



Sunny, with temps in the mid-80s

• State rules against Beverly Hills on Linden project pg. 3

• WeHo extends e-scooter contract pg. 6

## Council approves bonds for One Beverly Hills

■ City may issue up to \$550 million in financing

BY TABOR BREWSTER

In a 4-0 vote, the Beverly Hills City Council on Aug. 19 approved the issuance of up to \$550 million in bonds to finance the One Beverly Hills project, a large, luxury condominium and hotel project currently under construction. Councilman Craig Corman recused himself,

stating that he is a member of the Los Angeles Country Club which is within 500 feet of the project. Cain International, the property developer, requested that the city assist with the financing through the creation of a Community Facilities District at the property site.

The public hearing stretched past  
See **Beverly Hills** page 21



rendering courtesy of Foster and Partners

One Beverly Hills includes two condominium towers, a new luxury hotel, 10 acres of outdoor space and the renovation of the Beverly Hilton hotel.

## L.A. council sides with homeowners

■ Opponents claim SB 79 is a train wreck for neighborhoods

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council approved a resolution on Aug 19 opposing pending state legislation that would add more housing density around transit stations and rapid bus lines on major corridors.

The council voted 8-5, with two members absent, in support of a resolution introduced by Councilman John Lee, 12th District, and seconded by Councilwoman Traci Park, 11th District. The resolution puts the city on record in opposition to Senate Bill 79, authored by state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), which would permit multi-family buildings up to seven stories in neighborhoods around Metro rail stations and major streets with marked dedicated bus lanes. In the local area, Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue have dedicated bus lanes, and numerous rail stations are located on Wilshire Boulevard as part of



photo by Edwin Folven

SB 79 would allow residential buildings up to seven stories around transit stations, including those on Metro's new D Line subway project.

Metro's new D Line subway extension project.

"We all agree that L.A. is in the midst of a housing crisis, which is exactly why we as a city have done the hard work over the course of many years to adopt the housing element and implement a plan unanimously approved by this council and accepted by the state earlier this year," Lee said.

"SB 79 is a blunt tool that does not take into account the years of painstaking work all of us have put into crafting and adopting our housing element and citywide Housing Implementation Plan with extensive public engagement with our communities and technical department staff. Why would we not take a stand against

See **Council** page 21

## BHHS basketball coach leaves district

■ Attorney says instructor was fired in retaliation for claiming racism

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Jarvis Turner, the head boys basketball coach for Beverly Hills High School, is leaving the district after accepting a position as middle school sports coordinator at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The departure

comes amid ongoing litigation filed by Turner against the district in April, alleging he was the victim of anti-Black racism and discrimination while serving as the basketball coach. Turner's attorney Brad Gage said that Turner's departure was not a mutual agreement, and he was fired by the district in retaliation for the lawsuit.

"Coaching here has been one of the greatest blessings of my life, and I am incredibly proud of what we built together, on the court, in

the classroom and in the community," Turner said in a statement.

Although he accepted the position at Santa Monica-Malibu, Turner planned to continue coaching at Beverly Hills High School. However, upon learning that Turner accepted the new position, the Beverly Hills school district "determined that [his] new role is incompatible with [his] coaching assignment," Turner said.

"Though this was not the way I hoped to close this chapter, I want the focus to remain on the positive – the relationships formed, the lessons learned and the accomplishments we shared," Turner added.

Turner, a former basketball player at the University of Southern California, became the boys basketball coach for Beverly Hills High School in 2010. He previously served as a coach for Birmingham High School in Van Nuys. In 2015, Turner led the Beverly Hills Normans to their first Southern Section championship victory since 1969.

"Coach Turner has made a lasting impact on countless student-athletes during his time at Beverly Hills High School. His mentorship, energy and commitment to our students have been deeply appreciated

See **BHHS** page 22



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Jarvis Turner served as Beverly Hills High School's boys varsity basketball coach since 2010, leading the team to a championship in 2015.



photo by Jon Viscott

Community members expressed outrage and support for the Fountain Avenue Streetscape Project at a heated Aug. 19 meeting.

## WeHo residents turn up the heat on Fountain

■ Council scheduled to vote on street redesign project on Sept. 15

BY SAM MULICK

West Hollywood residents made their voices heard with cheers, jeers, arguments and red and green light signs at the heat-

ed Aug. 19 Fountain Avenue Streetscape Project community meeting.

The meeting, meant to inform residents about the Fountain Avenue redesign and hear their opinions before a Sept. 15 City Council vote, came in the wake of 27-year-old cyclist Blake Ackerman's death from a July 10


See **WeHo** page 22



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CALENDAR

Jazz at LACMA

Celebrate L.A.'s finest jazz musicians with Jazz at LACMA, presented on Friday evenings from 6-8 p.m. through October on the Smidt Welcome Plaza. Enjoy a concert by Gil Castellanos on Friday, Aug. 22. Castellanos, a musician, composer, curator, educator and arranger, remains one of the country's top-call jazz trumpeters. Among the most inventive improvisers, he can be heard in live performances as a member of the Clayton Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and as a band leader of his own groups. Castellanos has also toured extensively as a former member of the Anthony Wilson Nonet, Charles McPherson Quintet and Willie Jones III Quintet, and has recorded with Michael Bublé, Oscar Hernandez, Luis Miguel and Diana Krall. Admission is free. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.



Art Deco films

The Art Deco Society Los Angeles and UCLA Film & Television Archive explore Art Deco art direction in film on Friday, Aug. 22, and Saturday, Aug. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Billy Wilder Theatre at the Hammer Museum. The films include the Marx Brothers comedy "Monkey Business" (1931), the pre-code horror film "The Black Cat" (1934) and an early representation of the Art Deco style in the French sci fi-drama "L'Inhumaine" (1924), which was



lauded for its modern design at the 1925 Paris Exposition. Marcel L'Herbier, director of "L'Inhumaine," used applied and fine arts to create a visual feast of modern art using many of the key avant-garde figures of the era. Tickets to the films, shown over two nights, are free. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. artdecola.org.

'First Look' play festival

Open Fist Theatre Company presents the annual "First Look Festival" featuring staged readings of new plays from Friday, Aug. 22, through Saturday, Sept. 6, at Atwater Village Theatre. The plays include "sistahs thr3e," "Dead People's Dishes," "The Bear Republic," "A Grain of Truth," "The Lion in Winter" and "Romeo and Juliet: Love Knows No Age." Check schedule for dates and showtimes. Admission is \$17.50. 3269 Casitas Ave. (323)882-6912, openfist.org.



Learn to speak Japanese

Japan Foundation Los Angeles' conversational "Tea Time" will be held on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Get together with others interested in Japanese culture and talk with native Japanese speakers. Sueko Oshimoto and Kentaro Terra, from Hollywood-based Kimono SK, will help those interested in trying on a yukata and will give an introduction to kimono. All levels are welcome, and Japanese language experience is not necessary. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. jflalc.org/event-details.php/114/tea-time-movie-screening.

Textile workshop

Join Los Angeles-based artist Glennis Dolce for a hands-on workshop co-presented by Textile Arts LA and inspired by the Japanese traditions of boro and sashiko stitching on Saturday, Aug. 23, from noon-5 p.m. at the Fowler Museum. Guided by Dolce, participants will create unique whole cloths from fabric scraps using a combination of hand sewing, machine sewing, appliqué and sashiko techniques. The special workshop series centers on themes of sustainability, storytelling and women's creative legacies. The cost is \$140 members; \$150 for nonmembers. 308 Charles E. Young Drive. fowler.ucla.edu.



Outdoor film at The Autry

The Autry Museum of the American West and Street Food Cinema are hosting a 25th anniversary screening of "Miss Congeniality" on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 6-11 p.m. on the Autry Lawn. Audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or low chairs no more than 6 inches off the ground. Food trucks, a concession stand and cash bar are available. General admission is \$22; \$10 for children. Reservations are required. 4700 Western Heritage Way. theautry.org.

Art of Carlo Maghirang

LACE presents Carlo Maghirang's "ANITO," a public art installation on view from Saturday, Aug. 23, through Sunday, Sept. 7, at Los Angeles State

Historic Park. Maghirang conducts a ritual of ancestral veneration through queer self-portraiture in his latest installation. Each iteration in the sculptural landscape maps varying states of identity through the repetitive making of "taotao" figurines, reimagined as a collection of modular forms. Inspired by an idol he encountered as a child during a near-death experience with his grandfather, the collection of figures and the parts that comprise them offer a playful narrative on identity creation. Public performances will be held on Aug. 23 and Aug. 30 at 1 p.m. 1245 N. Spring St. welcometolace.org.

Salastina classical concert

Classical music fans are invited to a Salastina "Happy Hour" performance by pianist Gloria Cheng on Sunday, Aug. 24, at 3 p.m. at the Wende Museum. Cheng is a muse to many composers from John Williams to Esa-Pekka Salonen. In an afternoon of music and conversation, she shares stories and insights and gives spellbinding performances. Half of the program is devoted to dialogue and the other half to a mini recital, offering a rare chance to engage with a living legend. A movement from John Williams' "Conversations" and selections from Cheng's album "Root Progressions" will be performed. Attendance is free. 10858 Culver Blvd. wendemuseum.org.



Gigi Perez

The Grammy Museum is holding "Spotlight: Gigi Perez" on Tuesday, Aug. 26, at 7:30 p.m. Moderated by Hayley Kiyoko, the program focuses on breakout artist Perez, who will discuss her rising career and creative process. The talk is followed by a performance on the museum's Ray Charles Rooftop Terrace. Tickets are \$50. 800 W. Olympic Blvd. grammymuseum.org.



Metro contracting workshop

Small business owners interested in contracting with Metro are encouraged to participate in a virtual workshop on Wednesday, Aug. 27, from 3-4 p.m., via Zoom. The Metro Contractor Development and Bonding Program expands contracting opportunities and offers support in bidding on projects. Learn how to enroll in Metro's CDBP, how to qualify and obtain bonding, secure contract based financial assistance and obtain contracting opportunities and capacity building resources. eventbrite.com/e/connecting-with-metro-dvbe-tickets-1520578895409.

Christy Whitman book signing

Author Christy Whitman will sign and discuss "The Flow Factor: How to Master Your Energy and Enter a State of Flow" on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel, A Bookstore. Whitman will be joined by Kelly Sullivan Walden. In "The Flow Factor," Whitman offers the key to mastering the flow state – the energetic signature of success. Whether in sports, business, creativity or everyday life, the flow state is where happiness, fulfillment and effortless achievement combine. Seating is limited. Book purchase required to reserve a seat. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. (310)576-9960, dieselbookstore.com.

Judge rules in favor of project developer in Linden lawsuit

Ruling may transform Beverly Hills skyline

BY TABOR BREWSTER

L.A. Superior Court Judge Curtis Kin ruled in favor of the developers of a 19-story builder's remedy project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive in a lawsuit against the city of Beverly Hills. The lawsuit alleged the city unlawfully blocked the project, and the ruling will force the city to allow the development to move forward. The ruling was dated Aug. 12 and distributed to all parties in the lawsuit on Aug. 14.

"We are vindicated by the court's ruling and look forward to proceeding with a project compliant with the updated builder's remedy statutes on Linden in Beverly Hills very shortly," a spokesperson for the developer, Leo Pustilnikov, said. "We believe this will bring much needed housing, at various income levels, to the city and will be sharing a big announcement next week."

The development will replace a parking lot and exceeds usual city height and density restrictions due to the builder's remedy provision. It will include 165 rental units, 33 of which will be reserved for low-income residents. Additionally, the building will feature a 73-room hotel and



rendering courtesy of Ottinger Architects

The lawsuit forces the city to allow a 19-story development at 125-129 S. Linden Drive to move forward.

restaurant and a two-level underground parking structure.

The builder's remedy is a state provision that allows private developers to bypass local code regulations when a project contains at least 20% affordable housing. The provision takes effect when a municipality's

See Ruling page 22

Beverly Hills council appoints Gohlich as city manager

Following a comprehensive evaluation process by the City Council over the last few months, the council has voted to appoint Ryan Gohlich as the next city manager of Beverly Hills. Gohlich, who currently serves as assistant city manager, will succeed Nancy Hunt-Coffey when she retires in July 2026.

As city manager, Gohlich will work closely with city staff to carry out the vision of the City Council and community while overseeing the nine city departments.

"Ryan is the natural choice to be our next city manager," Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. "Since joining the city of Beverly Hills almost 20 years ago, Ryan has led the critical planning and development functions with a meticulous attention to detail while earning the trust of his colleagues, the City Council and the community. In Beverly Hills, we are fortunate to have strong succession planning and with several competitive city manager recruitments currently underway on the Westside, it was important to make this selection in a timely manner. Ryan's institutional knowledge will play an important role in the ongoing success and prosperity of our city."

Gohlich began his career with the city of Beverly Hills in 2007 as an assistant planner and served in a variety of roles including senior planner and assistant director of community development-city planner before being named director of community development in 2021. He was appointed assistant city manager in 2023.

"It is truly the privilege of my



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Ryan Gohlich will step into the role after serving as assistant city manager since 2023.

career to be selected as city manager of Beverly Hills," Gohlich said. "I am thankful to the City Council for the trust they have placed in me and look forward to leading the incredibly dedicated and talented staff of this organization into the future."

Gohlich earned a bachelor of science in city and regional planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and master of arts in organizational leadership from Woodbury University. He is a member of the American Planning Association and received a certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Gohlich's contract will come back at a future City Council meeting for formal approval.

He will assume duties as city manager on July 4, 2026.

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4TH FLOOR  
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(323)933-5518  
BEVERLYPRESS.COM

MAILING ADDRESS:  
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The Beverly Press and Park Labrea News are weekly newspapers, published on Thursdays. Mail subscription is \$120 annually. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising, Feb. 10, 1960 by Superior Court Order No 736637. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising in the City of Beverly Hills and the County of Los Angeles, Dec. 22, 2020 by Superior Court Case Number 19STCP04891. Government Code 6008.



# Saks project moves to Beverly Hills City Council

■ Planning commission OKs development plans

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on Aug. 14 voted to approve plans for Saks Fifth Avenue project at 9600 Wilshire Blvd. The project will now move to the Beverly Hills City Council, which will vote on its approval.

“We’re grateful to the Planning Commission for their thorough and thoughtful review. Their vote of support is a result of our team’s work to significantly refine our project to reduce intensity, enhance on-site circulation and respond to feedback from our closest neighbors,” said Douglas Adams, senior vice president of development for Saks Global. “We now look forward to continued dialogue with the community and our next steps at City Council.”

The specific plan and environmental impact report were approved in a 4-0 vote. Commissioner Myra Demeter recused herself.

The project encompasses two blocks of Wilshire Boulevard between Camden and Bedford drives. The mixed-use development includes the rehabilitation of the historic Saks Women’s building at 9600 Wilshire Blvd. and the construction of four new buildings. The project was submitted by Hudson’s Bay Company – the parent of Saks Fifth Avenue.

A new building immediately to the west of the Saks Women’s store – the former Barney’s New York building – will be six stories tall with four levels of office space and two levels of retail and restaurant space. The historic rehabilitation of the 9600 Wilshire Blvd. building will transform it into a 42-room boutique hotel with a private social club and spa open to the public. Immediately to the west, a new residential building will contain one level of ground-floor retail and six levels of apartments.

At the south end of the project, plans include two new apartment buildings on sites currently occupied by parking lots. The “Residential West” building between Bedford and Peck drives will contain 28 apartments and over 7,500 square feet of “small neighborhood shops.” A similar building, “Residential East” between Peck and Camden drives, will also contain 28 apartments and 7,500 square feet of retail.

The apartment buildings to the south are separated from the retail, office and hotel buildings on Wilshire Boulevard by a pedestrian and car-accessible “via” between Bedford and Peck drives and a pedestrian-only terrace between Peck and Camden drives.

The project will also include an underground parking structure located beneath the east and west residential buildings, with 744 parking spaces.

The project has received mixed feedback from the community. Proponents supported the project for revitalizing a “sleepy” section of Wilshire Boulevard, promoting economic growth and boosting public safety through increased foot traffic. However, critics of the project said it is too large, and will have adverse effects on traffic in the surrounding neighborhood. Residents have expressed many concerns over the construction impacts of the project. Construction is currently expected to last approximately 50 months.

At the meeting on Aug. 14, the fourth thus far on the Saks Fifth Avenue development, the project was opposed by many residents in the area.

“Please consider all these factors on the everyday lives of the residents, of 440 homes and numerous apartments in the Southwest,” said Ken Goldman, president of the Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowners Association. “Please reduce the size of this project. Please require changes that won’t shut down our streets for years. Please require changes to be paid

for by the applicant, such as traffic circles and increased police presence in the neighborhood that will reduce the environmental impact of all this additional traffic next to our homes.”

The Planning Commission spent hours deliberating on the project following public comment. The final approval by the commission included conditions on the project such as limiting restaurant space to 15,088 square feet and ensuring that sound is mitigated during construction.

