth Stevenson, Kimberly Timmerman, Uriel Villaneda, Pamela Winston, Sarah Wolff and Georgianne Yonaty. There are approximately 554 employees within the BHUSD.

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Avraham Yarden, left, and Joseph Alexander visited Beverly Hills High School students on May 21.

Holocaust survivors share stories with Beverly Hills students

As part of Jewish American Heritage Month, Beverly Hills High School had the honor of hosting two extraordinary guests on May 21: 102-year-old Holocaust survivor and Nazi fighter Joseph Alexander, and 95-year-old Avraham Yarden, a proud defender of Israel during British rule.

Their powerful stories of survival, resistance and resilience left a lasting impression on students, offering a rare opportunity to learn history directly from

those who lived it. “This was a deeply moving experience for our students,” BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. “It reminded us why listening to living history matters, and why we must continue to learn from the past to shape a better future.”

The event was organized by the BHHS Jewish Club, led by student President Jillian Samadi, and moderated by BHUSD parent Maytal Fattal. For information, visit bhUSD.org.

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Friedman offers assistance with Medi-Cal

BY RANCE COLLINS

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) held a press conference at the Saban Community Clinic on Beverly Boulevard on May 28, announcing a new service for 30th District constituents to help access Medi-Cal and Medicaid benefits. A special case worker will be tasked with the sole responsibility of handling assistance in obtaining coverage, which can often be saddled with hurdles and paperwork.

“I’m proud that our office is delivering fast local help and standing up to those in Washington who are looking to tear it away,” Friedman said.

The announcement comes after Congress passed its new budget, dubbed by President Donald Trump as the “Big Beautiful Bill.” Every House Democrat voted against the bill, which faces a tough road in the Senate. Sens. Rand Paul

(R-Ky.), Ron Johnson (R-Minn.) and Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) have all expressed concern or opposition to the bill. In it, extensive cuts to Medicaid are among the points of consternation. Democrats have also been vocal about expanded tax cuts for high-income earners.

At the press conference, several individuals who benefit from the Saban Community Clinic’s services expressed fears that Medicaid cuts would ultimately ax the medical coverage on which they rely. Ingrid Palmer is a longtime patient who eventually became a Saban board member.

“It was at a colon hydrotherapist appointment, when my hydrotherapist said, ‘Hey, I don’t think something’s right. Have you gotten that checked out?’ And unfortunately, my answer to her was, ‘No, I don’t have any health care.’ And her answer to me was, ‘try Saban.’ And

it’s with Saban and the care provided by places like Saban that I got the support that I needed,” Palmer said. “We know that care is on the chopping block, or could be on the chopping block, and it’s a right, not a privilege, so we want to keep it alive ... These cuts aren’t just bad policy, they’re dangerous, and they will hit our most vulnerable neighbors the hardest.”

Patient Larissa Merriman lost her husband several years ago to a rare disease. When he died, she also lost his health insurance. When she joined Covered California, and received a subsidy, none of her previous providers took her new insurance. The plan switched her primary care doctor to the Saban community clinic.

“After my first appointment, I felt relief,” Merriman said. “I might not have had stellar coverage, but I still received stellar health care. In fact, it was better than what I was getting just a few blocks west of here.”

Merriman noted “72 million Americans rely on Medicaid,” and that the bill could result in millions losing their coverage.

“It is cruelty for cruelty’s sake, and it harms the health of our country,” she concluded.

“These cuts to the Medicaid program are going to hurt us,” Saban Community Clinic CEO Muriel Nouwezem said. “[They] are going to be devastating to our community, and California right now is being forced to make difficult, painful decisions to keep the program



photo by Rance Collins

Rep. Laura Friedman spoke alongside patients and staff of the Saban Community Clinic on May 28.

afloat at Saban. 10% cuts to the Medicaid program translate into more than \$3 million in lost revenue.”

Nouwezem said that the clinic not only provides medical care, but numerous additional services including dental care, behavioral health management, showers for the unhoused population, transportation services, care coordination services and psychiatry services.

“At Saban our mission is clear ... provide outstanding compassionate care to anyone who needs us, regardless of immigration status, regardless of documentation status, regardless of insurance coverage. If you come to us, we’re here to serve you, and we’ll do so with compassion and care to sustain that promise,” Nouwezem said. “We need action. So, we are

asking everyone please ... call your representative. Call your elected official. Make sure they hear your voice.”

Friedman did not mince words when emphasizing her own opposition to the “Big Beautiful Bill,” including noting that it could shut down medical programs such as Planned Parenthood and severely handicap Medicaid and programs funded through the Affordable Care Act.

“The money that we spend now on medical [services] are common sense investments in our community to keep people safer and to keep them out of the hospital,” Friedman said. “You take that away and you just jam up your hospitals and jam up your emergency rooms.”

To contact Friedman’s office in regards to Medi-Cal and Medicaid, visit friedman.us.gov.

BH Municipal League hosts town hall with mayor

The Municipal League of Beverly Hills will present a town hall and general membership meeting featuring Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Akil Davis, assistant director in charge of the Los Angeles Field Office for the FBI, on Wednesday, June 11, at 7 p.m. at the Roxbury Park Community Center’s Multipurpose Suite, 471 S. Roxbury Drive.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Parking is available on-site and at adjacent metered and unmetered spaces.

For information, visit munileaguebh.org.

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photo by Edwin Folven

Polcie have released few details about the robbery. The suspects were last seen heading south on Arden Boulevard.

Gunmen sought for Rolex robbery in Hancock Park

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division are searching for two male suspects who robbed a man at gunpoint on May 19 and stole his Rolex watch in Hancock Park. Officers were called to the 300 block of North Arden Boulevard around 3 p.m. on May 19 by a resident who said he had been robbed after driving home from a Pilates class at dr pilates in the 5600 block of Melrose Avenue. The victim told officers he parked in front of his home and was walking up the driveway when an SUV pulled up and two masked suspects jumped out. One of the suspects pointed a handgun and demanded the watch, and the victim complied. Investigators traced the vic-

tim’s path and are looking for security camera footage, said Lt. Mark Ro, with the Wilshire Division. The victim told officers he was wearing the Rolex watch at the studio, and investigators believe the suspects may have seen and followed the victim. Ro added that investigators are looking into whether the suspects are involved in a separate similar robbery outside of the area, but could not provide any further details because of the ongoing investigation. The suspects’ vehicle was described as a BMW, possibly an X6. The SUV was last seen traveling south on Arden Boulevard. Anyone with information about the burglaries is urged to call the Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205 or (213)473-0476. During weekends and off-hours, call (877)LAPD247.

Defendant sentenced for tax scam

A Hollywood man who admitted to seeking more than \$65 million from the IRS by falsely claiming on tax returns that a nonexistent farming business was entitled to COVID-19-related tax credits was sentenced on May 22 to 57 months in federal prison. Kevin J. Gregory, 57, was also ordered to pay more than \$2.7 million in restitution. The defendant, who has been in federal custody since May 2023, pleaded guilty on Jan. 17 to one count of making false claims to the IRS. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress authorized an employee retention tax credit that small businesses could use to reduce employment tax owed to the IRS. To qualify, businesses had to have been in operation in 2020 and to have experienced at least a partial suspension of operations related to COVID-19 or a significant decline in profits. The credit was an amount equal to a set percentage of the wages that the business paid its employees during the period, subject to a maximum amount. Congress also authorized the IRS to give a credit against employment taxes to reimburse businesses for wages paid to employees who were on sick or family leave and could not work because of COVID-19. The paid sick and family leave credit was equal to the wages a business

paid employees during sick or family leave, also subject to a maximum amount. From November 2020 to April 2022, Gregory made false claims to the IRS for the payment of nearly \$65.3 million in tax refunds for a fake Beverly Hills-based farming-and-transportation company named Elijah USA Farm Holdings. The IRS issued a portion of the refunds Gregory claimed, and Gregory used a significant portion – more than \$2.7 million – for personal expenses, authorities said. Specifically, Gregory made a false claim to the IRS in January 2022 for a tax refund for \$23,877,620, which he submitted as part of Elijah Farm’s quarterly federal tax return. Gregory claimed Elijah Farm employed 33 people, paid nearly \$1.6 million in quarterly wages, deposited nearly \$18 million in federal taxes and was entitled to nearly \$6.5 million in COVID-relief tax credits. Prosecutors said Elijah Farm did not exist, and Gregory knowingly submitted false claims. The case was investigated by the IRS Criminal Investigation Division. Anyone with information about attempted fraud can report it to the Department of Justice’s National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline at (866)720-5721, or visit justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form.

Crew wanted for break-in at The Woods in WeHo

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Major Crimes Bureau is investigating an early morning burglary on May 17 at The Woods cannabis dispensary and consumption lounge on Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood. Authorities believe it may involve a crew connected to a second burglary two nights earlier at a dispensary on Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica. Lt. Fanny Lapkin, with the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station, said the case was transferred to the Major Crimes Bureau, which oversees investigations involving multiple locations and jurisdictions.

The break-in at The Woods, co-owned by actor Woody Harrelson and comedian and television host Bill Maher, occurred around 4:30 a.m. on May 17. The entire incident occurred within minutes and was captured by security cameras inside and in front of the business. A car parked in front and a group of five male suspects wearing hooded sweatshirts exited and smashed a glass front door. Once inside, the



photo courtesy of YouTube

Security cameras captured the suspects as they broke into The Woods.

suspects ransacked the store and placed merchandise in bags before returning to the car and fleeing. The burglary on May 15 occurred at the ERBA Markets dispensary in the 12000 block of West Pico Boulevard. The Angeles Police Department responded to the break-in, which was committed by three or four male suspects wearing hooded sweatshirts. A

security guard was present and fired a shot at the suspects as they attempted to break in, causing them to flee. No injuries were reported and no further updates were available on the burglaries as of May 28. Anyone with information about the burglaries is urged to call Crime Stoppers at (800)222-TIPS, or visit lacrimestoppers.org.

Tour the Wilshire Division during annual open house

The Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division is holding its annual open house on Sunday, June 1, from noon-4 p.m. at the police station, 4861 W. Venice Blvd. The event includes

live entertainment, food, guided tours of the police station, law enforcement exhibits, a kids fun zone and bounce house. The Wilshire Division open house offers an opportunity to connect

with officers, explore the station and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with family and friends. Admission is free. For information, call the Wilshire Community Relations Office at (213)473-0200.



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Section 1 – Beverly Hills

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May Updates

Bus pad installation on N La Cienega Bl requires lane reduction on northbound La Cienega at Wilshire Bl intersection.



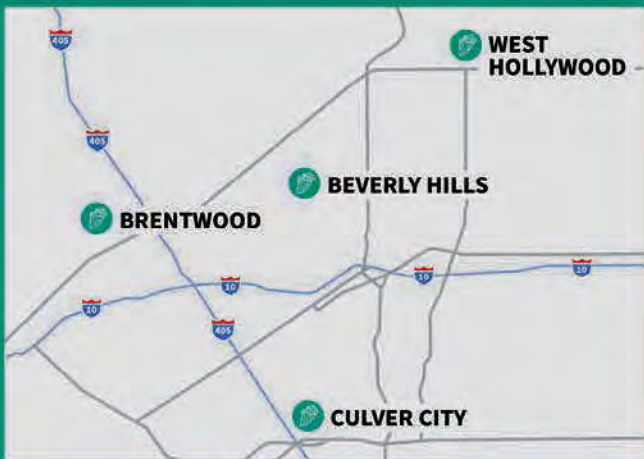
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Bring the movies home: one fan’s plea for tax incentives

BY RANCE COLLINS

On Sunday, May 25, at just about 9:30 p.m., as the distant bursts of Memorial Day fireworks fused with the hum of laughter, a sudden cheer echoed across Hollywood Forever. While perhaps unusual at most cemeteries, the Santa Monica Boulevard landmark serves up spontaneous applause annually with its summer screening series Cinespia. It is the ultimate L.A. experience, as patrons sit sprawled on a lawn – just a stone’s throw from Judy Garland, David Lynch and Rudolph Valentino – and take in a cinematic classic.

On this particular evening, the movie was “Clueless,” and the cheer occurred just as the Circus Liquor sign hit the screen. It was the perfect moment for the most Los Angeles of all audiences – an unassuming but long-standing business nestled at the corner of Vineland and Burbank got the biggest ovation of the night.

Since the wildfires in January, I, like so many of my Angeleno brethren, have felt a renewed kinsmanship with the familiar locations that the screen has made famous. As the fight for increased film and television production has revved up, these places – which literally encompass just about every street from the Pacific to Pasadena – are the most beloved parts of our home.

“Clueless” is, of course, one of the best L.A. movies, and like any good Angeleno, I’ll be quick to point out that while numerous authentic Beverly Hills locations are used, parts of Encino and the Occidental College campus supplement the nation’s most elite zip code. That iconic moment with Alicia Silverstone’s revelation in front of the fountain, however, is in the very real Beverly Gardens Park.

That word – iconic – is tough not to throw around when discussing Los Angeles filming locations. My church – Hollywood United Methodist? Look for it in “Back to

the Future,” “Sister Act” and “Imitation of Life.” My favorite street – Fountain Avenue? Yeah, it’s where Humphrey Bogart lives in “In a Lonely Place.”

West Hollywood has a true embarrassment of cinematic riches. Who can forget The Formosa’s use in “L.A. Confidential?” Did you know “West Side Story” was filmed in stages on The Lot right next door? Micky’s is in the Jane Fonda thriller “The Morning After.”

Don’t even get me started on Paramount Studios – the most famous gates in the city, cemented in movie-lovers’ minds when Gloria Swanson sailed through them in “Sunset Boulevard.” Of course, if we actually took a trip up to Sunset, we’d have to stop by the Chateau Marmont, where Lady Gaga prepped for the Grammys in “A Star is Born.” We could rollerblade at Venice Beach, where Barbie entered the human world, or check out neighborhoods inhabited by E.T., Michael Myers and that one “Father of the Bride.”

No matter one’s career, the proliferation of L.A.’s proudest and loudest industry has invaded your life, willingly or otherwise. You, too, have been trapped upon the 105-110 interchange as “Another Day of Sun” peeked over that “La La Land” horizon. You’ve felt that ominous need to call one of the “Ghostbusters” at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. You’ve returned via the same airport as seen in “Airplane!” and “Heat.” You’ve walked across the movies’ most popular names on Hollywood Boulevard, matched your feet against Jimmy Stewart’s and sought out Walt Disney’s booth at the Tam O’Shanter.

It’s all so ... iconic. So often people complain about Los Angeles’ hodge podge identity – the scattershot collection of architectural styles, the irreverence toward history, the lack of urban planning. But amidst all that alleged chaos we have been the backdrop for America, 1920-ish to

present. And up until the last decade or so, no matter where our movies trotted off to for location shoots, they always landed back in L.A. Our lots, our sound stages, our houses, our businesses.

When I first moved to the city, close to 15 years ago, I remember learning about the discreet, randomly-placed, little yellow production signs were all about. They always have a curious code word and an arrow, serving as direction for cast and crew heading to filming locations. In 2025, those signs provoke more joy than ever – largely because of their scarcity. The Apple TV+ series “The Studio” sends up the movie business, no-holds-barred, but it also plays as a fantasy – a TV show set in a world where films are always, always shooting in Los Angeles, something far more akin to 1935 or 1995 than to 2025.

The California Legislature will soon be deciding whether or not to raise film and television tax credits to \$750 million, an overdue move that is far behind similar incentives passed by Georgia and New York. Without its passage, L.A. may never again be competitive in the business for which it is known. It’s time. Call your state reps. Follow “Stay in LA” on social.

And look around you. Watch movies. Remember these places that have been so intrinsic to establishing the cultural identity of the city, the nation, and the way that the world views itself.

Over a century ago, visionaries – many immigrants – centered an entertainment artform around the vast, diverse backdrops of Southern California in a city where, within an hour’s drive, just about any imaginable landscape was in sight, and where the perennial sunshine and warmth made year-round production possible.