A public hearing on the project will be held by the City Council at a date not yet determined.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The historic Saks building on Wilshire Boulevard will undergo renovations during construction of four new buildings.

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# Russell Stuart sues Beverly Hills

■ BHUSD Board Member accuses city of negligence

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education Member Russell Stuart filed a lawsuit against Beverly Hills on Aug. 7, accusing the city of negligence in relation to a November 2024 incident where Stuart was critically injured.

The lawsuit centers around a carjacking that occurred on Nov. 14, 2024, near the “Rodeo Nights, Holiday Lights” event on Rodeo Drive. The suspect, 22-year old James Portul, was charged with carjacking and hit-and-run for stealing a black BMW X3 before fleeing in the vehicle. According to the Beverly Hills Police Department, Portul lost control of the BMW and crashed into four pedestrians near the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Camden Drive before fleeing on foot.

Stuart, one of the four victims, was critically injured in the colli-



photo courtesy of Russell Stuart

BHUSD Board Member Russell Stuart has accused the city of negligence after he was struck by a vehicle in November 2024.

sion, breaking both arms and “all of [his] ribs,” among other injuries, he said.

The lawsuit alleges that the city was negligent because there were no K-rails present at the intersection to prevent the collision.

“The complaint was filed See **Stuart** page 21





photo by Edwin Folven

Firefighters transported a female victim to the hospital following an incident on Aug. 17 at the Westbury Terrace building.

## Victim hospitalized after ‘microwave malfunction’

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 30-year-old woman suffered serious burns in what authorities called a “microwave malfunction” at a condominium building at 321 S. San Vicente Blvd. The Los Angeles Fire Department was called at 10:17 a.m. on Aug. 17 about a possible fire at the 11-story Westbury Terrace condominium building, located at San Vicente Boulevard and Third Street across from the Beverly Center. Firefighters arrived to

find a smoke-filled unit on the fifth floor. Three people and a cat had already evacuated the condominium. Paramedics treated the female victim at the scene and took her to a hospital. An LAFD spokesperson had no further information about the victim’s condition or what caused the microwave to malfunction, and stated that the incident is under review by arson investigators. Firefighters determined no fire had occurred and other units in the building were not affected.



photo courtesy of Funke

Funke in Beverly Hills temporarily closed following a fire in the exhaust system on Aug. 12.

## Fire at Funke in Beverly Hills prompts quick response

A fire erupted on Aug. 12 at Funke, celebrity chef Evan Funke’s Beverly Hills restaurant at 9388 South Santa Monica Blvd.

The Beverly Hills Fire Department was called at 6:31 p.m. and firefighters arrived at the scene one minute later, read a statement from the city. The flames started in the restaurant’s exhaust system. Diners were evacuated and no injuries were reported. Firefighters remained at the scene until 10:30 p.m.

“[On Aug. 12], a fire occurred in the upper portion of our exhaust system, the cause of which is still unknown. We’re relieved to share that all building safety systems functioned exactly as designed,” Funke said in a statement. “Thanks to the calm cooperation of everyone present, our staff and guests were evacu-

ated swiftly and safely. Our deepest gratitude to the Beverly Hills Fire Department for their rapid response and expert handling of the situation.”

The restaurant is temporarily closed for repairs. A representative said Funke plans to reopen as soon as possible, and encouraged people to follow the chef on Instagram for updates. Staff contacted diners with reservations on days after the fire to arrange alternative accommodations at Funke’s other restaurants Felix and Mother Wolf.

“We’re truly grateful for your patience and understanding as we work diligently to repair and restore the affected areas,” Funke said in his message to customers. “We can’t wait to host you all very soon.”

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

## WeHo building rocked by multiple mail thefts

■ Residents search for solutions after break-ins recur in mail room

BY SAM MULICK

Five mail thefts in 10 days and few solutions from the U.S. Postal Service have left residents at a West Hollywood condominium building searching for answers.

An individual broke into the Holloway Terrace at 8530 Holloway Drive and stole incoming and outgoing mail on July 21, 24 and 30, according to the building’s HOA president who declined to be named out of privacy concerns. The thief broke in again on July 31 and deputies from the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station made an arrest around 5 a.m. after being notified by the building’s homeowners association president, who tracked the suspect through security footage. The HOA president said the suspect used a spray that dismantled the building’s security sensor and possessed a master key that opened all mailboxes.

After the initial mail thief’s arrest, a second individual disguised in a U.S. Postal Service uniform broke into the building later the same day and stole mail, the HOA president said. The second suspect had not been apprehended as of Aug. 20, they added. In addition to stealing letters, the second suspect also discarded the contents of Amazon packages on the roof of the building, the HOA president said. However, it has also been difficult to track exactly what was taken during the thefts.

“He took out mail from so many mailboxes that people really didn’t know what was in there,” they said.

The HOA has encouraged residents to remove mail from mailboxes daily to mitigate further thefts and to hand letters directly to mail

carriers. The HOA president also said the building is looking to install a new door to the mailroom that will have automated access, rather than by a key – but the process will take months.

While waiting to install a new door, the president reached out to the U.S. Postal Service’s Bicentennial post office on Beverly Boulevard, which then reported the problem to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. However, the USPS only reported the problem back to the local post office, which contacted the HOA president to say there was nothing they could do to change the building’s locks and referred her back to USPS. The HOA president also heard from residents at other West Hollywood properties who said they were placed on a waitlist to have locks changed after experiencing mail thefts, but said the local post office was unaware of any waitlist.

“The post office said, ‘Well, we don’t have any locks, and if we change your lock, we’ll have to change everybody’s in the district,’” the HOA president said. “They’re not doing that.”

“It’s just this bureaucracy runaround,” said Holloway Terrace resident Carolyn Campbell, who had multiple outgoing checks stolen by thieves.

While addressing the problem has been difficult, Campbell said she is grateful for the effort the HOA is putting forth to prevent further thefts. The thefts come in the wake of other reported mailroom thefts at a West Hollywood building on Sweetzer Avenue. Sgt. Evelio Galvez, of the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station, said mail thefts are an ongoing problem in the city and there is not much that can mitigate the problem other than installing additional doors, removing mail daily and reporting security footage to police.



photo courtesy of Carolyn Campbell

Security footage from a building on the 8500 block of Holloway Drive revealed an individual disguised in a U.S. Postal Service uniform stealing residents’ mail.

Lucas Watanabe, a spokesperson for the Los Angeles Division of the USPS, said the division is aware and investigating the incidents but cannot share details regarding specific mail thefts, citing that thefts are more likely to occur if the USPS shares specific security measures.

Watanabe also said that the USPS and USPS launched Project Safe Delivery in the wake of heightened mail thefts during the COVID-19 pandemic to install more high security blue collection boxes and electronic locking mechanisms and has since installed “thousands” of locks and boxes in “all 50 states.” However, no information is publicly listed on specifically where or how many electronic locks and high security collection boxes were installed through the efforts.

“Postal Inspectors are actively investigating these reports of mail theft in the area. Report any incidents of mail theft by calling us at (877)876-2455 or by filing a report online at [mailtheft.usps.gov](http://mailtheft.usps.gov),” he said.

## L.A. prohibits RV parking on more streets

The Los Angeles City Council has expanded the list of streets where recreational vehicles are prohibited from parking overnight to include multiple streets throughout Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky’s 5th District.

Vehicles more than 22 feet long or more than seven feet tall are prohibited from parking from 2-6 a.m. on the designated roadways.

The streets include South Lucerne Boulevard between Wilshire Boulevard and Ninth Street, South Gramercy Place between Ninth Street and Olympic Boulevard, Lucerne Boulevard between Wilshire Boulevard and Eighth Street, Lucerne Boulevard between Francis Avenue and Ninth Street and 10th Street between South Wilton Place and South Gramercy Place. Overnight RV parking will also be prohibited on Preuss Road between Robertson Boulevard and Airdrome Street, Whitworth Drive between Beverly Drive and La Cienega Boulevard, Cashio Street between Roxbury Drive and Robertson Boulevard, Airdrome Street between Rexford Drive and La Cienega Boulevard, Cotner Avenue between Ohio Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard and Pontius Avenue between Ohio Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard.

“My office will continue to work with neighbors to ensure our streets are safe, accessible and well-maintained for everyone who lives and

travels through them,” Yaroslavsky said.

A spokesman for the councilwoman said the office has fielded complaints from residents about RVs parked for extended periods of

time in those areas. The Los Angeles Department of Transportation will next install signage notifying people about the regulations. The specific timeline for implementation is still being determined.

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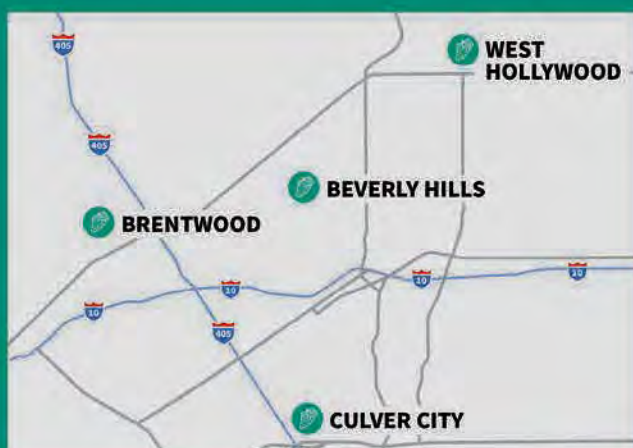
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# Scooters ride on in West Hollywood

## ■ Council extends Lime agreement

BY SAM MULICK

The West Hollywood City Council voted 3-2 on Aug. 18 to extend an agreement with the Lime Micromobility scooter company until February 2027.

Under the Dockless Mobility

Operating Agreement, the e-scooter program provides residents and visitors with an alternative means of transportation to cars and generated 209,940 trips from April 1, 2024-July 31, 2025. The scooters have been controversial in the city due to people illegally riding on sidewalks, colliding with pedestrians and leaving scooters strewn on sidewalks. The council originally approved an agreement with the

scooter company, formally Neutron Holdings Inc., in 2021 and renewed another agreement that went into effect in April 2024.

The program cost the city \$60,000 to operate the scooter software and generated about \$93,744 in revenue in trip and penalty fees for riders.

**“No one else involved took responsibility for the accident – not the scooter company, not the scooter rider and not the city.”**

Stephanie Harker  
resident

Councilman Danny Hang said the program gives residents and visitors who do not drive cars a more environmentally friendly means of transportation and allows the city to meet climate action goals. He also instructed staff to alter future contracts so the city can receive more money per ride as ridership increases. West Hollywood currently receives 40 cents for every trip taken in the city and 20 cents for trips out of the city.

Councilman John Erickson said the amount of rides taken was significant enough to continue the program, though he expressed concerns over scooters being left on

sidewalks.

“I understand people that do not like it [but] there are five, 10, 15 of your neighbors that do, if not more,” Erickson said. “The numbers don’t lie.”

During public comment, resident Stephanie Harker called on the council to end the agreement, citing a resident who was permanently injured following a collision with a scooter rider who ran a red light.

“No one else involved took responsibility for the accident – not the scooter company, not the scooter rider and not the city,” she said. “Scooters are dangerous vehicles. They are left strewn about our city along with the delivery robots.”

Vice Mayor John Heilman and Councilwoman Lauren Meister dissented.

Meister cited the lack of significant revenue from the program and the dangers of people riding scoot-

ers on sidewalks and leaving them on the street.

“I’m tired of seeing scooters and bikes on our parkways, thrown into the street,” she said. “They’re so heavy that when they’re laying down on the parkway, you can’t pick them up.”

Heilman also cited safety concerns with residents being hit by scooters and the lack of adequate removal from streets.

“I don’t think the company has adequately addressed the safety issues around the scooters,” he said. “I continue to be concerned about the safety of scooter riders as well as the safety of pedestrians who have to navigate sidewalks when they are blocked by scooters. I appreciate the efforts which have been made to address these concerns but they haven’t been addressed to my satisfaction.”



photo by Sam Mulick

The Dockless Mobility Operating Agreement has been controversial in West Hollywood due to scooter riders illegally riding on sidewalks and leaving scooters strewn about the city.

## Notable Quotes

*“From today painting is dead.”*  
[Upon seeing a daguerreotype]

Paul Delaroche (1797-1856)  
Attributed, 1839

Source: Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations

A dauerreotype was the first publicly available photographic process, widely used during the 18402 and 1850s. Daguerreotype refers to an image created through the process.

That’s what they said about 35 mm single lens reflex cameras, digital cameras and now artificial intelligence imagery. Don’t be so sure.



# spotlight

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# Dan Tana dies at 90

■ WeHo Italian restaurant namesake remembered

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Dan Tana, a Serbian-American restaurateur who founded the namesake Italian restaurant at 9071 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Hollywood, died on Aug. 16 at the age of 90. According to his family, the cause of death was cancer.

“The great Dan Tana has passed on. We all know that he created a very magical place. Our beloved little yellow house will forever feel his presence,” a statement from the restaurant’s staff read.

Tana was born Dobrivoje Tanasijević on May 26, 1935, in Belgrade, which at the time was part of Yugoslavia. Much of Tana’s early life was spent playing his favorite sport – soccer. As a teenager, Tana was a member of the junior squad for Red Star Belgrade, a professional football club. However, by the 1950s, Tana’s time on the team had come to an end by way of defecting from Yugoslavia. Tana then briefly played in a German league, before accepting a contract with the National Soccer League in Canada.

In 1956, after winning big on a poker game, Tana moved to Los Angeles, where he would chase his dream of becoming an actor.

Like many struggling actors in Hollywood, Tana found work in the restaurant industry. He packed tuna in the Star Kist Tuna Factory, washed dishes at Miceli’s, became a maître d’ at Peppermint West, a popular nightclub, before working at La Scala, The Villa Capri and Le Petit Jean.

In 1964, Tana opened his own business, an Italian restaurant bearing the stage name he adopted after he moved to America.

The small bungalow restaurant with red and white checkered tablecloths, leather booths, dim lighting and Italian red sauce staples quickly became a sensation following a positive review in the L.A. Times. The restaurant was beloved by both neighborhood regulars and famous clientele, including Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Joe DiMaggio and the Rat Pack. Many attribute the restaurant’s success to Tana’s dedication to personal service – always visiting customers at their tables and establishing close

relationships with regulars.

“He was a go-getter,” said Deanne Mencher, who helped Tana open the restaurant. Mencher and her then-husband Maurice Seiderman, the makeup artist for “Citizen Kane,” were close friends of Tana and his then-wife Andrea Wiesenthal.

“He was 24 hours a day working to make that place successful,” Mencher added. “That was his energy.”

Mencher’s place in Dan Tana’s lore is cemented in the history of the restaurant. Mencher was responsible for creating Dan Tana’s famous cheesecake – listed on the menu as “Cheesecake Deanne.”

“I was a party giver, I started making these cheesecakes for parties,” Mencher, now 93, said. “A year after the restaurant opened, I took one to Dan and Andrea’s apart-

ment on Almont for Christmas brunch, and Dan said, ‘I have to have this at the restaurant.’”

Dan Tana’s popularity only grew over the years, an enduring success in an ever-changing city. In 2009, Tana sold the restaurant to his friend, Sonja Perencevic, who operates it to this day.

“It almost feels like a private club when you walk in. There’s no windows. Time sort of stands still when you walk in. It could be 1964, it could be 2025. It hasn’t changed at all,” Los Angeles historian Alison Martino, a Dan Tana’s regular, said. “With everything changing so much in Los Angeles, there’s something about Musso and Frank, there’s something about Taylor’s, there’s something about Dan Tana’s – when these restaurants don’t change. We don’t have many of them left, that look like they did when they opened. It’s a landmark.”

Tana is survived by his wife of 19 years Biljana Strezovski and daughters Gabrielle and Katerina.



photo by Tabor Brewster

Dan Tana’s has been a favorite of Hollywood celebrities since 1964.

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### BESTIES

The first (and only) vegan marketplace in the country stocked exclusively with 100% vegan brands. First launched in East Hollywood, they offer a wide selection of fridge, freezer and pantry staples, as well as a snack counter serving legendary vegan hot dogs, soft-serve, sandwiches, and original snacks made in-house.



### SAVTA

Californian innovation meets a blend of French and Mediterranean traditions. From fresh, house-made brunch classics, to wood-fired pizzas and veggies, to simply yet elegantly prepared meat and seafood, each plate reflects owner Vincent Benoliel's care and creativity.



### SORA

This unique, speakeasy-inspired rooftop temaki experience serves open-faced hand rolls with fresh fish flown in daily from Japan. Enjoy carefully-curated bites alongside craft cocktails, wine, and sake in an inviting atmosphere designed equally for casual diners and experienced foodies alike.



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Using recipes passed down through generations, the Market's only Polish spot celebrates the warmth and authenticity of time-honored culinary traditions. From the comforting flavors of fresh pierogis and kielbasa, to the joy of homemade desserts, the Sudnika family brings their cherished flavors to Los Angeles for the very first time.



photo courtesy of Dan Tana's

Dan Tana, left, and longtime bartender Mike Gotovac are pictured at the restaurant in 1968.



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# New care facility for women in need coming to Hollywood

■ Highland Avenue site will serve mothers and children

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A new 27-bed residential substance use disorder treatment facility for pregnant women and mothers will be built on a city-owned vacant lot in Hollywood after the Los Angeles City Council approved the project on Aug. 19.

The facility will be located 1901-1905 N. Highland Ave., near Franklin Avenue, and will be built by Aviva Family & Children’s Services, a nonprofit social services provider located nearby at 7120 Franklin Ave. Aviva Family &

Children’s Services was awarded a \$9.3 million state grant in June for the new facility, which will provide residential care for pregnant women and mothers struggling with substance use. The city declared the property “exempt surplus land” and will enter into a 30-year lease with Aviva for use of the site as a perinatal treatment center. The City Council approved the agreement based on a motion by Councilwoman Nithya Raman, 4th District.

Aviva plans to provide 24-hour residential care and comprehensive services for pregnant women, postpartum mothers, women with dependent children and mothers whose infants have been exposed to substance abuse.

“This is a transformative investment in the lives of women and families across Los Angeles,” Aviva Family & Children’s Services president and CEO Amber Rivas said. “This facility will offer the kind of comprehensive, community-based care that’s urgently needed, keeping families together while addressing one of the most critical behavioral health needs of our time.”

The program will prioritize access for women of color, low-income mothers, women who are experiencing homelessness and trauma, and those who have been involved with the child welfare system. The new facility will increase Aviva’s residential housing capacity by 50%. The modular campus will include private living spaces including four units specifically for mothers with children, according to Aviva. The site will serve women from throughout the city.

The City Council on Aug. 19 approved Raman’s motion without



photo by Edwin Folven

A vacant lot on the west side of Highland Avenue at Franklin Avenue will be transformed by Aviva Family & Children’s Services.

discussion. Specific plans for the facility will be considered at a future date. A spokeswoman for the councilwoman deferred to Aviva for information and no comment was provided on the new facility. It is unclear when the new Aviva facility will open.

# Cedars-Sinai earns highest designation for maternal care

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is the first hospital in California to earn Level IV Maternal Care verification.



photo courtesy of Getty

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center was recognized by an accreditation commission and OBGYN group as providing the highest level of maternal care.

for delivering the highest level of obstetric care from The Joint Commission, a nonprofit that

accredits nearly 2,100 health care organizations in the U.S.

A Level IV Maternal Care hospital, also known as a Regional Perinatal Health Care Center, provides comprehensive care before birth, throughout labor and delivery and after childbirth. The Joint Commission Maternal Levels of Care Verification program operates in collaboration with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and recognizes the devotion to patient safety and quality of care.

Facilities with the top designation must be staffed with maternal-fetal medicine specialists and critical care physicians to deliver multidisciplinary and integrated treatment for patients with complex obstetric complications such as severe preterm preeclampsia or maternal heart disease.

Level IV medical centers also collaborate with other hospitals by providing medical education and easy access to consultations and transfers to Cedars-Sinai, if needed.

“Access to this comprehensive level of specialty care can make a crucial difference in the health of

both mother and baby and has been proven to reduce maternal morbidity,” said Dr. Sarah J. Kilpatrick, chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Cedars-Sinai and an expert in maternal-fetal medicine. “This Level IV verification recognizes our ability to provide coordinated, multidisciplinary care involving obstetricians, maternal-fetal medicine specialists, anesthesiologists, cardiologists, neurologists and any other specialty needed to effectively care for these extremely high-risk patients.”

Approximately 3.6 million babies are born each year in the United States, including about 6,000 at Cedars-Sinai, one of the busiest labor and delivery hospitals in California.

The only other hospital in California to be formally verified for any level of maternal care by The Joint Commission is Torrance Memorial Medical Center, an affiliate of Cedars-Sinai. In 2023, Torrance Memorial received verification as a Level III Maternal Care facility.

“The Joint Commission com-

mends Cedars-Sinai for being named a Level IV Maternal Care verified facility and for its efforts to standardize maternal care and reduce maternal morbidity and mortality,” said Ken Grubbs, executive vice president of accreditation and certification operations and chief nursing officer at The Joint Commission.

Hospitals receive Level IV designation following an on-site evaluation and thorough review of maternal care services, as well as other medical specialties.

“The Level IV verification affirms not only the advanced capabilities of our institution but also the unwavering dedication of our maternal care team – especially our extraordinary nurses, who bring a rare combination of clinical expertise, compassion and readiness to respond to even the most complex maternal-fetal challenges,” said David Marshall, Cedars-Sinai senior vice president, chief nursing executive and chair of the Department of Nursing.

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

# CHLA study shows effects of prenatal pesticide exposure

A joint observational study by Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and Columbia University found that prenatal exposure to a common pesticide also used as an insecticide could impair children’s brain development and motor function for years.

**“We don’t know the consequences of these brain effects, but we found that CPF exposure most impairs motor functioning.”**

*Bradley Peterson, an author on the study and chief of the division of child and adolescent psychiatry at Children’s Hospital*

In the long-term study of children between 6 and 14 years-old, followed since birth, prenatal exposure to the pesticide chlorpyrifos was associated with alterations in brain structure and impairments in

motor function. It is the first study to show that prenatal exposure to a pesticide produces enduring and widespread molecular, cellular and metabolic effects in the brain. The results were published in JAMA Neurology.

“More CPF exposure led to more thickening of the cerebral cortex – the area of the brain that directs functions like thinking, memory and movement,” said Bradley Peterson, an author on the study and chief of the division of child and adolescent psychiatry at Children’s Hospital, where he also leads the brain imaging lab. “We don’t know the consequences of these brain effects, but we found that CPF exposure most impairs motor functioning.”

Between January 1998 and July 2005, the team conducted behavioral assessments and MRI scans of the brains of 270 youths in upper Manhattan whose mothers had been exposed to CPF during pregnancy when their apartments were fumigated. The researchers from CHLA and the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health also accessed behavioral exposure information

from umbilical cord samples from each child at delivery as well as samples of their mothers’ blood collected the day after birth.

The MRI scans found thickening of the brain cortex, alterations in white matter, changes in the internal capsule, fewer neurons in white matter that could signal impaired development, abnormalities in brain pathways that support

motor control and impaired nerve insulation, which can affect function and reduced blood flow, indicating less energy use throughout the brain.

“Current widespread exposures, at levels comparable to those experienced in this sample, continue to place farm workers, pregnant women and unborn children in harm’s way. It is vitally important that we contin-

ue to monitor the levels of exposure in potentially vulnerable populations, especially in pregnant women in agricultural communities, as their infants continue to be at risk,” said Virginia Rauh, an author on the study and the Jane and Alan Batkin Professor of Population and Family Health at Columbia Mailman School.

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

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# L.A. offers relief from high temperatures during heat wave

With a National Weather Service extreme heat watch issued in the Los Angeles region through Saturday, Aug. 23, Mayor Karen Bass directed city departments to take action to protect residents and provide resources to help people stay cool.

The National Weather Service has also issued a fire weather watch starting on Thursday, Aug. 21, for areas outside the city but close enough to cause concern, including the mountains and foothills of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

“City departments are taking action to keep Angelenos safe,”

Bass said. “I encourage Angelenos to stay cool, stay hydrated, check on neighbors and know that resources are available citywide to help keep you safe.”

The Mayor’s Office of Public Safety is coordinating with the Emergency Management Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and other city departments to ensure employees are ready to respond as needed. Residents are also encouraged to sign up at [notifyla.org](https://notifyla.org) to receive heat and adverse weather alerts by phone.

The LAFD is closely monitoring the forecast and will position resources as needed throughout the city. The LAFD has been actively conducting brush inspections and brush clearance, and is also working to ensure fire roads are maintained across the city.

The city of Los Angeles offers hundreds of locations providing relief from the heat, including Recreation and Parks facilities and local library branches. In the local area, visit the Pan Pacific Park Recreation Center, 7600 Beverly Blvd.; the Fairfax Branch Library, 161 S Gardner St., and the John C. Fremont Branch Library, 6121 Melrose Ave.

For a complete lists of locations and hours of operation, visit [laparks.org/reccenter](https://laparks.org/reccenter) and [lapl.org/branches](https://lapl.org/branches). Information is also available by calling 311.



photo by Edwin Folven

The Pan Pacific Park Recreation Center is among the city facilities offering respite from the heat.

# Take a dog out for ‘Adventure Buddy Day’

On Aug. 23, Best Friends Animal Society and Los Angeles Animal Services invite the public to participate in Adventure Buddy Day – a day for eligible dogs to get out of the shelter and spend time with a human companion. On Adventure Buddy Day, the organizations are trying to get every eligible dog at the participating shelters out on an outing or sleepover. Embrace the final weekends of the dog days of summer by taking an adorable, adoptable shelter dog out on an adventure.

**“They have so much love to give and who knows, you may meet your new canine companion.”**

Annette Ramirez,  
interim general manager of  
Los Angeles Animal Services

“Providing adoptable dogs with the opportunity to get a break from the shelter and spend a day with a human companion can make the world of difference for them,” said Brittany Thorn, executive director of Best Friends Animal Society. “Not only do programs like Adventure Buddy Day benefit the dogs, but they allow shelter staff to obtain vital notes on each dog’s personality. These are key elements in helping dogs find loving homes

as the insights help paint a picture of what their ideal family looks like.”

“We’re thrilled for this opportunity to partner with Best Friends to help provide dogs at the Chesterfield Square/South LA and East Valley shelters with these meaningful and memorable experiences,” said Annette Ramirez, interim general manager of Los Angeles Animal Services. “If you have the time, we strongly encourage you to come out and make a difference in the lives of these dogs. They have so much love to give and who knows, you may meet your new canine companion.”



photo courtesy of Best Friends Animal Society

Members of the public can take dogs out for walks and other adventures from shelters on Adventure Buddy Day.

Adventure Buddy Day is the perfect opportunity for those who love dogs but aren’t ready to bring one home just yet, providing the opportunity to spend some time with an adoptable dog and making their day a little brighter. Attendees can stop by the Chesterfield Square/South LA or East Valley Animal Services Center from 9-11 a.m. to meet canine friends. Dogs will be available on a first-come first-served basis. The Chesterfield Square/South LA center is located at 1850 W 60th St. and the East Valley center is located at 14409 Vanowen St. For information, visit [laanimalservices.com](https://laanimalservices.com).

# L.A. Kids Book Festival returns to WeHo



photo courtesy of LA Kids Book Festival

The LA Kids Book Festival will feature readings and live performances in West Hollywood Park.

The third annual Los Angeles Kids Book Festival returns to West Hollywood Park on Sept. 7 from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The free-to-the-public event celebrates early childhood education, bilingualism and multiculturalism for young children and families. Fostering a love for reading, the LAKBF is presented by the American Born Chinese Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting children’s bilingual literacy and in partnership with the city of West Hollywood and sponsored by the LA Phil.

This year’s festival will provide a day of storytelling, performances and interactive educational fun for families with young children. The program will feature nearly 100 children’s authors and illustrators, author and industry panels, a sensory-friendly chill zone, live performances and an online auction.

West Hollywood Park is located at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd. To register for free tickets and for information, visit [lakidsbookfestival.com](https://lakidsbookfestival.com).



## Puppy-Dog Eyes and the Feline Gaze: How Pets Evolved to Win Us Over

If you’ve ever melted at your dog’s wide, soulful look – or your cat’s slow blink – you’ve experienced the results of thousands of years of evolution. Dogs and cats took very different paths to domestication, but both have developed ways to connect with us that feel personal and deeply meaningful.

### Dogs: The Eyebrow Advantage

In 2019, researchers discovered that domestic dogs have a small facial muscle, the levator anguli oculi medialis, that lets them raise their inner eyebrows. Wolves, their closest wild relatives, largely lack this muscle. The eyebrow raise makes their eyes look larger and more infant-like, triggering a nurturing response in humans. Over generations, humans unconsciously selected for dogs that made expressions we found appealing, making this muscle movement a key part of their communication toolkit.

### Cats: The Art of the Slow Blink

Cats followed a very different domestication path. While dogs were actively selected for cooperative behaviors, cats likely self-domesticated around 9,000 years ago by hunting rodents near human settlements. Humans valued their pest control skills, while cats enjoyed steady food sources. Lacking eyebrow-raising muscles, cats rely on subtler cues – one of the most powerful being the slow blink. This relaxed narrowing of the eyes signals trust and safety, and studies show cats are more likely to approach people who slow blink at them.

Why These Traits Work

Puppy-dog eyes mimic human infant facial features – large, round eyes and certain brow movements – that in humans trigger caregiving instincts. Cats’ slow blinks and relaxed faces signal safety and calm, tapping into our social wiring to respond warmly to relaxed, trusting expressions.

### The Chemistry of Connection

Oxytocin – often called the “love hormone” – is a neuropeptide that spikes during positive social interactions, from parent-child bonding to romantic affection. It promotes trust, reduces stress, and reinforces emotional bonds. In 2015, a study published in Science by Nagasawa et al. found that when dogs make prolonged eye contact with their owners, oxytocin levels rise in both species. This mutual gaze creates a feedback loop: the more you look at each other, the more oxytocin flows, strengthening the bond. Notably, the same effect wasn’t seen in wolves, suggesting it evolved specifically during domestication.

### Why This Matters

Your dog’s raised brow or your cat’s slow blink is more than a passing moment; it’s a finely tuned communication tool that taps into your brain’s bonding chemistry. Understanding this doesn’t just make us better pet parents – it reminds us that the love we feel for them, and they for us, is built into our shared biology.

### 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. Please email us with your pet-related questions and topics you’d like covered: [hello@pp.vet](mailto:hello@pp.vet)



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# 88 handy ways to botch up your life

Failure is so easy. In fact, it’s right at your fingertips. Here are 88 sure-fire ways to sabotage your life, from someone who’s been around a little:

- Join a cult.
- Text your ex.
- Marry a tech tycoon.
- Buy tons of stuff you won’t ever use.
- Move to that same place everybody else is moving: Bend, Brooklyn, Austin.
- Get your lips done.
- Ignore that funny mole.
- Skip dessert.
- Rush to judgment.
- Flirt with your boss.
- Forget how to laugh.
- Be your own doctor.
- Split up over the home reno that is taking twice as long and costing three times as much.
- Gulp your food.
- Swallow your neuroses.
- Bet the heavy favorite.
- Skip vacations.
- Squander a perfect late-summer day.
- Blame the refs.

by  
Chris  
Erskine



- State the obvious.
- Take the low road.
- Follow the crowd.
- Skimp on sunscreen.
- Date an influencer.
- Fall for a total loser.
- Give the total loser, like, a million more chances.
- Buy a boat.
- Buy a bigger boat.
- Join a timeshare.
- Forget what you really love about that person.
- Drop out of school.
- Get your master’s because you can’t find a decent job.
- Rely on ChatGPT instead of your own fervid heart and mind.
- Invest too much in something you only half understand.
- Get too comfortable.

- Give up your dreams.
- Buy another boat.
- Join another cult.
- Run red lights.
- Have four nightcaps.
- Smoke way too much weed.
- Forget to brush.
- Forget to flush.
- Bet on da Bears.
- Leave the shopping cart for someone else to worry about.
- Drop those jeans that don’t fit right there on the store floor.
- Visit Rome in August.
- Visit Chicago in early March.
- Skip the oysters.
- Rule out ever buying yourself a nice boat.
- Always take the easy way out.
- Blow off good books.
- Watch daytime TV.
- Fail your friends.
- Forget your sister’s birthday.
- Stay stubbornly in your comfort zone.
- Drink to forget.
- Drink and drive.
- Blame others.
- Humiliate a teacher.
- Harass a cop.
- Scream at your overworked server.
- Be like everybody else.
- Care too much what anyone thinks.
- Forget to cherish your kids.
- Forget to appreciate the greatness of Clayton Kershaw.



photo by Chris Erskine

Go ahead, buy a boat. Then buy an even bigger boat.

- Complain. Whine. Worry. Mope.
- Keep missing deadlines.
- Run up your Visa bill.
- Wiggle out of jury duty.
- Forget to vote.
- Speed through school zones.
- Park like you don’t even care.
- Smother everything in ketchup.
- Kiss like you’ve got better things to do.
- Say “no” to new things.
- Let fear consume you.
- Sabotage every relationship.
- Focus on the past.
- Isolate.
- Equivocate.

- Meddle.
- Retaliate.
- Cheat.
- Mutter too much about your mother.
- Blame dear old dad.
- Forget, for even a moment, that others have it way worse than you probably do.
- Take your sweet life for granted.

*Love college football? Please join me and some terrific guest speakers at the Rose Bowl Quarterbacks Club, which meets six mornings throughout the season. For details, please Google Rose Bowl Quarterbacks Club.*

# LA28 awards venue naming rights for first time in Olympic Games history

For the first time in the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, LA28 has created the opportunity to implement naming rights at competition venues. The landmark change will apply to featured venues for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles and supports the largest commercial revenue raise in sports.