The movies belong to us. Let’s welcome them back home. Because, as some girl once said on a soundstage in Culver City, there’s no place like home.



photo by Rance Collins

The Paramount Studios gates were famously used in Billy Wilder’s “Sunset Boulevard.”

Caruso unveils vision for rebuilding Pacific Palisades

Caruso marked the official start of reconstruction of the Palisades Village shopping mall on May 28, with a renewed vision for the future of the community. Palisades Village will reopen in 2026, with a target date of early to mid-next year.

Speaking at a press conference from an active construction zone in the heart of the Pacific Palisades, Rick Caruso, founder and executive chairman of Caruso, and Corinne Verdery, Caruso CEO, unveiled a reconstruction plan, upcoming

community initiatives and retail partners, demonstrating positive momentum towards the community’s recovery.

The event included the announcement of a new flagship tenant, elysewalker, one of fashion’s most powerful retailers. Founder Elyse Walker tragically lost her original Palisades store of 25 years to the fires and chose Palisades Village to rebuild her flagship and continue her legacy in the community.

“I opened the first elysewalker location in the Pacific Palisades because I saw the huge opportunity to bring fashion retail to the area,” Walker said. “I knew that I wanted a store to feel like a home base within the community. More than a store, it was where friends and family got together to connect, celebrate and of course, shop. Elysewalker Pacific Palisades epitomized that. Re-opening in the Palisades and moving to the Village is incredibly exciting and important as we focus our efforts on rebuilding and supporting this incredibly strong and resilient community. We fully intend to recreate the elysewalker experience at the Village and cannot wait to be back in our beloved Palisades community.”

“When a retailer chooses to invest here, it is a powerful voice of confidence in a bright future. Both

Elyse and I have a shared determination to bring back the Palisades better and stronger, ensuring this community remains a place where families flourish, businesses succeed and neighborhoods thrive,” Caruso said.

“I opened the first elysewalker location in the Pacific Palisades because I saw the huge opportunity to bring fashion retail to the area.”

Founder Elyse Walker

Caruso will also fund the revitalization of the streetscapes around Palisades Village, including the sidewalks and landscaping, to ensure the area is safe and welcoming. Through Steadfast LA, private funding is being raised to revitalize other public spaces that are central to the community, including the rebuilding of the Palisades Recreation Center, aimed at reviving the heart of the community, creating a vibrant space for families to gather.

For information, visit caruso.com and steadfastla.com.



The Rise of Membership Vet Clinics – What’s Behind the Trend?

In a city where your dog might have their own chef, therapist, and Instagram account, it’s no surprise that veterinary care is evolving to match the lifestyle. One of the fastest-growing trends in the industry? **Membership-based** veterinary clinics – a model that borrows heavily from human concierge medicine.

Instead of paying per visit, clients pay a monthly fee that typically includes all exam costs and perks like texting with a vet or same-day booking. The appeal is clear: predictable costs, easier access, and a model that feels more like a relationship than a transaction.

The human version of this – **direct primary care** – has grown rapidly over the past decade. Patients pay a flat monthly fee and get personalized care without insurance red tape. It’s a response to long wait times, rushed appointments, and surprise bills. Veterinary clinics are following suit, especially in urban markets where convenience and tech-enabled care are priorities.

Membership models like those offered by **Modern Animal, Bond Vet**, and others promise seamless tech, extended hours, and no exam fees. But they also raise questions: What’s really included? Are clients saving money – or just changing how they’re billed?

For some pet owners, access is the real value – being able to text a vet or skip the ER. For others, especially with healthy pets, the numbers may not pencil out. Some clients report difficulty getting appointments at busy membership clinics, as demand sometimes outpaces capacity. To me, the value is I get to do multiple follow ups with patients to make sure we are resolving issues correctly rather than just patching them up at cost.

That’s why at **Paw Priority**, we’re launching **VIPP – Very Important Pet & Person**. Our plan isn’t about upselling; it’s about supporting deeper care. I like to follow up, to make sure we’re fully resolving an issue – not just patching it. We will cap our membership numbers to ensure we are not overbooked to our own clientele.

The VIPP plan will include all visits in one year with diagnostics discounts, and a senior-focused VIPP+ tier with x-rays, blood work and semiannual checkups. We’re a local, independent clinic – your pet sees the same doctors and techs every time. I feel strongly I wanted to offer reasonable and transparent options without an upsell. And we’ll always offer our current single-visit transparent pricing, no pressure. This isn’t a gimmick. It’s a tool to deliver better care in the neighborhood – for pets and their people. Feel free to email us for more info!

About Dr. Ameis

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



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Letters to the Editor

Congratulations on winning journalism awards

Re “Beverly Press & Park Labrea News wins multiple journalism awards,” May 22 issue

Over-the-top congratulations on your journalism awards recognition. I am happy to see that Beverly Press & Park Labrea News’ accomplishments are valued, acknowledged and honored.

Nedra Zachary
Beverly Hills

BHUSD discusses parent-teacher meeting guidelines

■ Board debates attendance of administrators

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education on May 27 discussed guidelines for parent-teacher conferences. Specifically, the board is considering the role of administrators in meetings – or lack thereof. While the board did not take action on the item, the board will discuss the topic again at a future meeting and vote on creating a specific policy.

The item was brought forward by Board Member Sigalie Sabag, who said parents have expressed concerns over the role of administrators in meetings with teachers.

“If a parent wants to discuss their student’s achievements, what is happening in the classroom, usually they schedule an appointment with the teacher ... the meeting is done in the classroom one on one,” Sabag said. “It came to my attention that admins are being introduced into the meeting ... I just wanted to

make it clear that we would have a discussion on how we feel about it – that a parent should be allowed to meet with a teacher one on one without any kind of intervention, without an admin being involved in the meeting.”

While an administrator’s presence is not required at meetings between parents and teachers, California Education Code stipulates that their attendance can be requested by either the parent or the teacher.

Sabag said parents should have the right to meet with a teacher without an administrator’s presence only when there are “no issues” being discussed. She stated that recently, assistant principals have been present during many meetings, even when neither the parent nor teacher requested their attendance.

“In my experience, it’s really important that a parent and a teacher connect, it doesn’t have to be with issues. Just to see, how is my child in the classroom, what does the classroom look like, where is my child sitting, how is my child treating other students, what is happening in the classroom, how are they doing?” Sabag said. “Nothing

with intervention and nothing with discipline.”

Board Member Dr. Amanda Stern appeared hesitant about possibly limiting the role of administrators in meetings.

“Of course there should be a good partnership between teachers and parents ... I don’t really see a benefit for making a hard and fast rule that a teacher cannot have an admin with them during a meeting,” Stern said.

Board President Rachelle Marcus echoed Stern’s comments, stating that the presence of an administrator may sometimes be necessary.

“I get the feeling that if there is something that is sensitive about the parent and their relationship or something with [what] the child is saying, or something, and there have been some previous communications with the teacher, there may be a need to perhaps have somebody that’s there to sort of monitor to make sure everything is understood,” Marcus said.

Although there were concerns over what a specific policy might look like, board members agreed that



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Board Member Sigalie Sabag said parents have expressed concerns over the role of administrators in parent-teacher conferences.

the district should prioritize the relationship between parents and teachers, and that in most “routine” parent-teacher conferences, an administrator’s presence is not needed.

“Parents should always be able to meet with teachers. Most of the time administrators shouldn’t need to be there and there shouldn’t need to be an expectation that they are

there,” Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said. “If things get contentious, then the teacher always has the ability to ask for an administrator. I don’t think anyone’s denying that. But for the majority of meetings, they should be like parent-teacher conferences, which is the parent and the teacher. I think we would all agree on that.”

Planning Commission begins discussions on environmental policy

■ Beverly Hills Climate Action and Adaptation Plan to be implemented

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on May 22 began discussing the implementation of building and electric vehicle infrastructure reach codes, which aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the city.

According to a city staff report, reach codes are local ordinances that “exceed and enhance the state’s green building standards.” Reach codes are often targeted toward building electric vehicle infrastructure and decarbonizing buildings. Reach codes have been implemented in cities including Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Santa Monica.

“Reach codes are a mechanism that allows local municipalities to achieve building decarbonization,” said Amanda Grossman, a sustainability programs administrator in the city’s Department of Public Works. “The adoption of a reach code was identified as one of the foundational measures in Beverly Hills’ climate action and adaptation

plan, and can achieve significant greenhouse gas reduction with minimal cost to the city.”

The climate plan was approved by the City Council on April 22. The plan acts as a “living document” and a roadmap for the city’s climate policies as it faces the effects of climate change.

According to the California Public Utilities Commission, emissions from buildings in California amount to 24% of greenhouse gas emissions statewide. Decarbonization includes transitioning appliances that use natural gas and oil – gas stoves, hot water heaters, boilers and furnaces, for example – to a zero-emission source of energy. Zero-emission buildings often utilize electricity instead of natural gas and benefit from infrastructure including solar panels.

The city is currently exploring three different approaches to reach codes for building decarbonization – “energy performance,” “flex path” and “electric readiness,” which differ in specific electric infrastructure standards that would be required for new buildings and substantial remodels.

The city is also considering two

See page



photo by Edwin Folven

The city of Beverly Hills is considering expanding requirements for buildings to reduce emissions. Beverly Hills City Hall currently utilizes solar panels as a source of energy.



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO MODIFY THE BASIS AND METHOD OF LEVYING ASSESSMENTS WITHIN THE WEST HOLLYWOOD DESIGN DISTRICT BY ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR WAIVER OF PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON DELINQUENT ASSESSMENTS AND SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **June 9, 2025**, the City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adopting a Resolution related to establishing a procedure for waiver of penalties and interest on delinquent assessments as it pertains to the West Hollywood Design District, a Business Improvement District (BID). The proposed waiver procedure allows business owners to apply for relief from penalties and interest due to City billing errors (e.g. incorrect category, amount, or mailing address) or first-time delinquencies within three years, as detailed in the Resolution.

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 Resolution may attend the hearing or submit written comments no later than 12:00 p.m. on the above Council meeting day via email to publiccomment@weho.org or via E-Comment by visiting www.weho.org/wehotv.

Written comments should be addressed to City Clerk, City of West Hollywood, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069. Written protests against the proposed modification must be filed with the City Clerk at or before the hearing, clearly stating the objection, and include a description of the business and proof of ownership if not listed in City records, per California Streets and Highways Code Section 36524.

A copy of the proposed Resolution will be available with the online City Council Agenda Packet, beginning Wednesday, June 4, 2025. Please visit <https://www.weho.org/councilagendas> to view the June 9, 2025 City Council Agenda Packet.

Dated: May 29, 2025

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

In Beverly Hills, ‘Never Again Is Now’

■ Mayor condemns D.C. shooting

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian hosted a panel highlighting the diversity of the Jewish experience on May 21 at the Writers Guild Theater. The panelists – members of the Jewish community from different backgrounds and nationalities – spoke about their individual experiences as Jews and confronted harmful stereotypes. The event was part of the mayor’s “Never Again is Now” initiative, which aims to combat anti-semitism while celebrating Jewish heritage.

“We live in a complicated world. There are many things that divide us,” Nazarian said at the event. “But tonight is about showcasing what we have in common and our shared humanity. It’s about listening to diverse voices within the Jewish community – voices that are often unheard, misrepresented or misunderstood. And most of all, it’s about unity.”

In addition to the mayor, featured guests included Dr. Evelyn Markus, a Dutch activist who emigrated to the United States after encountering rising antisemitism in the Netherlands; Dr. Sheila Nazarian (no relation to Mayor Nazarian), a plastic surgeon and activist who fled religious persecution in Iran; Matthew Nouriel, an advocate for LGBTQ+ Jews and director of

community engagement for Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa; and Elisheva Rishon, founder of the Black Jewish Zionist Squad. The panel was moderated by Jacki Karsh, a six-time Emmy-nominated multimedia journalist.

Karsh asked the panelists about their experiences growing up as Jews and what it means to be Jewish. The ensuing discussion covered a wide range of topics and issues – from celebrating Jewish joy to dealing with fear of antisemitic violence after the Oct. 7 terrorist attacks in Israel. Each panelist brought a different perspective, often informed by their unique background and upbringing.

“Growing up gay in the ‘80s and ‘90s in the Iranian Jewish community was very difficult, I’m not going to lie about that,” Nouriel said. “I spent a good amount of time stepping away from those parts of my identity, because I viewed the Jewish Iranian part of my identity [as] why I went through so much pain as a gay person. What I didn’t realize when I was younger ... just like you can’t run away from being gay, you can’t run away from being Jewish or Iranian. You can’t run away from any part of who you are.”

Panelists also called on non-Jews to speak up about antisemitism and stand with the Jewish community in solidarity. Additionally, guests highlighted the importance of engaging in dialogue to find common ground instead of focusing on differences.

“Empathy leads to important dialogues,” Rishon said. “The moment

that you have these necessary, important, difficult dialogues, that is when there’s a chance at peace, there’s a chance at understanding.”

The mayor highlighted steps the city has taken to honor the victims of the Oct. 7 attack – including last year’s flag display in Beverly Gardens Park and the creation of a permanent memorial. The memorial will be the first of its kind anywhere in the U.S., and will break ground on Oct. 5.

Lisa Katz, the chief government affairs officer for the Combat Antisemitism Movement, praised the city’s efforts at the event.

“Antisemitism is not a relic of the past, it’s a challenge of the present,” Katz said. “When cities like Beverly Hills take a stand, they become models for what’s possible when moral clarity meet civic courage.”

Shortly after the event, two staff members of the Israeli Embassy in Washington – Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim – were killed in a shooting outside an event at the Capital Jewish Museum. The suspect, a 31-year-old man who report-



photo by Tabor Brewster

Panelists at the May 21 event included Jewish activists from different backgrounds.

edly yelled “free Palestine” after the shooting, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder.

Mayor Sharona Nazarian condemned the murder in a statement and expressed sorrow for the victims.

“Just as we held a powerful event in Beverly Hills tonight celebrating the diversity of the Jewish experience, hatred and antisemitism were

on full display in our nation’s capital,” Nazarian said. “Two innocent lives were lost at the hands of pure evil ... This is the reason we need to stand up, speak out and say ‘Never Again is Now.’ On behalf of the City Council and the entire Beverly Hills community, we send our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. May their memory be a blessing.”

From page 7

different methods of enforcing reach codes – through requiring specific energy efficiency or renewable energy measures in buildings, or requiring buildings to meet an energy “budget” or performance score.

City staff will perform an analysis of the possible reach codes and return to the Planning Commission with recommendations in the fall. According to the staff report, the city expects to submit an ordinance to the City Council in late fall. Upon approval, the ordinance

would be reviewed by the California Energy Commission. The city aims to implement an ordinance by January 2026.

While the Planning Commission did not take an action on the item, Commissioners Gary Ross, Lou Milkowski and Commission Vice Chair Jeff Wolfe appeared to support the examination of reach codes in Beverly Hills. Commission Chair Terri Kaplan and Commissioner Myra Demeter were absent.


“This is a very important area,” Milkowski said. “I like to see us catch up, if we call that catching up.”

Notable Quotes

“It is a newspaper’s duty to print the news and to raise hell.”

Chicago Times motto, 1861

*source: Encyclopedia of Chicago



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CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO MODIFY THE BASIS AND METHOD OF LEVYING ASSESSMENTS WITHIN THE SUNSET STRIP BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BY ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR WAIVER OF PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON DELINQUENT ASSESSMENTS AND SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **June 9, 2025**, the City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adopting a Resolution related to establishing a procedure for waiver of penalties and interest on delinquent assessments as it pertains to the Sunset Strip Business Improvement District. The proposed waiver procedure allows business owners to apply for relief from penalties and interest due to City billing errors (e.g. incorrect category, amount, or mailing address) or first-time delinquencies within three years, as detailed in the Resolution.