In celebration, LA28 welcomes Comcast Squash Center at Universal Studios and Honda Center as the first named venues for the LA28 Games.

“From the moment we submitted our bid, LA28 committed to reimagining what’s possible for the Games,” LA28 Chairperson and President Casey Wasserman said. “Today’s historic announcement delivers on that promise, creating the first-ever venue naming rights program in Olympic and Paralympic history while advancing LA28’s mission of a fully privately funded and no-new-build Games. These groundbreaking partnerships with Comcast and Honda, along with additional partners to come, will not only generate critical revenue for LA28 but will introduce a new commercial model to benefit the entire movement. We’re grateful to the International Olympic Committee for making this transformation possible.”

The announcement unlocks an additional revenue stream for LA28 and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Properties, the commercial joint venture between LA28 and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee. Under the new pilot program, qualifying LA28 partners will have the opportunity to keep existing venue naming rights during the Games, as well as secure additional marketing assets to significantly bolster activation efforts. Also, the opportunity for naming rights of up to 19 temporary venues

will become available to Worldwide Olympic and Paralympic Games partners and LA28 partners. Outside of naming rights partners, standard clean venue Games policies will still apply.

The first for the Games was made possible in partnership with the International Olympic Committee, with the first opportunities to purchase eligible rights being made available to existing partners of the Olympic Partner program.

Comcast Squash Center at Universal Studios will host squash’s Olympic Games debut at one of Hollywood’s most iconic working studio lots – Courthouse Square – an instantly recognizable backlot for

film fans around the world. As previously announced, Peacock Theater will host boxing-final stages and weightlifting during the Olympic Games and goalball during the Paralympic Games.

As the first arena to retain its name during the Olympic Games, Honda Center in Anaheim will offer top-tier amenities and prime spectator seating to host an unforgettable competition and fan experience for Olympic Volleyball.

Additional naming rights partners are expected for LA28 competition venues as the three-year countdown to the Games continues. The full list of competition venues can be found at LA28.org.



photo courtesy of Universal Studios

The Comcast Center at Universal Studios will host Olympic Squash in 2028.

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# Metro keeps momentum moving on subway project

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is continuing work on the D Line subway extension project ahead of the anticipated opening late this year of the first segment to La Cienega Boulevard.

Work is occurring at the new subway stations at Wilshire/Western, Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega, and at other locations along the second and third segments of the line to Westwood. Section two, scheduled to open in 2026, includes the Wilshire/Rodeo and Century City/Constellation stations. Section three, including the Westwood/UCLA Station and Westwood/VA Hospital Station, is scheduled to open in 2027. Dates for the openings have not been announced.

Metro is advising about ongoing work at the Wilshire/La Cienega Station. Through Friday, Aug. 22, Wilshire Boulevard may be inter-

mittently reduced to one lane in either direction between La Cienega Boulevard and Stanley Drive. Work will take place overnight from 8 p.m.-7 a.m. and supports instrumentation removal on Wilshire Boulevard. Left turns from Wilshire Boulevard to Le Doux Road may be intermittently restricted.

On Saturday, Aug. 23, from 6 a.m.-10 p.m., eastbound Wilshire Boulevard will be closed between La Cienega Boulevard and Hamilton Drive and La Cienega Boulevard will be reduced to a single lane in each direction between Gregory Way and Clifton Way. Left turns in the Wilshire/La Cienega intersection will be intermittently restricted except from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound La Cienega Boulevard. The traffic control supports utility work in the Wilshire/La Cienega intersection.

Ongoing construction continues at the Wilshire/Rodeo station. K-

rail enclosures will remain in place throughout August along the north and south curb lanes to support ongoing station construction and facilitate underground construction. Two lanes in each direction will be maintained along Wilshire Boulevard between Beverly and Crescent drives. Left turns will be restricted from westbound Wilshire Boulevard to South Cañon Drive.

Through Sept. 26, the south sidewalk on Wilshire Boulevard between Cañon and Crescent drive is closed for underground construction. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction, with phased sidewalk restrictions and pedestrian detours in place. Local access is maintained. Ferrari Beverly Hills customers can enter from the rear of the property, with valet parking available at the nearby Sixty Hotel.

Construction is also ongoing at the Century City/Constellation Station. Preparations are underway



photo by Edwin Folven

K-rail enclosures remain in place throughout August at the future Wilshire/Rodeo station in Beverly Hills.

to remove deck panels and restore Constellation Boulevard between Century Park East and Solar Way near the Century City/Constellation station. The work is scheduled to begin in September and is expected to last approximately two months. Traffic control will be implemented

in five phases, progressing from east to west.

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

# Horvath testifies on the future of FEMA

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, testified on Aug. 13 at a Federal Emergency Management Agency Review Council listening session on the future of the agency. She emphasized the importance of a strong local, state and federal partnership in responding to emergencies, drawing on the county’s expe-

rience responding to the January wildfires.

“Los Angeles County, with our 10 million residents, has a population of more than 40 U.S. states,” Horvath said. “Emergency preparedness is a way of life for us. We work hard to plan and prepare for disasters, in accordance with best practice. But even the largest coun-

ty in America, supported by a very competent state infrastructure, is unable to manage a disaster like the January fires without federal support. The technical, policy and financial support from FEMA was critical for L.A. County.”

Horvath said that FEMA’s assistance was critical during the wildfires.

“In the last eight months, Los Angeles County has experienced firsthand just how critical FEMA is to saving lives and helping communities recover,” she said. “When people face total devastation, it is imperative that every level of government show up for them. What is more important than helping Americans in their greatest moment of need?”

Horvath also highlighted the different roles FEMA took on to help L.A. County residents.

“This kind of hands-on, coordinated federal support is irreplaceable – no other entity can marshal resources and expertise at this scale to meet people where they are. We also worked closely with the U.S. Army Corps on debris removal. Their professionalism, responsiveness and deep connection to our

communities set a gold standard for federal-local partnerships and enabled the fastest disaster cleanup effort in recent history.”

The county supervisor urged the panel to recognize and preserve FEMA’s role in responding to emergencies throughout the country.

“By strengthening FEMA and promoting federal-local collaboration, we can better protect lives, restore communities and safeguard the resilience of all Americans,” she said.

For information, visit lindseyhorvath.lacounty.gov.



photo courtesy of the office of Lindsey Horvath

Supervisor Lindsey Horvath testified on the importance of FEMA’s role in helping Los Angeles residents recover from natural disasters.

# Red Cross calls for blood donors

During National Wellness Month, the American Red Cross encourages people to prioritize their personal health and well-being while helping to save lives with a blood or platelet donation. Donors of all blood types – especially those with type O positive or B negative blood – are asked to make an appointment to prevent a further drop in donor turnout.

Even a strong blood supply can experience a sudden drop – potentially impacting the availability of lifesaving blood and platelets that could help new mothers, burn and trauma patients and those facing cancer. Help safeguard patient care by booking a time to give blood or platelets.

In August, the Red Cross will provide free A1C screening – a test commonly used to screen for

prediabetes and diabetes – for all donors who make a blood, platelet or plasma donation. Fasting is not required for the test, and donors will be able to view their confidential results one to two weeks after their donation in the Blood Donor App or their donor account at RedCrossBlood.org. Donors will receive one A1C test result in a 12-month period. A donation drive will take place on Aug. 28 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Beverly Hills BMW, located at 5151 Wilshire Blvd.

Schedule a time to give by visiting redcrossblood.org, calling (800)RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Those who donate through Aug. 28 will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. For details, visit redcrossblood.org/test.

# Letters to the Editor

## Mail theft is wide ranging problem with few solutions

Re: “Mail thefts become a growing problem at WeHo building.” Aug. 14 issue

I read with great interest Sam Mulick’s excellent coverage of the mail theft problem in WeHo. I am a homeowner at Holloway Terrace and our condo complex was robbed four times by the same thief in 10 days. The good news is the felon was arrested the fourth time by the sheriffs due to our HOA board president’s hypervigilance using our video security system.

We have also been hit by another thief who was wearing a fake postal worker’s uniform. We have since posted his photo on the entrance to our building and in the mail room. Thanks to Sam’s article, we called the number provided

[and] made a report.

However, we have a better idea. Transitioning to electronic locking systems instead of the antiquated one key per zip code system is long overdue. New locks have been installed in select cities with installation to occur in additional major metropolitan areas soon. A worthy investigative project would be to find out about the status of this initiative, and about plans to fund and widen its implementation.

Carolyn Campbell  
West Hollywood

Editor’s note: For more information on the mail thefts at Holloway Terrace, please see the article on page 4.

## One Beverly Hills bonds are a bad idea

Re “City considers bonds for

One Beverly Hills project,” Aug. 14 issue

According to the Beverly Press/Park Labrea News, the Beverly Hills City Council is considering whether to assist the One Beverly Hills project by “authorizing the issuance of up to \$550 million in bonds.”

The city’s reports and agenda attachments are nonsensical when one considers the bottom line: the 31,000 residents of Beverly Hills (every man, woman and child) will be liable for about \$17,750 each in case the project goes bankrupt. The project already appears to be financially shaky because the developer needs the city’s bond for support.

How stupid would a resident be to agree to such a liability (\$17,750)?

Pat Hollander  
Beverly Hills

It is outrageous that the city of Beverly Hills is even thinking about issuing a giant \$550 million municipal bond project to help the One Beverly Hills project pay for “public infrastructure and services.”

The developers of this project sold it to the residents of the city by promising improvements to sidewalks and streets and use, when permitted by the project, of park spaces within the project. They didn’t say that they would ask the city to issue bonds worth more than its annual budget for a project that has already gone bankrupt once.

They say that revenues from the project will pay for the bonds, but who is left responsible if this ill-conceived project goes bankrupt once again? Those who live in Beverly Hills?

From the start, there have been questions about irregularities in the vote counting for the initiative that approved the project, with rumors

of special considerations offered to civic leaders for their support. The City Council should reject this blatant private grab of civic resources that endangers the finances of Beverly Hills and those who live in it.

Local, state and federal authorities including the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Public Integrity Division and the FBI should look into why this bond proposal has gotten as far as it has.

The 2002 Community Facilities District bond issue to improve Rodeo Drive and the surrounding area benefited the city. This bond issue would largely benefit only One Beverly Hills.

Privatizing the benefits of the project but putting the risks on the public is bad policy. Enough is enough.

Daniel Fink  
Beverly Hills



RESTAURANT NEWS

Beat the heat with ice cream sandwiches

Angelenos’ favorite ice cream brand, Lavender and Truffles, is partnering with Bread, Espresso & on two sweet menu collabs. The first launched on Aug. 15, with the bakery’s popular skillet French toast topped with a scoop of artisanal ice cream. On Saturday, Aug. 23, the duo will offer a limited run of ice cream sandwiches featuring Bread, Espresso &’s signature melon bread and Lavender and Truffles Metamorphosis flavor: a creamy coconut base with butterfly pea flower, topped with bits of real coconut and vegan dark chocolate flakes. From 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Aug. 23, Lavender and Truffles will also pop up at the bakery with samples available and scoops for purchase. Ice cream flavors include passion fruit cream, matcha chocolate and pistachio cream. Bread, Espresso & also recently launched a lineup of new drinks, perfect for the summer season.

Options include blueberry matcha, chai (regular and dirty), iced cappuccino, Arnold Palmer and iced tea lemonade. Bread, Espresso & is located at 1212 S. Pacific Coast Highway, Ste. 100, Redondo Beach. Lavender and Truffles is located at 70 Winward Ave., Venice.

Support autism awareness with new hot dog at Pink’s

Pink’s Hot Dogs is selling Chili Dogs for Charity in support of autism awareness from Thursday, Aug. 21, through Sunday, Aug. 24. All profits from sales of the special Autism Awareness Hot Dog at Pink’s will be donated to the TravelingWiki Foundation, a non-profit advocating for better accommodations at U.S. airports for individuals with autism. Approximately one in 45 adults in the U.S. has been diagnosed with autism, as well as

Andaz WeHo makes it a summer to remember

From golden-hour rooftop views to unforgettable local experiences, Andaz West Hollywood is the place to wrap up summer in style. Whether a music lover, dog enthusiast, comedy fan or just in it for the good vibes, the hotel’s upcoming events are the perfect excuse to join the festivities on the Sunset Strip. On Aug. 23, the hotel will host a Sunset Comedy Show from 5-7 p.m. Get ready for an hour of non-stop laughs on the rooftop at the Andaz West Hollywood for a hilarious pool show. Grab a suit and a \$10 ticket for a splash and laugh. In honor of National Dog Day, Andaz West Hollywood is hosting a fun “Puppy Paint & Sip” experience in the lobby of the hotel on Aug. 24 from 4-6 p.m. The event will be open to hotel guests and locals for a drop-in rate of \$20. Paint & Sip Studio L.A. will be there to guide partic-

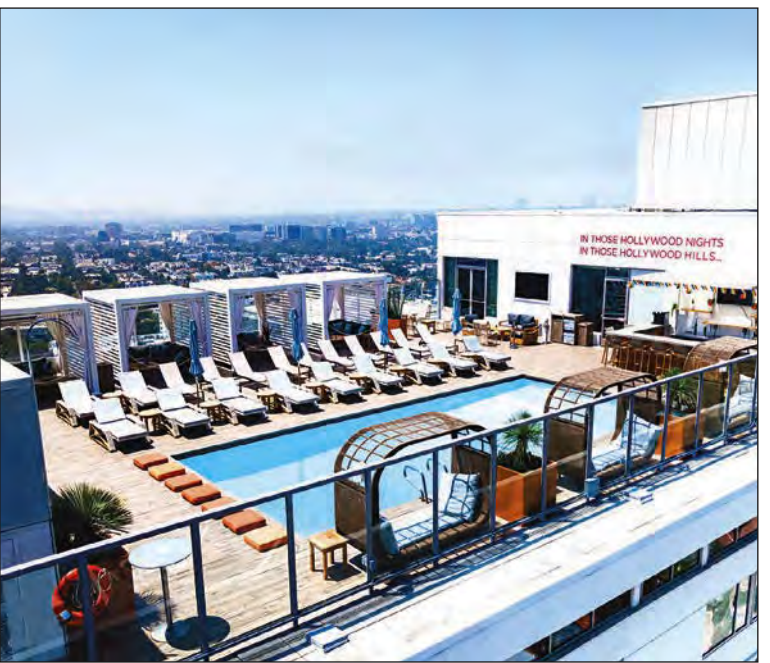


photo courtesy of Andaz West Hollywood

Andaz will host a Sunset Comedy Show at its rooftop pool on Aug. 23.

ipants through painting their pup for a truly wall-worthy portrait of each guest’s furry companion. So, grab a dog and leash, and come get artsy. Andaz will also host Thursday Dating. An evening of conversation and connection awaits at the rooftop pool, where panoramic

Sunset Strip views and a relaxed atmosphere set the stage for meeting new people and sparking potential matches. For information, visit [hyatt.com/andaz/laxss-andaz-west-hollywood](http://hyatt.com/andaz/laxss-andaz-west-hollywood). Andaz West Hollywood is located at 8401 W. Sunset Blvd.

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one in 100 girls and four in 100 boys, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For many people with autism, airports can be overwhelming environments due to crowds, bright lights, loud noises, unpredictable schedules and unfamiliar routines.

Pink’s frequently holds Chili Dogs for Charity events to raise funds for charitable organizations. The Autism Awareness Hot Dog – a nine-inch stretch dog topped with mustard, onions, chili and guacamole – is \$9.99.

For information, call (323)931-4223, or visit pinkshollywood.com. Pink’s Hot Dogs is located at 709 N. La Brea Ave.

Build your own poke bowl at Terrazza

Hotel Casa del Mar – the oceanfront hotel – is offering a Build Your Own Poke Bowl.

Guests and locals can enjoy a Build Your Own Poke Bowl Station at Terrazza inside Casa del Mar on Wednesday and Thursday from 11

a.m.-3 p.m. Start with a base of Matsuri rice or fresh mixed greens, then choose a protein — salmon, tuna or marinated tofu. Drizzle on your favorite sauce and pile on the toppings – creamy avocado, crisp edamame, crunchy jicama, toasted sesame seeds and garlic chips.

Hotel Casa Del Mar is located at 1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica.

Indulge with ‘Love Island’ at STK Steakhouse

Pack your bags, we’ve got a text! STK Steakhouse Los Angeles is turning up the heat with “It’s Giving...Bombshell!” a “Love Island” Season 7 reunion watch party on Monday, Aug. 25, from 5-8 p.m. Guests can expect vibe dining, celebrity-worthy fashion and style inspiration and a special menu with luxe bites and sips, all in true Westwood fashion.

Celebrity stylist Emily Men, best known for styling Ariana Madix as the host of “Love Island,” will be in attendance to spill the tea on

See page 14

Voodoo Doughnut announces breakfast club series

Voodoo Doughnut, the iconic creator of handcrafted, innovative doughnuts, announced the launch of the limited-edition Breakfast Club Series. Every week, guests can enjoy a new doughnut inspired by a beloved breakfast favorite reimagined with a signature Voodoo twist.