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 Resolution may attend the hearing or submit written comments no later than 12:00 p.m. on the above Council meeting day via email to publiccomment@weho.org or via E-Comment by visiting www.weho.org/wehotv.

Written comments should be addressed to City Clerk, City of West Hollywood, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069. Written protests against the proposed modification must be filed with the City Clerk at or before the hearing, clearly stating the objection, and include a description of the business and proof of ownership if not listed in City records, per California Streets and Highways Code Section 36524.

A copy of the proposed Resolution will be available with the online City Council Agenda Packet, beginning Wednesday, June 4, 2025. Please visit <https://www.weho.org/councilagendas> to view the June 9, 2025 City Council Agenda Packet.

Dated: May 29, 2025

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

WeHo clicks its heels for Judy Garland

■ Annual celebration kicks off June 10

BY RANCE COLLINS

On June 10, 1922, one of the most enduring cultural icons was born, though christened with an unfamiliar name: Frances Ethel Gumm. Twelve years later, while performing in a Vaudeville trio with her older sisters, she became Judy Garland. Movie contracts, hit records, five husbands, three children, the highest of highs and the lowest of lows followed in a career that lasted decades – and came to an abrupt end on June 22, 1969, when the troubled yet triumphant star died at age 47.

In the midst of it all, the transcendent star won and embraced a large gay following – one of the first mainstream performers to do so. Her most recognizable song – and arguably the most popular song in history – “Over the Rainbow” became an emblem of the struggle for gay rights, with some citing it as an inspiration for the rainbow flag. For years, gays used the code “a friend of Dorothy,” a reference to Garland’s famous “The Wizard of Oz” character,” to identify their sexual orientation.

During a 1965 San Francisco press conference, Garland was asked how she felt about her gay following.

“I couldn’t care less. I sing to people,” she said. “I’ll be damned if I’ll have my audience mistreated.”

Now, annually on her birthday, the city of West Hollywood will honor Judy Garland Day in tribute to the legend’s early support of the LGBTQ+ community.

“‘Over the Rainbow’ holds so much power and meaning to so many people, especially the LGBTQ+ community,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “It’s a cherished and beloved anthem, and Judy Garland gave us the gift of a lifetime in her performance. As someone who wore those iconic ruby red slippers for more than one costumed occasion in my childhood, I’m so honored to celebrate her memory and legacy in the city of West Hollywood.”

The inaugural event, hosted by

the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, will be held at Beaches Tropicana as part of its official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Perfumer Vince Spinnato’s unisex fragrance, aptly titled Judy, will be available for purchase. A collection of costumes and memorabilia will be exhibited, on loan from collector Woolsey Ackerman and sponsored by the Hollywood Heritage Museum.

“Judy Garland was an iconic ally to our community – a symbol of hope and tolerance who brought many of us endless hours of joy, laughter and love,” Councilman John Erickson said. “My mother’s favorite song is ‘Over the Rainbow,’ and that is an anthem that still holds for so many of us today.”

The doors open at 4 p.m., with the ribbon cutting set for 6:30 p.m. An intimate panel discussion will follow with Spinnato, Ackerman, author Meredith Ponedel and Garland’s “Meet Me in St. Louis” co-star Margaret O’Brien. Members of the Garland family are also expected, which could include her children Liza Minnelli, Lorna Luft and Joey Luft.

“Judy Garland is an icon, not just in Hollywood history, but in LGBTQ+ history as well,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “Her legacy is woven into our community’s story of resilience, identity and pride. For many, especially older generations, her music and presence offered comfort in a world that didn’t always accept them. It’s incredibly meaningful that West Hollywood is honoring her with an official Judy Garland Day. It’s a reminder that queer history and pop culture are deeply intertwined, and that even decades later, Judy is still bringing people together.”

Vice Mayor John Heilman pointed out the importance of honoring Garland, who dealt with very public struggles with addiction.

“As we honor Judy Garland’s legacy, we shouldn’t forget her struggles with substance abuse,” Heilman said. “Unfortunately, addiction and substance abuse

remain a serious problem for our community and our country. We should honor Judy Garland for her talent and her unwavering support for her gay fans. However, we should also honor her by increasing our efforts to prevent substance abuse, especially within Hollywood.”

For those looking to extend their celebration of Garland, Turner Classic Movies has scheduled some of her most popular films to air on June 10, including “Meet Me in St. Louis,” “Easter Parade” and “A Star is Born.”

To RSVP for the event, visit eventbrite.com/e/west-hollywoods-official-judy-garland-day-ribbon-cutting-tickets-1356072532449. Beaches Tropicana is located at 8911 Santa Monica Blvd.



photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Judy Garland introduced songs such as “The Boy Next Door” in the 1944 film “Meet Me in St. Louis.”



Margot McKinney.

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photo courtesy of @collecting_judy

Judy Garland enjoyed a night on the town with Peter Lawford at West Hollywood’s former Sunset Strip nightclub The Mocambo in 1947.

Holocaust Museum hosts book talks at Barnes & Noble at The Grove

Holocaust Museum L.A. and Barnes & Noble at The Grove have partnered for Bookfair, which will include talks at the store throughout 2025 and spring 2026. Holocaust Museum L.A. will receive a percentage of sales of books sold to customers who use a promotional code for in-store purchases through June 1, 2026, at The Grove and all Barnes & Noble locations.

On Sunday, June 8, at 11 a.m., the museum presents a talk with author Rebecca Brenner Graham about her new book, “Dear Miss Perkins: A Story of Frances Perkins’ Efforts to Aid Refugees from Nazi Germany.” The book tells the story of the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet and her never-before-told role in saving Jewish refugees during the Nazi regime. Based on extensive research, including thousands of letters housed in the National Archives, “Dear Miss Perkins” adds a new dimension to an already extraordinary life story, revealing at last how one woman tried to steer the nation to a better, more righteous course.

In honor of Pride Month, Holocaust Museum L.A. presents a talk with Dr. Jake Newsome about his book “Pink Triangle Legacies,” on Sunday, June 22, at 11 a.m. The book traces the transformation of

the pink triangle from a Nazi concentration camp badge and emblem of discrimination into a widespread, recognizable symbol of queer activism, pride and community.

Newsome is an award-winning LGBTQ+ historian whose research and resources educate global audiences. He is founder and director of the Pink Triangle Legacies Project, a grassroots initiative that honors the memory of the Nazis’ queer victims and carries on their legacy by fighting homophobia and transphobia through education, empowerment and advocacy.

On Sunday, June 29, at 11 a.m.,

Holocaust Museum LA presents a talk with Holocaust survivor Thomas Jacobson about his memoir “Underdog: Against All Odds, The Fight for Justice.” Jacobson shares his remarkable journey from escaping Nazi Germany as one of the youngest passengers on the MS St. Louis to later becoming a prominent human rights lawyer in Milwaukee, where he represented leading civil rights figures and later the families of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer’s victims.

To use the promo code, shop in-store at any Barnes & Noble and use Book Fair ID: 12859773. Barnes & Noble is located in Suite K 30 at The Grove, 189 The Grove Drive.

For information, visit holocaust-museumla.org/bn2025.

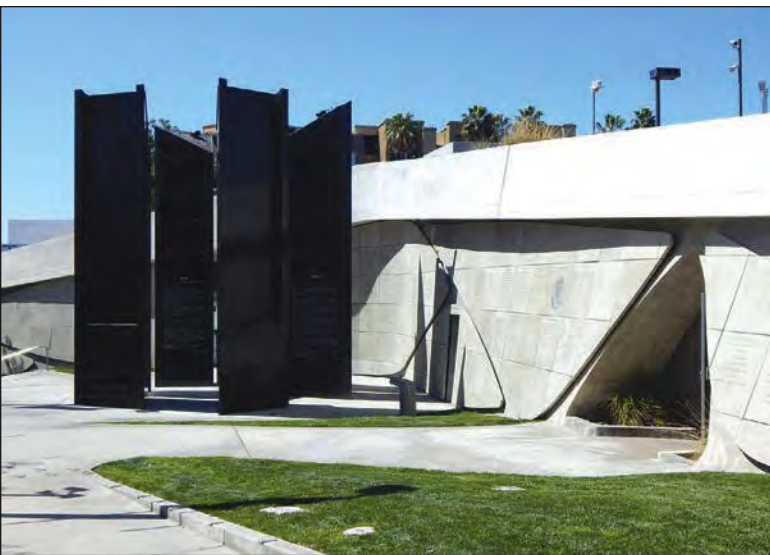


photo by Edwin Folven

The books featured in the museum’s series offer diverse perspectives on the Holocaust.

Tutoring program returns in June

LA County Library’s Summer Stars tutoring program returns June 17, providing free in-person support for students in grades 1-6. Designed in direct response to community feedback, the program helps young learners strengthen foundational skills in reading and math through small-group sessions led by credentialed tutors.

The Summer Stars tutoring program was established thanks to a Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors motion, authored by Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, which was unanimously approved in October 2023.

“Summer shouldn’t be a setback for our kids, it should be a springboard,” Hahn said. “By turning our L.A. County Library locations into free, high-quality tutoring hubs again this year, we’re giving every child the chance to walk into the new school year confident and prepared, no matter their family’s financial situation.”

Summer Stars features two four-week sessions, including session one – reading – which takes place from June 17-July 10 (June 10-July 3 at La Puente Library only) and session two – math – which takes place from July 15-August 7, 2025 (July 8 – July 31 at La Puente Library only). La Puente Library is located at 15920 Central Ave., La Puente.

Tutoring is held Tuesday-Thursday afternoons at participating locations, and students attend a 30-minute session each day. Tutoring is provided by StudentNest, an experienced educational partner with more than 20 years of experience delivering academic support to students across the country.

Appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis and space is limited. Appointments will not be rescheduled. To learn more and sign up, visit lacountylibrary.org/summer-stars.

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A mystery lunch and a masterpiece

Summer is starting to shine down on us now, L.A. marinating these next five months in sunscreen and margaritas.

Indeed, you're likely to wear that lovely sweaty sheen from graduation till almost Halloween. If you watch "The Graduate," one the finest flicks of all time, all the characters carry that shiny L.A. glow.

Consumers pay a lot of money for that sheen. It is the basis of cosmetic empires and sudden, inexplicable summer crushes. It is absolutely my favorite liquor. Wish I could brush it on my sweet corn.

Know what else I like? Daughters. Never had a Lambo, or that candy-apple '52 Porsche I crave. But if I did, I'd trade them both for these daughters: one for the Lambo, the other for the Porsche. Or vice versa.

My daughters are my nav system. They are the glitter in the bottom of a box of ornaments. One is all hair. The other mostly freckles.

We grabbed lunch the other day, my daughters prying into my life as daughters often do. That's how big their hearts are.

FYI, to watch my adult daughters order lunch is to be in the presence of heightened genius: Heifetz sawing through a sonata, Walter Payton mowing down tacklers, Cicero on a podium.

"Does the squid ink come mixed in the rice, or...?" a daughter asks the server.

Squid ink is perhaps my favorite ink, though I wouldn't necessarily add it to my fries. First of all, it has no apparent flavor; it's used for color and shock value ... and to upset the dads.



On this warm May afternoon, nothing my daughters order seems like food. Actually, it seems more like bait. For lunch, we're having bait.

There's shrimp and raw halibut and the crunchy rice with squid snot. I'm sorry, why do they call it ink? My entire writing career is based on ink. Doesn't mean I'd swallow any.

As you probably know, there are restaurants in Los Angeles whose entire purpose is to wow you with their mistreatment of mussels, flounder and anything else they find dying on the seashore at low tide.

The lovely and patient older daughter frequents a sushi joint that serves shrimp that arrive at the table still wiggling. That's pretty much where I draw the line, though I love a ribeye so red that it moos. Is that really any worse?

See, I am trying to remain open to a world intent on destroying everything I love – paper tickets, pool halls, breakfast diners.

Daughters are a good way to keep an open mind. They force parents like us to confront our musty tastes and gothic-Irish sensibilities.

"What's that pink goo on the nachos?"

"Caviar, Dad."
Ooooooff. OK then.
Fortunately, Puddles is with us, the grandson with the swimming-pool eyes. He doesn't seem too keen on all this flotsam either.

"Dude," I whisper. "They're trying to poison us."

Puddles just laughs. Seven months old now, he's already discovered that the only way to survive a whacky, futzed-up world is to giggle at almost everything.

Just look into his blue eyes. What do you see? A Dodger rally? Santa Monica Bay? A Matisse?

To his grandpa, he seems a masterpiece, though let's not rush judgment. Let's give him another week.

I never had a blue-eyed kid myself, sort of gave up the dream, then this new dream came along last October. He is the first blue-eyed baby boy in the family in 30 years.

He is hope, he is hassle. Sucks down protein like a racehorse. Sleeps only when threatened.

His sleep habits are reason enough to give up on him, but his dear mother has stayed the course.

The lovely and patient older daughter's life right now is all about sleep management. She catches a wink here, a wink there.

Add it all up, that's two winks, not nearly enough to maintain sanity. Wisely, she stays away from heavy machinery and sports call-in shows.

Were Puddles one fraction less cute, one tiny percentage of a whisker, could she still manage? Of course. Yet, his cuteness is his super power. He wears it like a Colt .45.

To be honest, I didn't much like him at first. He was such a blob.

As a newborn, he was like every other infant I'd ever met – nonde-



photo by Chris Erskine

In his eyes, I see Dodger rallies ... and Santa Monica Bay.

script. Like an interstate, or a can of Coke.

Somehow, he won his Papa over.

Like me, Puddles now loves all the right things: baseball, girls with bangs, Brazilian barbecue. Basically, he likes everything and everyone because he hasn't learned otherwise.

What's up with that?

Yet, I'm lucky, in that I am mostly inert and blessed with massive arms, perfect for cradling sleepless grandkids.

And most days, I can barely think of anything but him. Suze for a while, then Smartacus, then da Bears, of course, then Puddles all over again.

New love is obsessive, right? You've read your William Blake, you've studied your Taylor Swift.

Ooo-oooo goes the mind. Boom-boom goes the heart. Hallelujah goes your tender soul.

For past columns, please go to ChrisErskineLA.com



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CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUNSET STRIP BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **JUNE 9, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the City Council of the City of West Hollywood will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at West Hollywood Park - Public Meeting Room, Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood to solicit input on the levy of an assessment for the Sunset Strip Business Improvement District for fiscal year 2025-2026. The following Resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood on May 19, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-034

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADVISORY BOARD TO THE SUNSET STRIP BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO LEVY AN ASSESSMENT AGAINST BUSINESSES WITHIN THE SUNSET STRIP BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, AND SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES HEREBY FIND, DECLARE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Parking and Business Improvement Area Law of 1989 (the “Law”), California Streets and Highways Code Sections 36500 et seq., authorizes the City Council to levy an assessment against businesses within a parking and business improvement area which is in addition to any assessments, fees, charges, or taxes imposed in the City.

Section 2. Pursuant to the Law, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 02-621 establishing the Sunset Strip Business Improvement District (the “District”) in the City of West Hollywood.

Section 3. The boundaries of the District are generally described to include (i) all parcels located on Sunset Boulevard within West Hollywood, from Doheny Road on the West to a point a half block east of Harper Avenue on the east; and (ii) all parcels located within one block of Sunset Boulevard on each street which intersects with Sunset Boulevard within West Hollywood. Reference is made to the map on file in the Office of the City Clerk for a complete description of the boundaries of the District.

Section 4. In accordance with Streets and Highways Code Section 36533, the Advisory Board has prepared and filed with the City Clerk a report titled “The Sunset Strip Business Improvement District Annual Report” (the “Report”), which proposed no change to the District’s boundaries compared to fiscal year 2024-2025. Activities proposed in the District for the 2025-2026 fiscal year are discussed below in Section 7.

Section 5. The City Council hereby approves the Report as filed by the Advisory Board.

Section 6. Having approved the Report as filed, the City Council hereby declares its intention to levy and collect an assessment against businesses within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026, in addition to any assessments, fees, charges or taxes imposed by the City, in a reduced amount of \$500 for businesses in Categories 1- 15 and \$200 for businesses in Category 16 (“Assessment”). This

one-year reduction, recommended by the District Advisory Board, responds to economic uncertainty affecting District businesses, with the shortfall to be covered by the District’s existing reserves.
Section 7. Generally, the improvements and activities to be funded by the Assessment are as follows:

- The improvements that may be funded are the acquisition, construction, installation, or maintenance of any tangible property with an estimated useful life of five years or more, including, but not limited to, the following: (i) parking facilities, (ii) benches, (iii) trash receptacles, (iv) street lighting, (v) decorations, (vi) parks, and (vii) fountains.
- The activities that may be funded are the: (i) promotion of public events which benefit businesses in the District and which take place on or in public places within the District, (ii) furnishing of music in any public place in the District, (iii) promotion of tourism within the District, and (iv) activities which benefit businesses located in and operating in the District.

Section 8. For a full and detailed description of the improvements and activities to be provided for fiscal year 2025-2026, the boundaries of the District, and the Assessment to be levied against the businesses within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026, reference is hereby made to the Report of the Advisory Board, which is on file with the City Clerk and open to public inspection. The District will utilize its reserve funds to cover the cost of improvements and activities exceeding the revenue generated by the reduced Assessment.

Section 9. New businesses established in the District between July 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, shall be assessed equal to one half of the annual assessment for fiscal year 2025-2026. For any new business established in the District between January 1, 2026, and June 30, 2026, such business shall be exempt from the assessment for fiscal year 2025-2026. For the purposes of this Section (9) a business shall be deemed established on the date the City issues a business license for the business or the date the business commences operation, whichever is earlier.

Section 10. A public hearing on the proposed levy of an assessment against businesses within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026 shall be held as follows:

TIME: 6:00 p.m.
DATE: Monday, June 9, 2025
PLACE: West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, California 90069

At the public hearing, the testimony of all interested persons regarding the levy of an assessment against businesses within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026 shall be heard. A protest may be made orally or in writing by any interested person. The form and manner of protests shall comply with Streets and Highways Code Section 36524 and 36525. If written protests are received from businesses representing 50 percent or more of the assessments and are not withdrawn, no further proceedings to levy the Assessment shall be taken for one year, per Streets and Highways Code Section 36525.

Section 11. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to provide notice of the public hearing in accordance with law.

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

DATED: May 29, 2025

RESTAURANT NEWS

Caroline Kingsbury rocks out Spire 73

Spire 73, the tallest open-air bar in the Western Hemisphere, at InterContinental Downtown Los Angeles is hosting a post-West Hollywood Pride Parade celebration on Sunday, June 1, at 5 p.m. with LGBTQ+ musician Caroline Kingsbury.

Kingsbury is fast emerging as a standout name in music, with 296,500 monthly Spotify listeners and upcoming performances at top festivals like Lollapalooza, Capitol Hill Block Party and All Things Go. Her live performance will run from 6:30-7:45 p.m., with guests enjoying festive-themed cocktails by Flor de Caña and curated bites. Set 73 floors above downtown LA, the event will capture the energy and joy of Pride Month from new heights.

For information and tickets, visit eventbrite.com/e/pride-party-performance-by-caroline-kingsbury-tickets-1376801172369. Spire 73 is

located on the 73rd floor of the InterContinental at 900 Wilshire Blvd.

LGBT Center partners with Breakfast Republic

Breakfast Republic's Echo Park location is fundraising for local organization Los Angeles LGBT Center. For the entire month of June, 100% of sales from pineapple upside down pancakes will be donated. Indulge in three pancakes topped with brown-sugar pineapple and pineapple whipped butter.

Since 1969, the Los Angeles LGBT Center has cared for, championed and celebrated LGBTQ+ individuals and families in Los Angeles and beyond. Today, the center's nearly 800 employees provide services for more queer and trans people than any other organization in the world – offering programs, services and global advoca-

Cha Cha over to new matcha location

Cha Cha Matcha was founded in 2016 in New York City as a vibrant alternative to the artisanal coffee scene, introducing ceremonial-grade matcha to the U.S. with innovative flavors, alternative milks and high-energy aesthetics. Now with 11 locations and a thriving line of premium matcha, tools and accessories, the brand remains committed to serving some of the world's highest quality green tea. Sourced from a single-family farm in Uji, Japan, their ceremonial-grade matcha is so revered that its first harvest is traditionally reserved for the Emperor of Japan.

The Beverly Hills location, opening May 30, will be the first to introduce new limited blends and sought-after cultivars, expanding the matcha ritual in inventive ways. It will feature one of the only fresh matcha mills in Los Angeles, which will serve new beverages including pure matcha, whisked



photos courtesy of Cha Cha Matcha

The new Beverly Hills Cha Cha Matcha will open May 30.

fresh to order, as well as pure matcha latte and a maple sea salt latte. Debuting in Beverly Hills are the coconut cloud, Cara Cara matcha tonic, Japanese-style cold brew and the Cha Cha vanilla latte.

To mark the grand opening, beginning at 10 a.m., Cha Cha Matcha Beverly Hills will host a

giveaway, offering the first 50 guests in line an exclusive Cha Cha Matcha Beverly Hills tote bag and a choice of the coconut cloud, draft nitro matcha or iced strawberry matcha latte.

For information, visit chachamatcha.com. Cha Cha Matcha Beverly Hills is located at 475 N. Beverly Drive.

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cy that span four broad categories: health, social services and housing, culture and education, and leadership and advocacy.

Breakfast Republic Echo Park is located at 1918 W Sunset Blvd. For information, visit [breakfastrepublic.com](#).

Farmhouse opens at Descanso Gardens

Farmhouse at Descanso Gardens is set to open on May 30 and reservations are now open. The new restaurant, in partnership with renowned chef Richard Mead, blends locally sourced cuisine and craft cocktails with the natural beauty and atmosphere of the gardens. Farmhouse at Descanso Gardens will be open every day for lunch and dinner, with added brunch on weekends. Anchored by a spacious main dining room, Farmhouse features a mix of indoor and outdoor seating, with a lovely garden patio and outdoor cocktail lounge.

The stunning indoor/outdoor bar was crafted by local artisan William Stranger and made from oaks that fell in the gardens. Hand-painted

murals of our botanical collections adorn the walls of the booths, and vibrant greenery merge the restaurant with the beautiful natural surroundings.

For information, visit [farmhouse-dg.org](#) or call (818)949-4212. Farmhouse is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge.

Enjoy the ‘Summer Haze’ at Voodoo

Voodoo Doughnut is making summer a little sweeter with the launch of its Summer Haze Half Dozen, a limited-time collection of six handcrafted doughnuts designed to capture the carefree joy of the season.

Available starting May 22, the Summer Haze Half Dozen blends seasonal flavors and fan favorites into a box that tastes as sweet as a sun-drenched memory, including Strawberry Shortcake, which is handcrafted with sweet strawberry fluff, dipped in Voonilla icing and covered with strawberry shortcake cookie crumbles. A Voodoo twist on

See page 16

The London casts a teatime rainbow

This June, The London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills is honoring love in every shade with a vibrant Pride afternoon tea – a joyful celebration of community, inclusion and self-expression. The London invites guests and locals alike to indulge in a whimsical Pride-themed afternoon tea set against the elegant backdrop of the Boxwood Sitting Room.

The Pride afternoon tea menu includes a selection of teas from the Rare Tea Company including Jasmine Silver Tip and Wild Rooibos, champagne by the glass (\$22), tea sandwiches like English cucumber, lemon and watercress on white bread and Italian Meats with provolone cheese and olive tapenade, scones and a variety of house-made pastries such as a rainbow doughnut, Battenburg sponge cake, matcha and lavender macaron, a passion-fruit tart, a banana foster whoopie pie and even a celebration cake (\$65 and serves up to four guests). The afternoon tea costs



photo courtesy of the London West Hollywood

Have a Pride-ful tea at The London this celebratory weekend.

\$84 per person and \$42 for children 12 and under.

The hotel’s afternoon tea service takes place on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:30-3:30 p.m., and reservations are required, which can be booked at [opentable.com/r/afternoon-tea-at-the-london-west-hollywood](#). The London West Hollywood is located at 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd.

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The Rose Bowl has its ‘Head in The Clouds’

Head In The Clouds Festival has announced its full food and beverage programming for the festival’s 2025 edition, which is set to take place on May 31-June 1 at Brookside at The Rose Bowl in Pasadena. This year’s food and beverage selection is the largest curated to date and reflects the best of what Asian cuisine has to offer across the full spectrum of vendors participating at the festival.

Highlights of the Mama’s

Nightmare-curated vendors include Bang Bang Noodles, Good Alley, Heng Heng Chicken Rice, Iki Ramen x Iki Nori and Jilli. Joining these food vendors are local Boba & Tea favorites Sunright Tea Studio, Odd One Out Tea and Bluey & Co. Mama, the budding organization known for supporting local restaurants and this year’s festival food curator, with its founder Jared Jue, expressed how “incredible it is to see our neighborhood

mom-and-pop restaurants showcased alongside global pop stars on such a big stage. That’s what Mama is all about – shining a spotlight on the amazing food culture that makes up our diverse communities.”

Adding to the cultural experience, Southern California staples like Kogi, Shlap Muan, and The Boiling Crab with King’s Hawaiian will be serving bespoke menus alongside Melona, America’s favorite Korean ice cream brand, and Rokstar Chicken, New York’s best Korean fried chicken.

Rounding out the food and beverage lineup are new and returning festival sponsors: Suntory’s -196 & Maru-Hi, Beatbox, Casamigos, Coca-Cola, Drip, Jinro, Johnnie Walker Blended Scotch Whisky and Jongga.

The newly-announced food and beverage lineup complements the previously-announced musical acts that include G-Dragon, 2NE1, Dean, DPR Ian, Rich Brian, Porter Robinson and Higher Brothers. This year’s festival coincides with the 10th anniversary of 88rising, the organization behind Head In The Clouds.

Only a limited amount of general admission passes remain; VIP and 1999 CLUB passes are sold out. Passes are available at lahitcfeestival.com. The Rose Bowl is located at 1001 Rose Bowl Drive, Pasadena.



photo courtesy of Goldenvoice

Mama’s Nightmare is curating the food and beverage vendors for Head In The Clouds Festival.

From page 15

an ice cream classic.

The Churro Cheesecake is coated in cinnamon sugar, topped with creamy cheesecake swirls and drizzled with decadent caramel. The Homer is an iconic fan-favorite ring dipped in strawberry frosting and covered in rainbow sprinkles. The Lemon Sunshine is bursting with tart lemon filling and coated in powdered sugar, this doughnut is a bright bite of pure sunshine. The Blueberry Breeze is a glazed blueberry cake doughnut dipped in Voonilla frosting, and the Chocolate Ring is a classic raised ring dipped in decadent chocolate frosting and topped with rainbow sprinkles.

From diving into Strawberry Shortcake without having to chase down an ice cream truck through the neighborhood, to indulging in Churro Cheesecake that feels like a bite from the fair, each doughnut in the Summer Haze Half Dozen was carefully crafted to spark sweet summer memories.

For information, visit voodoo-doughnut.com. Voodoo Doughnut is located at 7101 Melrose Ave.

wines from long-standing artisanal partner at Silverlake Wine, relish delectable selections from a variety of local food trucks and enjoy carefully-curated DJ performances. Attendees are advised to bring blankets for optimal comfort.

While onsite, discover a series of compelling exhibitions at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and Barnsdall Junior Arts Center Gallery. Commencing in June, Friday Night Arts at LAMAG will offer a dynamic blend of artist-led presentations and interactive installations, opening with an immersive installation by prolific multimedia artist, Bill Barminski. COLA 2025 exhibition, an annual exhibition of new works by L.A.-based artists, will be showcased throughout July and August.

Kaiser Permanente are back as lead supporter of the 2025 wine tasting season and tickets cost \$45 with other tier options that include a tour of Hollyhock House starting at \$80. Located at 4800 Hollywood Blvd., parking is limited; rideshare and public transportation are highly encouraged. Designated driver tickets are also available. For information, visit barnsdall.org.

end. On Saturday, May 31, and Sunday, June 1, the hotel will bring the party to its rooftop for a Pride Pool Party from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., featuring live DJ sets and slushy specials at the rooftop bar, all against the stunning backdrop of Los Angeles. Finally, on Saturday, June 7, Andaz West Hollywood will host SpLAsh Pool Party in collaboration with Masterbeat as part of its United in Pride series – the signature event lineup of LA Pride 2025. From noon-6 p.m., guests can expect an electric rooftop celebration featuring high-energy music, dancing and a crowd that reflects the joyful spirit of Pride.

The Andaz West Hollywood is located at 8401 W. Sunset Blvd. For information and to book tickets, visit hyattexperiences.com/andaz/laxss#1/e.

Brooklyn pizza joint opens at L.A. LIVE

Emmy Squared Pizza, the renowned Brooklyn-born eatery, has opened its newest location at L.A. LIVE, the dynamic sports and entertainment hub in Downtown Los Angeles. This marks the brand’s second location in the greater Los Angeles area. The restaurant’s menu highlights locally sourced ingredients and bold, innovative flavors. Diners can savor Emmy’s signature Detroit-style pizzas, the critically acclaimed Le Big Matt burger, and a variety of imaginative salads and appetizers. Craft beer aficionados will appreciate a curated selection from Santa Monica Brew Works.

The renowned Brooklyn-born eatery is located at 1011 S. Figueroa Street, adjacent to the iconic Crypto.com Arena. Emmy Squared Pizza is now open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 11 a.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday. For information, visit.lalive.com/eat/emmy-squared-pizza.

Andaz gets into the Pride spirit

Long a cultural landmark on the Sunset Strip, Andaz West Hollywood (formerly the legendary “Riot House”) has been part of the city’s creative and progressive spirit for decades. Now, it continues that tradition by hosting a series of Pride events honoring both the LGBTQ+ community and the hotel’s roots in artistic expression.

Pride weekend kicks off on Friday, May 30, with Riot Hour at Riot House Restaurant from 6-9 p.m. Guests can enjoy themed cocktails, discounted Pride appetizers and music by DJ Jeremy, setting the tone for an unforgettable week-

Wine tastings are back all summer at Barnsdall

Barnsdall Art Park Foundation is excited to announce the return of its iconic fundraiser, Barnsdall Fridays Wine Tasting, beginning June 6. Building on the tremendous success of last year’s event, the 16th season is set to extend through Sept. 26. All proceeds support programming within the park.

The event takes place on Olive Hill and the West Lawn of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Hollyhock House, the sole UNESCO World Heritage site in L.A., every Friday from 5:30-9 p.m. Indulge in exquisite



photo courtesy of Vanessa Tierney Photography

The Peninsula Beverly Hills is bringing back its summer programming.

Have a spot of tea at The Peninsula

The Peninsula Beverly Hills is thrilled to welcome back its annual Summer Tea Party, where timeless style meets indulgent delights. The al fresco Tea Party experience is set on the scenic Belvedere Terrace, complete with handcrafted iced teas served in eclectic glassware and fine china, summer-inspired cocktails, and lively afternoon DJ sets.

Offered every Saturday and Sunday beginning Saturday, May 31, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., this chic tea party promises to be as stylishly memorable as the guests who attend. Reservations are suggested.

Angelenos are invited to escape to paradise with a new weekend BBQ series taking place at the enchanting Roof Garden. This series is a vibrant evolution of The Peninsula’s beloved BBQ nights – now reimagined with the warmth, flavor and rhythm of the Pacific.