“The best part of breakfast has always been the doughnuts, so we figured why not add a little Voodoo magic to morning classics?” Voodoo Doughnut CEO Chris Schultz said.

The five-week series brings a rotating cast of breakfast-inspired creations to life.

Blueberry Muffin will be available through Aug. 24 and is dipped in blueberry frosting, coated with muffin-top-inspired cinnamon sugar cake crumbles and drizzled with sweet Voonilla frosting.

Banana Pancake is available Aug. 25-31. Handcrafted with delicately crispy edges and a soft



photo courtesy of Voodoo Doughnut

Specialty doughnuts including Cereal Bowl, Orange Juice Box, Blueberry Muffin, Banana Pancake and Cherry Go-Tart are available through Sept. 21.

center, this buttermilk doughnut is shaped like a pancake, dipped in rich maple frosting, and topped with a dollop of banana “butter” fluff and chocolate chips.

Orange Juice Box, available Sept. 1-7, is filled with orange creamsicle fluff, dipped in sweet Voonilla frosting, hand-decorated like a nostalgic juice box and topped with a pretzel “straw.”

Cherry Go-Tart, available Sept.

8-14, is crafted with sweet, subtly tart cherry filling, dipped in pink Voonilla frosting and topped with a pop of red sprinkles.

Cereal Bowl is available Sept. 15-21 and is drenched in cinnamon swirl frosting, covered in crunchy apple cinnamon cereal and drizzled with decadent caramel frosting.

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

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H&M debuts at the Original Farmers Market

The global Swedish fashion brand H&M is opening a new location on Aug. 21 at noon at the Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax.

Spanning approximately 15,000 square feet across two floors, the store will offer H&M’s full assortment of womenswear and menswear. The new flagship location will introduce a new format for H&M in the U.S. market.

“As we continue to invest in both new and existing stores nationwide, we are thrilled to strengthen our presence in the L.A. market with the first of several openings this year,” said Michael Beaumont, head of expansion for H&M Americas. “With our debut at the Original

Farmers Market, we’re looking forward to showcasing the best of H&M’s fashion assortment and brand identity to both new and existing customers in Los Angeles.”

The new location will offer upgraded interiors and enhanced service features designed to create a seamless and inspirational shopping experience. Behind the scenes, the “smart” store will run on RFID-enabled systems, which allow for stock accuracy and quick location within the store, plus faster and more efficient replenishment from stockroom to the sales-floor. For added convenience, opt for in-store pick up of online orders – an easy and time saving option for customers on the go.

To celebrate the new store, H&M at the Original Farmers Market will offer the first 150 shoppers in line an H&M gift card valued at \$15-\$200. Loyalty members will also receive several locally inspired giveaways, including a custom limited-edition bag designed by L.A. artist Alec Egan, along with exclusive treats from beloved food and beverage partners with local roots. Figure 8 Tea, located at the Farmers Market, will host a pop-up stand in front of H&M, offering strawberry matcha latte and summer mango oolong boba tea. Inside the store, Wanderlust Creamery will serve a custom honeycomb and malt ice cream created exclusively for H&M and Levain Bakery will offer samples of signature cookies.

The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit farmersmarket-la.com.



photo courtesy of H&M

Amelia Gray, Julez Smith and Delilah Belle modeled H&M apparel during a photoshoot in L.A.

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# Stars shine bright at 61st Cinecon

The 61st Cinecon Classic Film Festival begins on Aug. 29 and runs until Sept. 1, with Legacy Award honors presented to film stars Ann-Margret, Mamie Van Doren and Juliet Mills. Other celebrities attending include past honoree Pat Boone and special guests Maxwell Caulfield and Nancy Kwan. A special award ceremony on Aug. 31 honors pioneering Latina silent film actress Myrtle Gonzalez.

Awards will be presented at film screening events at the Writers Guild Theater in Beverly Hills.

“Film enthusiasts, archivists and collectors of rare films come to this festival every year as a gathering place for shared joy in discovering

curated selections with a lineup of beloved classics, iconic silent films and hidden Hollywood gems,” Cinecon Classic Film Festival President Stan Taffel said.

Cinecon 61 attendees will experience a variety of classic film programs throughout the weekend. The rarely shown opening film “New Movietone Follies of 1930” will kick off the festivities on Friday, Aug. 29. Many early silent and sound films are presented along with a variety of special programs including the Cinecon fan-favorite retrospective “Kinecon,” which features rare moments from live television captured on film before the advent of videotape.

The nonprofit Cinecon is dedicated to preserving and celebrating classic films. The Cinecon Classic Film Festival brings together film lovers from around the world to enjoy a unique selection of movies and special programs presented by the Jack Oakie and Victoria Home Oakie Charitable Foundation. Cinecon has been dedicated to preserving and showcasing unusual films that rarely have public screenings since 1965. For the complete schedule and information, visit [cinecon.org](http://cinecon.org).

For tickets, visit [eventbrite.com/e/cinecon-61-classic-film-festival-august-29th-september-1st-2025-tickets-1406308670089](http://eventbrite.com/e/cinecon-61-classic-film-festival-august-29th-september-1st-2025-tickets-1406308670089).

The Writers Guild Theater is located at 135 S. Doheny Drive.



photo courtesy of Cinecon

Ann-Margret and Pat Boone will attend the 61st annual Cinecon Classic Film Festival at the Writers Guild Theater in Beverly Hills.

# Democracy Center presents solo shows on art and identity

The Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy at the Japanese National Museum presents “Breaking the Frame: Two Solo Shows on Art and Identity” from

Aug. 21-23 in the Tateuchi Democracy Forum.

“Breaking the Frame: Two Solo Shows on Art and Identity” explores what happens when two Asian American solo performers



photo by Laurel Hinton

“Breaking the Frame: Two Solo Shows on Art and Identity” explores the impact of western entertainment mediums on the Asian-American community.

fall deeply in love with Western mediums – movies and opera – only to discover that they both may be in too deep. Hmong American actor Bee Vang of Clint Eastwood’s “Gran Torino” and local-born actor and opera singer Kurt Kanazawa deliver emotionally charged and satirical indictments of two Western art forms that impact the Asian American community today. The performance is directed by Jeff Liu and co-directed by Kalina Ko, with lighting design and assistant direction by Josh Bennett. A post-show Q&A panel with the artists will follow the matinee performance on Aug. 23.

Opening the program is Vang’s solo show, “Your Movie Guide to Life,” where the actor and lifelong cinephile delves into the shaping power of cinema, Hmong history, anti-war activism and his leading role in “Gran Torino.” The 45-minute solo performance weaves together existential horror in films with Bee’s inherited histories – both

personal and geopolitical.

Closing the program is Kanazawa’s solo show, “L’OPERA!” – about a fun-loving, Japanese and Filipino American opera singer who gets into the Juilliard School and then loses his voice. The funny, multilingual 52-minute solo performance travels through the streets of New York City, Southern Italy, Hollywood and Beijing and features live performances of original songs. Tickets are \$20 and are

available at [janm.org/democracy](http://janm.org/democracy). The Japanese American National Museum is located at 100 N. Central Ave.

# LACMA spotlights Youssef Nabil’s artistic 2015 film

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents “Now Showing: Youssef Nabil’s I Saved My Belly Dancer” from Aug. 24 through Jan. 11, marking the first public presentation of the film since it entered the museum’s collection in 2025.

The exhibition is centered around Nabil’s film “I Saved My Belly Dancer” (2015), which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Tahar Rahim, who resembles Nabil, embodies the artist’s alter ego, while Salma Hayek stars as the belly dancer. For Nabil, the dancer represents both a remembered and an imagined memory of Cairo.

“I wanted to talk about belly dancing as an art form that is probably unique to [Egypt]. It’s our dance. I’ve always loved it. So, I wanted to talk about saving the idea

of belly dancing in my memory, more than anything,” he said.

The exhibition is curated by Linda Komaroff, curator and department head of Art of the Middle East at LACMA. The installation intends to evoke the type of mid-20th century movie theater, including retro seats, contemporaneous with Egyptian films that inspired works in the exhibition. The space contains vintage movie posters and a photographic portrait of the director, hand-colored by Nabil’s mentor Van Leo. Additionally, the exhibition features photographs, based on the film, created by Nabil’s signature practice of hand-painting on silver gelatin prints rendered dreamlike by the unearthly intensity and tonality of the color palette. It is a revival of a mid-20th century tech-

nique associated with such Cairo-based photographers as Van Leo (Levon Alexander Boyadjian, 1921-2002).



photo © Youssef Nabil, courtesy of the artist

LACMA’s new exhibition explores Youssef Nabil’s “I Saved My Belly Dancer,” starring Tahar Rahim and Salma Hayek.

The presentation continues LACMA’s history of exploring how film and popular culture interrelate with traditional areas of art from all periods and cultures. LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit [lacma.org](http://lacma.org).

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
8700 Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90048
- Kaiser Permanente  
West Los Angeles  
Medical Center  
6041 Cadillac Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90034
- Southern California Hospital at  
Culver City  
3828 Delmas Terrace  
Culver City, CA 90232

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

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

- Facility:  
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC  
6000 San Vicente Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Tel. (323) 930-1040
- Owner:  
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC  
8436 W. Third St. Suite 900  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
Tel. (310) 746-5918  
Attn: Khawar Siddique, Co-CEO

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

From page 13

Madix’s most unforgettable looks from the season and the reunion, with some of her most iconic looks on display. She will share insider styling tips to help fans bring main character energy to their wardrobes.

Keeping the vibes hotter than Casa Amor, Sugared & Bronzed will give attendees exclusive cards for a free month of tanning services, while Fancy Teddy brings crystal-infused teddy bears for purchase – perfect for spreading love and good energy. Plus, Raine Calabasas will pop up with permanent jewelry available for sale, a perfect way to lock in your day-one or your ride-or-die.

STK will offer a themed menu

designed for coupling up over cocktails and conversations: Gin & Juice “hook up” buckets (\$40); Bombshell Shots – layered glitter vodka shooters (\$5); Love on the Rocks Spritz, an Aperol Spritz with a rock candy stir stick (\$9); Girl Dinner, inclusive of a Caesar salad, Parmesan truffle fries and a glass of bubbly (\$25); Amaya’s Truffle Pasta, made with creamy black truffle tagliatelle topped with pecorino and braised mushrooms (\$28); Casa Amor Calamari – crispy calamari, roasted garlic and lime aioli served with a lemon wedge (\$20); and The Final Date Dessert, made with chocolate cake, berry coulis and vanilla ice cream (\$14).

The watch party is open to the public. Reservations are recom-

mended to secure a spot in the STK villa. However, walk-ins are welcome while space is available. To make reservations, call (310)659-3535. STK Steakhouse is located at 1100 Glendon Ave.

## Sip Justin wines at The Belamar Hotel

The Belamar Hotel will host Wine Flights & Bites with Justin Winery on Friday, Aug. 22, at 7 p.m. Led by wine experts, the experience at The Belamar Hotel will take participants through the stories, craftsmanship and flavor profiles that make Justin wines stand out. Perfect for wine lovers

and food enthusiasts alike, the evening promises an unforgettable journey of taste and elegance in an intimate setting.

General admission tickets Include four wine tastings: Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Justification and Justin Cabernet. Small bites will be provided including grilled shrimp cocktail, heirloom beet and stone fruit carpaccio, apple and brie empanada, SNF wagyu Manhattan filet steak, cheese and charcuterie, and dark chocolate crèmeux.

Tickets are \$60 and available at [eventbrite.com/e/wine-flight-bites-with-justin-winery-at-the-belamar-hotel-tickets-1095700041319](http://eventbrite.com/e/wine-flight-bites-with-justin-winery-at-the-belamar-hotel-tickets-1095700041319). The Belamar Hotel is located at 3501 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach.



# Fountain Theatre raises curtain on new leadership

The Fountain Theatre announced two major milestones in its storied history – the appointment of Johannah Maynard Edwards as new managing director, and the retirement of beloved development director Barbara Goodhill after 12 years of transformative service to the organization.

“These announcements allow us to celebrate and amplify the past while we look towards an exciting future,” Fountain Theatre artistic director Raymond O. Caldwell said. “Barbara’s vision, dedication and love of community transformed the Fountain into the award-winning, nationally recognized theater it is today. We are equally thrilled to welcome Johannah, whose leadership, creativity and commitment to equity will help write our next chapter.”

Prior to joining the Fountain, Edwards served as executive artistic director of the National Women’s Theatre Festival in Raleigh, N.C., where she produced,

directed and championed hundreds of productions by artists of under-represented genders. A nationally recognized leader in arts accessibility, Johannah received the Kennedy Center’s LEAD Award for Emerging Leaders, and she is chief ambassador for PAAL, the Parent Artist Advocacy League. She is passionate about developing new socio-political work and fostering equitable, inclusive spaces for artists and audiences alike.

“I’m honored to join the Fountain Theatre at this pivotal moment,” Edwards said. “This is a company with a deep legacy of bold, socially conscious work and a genuine commitment to community. I look forward to building on that foundation, alongside the incredible team here, to create theater that welcomes and reflects the vibrant diversity of Los Angeles.”

Goodhill has been a driving force behind the Fountain Theatre’s growth and success for more than 12 years, leading its fundraising

and development efforts with unmatched skill, creativity and passion. Under her stewardship, the theater has expanded its donor base, secured critical funding for award-winning productions and deepened engagement with the Los Angeles community.

In recognition of her invaluable contributions, the Fountain will dedicate the Barbara Goodhill Community Room, a welcoming space for audiences, artists and neighbors to gather before and after performances, participate in talk-backs and engage in meaningful dialogue. The new space will serve as a lasting tribute to Goodhill’s belief that theater thrives when it brings people together — and will be made possible through gifts to the theater’s 35th anniversary campaign. Supporters are invited to make a tax-deductible contribution toward the creation of the new space at fountaintheatre.com/donate.

“The Fountain Theatre is pre-



photo courtesy of the Fountain Theatre

Johanna Maynard Edwards, left, is the new managing director of the Fountain Theatre. Barbara Goodhill will retire as development director.

cious to me,” Goodhill said. “It is a unique cultural oasis where Angelenos have experienced meaningful community and great theater for 35 years. This little theater on Fountain Avenue may be small in size, but it is huge in artistry, heart and community. What a gift. What

a legacy. I look forward to seeing the Fountain, its legacy and community, grow and prosper long into the future.”

For information, visit fountaintheatre.com. The Fountain Theatre is located at 5060 Fountain Ave.

# ‘Doctor Faustus’ plays the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival

This year’s Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival concludes with Christopher Marlowe’s dark masterpiece “Doctor Faustus” running through Aug. 31. Directed by Indie Shakes’ artistic director Melissa Chalsma, the production features seven actors playing all the

roles, taking great advantage of the intimate space with a story presented in the round. All festival performances and events are free.

Knowledge is power and Dr. Faustus wants it all. In this playful, seductive fever dream, Faustus conjures legends, dines with emperors and throws down with the Seven Deadly Sins. Packed with spectacle and supernatural flair, Marlowe’s classic becomes a satirical and soul-stirring thrill ride where unchecked ego meets ultimate consequence.

“Christopher Marlowe was a revolutionary author. He died under mysterious circumstances at just 29 years old, but he left behind a handful of plays that changed the course of English Theater,” Chalsma said. “His writing is robust and propulsive, and flips from comedy to tragedy on a dime. All his gifts are on display in “Doctor Faustus,” the story of a man who sells his soul to the devil in exchange for unbridled magical power, power he uses to feed his hubris, amass riches and party with

the rich and powerful.”

In addition to the mainstage performances, community engagement events include Players in the Park, a the family workshop on Aug. 10; a themed dress-up night “Seven Deadly Sins” on Aug. 16; Civic Engagement Night on Aug. 14 when visitors can write to elected officials or register to vote; an event about the conservation of native California bat species with the Los Angeles Bat Rescue on Aug. 17; and a pre-show Salon Series discussion on Aug. 21 with

director Melissa Chalsma on balancing spectacle with satire, bringing supernatural elements to life and creating space for humor and horror in the production of “Doctor Faustus.”

Seating is general admission on an open grassy area. Free RSVPs help ensure there’s space for everyone.

The location is the dell at the top of The Old Zoo in Griffith Park, located at 4801 Griffith Park Drive.

For information, visit indieshakes.org.



photo by Mike Ditz

“Doctor Faustus” runs at the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival until Aug. 31 and is free to audiences.

# ‘& Juliet’ opens at the Ahmanson

Center Theatre Group’s presentation of “& Juliet” runs through Sept. 7 at the Ahmanson Theatre.

Featuring songs by the legendary Grammy-winning songwriter and producer Max Martin, a book by David West Read, the Emmy-winning writer from “Schitt’s Creek,” direction by Luke Sheppard and choreography by Emmy-Award winner Jennifer Weber, “& Juliet” opened on Broadway in November 2022, where it continues playing to sold-out crowds and breaking box office records.