Savor dishes inspired by the soulful flavors of Maui and Executive Chef Luis Cuadra’s years living on the island, from smoky and sweet Huli Huli Chicken and Maui Onion Dip to vibrant and refreshing sliced guava, pineapple and passion fruit. Tuna poke with house-fermented ponzu (the chef’s personal favorite) is a standout and honors traditional techniques while delivering a deep umami flavor.

Guests can also sip tropical tiki cocktails and relax under soft torchlight and an island ambiance, all while enjoying the sounds of live ukulele as the sun sets over Beverly Hills.

Aloha Summer will take place from 5-9 p.m. Friday, June 6 to Monday, Sept. 1. To book, visit opentable.com/the-belvedere website or call (310)975-2736. The Peninsula Beverly Hills is located at 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd.

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Getty displays Italian masterpiece after extensive restoration

The J. Paul Getty Museum presents “Artemisia’s Strong Women: Rescuing a Masterpiece,” an exhibition celebrating the completion of a complex, three-year conservation treatment of *Hercules and Omphale*,” a previously unknown painting by Artemisia Gentileschi which survived a massive explosion in Beirut in 2020.

On view in the Getty Center Museum's East Pavilion gallery 206 from June 10–Sept. 14, "Hercules and Omphale" will be displayed alongside other paintings by Gentileschi that highlight her skill in portraying *donne forti* or "strong women."

“Arguably the most celebrated female artist of 17th-century Italy, the rediscovery of Gentileschi’s ‘Hercules and Omphale’ in Beirut was a momentous occasion for art historians around the world,” Getty

Museum Director Timothy Potts said. "We are grateful to the Sursock Palace for entrusting us to restore this masterpiece to its full glory and present it in the museum's galleries before it returns home."

On Aug. 4, 2020, a double explosion in the port of Beirut devastated the city, resulting in the deaths of over 200 people and causing massive property damage, including the historic 19th-century mansion and cultural heritage site Sursock Palace. The painting, “Hercules and Omphale,” which was located in the palace, had severe damage, holes and tears caused by glass, plaster and other debris. It was sent to the Getty in 2022 for conservation treatment.

When Hercules and Omphale arrived at Getty, senior conservator of paintings Ulrich Birkmaier per-

formed a comprehensive technical examination in conjunction with the Getty Conservation Institute to address both structural and aesthetic issues and developed a conservation plan.

“In my over 30-year career as a paintings conservator, this is some of the worst damage I have ever witnessed and was one of the most challenging yet rewarding projects I’ve had the pleasure to work on,” Birkmaier said. “It was sort of like assembling a massive puzzle – little by little the painting came back to life.”

Complementing Getty's display are two free public lectures, including a conversation on June 14 with Giulia Sissa, distinguished professor in the departments of classics and political science at UCLA, who will dive into the topic of women in antiquity. On July 19, a conversation led by curator Davide Gasparotto will focus on Gentileschi's career in Naples. Curator-led tours of the display will take place on select



Getty Museum's senior conservator of paintings Ulrich Birkmaier uses a Q-Tip and solvent to clean the surface of "Hercules and Omphale" by Artemisia Gentileschi, from Sursock Palace Collections

dates, free with a reservation. On July 24, Gasparotto and Birkmaier will lead an online talk for 92nd Street Y about the history and conservation of Hercules and

Omphale.
For information, visit [getty.edu/
exhibitions/artemis](http://getty.edu/exhibitions/artemis).
The Getty Center is located at
1200 Getty Center Drive.



All Saints' Beverly Hills welcomes the community for a concert featuring bassoonist William Wood on June 1.

All Saints' presents intimate chamber music concert

Join All Saints' Beverly Hills for an enchanting evening of chamber music on Sunday, June 1, at 5 p.m., featuring bassoonist William Wood joined by a stellar string quintet.

Wood is a longtime musician with more than 50 years of bassoon performance experience and a master of music in bassoon performance degree from the University of Southern California. The centerpiece of the concert will be Dr. Craig Phillips' "Concerto for Bassoon and Strings," showcasing Wood's virtuosity and musical

depth. The concert will also feature works by renowned composers such as Piazzolla, Montano, Schoenberg, Wilder, Lussier and Gershwin.

"This concert, which concludes our 2024-2025 series, is a celebration of chamber music's richness and the bassoon's versatility," said Phillips, director of music at All Saints'. "We are excited to share the talents of these amazing musicians with our community."

The concert will be held at the historic All Saints' Beverly Hills,

known for its acoustically beautiful setting that enhances the intimacy and depth of chamber music performances. The venue, located at 504 N. Camden Drive, provides a perfect backdrop for an evening of musical excellence.

Tickets – which are \$20 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students – are available at the door. The public is welcome to attend and experience the magic of chamber music in a unique setting. For information, (310)275-0123, or visit allsaintsbh.org/calendar.



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Kids Activities
 with local museums and partners
2PM - 6PM

Artisan Marketplace
 Curated by Runway Boutique
2PM - 8PM

Art Installations, Gourmet Food Trucks + More!





































AJU congratulates 2025 graduates

American Jewish University recently celebrated the graduation and ordination of students from its Masor School for Jewish Education and Leadership and Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

The Masor School for Jewish Education and Leadership held its MAEd ECE graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 18, at AJU’s Brandeis-Bardin Campus in Simi Valley. The graduates are poised to shape the future of Jewish early childhood education, creating nurturing and inclusive learning environments grounded in Jewish values.

“Investing in Jewish early childhood education is investing in the future of the Jewish community,” said Dr. Bruce Powell, dean of AJU’s Masor School for Jewish Education and Leadership. “The 2025 graduates embody a deep commitment to cultivating Jewish identity, values and community from the very beginning of a child’s

educational journey. They are true torchbearers for the next generation of Jewish learners.”

The 2025 graduating class includes Niki Bánffy-Nesbitt, Abiba Bola, Nechama Dena Brown, Mykenzie Busser, Lucy Castillo, Karla Rebekah Cianci, Marlo Kane Dewing, Emma Dorado, Jamai Ellis, Robert Paul Espinosa, Louisa Gladstone, Chana Gubani, Carina Hu, Ifat Kantorovich, Sheila Purdin, Ashlyn Rosen, Hannah Rubinstein, Fiona Sackett, Susan Beth Kraemer Valdez, Elky Zavdi and Mally Zazzara.

“Jewish early childhood education is more vital than ever,” said Dr. Tamar Andrews, director of early childhood education programs.

On May 19, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies held an ordination ceremony at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, marking the transition of

six new rabbis into the sacred calling of Jewish spiritual leadership. They are Rabbi Jaclyn Honig, Rabbi Avi Benjamin Kushlan, Rabbi Nicholas Arthur Losorelli, Rabbi Malka Michél, Rabbi Kaylie Rachel Romano and Rabbi Julie Chana Ariel Rosenson.

“The Ziegler School is deeply invested in the growth of each of our students, and it has been an honor to witness these hardworking individuals in their journey to the rabbinate,” said Rabbi Dr. Bradley Shavit Artson, dean of AJU’s Ziegler School. “These six dedicated individuals have undergone rigorous study and are aptly prepared to meet the needs of the Jewish people and make a tremendous positive impact in their communities.”

“The Ziegler rabbis and teachers have poured countless hours into caring for my soul and nurturing my intellect by sharing their hard-earned wisdom and knowledge,”



photo courtesy of AJU

Students in AJU’s Masor School for Jewish Education and Leadership celebrated on May 18.

Rosenson said. “Each teacher gave open-heartedly their own Torah, gently and carefully sculpting me into the rabbi that I am, as well as making me a better human being.”

In conjunction with the ordination ceremony, AJU commemorated two decades of devoted service within the rabbinate by awarding honorary doctorates to distinguished alumni of the Ziegler

School’s class of 2005: Rabbi Adam Naftalin-Kelman, Rabbi Daniel Cotzin Burg, Rabbi Kelley Gludt, Rabbi Rachel Brown and Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin.

AJU is preparing to celebrate its next graduating cohort – students completing the university’s BA completion degree in early childhood education in August. For information, visit aju.edu.

City Council honors BHHS students

In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, student leaders from Beverly Hills High School’s Korean Culture Club and Chinese Culture Club were recognized during the city of Beverly Hills’ Moment of Unity at the May 20 City Council meeting.

The new initiative, introduced by Mayor Sharona Nazarian, honors local efforts that build unity across the Beverly Hills community. As part of the recognition, club leaders from BHHS were invited to speak at the podium, sharing how the stu-

dent organizations foster cultural appreciation and connection on campus.

“We deeply value our ongoing partnership with the city of Beverly Hills,” BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said.

The Korean Culture Club and Chinese Culture Club at BHHS host cultural events, awareness campaigns and educational programming that highlight heritage, promote cross-cultural understanding and cultivate belonging for all students.

For information, visit bhUSD.org.

Beverly Hills High School hosts graduation



photo courtesy of BHUSD

The ceremony will take place on Nickoll Field.

Beverly Hills High School seniors will graduate on May 30 from 9 a.m.-noon on the school’s Nickoll Field, 241 S. Moreno Drive. Heavier than normal traffic is expected in the area. Moreno Drive will be closed between Spalding Drive and Lasky Drive between 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

A live stream of the event will be available at youtube.com/watch?v=FZF8e83zOt4.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Students from the school’s Korean Culture Club and Chinese Culture Club were recognized.



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- Venue: KCCLA, Art Gallery (2F)
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May 22 - June 6, 2025
Opening Reception: Thursday, May 22 at 6:00pm @ KCCLA



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‘Raise It Up for Youth Literacy’ brings families together at Ovation Hollywood

Families are invited to a day of storytelling, music and hands-on creative activities at “Raise It Up for Youth Literacy” on Saturday, May 31, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Ovation Hollywood.

Created to inspire a love of reading in the next generation – especially those impacted by recent wildfires in the Pacific Palisades and Altadena – the event will feature learning stations, puppet-making, face painting, interactive painting, bookmark crafts, games and music. It is supported by Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District; Los Angeles City College; the Los Angeles Fire Department; Altadena Library; Reading Among Ruin; Hard Rock Café; and Dave & Busters

The program includes age-specific activities throughout the day. The LAFD will bring a fire engine for children to climb aboard and explore. Reading Among Ruins, a nonprofit that supports wildfire victims in rebuilding home libraries for free, will donate more than 200 books to the Altadena Public Library.

Special programming for ages 2-5 runs 10-11:30 a.m., and ages 6-12 from noon-2p.m. From 2-4 p.m., the event features activities for all ages.

The Raise It Up initiative is committed to supporting at-risk communities through initiatives that promote physical, emotional and educational well-being. With a history of giving to organizations such as the Women’s Guild of Cedars-Sinai, the Los Angeles LGBT Center, Project Angel Food and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the Raise It Up initiative prioritizes purpose-driven impact and is now lending support to those in need. The goal is to inspire a love of literacy in young people and families.

The event will be held in Ovation Hollywood’s Center Courtyard, 6801 Hollywood Blvd. For information, visit eventbrite.com/e/raise-it-up-for-youth-literacy-event-at-ovation-hollywood-tickets-1355333000489.



photo by Edwin Folven

The event at Ovation Hollywood offers a fun day of learning.

BHHS seniors honored at department awards

As the class of 2025 prepares to cross the graduation stage, Beverly Hills High School held one of its most meaningful end-of-the-year traditions: the Senior Department Awards. The annual celebration recognizes exceptional seniors across all academic and extracurricular departments for their dedication, excellence and impact throughout their high school journey.

Award recipients were selected by faculty for outstanding contributions in subjects ranging from mathematics and the arts to world languages, history and leadership. The ceremony served as both a tribute to individual achievement and a reflection of the school’s commitment to educational excellence.

The event was attended by students, families and staff, all coming together to recognize the class of 2025’s remarkable achievements and lasting legacy.

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Seniors across all academic and extracurricular departments were recognized for their achievements.

The Gourmandise School heats up the kitchen with culinary camps

As summer approaches, the Gourmandise School at Santa Monica Place is inviting young chefs to trade their screens for spatulas with immersive hands-on summer camps running from June 16 through Aug. 22.

Created for children ages 8-11 and teens 12-16, the weeklong cooking and baking camps give students the opportunity to build kitchen skills while having fun and making delicious memories. Led by expert chef instructors in a professional teaching kitchen, campers will gain confidence through daily hands-on lessons in teamwork, organization and culinary creativity.

Camp themes include baking fundamentals, classic bakeshop, cooking around the globe, global street food, fabulous French bake-off, vegetarian cooking, savory baking and French macarons (advanced teen sessions). Each camp blends culinary education with global flavor exploration, perfect for inspiring the next generation of food lovers and future chefs. With multiple sessions running weekly, there’s a theme to fit every interest and age.

The Gourmandise School is located at 395 Santa Monica Place, Ste. 323. For information, visit thegourmandiseschool.com/summer-camps/#kids-camp.

spotlight

WITH SHARONA

Join the Mayor to sample and shop unique businesses on South Robertson!

Community members will discover what each spotlighted business offers, what sets them apart and why they chose Beverly Hills to call home.

This event is FREE, open to the public, and requires registration.

Start the tour at any of the five businesses!

Lodge Bread

Toppings Yogurt

Specialty Hardware & Plumbing

LaserAway

Monogrammit

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

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

Questions? Email info@beverlyhillschamber.com

Concerts on Cañon kicks off June 5

The city of Beverly Hills' Community Services Department is kicking off the 2025 Concerts on Cañon summer season with the band Upstream on Thursday, June 5, at 6 p.m. The lively outdoor concert will take place at Beverly Cañon Gardens, located at 241 N. Cañon Drive.

For years, Upstream has been spreading a message of love and positivity through its exhilarating Caribbean music – blending reggae, calypso, soca and steel drum melodies to create an irresistible sound that captivates audiences. The band's performances have mesmerized audiences and brought communities together through the universal language of music. Bandleader and lead singer-guitarist Haile Blackman is originally from the Republic of Trinidad and

Tobago and is the son of the legendary creator of soca music, the late Ras Shorty I. Steel drum extraordinaire Derek Brewstafari, also a Trinidad and Tobago native, will tug at heartstrings with his melodic steel drum tones.

The free outdoor concert series will continue every Thursday through Aug. 25 from 6-8 p.m., with a 15-minute intermission. The season features a variety of summer family-friendly entertainment that brings live music to the Golden Triangle of Beverly Hills. With a mixture of classic rock, jazz, bossa nova, disco and country music, this year's series celebrates the rich diversity and musicality of the global community.

The 2025 summer lineup also includes: June 12 – Country Nation (country); June 19 – Forward

Motion Band (funk, R&B, jazz), in celebration of Juneteenth; June 26 – The Funky Warhols (disco tribute), a Pride night disco party; July 3 – Smokin' Cobras (rockin' oldies), celebrating "Parks Make Life Better Month" kickoff; July 10 – As If ('90s tribute), celebrating the 30th anniversary of "Clueless"; July 24 – Joyce Partise (Brazilian bossa nova); July 31 – Neon Nation ('80s tribute); Aug. 7 – Rod Lightning and the Thunderbolts of Love (classic rock tribute); Aug. 14 – Leslie Paul and The Latin Soul Band (salsa/Latin jazz); and Aug. 21 – The Tokens (doo-wop, pop). There will not be a concert on Thursday, July 17.

For information about Concerts on Cañon and the bands, visit beverlyhills.org/csevents or call (310)285-1000.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Calypso band Upstream will perform at Beverly Cañon Gardens on June 5.

Catalina honors cabaret impresario Clifford Bell

Clifford Bell, the late renowned cabaret impresario, director and producer will be honored and remembered at a musical event entitled, "Here's To Life – A Celebration of Clifford Bell," to be presented at Catalina Jazz Club, 6725 Sunset Blvd. on Wednesday, June 4 starting at 8 p.m.

Bell was born in New Jersey on September 17, 1957. Bell passed away at the age of 67 suddenly on Sunday, September 22, 2024, of natural causes. Bell was affectionately known as "Lawrence of Cabarabia" to all his colleagues in the music industry.

Bell was a 40-year show business veteran who worked in venues large and small. He wrote and directed a

variety of performances featuring icons like Walter Cronkite, Colin Powell and Michael Eisner at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, and toured with television icon Katey Sagal and her band.

The event is open to the public. Admission is free with the purchase of a main course or a two-drink minimum. Reservations for the event are highly recommended and may be made by calling Manny Santiago at Catalina Jazz Club at (323)466-2210 or emailing mannyjazz52@gmail.com. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; showtime is at 8 p.m. Valet parking is available, as well metered street parking. Learn more at catalinajazzclub.com

Summer Music Series takes the stage at Farmers Market

The Summer Music Series at the Original Farmers Market returns from June 5 through Aug. 28. Gather on the Market Plaza every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. for free outdoor concerts. The series features a wide range of genres including Motown, Latin jazz, West

African gospel, swing, soul and doo-wop. Blue Breeze Band launches the series on June 5, followed by Louie Cruz Beltran on June 12. ADAWE performs a Juneteenth celebration of West African roots, gospel, and funk on June 19; and 9 to Pride performs a

Dolly Parton tribute for Pride Month featuring Haley Spence Brown on June 26.

Performances in July showcase artists impacted by the January wildfires, in partnership with Altadena Musicians, who help replace instruments lost during the fires. Stop by their booth during each performance in July to donate gently used musical instruments and vinyl records.

The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information and a complete schedule, visit farmersmarketla.com/events/summer-music-series-2025.



photo courtesy of ADAWE

ADAWE performs a Juneteenth celebration on June 19.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Youth volunteers make a difference in the community



Paul Hill, 17, received a certificate of merit from the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce in this photograph from the May 27, 1971, issue of the Park Labrea News. Hill, who was presented the certificate by Sally Gray, the chamber's Women's Division director, was joined by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hill, of Park La Brea. He had completed hundreds of hours of community service, volunteering at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and serving as an explorer cadet for the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division. The LAPD continues to offer the explorer cadet program for youths ages 13-17 at the Wilshire and Hollywood divisions. For information, visit lapd-cadets.com. Cedars-Sinai also offers more than 3,500 summer volunteer opportunities at the hospital. For information, visit cedars-sinai.org/volunteer-services.html.

All Saints' Beverly Hills Chamber Music Concert Series

Music for Strings & Bassoon

William Wood, bassoon

Including Craig Phillips' Concerto for Bassoon and Strings,
and music of Piazzolla, Montano, Schoenberg,
Wilder, Lussier and Gershwin.

Sunday, June 1 @ 5 pm

Tickets: \$20, \$10 students and seniors.

Admission free with Music Guild donor season pass.



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Assessor urges homeowners in fire zones to update mailing addresses

In the aftermath of the devastating wildfires in January, the Los Angeles County Assessor’s Office has worked diligently to provide property tax relief to impacted homeowners. The Assessor’s Office is urging homeowners to make sure the county has their most current address to ensure that important tax notices and documents are delivered.

Since January, the office has mobilized teams, reassigned resources and developed streamlined processes to assess property damage and expedite disaster relief for eligible properties. The assessor’s office took a proactive approach by evaluating all properties within the declared disaster zones – even in cases in which a misfortune and calamity tax relief claim was not submitted by the property owner. The effort ensures that all qualifying property owners receive the full benefits provided under California law, including temporary reductions in assessed value and in many cases, property tax refunds.

The Treasurer and Tax Collector is applying deferrals of property tax payments and cancellation of late-payment penalties. Additionally, the Assessor’s Office is working in partnership with the auditor-controller to ensure that revised property valuations are applied to future tax bills, and to facilitate the issuance of property tax refunds to owners whose property was damaged, destroyed or impacted by the fires.

As a result of the coordinated efforts, hundreds of affected homeowners have already received relief. However, many of the notices of assessed value change and property tax refund checks are being returned to the county because the mailing addresses on record are no longer valid. In numerous cases, the original property was destroyed by a fire and with it, the recorded mailing address.

Homeowners who have experienced property loss are urged to update their current mailing address to ensure delivery of important property assessment and tax-related documents, including property tax refunds. To update a mailing address, visit assessor.lacounty.gov/homeowners/change-mailing-address.

Updating a mailing address does not change the official records or status of a property’s physical location. However, it ensures that important tax notices and documents – including refunds – are delivered to the address where they can be received.

“Getting relief into the hands of wildfire victims is a top priority for our Office,” Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang said. “We understand how devastating these fires have been, and we are committed to making sure impacted property owners receive the support they’re entitled to. But we need their help in updating contact information so that relief can reach them without delay.”

For information on all disaster relief programs including misfortune and calamity claims, visit assessor.lacounty.gov/tax-relief/disaster-relief.



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **JUNE 9, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the City Council of the City of West Hollywood will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at West Hollywood Park - Public Meeting Room, Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood to solicit input on the levy of an assessment for the Santa Monica Boulevard Maintenance District for fiscal year 2025-2026. The following Resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood on May 19, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-035

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING THE REPORT OF THE ENGINEER, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT ASSESSMENTS WITHIN THE SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD MAINTENANCE DISTRICT FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR, AND SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES HEREBY FIND, DECLARE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 (the “Act”), Part 2 of Division 15 of the California Streets and Highways Code (commencing with Section 22500), authorizes the City Council to levy an assessment against assessable lots and parcels of property to finance certain improvements.

SECTION 2. In 1998, the City Council adopted Resolution 98-1927 establishing the “Santa Monica Boulevard Maintenance District” (the “District”).

SECTION 3. The boundaries of the District include properties fronting both sides of Santa Monica Boulevard from North Doheny Drive to Croft Avenue (Zone 1); Croft Avenue to Crescent Heights Boulevard (Zone 2); and from Crescent Heights Boulevard to the West Hollywood City limit east of North La Brea Avenue (Zone 3). The boundaries of the District and the zones therein are shown on a map entitled “Assessment Diagram, Santa Monica Boulevard Maintenance District, City of West Hollywood,” which is on file with the City Clerk and the Department of Public Works, City Engineer, and open to public inspection.

SECTION 4. In accordance with Streets and Highways Code Section 22565, the City Engineer, a registered professional engineer certified by the State of California, has prepared and filed with the City Clerk a report in connection with the District for fiscal year 2025-2026 consistent with Section 4 of Article XIID of the California Constitution and with the Act (the “Report”). The Report does not propose new improvements or substantial changes in existing improvements.

SECTION 5. Upon consideration by the City Council, the Report is hereby approved as filed.

SECTION 6. Having approved the Report as filed, the City Council hereby declares its intention to levy and collect an assessment against assessable lots and parcels of property within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026, using the same method as the prior year, with an updated amount reflecting a 3.546% Consumer Price Index (CPI-LA) adjustment. The assessment per front foot is \$9.16, representing a \$0.31 increase from the fiscal year 2024-2025 rate of \$8.85 (“Assessment”).

SECTION 7. The proposed improvements shall generally include the storage, installation, maintenance,

operation, and servicing of ornamental structures, including holiday decorations, banners, flags, lights in street trees and appurtenances, and the installation, maintenance, and operation of sidewalks, bus benches, and trash receptacles located in medians and parkways in Santa Monica Boulevard between North Doheny Drive and the West Hollywood city limit east of North La Brea Avenue. The proposed improvements are the same for all three (3) zones. There will be no new improvements or substantial changes to existing improvements for fiscal year 2025-2026.

SECTION 8. Reference is hereby made to the Report, which is on file with the City Clerk and open to public inspection, for a full and detailed description of the improvements, the boundaries of the District and zones contained therein, and the Assessment.

SECTION 9. Parcels within the District that are owned or used by any county, city, city and county, special district or any other local governmental entity, the State of California, or the United States shall be assessed unless clear and convincing evidence demonstrates that such lots or parcels receive no special benefit from the proposed improvements. Plummer Park does not receive special benefits because, as a park, it is one of the amenities (infrastructure) provided by the City to the community. Additionally, Plummer Park does not front onto Santa Monica Boulevard the way the other parcels subject to the assessment do and thus, this parcel does not receive the same benefit as those parcels. Plummer Park has an ingress and egress on Santa Monica Boulevard, however the park activities are inside the park and do not face or utilize Santa Monica Boulevard. By analogy, it would have to be determined that the streets receive a special benefit from the improvements in order to find that a park receives a special benefit. The funds raised by the assessment will not contribute to ornamental structures, holiday decorations, banners, flags, and lights in Plummer Park because the ingress and egress to Plummer Park and side of building that fronts Santa Monica Boulevard is only a driveway and is also very narrow. The funds raised by the assessment will not contribute to sidewalks, bus benches, and trash receptacles in Plummer Park because the ingress and egress to Plummer Park and side of building that fronts Santa Monica Boulevard is only a driveway and is also very narrow. Therefore, the government owned parcels listed above, with the exception of the park, will be assessed.

SECTION 10. A public hearing on the proposed levy of an assessment against the lots and parcels within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026 as set forth in the Report shall be held as follows:

TIME: 6:00 p.m.
DATE: Monday, June 9, 2025
PLACE: West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, California 60069

At the public hearing, the testimony of all interested persons regarding the levy of an assessment against the lots and parcels within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026 shall be heard. A protest may be made orally or in writing by any interested person.

SECTION 11. The City Clerk is hereby directed to provide notice of the public hearing in accordance with law.

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

DATED: May 29, 2025

Schiff, Friedman advocate for expansion of Rim of the Valley Corridor

U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) on May 22 reintroduced the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, landmark legislation that would protect some of the last wild and open spaces in the Los Angeles area and allow the National Park Service to work with local communities to better protect natural resources and improve access to nature. The bill would add more than 118,000 acres to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and is based on an NPS study that was reported to Congress in 2016.

The Rim of the Valley stretches from the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains to the Verdugo and San Gabriel Mountains, making a “green belt” that encircles the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi and Conejo Valleys.

“The Rim of the Valley contains some of the last wild and open spaces in Los Angeles and connects our urban city centers and suburbs with the beautiful outdoors,” Schiff said. “This legislation will preserve the land and wildlife that millions of Angelenos enjoy. We must protect these natural treasures for future generations, so they too can experience the beautiful hiking, abundant wildlife, diverse ecosystem and significant historic sites found in the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area.”

“The Rim of the Valley is one of Southern California’s most important natural treasures. We must protect these lands so that every Californian and American can enjoy them for generations to come,” Friedman said. “That’s why I’m proud to help lead the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act alongside Sen. Schiff. Not only will this legislation provide local communities with better access to our beautiful public lands, but it will ensure that we protect the natural resources and wildlife that call the Rim of the Valley home.”

The bill has been endorsed by Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Community Hiking Club, Friends of Griffith Park, Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee, National Parks Conservation Association and Nature For All, among many other organizations.

In 2008, Schiff successfully led the passage of the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act, which directed the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor. The study sought to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating all or a portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the existing area and how these areas could be better managed and preserved. The National Park Service conducted the study from 2010 until February 2016, when the final report was presented to Congress. The report concluded that expansion would increase opportunities for public enjoyment and protect significant natural resources.

Schiff, with the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), first introduced the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act in 2017 when he was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. The legislation was approved on a bipartisan basis by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING WEST HOLLYWOOD DESIGN DISTRICT BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **JUNE 9, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the City Council of the City of West Hollywood will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at West Hollywood Park - Public Meeting Room, Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood to solicit input on the levy of an assessment for the West Hollywood Design District Business Improvement District for fiscal year 2025-2026. The following Resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood on May 19, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-033

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADVISORY BOARD TO THE WEST HOLLYWOOD DESIGN DISTRICT, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO LEVY AN ASSESSMENT AGAINST BUSINESSES WITHIN THE WEST HOLLYWOOD DESIGN DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, AND SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Parking and Business Improvement Area Law of 1989 (the “Law”), California Streets and Highways Code Sections 36500 et seq., authorizes the City Council to levy an assessment against businesses within a parking and business improvement area which is in addition to any assessments, fees, charges, or taxes imposed in the City.

Section 2. Pursuant to the Law, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 95-450 establishing the Avenues of Art & Design Business Improvement District (the “District”) in the City of West Hollywood. In 2010, the Advisory Board for the District approved a name change to “The Avenues – Art, Fashion & Design District.” In 2013, the Advisory Board approved an additional name change to “The West Hollywood Design District.”

Section 3. The boundaries of the District are generally described as Santa Monica Boulevard on the north, Beverly Boulevard on the south, La Cienega Boulevard on the east, and Doheny Drive on the west.

Section 4. In accordance with Streets and Highways Code Section 36533, the Advisory Board has prepared and filed with the City Clerk a report titled “The West Hollywood Design District Annual Report” (the “Report”), which proposes no change to the District’s boundaries. Activities proposed in the District for fiscal year 2025-2026 are discussed in Section 7.

Section 5. The City Council hereby approves the Report as filed by the Advisory Board.

Section 6. Having approved the Report as filed, the City Council hereby declares its intention

to levy and collect an assessment against businesses within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026, in addition to any assessments, fees, charges or taxes imposed by the City, in the same amount as collected during fiscal year 2024-2025 (the “Assessment”). Section 7. Generally, the improvements and activities to be funded by the Assessment are as follows:

Promotion of public events which benefit businesses in the District and which take place on or in public places within the District; and

Improvements and activities which benefit businesses located and operating in the District.

Section 8. For a full and detailed description of the improvements and activities to be provided for fiscal year 2025-2026, the boundaries of the District and the Assessment to be levied against the businesses within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026, reference is hereby made to the Report of the Advisory Board, which is on file with the City Clerk and open to public inspection.

Section 9. New businesses established in the District between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026 shall be exempt from the assessment for fiscal year 2025-2026. For the purposes of this Section (9) a business shall be deemed established on the date the City issues a business license for the business or the date the business commences operation, whichever is earlier.

Section 10. A public hearing on the proposed levy of an assessment against businesses within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026 shall be held as follows:

TIME: 6:00 p.m.
DATE: Monday, June 9, 2025
PLACE: West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, California 90069

At the public hearing, the testimony of all interested persons regarding the levy of an assessment against businesses within the District for fiscal year 2025-2026 shall be heard. A protest may be made orally or in writing by any interested person. The form and manner of protests shall comply with Streets and Highways Code Sections 36524 and 36525. If written protests are received from businesses representing 50 percent or more of the assessments and are not withdrawn, no further proceedings to levy the Assessment shall be taken for one year, per Streets and Highways Code Section 36525.

Section 11. The City Clerk is hereby directed to provide notice of the public hearing in accordance with law.

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

DATED: May 29, 2025

The Wallis announces dynamic 2025-26 season

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills has announced its 2025-26 season. Highlights include the Los Angeles premiere of Atlantic Theater Company and Roundabout Theatre Company’s Broadway production of “English” by Sanaz Toossi from April 4-24, 2026.

“English” is set in an Iranian classroom where four adult students and their teacher leapfrog through a linguistic playground. The play is a funny and stunning triumph about the universal foibles of language and miscommunication.

In a centennial tribute to artist Robert Rauschenberg (“Dancing with Bob,” May 7-9, 2026), The Wallis is bringing together the Trisha Brown Dance Company and Merce Cunningham Trust to present Brown’s “Set and Reset,” which has a visual design by Rauschenberg and is set to a Laurie Anderson electronic score, alongside Cunningham’s “Travelogue,” a

comedic masterpiece featuring music by John Cage that has remained largely unseen since 1979.