The hilarious new musical flips the script on the greatest love story ever told and asks what would happen if Juliet didn’t end it all over Romeo? Get whisked away on a journey as she ditches her famous ending for a fresh beginning and a second chance at life and love – her way.

Juliet’s new story bursts to life through a playlist of pop anthems as iconic as her name, including “Since U Been Gone,” “Roar,” “Baby One More Time,” “Larger Than Life,” “That’s The Way It Is” and “Can’t Stop the Feeling!” – all from Max Martin, the songwriter and producer behind more No. 1 hits than any other artist this century.

The tour stars original Broadway cast member Rachel Webb as Juliet, alongside Paul-Jordan Jansen as Lance, Teal Wicks as Anne Hathaway, Corey Mach as Shakespeare, Nick Drake as May, Kathryn Allison as Angélique, Benjamin Jackson Walker as Romeo and Mateus Leite Cardoso as François.

The ensemble includes Naima

Alakham, Camille Brooks, Lois Ellise, Josh Ferman, Virgil Gadson, Ishmael Gonzalez, Kenneth Onesimus Goubran, Shelby Griswold, Christopher Robert Hanford, Jourdan Ibe, Josh Jordan, Nicole Lamb, Kate Mina Lin, Yoshi Maysonet, Usman Ali Mughal, Jaydon Nget, Kyra Smith and Francisco Thurston.

The Ahmanson Theatre is located at 135 N. Grand Ave. For tickets and information, visit centertheatre-group.org.



photo by Matthew Murphy

“& Juliet” runs at the Ahmanson Theatre until Sept. 7.

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# KCCLA exhibition explores traditional Korean craft

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles, in collaboration with Seoul Museum of Craft Art, presents “The Drawings of Mother-of-Pearl Inlay Artisans,” a special exhibition on view through Oct. 10 at KCCLA.

The exhibition is part of the Touring K-Arts program, jointly planned by the two institutions with support from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Korea Foundation for International Cultural Exchange. It introduces U.S. audiences to the beauty and value of Najeonchilgi – Korea’s signature traditional craft, preserved and passed down for over 1,000 years since the Goryeo Dynasty.

Najeonchilgi, or mother-of-pearl inlay, combines the delicate iridescence of inlaid shell with the precision of lacquer craftsmanship. It was designated as Korea’s National Intangible Cultural Heritage No. 10 in 1966. In contemporary Korea, master artisans continue to practice and pass on the time-honored technique, keeping alive one of Korea’s most treasured cultural legacies.

Focusing on artisans who modernized the craft and contemporary artists carrying on their lineage, the exhibition highlights how the tradition has evolved and adapted over time. By spotlighting the “design drawings” – the blueprints and starting points of each work – the exhibition offers visitors a rare glimpse into the craftsmanship and artistic sensibility behind the finished pieces.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Seoul Museum of Craft Art Director Kim Soo-jung will give a lecture titled “Korean Mother-of-Pearl Inlay Craft,” providing local American audiences and the Korean American community with a deeper understanding and appreciation of this iconic heritage. The program will explore the history of Najeonchilgi from the Goryeo era to the present, situating it within a global context while introducing the creative practices of contemporary artisans.

“This exhibition, beginning in Los Angeles and traveling on to Ottawa, Canada, will serve as an important opportunity to promote the excellence and creativity of Korean traditional crafts across North America,” KCCLA Director Haedon Lee said. “We hope more people will experience both the history and present-day artistry of Najeonchilgi, and that this will broaden cultural exchange through the arts.”

“This special exhibition introduces six master artisans who pioneered the modernization of Najeonchilgi by incorporating modern design concepts and improving tools, leading to the industrialization and popularization of the craft,” Seoul Museum of Craft Art Director Kim Soo-jung said. “We hope audiences will gain a deeper appreciation of the artisans’ creative process, their challenges and their dedication to their craft.”

An opening ceremony for “The Drawings of Mother-of-Pearl Inlay Artisans” will be held on Thursday, Aug. 21, at 6 p.m. at KCCLA, 5500 Wilshire Blvd. Exhibition tours are available. For information, visit [kccla.org](http://kccla.org).



photo courtesy of KCCLA

“Drawing of Landscape” by Jeon Seong-gyu is among the works featured in the new exhibition.

# Harold and Carole Pump Foundation gala raises \$2.8 million

On Aug. 15 at the Beverly Hilton, the Harold and Carole Pump Foundation hosted its 25th Anniversary Celebrity Dinner honoring Aaron Donald, Barry Bonds, Spike Lee and Wayne Gretzky with the Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as Reggie McKnight and



photo by Tiffany Rose

Filmmaker Spike Lee received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Harold and Carole Pump Foundation on Aug. 15.

R.J. Melman with the Humanitarian Award. The milestone evening raised more than \$2.8 million in support of the foundation’s mission to advance cancer treatment and fund critical programs.

The star-studded event captivated guests with a show-stopping performance by Grammy-nominated artist and producer Robin Thicke and featured one-of-a-kind items during the signature silent and live auctions, including coveted sports memorabilia, luxurious travel experiences and VIP tickets to world-class events.

“As an honoree, I have a lot of trophies and I want to present something. The Lifetime Achievement goes to someone more special than me,” Bonds said. “My mother has always been there for us – she’s the one that took me to Little League and made me go play baseball. She never asked for anything. We all got trophies, we all got awards and my mom never wanted to be in the front seat. So this trophy, mom, has your name on it and the only person in our family that’s been a lifetime achievement person is you.”

“Twenty-five years ago, I made a promise to my late father that my brother and I would try to make a difference in our community – not through words, but through actions.

Tonight, my heart is full. We’ve taken so many steps to get here, and both Dana and I, along with our family, are very appreciative of everyone here to support us,” said David Pump, co-founder of the Harold and Carole Pump Foundation.

Additional celebrity guests in attendance included Cedric the Entertainer, Johnny Gill, Jon Lovitz, Jonathan Majors, Judge Greg Mathis, Mario Lopez, Meagan Good, Mike Tyson, Sammy Sosa, Shaquille O’Neal, Steve Garvey, Storm Reid and Sugar Ray Leonard.

For information, visit [harold-pumpfoundation.com](http://harold-pumpfoundation.com).

VINTAGE  
PARKLABREA NEWS

Local PAC joins political leaders in Washington, D.C.

Howard Winkler, second from right, and Stanley Treitel, right, directors of the Jewish Political Action Committee, were joined at a reception in Washington, D.C. by President Bill Clinton, left, and then-California gubernatorial candidate Gray Davis in this photograph in the Aug. 6, 1998, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Winkler and Treitel attended a reception that year in the nation’s capital at the home of then-Congresswoman Jane Harman, where candidates discussed the state governor’s race. Davis was elected as California governor in November 1998 and served through 2003.

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PARKLABREA NEWS

SEPTEMBER, 2025



# It’s not too late to embrace ‘KPop Demon Hunters’

■ This international phenom is worth all the hype

Imagine you’re Sony. You’ve got this animated film with a silly working title. The pitch: A trio of K-pop stars fight demons. So it’s a fantasy musical cartoon. Somebody got cold feet, opted out of a standard theatrical run and sold the \$100 million production to Netflix for \$20 million.

COVID sure made the bigwigs anxious about the movie experience, which is a shame because “KPop Demon Hunters” is a massive hit with both fans and critics. More so, several songs from the soundtrack currently sit atop Billboard charts. Two more animated films and a live-action adapta-

tion are on the horizon.

No film with the name “KPop Demon Hunters” should be this good, right? But anything’s possible with good writing and a dedicated creative team. This one’s so impressive, so lasting, that it’s hard to imagine a better animated feature premiering this year, and maybe next either.

It’s a crying shame to rob this one of a big-screen release. Luckily, Netflix agrees. While the film dropped in June, it will finally reach theaters this weekend for special sing-along screenings. (Many are already sold out, but like any half-demon should know, there’s always hope. Don’t worry. More showings could follow.)

“Demon Hunter” packs more catchy songs than the average Disney flick (this is not an exagger-

## ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

ation), features brilliant animation (it’s the same studio as both “Spider-Verse” films and “The Mitchells vs. the Machines”), sharp humor and heart – so much heart. This is the perfect film for any audience, so expect children, tweens, teens, young adults and plenty of parents gracing these showings (after a week of rewatching this one at home daily in preparation).

Are you hyped? You should be. But if you’re not sold, here’s a bit more of the plot itself. K-pop trio Huntr/x are riding high. Beloved by droves of fans. Enjoying their work and BFF dynamic. They’re also incredibly effective demon slayers thanks to ancestors who used their voices and choice magical blades to slice up supernatural threats all around.

Perhaps the film’s one weakness is the first two minutes. Exposition brings the story to a halt before it even begins. But that brief history hilariously contrasts how unheroic the trio appears. They would much rather sing, scarf down ramen and relax on their couch.

The demons are quite frustrated until a demon named Jinu (Ahn



photo courtesy of Netflix

“KPop Demon Hunters” is the animated hit of summer, with brilliant animation, sharp humor and loads of heart.



photo courtesy of Netflix

Demon boy band Saja Boys hypnotize fans in “KPop Demon Hunters.”

# Christopher Nolan films return to the big screen at Fine Arts Theatre

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills presents a miniseries of early Christopher Nolan films during Labor Day Weekend.

The series begins on Friday, Aug. 29, at 7:15 p.m. with “Memento,” followed by “Insomnia” at 9:50 p.m. “Batman Begins” will be shown on Aug. 30 at 2 p.m. followed by “The Dark Knight” at 5:15 p.m. and “The Dark Knight Rises” at 9 p.m.

Nolan is considered to be among the greatest contemporary directors by many viewers. He is known for the use of high-quality film stock such as IMAX and Panavision 70 mm, and prefers using real sets, stunts and locations over CGI, creating a sense of realism. Nolan’s films often feature complex timelines, interwoven storylines and philosophical themes. His earlier films are thought to be best experi-

enced in theaters due to their immersive and cinematic qualities, which are enhanced by the big screen, sound system and shared experience of watching with an audience. The films also feature visual techniques that benefit from the clarity and detail provided by a theater setting.

The Second Sunday 70 mm Plus Film Series is also playing at the Fine Arts Theatre. “Oppenheimer” will be shown on Sept 14 at 2 p.m., and future films in the series will be shown at 2 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month through December. Tickets are \$10 for the Second Sunday series.

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills is located at 8556 Wilshire Blvd. General admission tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children. For information, and tickets, visit [fineartstheatrebh.com](http://fineartstheatrebh.com).



photo by Edwin Folven

“Memento” and “Insomnia” will be shown on Aug. 29, followed by “Batman Begins,” “The Dark Knight” and “The Dark Knight Rises” on Aug. 30.



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# El Capitan gets ‘Tangled’

Two fan favorites return to the big screen for exclusive one-night screenings at the El Capitan Theatre. “The Parent Trap” will be shown on Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the exclusive screening are \$16 and include a Disney+ Throwback Mystery Pin.



photo courtesy of © 2025 Disney. All Rights Reserved

“Tangled” and “The Parent Trap” come to the big screen at the El Capitan Theatre in late August.

“Tangled” will be shown Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. and will feature a special Q&A session with director Byron Howard. Two special packages are available for the screening.

A general ticket is \$30 and includes a reserved seat and event credential

An adventure pack ticket is \$80 and includes a reserved seat, priority entry, “Tangled” Zoetrope Vinyl, popcorn, fountain drink and event credential.

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

# ‘Hamilton’ plays the El Capitan Theatre

For the first time beginning Sept. 5, guests can see “Hamilton” on the big screen. The special engagement of the film features a pre-recorded roundtable cast conversation. A fan event screening will take place on Sept. 5 and there are two special packages for the screening.

A general ticket is \$20 and includes a reserved seat and event credential. A founder’s pack ticket is \$50 and includes a reserved seat, priority entry, acrylic cup, popcorn, fountain drink and event credential.

Daily showtimes for “Hamilton”

from Sept. 5-11 are 11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Each showtime will have a ten minute intermission and tickets are \$16 for all ages.



photo courtesy of Lin-Manuel Miranda and Nevis Productions, LLC

A recording of the hit Broadway musical “Hamilton” will play in movie theaters in September, including the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood.



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## State parks system expands ways for students to explore nature

As California students begin a new journey in the classroom this school year, they can also embark on an adventure exploring the nation’s largest state park system.

First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and California State Parks are working to share free, innovative ways students can experience the wonder of the state’s natural beauty and rich cultural history in person, in the classroom and online.

Through free pass programs spearheaded by Newsom’s Outdoors for All initiative, as well as interactive educational programs streamed directly into classrooms, students have endless possibilities to explore state parks. The California State Park Adventure Pass gives California fourth graders attending public school and their

families a free pass to access 54 state parks. Incoming fourth graders should sign up on or after Sept. 1 for a full year of access.

A California State Library Parks Pass provides free day-use entry to more than 200 participating state parks. Approximately 33,000 passes are available to be checked out by library-card holders at approximately 1,100 public library branches.

The PORTS (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students) Program provides a suite of digital resources and lessons, including live interactive virtual programs that connect classrooms directly with state parks throughout California. Adventures in Learning, a newly revamped online portal, promotes lifelong learning with easy access to interpretive pro-

grams and educational resources. Teachers interested in taking classes on an in-person field trip to a state park can use the webpage to find contacts and information.

“Every child – no matter their zip code or background – deserves to experience and learn about the wonders of Mother Nature. The California State Parks PORTS program makes our parks more accessible for all kids and is helping create the next generation of climate stewards, through environmental education programs for K-12 teachers, health professionals and librarians across the state. Being in nature and understanding and protecting our stunning natural environment is just part of what it means to be a Californian – and one of the best parts of growing up here. Thank you to the parks staff who make this all possible and who do so much to create community and safe havens for us all,” Siebel Newsom said.

“State parks are open spaces and



photo courtesy of California State Parks

The PORTS Program allows students to visit state parks without leaving classrooms.

historic sites that belong to all of you. We’re working to ensure these parks are welcoming and accessible for everyone,” State Parks Director Armando Quintero said. “As a new school year begins, it’s the perfect time to start a new adventure in one

of California’s 280 state parks. With free pass programs and virtual learning opportunities, there are no limits to where your educational and family adventures can go.”

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

## Students given greater access to literacy resources

Families In Schools has launched Read LA! on the ReachWell app to provide carefully curated curriculum-aligned early literacy tools and resources to families across Los Angeles.

The app makes content available by age group and grade in more than 130 languages without requiring families to create an account or share personal information. Read LA! is advancing its core campaign goal of getting 70% of Los Angeles Unified School District students to read proficiently by the end of third grade by 2030.

Read LA! will bring early literacy information and activities to families through the app to equip parents and caregivers with the tools needed to support children’s literacy at home and advocate for them at school. The focus on equipping parents to support their children’s literacy development follows Families In Schools’ support for legislation that addresses improved literacy instruction in classrooms. Only 43% of Los Angeles third graders are currently reading at grade level.

“While improving classroom

instruction is at the crux of improving reading outcomes for children, we know that engaging and equipping families to be strong partners in their children’s education is a powerful driver for literacy success,” said Yolie Flores, president and CEO of Families In Schools. “We’re excited to partner with ReachWell because we know families want access to information and guidance to ensure their children can read. They want to do everything in their power to help their children be successful in school and in life.”

The Read LA! app was developed with direct input from parents and caregivers, focus groups, coalition partners and literacy ambassadors, ensuring trusted, carefully curated early literacy resources are available to families. The app also shares important news and resources from FIS, the Read LA! Coalition and partners.

“Our mission at ReachWell is equitable community engagement. We designed the most accessible tool out there because everyone has a right to access information and resources easily,” ReachWell CEO and founder Zuben Bastani said. “I know how critical Read LA! is in the community, and we are so excited they have chosen to join ReachWell.”

For information, visit [familiesinschools.org/read-la](https://familiesinschools.org/read-la).



photo courtesy of Families In Schools

LAUSD Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, third from left, joined Assemblywoman Tina McKinnor, fourth from right, and Families In Schools representatives to launch the program.

## ‘Extra Yard Makeover’ brings new digital media center

The College Football Playoff Foundation, School Specialty and the Los Angeles Unified School District unveiled a new digital media center and library on Aug. 15 at Bancroft Middle School in Hollywood. The new learning space, designed by School Specialty, features new technology and resources including art supplies, a smart board, art stations and teaching area.

Bancroft Middle School is the 83rd school nationally to benefit from the CFP Foundation and School Specialty’s Extra Yard Makeover program, and the seventh within the Los Angeles Unified School District. The CFP Foundation’s Extra Yard Makeover program upgrades K-12

learning spaces, supporting teachers and investing in educator resources. The initiative extends the legacy work from the 2023 College Football Playoff National Championship in

Los Angeles, played at SoFi Stadium.

Bancroft Middle School is located at 929 N. Las Palmas Ave. For information, visit [lausd.net](https://lausd.net).



photo courtesy of the LAUSD

Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho cut the ribbon at the opening of a new digital media center and library at Bancroft Middle School on Aug. 15.