“This season The Wallis is breaking down barriers – across language, genre and expectation. At The Wallis, performance becomes possibility. Emotion becomes movement. And the stage becomes a space to dream ‘Without Limits,’” said Robert van Leer, CEO and executive director of The Wallis. “Fresh off of five Tony nominations and a Pulitzer Prize win, ‘English’ comes to the Bram Goldsmith stage, inviting us to laugh and examine identity, language and belonging. ‘Dancing With Bob,’ featuring Trisha Brown Dance Company, celebrates the radical breaking of artistic boundaries. Rauschenberg, Brown and Cunningham were pioneers who rejected the idea of staying in a single discipline – merging dance, visual art, music and performance into something entirely new. It’s a

tribute to the very idea of tearing down walls between genres, forms and expectations.”

The Wallis will produce, in partnership with LA Opera and Beth Morrison Projects, the world premiere of “Hildegard” based on the writings of the visionary composer and polymath Hildegard von Bingen. The production by composer and librettist Sarah Kirkland Snider, director Elkhannah Pulitzer, projection designer Deborah Johnson and creative producer Beth Morrison runs Nov. 5-9, 2025. The work examines tension between spiritual calling and human constraint.

The Wallis also presents Grammy winner Arooj Aftab on Jan. 24, 2026. The audience is invited to experience the sensuous magic of Aftab’s music.

“Working with LA Opera and Beth Morrison Projects, the world premiere of ‘Hildegard’ expands what opera can be – melding historical narrative with modern themes,



photo courtesy of Sanaz Toossi and The Wallis

“English,” a comedy production by Sanaz Toossi that explores language and miscommunication, debuts next April at The Wallis.

and traditional form with a daring emotional core. Finally, Grammy-winner Arooj Aftab weaves together Sufi poetry, jazz, ambient minimalism and classical South Asian music to craft a sound that doesn’t belong to any single tradition, but instead invents its own,” van Leer

said. “Join us for a season that dares to ask: What if there were no limits?”

For information and a complete schedule of events, visit thewallis.org.

The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd.

Craft Contemporary opens new scent-based exhibitions

Craft Contemporary presents “Ether: Aromatic Mythologies” running from May 31- Sept. 7, and “IAO Olfactory Storylab Maker-in-Residence,” running from June 7- Sept. 7.

“Ether: Aromatic Mythologies” will be Craft Contemporary’s first scent-based art exhibition that presents a selection of olfactory-centric installations. Curated by Saskia Wilson-Brown, the exhibition explores mythologies from different parts of the world in a narrative tapestry that transcends time and place.

“The artists in this exhibition all share an interest in how scent can convey personal, and cultural histories,” Wilson-Brown said. “The result is a rich tapestry of meaning, in part expressed in the most embodied way of all: smell.”

Participating artists include Alisa Banks, Andrés Cortes, Cristian Marianciuc, Sarana Mehra, Maki Ueda, Joe Merrell, Peter de Cupere, Se Young Au, M Dougerty, Regina Mamou, Sean Raspet, Karola Braga and Russell Harris. The exhibition is supported in part by the Julius Bernard Kester Trust, Japan Foundation Los Angeles, Yanai Initiative for Globalizing Japanese Humanities, National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Consulate General of Belgium in Los Angeles and the Institute for Art and Olfaction.

Craft Contemporary has also announced the new Maker-in-Residence program, which provides a safe work environment to experiment with and push the boundaries of contemporary craft. The Institute of Art and Olfaction, Craft Contemporary’s Maker-in-Residence, presents “IAO Olfactory Storylab,” an on-site experimental perfume laboratory that invites museum visitors to interact with perfumers as they explore personal and cultural narratives through scent. A curated roster of perfumers will work at the museum’s lobby on Saturdays.

“The perfumers participating in the Maker-in-Residence program reflect the diversity of the Los Angeles community and bring their unique cultural and intellectual heritage to the task of interpreting story with smell,” said Julianne Lee, director of projects at the Institute for Art and Olfaction.

“The IAO team is delighted to

stand behind this roster of talented people in presenting perfumery for what it is: A heterogeneous, vibrant and ever-evolving artform,” Wilson-Brown added.

Participating perfumers include Dana El Masri (Jazmin Saraï), Daniel Krasofski (IAO), Debbie Lin and Na-Moya Lawrence (SAMAR), Joe Merrell (The Eyes Are Always There), Julianne Lee

(IAO), L’lia “Tizzle” Thomas (Aromakaura), Maxwell Williams (UFO Parfums), Minetta Rogers (IAO), Miss Layla (fūm fragrances), Persephenie (Persephenie Botanicals), Saskia Wilson-Brown (IAO) and Terry Carter (Travertine Atelier).

Craft Contemporary is located at 5814 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit craftcontemporary.org.

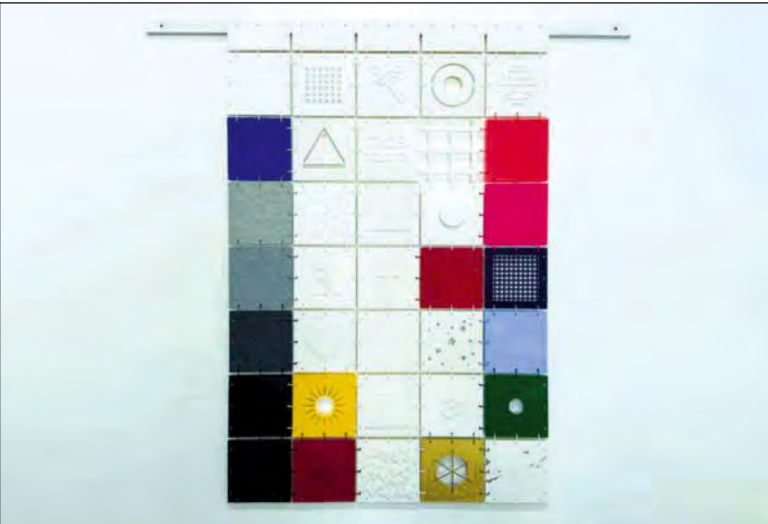


photo courtesy of the artist

Joe Merrell’s “4-Logic (version 2),” (2024-2025) is among the works featured in the exhibition at Craft Contemporary.

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Zachary Society hosts Vocal Competition Grand Finals at The Ebell

The 53rd annual Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition Grand Finals Concert was held on Sunday, May 18, at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre.

Ten finalists selected from a nationwide search competed in the opera competition. Soprano Lydia Grindatto won the \$15,000 first prize; tenor Ben Reisinger received the \$10,000 second prize; mezzo-soprano Madeleine Lyon won the \$6,000 third prize; Baritone Paul Jang was honored with the \$5,000 fourth prize and Soprano Sunwoo Park won the \$3,500 fifth prize. The Encouragement Grant of \$2,500

was presented to bass Michael Mensah. Baritone Benjamin Dickerson, mezzo-soprano Anna Kelly, tenor Alec Carlson and soprano Magdalena Kuzma each received \$2,000 grants.

The Loren L. Zachary Society for the Performing Arts was founded in 1972 by the late Loren L. Zachary and its current president, Nedra Zachary. The organization’s goal is to assist in the development of the careers of young opera singers through the annual Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition. For information, visit zacharysociety.org.



photo courtesy of the Loren L. Zachary Society

The winners of the 2025 National Vocal Competition Grand Finals Concert were honored on May 18.

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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 Sept. 18 and Sept. 22. 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

May 18

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Civic Center and Third at 11 a.m.

At 12:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Robertson at 6:39 p.m.

May 19

A vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 1:30 p.m.

At 5:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 700 block of N. Arden.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 6:30 p.m.

At 9:35 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9400 block of Olympic.

May 21

At 5:01 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 7:57 p.m.

May 22

At 10:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Bedford and Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary in the 200 block of N. Almont at 2:15 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of N. Almont.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Charleville and Carson at 11:58 p.m.

May 23

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft from a vehicle in the 200 block of N. Almont at 2:15 p.m.

At 2:49 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire at 3:17 p.m.

At 5:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary in the 100 block of N. Swall at 8 p.m.

May 24

At 10:45 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of S. Beverly.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

May 18

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 12:38 a.m.

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1200 block of Horn at 10:30 a.m.

At 3:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8600 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 7600 block of Santa Monica at 4:28 p.m.

At 4:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 900 block of N. Spaulding.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 5:15 p.m.

At 5:50 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 7700 block of Romaine at midnight.

May 19

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at 1 p.m.

At 11:15 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7200 block of Santa Monica.

May 20

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1300 block of N. Laurel.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 8000 block of Norton at 10:30 a.m.

At noon, a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 8700 block of Dorrington.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 900 block of Hilldale at 3:01 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1300 block of N. Laurel.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 7:25 p.m.

May 22

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1100 block of Hacienda.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8800 block of Rangeley at 10 p.m.

U.S. Attorney targets organized crime leaders

Law enforcement officials arrested 13 alleged members and associates of Armenian organized crime syndicates on May 20 who are charged in five federal complaints with a series of crimes including attempted murder, kidnapping, thefts of online retailer shipments and illegal firearm possession.

Among the defendants are Ara Artuni, 41, of Porter Ranch, who is charged with attempted murder in aid of racketeering, and a rival, Robert Amiryan, 46, of Hollywood, who is charged with kidnapping. Members of the alleged organized crime organization were arrested in California and Florida. Law enforcement agents seized approximately \$100,000 in cash, three armored vehicles and 14 firearms during the operation.

According to affidavits filed with the criminal complaints, Armenian Organized Crime, a Russian mafia-affiliated transnational criminal organization, has made Los Angeles County a center of U.S. operations. Since 2022, two local leaders within the organization, also known as “avtoritet,” which in Russian means “authority,” have allegedly engaged in a power struggle for control, resulting in multiple murder

attempts and a kidnapping.

Artuni – an “avtoritet,” according to authorities – is charged with ordering the attempted murder of Amiryan during summer 2023. In retaliation, Amiryan, also an “avtoritet,” allegedly conspired with members of his own criminal organization to kidnap and torture one of Artuni’s associates in June 2023.

In addition to attempted murder, Artuni and his criminal enterprise has, since at least 2021, allegedly committed additional crimes including bank fraud, wire fraud and cargo theft targeting online retailers such as amazon.com. Artuni enterprise members and associates enrolled with Amazon as carriers, contracted for trucking routes and while transporting goods, diverged from the route and stole all or part of the shipments, prosecutors said. To date, the Artuni enterprise has allegedly stolen goods valued at more than \$83 million, according to estimates provided by Amazon to the federal government.

Artuni also allegedly ran a “credit card bust-out” scheme in which credit cards were charged by a fake business, and the business account was depleted before the credit card

companies collected “to-be disputed” funds.

“[The] arrests reflect that my office and our law enforcement partners are committed to keeping America safe by dismantling transnational criminal organizations,” United States Attorney Bill Essayli said. “Let [this] enforcement action be a warning to criminals. Our communities are not your playground to engage in violence and thuggery.”

“This transnational criminal organization operated with the structure and brutality of an international cartel, inflicting significant harm on public safety and causing substantial damage to legitimate commerce and supply chains,” HSI Los Angeles acting deputy special agent in charge Dwayne Angebrandt said. “Dismantling transnational criminal organizations is at the core of HSI’s mission, and through close collaboration with our law enforcement partners, we are holding these perpetrators accountable and disrupting their criminal enterprise at every level.”

If convicted on all charges, the defendants face statutory maximum sentences ranging from 10 years in federal prison to life imprisonment.

Man found guilty of repeatedly threatening judge

A man from the Brentwood was found guilty by a jury on May 15 of a federal felony for sending dozens of emails to a New Jersey state court judge that threatened violence and death, the United States Justice Department announced.

Jonathan Lipman, 36, was found guilty of one count of stalking. He has been in federal custody since September 2023.

According to evidence presented at a three-day trial, from February 2023 to September 2023, Lipman sent dozens of emails to the victim, a New Jersey Superior Court judge, intending to harass, intimidate and

terrorize the victim. In addition to voluminous threatening emails sent to the victim, Lipman also tracked down the judge’s home address and called the victim’s neighbor to strike fear in the victim, authorities said. Lipman left numerous voice-mails at the New Jersey courthouse directed at the victim.

The defendant continued the conduct despite a warning from law enforcement. Over time, Lipman’s communications became increasingly graphic and explicit. For example, in July 2023, Lipman sent the victim multiple emails detailing his graphic depictions of

the judge’s death.

Lipman is a former resident of New Jersey and has sent dozens of threatening emails to officials in the state, according to media reports.

U.S. District Judge Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha scheduled an Oct. 3 sentencing hearing, at which time Lipman will face a statutory maximum sentence of five years in federal prison. The FBI investigated the case, which was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California, which includes Los Angeles and surrounding counties.

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Turf ban heads to Beverly Hills City Council

From page 1

vation,” Ross said.

Prior to 2015, synthetic turf lawns were prohibited in front yards in Beverly Hills. However, in 2015, the city reversed its position to comply with state law, allowing synthetic turf in lawns when it comprised 70% or less of the total landscaped area. In 2024, Senate Bill 676, authored by Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), was passed. The bill restores local authority over the regulation of synthetic grass and artificial turf. While the bill allows local governments to ban synthetic turf, it also prevents them from banning drought-tolerant landscaping using living plants.

The new ordinance aims to “complement the city’s sustainability and aesthetic goals,” associate city planner Patrick Achis said.

A staff report also stated that the ordinance will encourage California-friendly landscaping, including native and drought-tolerant plants.

Although synthetic turf will be prohibited in front lawns, it will remain permitted in side yards and backyards. Homeowners with existing synthetic turf in front yards will be given 15 years to phase out the artificial grass. The 15-year window will begin once the ordinance becomes effective.

“This time frame is consistent with general warranties for synthetic turf which range from eight

to 20 years on the higher end, and allows homeowners a fair and practical term to use their existing installations,” Achis said.

The ordinance also includes appeal procedures for property owners to request extensions on a case by case basis. Under the current ordinance, appeals would be determined by the City Council.

The city received two public comments opposing the ordinance and one in support.

Myung-Soo Seok – a representative of the Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36, a labor union which includes professional installers of synthetic turf – asked the commission to reconsider the blanket ban in front lawns.

“It seemed as if the primary reason for the ban is coming out of aesthetic landscaping concerns and water conservation, which is kind of surprising because the best water conservation under the different options would be the synthetic turf,” Seok said. “We believe that landscaping aesthetics should be made by choice, not through a city ordinance.”

Jessica Flagg, vice president at TenCate Grass – an artificial turf company – echoed Seok’s comments.

“One of the most compelling reasons to consider turf is its environmental efficiency. Water savings are substantial. Turf requires no irrigation, which is critical to

drought-prone areas,” Flagg said.

She added that the turf industry has evolved, and materials that have raised safety concerns have been removed from products. She suggested the city consider minimum environmental safety standards instead of blanket restrictions.

“I urge the city not to legislate based on aesthetics. Beauty is subjective and turf is a positive, practical option that many residents prefer for its clean look, durability and environmental benefits,” she said.

However, Diane Wolke, a board member for Safe Healthy Playing Fields, supported the ordinance and stated that the city should take it a step further by banning artificial turf in back and side yards. She argued that synthetic turf has harmful effects on humans, wildlife and the environment.

“Don’t be another plastic city that firefighters don’t want to defend and that insurers are discontinuing coverage for,” Wolke said.

The commissioners ultimately voted to pass the ordinance without further changes.

“All we’re really doing here is returning to what the base case was of our municipal code prior to being forced to change it by the state,” Wolfe said. “We’re not actually independently creating a new policy or a new section of the code that wasn’t already on the books and in place within the city.”



photo by Cedars-Sinai

Cedars-Sinai is honoring Thomas M. Priselac, who spent 30 years as president and CEO and served the organization for 45 years total, before retiring in 2024.

Cedars-Sinai honors former CEO

Cedars-Sinai is honoring former president and CEO Thomas M. Priselac, who led the organization’s transformation from a respected community hospital into an internationally recognized academic medical center. The institution has established the Thomas M. Priselac Center for Innovation in Performance Improvement.

Cedars-Sinai also has created the Thomas M. Priselac Administrative Fellowship as a tribute to Priselac, who spent 30 years as president and CEO and served the organization for 45 years total. The fellowship will help foster the next generation of health care leaders.

Priselac retired from his role as president and CEO in 2024. His leadership was recently celebrated at a dinner reception, where leaders from Cedars-Sinai lauded him as a tireless champion for excellence in health care, whose vision enabled groundbreaking medical advancements, research achievements and a deep commitment to the health of the community.

“An institution always bears the marks of its leader,” said Dr. Peter L. Slavin, current president and CEO of Cedars-Sinai and the David and Meredith Kaplan

Presidential Chair. “I’m fortunate to follow in the footsteps of a predecessor who has left a powerful and lasting mark on Cedars-Sinai and the larger healthcare community.”

Donors have contributed \$5 million toward the development of the Thomas M. Priselac Center for Innovation in Performance Improvement. The center’s mission will build on the evolving digital landscape of medicine, specifically in the areas of information technology, data analytics and clinical operations.

“What a tremendous honor to be celebrated in this way, having a center established in my name by my Cedars-Sinai family and supported by our many partners who help us advance our important mission,” Priselac said. “Through this enterprise, Cedars-Sinai will continue the important work of sustaining the highest levels of medical care and pioneering breakthroughs in delivering health care services.”

Plans are being formulated to install signage in the medical center’s Healing Gardens to recognize Priselac for his enduring commitment to the health system.

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

Project at Viper Room stalls in West Hollywood

From page 1

rethink the use of DAs,” Meister said. “They may raise the value of the land for the deal makers, but what do we, the residents, have to show for it?”

“Real estate development is complex, often involving multiple sources of financing,” Heilman said. “The proposed project at 8850 is not the first project in West Hollywood to have financing challenges. The problem of developers losing financing is not unique to West Hollywood. I did not support the project when it came before the City Council because various aspects of the project didn’t make sense. I suspect that lenders and investors have also identified problems with the project. The owners of the property most likely will have to come back to the City Council with significant revisions so they can obtain the financing necessary to build it.”

Heilman also cited changing interest rates and other economic issues as potential reasons why large development projects have stalled in the city. Councilman

Danny Hang, who took over Shyne’s spot on the dais in December, also cited these economic concerns.

“Still, I believe in the long-term potential of this site and of the Sunset Strip overall,” Hang said. “West Hollywood remains a highly desirable place to live, work and invest. The path forward might look a little different, but I do think this project, or something just as visionary, will eventually rise. In the meantime, we as a city are continuing to explore ways to support responsible development.”

Councilman John Erickson said an ordinance he authored, passed by the City Council earlier this month, would help prevent developments from stalling in the future.

“[The] additional costs that delay projects only make it more expensive to build, which is why we need to address this at every level,” Erickson said.

Jon Ponder, a West Hollywood Preservation Alliance board member and local historian, indicated that the organization viewed the

reset as a potential for revitalization for the property.

“The West Hollywood Preservation Alliance hopes that future owners will find a creative way to preserve the historic Viper Room and adaptively reuse the storefront spaces that line that block of the Sunset Strip,” Ponder said.

Eisenberg said that the 8850 Sunset development was a “flawed concept of a huge building” for the modest size of the block, which she said would also have resulted in a “disastrous” traffic circulation and parking situation.

“The real tragedy is that they have callously pushed out all but two of the existing tenants – the Viper Room and one other, leaving abandoned storefronts and allowing the structures to deteriorate,” Eisenberg added. “Hopefully, the lenders will be able to entice appropriate and compatible businesses back so we can have a thriving Sunset Strip block once again.”

Warning issued about metallic balloons

With graduations and Father’s Day approaching, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is reminding the public that metallic balloons can cause power outages and people are urged to properly secure them and to deflate them after use to prevent them from floating into power lines.

Metallic balloons making contact with electrical equipment is one of the most common causes of power outages in Los Angeles. During the week of April 28-May 4, at least

five power outages occurred due to metallic balloons colliding with LADWP’s energized equipment. The incidents caused nearly 3,000 LADWP customers to lose power. Some of the outages lasted a few minutes, while two lasted from one to four hours.

The California Penal Code requires all metallic balloons to be anchored with a weight to prevent them from floating into power lines. For information, visit lawdp.org.



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WeHo prepares for 2025 Pride Festival

From page 1

There will be a strong presence of first responders, in addition to private security, on-site medical teams and trained community volunteers to ensure that attendees can celebrate without worry, Hang added.

Pride is especially resonant this year because of renewed attacks on the LGBTQ community from the Trump administration, said Mayor Chelsea Byers. President Donald Trump issued an executive order in January banning transgender people from serving in the military, which the Supreme Court upheld. Trump also issued an executive order that mandated federal agencies to only recognize male and female genders. On May 27, Trump threatened to withhold federal funding from California for refusing to comply with an executive

order that banned transgender athletes from participating in women’s sports.

“Pride has always been a demonstration of community joy, love, and inclusion and a protest against the world that seeks to erase our existence,” Byers said. “This year we feel this connection to history and purpose deeply and we know people are coming out to celebrate our collective resilience.”

Byers added that community organizations will be present over the weekend to provide resources for harm reduction, as well as water and support for attendees.

Attendees will be able to transport themselves via Pride Ride vehicles provided by the city, which will run through West Hollywood from La Brea Avenue

to Kings Road along Santa Monica Boulevard, as well as to the Hollywood and Highland Metro Station. Metro bus lines will serve West Hollywood throughout the weekend as well. For more information, attendees can visit alerts.metro.net for service alerts and advisories regarding route changes. For more general information about WeHo Pride, visit wehopride.com.

Pride goers can enjoy expanded programming such as more queer arts, wellness activations and community spaces, Hang said.

“Whether you’re coming for the music, the parade or just to feel seen, we’ve got something for everyone,” he added. “And that’s what makes WeHo Pride so special.”



photo by Jon Viscott

The OUTLOUD Music Festival will be held all weekend, May 30-June 1.

“No one is ever going to dim our shine,” Councilman John Erickson said. “When our community is threatened or attacked, we will

always come back, focus on the community and fight to ensure our rights are both maintained and expanded.”

Budget revisions avoid hundreds of layoffs

From page 1

proposed budget and speaking with department heads in an effort to save jobs. Many layoffs were eliminated by cutting back programs. Saving the positions will avert potential disruptions to public safety efforts and city services such as street and sidewalk repair and tree trimming.

“A month ago, we were faced with a proposed budget that eliminated funding to keep our streets clean, reduced the number of sidewalk repairs by 30%, cut street resurfacing by nearly half, cut more than 400 civilians in LAPD who process DNA rape kits, perform fingerprint analysis and serve as crime scene photographers. The backlog to repair streetlights could have stretched to two years,” Yaroslavsky

said in a statement. “These are the basic, everyday services that people rely on, and we cannot afford to eliminate them, even in a tough budget year. The good news is that we don’t have to. The revised budget restores these services, ensuring we can clean our streets, trim trees, fix more sidewalks and streetlights and make streets more safe.”

The revisions include a \$50 million year-over-year increase to the Los Angeles Fire Department and a \$15 million year-over-year increase for the Los Angeles Police Department. The funds were prioritized to protect residents during emergencies and reduce crime. The budget provides \$80 million for new LAFD helicopters and fire appara-

tus, as well as a new payroll system for firefighters.

In the LAPD, savings were identified by reducing the number of Academy recruit graduates from 480 to 240. The revised budget restored 150 civilian positions within the LAPD for employees who provide critical support services for sworn officers.

“These specialized roles support investigations and crime scene work. They cannot be filled by sworn officers,” Yaroslavsky said. “We saved these roles by making the difficult choice to slow the pace of new academy classes. That decision was not made lightly. It is one of my top priorities for restoration if funds become available, and I hope to

work with others – including labor – who share that goal.”

The news that jobs were restored to the LAPD was met with “relief,” said Lt. Mark Ro, with the LAPD’s Wilshire Division, which has more than 10 civilian employee positions at the station. The employees include investigative and administrative support staff, as well as employees who work in the property room and mechanics who service police vehicles.

“These are the people who keep the wheels turning,” he said. “It was met with relief around here that these positions are going to be saved.”

The council committee’s revisions also restored 115 positions in the Bureau of Sanitation and 106 positions in the Bureau of Street Services. One hundred positions were restored to the Department of City Planning and 109 jobs were

saved in the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. Yaroslavsky’s spokesman Leo Daube said the budget includes an increase in funds for CARE+ Teams, which clean areas where homeless encampments exist, and teams that remove illegally dumped items. The Los Angeles Chief Administrative Office is finalizing the council’s budget revisions, which will be sent to Bass for her signature or revision.

Assessor Prang projects growth in countywide assessment roll

Despite a devastating wildfire season that destroyed thousands of homes and scorched wide swaths of Altadena, Pacific Palisades and Malibu, Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang released the May 15 forecast for the 2025 Assessment Roll, projecting a 3.25% increase in taxable property values over 2024. It marks the 15th consecutive year of growth for the county’s assessment roll.

The May forecast is an estimate of the assessment roll and may change between now and when it closes in early July. The forecast serves as a critical planning tool for local governments as they prepare budgets based on projected property tax revenues. The assessment roll reflects the value of all taxable property in the county and offers a snapshot of

the broader real estate market and economic trends.

“The 2025 wildfires impacted more than 23,000 parcels, including the total loss of over 10,000 homes,” Prang said. “Our office is committed to ensuring property owners receive timely assessment relief. Meanwhile, challenges continue in the downtown office market, which is expected to lower the 2025 roll by approximately \$24 billion.”

This year, the Consumer Price Index adjustment required by Proposition 13 is expected to add the maximum 2% allowed under the law – equivalent to a \$41 billion increase to the 2025 roll.

While the housing market has shown signs of slowing, median home sales prices remained robust, reaching \$950,000 in August 2024. With that said, property transfers are expected to serve as the single most significant factor contributing to this year’s roll growth – adding \$50 billion in additional value.

Although wildfire response efforts diverted resources away from new construction, the assessor’s office implemented new strategies to maintain productivity and prioritize high-value projects. As a result, new construction is projected to contribute an additional \$6 billion to the 2025 roll.

To view the 2025 forecast, visit assessor.lacounty.gov/news-information/assessmentroll.

L.A. County Department of Public Health receives national awards

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health received 12 Achievement Awards from the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Each year, NACCHO recognizes innovative and effective public health programs that support and enhance services for residents. The awards are a testament to the expansive reach of Public Health’s programs and services that support the health and well-being of more than 10 million residents in Los Angeles County.

“Public Health is facing significant challenges and uncertainties due to funding pressures, but one thing is clear: We are effective and committed to ensuring that residents have the resources needed to be healthy and thrive,” said Los Angeles County Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer.

The 2025 Public Health honorees include recognitions for model practices, which are awarded to local health departments implementing programs that demonstrate exemplary and replicable outcomes in response to an identified public health need. Each awarded practice was reviewed by a committee of peers, made up of other local health department professionals, and selected from a competitive

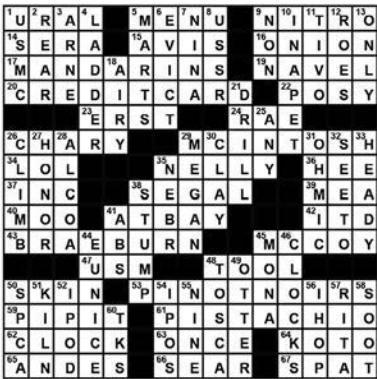
collection of applications.

The Public Health honorees in model practice are the Children’s Medical Services: California Children’s Services Call Center; Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention: Healthy Brain LA; Division of HIV and STD Programs-Community Health Ambassador Program (CHAP); TB Control: Mitigating Transmission in Community-Based Substance Abuse Facilities; Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Programs: Abundant Birth Project; and Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Programs: Youth Advisory Council.

The Public Health honorees in promising practice are the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention: Adult Vaping Media Campaign; Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention: Food as Medicine; Office of Violence Prevention: Mapping Domestic Violence Restraining Orders; Substance Abuse Prevention and Control: Smoke/Vape Shop Project; Emergency Preparedness and Response Division: Community Readiness Champions; and Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Programs: Home Visiting.

For information, visit publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Answers From Page 27



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

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

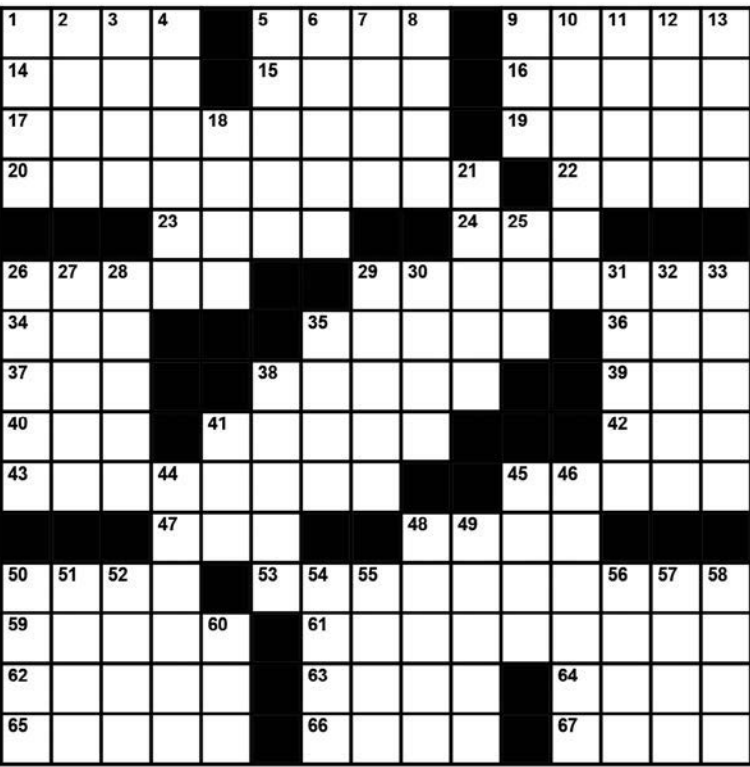
Across

1. Caspian Sea feeder
5. Computer list
9. Explosive liquid
14. Buona ____
15. Rental car agency
16. Burger topper
17. Orange varieties
19. Orange variety
20. It has purchasing power
22. Flower bouquet
23. Once, once upon a time
24. "Norma ____" (Sally Field film)
26. Cautious
29. Apple variety
34. Internet laughter symbol
35. "I'm Like a Bird" Furtado
36. Part of a giggle
37. Part of some co. names
38. "Love Story" author
39. ____ culpa
40. Cow comment
41. Unable to flee
42. ____ be good if
43. Apple variety
45. Real thing
47. Mil. branch
48. Plane, e.g.
50. Grape cover
53. Grape varieties
59. Small songbird
61. Green ice cream
62. Horologe, e.g
63. A while back
64. Japanese instrument

65. Peruvian peaks
66. Lightly burn
67. Squabble

Down

1. Letters at Camp Lejeune
2. Foster
3. Composer of "The Judgment of Paris"
4. Housepainter's need
5. Exchanges
6. Dispossess
7. Pinta and Santa Maria companion
8. "Back in the ____"
9. Persona ____ grata
10. Sulking
11. Digital way to record shows
12. Little deer
13. As recently as
18. Spacious
21. Black and Decker tool
25. "____ questions?"
26. Ascend
27. Integrity
28. Major can maker
29. Fox of "Transformers"
30. Kind of court
31. Of resistance
32. Take care of
33. Intoxicating
35. Wyo. neighbor
38. Politician's place
41. Type of braking system
44. One of the Kennedys
45. Homer Simpson's mother



46. Time tellers
48. Puccini opera
49. Playful aquatic animal
50. Animal lovers' grp.
51. Hot spot
52. Tune carrier
54. NYSE banner events
55. Supreme Court complement
56. Pancake maker
57. Wilson who married Hanks
58. Dirty coat
60. Thanks, for short

answers on page 26



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