## Rosewood STEM Magnet students excited about new school year

Rosewood STEM Magnet, Urban Planning and Urban Design welcomed students to campus on the first day of school on Aug. 14 with balloons, cheers and excitement.

As an urban planning and urban design magnet school, Rosewood offers a variety of programs to inspire and engage students in transitional kindergarten to 5th grade. The Los Angeles Unified School District campus offers a full-time music teacher and orchestra program, a makerspace, mindfulness lab, science lab, garden teacher and dance programs.

Rosewood STEM Magnet, Urban Planning and Urban Design

is located at 503 N. Croft Ave. For information, call (323)651-0166.



photo courtesy of Rosewood STEM Magnet

Students received a special welcome when they arrived on campus at Rosewood STEM Magnet, Urban Planning and Urban Design.



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## Television Academy unveils college curriculum

The Television Academy Foundation announced on Aug. 14 a first-of-its-kind college curriculum based on the celebrated online archive, The Interviews: An Oral History of Television, which offers an unprecedented academic experience for students directly from Hollywood’s greatest creative minds and history-making trailblazers. The materials are now available to colleges and universities nationwide.

Recognizing the evolving learning preferences of today’s video and digitally oriented students, the foundation has adapted the unparalleled archive into a comprehensive, 16-week three-credit semester-long course. The innovative college-level program delves into the multifaceted world of television and integrates decades of first-person

accounts from television’s most influential creators, talent and executives into structured, video-based academic coursework.

Built around the nonprofit foundation’s acclaimed collection of over 950 in-depth video interviews, which continues to grow annually through philanthropic gifts and grants, the meticulously curated course materials were created to enhance and reinforce learning. The program focuses on the history, evolution and impact of television, covering major events, technological transitions and cultural influences and concludes with a thesis on television’s future amid emerging technologies and societal changes.

Interview subjects in the digital library include Debbie Allen, Steven Bocho, Anthony Bourdain,

Bernie Brillstein, Carol Burnett, Mark Burnett, Ken Burns, George Carlin, Diahan Carroll, RuPaul Charles, Connie Chung, Walter Cronkite, Billy Crystal, Richard Donner, Edie Falco and Whoopi Goldberg.

“This archive captures the voices that shaped television history, and now it’s helping shape the next generation,” said Tina Perry, chair of the Television Academy Foundation. “We’re proud to bring this powerful resource into the classroom and give students the chance to learn directly from the creators and trailblazers who defined the medium.”

“This initiative bridges the gap between history and hands-on learning with a cutting-edge, multimedia format,” television executive Dick Robertson said. “By transforming this vast archival collection into a dynamic, video-centric educational tool, the foundation is meeting students where they are – on screens – and delivering lessons through the medium they consume most.”

Colleges and universities interested in bringing The Interviews course to students can contact mediaeducators@televisionacademy.com for more information.

A preview of the curriculum will also be available to professors attending the Foundation’s annual Media Educators Conference from Oct. 22-24. To register, visit televisionacademy.com/media-educators/register



photo courtesy of Virginia Commonwealth University

The course, based on interviews from the Television Academy, will be available at the Robertson School of Communication at Virginia Commonwealth University.

## ‘GO PLAY!’ to play Odyssey Theatre

Pageant Productions announced the full cast and creative team for the world premiere of “GO PLAY!”, written and directed by award-winning writer Barra Grant. The play follows three dog owners and their dogs as they illuminate the complex, hilarious and poignant relationship between humans and their canine companions. Performances run from Sept. 13-Nov. 2 with the official opening on Sept. 20. The limited engagement will take place at the Odyssey Theatre.

“GO PLAY!” is a poignant comedy about three strangers and their dogs meeting for the first time at a dog park. The flamboyant show poodle, pampered Yorkie and scrappy rescue have plenty to say behind their clueless owners’ backs and often make more sense than they do. As the humans fumble through personal crises and unexpected con-

nections, their four-legged sidekicks watch – and comment – on it all.

“What wonderful actors we’ve found to bring our terrific characters to life in ‘GO PLAY!’,” playwright and director Barra Grant said. “Our canine cast members bring such heart and personality to their roles, you’d think they were born wagging their tails on stage. And the bond between our human and dog characters feels so real, it’s like watching old friends reunite. The Odyssey Theatre is turning into a great dog park and we can’t wait to make Los Angeles audiences laugh.”

The cast of “GO PLAY!” includes Ralph Cole as Tyrell, Janine Venable as Yorkie, Scott Golden as Multi-role man, Chris Schellenger as Poodle, Susan Huckle as Rose, Lisa Joffrey as Arlene and Peter Pasco as Mutt.

In addition to Grant, the creative team for “GO PLAY!” includes set and sound design by Jerry Buszek, costume design by Lisa Lupo, lighting design by Bosco Flanagan and casting by Michael Donovan.

For tickets and information, visit goplayonstage.com. The Odyssey Theatre is located at 2055 Sepulveda Blvd.



photo courtesy of Barra Grant

Barra Grant’s “GO PLAY!” will play at the Odyssey Theatre in September.

## Grants available for teachers with innovative projects

California Credit Union Foundation encourages Los Angeles County teachers who have an innovative class project idea to apply for a teacher grant. Ten grants of \$500 each will be awarded to teachers this fall through the program.

California Credit Union Foundation’s grant program is available to full-time teachers and credit union members teaching in California who are looking to fund special learning opportunities for students. Projects should have clearly defined learning objectives

tied to students’ academic needs, display creativity and benefit a significant number of students.

“Supporting education is a key focus of our Foundation’s mission,” California Credit Union Foundation president Marvel Ford said. “Through our teacher grant program, we’re proud to help bring innovative classroom ideas to life – projects that spark learning, creativity and connection for students. We invite local teachers to apply and share how we can help turn their great ideas into meaningful experiences for their students.”

Since the program was created in 2012, \$215,000 in teacher grants have been awarded to projects benefiting students across Southern California. The spring grant program funded a wide range of projects such as creating a forensic science project, supporting fourth grade student entrepreneurs in creating and marketing products and expanding a horticulture club with California native plants.

The application deadline is Sept. 29. For information and to apply, visit ccu.com/teachergrant.

## Students return to Immaculate Heart for its 120th school year

Immaculate Heart Middle and High School welcomed students back to campus on Aug. 13, marking the start of the 120th school year. Since 1906, Immaculate Heart has remained dedicated to empowering women, preparing generations to lead with intellect, integrity and compassion.

President Maureen Diekmann, an alumna herself, said the 120th year marks a significant milestone.

“This anniversary is a testament to our enduring mission and to the remarkable women who first established our school. For more than a century, Immaculate Heart has been a place where young women discover their strengths, grow in confidence and prepare to contribute meaningfully to the world,” Diekmann said.

The new school year began with exciting highlights, including the varsity volleyball team’s trip to Maui for the Pueo Invitational Tournament, a celebration of skill, sportsmanship and school spirit on an international stage. On campus, students are engaging in rigorous

college preparatory academics that foster intellectual curiosity and leadership, while deepening their faith through reflection, service and cherished school traditions.

Immaculate Heart High school Principal Naemah Morris and middle school Principal Gina Finer, both alumnae, encouraged students to embrace the year ahead with courage, curiosity and hope, balancing focus in the classroom with moments of fun, friendship and an emphasis on building community.


As Immaculate Heart embarks on this landmark year, it honors the school’s storied past while looking ahead to a future filled with possibility. Through a vibrant blend of academics, faith, athletics and creativity, the school continues to inspire and prepare young women in sixth through 12th grades to make a lasting difference in the world.

The school is located at 5515 Franklin Ave. For information, visit immaculateheart.org.




photo courtesy of Immaculate Heart

Immaculate Heart Middle and High School were eager to see friends and embark on a year of academics and opportunities.



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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 Aug. 10 and Aug. 16. 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

### Aug. 10

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 1100 block of Hillcrest at 3:58 a.m.

At 7:50 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of N. Crescent at 7:51 a.m.

At 4:13 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Olympic and Elm.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 100 block of Oakhurst at 6 p.m.

At 7:51 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of N. Crescent.

### Aug. 11

At 12:31 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Maple and Wilshire at 11:50 a.m.

At 1 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of N. Crescent.

### Aug. 12

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 6:45 p.m.

### Aug. 13

At 12:23 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 400 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of S. Rexford at 10:40 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 700 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 9100 block of Wilshire at 4:50 p.m.

### Aug. 14

At 5:25 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 9100 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9600 block of Olympic at 5:45 a.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole auto parts in the 400 block of S. Maple.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Charleville and McCarty at 8:53 p.m.

### Aug. 15

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence

of alcohol or drugs in the 9100 block of Third at 6:44 a.m.

At 12:35 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

### Aug. 16

At 8:31 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Rodeo at 12:59 p.m.

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

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near Santa Monica and Cañon at 9:08 p.m.

## West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

### Aug. 10

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 900 block of N. San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 1:37 a.m.

At 5:46 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of Westbourne.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. San Vicente at 9:45 a.m.

At 11:29 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and San Vicente.

### Aug. 11

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 9000 block of Sunset. Another vehicle burglary was reported in the same area at 2:30 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7300 block of Santa Monica at 5:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8200 block of Fountain at 8:30 p.m.

At 9:20 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1000 block of Orange Grove.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7300 block of Santa Monica at 10 p.m.

### Aug. 12

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

### Aug. 13

At 5:11 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7500 block of Hampton.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7500 block of Lexington at 5:11 p.m.

# Settlement reached in consumer protection lawsuit

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman announced on Aug. 18 that HelloFresh, the world’s largest meal kit delivery company, has been ordered to pay \$7.5 million to settle a civil lawsuit alleging the company violated California’s Automatic Renewal Law by deceptively enrolling consumers into auto-renewing subscription plans without proper disclosure or consent.

The lawsuit, jointly led by the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Consumer Protection Division and the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office, alleged that HelloFresh misled consumers into ongoing subscription charges without adequate notice or authorization.

“No company, no matter how big or well-known, is exempt from California’s consumer protection laws,” Hochman said.

“We will aggressively pursue enforcement when businesses take advantage of consumers by failing to clearly disclose subscription terms, obtain proper consent or provide a fair way to cancel. Consumers have a right to know what they’re signing up for, and they deserve better. Digital deception is still deception under the law.”

The civil complaint alleged that HelloFresh failed to clearly and conspicuously disclose its subscription terms before collecting payment; obtain consumers’ consent before charging their credit or debit cards; provide a post-transaction acknowledgment containing the material terms of the subscription; and offer an easy-to-use mechanism for cancellation. Consumers were unknowingly enrolled in ongoing payment plans that were difficult to terminate, prosecutors said.

The case is part of an ongoing series of investigations conducted by the California Automatic Renewal Task Force, known as CART, which was established by the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office in 2015 to address rising consumer complaints about subscription-based fraud.

Under the final judgment, signed on Aug. 18 by Judge Daniel T. Nishigaya, HelloFresh was ordered to pay \$6.38 million in civil penalties divided among the prosecuting agencies, \$120,000 in investigative costs and \$1 million in restitution to be distributed to eligible California consumers.

HelloFresh, which occupies approximately 75% of the U.S. meal kit delivery market, is headquartered in Germany. The company did not admit liability in the settlement.

# Virtual hearings extended to mental health court cases

Los Angeles County Superior Court has expanded the use of LACourtConnect, the court’s updated free remote courtroom appearance technology, to all mental health courtrooms. The transition marks the next phase in the court’s efforts to streamline and modernize remote access to court proceedings.

Litigants and attorneys appearing remotely in mental health matters must use LACC to access hearings.

Webex will no longer be used for remote appearances in the courtrooms.

LACC offers a free, simplified and modernized platform that enables court users to appear remotely using Microsoft Teams without the need for advanced registration. To appear remotely, users must visit the LACC welcome page, select Mental Health as their litigation type and search for a hear-

ing by case number, calendar or name.

Key features of LACC include same-day check-in, platform consistency and a streamlined experience using Microsoft Teams offered across all supported devices. Once checked in, users will receive a Microsoft Teams link to join the courtroom’s virtual meeting room.

For information, visit lacourt.ca.gov.

### Aug. 14

At 2:09 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1400 block of N. Harper.

### Aug. 15

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 7500 block of Santa Monica at

12:05 a.m.

At 7 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Havenhurst.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 500 block of N. La Cienega at 12:30 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 900

block of N. Spaulding.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7700 block of Santa Monica at 11:50 p.m.

### Aug. 16

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Sunset.

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# Council resolution opposes SB 79

From page 1

Sacramento trying to take local control away from us? No one knows the city of Los Angeles more than the local leaders that represent it.”

The resolution was supported by Lee, Park and Councilmembers Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District; Heather Hutt, 10th District; Ysabel Jurado, 14th District; Tim McOsker, 15th District; Imelda Padilla, 6th District; and Monica Rodriguez, 7th District.

“I want housing density, but I don’t believe that SB 79 in its current form gets us there in a way that is smart or responsible,” Yaroslavsky said. “It’s a blanket approach that overrides the targeted, context-sensitive local planning tools we have just implemented here in Los Angeles. Our housing process is not going to be solved by one piece of legislation, which is why we’re still working to eliminate barriers to housing construction. We’re working to fix our broken permitting process that takes way too long, where departments don’t get out of their own way. We’re modernizing our building codes with policies like single staircase reform. These policies matter, and they’re going to make a real difference, but these conversations should be happening here in Los Angeles and not in Sacramento.”

Councilmembers Hugo Soto-

Martinez, 13th District; Nithya Raman, 4th District; Eunisses Hernandez, 1st District; Curren Price, 9th District; and Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District; opposed the resolution. Prior to the vote, Harris-Dawson called for the motion to be sent back to committee for more consideration, but a majority of council members were eager to weigh-in on SB 79. Raman said she supported sending it back for more consideration because there is a dire need for more affordable housing and the state law would create opportunities for more housing to be built.

“I will be voting against this unilateral ‘oppose’ resolution, not because I am in agreement with the design of SB 79 in its current form in totality, but our housing crisis is too dire for us not to engage constructively with this bill and its goals, which is to build more housing near transit, which L.A. does not currently do in adequate amounts,” Raman said. “We have not been responsible with our efforts to really spur housing growth, which I believe is the biggest problem facing Los Angeles over the near term. And until we demonstrate that responsibility locally, I am going to oppose any effort that doesn’t engage constructively on these questions.”

“The majority of people in Los Angeles want to see more housing. They want to see those projects being built with as much affordable as possible. And I myself want to see those projects being built and make sure that they have labor standards,” Soto-Martinez said. “Either you are going to be part of the solution, or you are going to impede progress. But whatever the council decides, we have to respect that decision.”

Mayor Karen Bass signed the resolution on Aug. 20.

Wiener continues to call for the housing solutions he believes will come with SB 79. He said the law will increase transit ridership, reduce traffic congestion and help the state meet climate goals while providing avenues for sorely needed affordable housing. A spokesman for Wiener said the next major update on SB 79 will likely be announced on Aug. 29, when the Assembly Appropriations Committee makes a decision on whether to advance the bill to the Assembly floor.

“Sadly, we’re seeing significant misinformation being spread about SB 79, including in Los Angeles. [The] vote by the City Council happened without the benefit of a public hearing, which would have allowed an opportunity to dispel that misinformation. SB 79 is a narrow and focused bill, and it applies



photo by Edwin Folven

SB 79 would allow higher density around locations with transit stations, such as the new subway station at Wilshire/La Brea.

only around high frequency rail and subway lines and rapid bus service with physically separated lanes. Regular bus service is not included in the bill,” Wiener said in a statement. “Opponents of SB 79 are offering no real solutions to address our housing shortage at the scale needed to make housing more affordable. California’s affordability crisis threatens our economy, our diversity and our fundamental strength as a state. SB 79 is an urgently needed piece of legislation, and I, along with a huge coalition that includes major Los Angeles organizations such as the Inner City Law Center, Streets For

All and Abundant Housing LA, will continue to fight for it.”

Many homeowners associations and neighborhood groups oppose SB 79 and were pleased to see the Los Angeles City Council take a stand.

“I’m thankful to the council for passing the resolution. It’s long overdue,” said Sam Uretsky, founder and president of Larchmont United Neighborhood Association. “SB 79 would decimate neighborhoods as we know them. It would take away all city and community control. It’s a gross overreach by the state that must not be allowed to pass.”

# Beverly Hills OKs bonds for luxury project

From page 1

1 a.m. and the City Council ultimately voted unanimously to approve the creation of the CFD and future issuance of bonds.

“We are pleased the city has taken this important step toward establishing a Community Facilities District, a key part of the public improvements for the One Beverly Hills project,” said Larry Green, development managing director for Cain International, in a statement. “This unanimous vote reflects not only the strong partnership between Cain and the city of Beverly Hills, but also the incredible support of the community that made this milestone possible.”

The One Beverly Hills project, an expansive 17.5-acre redevelopment next to the Beverly Hilton between Wilshire Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard, includes two new condo towers at 412 and 453 feet tall and the luxury Aman hotel, which will be 124 feet tall. Approximately 10 acres of open landscaped areas, with four acres reserved for condo residents and 4.5 acres open to the public, contribute to the green space. Additional features include a conference center, retail and dining space and the renovation of The Beverly Hilton hotel. The project was approved by the former City Council on June 8, 2021, in a 4-1 vote, with Councilman John Mirisch voting against it. While most City Council members lauded the project for its transformative vision, Mirisch argued that the project did not provide enough benefits to residents, and took issue with the lack of affordable housing. The project is expected to be completed in 2028.

The city will now establish a Community Facilities District on the property site. According to Beverly Hills Director of Finance

Jeff Muir, a CFD is “a public financing tool authorized under the state’s Mello-Roos Act that allows for the funding of specific public infrastructure and services through special taxes on the properties that directly benefit ... The special tax is only levied on the properties in the district.”

**“The fact that we were able to come to this agreement ... Now I do feel very comfortable that this is a good deal.”**

-Beverly Hills City Councilman John Mirisch

The planned CFD includes parcels that will contain the Beverly Hilton, conference center, Aman hotel and condominium towers. It does not include the adjacent Waldorf Astoria hotel, Los Angeles Country Club, El Rodeo Elementary School or other properties nearby.

The city will issue up to \$550 million in bonds to finance the project that will be repaid through the taxes levied within the CFD. The exact bonds issued to the project will be determined closer to completion.

“The ‘not-to-exceed’ bond authorization of \$550 million provides a conservative ceiling, giving the project flexibility for future market conditions while the developer’s actual target for net proceeds is approximately \$260 million,” Muir said.

Muir emphasized that the bonds will be repaid solely by special taxes levied on the properties within

the CFD boundaries. The taxes will be based on residential and non-residential square footage and be paid by property owners, including future condo owners.

Additionally, the developer agreed to a \$15 million contribution toward future public facilities improvements to be made in conjunction with the issuance of bonds, and a yearly environmental mitigation fee paid to the city that is collected through the resale of condominium units.

The action received opposition and support from community members at the public hearing on Aug. 19.

“Invoking the Mello-Roos CFD to justify this bond is misleading and disingenuous. The project primarily benefits private, luxury interests with minimal public benefit. One Beverly [Hills] does nothing to address our present dire needs for affordable housing. The proposed eight acres of public gardens are divided. Only 4.5 acres are open to the public. The rest is private, hardly worthy of issuing a massive bond,” resident Gay Abrams said.

Todd Johnson, CEO of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, supported the issuance of bonds on behalf of the chamber.

“The One Beverly [Hills] project is going to bring millions of dollars to the city. We want and need this project to support our police, our fire and the other services we’ve grown accustomed to, as well as support a world-class project for this city,” Johnson said.

Although Vice Mayor John Mirisch voted against the project in 2021 and initially indicated that he would oppose the issuance of bonds, he voted in favor of the bonds on Aug. 19. He stated that he believes the agreement benefits

Beverly Hills after the developer accepted increasing the annual environmental mitigation and sustainability fee paid to the city, which is a fee paid to offset potential negative impacts the project may have. The fee, collected upon resale of condominium units, will now total 2% of the unit’s total price.

“The fact that we were able to come to this agreement ... Now I do feel very comfortable that this is a good deal,” Mirisch said. “Recurring revenue for the city is the best form of revenue.”

Mayor Sharon Nazarian expressed confidence in the city’s action.

“Beverly Hills is not in the business of creating risk for the residents. This CFD does not place any

liability on the city, our residents or the general fund. The bonds are paid solely by the property owners who benefit from this project. If a developer defaults, it is not the city that is left holding the bag. Our credit rating remains untouched, our city remains secure,” Nazarian said. “This is not something we normally do. Our city is built out. CFDs are typically seen in rural areas where hundreds of acres are being developed. But this project is unlike any other. It sits at the gateway of our city. Every day it remains unfinished, not only do the developers lose millions of dollars in carrying costs, our city loses potential revenue that would benefit our residents, our infrastructure and our public safety.”

# Stuart sues Beverly Hills

From page 3

only after the city denied our claim for damages for the significant injuries sustained,” Stuart’s attorney Barry Novack said. “The city failed to place available K-rails on the sidewalk in a position to protect against vehicles colliding with pedestrians thereby creating a foreseeable and preventable dangerous condition.”

The lawsuit demands that the city pay an undisclosed amount of money that includes Stuart’s medical expenses that resulted from the accident, “general damages” and the cost of the lawsuit.

Beverly Hills City Attorney Laurence Wiener responded to the lawsuit on behalf of the city.

“We are very sorry about the accident that Mr. Stuart was involved in last November. It was an unfortunate incident where a suspect involved in a nearby carjacking jumped the

curb and struck Mr. Stuart with his vehicle,” Wiener said. “However, Mr. Stuart’s allegation that the city should have K-rail at every intersection to prevent this type of accident is unreasonable.”

In a November 2024 interview, Stuart said he was attending the “Rodeo Nights, Holiday Lights” event with his wife and 6-year-old daughter. As he was taking his dog home from the event, he stopped to buy his daughter a balloon at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Camden Drive.

“I already had the balloon in my hand. I heard a screech of tires and turned my head slightly, saw a very large object next to me and I literally went blank. The next thing I remember I was at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center with one of the Beverly Hills firemen,” Stuart said.



# WeHo explores options for Fountain Ave.

From page 1

hit-and-run on the street. Ackerman’s death reignited impassioned debate among residents about the need to slow traffic and implement bike lanes on Fountain Avenue. The meeting was attended by every member of the West Hollywood City Council and Mayor Chelsea Byers made brief introductory remarks, commending the community turnout.

Chris Corrao, West Hollywood senior transportation planner and Fountain Avenue’s project manager, presented an update on the different phases of the project. Phase 1, set to be approved at the Sept. 15 council meeting, includes reducing travel lanes from four to two, eliminating peak-hour parking restrictions, removing on-street parking on the north side of the street and implementing a protected bike lane. Phase 2 of the plan includes widening sidewalks and upgrading curb ramps and will be implemented by a broadened steering committee. The current Fountain Avenue Streetscape Project steering committee includes nine West Hollywood community members and members of various city commissions.

Corrao said the project aims to transform Fountain Avenue, which currently sees approximately 35,000 trips everyday, into “the residential street that it was in the

1960s.” The comment was met with laughs and jeers from the crowd.

Community members expressed outrage at the proposed parking losses and claimed the redesign would significantly increase traffic on Fountain Avenue and on Santa Monica and Sunset boulevards. Others urgently called on the council to approve the plan, citing a desperate need to protect bicyclists and pedestrians.

Mike Greenfield, who has lived on Fountain Avenue for decades, said the project’s impact on traffic would be catastrophic and he will pursue legal action against the city if it is approved.

“This is the most maddening thing – I had no idea it was going to get to this,” he said to raucous applause throughout the room. “Do you have any idea what’s going to happen to Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood and Santa Monica Boulevard? Total lunacy.”

West Hollywood resident Lynn White expressed concerns over the project’s impact on parking, trash pickup and emergency services if the street is reduced to only two lanes of traffic.

“Continually, we have been asking very viable questions with no viable solutions about the parking,” she said. “Where do people go?”

However, the project team met

with West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station representatives and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, who informed the city that they would be able to respond to all emergencies along Fountain Avenue with the proposed changes, Corrao said.

Lesley O’Toole, co-chair of the Spaulding Square Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, said the project’s proposed removal of 210 parking spaces would “devastate” her community, leading to people parking in her neighborhood – which is located just north of Fountain Avenue in L.A.

Alex Silberman, a West Hollywood resident, said the potential lives saved by implementing measures to slow drivers on Fountain Avenue outweighs the potential increase in traffic.

“We have seen cars slam into buildings. We have seen them slam into each other. We have seen them kill people, and we all share responsibility for not fixing this before Blake Ackerman was killed,” Silberman said to loud applause from attendees who support the redesign.

Jordan, a West Hollywood resident who did not give his last name, also paid tribute to Ackerman and asked the members of the public if his life was worth retaining parking spots.



photo by Sam Mulick

Some residents are concerned about traffic congestion and the loss of parking. Others called for more protection for pedestrians and cyclists.

“I’m hearing a lot of great thoughts tonight from folks about inconvenience, about how they want to take this road because it’s easier, it’s faster to get from Point A to Point B,” he said. “On one side, we have a lot of folks here talking about inconvenience. On the other side, we have folks talking about not wanting to die.”

Tributes for Ackerman spurred heated responses from the crowd, including one man who called it a “disgrace” that people were using his death to justify support for the redesign.

Community members spoke on the need for bike lanes to promote more environmentally friendly ways of transportation and to help community members who cannot

afford to drive a car.

Residents can learn more about the project and make their voices heard at the Aug. 26 Public Facilities, Recreations and Infrastructure Commission meeting.

Phase 1 of the Fountain Avenue Streetscape Project is tentatively scheduled for City Council consideration on Sept. 15. If approved, construction would begin in fall of 2026 and conclude in winter of 2027, following a bidding process. City staff will seek authorization from the council to release a request for proposals for Phase 2 of the redesign at the Sept. 15 City Council meeting. If approved, Phase 2 planning and design would begin in October 2025.

## Ruling allows Linden project to move forward

From page 2

housing element – a state-mandated outline of zoning for affordable housing within the city – is out of compliance.

The city of Beverly Hills’ housing element for the 2021-29 cycle was out of compliance for approximately three years between 2021-24.

The goal of the builder’s remedy is to incentivize the creation of affordable housing to address California’s ongoing housing crisis. The builder’s remedy falls under the state’s Housing Accountability Act, which was passed in 1982 and significantly expanded in 2017.

The lawsuit was consolidated with separate litigation filed by housing advocacy group Californians for Homeownership, which also sought a court order mandating that the city approve the development. The ruling was made in favor of both plaintiffs.

“We are pleased with the court’s decision and are optimistic that it will lead to a resolution of our remaining disputes with the city, related to the city’s compliance with state housing planning laws and denials of additional builder’s remedy projects,” Californians for Homeownership counsel Matt Gelfand said. “The city should embrace these builder’s remedy projects and work to get this

much-needed housing built.”

The application for the project on Linden Drive was deemed incomplete multiple times by city staff, a determination that was appealed by the developers. On June 27, 2024, the Beverly Hills City Council unanimously voted to deny the appeal, prompting the lawsuit which will now force the city to allow the development to move forward as-is.

“The city of Beverly Hills is very disappointed with the recent ruling regarding the Linden Drive project,” City Attorney Laurence Wiener said. “We believe that we had legitimate, good faith arguments that this development lost its privileges under the ‘builders remedy’ law and needed to conform to our general plan and zoning laws. It is unfortunate that the state has seen fit to take a good deal of local zoning out of the hands of cities and mandated higher density in order to promote more affordable housing.”

The project was also at the center of several notices of violation sent to the city by the state’s Department of Housing and Community Development. The state said that the city violated housing laws by deeming the application incomplete on the basis that the developer did not submit a general plan amendment

or zoning change application. The department later sent a second notice of violation to the city, stating it broke housing laws by blocking nine additional builder’s remedy projects from moving forward.

The outcome of the lawsuit was also expected to set a precedent for the many other builder’s remedy projects the city is currently facing – several of which are actively being litigated. At least six lawsuits have been filed over builder’s remedy projects after developers alleged that the city illegally denied certain projects from moving forward. The projects have caused concern for neighbors due to their size, density and height – which often far exceed most buildings in Beverly Hills.

Ken Goldman, president of the Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowners Association, long opposed the project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive. He called it out of place due to its size, and took issue with the fact that it only accounts for 127 parking spaces for 165 residential units and a 73-room hotel.

“I am disappointed and surprised. Disappointed that it will have so many adverse effects on the neighborhood. In my opinion, the developer just decided to be as greedy as possible,” Goldman said.

## WeHo hosts public transportation workshop

The city of West Hollywood, in partnership with Metro, will host a free workshop on the On the Move Riders Program on Tuesday, Aug. 26 from 9-10:30 a.m. in Rooms 5 and 6 at the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

The On the Move Riders Program workshop is free and open to the public. It provides educational information about transportation in and around the city and includes live demonstrations, interactive trip-planning activities, TAP card registration and giveaways.

The workshop will also highlight the city’s transportation programs and services for older adults and residents with disabilities including the bus pass and on-call transportation subsidy programs, Dial a Ride Flex and the Cityline free shuttle service. For information, call visit weho.org.

## BHHS coach departs school

From page 1

and will not be forgotten. We thank him for his contributions to BHHS and the broader BHUSD community,” BHHS Athletic Director Steve Lawson said. “As we look ahead, BHUSD is currently conducting a comprehensive search for the next head basketball coach at Beverly Hills High School. Our focus remains on ensuring continuity, excellence and strong leadership for our student-athletes.”

Turner and former fashion design teacher Bella Ivory filed a lawsuit on April 25 against the Beverly Hills Unified School District alleging racism, discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

“[The claims] involve the disparate treatment and unfair treatment of our clients, who are both African American,” Gage said. “The Beverly Hills school district, we alleged, has a number of problems of racism within the school [district] toward teachers and stu-

dents.”

The lawsuit cites several alleged incidents in which Ivory and Turner were the victims of racism. According to the lawsuit, Turner received an email calling him the n-word and received phone calls from students who used racial epithets. Additionally, it alleges that parents used “derogatory racial stereotypes” toward Turner, and that the police were called on Turner when he was coaching the basketball team. When he reported the incidents to supervisors, the district ignored his concerns, the lawsuit alleges.

The complaint also alleges both teachers received less pay and benefits than their non-Black colleagues in similar positions. Additionally, it alleges that Black students have been the victims of racism, including being called the n-word on a “near-daily basis.”

The next hearing in the lawsuit is scheduled for Sept. 8.

## WeLead Academy seeks applicants

The West Hollywood Small Business Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the WeHo Chamber of Commerce, is excited to launch WeLead Academy, a new eight-week leadership and entrepreneurship program beginning in September. Applications are open until Aug. 28.

WeLead Academy is designed to support entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs and civic engagement in the community, especially those from marginalized backgrounds. The program is open to emerging entrepreneurs and professionals from underrepresented communities looking for a level business landscape. Orientation will take place virtually on Sept. 11 and gradua-

tion will take place on Nov. 19.

For more information and to register, visit [weho-chamber.com/welead](http://weho-chamber.com/welead).

### Answers From Page 23

1	S	2	T	3	A	4	B	5	T	6	I	7	S	8	A	9	N	10	G	11	I	12	E	13	S
14	K	15	O	16	L	17	A	18	W	19	R	20	E	21	N	22	R	23	O	24	A	25	D	26	S
27	E	28	T	29	O	30	N	31	E	32	M	33	M	34	A	35	A	36	N	37	G	38	E	39	L
40	W	41	E	42	H	43	A	44	V	45	E	46	A	47	P	48	R	49	O	50	B	51	L	52	E
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175	S	176	I	177	S	178	A	179		180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195
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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Guess

5. Short-billed songbirds

9. Harmon of 'Rizzoli & Isles'

14. Caffeine source

15. Brownish song bird

16. Travel routes

17. British school near Windsor

18. Gwyneth Paltrow film

19. Heavenly host?

20. Message to Houston

23. Gershwin's "The \_\_\_ Love"

24. Stan's partner in comedy

25. Atlas stat

28. Lady Macbeth kept seeing this weapon

32. Word with sports or squad

35. Ennoble

38. Five-star

39. City \_\_\_\_

43. French cheese

44. Fajita filler

45. Charlie Chaplin's brother

46. Balkan republic

49. Dame of theater

51. Nips

54. Not tricked by

57. Ryan Adams song

62. Plant fiber used for making rope

63. Cambodian dollar

64. Hotel chain name

65. To conclude

66. Hurler Hershiser

67. Type of light

68. Magnetic induction unit

69. Former Fords

70. Cornerstone abbr.

Down

1. Give new shape

2. Alaskan carving

3. Luau greeting

4. A source of potassium

5. A bit too-too, to a Brit

6. "Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer

7. Beat

8. Hair tangle

9. Sandy peninsula

10. Outside the law

11. Kind of plum, for short

12. Footnote word

13. Night school subj.

21. Small insect-eating bird

22. Earlier, of a model for example

26. Business card no.

27. Sounds of contentment

29. Gunks

30. "Se7en" sin

31. Actress Donna

32. Salad type

33. 60s hairdo

34. Slugger's stats

36. Give leave

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65						66					67			
68						69					70			

37. Baobab or ginkgo

40. Comebacks

41. Stable boy, for example

42. "... see what I mean?"

47. Romantic affairs

48. "Long, long time \_\_\_\_"

50. Volunteer-seeking question

52. "Harry Potter" owl

53. Go around

55. Big books

56. "Ready \_\_\_\_ ..."

57. Soul singer Simone

58. Biblical character

59. Food, clothing or shelter

60. Some wings

61. Giving

62. John Hancock, abbr.

answers on page 22

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